

Chapter 10:

Environmental Justice Element

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

Introduction

The Environmental Protection Agency defines environmental justice (EJ) as the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. Environmental justice involves creating healthy and safe communities for all, with a focus on correcting disproportionate health impacts. The goals and policies of this Environmental Justice Element are primarily focused on the following issues that were defined by the community:

- Reducing pollution exposure: Specifically related to air pollution adjacent to major roads and freeways.
- Preparing for climate change impacts: Information and resources to help prepare for hazard events such as extreme heat, wildfire smoke, and flooding. This is especially true for renters and those who live in older housing units.
- Promoting active and public transportation: Improvements to walking and biking infrastructure and multimodal street design to reduce unsafe interactions.
- Improving parks and public facilities: Providing a greater diversity of activities and features.

- Promoting safe and sanitary housing: Lack of affordable housing as well as maintenance and weatherization issues, and homelessness.

Relevant Legislation

Through the passage of Senate Bill 1000, local governments across California are required to assess if any disadvantaged communities exist within their boundaries. If there is a disadvantaged community identified, environmental justice must be added as a component of the General Plan. Per California Government Code Section 65302(h), this environmental justice component must include policies to reduce the “unique or compounded health risks in disadvantaged communities,” “promote civic engagement in the public decision-making process,” and “prioritize improvements and programs that address the needs of disadvantaged communities.”

Per the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines, there are two steps to identify disadvantaged communities as they are defined in California Government Code Section 65302(h):

1. Identify Census tracts or portions thereof within the planning area that fall within the 75th percentile of CalEnviroScreen scores. This would indicate that those tracts experience a high pollution burden compared to the majority of tracts in the state. If this threshold is met, an EJ element must be completed, and jurisdictions also must move to step 2. If this threshold is not met, jurisdictions may but are not required to move to step 2.
2. Identify Census tracts or portions thereof within the planning area that have been identified as “low-income communities” per California Health and Safety Code Section 39713(d)(2). Then, assess environmental conditions in these low-income communities using community feedback and public health data such as the Public Health Alliance of Southern California’s Healthy Places Index. The Healthy Places Index uses a variety of social and environmental indicators to measure how healthy communities are at the census tract level.

“Disadvantaged community” means an area identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 39711 of the Health and Safety Code or an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation.
—California Government Code Section 65302(h)

This analysis screened for disadvantaged communities using the two-step process. Per CalEnviroScreen 4.0, there is a census tract scoring in the 75th percentile located on the southeastern tip of Arcadia (see Figure EJ-1, CalEnviroScreen 4.0). This census tract is split between Arcadia and El Monte because census tracts do not follow City boundaries. The portion within Arcadia is zoned entirely for Industrial and Public/Institutional, but includes two non-conforming single family residences. This area of Arcadia has been identified and zoned for industrial uses for many decades and the nonconforming status of the homes means that if they become vacant, they will lose their residential use rights after 90 days. Therefore, this Element focuses on citywide needs to best promote long-term environmental justice concerns.

There are also two low-income census tracts in Arcadia (see Figure EJ-2, Low Income Communities). These census tracts were not considered to have unique or compounded health risks as determined by the **Healthy Places Index** and, therefore, are not disadvantaged communities. As a result of the limited residential presence in Arcadia's only disadvantaged community, the City of Arcadia (City) has primarily taken a citywide approach to addressing environmental justice concerns. This Environmental Justice Element evaluates environmental justice-related topics throughout Arcadia and includes a policy matrix based on these findings and input gathered from community members.

"Non-conforming residential uses" are residential land uses on parcels that are not designated or zoned for residential uses in the Arcadia General Plan Land Use/Zoning Map. When redeveloped, these sites will need to conform with the land use designation and zoning code and therefore will not be residential.

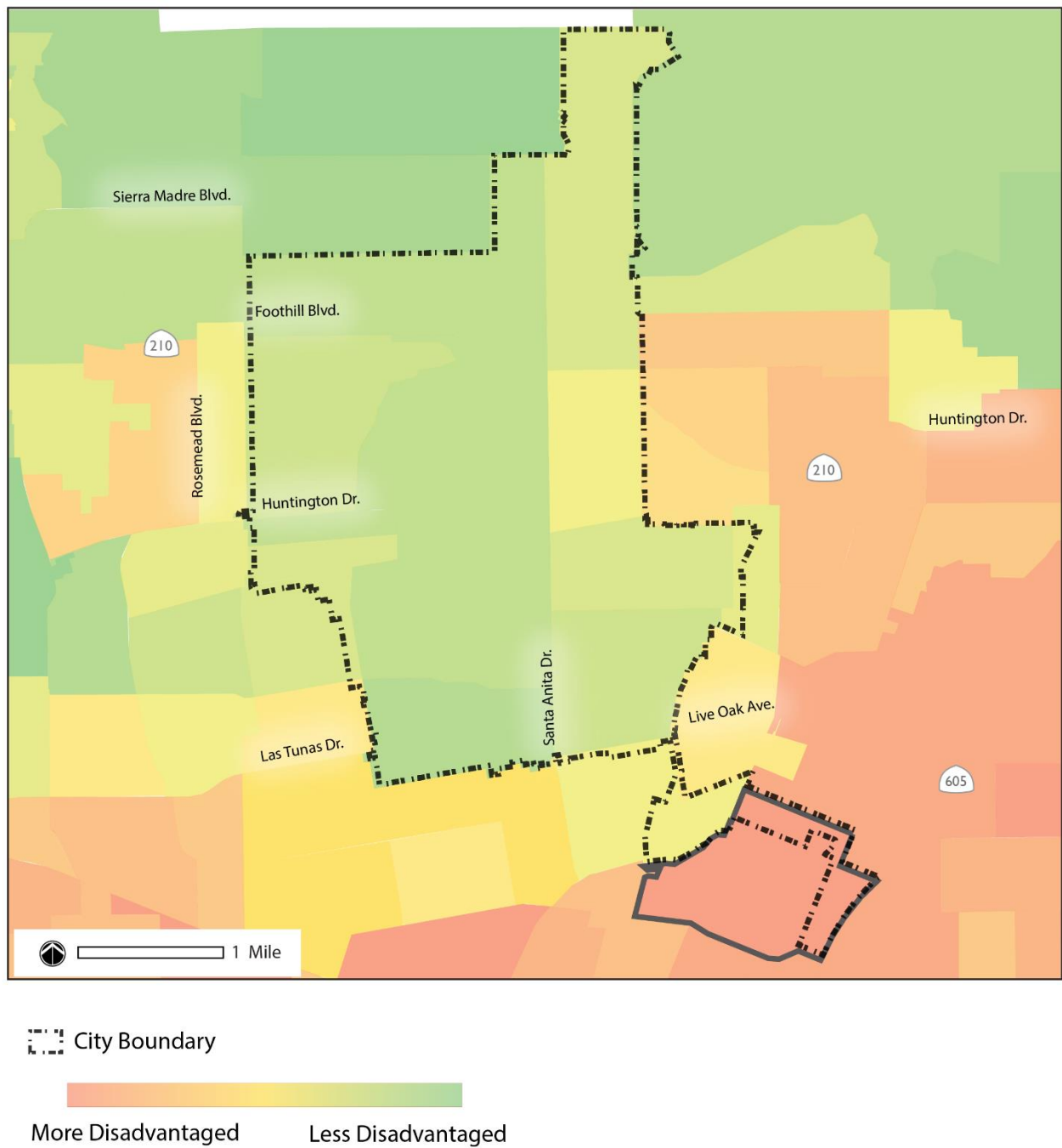
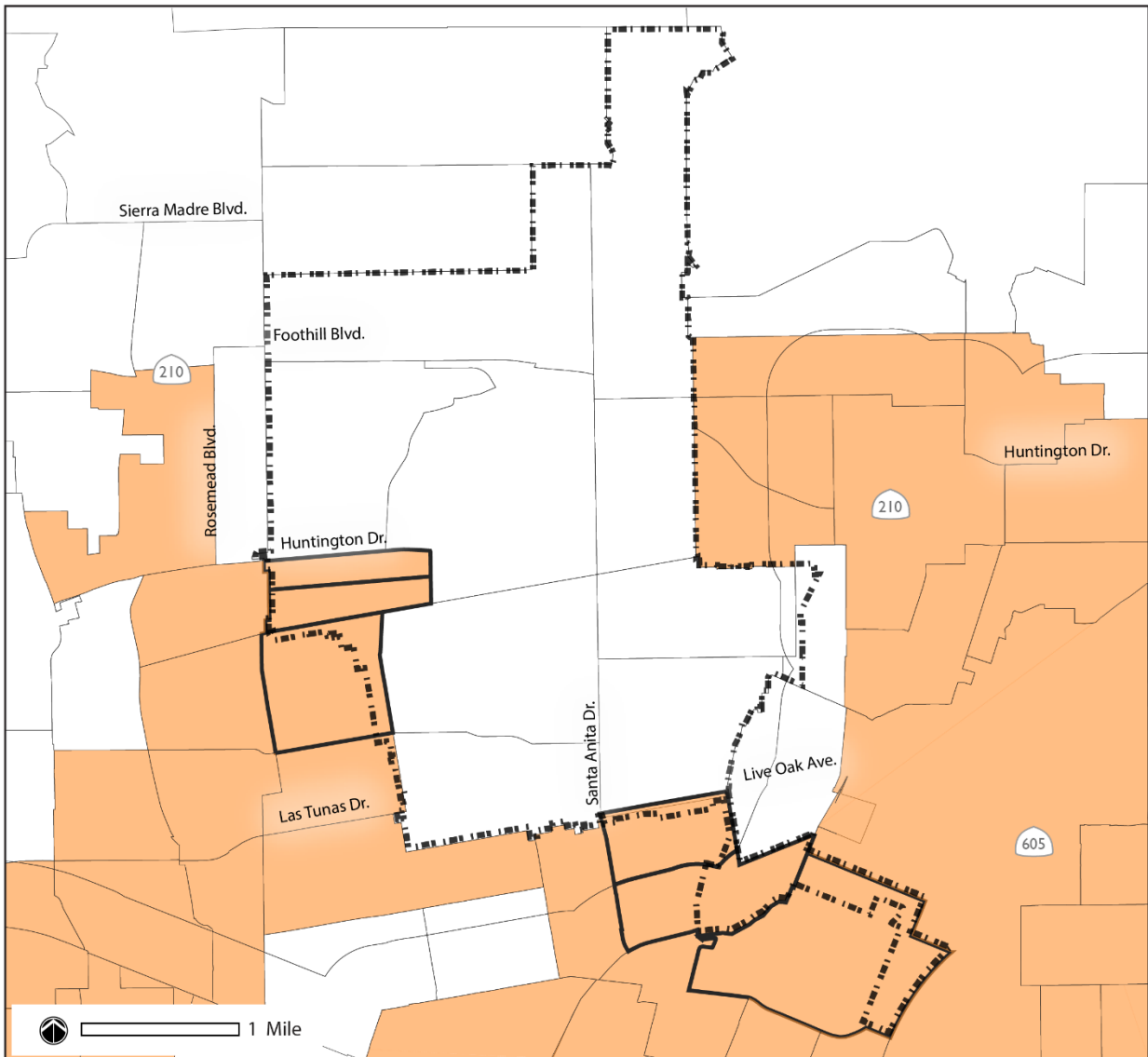


Figure EJ-1: CalEnviroScreen 4.0





-  City Boundary
-  AB 1550 Low Income Communities

Figure EJ-2: Low-Income Communities

Achieving Our Vision

This Environmental Justice Element is intended to promote a clean and healthy environment for everyone as well as an abundance of resources to support the well-being of residents. It does this by addressing environmental justice concerns and expanding community resources throughout Arcadia while bridging any gaps in underserved areas and populations.

Consistent with the other General Plan elements, this element will address environmental justice concerns through a set of goals and policies. Goals are broad statements that align with the community's long-term vision for the City. Policies are focused strategies that help achieve these goals by guiding decision making. Environmental Justice Element goals and policies were developed based on feedback from the community and the findings of the background report.

Policies are implemented by specific programs in the Implementation Plan (Chapter 10 of the Arcadia General Plan). Implementation programs identify specific and measurable actions as well as responsible agencies, funding sources, and time frames for these actions. They create visible and measurable change in Arcadia. See Chapter 10, Implementation Plan, for implementation programs associated with all elements of the Arcadia General Plan, including this Environmental Justice Element.

Scope of This Element

Relationship to Other General Plan Elements

This Environmental Justice Element is subject to the requirement for internal consistency with all other elements in the General Plan per Government Code Section 65300.5. Environmental Justice Element goals and policies must align with the goals and policies of other elements and with programs in the implementation plan. For example, a policy to expand park access in a particular area must be consistent with the allowable land uses for that area according to the Land Use and Community Design Element. This ensures that environmental justice goals and policies are feasible and do not contradict or otherwise undermine other General Plan goals and policies.

Relationship to Other Adopted Plans

Many topics covered in this Environmental Justice Element are related to other plans that the City has adopted, including the Arcadia Recreation and Parks Master Plan and the Arcadia Local Hazard Mitigation Plan. The Recreation and Parks Master Plan identifies community priorities and issues to be addressed related to parks and recreation facilities and programs. Moreover, it provides tiered recommendations on how to improve parks and recreation in Arcadia.

This Environmental Justice Element will complement and build upon these recommendations to help expand access to parks and community centers and promote physical activity. The Local Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines emergency mitigation, preparation, response, and recovery strategies related to known hazards including flooding, fire, and seismic activity. This Environmental Justice Element will consider how these hazards may disproportionately impact vulnerable populations and the ways in which climate change will exacerbate these hazards and their impacts on vulnerable communities.

Community Outreach Results

In order to identify potential needs and opportunities with regards to each environmental justice topic, the City hosted a community meeting while developing this element. This meeting, which was advertised via the City's website, was held as a webinar on October 11, 2023. The meeting consisted of a presentation explaining environmental justice, the purpose of this element, and the importance of community participation in the process, as well as an interactive activity to gather community feedback. The activity consisted of two components: a series of anonymous multiple-choice poll questions, and opportunities to answer additional questions and provide more feedback on each of the environmental justice concerns covered in this element.

Questions were asked related to 1) civic engagement, 2) concerns related to pollution exposure, 3) concerns related to hazardous impacts caused by climate change such as extreme heat, flooding, and wildfire, 4) access to healthy foods, 5) active and public transportation options, 6) parks and public facilities, and 7) safe and sanitary housing.

Based on the results provided by the community members who participated, concerns were raised relative to pollution exposure from the I-210 Freeway and major arterials streets, a lack of perceived information or resources about what to do in the event of emergencies or extreme weather events, improved bike lanes and safe alternative transportation options, and inclusive parks and public facilities. A specific topic of conversation was the lack of affordable housing in Arcadia, and concerns among rental properties related to weatherization and maintenance.

Each of these issues are described in detail in the next Section.

Environmental Justice Topics

Consistent with Senate Bill 1000, the City of Arcadia's Environmental Justice Element analyzed the current conditions as it relates to active and public transportation, access to healthy food options, access to parks and community centers, exposure to local and regional pollution, housing quality and affordability, climate adaptation, and recent community engagement efforts. This Section assesses the existing conditions in Arcadia with regard to each of these environmental justice topics and includes a summary of community engagement findings as they relate to each topic.

Active and Public Transportation

Walking, biking, and taking public transit are affordable alternatives to driving and serve as great opportunities to be physically active, resulting in positive health outcomes. For this reason, it is important to ensure that everyone in Arcadia has equitable access to opportunities for convenient and safe walking, biking, and public transit use. Moreover, safe walking and biking was identified as a community priority during the community meeting. Community members have expressed their concerns about traffic safety, the lack of connectivity in the bike and pedestrian network, and car-centric street design. This Section will evaluate access to active and public transportation in Arcadia.

Public transportation services in Arcadia are provided by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Los Angeles County's primary transportation agency; Foothill Transit, a regional transit system that primarily operates in the San Gabriel Valley, with limited service outside of the region; and Arcadia Transit, a local transit system serving the City of Arcadia. Metro operates four local bus routes in Arcadia and provides service on major local thoroughfares such as Baldwin Avenue, Santa Anita Avenue, and Huntington Drive. Local routes 179 and 287 terminate at Arcadia Station, where transit riders can connect to the system's 48.5-mile A Line light-rail route. The longest light-rail line in the world, the A Line enables connectivity to Azusa in the east, downtown Los Angeles to the south, and even further south to Long Beach. Foothill Transit operates a fixed-route bus service along Huntington Avenue and provides limited service in Arcadia's northeastern area. Arcadia Transit operates three fixed-route services: the Green Line which runs primarily along Huntington Drive and Baldwin Avenue, the Blue Line which runs primarily along Holly Avenue and Duarte Road, and the Red Line that runs primarily along First Avenue and Sixth Avenue. Together, Metro, Foothill, and Arcadia Transit provide transit services throughout Arcadia. Around 72% of households are within walking distance (0.25 miles) of a bus stop, and around 93% are within biking distance (0.5 miles) of a bus stop. Moreover, most areas within Arcadia rank highly on the National Walkability Index, especially those near major bus lines. Additionally, Arcadia Transit offers Dial-A-Ride Services for residents who are seniors or have disability status.

In addition to public transportation, active transportation routes in Arcadia allow non-motorized users, such as people who bike and walk, to move around safely. Currently, Arcadia contains one Class I bikeway, part of the extensive Rio Hondo bike path system, beginning just inside Arcadia's border with El Monte and linking to the Los Angeles River bike path. A majority of bikeways are Class II, or striped bike lanes that separate people who bike from cars on the road. Where Class II bikeways are not feasible, the City employs Class III bikeways, with plans to shift toward Class II in the future.¹

¹ City of Arcadia. 2010. "Chapter 4: Circulation and Infrastructure Element." In *Arcadia General Plan*, 4-1–4-47. Adopted November 2010. Accessed January 31, 2024.
<https://cms9files.revize.com/arcadia/Shape%20Arcadia/Development%20Services/general%20plan/Circulation%20and%20Infrastructure.pdf>.

The City’s bike map, last updated in 2013, indicates Class II bikeways are somewhat fragmented, and the majority of bikeways are Class III, where people who bike share the road with vehicles. Overall, an incomplete bicycle network prevents easy and comfortable movement around Arcadia.

As shown in Table EJ-1, Transportation Trends, less than 5% of workers in Arcadia use public transportation or active transportation to commute to work. This number is significantly lower than the proportion of workers in Los Angeles County and across California, though this may be attributed to several factors, including that residents of Arcadia are more likely to own cars, whereas many active commuters in Los Angeles do not do so by choice. The City’s Circulation and Infrastructure Element of its General Plan contains several goals and policies that aim to improve public and active transportation, through strategies that entail collaboration with Metro and Foothill Transit agencies and the development of a citywide bicycle network, for example. Certain policies have already been implemented, such as Policy CI-3.6 which aimed to bring light rail service to Arcadia and was achieved when the Arcadia Station of the Foothill Gold Line – now Metro A Line – was completed in 2015. Continued efforts to improve public and active transportation connections to this station may incentivize more residents to utilize these options.

Table EJ-1.
Transportation Trends

Indicator	Location		
	Arcadia	Los Angeles County	California
Active Commuting ¹	4.09%	9.65%	8.99%
Car Access ²	96.50%	91.20%	92.90%

Source: The Public Health Alliance of Southern California. 2022. The California Healthy Places Index [map viewer]. <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>.

Legend: Quartile 1 = Good, Quartile 2 = Moderate, Quartile 3 = Poor, Quartile 4 = Challenged

¹ Percentage of workers (16 years or older) who commute to work by transit, walking, or biking.

² Percentage of households with access to a car.

Climate Change

Climate change is projected to exacerbate certain hazards, including extreme temperature events, wildfires, and floods. Therefore, Arcadia must work to prepare all residents for the impacts of climate change. Community members have shared concerns that their homes were not prepared for extreme heat and wildfire smoke, with renters facing the added barrier of communicating the needed improvements to their landlords. Residents also have communicated that they could use more information on the resources available to them during hazard events and that outdoor public spaces should have more cooling features.

Certain populations are more vulnerable to the effects of said hazard events including older adults, young children, renters, outdoor workers, active

commuters, those with limited mobility, and those who do not speak English as their first language. As shown in Table EJ-2, Populations Vulnerable to Climate-Related Hazards, Arcadia has a relatively high proportion of older adults and limited-English speakers compared to California overall. Therefore, policies should focus on preparing these groups for climate-related hazards. For more information about climate-related hazards, vulnerable populations, emergency preparedness, and safety policies for vulnerable populations, refer to Arcadia General Plan Chapter 8: Safety Element.

Table EJ-2.
Populations Vulnerable During Climate-Related Hazards

Indicator	Location		
	Arcadia	Los Angeles County	California
Older Adults ¹	18.6%	13.3%	14%
Young Children ²	5.05%	6.11%	6.3%
Outdoor Workers	3.52%	6.01%	8%
Active Commuters ³	4.09%	9.65%	8.99%
Population with a Disability	2.54%	3.81%	4.04%
Limited-English Speakers ⁴	30.7%	23.8%	17.9%

Source: The Public Health Alliance of Southern California. 2022. The California Healthy Places Index [map viewer]. <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>.

Legend: Quartile 1 = Good, Quartile 2 = Moderate, Quartile 3 = Poor, Quartile 4 = Challenged

Note: The table is colored to provide an understanding of the rate of vulnerabilities to air pollution and does not indicate that certain traits are overall “good” or “bad.”

¹ Percent of people aged 65 and older.

² Percentage of population who are young children under 5 years old.

³ Percent of workers (16 years and older) who commute to work by transit, walking, or cycling.

⁴ Percent of people, aged 5 and older, who speak English “less than very well.”

Healthy Food

Access to healthy food is essential for all community members. Healthy food did not come up as a major issue during the community meeting, but access to healthy food was analyzed to determine if there are any areas with limited access so that these areas can be prioritized when adding new food sources like community gardens, farmers markets, and grocery stores.

As shown in Table EJ-3, Grocery Store Access, 52.4% of Arcadia residents live within a half mile of a grocery store, which is below Los Angeles County’s average of 61.9% but slightly higher than the California average of 50.6%. As

shown in Figure EJ-3, Communities Within Walking and Biking Distance of a Grocery Store, grocery stores are distributed around Arcadia, with a concentration near the intersection of South Baldwin Avenue and West Duarte Road; while areas in the northern and southeastern parts of Arcadia have to travel farther to grocery stores than these areas, they tend to have greater levels of car access. Having access to a car makes it much easier to travel to a grocery store; therefore, residents in these areas likely do not have trouble getting to grocery store even though they are not located within walking or biking distance.

Table EJ-3.
Grocery Store Access

Indicator	Location		
	Arcadia	Los Angeles County	California
Supermarket Access¹	52.4%	61.9%	50.6%

Source: The Public Health Alliance of Southern California. 2022. The California Healthy Places Index [map viewer]. <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>.

Legend: Quartile 1 = Good, Quartile 2 = Moderate, Quartile 3 = Poor, Quartile 4 = Challenged

¹ Percent of urban population residing less than a half mile from a grocery store.





-  City Boundary
-  Grocery Store

Figure EJ-3: Communities Within Walking and Biking Distance of a Grocery Store

Parks and Public Facilities

Parks, community centers, and other public facilities provide useful amenities that may be accessed by the public for zero or low cost and are generally associated with higher quality of life. Additionally, due to their communal nature, individuals are more likely to build social relationships and feel connected to their communities, which may result in higher civic participation and involvement. Community members discussed the importance of parks and public facilities at the Environmental Justice Community Meeting and identified key areas for improvement such as providing a greater variety of amenities that appeal to a diverse population. This Section assesses existing parks and public facilities in Arcadia.

The Arcadia Community Center, operated by the City's Recreation and Community Services Department, hosts events, classes, and programs for youth, adults, and older adult populations. Programming is offered throughout the week, including weekends, and includes supportive services, sports and recreation, family events, opportunities to interact with City officials, and more. The Arcadia Community Center is centrally located a half mile from Arcadia High School and a mile from Arcadia County Park and is serviced by local bus routes, making it accessible for the City's population.

The Arcadia Public Library is located in a residential neighborhood adjacent to Arcadia High School and is a half-mile walking distance from both Metro bus line 287 and Arcadia Transit Blue Line transit stops. In addition to general library services such as book lending and technology services, the library also provides passport services. The library is open 6 days a week and operates from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. The Los Angeles County Public Library also operates in the southernmost part of Arcadia as the Live Oak Library, providing nearby residents with a more convenient library option.

There are a total of 30 parks in Arcadia. Of these 30 parks, 15 are managed by the City, 4 are managed by the County of Los Angeles, and 11 are managed by the Arcadia Unified School District. The County of Los Angeles manages Arcadia Community Regional Park, the Los Angeles County Arboretum, Peck Road Water Conservation Park, and Santa Anita Golf Course. The Arcadia Unified School District maintains a joint use agreement with the City to allow public use of parks on or adjacent to school campuses when school is not in session. Currently, facilities of 11 schools are open for public use, including those of Arcadia High School, Foothills Middle School, and Highland Oaks Elementary School. All facilities are detailed in Table EJ-5, Use Restrictions by Park. Together, these parks service most of Arcadia's population (see Figure EJ-4, Communities Within Walking and Biking Distance of a Park or Open Space). Residents north of Interstate 210 have access to 6 parks within the City, including 4 open access parks and 2 restricted use parks, and several additional parks just outside the City boundary including the Los Angeles National Forest. The remaining 24 parks are located south of Interstate 210 are distributed evenly throughout the area. However, the residential areas south of Duarte Road and west of Santa Anita Avenue only have access to parks on public school campuses, which are only

allowed to be used outside of school hours. Therefore, this area has slightly lower access to parks than other areas of the City.

Overall, parks and recreational facilities comprise 680 acres in Arcadia, and 135 of these acres are open parkland that are either owned by the City or covered by joint use agreements with the Arcadia Unified School District, resulting in 2.46 acres of public park land for every 1,000 residents in the City. This statistic is below the median of 11.3 acres per 1,000 residents for a selection of similar-sized cities across the country, according to National Recreation and Park Association survey data.² Nonetheless, the City has exceeded the acreage goal of its Parks and Recreation Policy 1.2, which calls for 2.43 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents³. Additionally many Arcadia residents live in close proximity to facilities operated by Los Angeles County, including the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Garden, Peck Road Water Conservation Park, and Arcadia Community Regional Park. Taking all these facilities into account, including those owned and operated by agencies other than the City of Arcadia, there are 12 acres of open space for every 1,000 residents in the City, although the open space is concentrated in several large parks with restricted access.

As shown in Table EJ-4, slightly more than half of Arcadia residents live within a quarter mile, or comfortable walking distance, of a park with open public access. Greater than 70% of residents live within that distance of any park, including those with restricted access, such as parks with joint-use agreements. Almost everywhere in Arcadia is within biking distance of a park or open space when including those with restricted access, as shown in Figure EJ-4. 90.7% of residents live within 0.5 miles (a comfortable biking distance) of an open access park or open space. Therefore, a significantly higher portion of residents can access parks and open space via bike or similar mobility device than can access these areas by walking.

² NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association). 2023. *NRPA Agency Performance Review*. Accessed January 31, 2024. <https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/3ae6ba685dbf47a1b537af2f15c615d9/2023-agency-performance-review.pdf>.

³ City of Arcadia. 2010. "Chapter 7: Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Element." In *Arcadia General Plan*, 7-1–7-54. Adopted November 2010. Accessed January 31, 2024. <https://cms9files.revize.com/arcadia/Shape%20Arcadia/Development%20Services/general%20plan/Parks%20Recreation%20and%20Community%20Resources.pdf>.

**Table EJ-4.
Park Access¹**

Indicator	Access Type	
	Open Access Only	Open and Restricted Access
Walking Distance to a Park¹	57.1%	70.8%

Source: California Protected Areas Database. 2021. Parks and Open Space. Analysis Conducted in Urban Footprint. <https://www.calands.org/>.

1 Percentage of people living within a quarter mile of a park or open space.

Parks and open space that have use restrictions may be closed to the public at certain times or may charge a fee for use. Parks with use restrictions include the Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden and many schools within the Arcadia Unified School District which are under joint use agreements that allow the public to use their facilities when school is not in session. Table EJ-5, Use Restrictions by Park, identifies which parks have use restrictions and which allow open access by name. These parks and open spaces are also shown in Figure EJ-4. The City is committed to providing quality parks and recreation facilities, as made evident by the goals and policies contained within the Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Element of the City's General Plan. Many of these goals and policies align with environmental justice goals and seek to fill service gaps in the community, such as Policy-PR.1.6, which prioritizes acquisition of land intended for parks in underserved neighborhoods.

Community engagement to inform the 2017 Recreation and Parks Master Plan, included community workshops, focus groups, a phone survey, and community meetings, indicated most community members were concerned with park facility and amenity upgrades and maintenance, and many of those surveyed had a favorable opinion of recreational events and programming.⁴ Specifically, community outreach identified the following priorities, among others:

- Upgrade existing and provide new children's play areas
- Upgrade or replace older park restrooms/concessions
- Replace natural turf with synthetic turf
- Replace or upgrade lighting, including lighted walking paths
- New dog parks and facilities
- Additional shade over play structures
- Picnic and barbeque improvements
- Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant access improvements
- New facilities for community events
- Upgrade landscape areas with drought-tolerant plant materials

⁴ City of Arcadia. 2017. *Arcadia Recreation and Parks Master Plan*. Adopted August 1, 2017. Accessed January 12, 2024. https://www.arcadiaca.gov/enrich/recreation___community_services/parks___facilities/master_plan.php.

- Improvements for sports fields such as new bleachers, dugouts, batting cages, team benches, and fencing
- Parking lot upgrades and improvements

Although the Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Element is wider in scope than the Recreation and Parks Master Plan, the Element's Policy PR.1.13 and Policies PR.1.15–20 provide for maintenance, upgrades, and new facilities and amenities, in alignment with the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. Furthermore, this Environmental Justice Element intends to ensure equitable access to open space and parks and to the community health benefits that access provides.

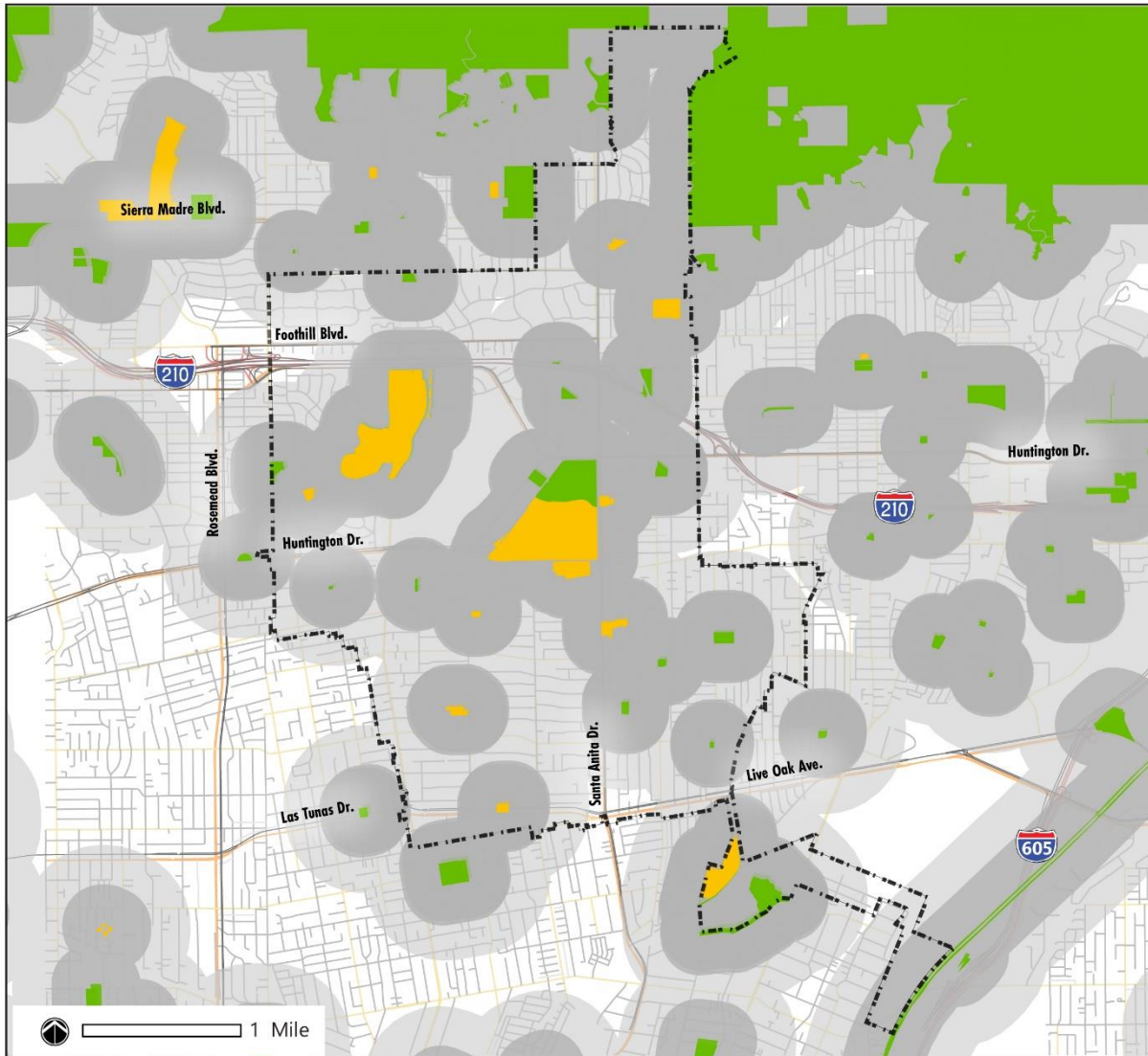
Table EJ-5
Use Restrictions by Park

Park Name	Use Restrictions?
Arcadia Community Regional Park	Open Access
Arcadia High School Park	Restricted Access
Arcadia Par-3 Golf Course	Restricted Access
Arcadia Wilderness Park	Open Access
Baldwin Stocker Elementary School Park	Restricted Access
Bicentennial Park	Open Access
Bonita Park	Open Access
Camino Grove Park	Open Access
Camino Grove Elementary School Park	Restricted Access
Civic Center Field	Open Access
Dana Middle School Park	Restricted Access
Eisenhower Memorial Park	Open Access
Fairview Avenue Park	Open Access
First Avenue Middle School Park	Restricted Access
Foothills Middle School Park	Restricted Access
Forest Avenue Park	Open Access

**Table EJ-5
Use Restrictions by Park**

Park Name	Use Restrictions?
Highland Oaks Middle School Park	Restricted Access
Holly Avenue Park	Restricted Access
Hugo Reid Elementary School Park	Restricted Access
Hugo Reid Park	Open Access
Longden Avenue Park	Open Access
Longley Way Elementary School Park	Restricted Access
Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanic Garden	Restricted Access
Newcastle Park	Open Access
Orange Grove Park	Open Access
Peck Road Water Conservation Park	Open Access
Santa Anita Golf Course	Restricted Access
Santa Anita Park	Restricted Access
Tierra Verde Park	Open Access
Tripolis Friendship Park	Open Access

Source: California Protected Areas Database. 2021. Parks and Open Space. Analysis Conducted in Urban Footprint. <https://www.calands.org/>.



- City Boundary
- Open Access
- Restricted Access
- Within Walking Distance (0.25) Mile
- Within Biking Distance (0.5) Mile

Figure EJ-4: Communities Within Walking and Biking Distance of a Park or Open Space

Pollution

The effects of both short- and long-term exposure to pollution can be significant to all individuals. However, certain populations bear increased risks from pollution exposure. Community members expressed their concerns about pollution exposure during the Environmental Justice Community Meeting and are particularly concerned about pollution exposure near major roadways. This Section analyzes pollution exposure throughout the City and identifies particularly vulnerable areas and populations.

Specifically, young children, older adults, people who are outside for large portions of their day, and individuals with preexisting health conditions are more susceptible to respiratory complications resulting from air pollution. In Arcadia there is a lower percentage of outdoor workers, active commuters, young children, people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), and people with asthma compared to Los Angeles County and the State of California. Arcadia does have a greater proportion of older adults aged 65 or older (see Table EJ-5, Populations Vulnerable to Pollution).

Pollution affects the air quality of entire geographical regions. Therefore, pollution from surrounding cities can affect Arcadia, even when Arcadia itself does not contain all responsible sources. The South Coast Air Quality Management District is the regional agency tasked with developing and enforcing air pollution standards mandated by various clean air acts in California. Arcadia is located within this regulatory jurisdiction, along with Los Angeles County and portions of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. This means the City must comply with the agency's regional air quality management plan along with all other cities and counties under the agency's jurisdiction. The South Coast Air Basin, in which Arcadia is located, is one of two areas in the nation classified as an extreme nonattainment zone for ozone pollution. Poor air quality results from a variety of factors including the dense and heavily urbanized character of the area, the area's reliance on cars and trucks for transportation, weather conditions, and the surrounding air-trapping mountains.

The Resource Sustainability Element describes the various pollutants that impact natural resources in Arcadia, notably, air and water pollution sources that negatively impact Arcadia and its natural resources. These pollutants involve environmental justice concerns, as some communities in Arcadia may bear a disproportionate burden from these pollution sources.

The limited industrial base and standard retail and service commercial uses in Arcadia lead to few local pollution sources that contribute to pollution of the region. Arcadia's main sources of pollution, including carbon monoxide, ozone, and small particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), result primarily from transportation emissions due to the many roadways that carry heavy and slow-moving traffic. These pollution sources disproportionately affect communities that abut these transportation networks and can contribute to respiratory health effects like asthma, lung inflammations, and chest pains. Specifically, residential neighborhoods near Interstate 210 and other main arterial

roadways such as Baldwin Avenue, El Monte Avenue, and Duarte Road are exposed to a disproportionate amount of air pollution.

**Table EJ-6.
Populations Vulnerable to Pollution**

Indicator	Location		
	Arcadia	Los Angeles County	California
Asthma ¹	6.55%	8.65%	9.02%
Coronary Heart Disease ²	4.82%	4.94%	N/A
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease ³	3.95%	5.15%	5.33%
Young Children ⁴	5.05%	6.11%	6.3%
Older Adults ⁵	18.6%	13.3%	14%
Outdoor Workers ⁶	3.52%	6.01%	8%
Active Commuters ⁷	4.09%	9.65%	8.99%

Source: The Public Health Alliance. 2022. The California Healthy Places Index [map viewer]. <https://map.healthypacesindex.org/>.

Legend: Quartile 1 = Good, Quartile 2 = Moderate, Quartile 3 = Poor, Quartile 4 = Challenged

Note: The table is colored to provide an understanding of the rate of vulnerabilities to air pollution and does not indicate that certain traits are overall “good” or “bad.”

¹ Percentage of people with asthma.

² Percentage of people with coronary heart disease.

³ Percentage of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

⁴ Percentage of children under 5 years old.

⁵ Percent of people aged 65 and older.

⁶ Percent of workers (16 and older) who work outdoors.

⁷ Percent of workers (16 years and older) who commute to work by transit, walking, or biking.

Safe and Sanitary Housing

Access to safe and sanitary housing is a core environmental justice principle and vital to the health and well-being of the Arcadia’s population. At the Environmental Justice Community Meeting and in outreach conducted for the 6th Cycle Housing Element (see below), community members discussed how the location, quality, and affordability of housing units is important and how it has a significant impact on an individual’s health and quality of life. Although unsafe and unsanitary conditions can be a concern in any home, low-income residents, and renters in particular, are more likely to struggle with these

issues, which may include poor ventilation, high pollution exposure, and overcrowding. Although Arcadia has a lower percentage of households, both renter and owner, experiencing severe housing cost burden than Los Angeles County as a whole, and has higher rates of home ownership, the data nonetheless indicate a significant housing affordability problem. As shown in Table EJ-6 below, one quarter of renter households pay half or more of their income toward rent and utilities. Renters comprise approximately 40% of households in Arcadia, making this a significant issue.

**Table EJ-7.
Housing Indicators**

Indicator	Location		
	Arcadia	Los Angeles County	California
Homeownership ¹	59.50%	45.80%	54.90%
Low-Income Homeowner Severe Cost Burden ²	12.6%	13.70%	11.10%
Low-Income Renter Severe Housing Cost Burden ³	24.60%	28.90%	26.20%
Uncrowded Housing ⁴	96.4%	88.70%	91.70%

Source: The Public Health Alliance. 2022. The California Healthy Places Index [map viewer]. <https://map.healthyplacesindex.org/>.

Legend: Quartile 1 = Good, Quartile 2 = Moderate, Quartile 3 = Poor, Quartile 4 = Challenged

¹ Percentage of people who own their home.

² Percentage of low-income homeowners who spend more than 50% of their income on housing costs.

³ Percentage of low-income renters who spend more than 50% of their income on housing costs.

⁴ Percentage of households with one or fewer occupants per room.

Individuals living in older residences are more likely to experience unsafe and unsanitary living conditions, as older, aging structures may not have been subject to present-day building standards and codes that comply with regulations for substances such as lead paint, asbestos, and other hazardous materials. Housing units are generally considered to need serious repairs or rehabilitation after 30 years; this work may include the installation of a new roof, plumbing, or foundation work.

According to the City's 6th Cycle Housing Element, approximately 46% of Arcadia's housing units were built prior to 1970, indicating a continued need for maintenance. However, the age of Arcadia's housing stock may not necessarily equate to major repair needs due to Arcadia's high household

income relative to the Los Angeles County median. Between 2018 and 2021, there were over 4,400 code enforcement cases for property maintenance. Most of these cases involved landscaping, and only four houses have been determined to be substandard. In general, homeowners invest in maintenance and repair and the vast majority of housing in Arcadia meets or exceeds standards.⁵ Furthermore, Arcadia's percentage of households with less than or equal to one occupant per room is over 90%, ranking higher than Los Angeles and California percentages, as shown in Table EJ-6, Housing Indicators. Therefore, overcrowding is not of significant concern in Arcadia.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is the process of integrating community members into planning and local decision-making processes to ensure that their needs and priorities are considered and that they help shape policy decisions. However, it can be more difficult for certain people to participate in community events and decision-making processes due to inaccessible or inconvenient locations and times for events, language barriers, and insufficient information and notification leading up to events. To ensure that everyone has equal access to community events, decision-making processes, and spaces, special consideration must be given to populations facing barriers to participation, and accommodations must be made. Generally, opportunities to engage the community should be incorporated into the development of every plan and project. The scale and scope of engagement may vary based on the plan or project's needs but will generally include multiple opportunities for residents and interested parties to provide feedback. Engagement strategies should also consider potentially interested parties and tailor opportunities to maximize participation. For example, outreach events should be hosted in languages other than English if the community they are serving has a large, limited-English-speaking population. Moreover, it is good practice to provide multiple engagement opportunities and virtual alternatives to include as many people as possible.

The City generally takes a holistic approach when providing opportunities for the community to engage with its projects and plans. For example, the Comprehensive General Plan Update incorporated numerous engagement strategies that included interviews with interested parties and representatives from community organizations including Arcadia High School Student Council and Student Body, the Arcadia Woman's Club, and the Rotary Club of Arcadia. A General Plan website where visitors could access materials related to the plan's development, such as interview and workshop summaries and background reports, was also maintained by the City throughout the process.

Similarly, the City deployed numerous outreach efforts for the purposes of its 6th Cycle Housing Element. This included a series of community workshops, an online community survey, social media outreach, and targeted outreach for Arcadia's low-income individuals, business owners, and the unhoused

⁵ City of Arcadia. 2022. "Chapter 5: Housing Element." In *Arcadia General Plan*, 2–17. Adopted October 2022. Accessed January 31, 2024.
https://cms9files.revize.com/arcadia/Ch.%205_Draft%20Housing%20Element.pdf.

population. Materials were available in both English and Chinese, due to Arcadia’s large Chinese-speaking population.

Goals and Policies

These goals and policies provide the vision and steps to work toward for a more equitable Arcadia, focusing on active transportation (such as walking and biking), climate change impacts, parks and recreation facilities, transportation-related pollution, and healthy and affordable housing.

Goals are overarching aspirations that define the desired outcomes of the Environmental Justice Element. Policies are specific measures or guidelines put in place to implement those goals. They serve as the strategic tools to translate these aspirations into tangible actions and practices.

The General Plan already contains existing policies throughout various elements which further the goals of the Environmental Justice Element. Where these policies already exist, they have been noted, below.

Goal EJ-1: **A community where walking and biking is safe and enjoyable.**

Policy EJ-1.1: Work with community members to identify high-priority streets and intersections for improvements to sidewalks, bike lanes, and other bike and pedestrian infrastructure via the City’s capital improvement program.

Policy EJ-1.2: Seek a State and Federal grant opportunities for active transportation corridors, including the California Transportation Commission’s Active Transportation Program.

Policy EJ-1.3: Create and maintain a network of Cool Streets with increased tree canopy, reflective pavements, and other interventions to mitigate extreme heat and reduce the heat island effect, prioritizing transit corridors and routes to school.

Policy EJ-1.4: Seek to provide a variety of parks and facilities are provided which cater to a diverse population.

Policy EJ-1.5: Mitigate noise and air pollution impacts to parks and public facilities adjacent to freeways, major roads, and rail corridors with protective fencing, landscaping, and/or walls.

- *The following existing policies from other elements further Goal 1 of the Environmental Justice Element:*

- **Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Policy 1.1:** Maintain a system of City parks and recreation facilities that

provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities throughout Arcadia.

- **Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Policy 1.2:** Strive to provide a minimum of 2.43 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.
- **Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Policy 1.3:** Provide park and recreation facilities that are appropriate for the individual neighborhoods in which they are located, reflect the needs and interests of the population they serve, and meet the performance standards identified in the General Plan.
- **Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Policy 1.7:** Strive to locate new community facilities in neighborhoods and centers where they will serve populations with the greatest needs.
- **Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Policy 1.12:** Maintain and enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and transit linkages to provide better access to parks, recreation, and public spaces and meet the needs of Arcadia residents.
- **Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Policy 3.1:** Provide consistent funding for the street tree program reflective of the importance of the urban forest to community aesthetics and the environment.
- **Parks, Recreation, and Community Resources Policy 4.3:** Strengthen joint-use agreements with the Arcadia Unified School District and Los Angeles County to expand the types of local facilities that can be available to the community.
- **Circulation and Infrastructure Policy 4.1:** Develop and maintain the citywide bicycle network of off-street bike paths, on-street bike lanes, and bike streets. The City will investigate the use of easements and flood control channel rights-of-way for the provision of bicycle infrastructure.
- **Circulation and Infrastructure Policy 4.5:** Develop and implement a comprehensive pedestrian circulation plan that includes, among other components, (1) enhanced pedestrian crossings of streets; (2) sidewalk improvement plans; (3) pedestrian amenities on sidewalks on major streets that are key pedestrian routes, including benches, street trees, trash cans, and pedestrian-scaled lighting; (4) Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant crossings; (5) convenient crossing of arterials with landscaped medians, particularly in the vicinity of schools; and (6) strategies to remove barriers to pedestrian movement (for example, news racks, utility poles and boxes).
- **Circulation and Infrastructure Policy 4.9:** Enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to local and regional transit, including connections to bus routes and the light-rail station.
- **Circulation and Infrastructure Policy 4.11:** Encourage walking, biking, and use of transit through a variety of supportive land use

development and urban design measures, including site planning that promotes safety, pedestrian-friendly design, and access to transit facilities.

Goal EJ-2: **A community with reduced transportation-related air pollution**

Policy EJ-2.1: Continue to update truck route maps that minimize exposure to sensitive land uses.

- *The following existing policies from other elements further Goal 2 of the Environmental Justice Element:*
 - **Resource Sustainability Policy 1.4:** Lower the emissions caused by motor vehicles through Transportation Demand Management strategies and land use patterns that reduce vehicle miles traveled.
 - **Resource Sustainability Policy 1.2:** Limit, when feasible, locating sensitive receptors near pollutant-emitting sources.
 - **Resource Sustainability Policy 1.6:** Require projects that generate potentially significant levels of air pollutants to incorporate the most effective air quality mitigation into project design, as appropriate.

Goal EJ-3: **A community where everyone has a high-quality, affordable home.**

Policy EJ-3.1: Promote home weatherization and in-home/portable air conditioning units to better insulate homes and mitigate the effects of extreme heat in residences.

Policy EJ-3.2: Continue to explore temporary housing options for individuals experiencing homelessness in Arcadia, as well as grant funding opportunities for constructing and managing them.

- *The following existing policies from other elements further Goal 3 of the Environmental Justice Element:*
 - **Housing Policy 1.1:** Monitor and enforce building and property maintenance codes in residential neighborhoods, including those with vacant housing units, to prevent the physical deterioration of existing sound housing within Arcadia.
 - **Housing Policy 1.6:** Encourage assisted-housing units of all types and expand affordable housing opportunities for households with extremely low, very low, low, and moderate income.
 - **Housing Policy 3.3:** Work with nonprofit and for-profit developers to maximize resources available for the construction of affordable housing.

- **Housing Policy 3.4:** Address special-needs populations and extremely low-income households through a range of housing opportunities, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and supportive housing.

Goal EJ-4: **A community where public health is enhanced and heat-related illnesses and fatalities are reduced.**

- Policy EJ-4.1:** Expand the number of cooling amenities in parks and other public spaces such as trees, water refill stations, and water features for children to play in.
- Policy EJ-4.2:** Expand cooling center amenities as necessary and increase awareness of cooling centers through public education materials and events.
- Policy EJ-4.3:** Educate residents about personal emergency preparedness and the emergency resources that the City provides to them.

The following existing policies from other elements further Goal 4 of the Environmental Justice Element:

- **Safety Policy S-1.2:** Support policies and programs to engage with residents, including non-English speaking communities, making them aware of the risks of extreme events and providing information on ways to preserve health.
- **Safety Policy S-9.4:** Conduct ongoing public outreach and promote community awareness regarding emergency notifications, evacuation routes, and procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency. Focus outreach on identified vulnerable populations, for example by contacting and building partnerships with community-based organizations that represent the vulnerable population groups.
- **Safety Policy S-9.7:** Create resilience centers throughout Arcadia to ensure frontline communities are equipped to respond, recover, and rebuild after a hazard event.
- **Safety Policy S-9.8:** Support policies that promote education and resilience awareness about the effects of climate change-induced hazards and ways to adapt and build resiliency to climate change.