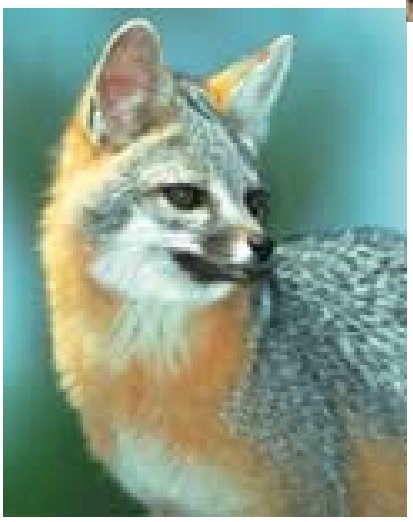
BALDWIN HILLS PARK

MASTER PLAN

MAY 2002



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The Resources Agency
Department of Parks and Recreation

Baldwin Hills Conservancy

BALDWIN HILLS PARK

Master Plan

May 2002

Prepared by

Community Conservancy International

For

California Department of Parks and Recreation

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DEFINITIONS OF KEY TERMS

Community:	Groups of species (plants, animals, people) that interact closely with one another.
Exotic Species:	Plant or animal species that does not naturally occur in an area, but whose presence there is due to human activities.
Habitat:	A place or environment in which an animal or plant lives.
Native:	Those that have been in a particular place (in this case, in the Baldwin Hills) since before European settlement.
Natural:	Untouched by the influences of civilization and human society.
Population:	A group of individuals of a species living in a particular area.
Species:	An organism, or groups of genetically-related individuals which share important characteristics and which generally do not interbreed with other such groups.

Introduction

Introduction to the Baldwin Hills

Executive Summary

The Baldwin Hills are the last, large undeveloped area of open space in urban Los Angeles County, covering over two square miles of dramatic ridgelines and steep canyons. Close to both downtown Los Angeles and the Pacific Ocean, the Baldwin Hills are easily accessible to millions of residents, and provide unparalleled opportunities for outdoor recreation in a natural setting. Home to hundreds of species of native plants and animals, the Baldwin Hills provide important natural habitats, an example of the vast system of swamps, grasslands and riparian areas that once made up this area. Part of the Ballona Creek Watershed, drains into adjacent Ballona and Centinela creeks which join the Pacific Ocean four miles downstream.

The Baldwin Hills encompass 450 acres of protected parkland, including the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, the Ladera Ball Fields, the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, Culver City Park and Norman O. Houston Park. The Baldwin Hills have been used for oil and gas development since the early 1900s, and numerous roads, oil wells, processing units and other oil and gas infrastructure cover the remaining 950 acres. While these operations will remain as long as oil production is economically feasible, it is anticipated that the land in the Baldwin Hills will become available for park acquisition and development over time. The Baldwin Hills ParkMaster Plan sets forth a comprehensive vision for improvement and restoration of these lands, so that over time a balance between active recreation, natural habitat and community facilities can be achieved.

There is a compelling need for a comprehensive vision to unify the many pieces that make up the Baldwin Hills – a plan that can be implemented over time so that 100 years from now the area is a vibrant, living place that meets the complex needs of people, wildlife and habitat, protecting the environmental health of the hills and its communities and contributing to a healthy quality of life for all. We recognize the need for a new definition of “park” – one that moves far beyond old, common perceptions to encompass both nature and people, recognizing the connectivity between both and respecting the limits of the land while providing for the spiritual needs of people in a dense urban environment: a place to play or take a quiet walk; an escape from traffic and urban congestion; a place to come together; a source of quiet renewal and rejuvenation. It must be understood that it may take many years to pull these pieces together.

The Baldwin Hills are a natural oasis in the middle of a densely urbanized area, providing a refuge for both wildlife and people. Over one million people live within five miles of the Baldwin Hills, and, with barely one acre of parkland per 1,000 people, this is one of the most park-poor regions in California. With large expanses of Southern California’s native coastal sage scrub, sweeping vistas, and the potential for connections via pedestrian walkways and bridges to schools, parks, trails, Ballona Creek and the beach, the Baldwin Hills present an opportunity to redefine what a park in an urban setting can be, establishing an exciting new model for restoring large expanses of natural open space and creating park and recreation lands in the heart of our urban areas.

Purpose of the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan

The purpose of the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan is to serve as a guide for future natural open space and parkland acquisition and improvements, facility development and habitat restoration within the Baldwin Hills, and for connections to trails, parks and other public facilities.

This plan is conceptual by nature, setting forth an overall vision for the Baldwin Hills that balances the recreational and cultural needs of surrounding communities with protection of sensitive native plants and animals and their habitats. The plan culminates nearly three years of comprehensive research, technical site analysis and ecological assessment, and reflects an extensive public planning process. Led by Community Conservancy International and guided by the Baldwin Hills Park Advisory Committee, this process included the numerous community organizations, public agencies and other stakeholders within five miles of the Baldwin Hills. Senate Bill 1048 (Murray), requires the California Department of Parks and Recreation to prepare a Master Plan for the Baldwin Hills . This Master Plan reflects the many changes in surrounding neighborhoods, a better understanding of the role of uplands in managing watersheds and coastal water quality, the current knowledge of the Baldwin Hills' biological resources, and current recreation and community needs. The Master Plan provides a contemporary, unified vision for creating a multi-use vibrant park, with a variety of recreational opportunities, community facilities, and areas restored to natural habitats, consistent with the goals contained in SB 1048.

This document refers to the "Baldwin Hills" and the "Baldwin Hills Park" as the geographical area encompassed by SB 1048 (Murray). It is expected that future purchases of property in the "Baldwin Hills" will be added to the existing Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. However, this document is not to be confused with the general plan for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.

Location

The Baldwin Hills are located in the southwest area of Los Angeles County (see figure 1) and cover over two square miles (1400 acres). Four miles from Santa Monica Bay and the beach and six miles from downtown Los Angeles, the park site is bordered by the City of Los Angeles on the north and east, the City of Inglewood on the south and the City of Culver City on the west. The majority of the park site is within unincorporated Los Angeles County; the northwest section lies in Culver City. The site is easily accessible to millions of residents in the metropolitan Los Angeles area via La Cienega and La Brea Avenues, Slauson Avenue and Stocker Street. Three major freeways provide additional access: Interstate Highway 405 one and a half miles to the west, Interstate Highway 10 two miles to the north and Interstate Highway 110 three miles to the east.

The Baldwin Hills are part of both an intricate ecological system and also part of a complex human environment. Part of the system of hills, dunes, swamps and wetlands that once made up this area, the Baldwin Hills are most similar to the Westchester Bluffs, El Segundo Dunes and Palos Verdes Peninsula to the west and south; they also share a number of characteristics with the Santa Monica Mountains to the north. Despite their current separation from these areas, and despite the degradation due to urbanization, roads and oil development, many of the Baldwin Hills' native plants and wildlife still remain, and the complex cycles of plants, insects, birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals continue.

The Baldwin Hills are the last large open space area in the 127 square mile Ballona Creek Watershed, and the hills drain into both Ballona Creek and its tributary, Centinela Creek. Ballona Creek flows through the Cities of Los Angeles and Culver City, and the last 4.5 miles includes a developed bicycle trail from National Boulevard to the Ballona Wetlands, where the creek flows into Santa Monica Bay. The Vista Pacifica Scenic Site is immediately adjacent to Ballona Creek and the Ballona Creek Trail.

The human environment is equally diverse. The Baldwin Hills are surrounded by over 30 different communities (see figure 2), 55 schools and 60 churches within a five mile radius. There are dozens of community organizations, including 11 major youth groups, six chambers of commerce and four senior organizations. The Baldwin Hills are the only large, natural open space area within more than ten miles and is heavily used. Walkers and joggers come from miles away to exercise in the fresh air and on the trails of the park, and on spring and summer weekends, would-be picnickers are turned away by mid-day due to a lack of parking. Scouts hold their annual Jamboree in the park, and nearby schools are developing science curricula based on the natural history of the Baldwin Hills.

Community and the Planning Process

The Baldwin Hills area is extremely diverse, encompassing a wide range of ethnic groups and income levels. Within a five mile radius of the park site, ethnic representation is approximately 29% African American, 33% Latino, and 38% White (see Appendix A); within a three-mile radius, the African American population rises to over 50%. Within the five-mile planning area, annual household income levels range from $13,000 to over $100,000, with 19% below the national poverty line and 66% below Los Angeles County's median household income of $37,940 (see Appendix B). Nearly one in every four households in this area has children under 18. Higher income single-family households with larger concentrations of white residents are in Culver City and the western edge of the Baldwin Hills. The eastside of the Baldwin Hills is predominantly African American with the majority of hillside, park-adjacent single-family households representing the oldest and most affluent segments of the population. In surrounding flatter areas, there is a marked increase in high-density apartment complexes and lower income families. Although many of these areas are still primarily African American, the Latino population is growing, with highest concentrations in Inglewood to the south and Jefferson Park to the northeast.

The location of the Baldwin Hills, in the heart of a densely populated and highly diverse urban area, required a community-based approach to the planning process. The communities around the Baldwin Hills have many varied recreational, cultural and open space interests and needs. The goal of the planning process was to hear and understand this multitude of interests and to develop a plan that balanced community needs and concerns with natural resource protection needs and physical site constraints.

Community Conservancy International (CCI) is the non-profit organization who led the three-year effort to develop the long-term vision for the Baldwin Hills, ensuring a historic level of involvement with community leaders and organizations throughout the Baldwin Hills area. CCI began the planning process in 1998, combining public and private funds to create a new model for community-based planning for state parks located in urban areas. Working with the landscape architectural team of Mia Lehrer + Associates and Hood Design, CCI held over 200 individual meetings with a broad range of organizations, community leaders, elected officials, public agencies and other stakeholders. All the information gathered informed the overall design process.

CCI also met with over 30 different public agencies, coordinated with both State Parks and L.A. County Department of Parks and Recreation and conducted two series of public workshops to gather public input and to refine conceptual designs. Over 700 people attended these workshops between 2000 and 2001. An 85-member Baldwin Hills Park Advisory Committee (see Appendix C) was formed to provide community guidance on the planning process. This committee and its Executive Committee met regularly in 2000-2001, providing critical direction and input.

Partnerships

The existing Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) in the Baldwin Hills was established in the early 1980s on land purchased with federal, state and county funds, with the intention of creating a wilderness park in the heart of the city. At that time, Los Angeles County developed the Baldwin Hills State Recreation Area General Plan. The park's name was later changed to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and further expanded in the 1990s with state and county funds. Acquisition efforts continue today. The county purchased a 31-acre site for the Ladera Ball Fields and 150 acres of open space easement in the oil field in the 1990s, and the state and county joined forces in the most recent purchase of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site on the western ridgeline, the most dramatic scenic point in the entire Baldwin Hills.

There are over 30 different public agencies involved in the Baldwin Hills. Those with primary responsibility for the Baldwin Hills are the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, the state Baldwin Hills Conservancy, the County of Los Angeles and the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority. Much of the land in public ownership is owned by the State of California and managed by the County of Los Angeles under a long-term operating agreement. California State Parks manages the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, while the County manages the Ladera Ball Fields. The California State Coastal Conservancy plays a role as well, as the Baldwin Hills is a critical portion of the Ballona Creek watershed. All of these agencies were involved in the planning process, as were the many cities and the park, human services, public works, transportation, public safety and law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction within the area.

The Baldwin Hills Master Plan was made possible by a grant from the California Department of Parks and Recreation working in partnership with the California State Coastal Conservancy. In addition to state funds, many private organizations also contributed to making the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan possible. Funds were provided by the ARCO Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Environment Now, J.B. Berland Foundation, American Land Conservancy and the Quercus Fund. The draft plan was delivered to the California Department of Parks and Recreation in August 2001.

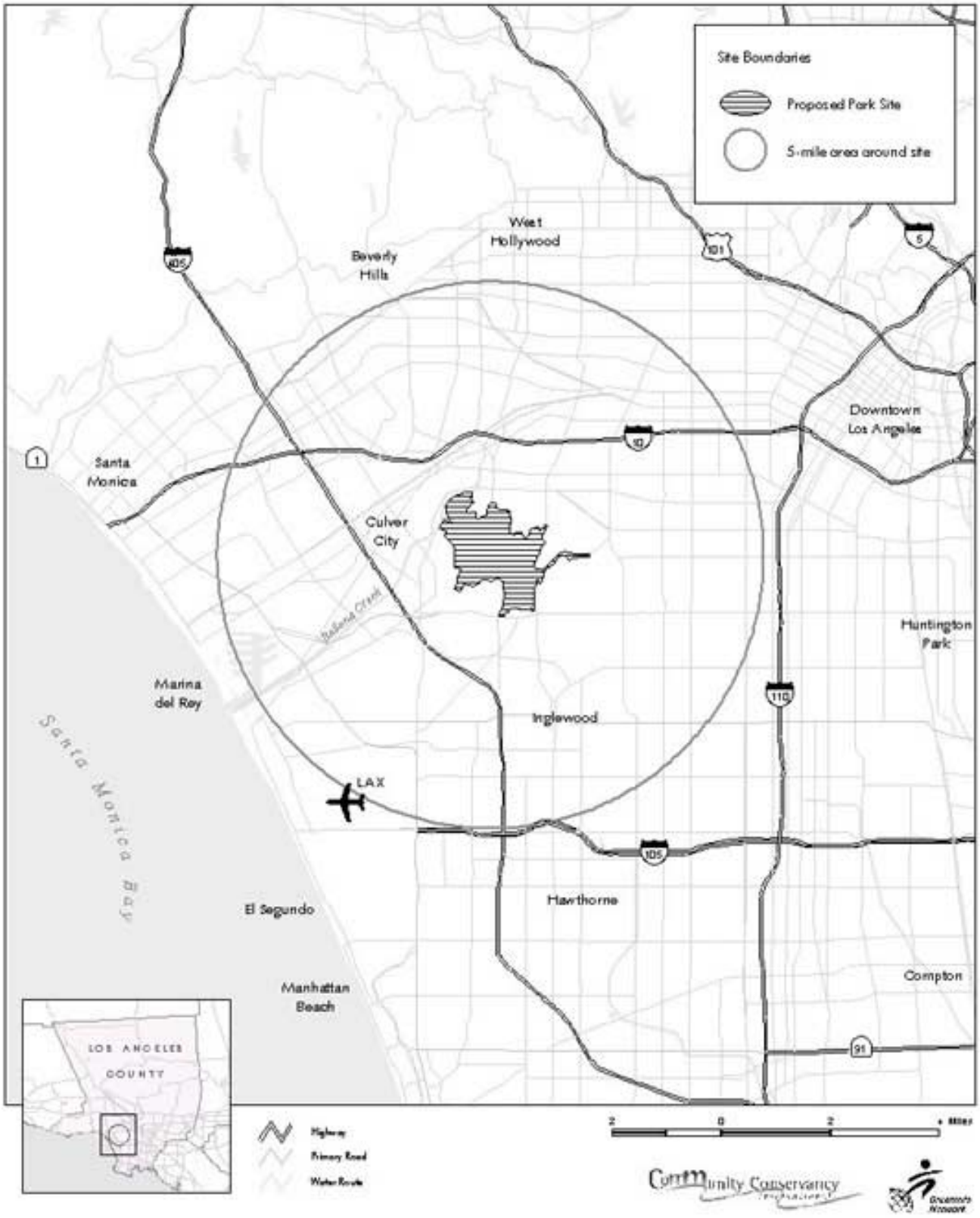
Sense of Place

The Baldwin Hills are the last large swath of natural open space left in urban Los Angeles County. Rising 500 feet above the Los Angeles Basin floor and visible for many miles, the hills are a natural jewel – an oasis in the heart of one of the most densely-populated areas in California. They provide a quiet, tranquil place where people can escape the city's noise and urban congestion, and they still have significant expanses of native plants, protecting many animals that simply can't survive in the surrounding urban lowlands. The Baldwin Hills showcase large areas of Southern California's unique coastal sage scrub habitat and wildlife associated with the plants of this biological community, recalling an era when the land was untouched by human intrusion. In the midst of roads and neighborhoods, oil derricks and pipelines, traffic and concrete, the Baldwin Hills are testimony to the power of nature to endure, providing a source of refuge, replenishment and quiet inspiration.

This is a place to see a hawk perch on an arroyo willow and then take wing, its cry carrying across the hillsides as it rides an updraft. A place to catch the fresh scent of sagebrush dampened by a recent winter rain, its wet leaves gleaming silver against the darker green of the canyons. A place to pause on the trail as a desert cottontail emerges, sniffs the air and then disappears into the underbrush. And the Baldwin Hills capture the sense of being a part of the

FIGURE 1

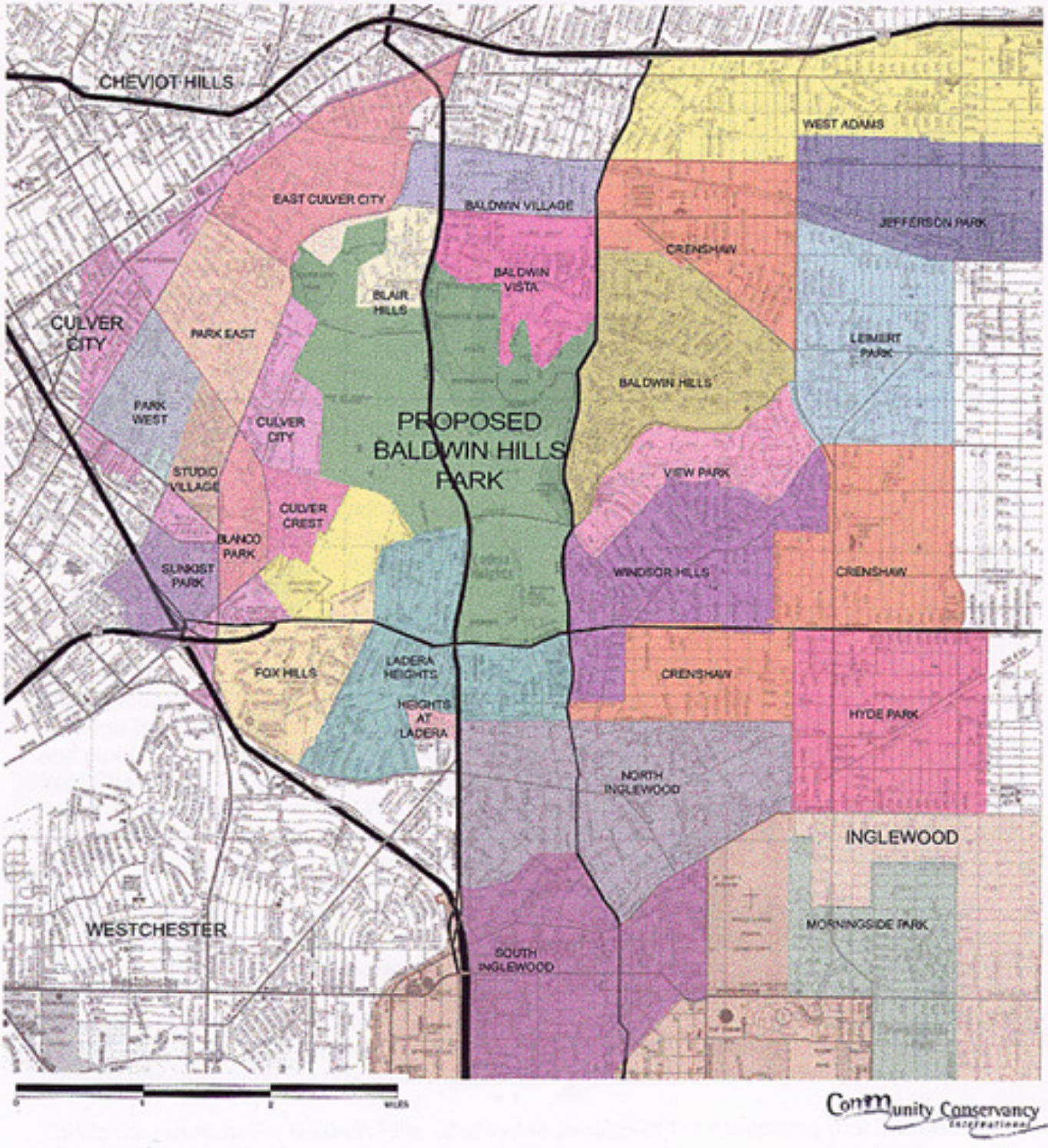
Location of the Baldwin Hills



BALDWIN HILLS PARK

FIGURE 2

Neighborhoods of the Baldwin Hills



larger scheme of Los Angeles' natural landmarks – a place to stand on the top of a ridge and look from the 10,000-foot peaks of the San Gabriel Mountains to the sweeping expanse of the Santa Monica Mountains and out to the vast curve of the blue Pacific on the western horizon, encompassing all of Santa Monica Bay.

Winter rains bring verdant green to the Baldwin Hills' ridges and canyons, as plants take advantage of the water and put forth new growth. California bush sunflower comes to life in the spring with bursts of brilliant yellow, and wild lupine and other wildflowers bring hues of lavender, pink, orange and red to the park's trails and hillsides. Water drains from the Baldwin Hills into Ballona and Centinela Creeks, maintaining the link this area historically shared with the coastal marshes of the Ballona Wetlands where Ballona Creek flows into the ocean.

Oil production has been a part of this landscape for over 75 years, dominating the physical appearance of the majority of the land visible from major streets. Driving down busy La Cienega Boulevard between the Baldwin Hills' two ridgelines with views of oil derricks, tanks and pipelines, it is hard to see that these ridges are part of a 40 mile long series of hills ranging from Cheviot Hills in the north to Newport Mesa in the south. But as soon as visitors enter the park they enter another world. With spectacular panoramic views, winding trails, a fishing lake, lotus pond and expanses of lawn and picnic areas, the Baldwin Hills provide thousands of park visitors a place to gather, enjoy the quiet and a sense of belonging to an important place.

Today nearly half of the Baldwin Hills Park site is owned by public agencies, and nearly 400 acres are open to the public. The KHSRA stretches to meet the demands of outdoor enthusiasts from throughout the region. Weekday mornings and evenings are filled with walkers, hikers and joggers who use the five miles of trails and roads that wind through the passive use areas of the park. Afternoons are punctuated with school buses carrying students on field trips or to conduct outdoor sports activities. Weekends are the most vibrant with picnics, barbecues, fishing and family gatherings filling the grounds to capacity throughout much of the year.

This is the magic of the Baldwin Hills - that within minutes of the cacophony that is urban Los Angeles, another world exists - one where the delicate balance of plants and wildlife is maintained, where a tranquil recreational experience is easily accessible, and where people can go to enjoy the natural world that is an important part of protecting the health and quality of life in urban communities.

Nearly a quarter of a century has passed since the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area was first created to protect the natural features of the Baldwin Hills and to provide a regional natural, open space park in the heart of urban Los Angeles. With increasing population growth, demands for high-quality outdoor recreation in natural settings has intensified, as has the focus on converting industrial areas in urban communities to recreational uses and the need to protect and restore the native habitat of the Baldwin Hills. The years of oil production have protected the Baldwin Hills as open space, and provided a rare opportunity to reclaim and restore these dramatic ridgelines and hidden canyons to provide a place of rare peace and tranquility – a chance to create a world-class Baldwin Hills Park.

History of the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan

The purpose of this Master Plan is to recommend a vision for a world-class urban park in the heart of urbanized Los Angeles. The Master Plan's goals include the creation of a park that provides for badly-needed recreational, community and cultural facilities; habitat restoration, recreation-related economic development; and educational opportunities to learn about the

Baldwin Hills' and surrounding area's natural and cultural resources and the history associated with the settlement and development of the "City of the Angels".

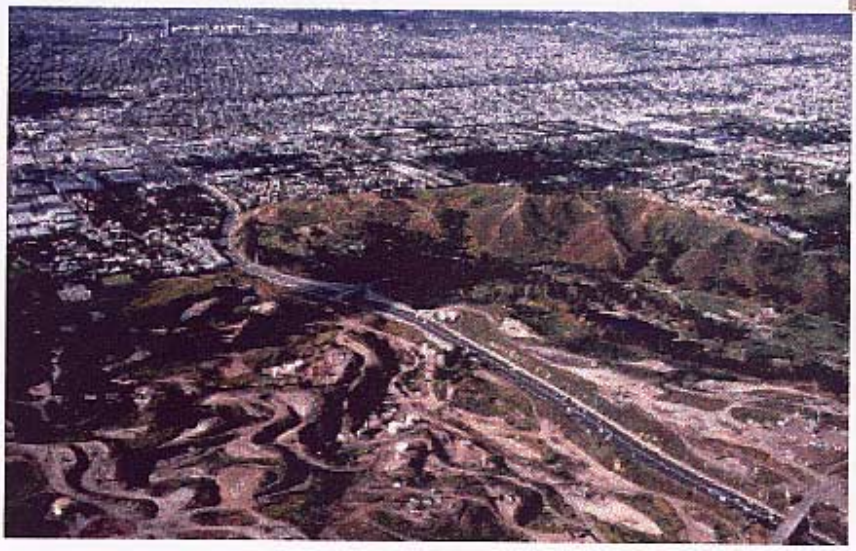
A description of existing uses and environmental conditions is provided along with general proposals to change those existing uses to park, recreation, natural habitat and other open space uses that will meet the needs of local communities as well as the goal of restoring degraded lands to a healthy and natural condition, so the area can contribute to the rich biodiversity of the state. Recommended guidelines for the interim and long term management are provided and may need to updated periodically as new information becomes available.

During the Master Plan development and public review process, many uses were proposed; many were at densities that could not be supported on the site. The Department of Parks and Recreation has evaluated the various requests and has chosen a preferred alternative that will meet the goals and objectives for an urban park within the Baldwin Hills. This Master Plan portrays the pattern, characteristics, and intensities of desirable uses and the general nature and location for a proposed urban park, as well as the recreation and open space improvements that may occur if the Master Plan is implemented.

The Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan is strictly conceptual in nature and was created as the embodiment of a vision for what an expanded park in the Baldwin Hills might become rather than a specific plan mandating any particular actions by state agencies. Given the practical and inherent difficulties of developing a plan involving several different jurisdictions and properties that remain in private ownership, the master plan's purpose is to simply establish general guiding principles and addresses potential project types consistent with the long-term objectives of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy (BHC).

Once a particular project is identified for development and amended to the general plan, the appropriate environmental review and preparation of a negative declaration or an environmental impact report will be developed for CEQA compliance. For information on CEQA compliance, please refer to attachment "A", (letter from the Office of the Attorney General dated April 4, 2002).

Existing Conditions and Issues



Baldwin Hills Park Site Summary

The Baldwin Hills Park site consists of 1400 acres located in the County of Los Angeles (see figure 3). Two parallel northwest trending ridgelines bisected by La Cienega Blvd are the most dominant characteristics of the site. This two square miles of open space in the Baldwin Hills represent the last large open space in urban West-Central Los Angeles County.

Existing Land Uses

Existing uses within the Baldwin Hills Park site consist of:

- Passive recreation, including hiking, fishing and picnic sites
- Five miles of unpaved trails
- Community center
- Playgrounds
- Active recreation and ball fields
- Natural habitat
- Scenic overlooks
- Oil and gas production and processing

Passive Recreation

1) Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (319 acres), managed by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, includes large areas of native coastal sage scrub habitat, lawns and landscaped areas, picnic sites, tot lots, fishing lake, lotus pond, community center and five miles of trails. There are six restrooms; the community center has four administrative offices and a small meeting room.
2) Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, consists of 68 acres of open space and a scenic view site at the top of the hill. This is the northern tip of the western ridgeline.
3) Norman O. Houston Park is four acres and is managed by the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, and includes a lawn area and tot lots.

Active Recreation

1) Ladera Ball Fields (31 acres) includes three baseball diamonds, owned and managed by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, in the southwest of the park site.

2) Culver City Park's 30-acre ball field and park on the west, and includes three baseball diamonds, a small skate park and handicapped access trail.

There are approximately 950 acres that remain in private ownership, and on much of this area oil and gas are actively being produced and processed. Related surface structures include oil wells, pipes, water treatment and gas plants, storage tanks, buildings and service roads. Stocker Resources, Inc. has their administrative headquarters on site. Southern California Edison maintains a transmission facility at the southern end of the western ridgeline. The Holy Cross Cemetery property at the far southwest corner of the park site hosts some of the best examples of coastal sage scrub and riparian habitat; the cemetery uses this canyon to dispose of their plant waste material. A historic home built by the Chandler family exists on the western ridgeline and is currently in use as a private residence.

Adjacent Land Uses

The areas immediately surrounding the park site are primarily made up of single family homes (45%), multi-unit apartments (17%) and commercial office space (17%) (see Appendix C). Several single-family residences are located along the ridgelines of the western and eastern portions of the Baldwin Hills. Directly north of the park site in the adjacent lowlands along Rodeo Road, there is the multi-unit development known as the Village Green, a 70-acre self-contained middle class community of 540 homes. Other condominium and townhouse communities exist in all areas surrounding the park site. These are typically gated communities ranging in size from 100 to 240 units. Traveling east along the foothills there is a marked increase in density of housing. Large neighborhoods of now dilapidated multi-unit apartment complexes are situated just below Jim Gilliam Park off of La Brea Avenue. This area connects to Santa Barbara Plaza, which is a vacant shopping center that suffers from severe deferred maintenance.

A half-mile stretch along Jefferson Boulevard in Culver City is designated by business and industrial uses. This area lies just south of Ballona Creek and features businesses ranging from private storage to waste management facilities to commercial office buildings. Two mini-malls and several neighborhood businesses and restaurants exist in the area. There are several major retail outlets and food markets along the southwestern strip of Jefferson Blvd. Major franchises such as Target, Kinko's and Shakey's Pizza are all located at this commercial hub in Culver City.

Slauson Avenue has high concentrations of retail and commercial office buildings as you travel east from Culver City. The Fox Hills Mall and Corporate Point dominate the area to the south. Holy Cross Cemetery and Fox Hills Park are open space areas located north and south of Slauson Avenue respectively. Continuing east, the single-family residences of Ladera Heights span Slauson Avenue ending at La Cienega Blvd. On Slauson Avenue between La Cienega Blvd., and La Brea Avenue, there are three mini-malls, a shopping center, a commercial office building complex and a pre-school all on the north side of Slauson. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has a station at Fairfax and Slauson. The south side of Slauson Avenue is primarily residential with the exception of two churches and Ladera Park. East of La Brea Avenue, Slauson Avenue hosts a few established restaurants and miscellaneous businesses. This area lacks many amenities that are readily available in other parts of the city, including health spas, gourmet markets, hotels and other franchise businesses.

West Los Angeles College makes up much of the western boundary of the park site. This community college serves over 2000 students and covers nearly 70 acres. West Los Angeles College plays a significant role in the chain of education in the area, as many of the high school graduates from nearby Crenshaw and Dorsey High Schools attend the junior college while in transition to universities. This community college has the potential to be an important partner for the park, providing a crucial nexus for educational training related to the many aspects of park development, landscape restoration, and park management. Biology instructors may also use the adjacent western ridgeline as a living laboratory to study the native habitat that remains a vital part of the area's ecosystem.

Significant Resource Values

The Baldwin Hills are a unique part of the Los Angeles County landscape, rising from the middle of an otherwise flat and intensely developed plain. The long ridgelines are easily recognizable from throughout the Los Angeles Basin, and provide dramatic panoramic views of the surrounding mountains, cities and Santa Monica Bay. Despite years of urban and industrial development, the Hills retain a number of intact areas of Southern California's unique coastal

sage scrub vegetation, and they are still home to hundreds of native plants and animals, providing important habitat to many wildlife that can't survive in the surrounding lowlands.

Physical Resources

Topography

Viewed from above, the Baldwin Hills appear as two long northwest-trending ridgelines protruding upward five hundred feet above the middle of the Los Angeles plain, midway between the coast and downtown, with an intervening central valley (see Figure 4). These hills, along with an interrupted line of similar rises, mark the track of the Newport Inglewood fault, which has, over the past several million years, created a series of terrestrial wrinkles that extend from Newport Beach to Beverly Hills. Of these the Baldwin Hills are the most prominent (6). Continuing faulting has ruptured the middle of the hills from south to north, creating a central rift valley flanked on both east and west by eroded ridges, composed throughout of geologically youthful and easily erodible bay sands and silts. The hills are one of a chain of northwesterly trending hills, which extend 40 miles from the Cheviot Hills in Los Angeles southeast to the Newport Mesa in Orange County.

To the west, north and east, the hills rise abruptly from the flat basin floor, forming steep faces along linear scarps; on the south side the hills descend more gently. Overall, the hills are quite steep, and are cut by many canyons which descend on either side of both the east and west ridgelines. Much of the site has slopes of over 20%. The highest point in the Baldwin Hills is 511 feet and is the highest elevation along the Newport-Inglewood Structural zone. Grading operations related to oil field activities have resulted in considerable modification of the natural topography.

Meteorology

The Baldwin Hills share with the rest of the California coast a mild Mediterranean-type climate, with dry warm summers and winter precipitation from storms originating thousands of miles away in the northern Pacific. Mean annual rainfall is about 15 inches, though both drought years and years with three times the average are not uncommon. The Baldwin Hills contain a variety of slope exposures and elevations, from 150 to 500 feet. Wide variations of rainfall occur within short distances due to topography, with most of the precipitation falling between November and April. A coastal overcast commonly slides in from the sea at night and covers the hills on spring and summer mornings. Temperatures range generally from 50 to 80 degrees F, with cooler temperatures at the higher elevations. The typical wind pattern is a west or southwest breeze off the Pacific Ocean, which brings marine air into the area.

Hydrology

The Baldwin Hills are the last large, undeveloped open space in the urban portion of the 127 square mile Ballona Creek Watershed (see Figure 5). The hills drain into both Ballona Creek and its tributary, Centinela Creek, through the Ballona Wetlands and then into Santa Monica Bay. The hills are dissected by past erosion into several smaller sub-watersheds of a square mile or less in size, which sporadically discharge storm runoff through a half dozen or so brushy, steep-walled canyons. The mostly fine-grained marine sediments that underlie the hills are water-saturated but the quality of water is either naturally salty (owing to its marine origin) or salty due to past oil field operations, and available in any event only in small quantities because of the low permeability of the deposits. The Baldwin Hills are generally excluded from the surrounding Los Angles basin as a source of significant groundwater because they are elevated above the surrounding water table.

Toward the top of the hills the sediments are sandier and more likely to be of riverine rather than marine origin. With potential evaporation rates five times the annual rainfall, these sediments rarely accumulate more than a few inches of water during the winter and have the capacity to store minor amounts of fresh water in local perched water tables which discharge as small springs on the slopes or in the local canyons that flank the hills. Nonetheless, this perched local system of groundwater flow may have significant impact on the ecology of the hills in their original natural state or in a future restoration, though it would probably not offer a significant source of water to wells.

The quality of water flowing from the Baldwin Hills is important to water quality in Ballona Creek, the Ballona Wetlands and in Santa Monica Bay. The unpaved nature of most of the proposed park site results currently in the majority of runoff and rain percolating into the soil, rather than flowing over streets and highways and collecting a pollutant load. Retaining the site as open space would have a long-term beneficial effect on water quality in these water bodies.

Geology

The Baldwin Hills Park site is rich in geological information and activity. The Newport-Inglewood Structural Zone is one of the major geological structural elements of the Los Angeles Basin, stretching 40 miles from the Cheviot Hills southeasterly to the Newport Mesa where it continues offshore, roughly paralleling the coastline. The major fault within this structural zone is the Newport-Inglewood Fault (see Figure 6), which has caused deformation in the overlying sedimentary rocks, and formed numerous hydrocarbon traps such as the Wilmington, Signal Hill and Inglewood oil fields. This fault extends for at least nine miles from the Rosecrans Hills to the Beverly Hills area. Deformation in the Baldwin Hills is believed to have started between 10 to 26 million years ago, and is thought to still be occurring at a rate of 2 feet every millennium. The uplifted Baldwin Hills were formed by the warping of sedimentary rock deposits as a result of movement within the Newport-Inglewood Structural Zone.

Oil and Gas

The Inglewood oil field (see figure 7) occupies an irregularly shaped area that extends diagonally across the trend of the hills along the axis of the faulted Inglewood anticline and covers approximately 700 acres. Oil was first discovered in the Inglewood field in 1924 as the result of a well drilled by Standard Oil. It was explored and developed rapidly such that its peak oil production occurred only a year later at a rate of over 50,000 barrels of oil per day. Production and development, mainly by "infill" drilling between wells, continued steadily to the present. Altogether some 368 million barrels of oil and 269 billion cubic feet of natural gas (principally methane) have been produced. As the hydrocarbons in the field are gradually depleted, an increasing amount of salty brine water is produced with the oil and gas. Starting in the 1950s, the brine water along with additional make-up water has been injected back into the field to sweep additional oil toward wells for recovery. As of 2000 there were approximately 1,200 wells in the oil field, consisting of 430 active wells, 215 inactive or shut-in wells, and about 530 abandoned wells. Field production as of October 2000 was 6,700 barrels of oil per day, 2,650,000 cubic feet of gas per day, and 180,000 barrels of brine water per day.

A significant subsidence area has developed over the years over the oil field. Oil field subsidence, when it occurs, is related to the volume of hydrocarbons and fluids removed from the geologic sediments underlying an oil field. For the Inglewood field, the most recent survey evidence from the 1970s shows that the center of the oil field has subsided more than 10 feet since the 1920s as a result of extraction of hydrocarbons and brine water. It is possible , considering the intensified oil field operations activity of the past few years, that a few inches of localized ground movements may continue to occur in the northwest part of the oil field, which is the most active area of extraction since the 1970s. Previous small ground movements and

faulting have been associated with oil field activities and processes including withdrawal-induced subsidence and pressure injection. Future subsidence is minimized, however, by the significant quantities of water being injected into the field to replace the produced fluids.

There are hundreds of abandoned wells in the Baldwin Hills area, many of which predate recent decades when abandoned wells have been required to be sealed under State supervision. Experience elsewhere, such as at the Los Angeles, Salt Lake, and Playa Vista oil field areas, indicate the possibility of hydrocarbon (gas) seeps for those early vintage wells abandoned improperly.

Seismicity

The Baldwin Hills share with the rest of the Los Angeles basin an exposure to frequent strong earthquakes in the range of M=6+, of which the 1997 Northridge, and 1971 San Fernando, and the 1933 Long Beach earthquakes (the latter specifically associated with the Newport-Inglewood Fault) might be taken as type examples. This significant earthquake threat at the Baldwin Hills park site is about the same as elsewhere in the basin including downtown Los Angeles. Hence, there will exist for any future development, whether buildings, natural or fill slopes, water facilities, and lifelines such as fire protection facilities, pipes and roads, a need to design for strong ground motions. Nonetheless, this should not be nearly as significant a constraint on the use of the Baldwin Hills for park and open space and related facilities as it would be for more intensive residential or commercial development.

Erosion and Soils

The Baldwin Hills have a well-documented history of landslide and erosion problems that are associated with their unstable soil strata and the destabilizing effects of rainfall. Slope failures are manifested by shallow slides and wet season debris flows especially on slopes, which have been artificially oversteepened by grading. Combined with these properties, the geologically young relief of several hundred feet assures chronic slope instability on the exterior rim and in the many gullies that dissect the terrain of the Baldwin Hills. This is exhibited in the form of landslides and debris flows which typically occur every three to five years, especially on the outer rim of the hills.

Natural Resources

This information is based on an ecological assessment of the Baldwin Hills conducted by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Foundation in 2000-2001.

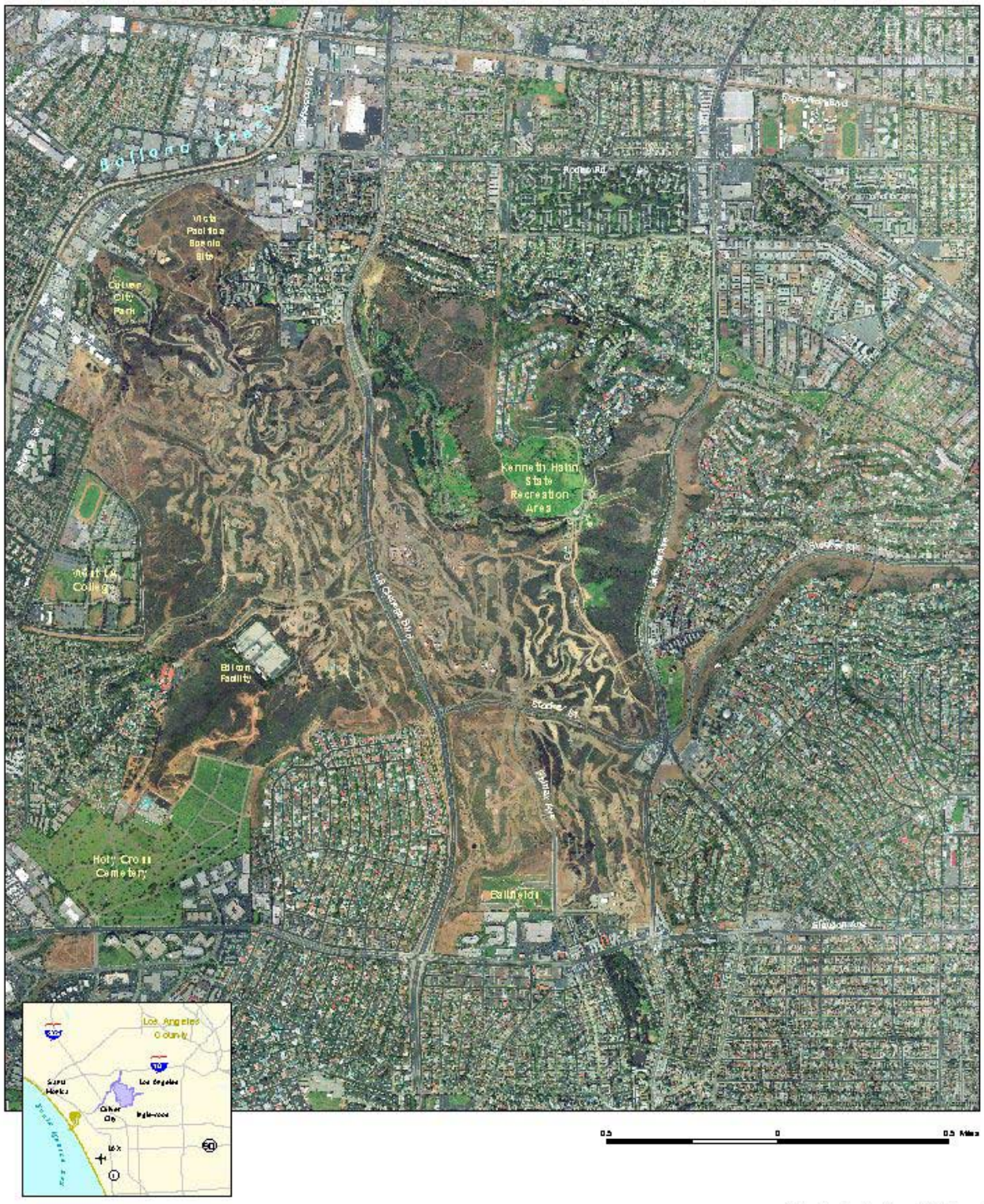
Overview

The Baldwin Hills represent the largest remaining expanse of the once dominant coastal sage scrub habitat in this area of the Los Angeles Basin, and contain remnants of the riparian (streamside) and grassland habitats that once made up much of the surrounding area. Coastal sage scrub is unique to Southern and Central California, and the Hills are home to hundreds of native plant and wildlife species. Historically, the coastal sage scrub habitats in the Baldwin Hills were largely separated from those of the Palos Verdes Peninsula, Santa Monica Mountains, and hills of the eastern Los Angeles Basin by other natural habitats such as freshwater marshes and grasslands, creating a natural island effect (see figure 8). Over a century of agriculture and urbanization has fragmented the former habitat of the region, and the Baldwin Hills are now surrounded by the intensively developed and densely populated cities of Los Angeles, Culver City and Inglewood.

The Baldwin Hills are a series of hills running from north to south ascending to just over 500 feet above the coastal plain. The habitats of the Baldwin Hills are categorized as coastal scrub,

FIGURE 3

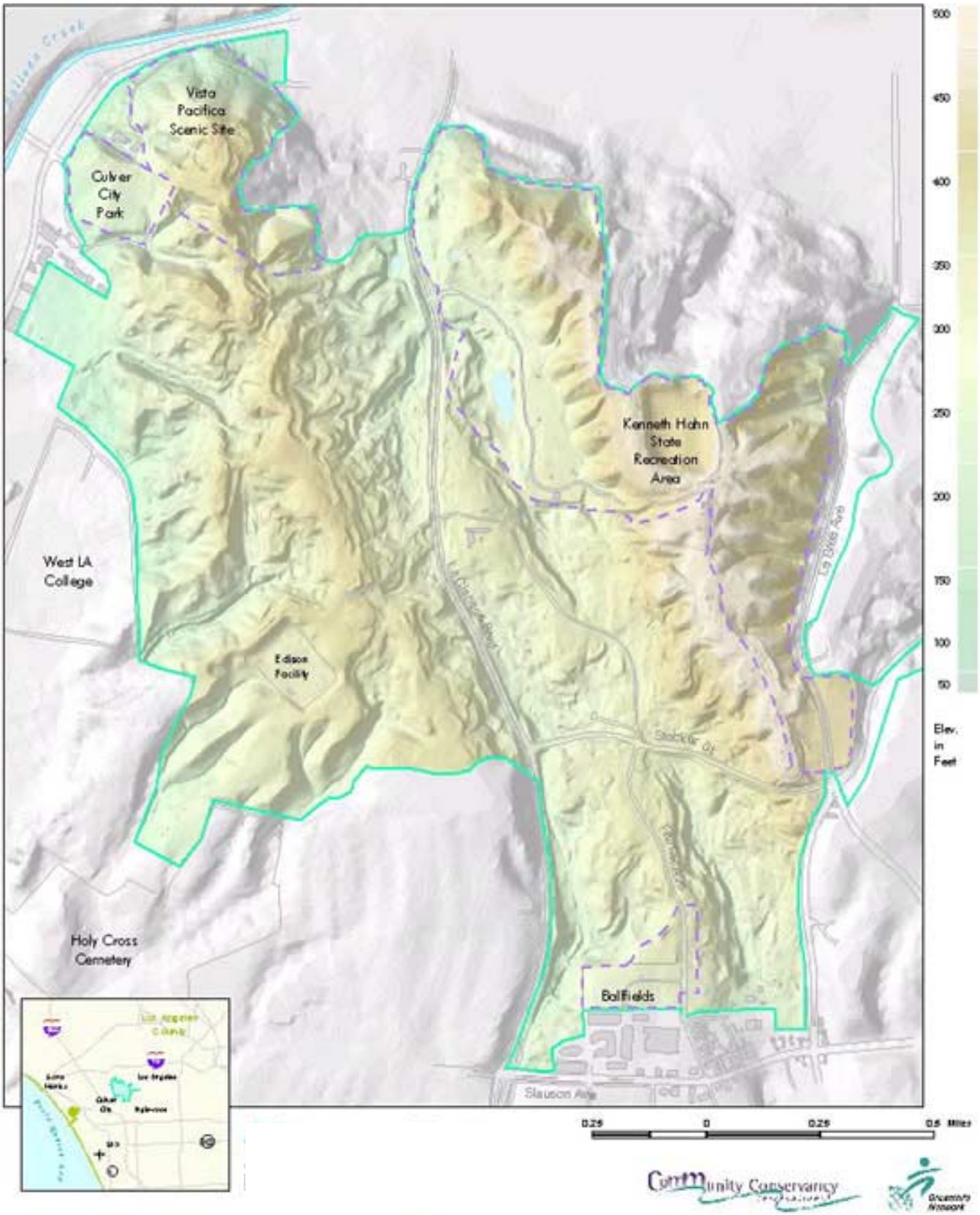
Aerial Image



Map Produced by GreenInfo Network
www.greeninfo.org

FIGURE 4

Shaded Relief



Watersheds of Los Angeles County

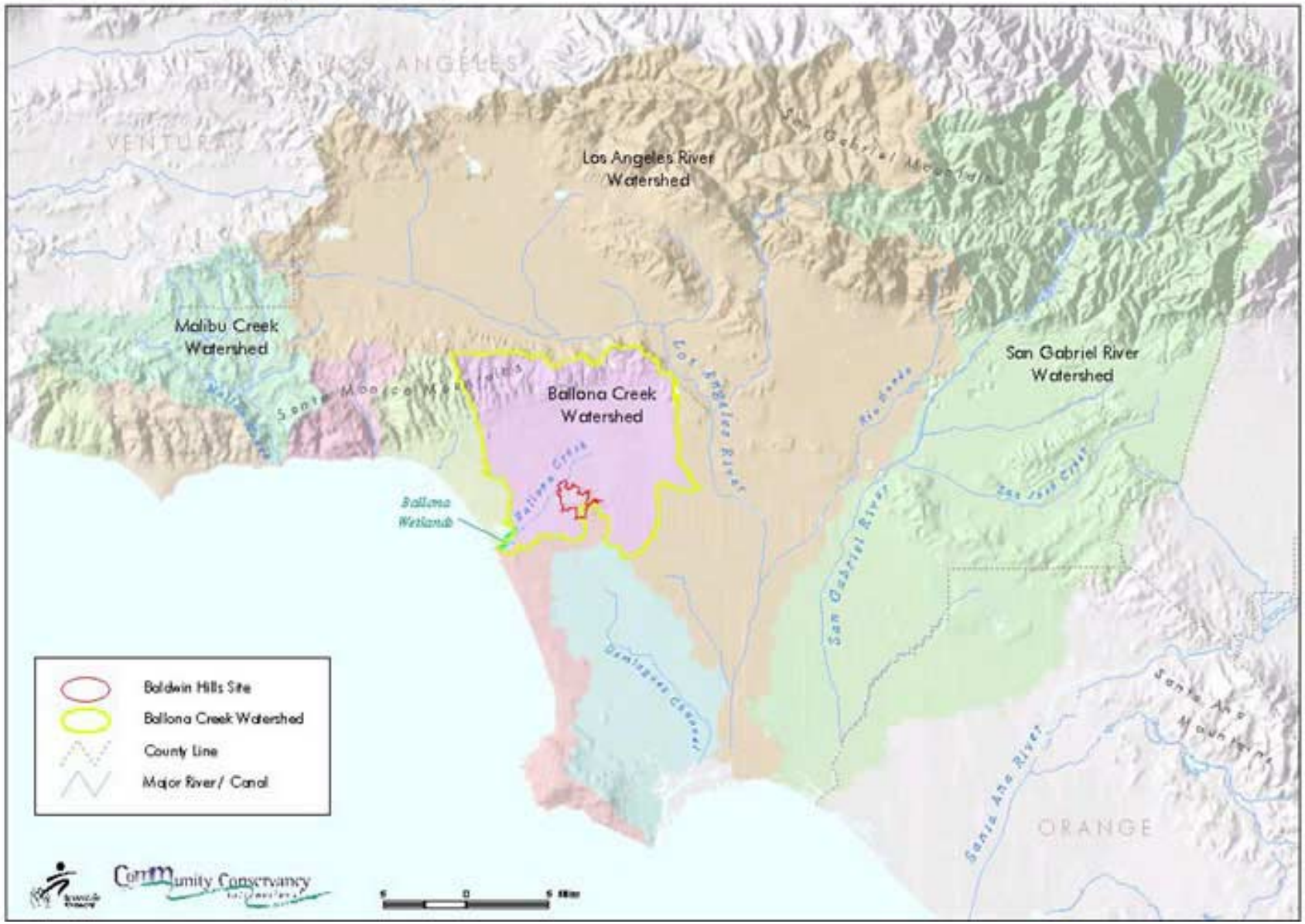
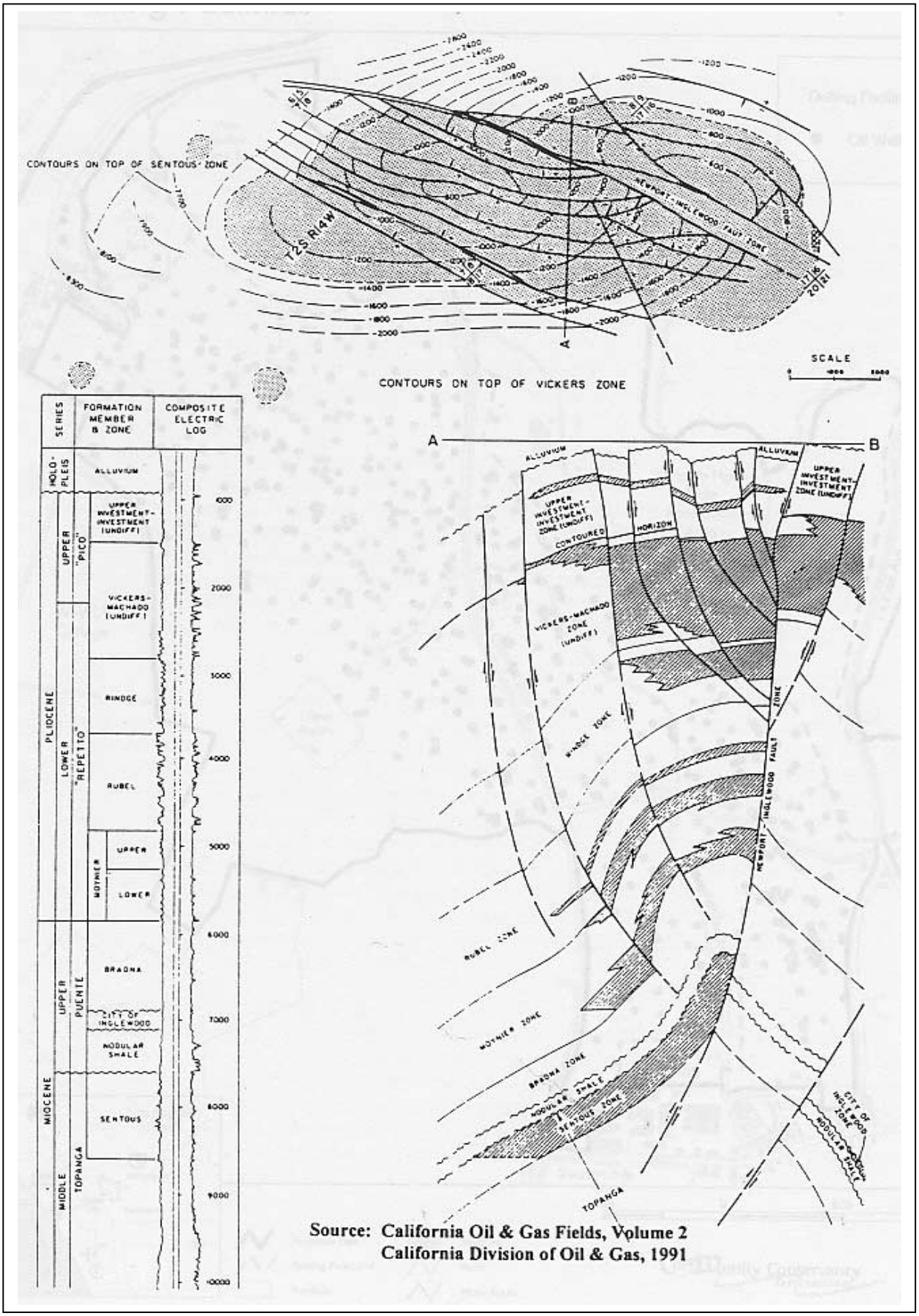


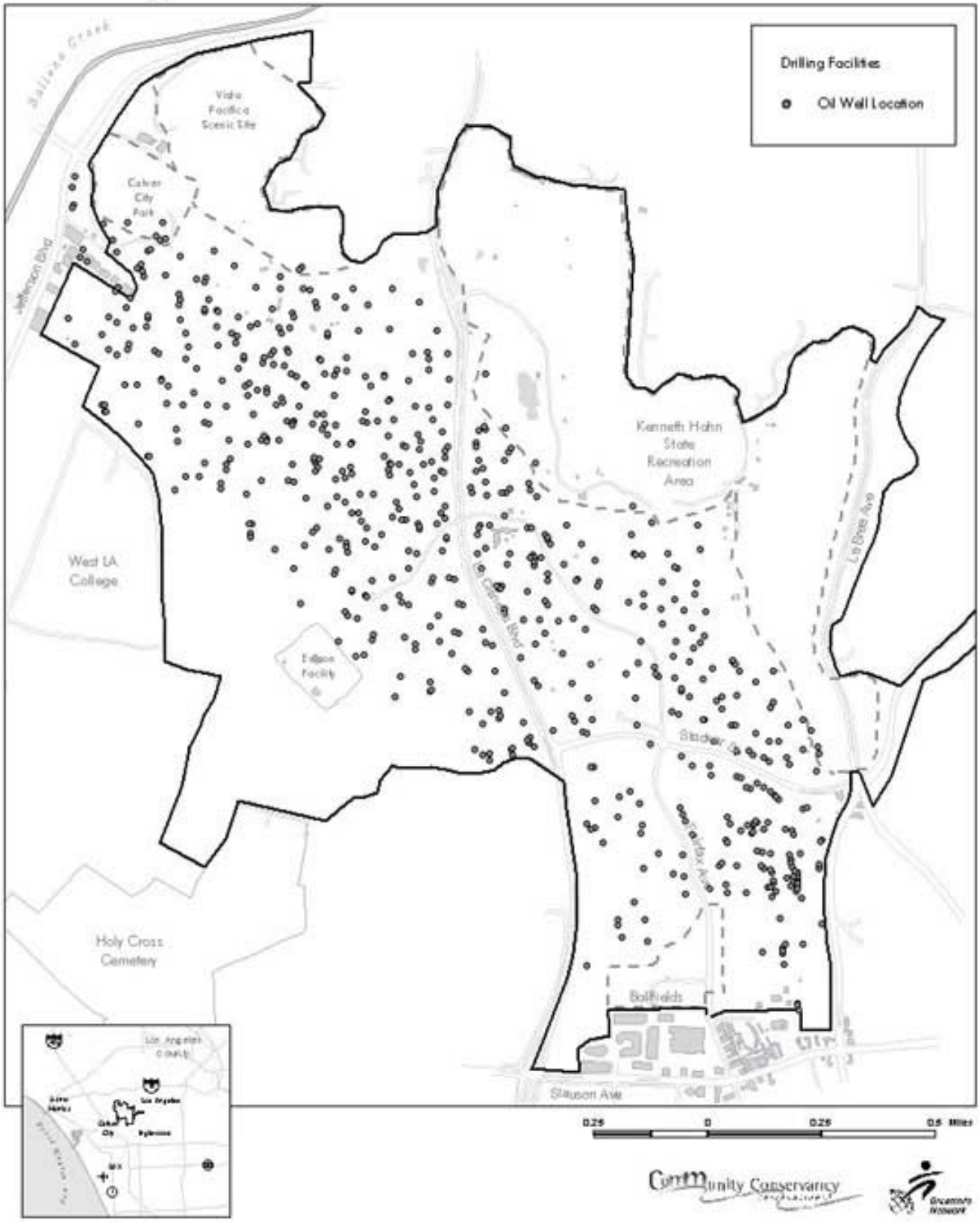
FIGURE 5



Source: California Oil & Gas Fields, Volume 2
California Division of Oil & Gas, 1991

FIGURE 7

Oil Drilling Facilities



grassland and riparian. All of the habitats have been degraded to varying degrees by urbanization, fragmentation and invasion of non-native plants and animals. Fragmentation occurs when roads, trails, buildings, non-native landscaping or other development break a habitat into many smaller pieces. Invasive, non-native species often thrive in disturbed and fragmented habitat and contribute to continuing and increasing fragmentation. The least disturbed areas of the Baldwin Hills are coastal scrub communities located in canyons.

While the Baldwin Hills are degraded and fragmented, they still provide important habitat for animals that depend on coastal scrub species as well as an important educational opportunity for the many human visitors to the area. Historic data on the Baldwin Hills' flora and fauna is limited, but it is clear that the habitat in the hills today has lost those plant and animal species which are affected by human disturbance. The hills are now dominated by plants and animals able to exist in close proximity to an urban environment. Some habitat specialists (species that are dependent upon one or a few habitat types), are still present and others have recently disappeared from the area and become locally extinct. The recent nature of many local extinctions, continued presence of some habitat specialists and the expanses of relatively intact habitat suggest that there is good potential for habitat restoration. Today, there are over 72 species of native plants in the Baldwin Hills, and these in turn support hundreds of native animal species, including hundreds of insects, at least 12 species of reptiles and amphibians, over 166 species of birds and 21 species of mammals.

Need for Connecting Habitat Areas

Local extinctions are more frequent when habitat is isolated from other similar habitats that would serve as sources of species to re-populate an area under normal conditions. To prevent total habitat isolation, provide routes for re-population of an area with native animal species and ensure vital genetic exchange between populations, it is important to re-connect habitat areas in the Baldwin Hills and to maintain habitat corridors between similar habitats. This will allow animals to find new food sources, den sites and mates, and will help preserve the long-term health and viability of native wildlife populations.

Habitat specialists require the presence of specific habitat components in sufficient quantity in order to maintain a viable population. A viable population is one that is likely to persist through time. In urban settings, competition from non-native or invasive species is often a limiting factor in the success of native populations. Invasive species can out-compete native plants and animals, resulting in serious declines and sometimes extincitions of native plants and animals. The loss of a single or group of species can have a cascading effect of loss on dependent species. Mesopredators are omnivores and smaller carnivores, such as gray fox, feral cats and dogs (domestic species which have reverted to living in a wild state), that flourish in the absence of a top carnivore, such as coyote. Studies show that the loss of large predators allows mesopredators, particularly non-natives such as cats and dogs, to grow unchecked and decimate smaller prey species such as birds, reptiles and small mammals. Improved habitat connections in the Baldwin Hills can help protect the remaining native species to survive and thrive.

Vegetation Types

There are three main plant communities in the Baldwin Hills area (see figure 9).

Coastal Scrub

The dominant plant community is coastal scrub, a variant of coastal sage scrub lacking the sage (*Salvia* spp.) component. This habitat type is threatened by urban development throughout Southern California, and is the focus of many conservation efforts. Coastal scrub in the Baldwin Hills is characterized by California sagebrush, coyote brush, bush sunflower and California

buckwheat. It has been impacted by grazing, oil exploration, urban development, park landscaping, non-native species, improper irrigation practices and trail establishment. Growing on slopes of low elevation, this vegetation association is tolerant of drought and adapted to periodic fire.

Grasslands

Grasslands represent a smaller component of the Baldwin Hills landscape and have been heavily impacted by the introduction of non-native annual plants. Modern day non-native annual plants - such as wild mustard, radish and various grasses - have replaced historic native bunch grasses that once grew in the area. A few native bunch grass species have recently been found to persist in the Baldwin Hills; these, and the presence of several species of native annually flowering plants, suggest that perhaps perennial grasslands or prairie did historically occur in the area. Today, zones of grassland occur primarily on ridge tops and low saddle areas within the KHSRA. These areas are overwhelmingly dominated by exotic grasses and other plants that originated from the Mediterranean region.

Riparian Woodlands

The former natural riparian (streamside) community has been largely replaced by artificial aquatic and riparian habitats maintained via park maintenance and watering regimes. Arroyo willow and mule fat still thrive in wet canyon bottoms. Historical evidence suggests that vernal pools existed in the Baldwin Hills. Plant species present in the areas identified in historic records are often found in vernal pool sites; however, no vernal pool indicator species have been identified in recent surveys.

Native riparian or streamside communities in southern California typically consist of large alder, willow, sycamore and cottonwood trees intermixed with shorter stands of willow and mule fat. Historically, the larger drainages in the Baldwin Hills must have supported some riparian growth, and riparian woodland was extensive in the bottomlands of Ballona Creek and its tributaries. Because no significant natural watercourses presently flow through the Baldwin Hills, the existing patches of riparian habitat are supported, in large part, by landscape maintenance or its runoff or other runoff on site. Compared to more natural riparian woodlands, these zones are reduced in extent and species composition, and exhibit a shrubby growth form. Some ponds and intermittent streams exist along and at the foot of natural drainages throughout the Baldwin Hills, and these provide an important source of water for wildlife.

Sensitive and Special Interest Plant Populations

The only plant species identified within the Baldwin Hills and cited as a species for conservation concern (Davis et al. 1994) is the California walnut. The individual shrubs of this species may or may not represent a formerly widespread woodland. Of interest may be the persistence of lance-leaf dudleya (*Dudleya lanceolata*) on a sandy bluff in the Baldwin Hills near West Los Angeles College. This species is not considered rare in general, but it is coastal scrub plant represented by only a small number of individuals in the Baldwin Hills.

Exotic Flora and Potential for Restoration of Native Species

The intentional and accidental introduction of exotic plant species has permanently changed historic plant communities of Southern California. Some non-native plants out-compete native species in the absence of natural fires to which native species are adapted. Other non-natives also appear to be more tolerant of air pollution than native species. Members of the sage (*Salvia*) family are particularly sensitive to air pollution, and this may explain why sage is absent from the area. Some non-native plants that threaten native species are weedy species blown or because they are less able to survive in neighboring habitat and are unlikely to adapt to the rapid addition of exotic predators and competitors.

Ecological Areas of Los Angeles County

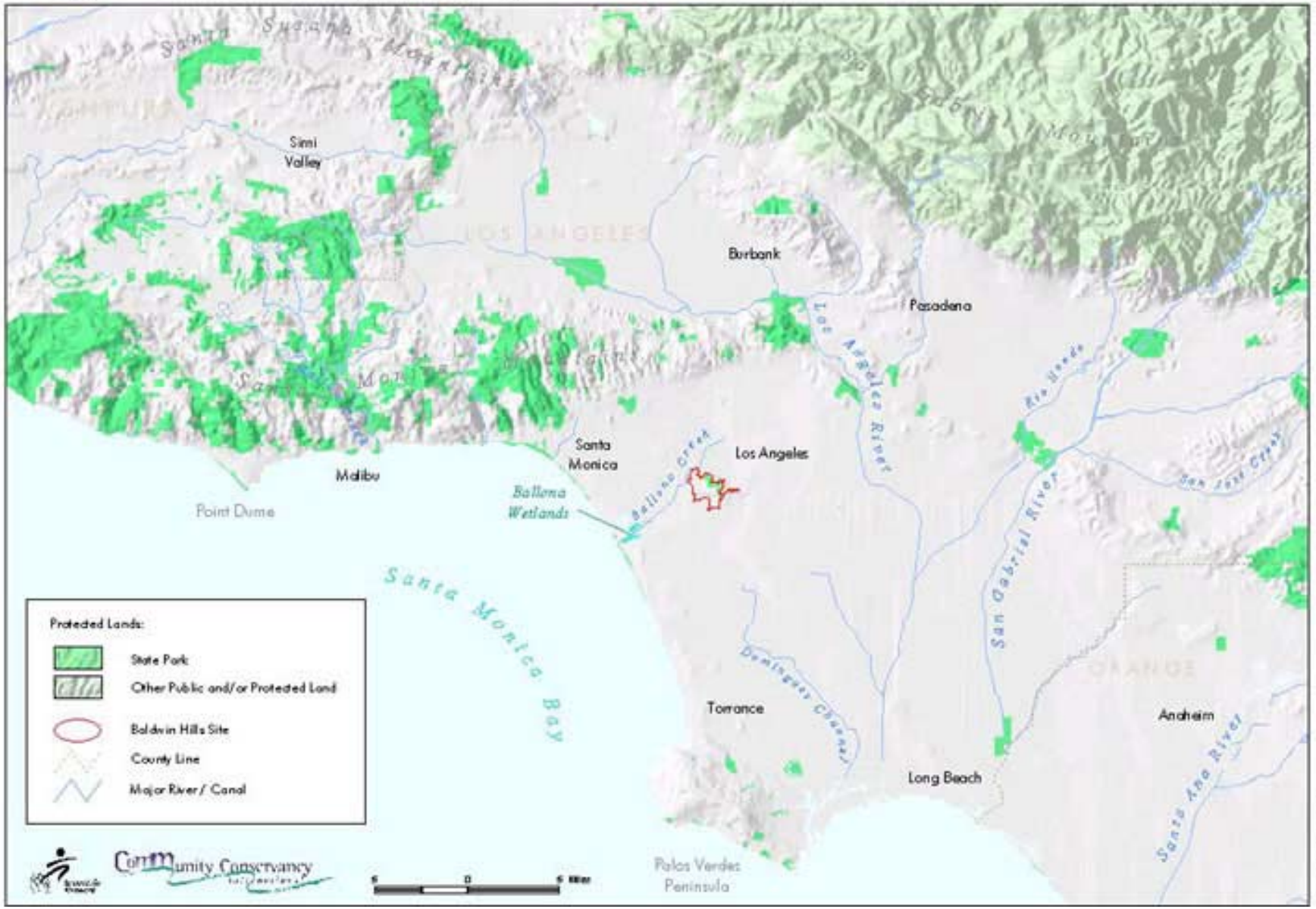
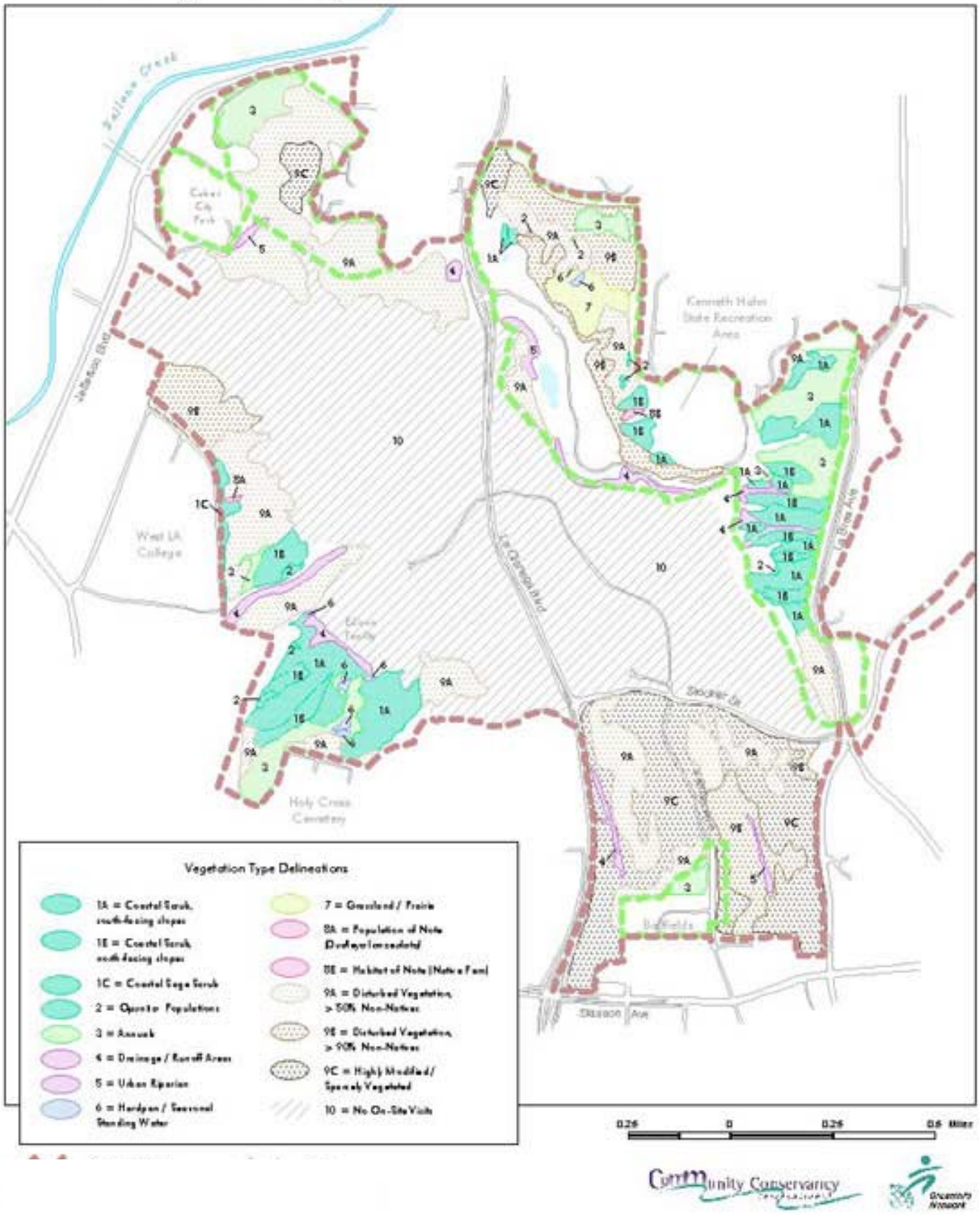


FIGURE 8

FIGURE 9

Detailed Vegetation Types



tracked in as seeds. Others that are very aggressive and pose serious threats to native plants, such as pampas grass, have been planted in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) and have now seeded into natural habitat. Non-natives such as German ivy outgrow and crowd native species; the shallow root structure of the ivy also creates soil erosion problems. Non-native plants also tend to dominate where soil has been disturbed.

Two native plant species adapted for wet soils, an aquatic cattail and the nut sedge, are located at the tops of drainages in coastal scrub communities of the Baldwin Hills. The persistence of these two species in these places indicates artificial water is entering the system. This negatively impacts coastal scrub species because other non-native insects move in to the altered drainage and out-compete native species; this causes a domino effect of loss in the food web, as many other animals are dependent on those native insects.

Removal of non-native plant species must be targeted considering the biology of each species. Some non-natives such as Pampas grass (*Cortaderia jubata* and *C. selloana*) are notoriously invasive and laborious to remove. However, diligent removal efforts would promote healthier and more abundant coastal scrub plants. Native coastal scrub shrubs such as coyote bush (*Baccharis pilularis*) and bush sunflower (*Encelia californica*) planted along the edges of park landscaping could help to contain non-native landscaping plants.

Animal Life

The Baldwin Hills is home to a number of native species, including hundreds of insects, at least 12 species of reptiles and amphibians, over 166 species of birds and 21 species of mammals.

Arthropods of the Baldwin Hills

The diversity of arthropod populations is generally dependent upon plant diversity. Because many insects specialize on one or a few closely related species of plants, they are often limited by the densities and distributions of the host plant species upon which they feed. The most important habitat in the Baldwin Hills for insects is coastal scrub.

There are many cosmopolitan and introduced species of arthropods within the Baldwin Hills, probably numbering in the thousands. These include some 48 species of beetles, 15 species of bees and non-parasitic wasps, and 15 species of spiders. Additionally, 12 species of butterflies have been identified and up to 33 are expected to occur; all but one are native. Nearly 60% of these feed on a variety of common landscaping plants. The remainder feed upon a narrow range of hosts that are not well represented in the Baldwin Hills. Insect species in the Baldwin Hills are dominated by species common to much of southern California and often encountered in urban areas.

Exotic Species

Exotic arthropods such as the Argentine ant (*Linepithema humile*), the pill bug (*Armadillidium vulgare*) and the European earwig (*Forficula auricularia*) tend to dominate in the Baldwin Hills due to irrigated landscaping adjacent to native, drier coastal scrub vegetation. Irrigation has altered the ecosystem of the native vegetation, causing native insect species to be out-competed by the non-natives. The only other ant species identified was the thief ant (*Solenopsis molesta*). It is a small species that has a habit of co-occurring with other ant species from which it takes food resources (Hogue 1993), perhaps explaining its ability to persist in the presence of the Argentine ant.

The pill bug and European earwig are also considered an important threat to native species as they may prey upon their eggs and larvae, as well as directly compete for space. Native insect species dependent upon a narrow range of habitats are most vulnerable to non-native species

Reptiles and Amphibians of the Baldwin Hills

The reptiles and amphibians found in the Baldwin Hills are habitat generalists that have adapted to urbanization, including 12 observed species and several additional species likely to occur. All *of these except the one turtle species encountered (Red-eared slider)* are native to California. The species encountered most frequently were the side-blotched lizard and western fence lizard.

The composition and abundance of amphibian and reptile populations are directly related to the amount of suitable habitat present. The areas in the Baldwin Hills that support native vegetation are often fragmented and have been degraded by the invasion of introduced plant species. These invasions reduce the quality of such habitats for native amphibians and reptiles by altering protective cover, often increasing the vulnerability of such organisms to native and introduced predators, such as feral dogs and cats (domestic species which have reverted to living in a wild state).

Historic accounts indicate that the fauna was once more diverse. Amphibians are especially dependent upon water resources for breeding success and have likely been affected detrimentally by the draining and channelization of historic riparian areas. The artificial drainages currently present in the Baldwin Hills provide limited habitat for amphibians or reptiles in the area. The presence of the western toad and the pacific treefrog are a positive sign, as both have skins sensitive to pollutants in water and air and are therefore important indicators of the area's overall environmental health.

Species of Concern

Reptile and amphibian diversity has probably been lost because of cascading effects of changes to the Baldwin Hills ecosystem. The invasive Argentine ant prospers in areas of southern California with artificial water supply, including the Baldwin Hills. The Argentine ant has displaced native ant communities and the demise of native ant colonies has deprived the coast horned lizard of its preferred food species. Thus it is of little surprise that the coast horned lizard, a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Species of Concern found only in coastal scrub habitat, was not found in the Baldwin Hills.

The garden slender salamander is also a CDFG Species of Concern that historically occurred in the Baldwin Hills. This salamander was not detected in recent surveys, but the dry conditions during the survey period would have made it difficult to detect, and thus it may persist in the area.

Exotic Species and Potential for Restoration of Native Species

The exotic bullfrog is a predacious species threatening native amphibians throughout its expanded range. While the bullfrog was not observed during the recent survey period, its presence in the Baldwin Hills is likely. The bullfrog thrives in habitats with persistent water where its voracious tadpoles eat native tadpoles, thereby eliminating native species. Because bullfrog tadpoles require two years to develop, they cannot survive in seasonal freshwater habitat. However, the Baldwin Hills' artificial waterways provide ample habitat for bullfrogs. Control of this and other exotic predators such as the feral dog and cat could help to sustain herpetofauna diversity and health in the Baldwin Hills.

Bird Species of the Baldwin Hills

There are 166 species of native birds in the Baldwin Hills, including 41 who regularly nest here and 18 who do so occasionally. There have been significant historical changes in the avifauna of the Baldwin Hills. Comparison of recent surveys with sporadic historical accounts suggests

that the diversity of the bird species present in the Baldwin Hills has decreased with habitat fragmentation and destruction.

Species of Special Interest

A number of bird species are found in the Baldwin Hills that do not breed in the surrounding urbanized lowland areas. Documented breeders in the Baldwin Hills include the California quail, Cassin's kingbird, barn swallow, Bewick's wren, phainopepla, orange-crowned warbler, common yellowthroat, spotted towhee, California towhee, song sparrow and black-headed grosbeak. An additional six species that do not breed in urban habitats may breed in the Baldwin Hills but have not been verified.

The greater roadrunner and burrowing owl no longer occur in the Baldwin Hills, and the cactus wren and California thrasher have possibly also been lost from the suite of species that were resident there. Formerly breeding species of the Baldwin Hills which now only occur as non-breeding visitors include the loggerhead shrike and blue grosbeak. The decline in populations of species which are dependent on native habitats is likely due to habitat loss and degradation and the impacts of native and non-native predators such as feral cats and dogs, raccoons, gray foxes, fox squirrels, and jays, crows and ravens.

Coastal scrub habitats have been reduced and their floristic composition has probably changed considerably, and several bird species such as the greater roadrunner, cactus wren and California thrasher that require this habitat seem to have disappeared in recent years. The cactus wren was not recorded during surveys in 2000, although it was recorded as recently as 1996. The rufous-crowned sparrow is known only from a recent sighting of 1-2 individuals that may represent the last of a remnant population or recent colonizers or seasonal wanderers.

The peregrine falcon is the only state or federally listed species documented to occur currently in the Baldwin Hills. Until recently the peregrine falcon was listed as federally endangered, but was removed from the list because of species recovery. It remains as a California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) listed endangered species. CDFG Species of Concern observed in or near the Baldwin Hills within the last decade includes burrowing owl, belted kingfisher, olive-sided flycatcher, Swainson's thrush, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, blue grosbeak and tri-colored blackbird.

Exotic Species and Potential for Restoration of Native Species

While native to the greater Los Angeles area, several species have expanded their range into urban and suburban habitats to the detriment of other bird species. The western scrub-jay, American crow and common raven have all exploded in population in recent decades in urban areas, as all three are very adaptable to urban environments. These species are considered extremely detrimental to smaller birds as they prey extensively on eggs and nestlings.

Restoration of natural riparian areas and native grasslands could enhance populations of several native bird species. Feral cats and free-ranging feral dogs are very detrimental to ground-nesting birds as well as to native small mammals and reptiles. The natural re-colonization or active reintroduction of coyotes would contribute to the goal of eliminating exotic predators and superabundant native mesopredators in the Baldwin Hills.

Mammal Species of the Baldwin Hills

Results of mammalian surveys indicate that the current mammal community of the Baldwin Hills is species-poor compared to the area's historical fauna. It is characterized by species that are generalists and able to survive amid intense human activity. This includes 18 species of mammals, although up to 10 additional species (mostly bats) could occur. The current mammal

fauna includes the native pocket gopher, woodrats, mice, a native rabbit and hare, the gray fox, raccoons, skunks, opossums, and the introduced house mouse and feral cats, dogs, and the fox squirrel. Most habitat specialists have been lost from the mammalian fauna of the Baldwin Hills.

Species of Concern

Two bat species of concern possibly still occurring in the Baldwin Hills are the pallid bat and the western mastiff bat. Populations of these species are suspected to be in decline or are highly localized and require active management to prevent them from becoming endangered or threatened species. Another California state species of special concern that could potentially occur in the Baldwin Hills is the Los Angeles pocket mouse.

Exotic Species and Potential for Restoration of Native Species

The present composition of the mammal community in the Baldwin Hills appears to largely reflect the surrounding urban area; only the gray fox, native rodents, and the jackrabbit have close associations with native scrub habitats. The apparent loss of a top predator, the coyote, has important ramifications for the health of the entire coastal scrub community as the presence of such predators keeps populations of smaller predators, such as foxes and feral cats, in check. Elimination of feral cat and dog populations is imperative and should involve a continuing removal program due to a constant influx of stray animals. Feral dogs and cats not only threaten native species by directly preying upon them, but also by competing with native species for resources. Feral cat-feeding stations were observed in the Baldwin Hills, further exacerbating the problems associated with feral cats. Re-establishment of a viable coyote population would mitigate the harmful effect of these and other mesopredators. A viable coyote population is probably only possible with the establishment of habitat corridors connecting the Baldwin hills to other habitats in the region.

Restoring Natural Habitat and Establishing Habitat Corridors (see figure 10)

The Baldwin Hills was once part of a vast expanse of coastal sage scrub communities mixed with native grasslands, riparian corridors, ephemeral and persistent wetlands, Oak woodlands and chaparral habitats in the lowlands of coastal southern California. The coastal scrub habitat of the Baldwin Hills is believed to have been contiguous with the coastal sage habitats of Ballona and possibly the Palos Verdes Peninsula. However, centuries of development have fragmented the former habitats into small, isolated pockets. Research indicates that species isolated into small habitat fragments have reduced long-term viability and thus greater likelihood of local extinction. Increased local extinctions without increased re-colonization lead to a threat of total extinction. Establishing corridors between habitat fragments can increase re-colonization rates thereby improving long term viability of species.

The intense urban development surrounding the Baldwin Hills prevents the re-establishment of ideal wide habitat corridors to the mountains and the coast. However, the channelized Ballona Creek and adjacent bike trail provide the opportunity for creating a basic corridor to the Ballona Wetlands that may meet the needs of some more mobile species, especially if revegetation of the banks above the creek channel is carried out. Coyotes and gray fox could potentially use such a corridor along with some bird and arthropod species. The likelihood that such a corridor would serve as a dispersal mechanism would be expected to increase both by widening the corridor as much as is feasible and by planting the corridor with native vegetation.

Survey efforts to document the existing natural conditions of the Baldwin Hills area compiled lists of existing species as well as locally extinct species and suggested management techniques that would foster protection, improvement and restoration of natural habitats. The study established criteria for restoration and identified and prioritized habitat areas based on their restoration potential (see figure 13).

The researchers all emphasized the critical importance of preserving the large areas of coastal scrub habitat still found in the Baldwin Hills area. Preserving existing habitat is of primary importance because it is both more economical and more successful than recreating a habitat from scratch. Secondly, land in a degraded condition with some remaining native species that is strategically located adjacent to existing habitat should be restored because it will create larger areas of viable habitat that are more likely to be able to support populations of native animals. Those areas that serve to connect existing and potentially restored habitat areas are a very high priority for restoration, as these corridors will re-connect remnant habitats, creating what could become an extensive network of natural habitats within the Baldwin Hills. Areas suggested for preservation and restoration were selected based upon their potential for successful maintenance of quality habitat considering existing conditions, proximity to existing habitat and potential for connection to habitat areas.

There are a variety of management techniques that should be employed to restore and improve existing habitat. Efforts should be concentrated on:

- re-establishment of habitat corridors
- removal of unnatural water sources
- introduction of a managed fire regime
- removal of non-native plant species
- removal of irrigated lawn adjacent to habitat areas
- control of superabundant or non-native predators (such as feral cats and dogs)
- reintroduction of key species
- creation of buffers between habitats and high-use areas, streets and other urban impacts
- educating the public about natural plant and animal communities

Paleontology

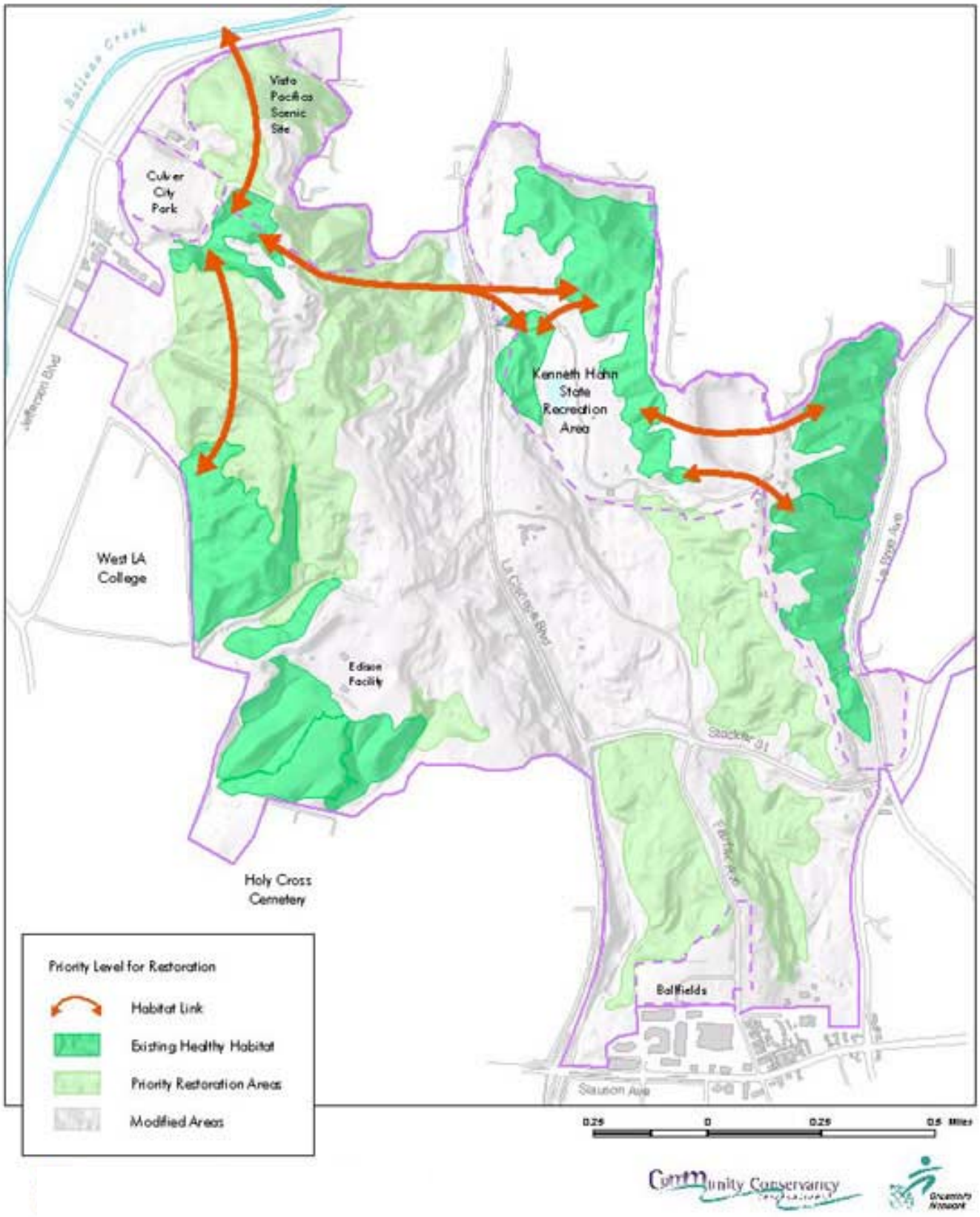
Paleoenvironmental reconstruction of the general Baldwin Hills area show it to possess an environment fairly similar to today, but with more moisture and lower humidity. The area was a plain or open rolling country with an interior, semi-arid type of vegetation where grass-covered surfaces were interspersed with copses of trees and brush, favoring the existence of a diverse population of hoofed animals. In this environment, bison, horse, mylodont ground sloth, elephant, camel, and antelope would have been plentiful. Associated with these herbivores were the typical carnivores like the lion-like cat, coyote, sabertooth cat, and dire wolf. The Baldwin Hills were similar to other parts of North America where big game hunting existed. It is reasonable to assume that even without an artifactual complex present (as we have in other areas) man was exploiting the Pleistocene megafauna in this area. In this period, Southern California populations shifted from a big game hunting subsistence to a small game and plant gathering. Because of the drier climate, water became less available in the desert which in turn lowered the grass resource production. This factor, as well as the changing resource base, resulted in a population movement from inland deserts to the more suitable environments of coastal areas. Environmental adaptation in terms of settlement patterns and subsistence resources permitted a general population increase.

Cultural Resources and History (see Appendix E)

The Native Americans inhabiting the Baldwin Hills area just prior to Spanish contact were a Shoshonean linguistic group called the Gabrielino or Tongva. It is assumed that certain aspects of that heritage were retained and diffused into Southern California. European colonization occurred from A.D. 1540 to 1771 followed by three distinct periods to the present: the Mission Period (A.D. 1771 to 1834), the Mexican Period (A.D. 1822 to 1846), and the Anglo Period (A.D.

FIGURE 10

Habitat Restoration Priorities



1848 to present). The first documented instance of European contact in the general area was the 1542 voyage of Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, who was sailing up the California coast searching for a Northwest Passage to China. On October 8, 1542, Cabrillo, upon entering what is now San Pedro Harbor, sighted the smoke from many fires in the Palos Verdes Hills; thus, he named San Pedro Bay the "Bahía de los Fumos" or the Bay of Smokes. More than two hundred years later, in 1769, an expedition under the direction of Captain Gaspár de Portola left San Diego to reach and supply Monterey. An important member of this expedition was Father Junipero Serra who intended to establish a mission chain through Alto California to convert the Native Americans to Christianity.

On September 8, 1771, Father Angel Somera and Father Pedro Cambón founded Mission San Gabriel where the majority of the Native Americans of the Los Angeles Basin (including those from the Baldwin Hills area) were taken; hence, the Spanish name for the Native Americans of historic times, Gabrielino (the native name being Tongva), is derived from this Mission. Native Americans in the immediate area and from more distant areas were gathered into the Mission to provide a labor force for building, herding, farming, weaving, and cooking. The culture shock and subsequent exposure to European diseases decimated the aboriginal population and resulted in the reduction of vast numbers of Native Americans. By the end of the 1700s, the Native Americans and their culture had been virtually destroyed in Southern California by Spanish missionization (which forced new cultural adaptations, i.e., agriculture). This led to extremely high death rates from disease and warfare and reduced the native population to half of what it was at the beginning of the period.

In the beginning of the 1780s, the concept of the rancho was developed. In the Baldwin Hills area, there were three main ranchos: 1) Rancho La Ballona, 2) Rancho Rincón de los Bueyes, 2) Rancho Cienega O'Paso de la Tijera. The social and economic systems revolved around the ranchos as exhibited by the stratified nature of the Spanish, Mexican, and Native American cultures. The Spanish owners, or “Gente de Razón” were the elite of the area, controlling vast amounts of land which enabled them to exert a vast amount of political and economic influence. Family influence and relatives in the Mexican civilian government permitted some families and/or small landholders to dramatically increase or gain vast amounts of land.

In 1800, the Alcalde (mayor) of the Pueblo de los Angeles was Joaquin Higuera. His son, Bernardo, was to settle the land that joined the Rancho La Ballona on the northeast and called it Rancho de los Bueyes. The Rincón Rancho was settled in December 1821 under Governor Noriega. The origin of Rincón de los Bueyes, "corner for cattle”, was a natural corral created by a ravine in the Baldwin Hills (which lies just southwest of Vista Pacifica in Culver City). Shortly after Bernardo Higuera and Se or Lopez, his partner, settled the Rancho Rincón, Spanish control of California ended; henceforth, California was now under Mexican jurisdiction.

The Rancho Cienega, which comprised the majority of the Baldwin Hills, was called Rancho Cienega O Paso de la Tijera (“ranch of the swamp or passage of the scissors”). In 1843, Governor Manuel Micheltorena granted this Rancho to Vicente Sanchez. In 1875, his son sold a half interest of this Rancho for $60,000 dollars. Unable to pay off his loan, the remaining acreage was sold at auction to E.J. Baldwin, who used the Rancho for sheep ranching even though it was unprofitable (something unusual for this Comstock Mining millionaire). Baldwin, who was sometimes known as Lucky Baldwin, held his luck even after death when oil was discovered on the property in 1924. The Baldwin Hills (Inglewood Field) attracted major oil companies including Standard, Getty, Texaco and Shell, establishing the area as a very productive oil and natural gas field.

Existing Community Infrastructure

There are over 75 religious institutions in and around the Baldwin Hills planning area with a total estimated membership of 80,000. The churches range in membership from 100 to 20,000 per institution. In the African American and Latino communities, religious institutions represent a large cross section of the people who live in neighborhoods surrounding the Baldwin Hills. Several of these churches have started their own community development centers (CDCs) that are focused on creating economic and education enhancing infrastructures within the neighborhoods they serve.

There are 55 schools within the planning area representing elementary, middle, and high schools. Over 30,000 area students will be impacted by the development of the park site which has the potential for recreation and education based programs to supplement their current curriculum. West L.A. Community College serves area youth and adults. The campus is situated on the western edge of the Baldwin Hills and is positioned to be an important nexus for development of environmental based park management curriculum. With parking for approximately 8,000 commuter students, the school will also serve as a prime public access point on weekends.

There are six public libraries serving the communities surrounding the Baldwin Hills park site. Active youth organizations include the Crenshaw YMCA, Culver City-Palms YMCA and the Angles Mesa YWCA. At least four local Boy and Girl Scout districts are represented in Inglewood, Culver City and Los Angeles. American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) has one of the largest organized youth sports programs in Los Angeles. AYSO has a major role in family-based activities and has an extensive network of local members throughout the planning area.

Business and city service organizations in the planning area include three large chamber of commerce groups representing Inglewood, Culver City, and Greater Los Angeles and three specific chambers representing African American, Latino and Crenshaw area business interests. There are two city hall buildings, one in Culver City and one in Inglewood, each hosting a variety of city service departments and their respective city council representatives. The Los Angeles Urban League, the South Los Angeles Economic Alliance, and Leimert Park Merchants Association along with three local Economic Development Corporations, are all integral components of the Crenshaw community infrastructure.

Open Space Deficit and Existing Park and Recreation Resources

An inventory of open space, parks and recreation facilities within a five-mile radius of the Baldwin Hills was conducted by CCI. The County of Los Angeles, and the cities of Culver City, Inglewood and Los Angeles were each surveyed on the types and quantity of facilities in their park systems. The results of the inventory underscored the need for a significant increase in the quantity and quality of open space and recreation opportunities for the nearly three million park poor residents who use the park system.

Open Space Deficit

The Baldwin Hills area is one of the most park-poor in California, with barely one acre of park space per 1,000 people, it falls far below the nationally recommended standard of six to ten acres per 1000 people (see figure 11). The Baldwin Hills Park will serve as a recreation nucleus for residents who live in this highly under-served area. The park acreage breakdown within a five-mile radius of the Baldwin Hills is as follows:

Location	Acreage
City of Inglewood Parks	90 acres
City of Culver City Parks	88 acres
L A. County Parks	371 acres
City of L.A. Parks	362 acres
Total	**911 acres**
Total Population:	1 million people
Park Acres Per 1,000 People:	**0.91 acres**

Simple amenities such as a science education center or a senior center have not been provided for the growing number of youth and seniors in the area. Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area currently lacks a comprehensive trail system to connect existing park areas and regional trails. The only trail in the planning area is the bicycle trail along Ballona Creek, which has very poor public access, no landscaping and no trailheads. An effective network of regional activities and amenities radiating from the Baldwin Hills Park would revitalize the areas park system maximizing the open space and recreational opportunities for millions of park users.

There are a total of 36 parks in the Baldwin Hills area ranging from less than one acre to the 319 acre Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Small pocket parks were not included in this inventory. There are 11 recreation centers in the Baldwin Hills that have community and game rooms, which offer senior and youth programs or activities. The following table represents the quantity of facilities discovered in our inventory. The numbers illustrate the severe lack of amenities available to service the people within a five-mile radius of the park site.

Quantity and Facility Type	Facility Per Potential Park User
22-Lit Ball Diamonds	1 lit ballfield for 45,000 people
17-Unlit Ball Diamonds	1 unlit ballfield for 58,000 people
29-Mulit-use Fields (soccer & football)	1 multi-use field for 34,000 people
33-Basketball Courts	1 basketball court for 30,000 people
61-Tennis Courts	1 tennis court for 16,000 people
10-Gym/Auditorium	1 gym and auditorium for 100,000 people
13-Community Buildings	1 community building for 77,000 people
43-Playgrounds	1 playground for 23,000 children
107-Picnic Areas	1 picnic table for 10,000 people

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

The most significant park space in the region is the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA), which accounts for over 40% of the existing park acreage in the planning area inventory. This regional facility is owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and is leased to the County of Los Angeles for management of the park. One of the most actively used features is the park's variety of footpaths and trails. The Burke Roche Trail and the Rim Trial are the most recent trails created. More than 7 miles of existing trails include the Burke Roche trail which is 2.2 miles, the Bowl Loop at 0.8 miles, the Ridge trail at 2.6 miles, the Waterfall Trial at one mile and the Ballfield Walking Path at one half-mile.

Active recreation and facilities in KHSRA include the following:

Four playgrounds
One half basketball court
One fishing lake

Two lighted baseball diamonds
One lit multi-purpose field
One sand volleyball court
One administrative building with a meeting room

Passive recreation includes eight picnic rental shelters and 100 picnic tables throughout the park. There are also eight large barbecue pits and 60 small ones dispersed throughout the park.

Nearby neighborhood parks found along the main thoroughfares surrounding the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation area include Jim Gilliam Park, Norman O. Houston Park, Culver City Park and Ladera Park. Amenities in these parks include tennis and basketball courts, multi-use playing fields, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

Ballona Creek Trail & Bikeway

The only non-street walking and bicycle trail that exists in this part of Los Angeles County is the Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway. Located approximately 200 yards from the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, the Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway extends to the Ballona Wetlands, southern beaches and the Pacific Ocean (see figure 12). It provides the only trail access to the 25-mile Beach Bike Trail, connecting to Dockweiler State Beach, to Will Rogers State Beach to the north in Santa Monica, and to the Palos Verdes Peninsula past Torrance to the south. This critical connection can provide a unique recreational resource to millions of residents in urban Los Angeles County.

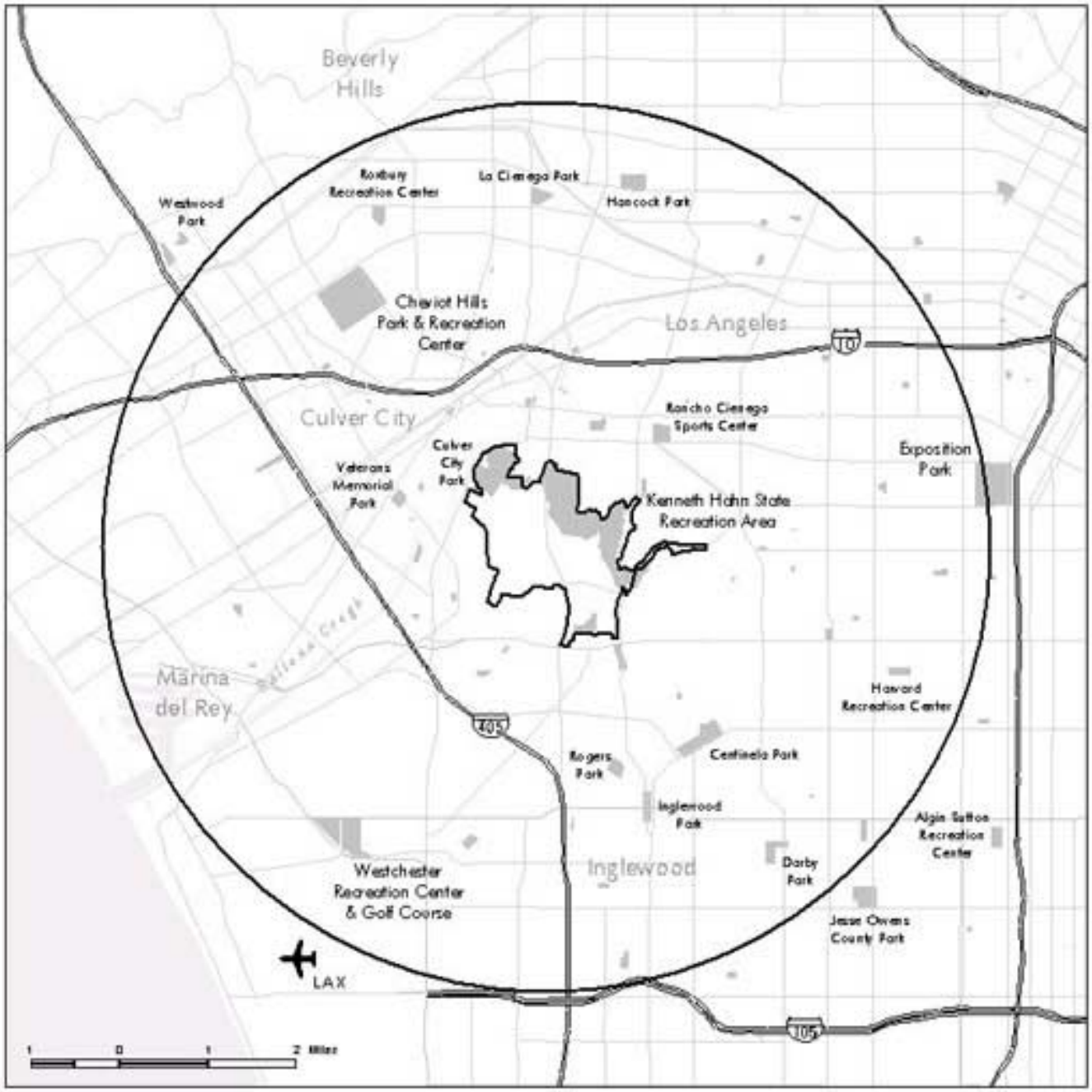
Aesthetic Values of the Baldwin Hills Planning Area

Viewsheds

The east and west ridges of the Baldwin Hills provide unique and unparalleled panoramic vistas of the Los Angeles basin, Santa Monica Bay and the San Gabriel and Santa Monica Mountains (see figure 13). These views provide a striking sense of the urban fabric of the city framed by natural elements of ocean and mountains. Although views of the basin from the north are commonly available from the Santa Monica Mountains, no other public open spaces afford nearly 360-degree views from the south looking at the ocean and mountain ranges that surround the basin. From the 500 foot elevations of the Baldwin Hills, views of the Pacific Coast and all of Santa Monica Bay are visible, and visitors can see as far as Catalina Island on clear days. Views of mountain ranges to the north and east include the Santa Monica Mountains, the Hollywood Hills, the Verdugo Hills, the San Gabriel Mountains and the Santa Ana Mountains. The urban skylines of Santa Monica, Century City, Los Angeles, Hollywood, and the Century Boulevard corridor are present as well. These views are accessible from the existing ridge trail in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and from the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. Additional access to the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site and the western ridge will provide increased opportunities for views of the northern and western portions of the basin. The ridgelines also provide views into the interior of the park site, which when redeveloped will include views of restored natural areas, gardens and park landscapes.

Existing views from within the site are varied, consisting of natural habitat areas, recreation uses and industrial facilities. The ridge and valley topography of the site provides opportunities for

Open Space Deficit in the Baldwin Hills



Number & Facility Type		Facility per Potential Park User
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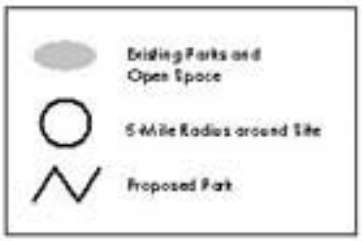
13	Community Buildings	1 per 77,000 people
43	Playgrounds	1 per 23,000 people
107	Picnic Areas	1 per 10,000 people



Community Conservancy

Ballona Creek Trail and Bikeway Connections

Community Conservancy International

focused views of natural areas. The proposed park design includes re-shaped topography and planting areas that will screen or otherwise direct views to exclude industrial areas.

Natural Habitat

Most of the well-preserved natural habitat areas are located in canyons and slopes on the eastern face of the east ridge and the western face of the west ridge. High priority restoration areas are located adjacent to the existing habitat areas and are intended to provide larger, contiguous habitat areas. The predominant coastal sage scrub vegetation covers steep slopes and canyons from the ridgelines to the boundaries of the site. These general vegetation patterns are visible from long distances and from adjacent neighborhoods and streets. Views of natural habitat areas from existing trails are very rewarding, including wildflowers, native shrubs, many species of birds and small reptiles and mammals.

Human Development

Within the site, developed areas include oil and gas extraction and processing facilities, utility structures, an electrical transmission facility, recreational facilities and a municipal garbage truck transfer facility. Scarred denuded hillsides, paved and unpaved roads, intermittent oil wells, pipelines, pipe storage and related buildings and facilities characterize the areas of oil and gas production. Larger processing facilities are located in close proximity to La Cienega Boulevard and include buildings with an industrial character, large pipe structures, tanks and other associated equipment. Other structures related to oil production and processing include a series of small wooden buildings and a large historic residence built in the craftsman style in the northwest portion of the site. Stocker Resources Inc.'s headquarter buildings are located in the southeast corner of the site. They are commercial in nature. Developed recreation facilities include the Ladera Little League fields, consisting of baseball diamonds with associated fencing, parking facilities and nighttime lighting.

Existing facilities in Culver City Park include baseball diamonds with associated fencing and parking facilities. A handicapped-accessible trail linking the park entrance with the recreation facilities above is a dominant visual feature on the edge of the park. A small skateboard area located adjacent to Jefferson Boulevard is furnished with basic equipment and is highly visible from the park edge. Human development in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area is characterized by a fishing lake, restroom buildings, a small community center, ornamental gardens, and passive recreation facilities including picnic tables, shelters, seating and trails. The fishing lake is a man-made water body with handicapped-accessible ramps and paved seating areas. Ornamental gardens include a man-made stream, a water lily pond and the Olympic Forest, an assortment of non-native trees, including eucalyptus.

Communication and Utility Towers

Due to the high elevations of the site, numerous microwave towers are located on the eastern ridge in the vicinity of the former reservoir site. Electrical transmission towers run from the Five Points intersection at La Brea Avenue and Stocker Street to the north. Additional utility towers in the southwest part of the site carry electricity from the Southern California Edison facility through the site to the north. Other types of communication towers are located on the ridge tops and are visible from inside the park as well as from a distance.

Noise

Multi-lane high-speed streets in the center and on the edge of the site produce high levels of traffic noise. La Cienega Boulevard, a six lane limited access roadway, is the main source of noise in the site area, especially during peak traffic flows. La Brea Avenue, a four-lane roadway on the eastern edge of the site, also generates significant traffic noise. Despite the presence of these noise sources there are many areas of the site that are protected by landforms where traffic noise is imperceptible. The steep hillsides and canyons on the edges of the site create highly efficient noise barriers. The industrial activities of oil extraction, drilling and processing create point sources with varying levels of noise impact. Noise from the active recreational activities at the Ladera Little League fields does not appear to cause problems as the fields are located far enough from adjacent residential areas.

Planning Influences

Community Planning Process

The goal of the community planning process was to hear and understand the multitude of stakeholder interests and to develop a plan that balanced community needs and concerns with natural resource protection and physical site constraints. Community Conservancy International (CCI) held a comprehensive series of public planning workshops around the Baldwin Hills to receive direct community input on planning priorities for the park (see Appendix F). CCI's community outreach efforts ensured that the workshop attendees were representative of the diversity found in the population that resides within five miles of the Baldwin Hills Area.

The first series of six workshops were held in targeted communities in and around the park site. The workshop venue locations were in the cities of Inglewood and Culver City and in the communities of Fox Hills, West Adams, Baldwin Hills and Crenshaw. Over 400 people attended the first series of public planning workshops**.** The workshops were structured to allow participants to carefully review 24 color display boards that provided an overview of the research and analysis conducted during the planning process. Community input was facilitated through discussion groups. Information was gathered from sub-groups of 15 or less who discussed and voted on specific issues and elements of the park. Issues ranging from park safety and security to youth education and training were a part of each group's session. Suggestions and issues from each focus group were recorded and summarized to help the planning team identify community priorities for the park design (see Workshop I Results in Appendix F). Surveys were also collected from the workshop attendees to capture a written perspective of the needs of the community.

The second series of public workshops was held at West Los Angeles Community College. This series allowed the planning team to present two alternative concepts to the public for review and comment. A comprehensive exhibit was mounted in the fine arts gallery displaying information on the biology, slope analysis, landforms, land use, demographics and site potential and site limitations of the Baldwin Hills area. Following an extensive presentation and hours of focus group discussion, the 300 attendees voted on the elements they wanted to see in the final park design (see Workshop II Results in Appendix F).

Panoramic Views

FIGURE 13

Top: View of Palos Verdes Peninsula. Center: View of Santa Monica Bay and Pt. Dume. Bottom: View of Santa Monica Mountains

The public planning workshops were extremely effective and accomplished the following objectives:

1) Increased the public's awareness of the Baldwin Hills Park and stakeholder participation in the park design process.

2) Provided an opportunity for the planning team to present visual ideas, allowing people to see what is possible for the Baldwin Hills and what has been accomplished in other areas in and outside of the U.S.

3) Facilitated interaction between a wide range of groups, and provided a chance for individuals to voice their opinions and to hear the ideas of others.

4) Provided an opportunity for the planning team to hear first-hand from community members, get direct feedback on park concept designs and to discuss and explore a wide variety of issues.

In addition to the workshops, a number of meetings were held with various public agency staff representing the four different jurisdictions in the planning area: Los Angeles County, City of Culver City, City of Inglewood and the City of Los Angeles (see Appendix E).

Recreation Patterns

The activities that are most common to the area include walking and jogging. The limited walking trails provided in the area are not comprehensive enough to accommodate the majority of users in the area. Park adjacent streets such as La Brea Avenue, Stocker Street and Overhill Drive are regularly in use by pedestrians as exercise routes to and from the park and its five miles of trails. Most of this exercise-related activity takes place in the mornings and evenings. Throughout the year visitors take advantage of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (KHSRA) and its passive recreation amenities. Several local schools regularly schedule bus trips to visit the park, providing area students with the opportunity to participate in outdoor activities. Fishing is a very popular year round activity. The lake is stocked with approximately 370 pounds of fish each month and is patronized at all times of the day.

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Usage

During weekends in the summer months, nearly 20,000 visitors fill the park enjoying the open space and natural surroundings of the passive areas in the park. A variety of groups use KHSRA on a fee reservation basis. Groups of approximately 100 people or less reserve picnic and recreation areas for the following general activities:

- Church events
- Small corporate gatherings
- Family reunions
- Graduations
- Birthday celebrations
- Weddings

Special activities include an annual overnight campout for 300 youth sponsored by the Boy Scouts of America. Interpretive and nature walks for school groups and small public groups are conducted on a semi-weekly basis.

Public Concerns

One of the most important issues raised by the public that has influenced the design of the park site is the protection of natural areas with the greatest potential for sustaining native wildlife and plant habitat. This coincides with the overall public goal of preserving the natural character of the area for education opportunities and community enjoyment. It is also important to note these protected zones would need to be accessible by a carefully designed system of trails.

Public safety and security were among the highest concerns raised by the public. Designing the park as a safe environment for recreational, educational and cultural activities included limiting construction of activities and facilities in areas of steep and unstable slopes, and conducting a thorough environmental health review of all public activity areas. Maintaining a secure environment should be considered a top priority for the park plan. In addition to existing county park police in the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area,and on site security provided by State Park Rangers, additional county park police or other local law enforcement personnel should be included in the park plan to address concerns about illegal activities taking place in the park site. In the event of an emergency, easy access for public safety and first aid vehicles were also deemed critical to making the park safe.

Adjacent residential areas expressed concerns regarding the proximity of entrances and recreation activities to their homes. Of particular concern was the impact of noise, lights and crime typically associated with urban parks. In an effort to create a park that is compatible to the surrounding neighborhoods, the design team addressed these issues by creating wide buffer zones of natural habitat around the park and strategically placing active recreation areas away from nearby homes.

Issues and Analysis

All aspects of the proposed park site were thoroughly researched, analyzed and mapped to determine site constraints and limitations as well as site opportunities and potential. GIS (Geographic Information System) mapping based on a current aerial survey was used. Diagrams of key elements posing constraints or potentials were prepared (see Figures 14 and 16) to assess optimum placement of park, recreation, habitat and other related uses.

Site Constraints and Limitations (Figure 14)

Topography

As part of the Newport Inglewood Structural Zone, a series of northwesterly trending hills extending from Cheviot Hills in the North to Newport Mesa in the south, the Baldwin Hills are characterized by two ridges rising up to 500 feet above sea level. Steep slopes and canyons dominate the site on the east and west sides of both ridges. The interior of the site is characterized by similar steep slopes in the northeastern portion of the site within Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area. Industrial operations in the central part of the site have produced considerable alteration of the natural topography. Areas graded for roadways and oil and gas extraction operations are characterized by steep and often unvegetated earthen slopes. A slope analysis performed with GIS software identified much of the site as having slopes of 15% or greater (see figure 15). These areas are considered largely unsuitable for structures or recreational facilities due to instability of slopes, numerous public safety hazards, and the cost of grading and constructing retaining structures required to create viable construction sites.

Adjacent Neighborhoods

The site is bounded on the north, west and southwest by single and multi-family residential neighborhoods. Visual impact and noise from park activities have the potential to create disturbances to adjacent residences. Residents in homes adjacent to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area have experienced impacts from the park. Planning of future facilities should include effective mitigation measures including adequate setbacks from adjacent neighborhoods and the use of earthforms and existing topography to separate park activities from adjacent residents. Restored ecological areas without recreational access can also serve as buffers between the park and adjacent homes. Activities requiring night lighting should utilize efficient, shielded lighting equipment that eliminates light spillage or overflow. Activities generating high levels of sound should be located far enough from adjacent residential areas to avoid conflicts.

Natural Habitat

Natural habitat areas will have limited recreational and trail use in order to protect sensitive wildlife and plant species. The location of existing habitat areas and those with restoration potential were identified by the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History's ecological assessment and then incorporated into the GIS database for mapping. These areas were evaluated based on the quality of existing habitat and their potential for successful restoration. In the proposed park plan, areas of existing natural habitat or areas with high potential for restoration have been excluded from consideration for structures or facilities that would have significant negative impacts on wildlife and vegetation. Where natural habitat areas are located in close proximity to active recreation or other facilities planned to have frequent use, landscape buffer areas with limited access will be used to prevent negative impacts from noise, lighting or irrigation and stormwater runoff.

Roads and Traffic

Two streets act as major constraints to development on the park site. La Cienega Boulevard is a six lane limited access street that bisects the site, dividing it into east and west portions; this road is also a major north-south thoroughfare and a significant commuter route. The many vehicles that travel La Cienega Boulevard at high speeds generate significant levels of noise, and are a serious safety hazard for adjacent uses.

The only existing vehicular access to Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area is from exit lanes on La Cienega Boulevard from the north and southbound directions. This access includes deceleration and acceleration lanes in order to maintain vehicle travel speeds on the main part of the roadway. Even with this separation of park visitors from commuters, traffic can be affected and visitors do encounter delays entering the park on heavy use days.

The Five Points intersection includes La Brea Avenue, Stocker Street and Overhill Drive. Its location at a high point where the three streets intersect severely limits visibility. A complex signal pattern accommodating through traffic and turning lanes makes pedestrian crossings very difficult and raises serious safety issues. This intersection was identified early in the design process as a particularly difficult intersection unsuitable for vehicular park access, posing serious safety issues, and in need of a bridge to provide safe pedestrian access.

Stocker Street provides a popular east/west route connecting La Cienega Boulevard to Fairfax Avenue, La Brea Avenue and to points further east. Stocker Street is the main access for the oil and gas extraction activities and currently does not have sidewalks. La Brea Avenue, on the east edge of the site, is a four-lane street with a posted speed limit of 40 mph. Vehicles on this street also generate high levels of noise that could be disruptive to adjacent activities. This street also lacks continuous sidewalks.

Adjacent Uses Requiring Masking

As the park will most likely be developed in phases, the screening of ongoing oil production and related industrial uses will help to create the sense of a natural and recreational environment. While the most objectionable views may be the oil production facilities within the site, there are some other adjacent uses that will also benefit from screening. Holy Cross Cemetery on the southwest edge of the site includes maintenance areas within view of the park. Screening views of adjacent office buildings and retail properties at the southeast edge of the site will also assist in creating a more park-like atmosphere. Views of some residential areas on the northeastern edge of the park could benefit from screening as well.

Site Opportunities and Potential (see Figure 16)

Ridgelines and Views

The ridgelines of the Baldwin Hills range in elevation from 370 feet to over 500 feet and provide extraordinary views of the Los Angeles Basin, all of Santa Monica Bay, the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains and the Santa Monica and San Gabriel Mountains. These ridgelines present excellent opportunities for unparalleled scenic viewing areas, scenic trails connecting the north and south areas of the park and for a very high quality natural park experience in the heart of the city.

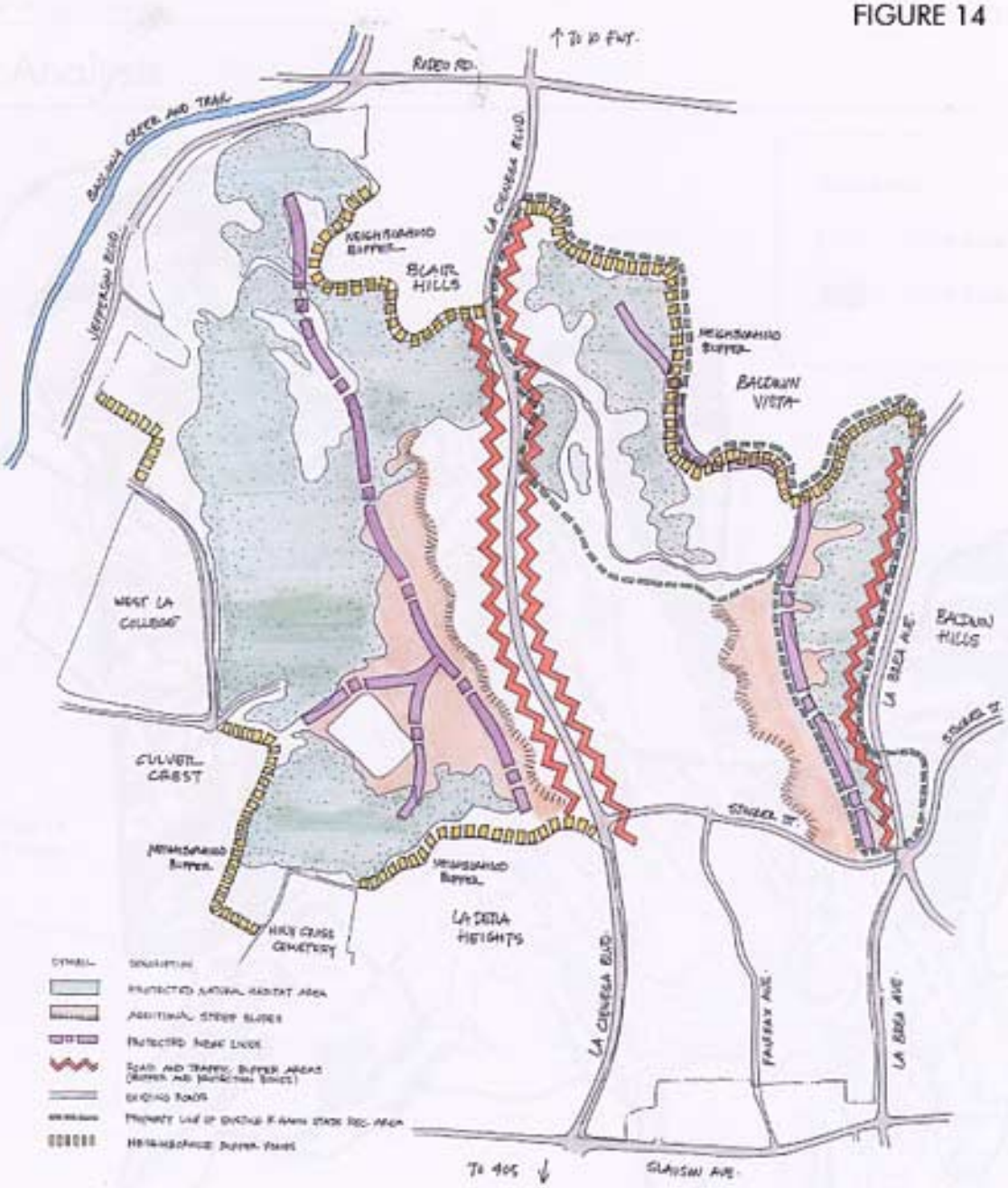
Connecting East and West Ridgelines

The site currently consists of two roughly equal areas divided by La Cienega Boulevard. Well preserved natural habitat and areas with good potential for restoration are located on both sides of the park but are separated by oil and gas extraction activities and the roadway. Connecting the two sides would result in the creation of a contiguous two square mile, 1400-acre park. A 'land bridge' over La Cienega Boulevard would mitigate traffic noise, visual impact and danger from the six-lane limited access roadway below. Depending on the scale of the bridge, it would provide additional useable area for park activities and facilities. It will allow for a comprehensive trail system connecting both sides of the park to adjacent areas, and a connection for wildlife from one side of the park to the other, increasing viable habitat areas and ultimately connecting the entire park site to Ballona Creek and Pacific Ocean.

Natural Habitat

One of the greatest assets of the Baldwin Hills Park will be the opportunity to experience high quality natural habitat areas in close proximity to densely urbanized neighborhoods. Three natural habitat plant communities native to Southern California are found in the Baldwin Hills: coastal sage scrub, riparian woodlands and grasslands. Native wildlife species in the hills include over 166 birds, hundreds of insects, 12 reptiles and amphibians and 21 mammals. Existing natural habitat areas in good condition are located on the steep slopes and canyons on the exterior faces of the east and west ridgelines. These existing areas are presently separated, creating habitat islands. Opportunities exist to create connections and produce much larger habitat areas, protect populations of native plants and animals unique to Southern California, establish large natural preserve areas, increase the diversity of plant and animal communities and preserve the overall environmental health of the region. To protect habitat areas, public access would need to be limited to footpaths and interpretive facilities. These limited-access habitat areas could provide excellent opportunities for buffer zones adjacent to residential developments.

FIGURE 14



This diagram illustrates the areas of the site that limit placement of activities or facilities due to natural or man-made conditions. These include:

Natural habitats: (includes significant existing natural lands & high priority restoration areas)
- Protect plants and animals native to the Baldwin Hills
- Preserve living laboratories for outdoor education
- Provide a tranquil natural escape from the city

Ridgelines and hilltops:
- Preserve panoramic viewing areas
- Preserve existing unique topography

Neighborhood buffers:
- Protect residential areas immediately adjacent to park

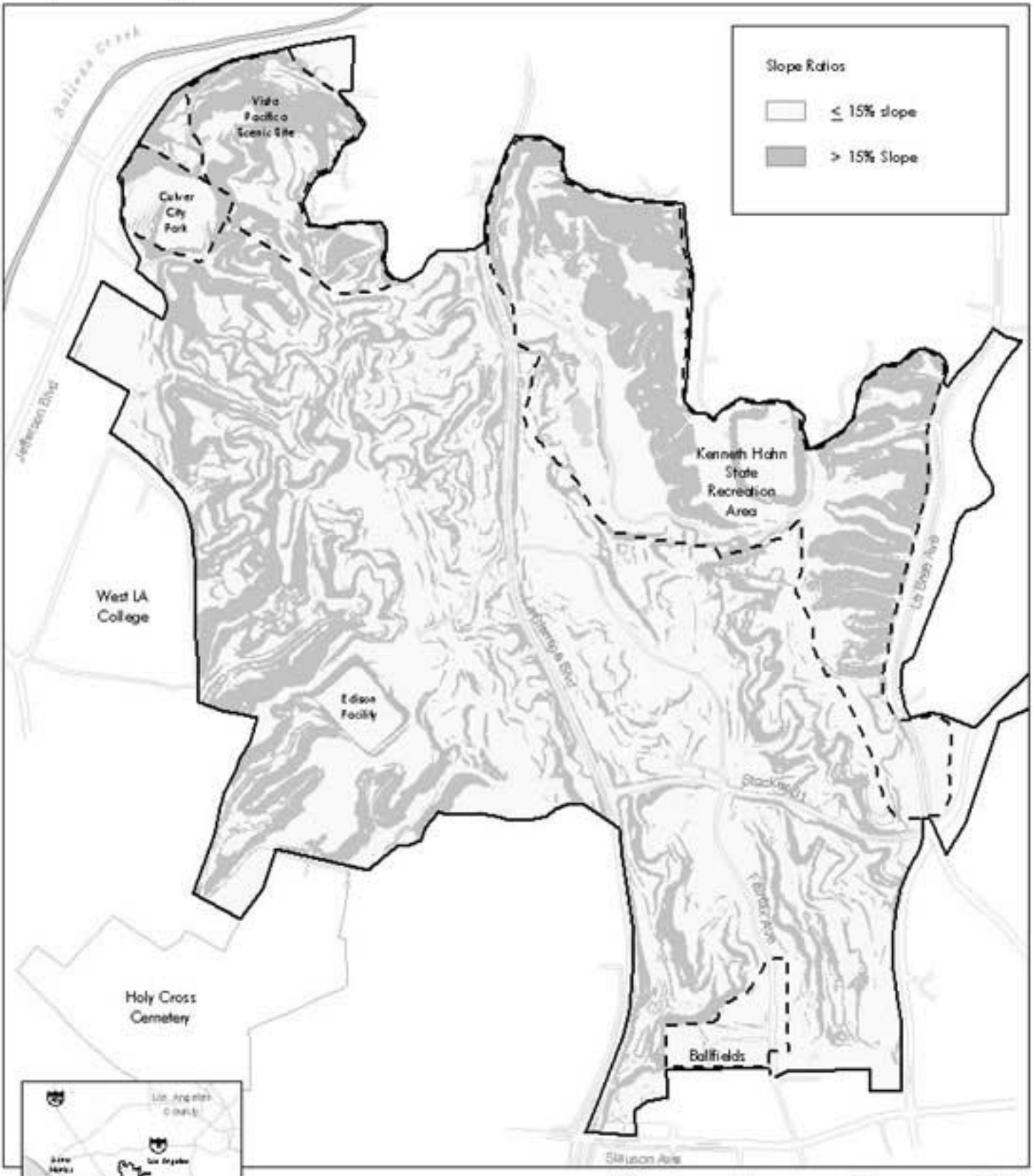
Roads and traffic:
- Shield areas adjacent to major roadways from noise and air pollution

Community Conservancy

Mia Lehrer + Associates Hood Design

Site Limitations Diagram
BALDWIN HILLS PARK

Slope Analysis



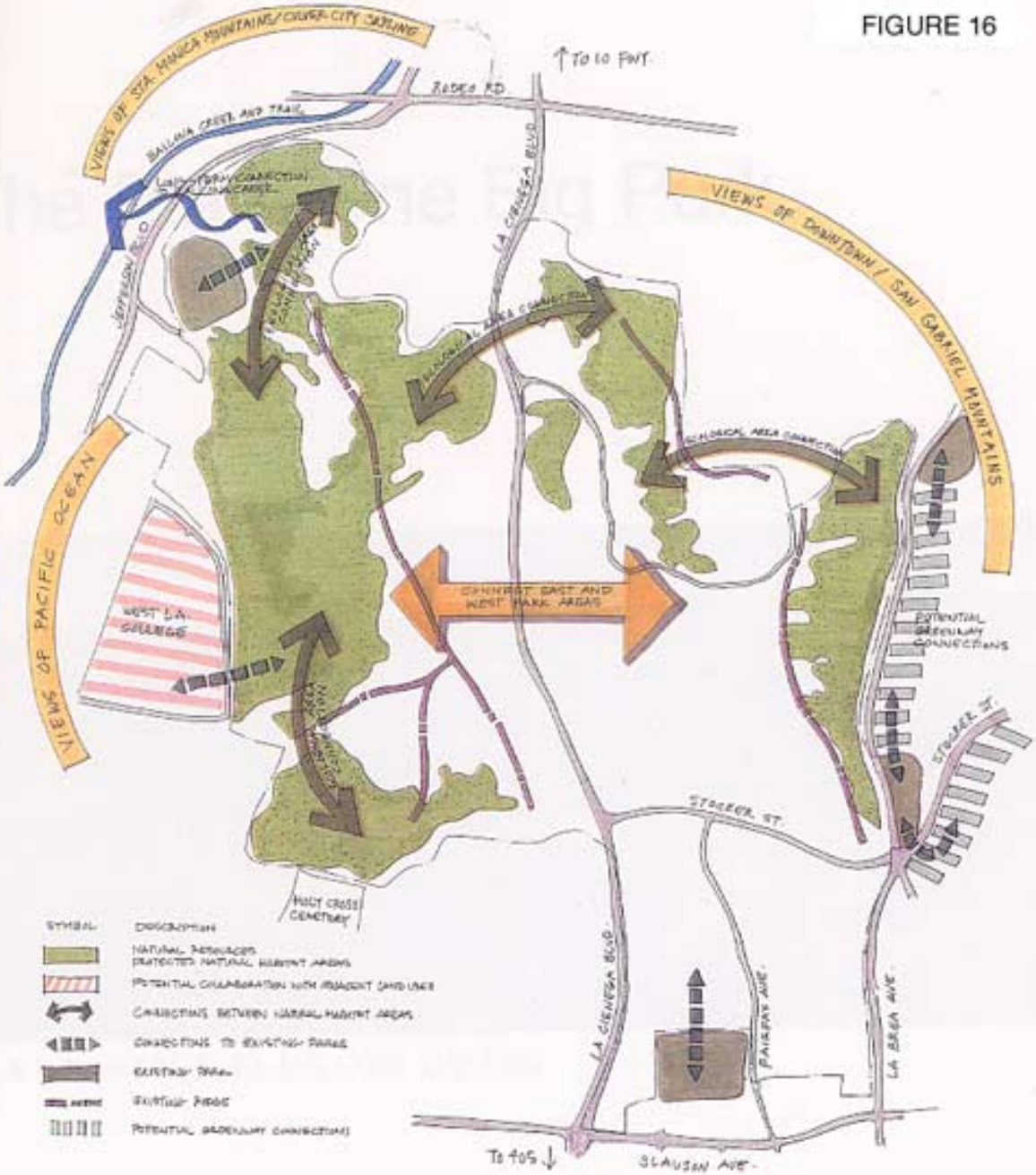
Greenway Connections

The creation of greenways along streets and roads leading to the park will connect Baldwin Hills Park to adjacent urban areas, connecting the park itself to the surrounding areas and providing important pedestrian and bicycle access to the park apart from the high speed, high volume adjacent streets. Existing undeveloped corridors are located along La Brea Avenue from Five Points to Jim Gilliam Park, along Stocker Street from Five Points to Presidio Boulevard and along Overhill Drive from Five Points to Slauson Avenue. These are the highest priorities for trails and greenways, as they would provide direct connections to the proposed entrance to the KHSRA at Five Points. Additional perimeter streets such as Slauson Avenue, Jefferson Boulevard, La Cienega Boulevard and Rodeo Road can also be developed as urban greenways to extend the park into adjacent neighborhoods and commercial areas, creating a larger park district. Greenway elements on these streets should include consistent street tree plantings, planted medians, landscaping, signage and other park district identification elements.

Pedestrian Access and Trail Connections

There are several excellent opportunities for creating new pedestrian walkways and bicycle trails and pedestrian bridges over busy streets to provide important public access and pedestrian connections between surrounding areas and the park. Building pedestrian bridges at key public access points would allow easy connections to major public trails and access into the park. Pedestrian bridges will be particularly important for trail connections and to provide safe pedestrian access at Five Points, where the Stocker Street and La Brea Avenue Trails intersect with the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, and at the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site across Jefferson Boulevard, connecting to the Ballona Creek Trail. Landscaped walking trails could be created along Stocker Street, La Brea Avenue and Overhill Drive, connecting to local parks and public transportation. The Ballona Creek Trail connects to the 25-mile Beach Bike Path, presenting an opportunity to link the entire Baldwin Hills Park and surrounding areas to this regional trail network, to provide a contiguous bicycle and pedestrian trail network and to re-connect natural habitat and native wildlife species in the Baldwin Hills with those of the Ballona Wetlands downstream.

FIGURE 16



This diagram illustrates the areas of the site that have greatest potential for placement of activities, facilities or other park elements due to natural or man-made conditions. These include:

Natural habitats: (Includes significant existing natural lands and high priority restoration areas)
- Protect plants and animals native to the Baldwin Hills
- Preserve living laboratory
- Provide a tranquil escape from the city

Park connections:
- Connect local parks through footpaths and multi-use trails

Panoramic vista points:
- Protect ridgelines and hilltops to provide panoramic viewing areas

West L.A. College:
- Link to West L.A. College for math and science education in the Baldwin Hills.

Community Conservancy International

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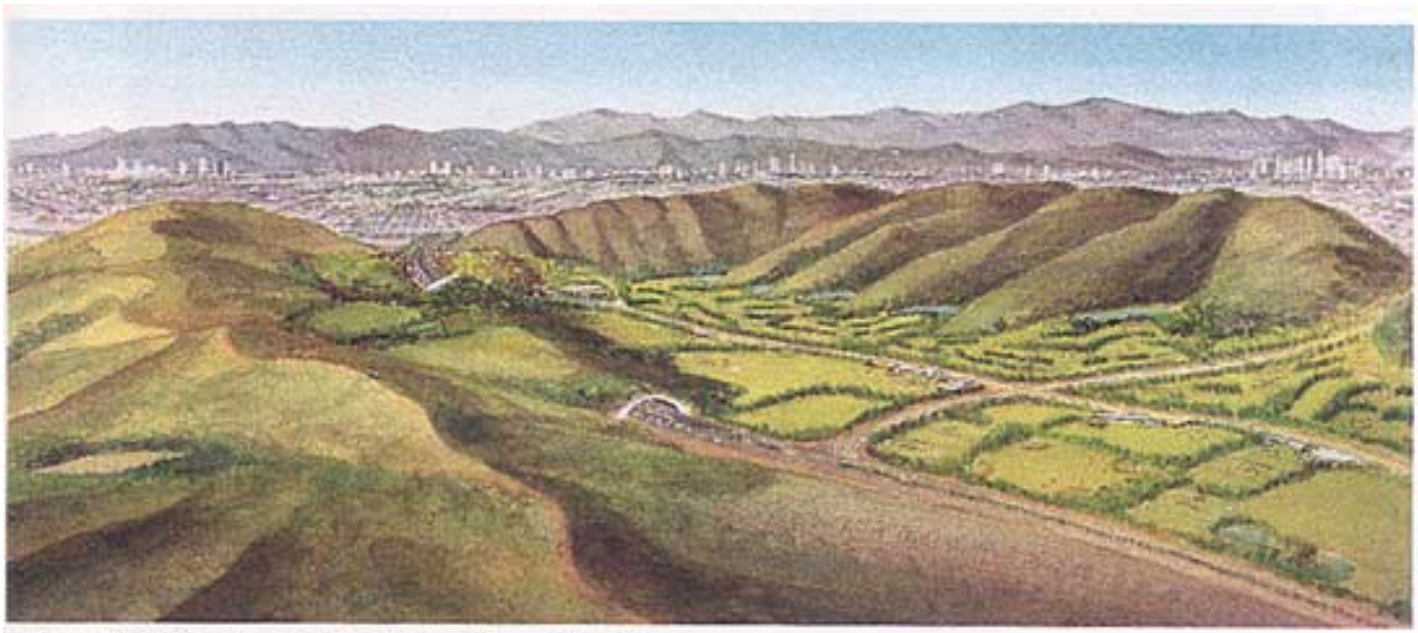
Site Potential Diagram
BALDWIN HILLS PARK

The Plan: ONE BIG PARK



Architectural Image, Robert Becker Inc.

BALDWIN HILLS PARK

Illustrations

FIGURE 17

Multi-Use Trails

Architectural Image, Robert Becker Inc.

Vista Pacifica Scenic Site

Architectural Image, Robert Becker Inc.

Declaration of Purpose

The primary purpose of Baldwin Hills State Recreation Area (SRA) is to preserve the last open space resource in this area of Los Angeles County capable of meeting the present and future outdoor recreation needs of the public. To preserve this open space, major portions will need to be restored and revegetated. The purpose of this restoration is to repair the damage that has occurred to the vegetation and land forms resulting from the past and present uses of the area.

The prime resources of the Baldwin Hills Recreation Area are:

- the large open space quality which is in direct contrast to the heavily developed character of the surrounding community
- the many scenic vista points from which most of the Los Angeles Basin, Pacific Ocean and local mountains can be viewed
- the potential of the unit to provide regional recreation opportunities for millions of people within a 10 mile radius.

Baldwin Hills Park Design

Goals

The Baldwin Hills Park represents an extraordinary challenge and unprecedented opportunity to develop a state-of-the-art, community responsive, large-scale urban park where sensitive natural habitat co-exists in a balanced environment with substantial active recreation, cultural and educational facilities. A park of this scale and vision has not been built in Los Angeles since the nineteenth century, and no park of this scale has ever been created in the United States in such a densely populated and intensively developed urban setting.

In addition to preserving and restoring the regionally unique landforms and sensitive natural habitat areas of the Baldwin Hills, this park will provide active and passive recreation facilities, educational and cultural facilities, job training and employment opportunities. It will provide an important linkage to Ballona Creek, Ballona Wetlands, the Pacific coast and the 25-mile Beach Bike Path, as well as to trails and greenways connecting to adjacent communities, public transit and to regional trail systems. The park will also protect and provide access to unique panoramic views of the Los Angeles basin, and create revenue in order to support park facilities and programs. Park elements will be designed in a sustainable fashion in order to conserve resources and protect natural areas and water quality. The park is envisioned as an evolution over time from a privately owned industrial area into a rich regional public resource.

Park Concept Description: One Big Park

The One Big Park concept will create an over two square mile zone within Los Angeles' urban core which allows natural habitat areas to coexist with recreational, educational, and cultural resources (see figure 18). The creation of one large land area will be achieved through the construction of a 1/2-mile long land bridge spanning La Cienega Boulevard. The land bridge will connect the east and west ridges over the existing six-lane roadway, creating one unified land area, restoring the historic landscape and establishing effective mitigation of visual and noise impacts from La Cienega Boulevard. An internal park road, footpaths and bicycle trails will provide access between the two currently bisected portions of the site. Wildlife will also be able

to use the land bridge as an important connection between habitat areas, which will help the long-term sustainability of wildlife populations and natural habitat in the Baldwin Hills.

The expanded park will extend into adjacent park-poor communities with greenways, pedestrian and bicycle trails, and will connect to important existing and planned regional trail systems, including the Ballona Creek Trail, the Stocker Street Trail and the La Brea Avenue Trail. Park visitor facilities will include interpretive resources concerning the natural, cultural and industrial history of the site. Science and educational facilities planned for the park will create a living laboratory that, with the support of institutions like the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the California Science Center and West Los Angeles College could become a model urban learning resource. Facilities and activities for all ages have been included in the park design from playgrounds to playing fields, skate park to golf course and senior center to botanical gardens.

The park design concept preserves the existing east and west ridgelines as natural habitat lands and passive, landscaped open space areas. No active recreation, intensive uses, facilities or roadways are planned on the ridgelines or on the steep slopes below them in order to protect spectacular views and sensitive habitat areas and to avoid expensive and impractical earth moving on steep unstable slopes. The lower central valley portion of the site, which is relatively flat and which has been significantly disturbed over time, has been designed to accommodate most of the proposed active recreational uses, structures and other facilities in the park. Visitor serving facilities are planned for the northwestern Vista Pacifica Scenic Site to provide important public access and educational opportunities and to take advantage of one of the most spectacular views in all Los Angeles of the Pacific Ocean, Santa Monica Bay, Los Angeles Basin and the surrounding mountains.

The park design incorporates sustainable strategies that are specific to this site and some that are currently in use or planned for national parks in other areas of the west. Reducing energy use, air pollution and noise from vehicles in the park is addressed by a circulation system that limits private vehicles to areas with concentrations of playing fields, cultural and community facilities and other visitor activities with expectations of heavy daily use. Other areas of the park will be served by an in-park shuttle system connecting parking areas at multiple entry points to facilities and destinations in the park. Reclaimed water will be used for irrigation and non-drinking water uses to preserve water resources and reduce park operation costs. Storm water on the site will be collected and treated to reduce potential pollutants from flowing into Ballona Creek. Storm water will also be collected as an irrigation source for high water use areas such as playing fields. Substantial areas of the site will be re-vegetated with drought tolerant native plant species. Ornamental plantings with greater water needs will be allowed in areas of higher public use and will utilize water-efficient irrigation systems.

General locations for buildings and facilities have been selected to conserve energy and materials by minimizing the amount of required earthmoving, and by concentrating them along the park access road to consolidate infrastructure, utility and roadway construction.

Landscape Character

Topography and strong vegetation patterns will be the most important factors in creating the park's landscape character and sense of place. Preserving and restoring the existing hills, ridgelines, canyons and central valley will make this a unique park. To achieve these goals, the plan proposes to preserve the existing west and east ridges and to re-create the canyons that once existed on the interior sides of the ridges, re-connecting the ridges and protecting steep canyons that define the area.

In the northwestern edge of the park site, portions of what is now the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site were partially graded for construction of a large residential development before the property was purchased by the state and county. These areas will be substantially restored to a natural condition and much of the natural shape of the hill re-established. Visitor-serving facilities will be built with respect for the natural shape of the hill and to the highest possible environmental standards.

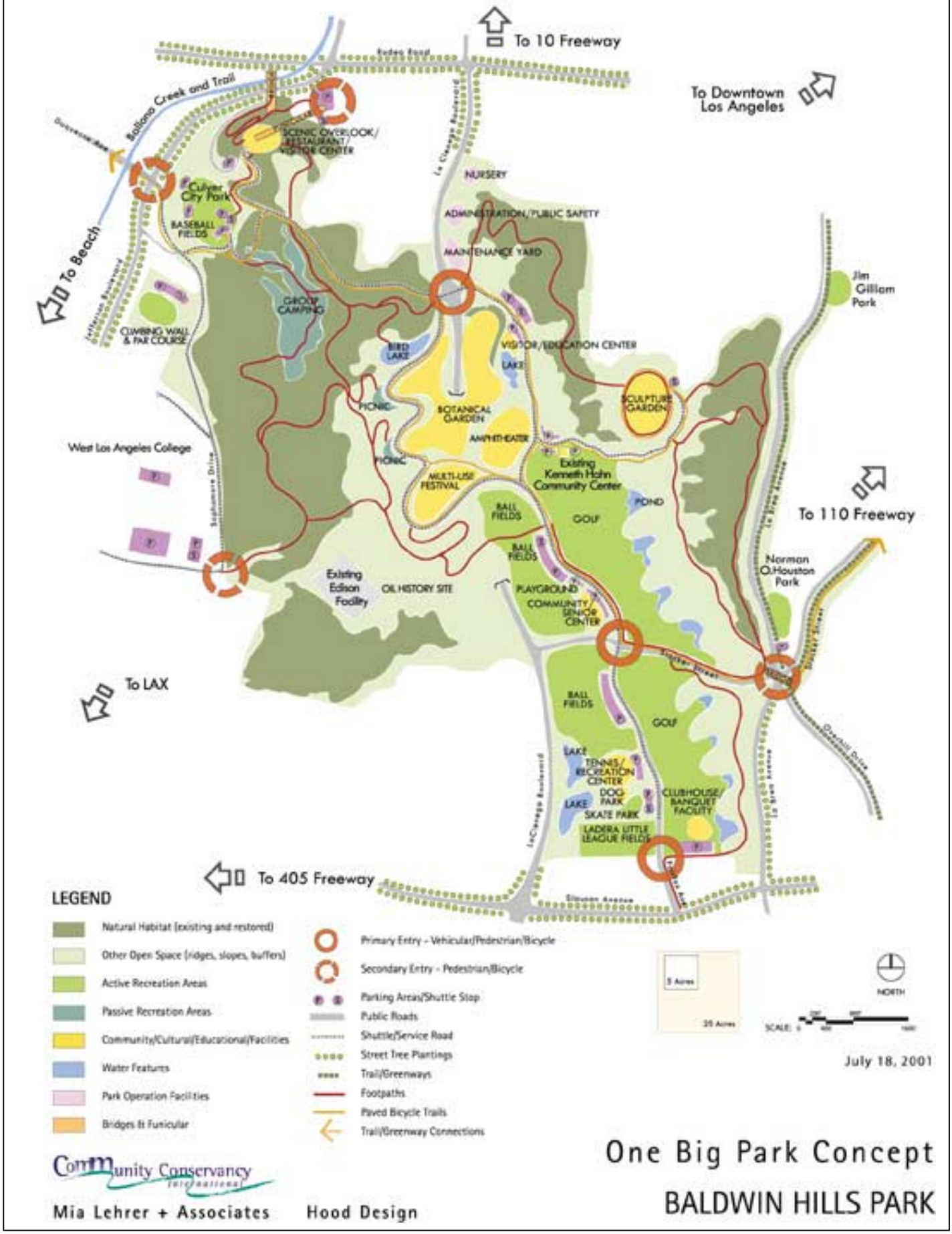
Native vegetation on the site is predominantly coastal sage scrub and native grassland with small riparian woodland areas found in canyons. The character of the vegetation is low and shrubby with no known native trees. Proposed vegetation on re-established side slopes and canyons will need to weave seamlessly into the proposed and restored natural areas of the park. In more active areas such as ball fields, golf and tennis facilities, botanical garden, cultural and recreational facilities, non-native species may be used to create shade and for ornamental properties.

Land Bridge

The opportunity to create a 1400-acre unified park cannot be fully realized without significantly mitigating the many negative impacts of La Cienega Boulevard. This six-lane, limited access road functions as a freeway that runs through the center of the site, dividing the park into two separate pieces, limiting wildlife access and creating negative noise, visual and safety impacts on the proposed park uses. The One Big Park concept proposes a one-half mile long land bridge to physically connect the two halves of the site and create a substantial area with minimal perception of La Cienega Boulevard (see figure 20). The bridge will be integrated into the site and appear as a natural extension of the surrounding topography and vegetation. Most visitors will have little or no idea that they are located above a major arterial street. The bridge will create a significant new land area for park uses, allow visitors to experience the park as one large contiguous land area, improve public access from both the east and west sides of the park, and substantially increase viable habitat by providing a safe crossing for wildlife. Connection to Ballona Creek and the Ballona Creek Trail via a pedestrian bridge from the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site will provide a continuous walking and bicycle trail route from the Baldwin Hills to the Pacific Ocean, and could provide additional wildlife connections along the creek to the Ballona Wetlands.

The land bridge will span La Cienega Boulevard. The surface of the bridge will be landscaped with a soil depth adequate to allow for significant landscaping with native vegetation to serve as a biological corridor. The topography of the bridge will be determined by engineering standards and by the uses planned to occupy the land area. The western edges of the bridge will be defined by the reconstructed canyons on the east side of the western ridge. The park's Botanical Garden will be located over a large part of the bridge. A large multi-use picnic, festival and recreation area is planned for the southern portion. The amphitheater is planned for the eastern edge of the land bridge. Park shuttles, maintenance, park patrols and other safety vehicles will cross the southern part of the bridge on the park's internal circulation road, linking the east and west sections of the park.

The north end of the land bridge will be located approximately 1/4 mile south of the existing bridge providing access to KHSRA. At this point on the site La Cienega Boulevard is lower than the land on either side, and constructing the land bridge over the roadway is likely to be more feasible than in other areas. The land bridge terminates approximately 1/4 mile north of Stocker Street, providing drivers with ample time to orient themselves to the left turn pocket to turn east onto Stocker from La Cienega.


To 10 Freeway
To Downtown Los Angeles
To Beach
To 110 Freeway
To LAX
To 405 Freeway
Ballona Creek and Trail
Culver City Park
BASEBALL FIELDS
SCENIC OVERLOOK/ RESTAURANT/ VISITOR CENTER
NURSERY
ADMINISTRATION/PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINTENANCE YARD
GROUP CAMPING
CLIMBING WALL & PAR COURSE
BIRD LAKE
VISITOR/EDUCATION CENTER
LAKE
PICNIC
BOTANICAL GARDEN
SCULPTURE GARDEN
AMPHITHEATER
PICNIC
MULTI-USE FESTIVAL
West Los Angeles College
Existing Kenneth Hahn Community Center
POND
BALL FIELDS
GOLF
BALL FIELDS
Existing Edison Facility
OIL HISTORY SITE
PLAYGROUND
COMMUNITY/ SENIOR CENTER
Jim Gilliam Park
Norman O. Houston Park
BALL FIELDS
GOLF
LAKE
TENNIS/ RECREATION CENTER
DOG PARK
LAKE
SKATE PARK
CLUBHOUSE/ BANQUET FACILITY
LADERA LITTLE LEAGUE FIELDS
LEGEND
Natural Habitat (existing and restored)
Other Open Space (ridges, slopes, buffers)
Active Recreation Areas
Passive Recreation Areas
Community/Cultural/Educational/Facilities
Water Features
Park Operation Facilities
Bridges & Funicular
Primary Entry - Vehicular/Pedestrian/Bicycle
Secondary Entry - Pedestrian/Bicycle
Parking Areas/Shuttle Stop
Public Roads
Shuttle/Service Road
Street Tree Plantings
Trail/Greenways
Footpaths
Paved Bicycle Trails
Trail/Greenway Connections
5 Acres
25 Acres
NORTH
SCALE:
July 18, 2001
Community Conservancy International
Mia Lehrer + Associates
Hood Design
One Big Park Concept
BALDWIN HILLS PARK

Natural Lands and Open Space

Approximately 300 acres of the park are planned as protected and restored natural lands supporting native plants and wildlife (see figure 19). Protected and proposed restoration areas were identified by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County ecological assessment as existing habitat areas in good condition and those with high restoration potential, or areas where restoration will create critical linkages between habitat areas. These areas will be restored and re-vegetated with plants native to this Southern California habitat type to support native plant and animal communities.

An on-site nursery could help provide native plant stock for on-going restoration and revegetation throughout the natural habitat areas as well as elsewhere in the park. A wildlife rescue and treatment facility could be located adjacent to the plant nursery, and should be limited to aid and recovery of native wildlife populations in the park. This facility should incorporate an interpretation component for the general public, showing how native wildlife species are impacted by development encroaching into their former range.

Most park facilities with intensive visitor uses have been located as far as possible from natural lands to avoid conflicts and potential negative impacts on habitats and fragile species. The only exception to this rule is visitor interpretive and education facilities proposed for the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site and a Science/Education/Interpretive visitor center planned adjacent to the existing fishing lake in KHSRA. A rustic group camping facility is proposed on the western ridge surrounded by natural lands. The campground will be operated on a permit basis for organized groups, will be able to accommodate 200 to 250 people and will be accessible only by trail and park shuttle system. Most of the designated natural lands will be accessible only by footpath. A combination shuttle road and bicycle trail providing access from the east side of the park to Culver City Park and the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site on the west will pass through the protected natural areas in the northwest portion of the site.

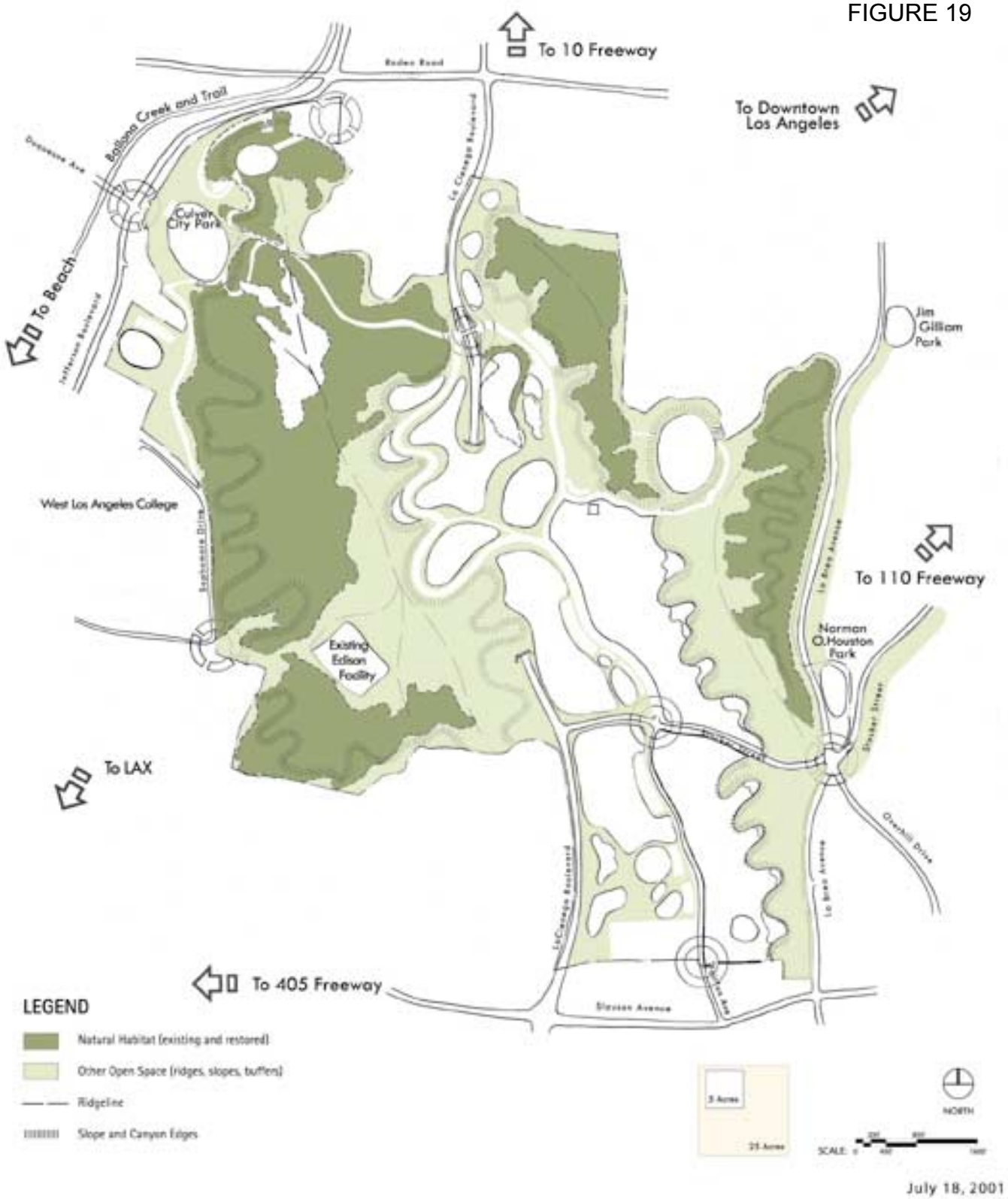
Park Activities & Facilities

Additional active recreation facilities are planned to supplement those already existing in Culver City Park and the Ladera Ball Fields (see Figure 20). Facilities that are proposed include over 60 acres of multiple-use fields supporting softball, baseball, soccer and other active recreational uses, a 120 acre, 18-hole golf course, a tournament quality tennis center, additional skate parks, a small, narrow gauge train, over 15 miles of jogging, bicycle and hiking trails, playgrounds, indoor basketball courts, a recreation center and gymnasium, a par course, climbing wall and a competition-sized swimming pool.

Playing Fields

Over 60 acres of new playing fields are proposed in the central valley section of the park, formed in part by construction of the land bridge. This will allow between 15 and 20 fields. A buffer area will separate the fields from La Cienega Boulevard. The fields are proposed as multiple-use facilities capable of supporting soccer, softball, football or other similar activities needing large, open flat areas. The fields will utilize state-of-the-art lighting for evening use that incorporate cutoff shielding devices to reduce overflow into other areas and visibility from residential areas above. Flexible uses of playing fields will assist in field maintenance by allowing multiple goal locations alleviating field wear and tear. All playing fields will be served by parking lots located within a convenient distance and designed to accommodate reasonable field use. Playing field areas may be terraced to reduce the amount of earthwork necessary in construction. Drainage from the fields will be directed toward a system of water catchments in low areas and treated before entering the stormwater drainage system. Playing fields will be irrigated with reclaimed water.

FIGURE 19



Natural Lands & Open Space

BALDWIN HILLS PARK

Community Conservancy International

Mia Lehrer + Associates Hood Design

Multi-Use Fields/Festival Spaces
Large meadow areas have been proposed at the base of the east side of the west ridge. These relatively level areas can be used for informal athletics, large group picnics and festival events. They are located in close proximity to the internal shuttle road in order to provide convenient access. They are adjacent to the botanical garden and amphitheater, which will provide access to shared restroom and food service facilities.

Tennis Center
A tournament size and quality tennis center with hard-surface courts, grandstands, pro-shop, refreshment facility and restrooms is planned for the southeastern portion of the site in conjunction with a comprehensive recreation center. The courts may have night lighting to extend their useable hours. Parking facilities will be located adjacent to the courts. When necessary, additional parking will be available in other areas of the park. The tennis center will be served by the park shuttle system.

Recreation Center
A community-serving recreation, education and art center is proposed in the southeastern portion of the site adjacent to the tournament tennis facility. This recreation center should contain indoor basketball courts, fitness training equipment, a competition sized swimming pool, multi-purpose rooms, locker rooms, restrooms, administration space and other associated athletic facilities.

Skate Parks
Facilities for skateboarding and in-line skating are planned adjacent to other areas with intensive active recreation. A two-acre skate park is proposed for the perimeter of the Baldwin Hills Park adjacent to the Ladera Little League fields, with easy access from public transportation and adjacent neighborhoods for pedestrians.

Par Course and Climbing Wall
A par course and climbing wall are proposed for an area of the site adjacent to Culver City Park and near West Los Angeles College, just below the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. The climbing wall could be operated as a revenue-generating activity.

Golf Course, Club House and Banquet Facility
An 18-hole golf course is proposed for the southern portion of the park extending up to the base of the eastern ridgeline. The course is expected to be located in an area that could extend from the southern edge of the park just above Slauson Avenue to the existing entrance road to KHSRA (see Figure 18). However, in order to allow for alternative designs and adequate available acreage, a portion of the golf course may need to extend across La Cienega Boulevard. A tunnel under Stocker Street or La Cienega Boulevard would allow players to safely cross under the street. A banquet/clubhouse facility with a pro shop could be located adjacent to parking designated for the golf course. Views of the eastern ridgeline and the re-vegetated eastern slope will result in a highly scenic setting. Water features could be located at the base of the finger canyons and could be a part of the water catchment and on-site water treatment system, which could mitigate runoff and serve as course elements. A large man-made lake is proposed surrounding the banquet and clubhouse facility and could accommodate a casting pond. The course will be visible from the ridge trails and will be designed to be compatible with the natural vegetation of the adjacent eastern slope. It is recommended that the course utilize native plants as extensively as possible to protect natural habitat areas, prevent negative impacts to wildlife from non-native plantings, reduce water use, avoid potential pollutants including fertilizers and herbicides from reaching Ballona Creek and to visually interweave the course into the adjacent hillside and into the overall natural design of the entire park.

Cultural, Educational and Interpretive Facilities (See Figure 20)

Botanical Garden

A 30-acre botanical garden is located in the central portion of the site, occupying roughly one-half of the newly proposed land area created by the land bridge. The facility should include themed gardens, facilities for exhibits, garden shows, meeting rooms, dining, administration offices, maintenance and restrooms. The facility is proposed to include themed gardens inspired by the diverse African American and Latino communities surrounding the park and incorporate native plants from a variety of those global regions. The Olympic Forest could be relocated here and incorporate representative trees from participating nations. Trail systems through the garden will be designed for easy senior citizen and handicapped accessibility. An on-site plant nursery should be located nearby, as well as the park maintenance facility to allow efficient sharing of equipment, labor and management.

Sculpture Gardens

A portion of the former reservoir site on the eastern ridge of the park could be a sculpture garden. The garden is envisioned as a passive space providing a unique setting for large-scale land art or other media. An existing trail located along the rim of the existing space will be retained with additional buffer planting located between the sculpture garden and the adjacent neighborhood.

Visitor, Interpretive and Education Centers

Two visitor, interpretive and education centers will provide visitor services in both the eastern and western portions of the park. Both of the facilities are proposed in areas that are currently in public ownership and could be developed in the earliest phases of the park expansion. State-of-the-art visitor-serving facilities are planned for the northwest side of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. This visitor and educational center will be designed to take advantage of the spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean and surrounding mountains from this location. The building is envisioned as a two-story structure built into the hillside below the peak of the hill with a dramatic overlook terrace (see figure 18). Exhibit space, multi-purpose rooms, an auditorium, restrooms, restaurant and administration offices are proposed for these facilities. This will serve as a major park shuttle system destination and departure point for hikers and bicyclists using the park's trail system. Access to these facilities from outside the park will be available from Jefferson Boulevard via Hetzler Road and from the east by tram or funicular from a parking facility located at street level along Jefferson Boulevard, adjacent to the park. As parking on the hill will be limited due to the steepness of the site and to preserve habitat restoration areas and view sites, it is anticipated that most visitors will reach the facility by funicular or park shuttle system. The park shuttle connects the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site to all other park destinations.

On the east side of the park, a visitor and education center is proposed along the existing entry drive to the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area at the north end of the existing fishing lake. This location will provide an easily accessible and early source of information to park visitors. The center is located immediately adjacent to a restored natural habitat area and will include interpretive information on the natural history of the site. This center is also planned as a science education facility and should include classrooms, laboratories and interpretive exhibit space.

Community, Art and Senior Center

A community, art and senior center is located near the middle of the park above the Stocker Street entrance. The complex is envisioned as a community center providing educational, arts and community facilities. The facilities and activities will be designed for all age groups with a dedicated wing for senior citizens. Art facilities should include classrooms, studios, exhibit

space and equipment for sculpture, painting, ceramics and other arts-related activities. Educational and community facilities should include classrooms, multi-purpose meeting rooms and technology labs. The center should include a small auditorium or stage facility.

Oil History Site
An area is set aside to become an oil history site, where interpretive and outdoor educational exhibits that explain the history of oil discovery and production and oil's role in the history of the Baldwin Hills, Los Angeles and California could be located.

Amphitheater
A small-scale amphitheater with 1,000 to 2,000 seats is proposed for the central portion of the site. The facility is envisioned as an economically viable venue with professional quality lighting and sound systems for amplified theater and musical performances. The amphitheater will be designed acoustically for high quality sound within the facility and to reduce sound beyond the venue. The location for this facility was selected to insure that sound will be mitigated by landforms and architectural elements avoiding potential conflicts with adjacent neighborhoods. Parking for the amphitheater will be shared with other park uses. Patrons will use the park shuttle system or public transportation to reach the facility. Some parking may be incorporated into the amphitheater structure. Service and maintenance vehicles will use the internal park roadway to reach the facility. The amphitheater will incorporate restroom facilities that can be available for other park uses. Food service can be permanently integrated into the structure or provisions can be made for temporary trailers or kiosks when events take place.

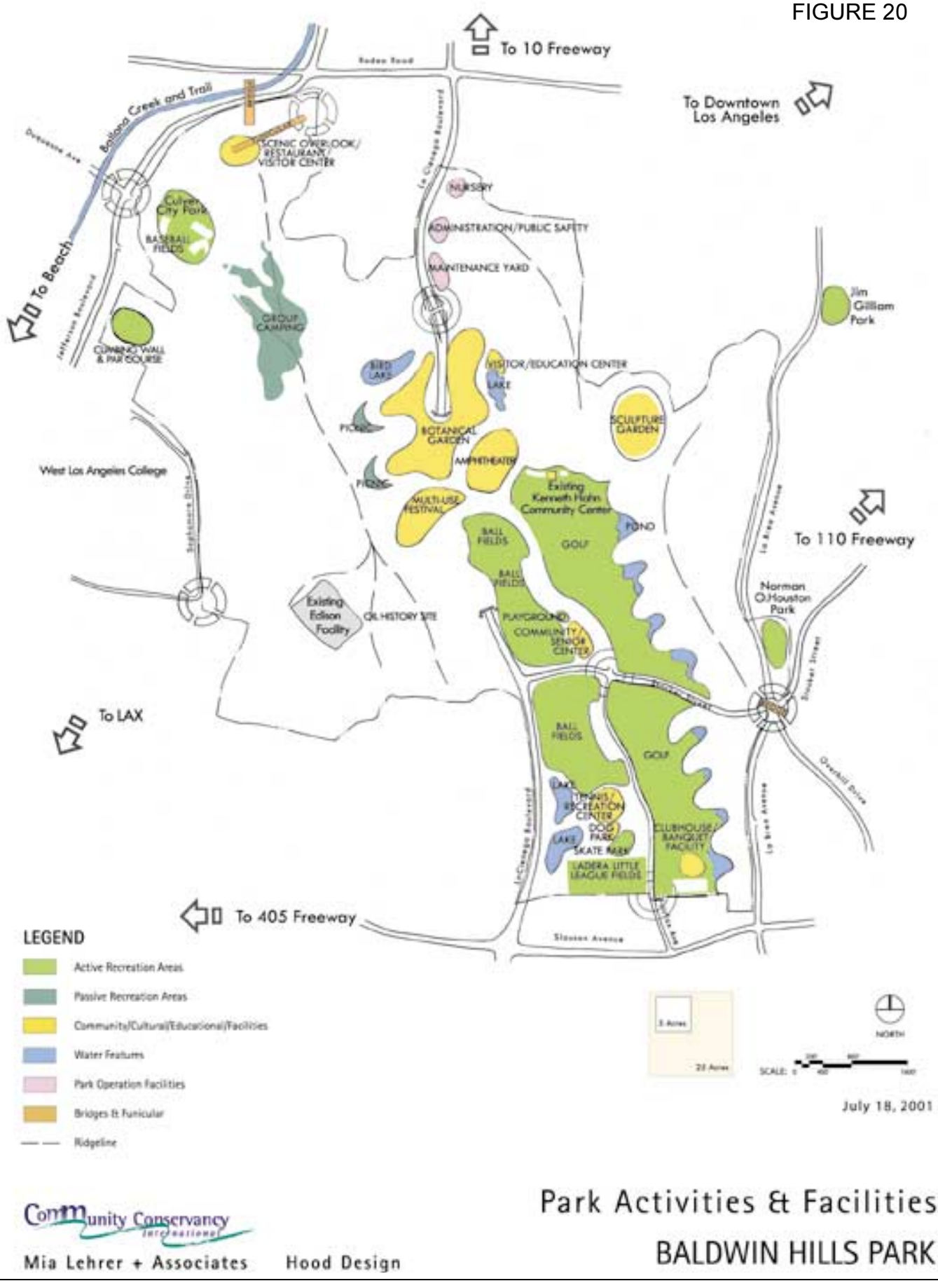
Public Safety, First Aid and Park Administration and Maintenance Facilities

Public Safety and Law Enforcement
A law enforcement and public safety station will be located near the entrance to KHSRA off La Cienega Boulevard to ensure a strong law enforcement presence at the park (see Figure 20); this station will be designed to accommodate the needs of officers and other public safety personnel who will have responsibility for responses in the park. In addition, park ranger offices will be located in the two visitor centers as well as in other locations in the park. The station and offices will provide public safety services and act as hubs for park patrols. A comprehensive communications system will link all public safety facilities, visitor serving facilities and patrol vehicles. Call boxes similar to those found along public highways or other devices for contacting public safety officials should be located in key locations throughout the park.

Park Administration and Maintenance
The primary park administrative headquarters should be located near the main entrance to KHSRA off La Cienega Boulevard, adjacent to the public safety/law enforcement sub-station (see Figure 21). Other administrative offices will be located in the various visitor-serving facilities proposed throughout the park. A large maintenance yard with associated garages, gated equipment and tool storage, workshop and other support facilities may be located in this area. The maintenance facilities are intended to be adequate in size and scope to provide a central storage and work area that can service the entire park. A plant nursery to provide stock for native plant restoration and other landscaping throughout the park is located in this area as well. The wildlife rescue facility could be located here as well.

Restrooms
Restrooms and potable water will be provided throughout the park, especially in heavy use areas. All major facilities will include family restrooms. In more natural areas, composting or biological facilities will be considered.

FIGURE 20



Community Conservancy International

Mia Lehrer + Associates Hood Design

Park Activities & Facilities

BALDWIN HILLS PARK

Entrances, Parking, Park Shuttle System, Roads, Greenways and Street Trees
(see Figure 21)

Entrances
Park entrances are designed for vehicular, pedestrian and bicycle access. Three primary entrances for vehicular and pedestrian access are designed to provide easy public access at multiple points and to disperse vehicular traffic to multiple points around the park to avoid large number of vehicles at any single entry point. These entrances are located at the exiting KHSRA entrance, the intersection of Stocker Street and Fairfax Avenue and at the entrance to the golf course and Ladera Little League fields on Fairfax Avenue north of Slauson Avenue. Parking for private vehicles is located close to each entrance. No new entrances have been designed with access from La Cienega Boulevard or La Brea Avenue as changes in traffic patterns on these heavily used streets could have significant negative impacts on traffic safety and speeds. The existing bridge at KHSRA will provide park road access to the western part of the site.

Secondary entrances are designed to maximize pedestrian and bicycle access, to provide balanced and easy access to the park from multiple points on the park's perimeter, and to provide good access to the park's footpath and trail network. These entrances will serve trailheads and emphasize connections with adjacent neighborhoods and the regional mass transit bus systems in Los Angeles and Culver City. The four secondary entrances are located at Culver City Park, West Los Angeles College, the northeast side of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site at Jefferson Boulevard with connections via a pedestrian bridge to the Ballona Creek Trail, and at the Five Points intersection where La Brea Avenue, Stocker Street and Overhill Drive meet, with connections to the Stocker Street, La Brea Avenue and Overhill Drive Trails and to local parks.

Hiking and bicycle trailheads at the Culver City Park entrance will provide access to the West Ridge Trail and other parts of the park. Access to the Ballona Creek Bike Trail is located one block north of the Culver City Park at the intersection of Jefferson Boulevard and Duquesne Avenue and via a pedestrian bridge from the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, with access from the main parking area off Jefferson Boulevard. Two pedestrian and bicycle bridges are planned to provide necessary access into the park and to maximize safe pedestrian and bicycle access. One of these bridges will be located at Five Points, connecting the Stocker Street Trail, La Brea Avenue Trail, Overhill Drive Trail and Norman O. Houston Park to the KHSRA. The other bridge will provide an important, direct connection from the Baldwin Hills Park to the Ballona Creek Trail via the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, crossing over Jefferson Boulevard.

The secondary entrance at West Los Angeles College will have a park shuttle stop and serve as a hiking trailhead for the West Ridge Trail. The entrance from the northeast side of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site will provide the majority of parking for the funicular or tram access to the top of the hill, park shuttle access into the northern portion of the park, and trailhead to footpaths and the bicycle trail connection to the Ballona Creek Trail. The Five Points entrance will connect the Stocker Street Trail, Norman O. Houston Park, Jim Gilliam Park, La Brea Avenue Trail and Overhill Drive Trail to Baldwin Hills Park trails. A pedestrian bridge over the Five Points intersection will help facilitate safe pedestrian and bicycle access to the park.

Handicapped access from Jefferson Boulevard to the upper portions of Culver City Park is made possible by an existing handicapped-accessible trail. Park shuttle vehicles will provide access for the disabled to other parts of the park, and trails in the flatter, central valley areas of the park as well as in the Botanic Garden and Sculpture Garden are planned to be handicapped accessible.

Parking

A variety of parking facilities are designed to respond to the different types of activities in the park, provide a sustainable approach to transportation to and within the park and provide a viable alternative to private vehicles by connecting to public transit and to a comprehensive park shuttle system (see figure 21). Approximately 2,600 parking sites are proposed, including underground parking at the amphitheater. Parking lots are located in proximity to high-use activities such as the playing fields, visitor centers, tennis center, recreation center, golf course, senior and community center, amphitheater and botanic garden. These lots are designed to provide parking for high use activities and to provide parking capacity for visitors whose destinations lie within the park interior. No parking is provided in the interior of the park in order to maintain a tranquil, natural open space atmosphere. Parking lots should be located along Fairfax Avenue, at the golf course/banquet facility, along the existing entrance drive to KHSRA, in Culver City Park, in West Los Angeles College, at Norman O. Houston Park and on the east side of the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site serving the park system and a funicular that ascends the hill to the visitor serving facilities and observation deck located there. These parking lots will also serve visitors who use the Baldwin Hills Park as a departure point for the Ballona Creek Bike Trail. Parking facilities will be designed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards.

Off-site parking for peak periods is envisioned at West Los Angeles College and at some of the commercial properties along Slauson Avenue on the southern border of the park. These locations could be part of a shuttle transportation system extending beyond the park into adjacent neighborhoods.

Park Shuttle System

Private vehicles will be prohibited in the interior portions of the park in order to preserve a strong natural character within the park. Park shuttle vehicles will stop at well-marked locations and take visitors from parking areas and the park perimeter throughout the park. Vehicles will run on a published schedule making stops at major activities, destinations and trailheads, providing access to all areas of the park. Vehicles will be designed to handicapped accessibility standards and will carry visitor cargo including bicycles, coolers and other equipment to picnic and multi-use areas. As part of the sustainable approach to the park, natural gas or other alternative fuels will power shuttle vehicles. The park shuttle system will connect to public transit bus stops outside and inside the park.

Roads and Circulation

The park's circulation system is designed to provide private vehicular access to heavily used facilities, park shuttle access to the interior and more natural areas of the park and access for park maintenance and public safety vehicles (see figure 22). The road system will provide private vehicular access to parking areas, trailheads and heavily used facilities such as ball fields, the tennis center, community and senior center, recreation center, amphitheater, botanic garden, golf course and banquet facility. Internal portions of the roadway serving more natural areas and lower use facilities such as picnic areas and the group campground will be accessible to park shuttles and public safety vehicles only. Limited private vehicle access will protect the overall natural character of the park and prevent the park roadway system from becoming a commuter route. The park road system will be open to park maintenance vehicles, park ranger patrols and all public safety personnel.

Lighting at safety levels will be provided on all park roadways. Fixtures will incorporate state-of-the-art bulbs and shielding devices to focus light on roadway and sidewalk areas. Lighting on interior shuttle/safety/maintenance roads will be reduced or shut off after park hours to allow for

nocturnal wildlife migration and to prevent unnecessary light pollution or spillage into surrounding neighborhoods. Facilities with evening events will have safety lighting.

Entrance Roads

Entrance roads from perimeter streets to parking areas and heavily used facilities are designed to have the minimum possible width to reduce their impact on the park landscape (see figure 21). These roads are proposed to have one travel lane in each direction and a bicycle lane where indicated on the plan. No parking will be allowed along park roads. A paved sidewalk will be constructed on both sides of the road. Where entrance kiosks are located, additional road width will be provided to prevent traffic from backing up onto surface streets during high use periods. Turn lanes and acceleration/deceleration ramps will be provided as necessary to create safe ingress and egress at park entrances.

Internal Park Shuttle Roads

Internal roads will be used for park shuttles and public safety vehicles (see figure 21). Some portions of these roads will also be part of the bicycle trail system. These roads are planned to have one travel lane in each direction. They will not have improved shoulders or sidewalks.

A new section of roadway has been proposed on the western edge of the park connecting West Los Angeles College with the entrance road to Culver City Park (see figure 21). This new roadway will provide access to a proposed active recreation area and allow the park shuttle system and bicycles to reach Culver City Park without traveling on Overland Boulevard, a high-volume street.

Greenways and Street Trees

A system of greenways is planned along major streets and roads leading to the park to connect to adjacent urban areas, provide pedestrian and bicycle access and create an overall park district. Greenways will include consistent street tree plantings and landscaping, planted medians, signage, walkways and other park elements. Greenways will be located along La Brea Avenue from Five Points to Jim Gilliam Park, along Stocker Street from Five Points to Presidio Boulevard and along Overhill Drive from Five Points to Slauson Avenue. These are the highest priorities for trails and greenways, as they would provide direct connections to the proposed entrance to the KHSRA at Five Points. Additional perimeter streets such as Slauson Avenue, Jefferson Boulevard, La Cienega Boulevard and Rodeo Road are proposed for consistent street tree plantings and park signage to extend the park into adjacent neighborhoods and commercial areas, creating a larger park.

Footpaths and Bicycle Trails

An extensive 17-mile network of trails made up of low-impact unpaved footpaths and paved bicycle trails are designed to provide access to most areas of the park at various levels of difficulty (see figure 22). An additional 2.8 miles of trails provide walking and bicycle access from surrounding areas into the park. All footpaths and bicycle trail networks will be separated to avoid use conflicts. Trail crossings will be well signed. Paved handicapped accessible trails will be built in the central valley area of the site and through the Botanical Garden and Sculpture Garden. The main trail network provides access from the southeast corner of the park to the east and west natural areas and viewpoints terminating on the west side of the park at West Los Angeles College, Culver City Park or the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. This network encompasses over 10 miles of trails with elevation changes of over 500 feet, and connects to other important trails in the surrounding areas, providing vital pedestrian and bicycle access to the park.

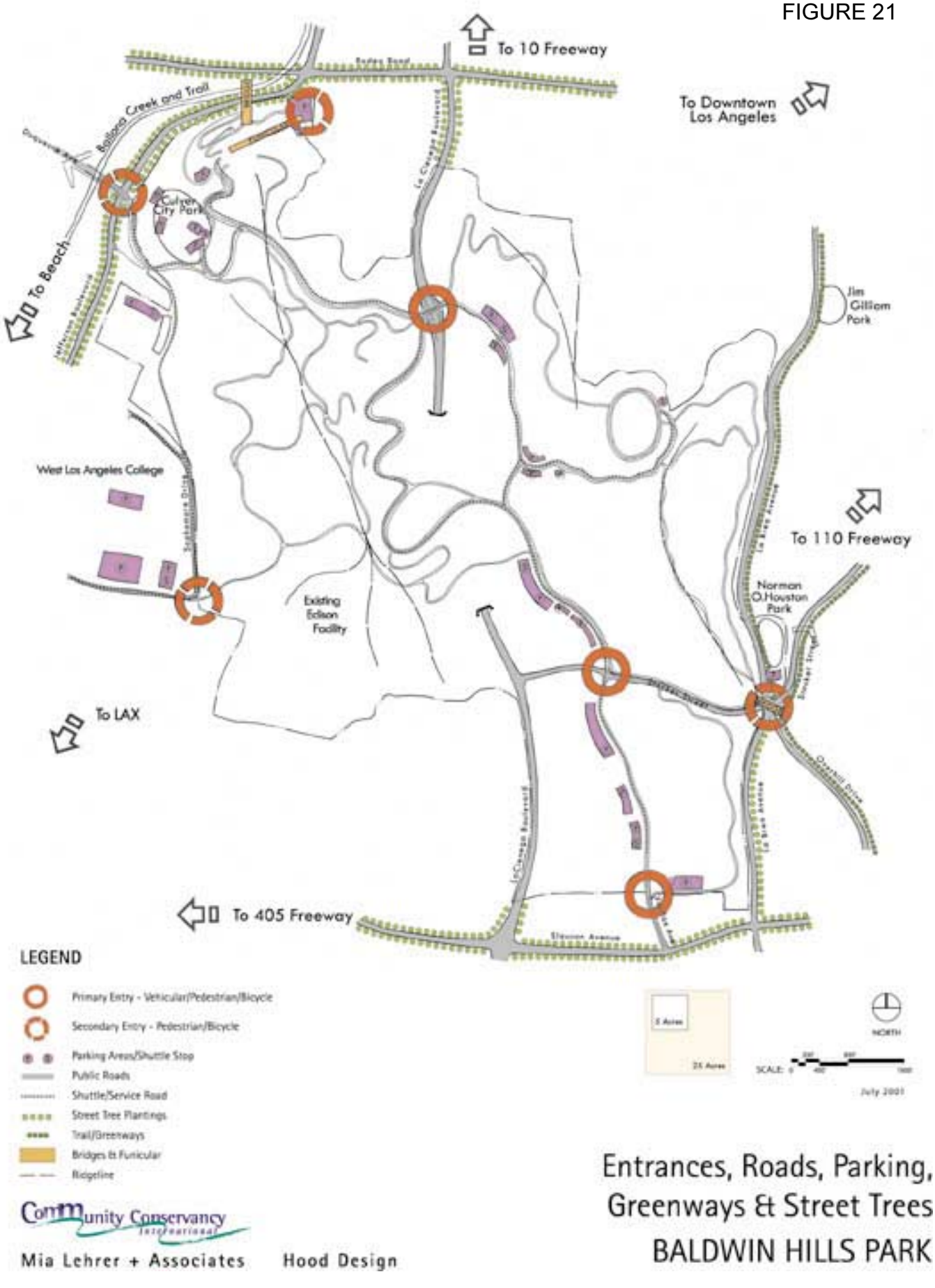
Footpaths will provide access to the natural areas of the site. They are intended to be a maximum of four feet in width and will utilize low impact construction materials and methods to protect habitat areas. Numerous routes will give walkers options of short loops or longer hikes through the entire park. Trailheads serving this system will be located at the eastern visitor center, from multi-use areas along the eastern base of the west ridge, West Los Angeles College, Culver City Park, the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, Five Points, the Recreation Center and the Community and Senior Center.

Paved bicycle trails, separated from roads traveled by cars, have been designed as part of the park shuttle system connecting the east and west portions of the park and providing access to the interior areas of the park. The bicycle trail uses the land bridge to connect either east or west through the park. Bicycle trails will connect to the Ballona Creek Bike Trail via a pedestrian bridge over Jefferson Boulevard from the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, and via the Ballona Creek Trail to the 25-mile Beach Bike Path. Bicycle trails will also connect to the planned one mile Stocker Street Trail and the 1.3 mile La Brea Avenue Greenway and Trail via a pedestrian bridge over the Five Points intersection, to the one-half mile Overhill Drive Trail and to the planned Exposition Boulevard Trail. A bicycle trail will be located on the eastern ridge through a less sensitive transitional landscape area affording spectacular views of downtown Los Angeles and the surrounding mountains. No off-road bicycle access is designed for the park.

Neighborhood Buffer Areas

The park is surrounded by residential development with the exception of the eastern edge bordered by La Brea Avenue. Neighboring residents share concerns about noise and visual intrusion into their properties. Existing measures have been taken in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area including fencing and other barriers to restrict park visitors from areas adjacent to neighborhoods. The design for Baldwin Hills Park proposes to use a variety of methods to prevent physical and visual access to and reduce noise and light from park areas near adjacent homes. Seventy-five to two hundred and fifty foot wide buffers of protected natural habitat areas with no public access are located adjacent to neighborhoods on the north and west edges of the park. Footpaths and the sculpture garden will be the only activities within one-quarter mile of any residence. Taller plantings will be used to screen views of adjacent houses. If necessary, fences or other barriers could be utilized to restrict access. Noise from playing fields and other high-use activities will be buffered from adjacent neighborhoods by earthforms, the location of these uses in the central valley of the site and the distance of these activities from neighborhoods. Potentially noisy activities have been located as close to the center of the park as possible to reduce potential impacts on the neighbors living on the edges of the park.

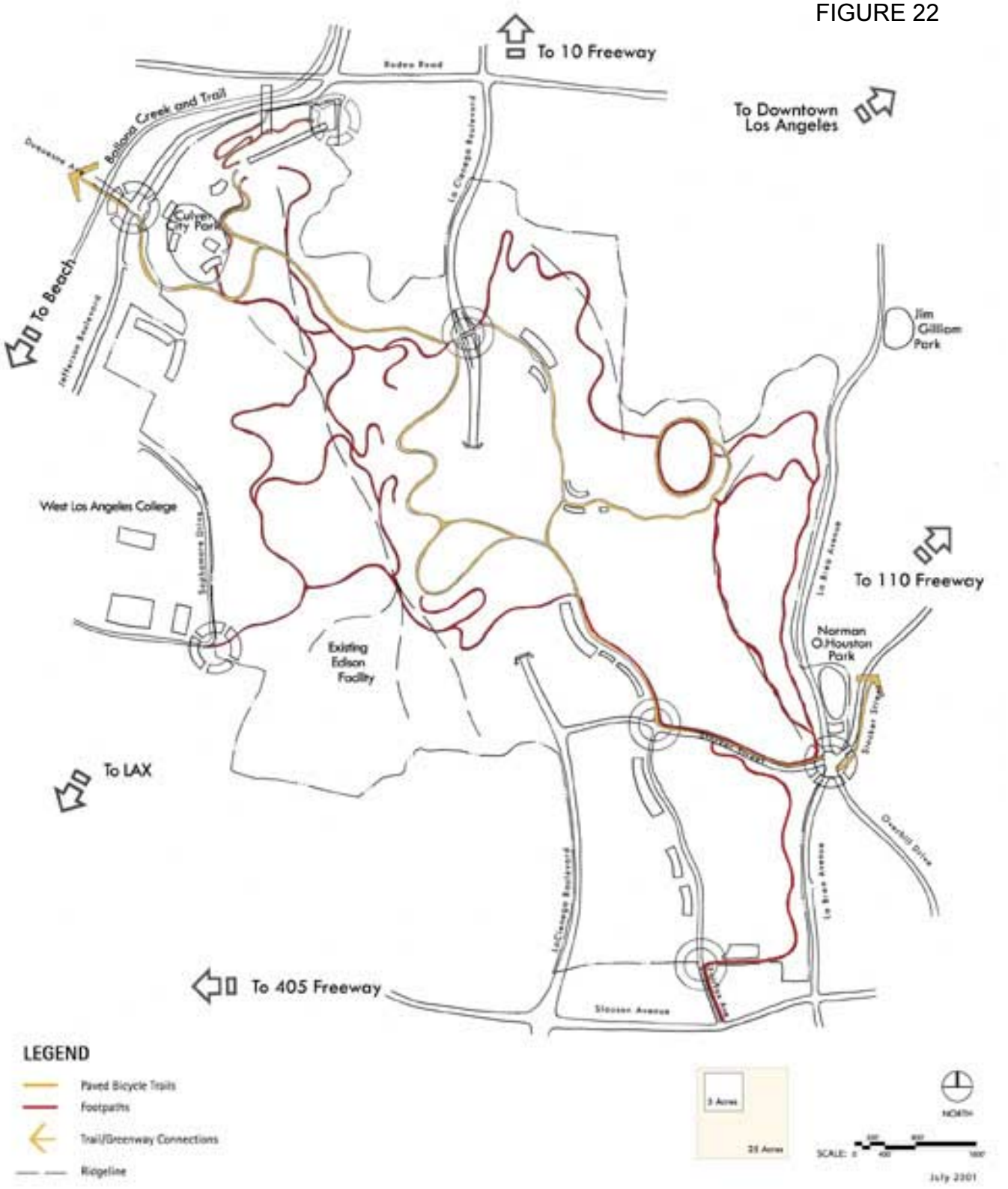
FIGURE 21



Entrances, Roads, Parking, Greenways & Street Trees

BALDWIN HILLS PARK

FIGURE 22



Community Conservancy International

Mia Lehrer + Associates Hood Design

Footpaths & Bicycle Trails
BALDWIN HILLS PARK

Park Management: General Goals & Guidelines

Statement of Overall Management Intent

The Baldwin Hills Park is being created to provide a wide range of park, recreation and natural habitat amenities, and to accommodate these uses in a mutually compatible manner. Demands for buildings and other public uses must be balanced with the need for active recreational space and cultural and event amenities, protection and restoration of sensitive natural habitat areas, and park and recreation-related economic development. As the knowledge base about the Baldwin Hills' biological resources and restoration needs of those resources increases, it fosters an evolution of the ethics of how these resources must be managed if they are to be healthy, viable and sustainable. Likewise, understanding of community needs for recreation, education and cultural facilities and for visitor-serving economic facilities necessitates a new approach to blending these more intensive visitor-serving types of uses in a natural open space environment.

Partnerships are an essential component to management of the Baldwin Hills Park. This includes working agreements between the state and regional or local agencies, public-private partnerships, partnerships with non-profit organizations, community-based organizations and service providers, and partnerships with private concessionaires. As has been demonstrated in other major urban parks around the world of similar size and scope, all of these are important to the long-term health, viability and sustainability of the Baldwin Hills Park. It is the intent of State Parks to foster working partnerships with other state agencies, the Baldwin Hills Conservancy, the County of Los Angeles, the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority, other regional and local agencies, non-profit organizations and private entities as necessary in order to implement this plan and to effectively manage the Baldwin Hills Park.

It is also the intent of State Parks to manage the Baldwin Hills Park to maximize public access to the park and to emphasize non-vehicular access to the park. Developing and maintaining connections between the Baldwin Hills Park and local parks, schools, greenways, trails and other habitat areas is essential to sustaining a park of this size and scope in the heart of a densely-populated urban areas.

The management goals for the Baldwin Hills Park reflect the complexity of the park itself, its surrounding urban environment, and the many natural resource and human needs the Baldwin Hills Park Plan addresses.

Specific Management Goals

1) Sustainability

To the greatest degree possible, all lands shall be managed to maximize the long-term sustainability of all park resources. This includes use of reclaimed water or stormwater captured on-site for all irrigation and other uses as possible, use of drought-resistant vegetation, design of all park facilities using materials that meet high energy efficiency and environmental standards, appropriate siting of facilities to maximize efficient use of park land and resources, recycling of green waste and recycling of other recyclable products and use of solar and other non-fuel dependent energy sources. Sustainability includes emphasizing non-vehicular public access to the park via connections to pedestrian and bicycle trails and to public transit. Sustainability also includes directing revenue from park-related economic uses specifically to park improvements and maintenance. Revenue-generating uses such as the golf course, clubhouse, banquet facility, restaurant, train ride and amphitheater should be required to contribute portions of annual

revenue to a fund dedicated to on-going park improvements and maintenance, or required to do maintenance as a part of their contract to preserve the long-term health and viability of the park.

2) Protection of Natural Lands

Those areas still in a natural condition are to be protected to maintain that state. Those areas identified for restoration will be restored to allow natural processes to return, and managed to maintain them in a natural state. Those areas needed to facilitate wildlife movement will be managed to optimize restoration of wildlife populations to a healthy and sustainable condition. Public access in natural habitat areas will be designed first to protect native vegetation and wildlife and to prevent disturbance of nesting areas.

3) Provision of Active Recreation

Active recreation areas and facilities shall be designed to provide a high-quality recreation experience, and shall be grouped together to maximize public access and connections to public transportation as well as to prevent negative impacts on natural habitat areas and wildlife. Ball fields shall be designed and managed to provide rotating use between different sports, and all night lighting shall be designed and operated to state-of-the-art standards to maximize down-shielding and to prevent spill into neighboring communities or natural habitat areas. Facilities shall be designed to provide a broad range of sports and recreational opportunities not otherwise available in the planning area.

4) Golf Course

The golf course shall be managed as a public course with emphasis on broad based availability to a wide economic spectrum. It shall be designed to the highest environmental standards. Landscaping shall be at least 75% with plants native to Southern California, and shall be compatible with surrounding natural habitat areas and shall cause no negative impacts on natural habitat or wildlife. Lighting shall be designed and operated to state-of-the-art standards to maximize down-shielding and to prevent spill into neighboring communities or natural habitat areas. Comprehensive water management should include on-site filtration, re-use to the maximum extent possible and use of reclaimed water for irrigation purposes. Pesticide and fertilizer use shall be minimized, and no runoff containing pesticide or fertilizer residues shall be allowed to become runoff or enter into the storm drain system.

5) Buildings and Visitor-Serving Uses

Major visitor-serving uses shall be sited to be easily accessible via park shuttle, parking and public transit, and shall be designed to coordinate with one another. Buildings shall be sited and designed to the highest energy efficiency standards and shall be handicapped-accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

6) Open Space Areas

Open space areas shall be designed to provide buffers between natural habitat and more active recreational or cultural facilities, and to provide an overall planted park atmosphere. Irrigation shall be managed to protect natural habitat areas and the native wildlife populations they support. Landscaping shall be primarily with plants native to Southern California.

7) Public Access

Public access shall be a primary consideration for all park design, and shall take into consideration coordination with public transit, on-site and off-site parking, connections to local parks, greenways, trails and trailheads. Development of public access shall be consistent with

the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Pedestrian and bicycle access and construction of pedestrian bridges at key public access points shall be a top priority, and all trails, trailheads, greenways, park entrances, park facilities and parking shall incorporate pedestrian and bicycle needs. All park sites shall be managed to maximize non-vehicular access, and safe and accessible connections to trails shall be emphasized.

8) Access for the Disabled

All new facilities in the park shall be appropriately designed to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to assure access for the disabled.

9) Circulation, Parking and Park Shuttle

Roads within the park shall be open only to park personnel and public safety or law enforcement personnel. Parking shall be concentrated at high-use areas, and coordinated with a park shuttle system to provide public access throughout the park. A fuel-efficient park shuttle system shall be a high priority in order to protect the park's natural and open space qualities; the shuttle will be designed to accommodate bicycles and recreation equipment. Parking and the park shuttle shall be coordinated with public transit systems and with trailhead locations. The park shuttle will be convenient for park visitors and designed in accordance with the Americans for Disabilities Act (ADA). Overflow parking during high-use events shall be provided at perimeter lots and at nearby industrial parks and public facilities.

10) Public Safety

Law enforcement services need to be coordinated to provide cooperation between park police, state park rangers, county sheriffs, and police departments from the cities of Los Angeles and Culver City. Public Safety agencies including area fire departments and emergency services should work together to ensure effective communication and response to park user needs A formal agreement between these agencies shall be entered into so the park users receive the highest quality service. An on-site substation and call box system will provide a location for such coordination and on-site patrols throughout the park will increase the public's safety.

11) State-Local/Public-Private Partnerships

Partnerships between state and local public agencies, and between these agencies and private, non-profit organizations, and between these entities and community organizations are recognized as vital to the long-term viability of the Baldwin Hills Park, and those partnerships that further the goals of the park are to be encouraged.

12) Revenue-Generating Uses

The park shall include park-related revenue generating uses, as these uses play a key role in the long-term sustainability of the Baldwin Hills Park. These uses shall be designed to fit within the park plan, shall be coordinated and consistent with park uses, and shall not intrude or detract from enjoyment of park resources. Significant portions of revenue generated from park-related economic uses should be made available to assist in funding on-going park improvements, operations and maintenance.

13) Art and Aesthetics

Public art should be included in all buildings and park facilities, and shall be an integral part of facility design. Aesthetics and consistency with the overall Baldwin Hills Park vision shall be incorporated into all building siting and design. Bridges, fencing, lighting, roads, signage and other park infrastructure shall also be treated as integral parts of the overall park design and

shall be consistent with the park vision and appropriate for the park's recreational, educational, and environmental objectives.

14) Signage and Park Information

Coordinated park signage and park information shall be a priority for all park entrances, parking areas, park shuttle systems, public transit connections, trail connections and for all park facilities.

Specific Management Areas

Management areas for the Baldwin Hills Park are designed to address the wide array of distinct park, recreational and open space uses proposed for the park and the specific needs of different land use types. All Specific Management Areas will adhere to the appropriate goals and guidelines outlined above and with the Department of State Parks and Recreation's guidelines for management of natural habitat.

La Cienega Boulevard Park Entrance, Visitor/Education Center, North Central Valley Management Area

The park entrance off of La Cienega Boulevard will serve as one of the primary entry points into the park, and shall introduce park visitors to the wealth of natural resources of the Baldwin Hills, provide trail maps and information on the range of cultural and recreational activities available, current events and education programs. This park entrance should immediately impart a sense of the natural oasis and native habitat that make the Baldwin Hills such a unique and special place. The Visitor/Education Center will provide interpretive exhibits, classes and presentations to provide park visitors with up-to-date information and orientation to the Baldwin Hills Park.

Park administration, maintenance facilities, service and storage yards, nursery, wildlife rescue facility and the public safety substation are all part of this management area. This entrance shall be part of the public transit linkage. Parking and a park shuttle stop provide access to the rest of the park and footpath and bicycle trail connections provide access to the western ridgeline. The park shuttle system will provide service from this management area to the wilderness group campground.

The north central valley area shall be managed to provide a high-quality, easily accessible park experience to visitors, including easy parking for the fishing lake, picnic sites, Lotus Pond, playground and small-scale community center that can be used for small group meetings. As the main landscaped area that most park visitors will see who come to the Visitor/Education Center, Botanic Gardens, Amphitheater, Multi-Use Festival area, or Sculpture Gardens, this area shall be sensitively designed to set an overall theme for the planted, non-habitat areas of the park.

Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, Visitor Center and Ballona Creek Trail Connection Management Area

As the most spectacular view site in urban Los Angeles as well as in the Baldwin Hills Park, the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site must provide visitors with a unique high-quality experience that

emphasizes the views and restored natural habitat of this hilltop. This includes observation areas to showcase sweeping vistas from the San Gabriel and Santa Monica Mountains to the Pacific Ocean, walking and sitting areas and appropriately designed visitor-serving facilities, including a visitor center and restaurant that are sensitive to this special site. All site design shall first protect views and accommodate habitat restoration and long-term habitat management needs, and shall be built to the highest standard of environmentally sound design, energy efficiency and site compatibility. Due to the high usage anticipated for this site, habitat restoration needs, site sensitivity and the need to protect views, the majority of public parking shall be accommodated in the flat areas at the base of the hill, with transport to the top of the hill provided by funicular or tram.

Footpath and bicycle trail connections to the Ballona Creek Trail shall be provided via a land bridge from the lower area of the site over Jefferson Boulevard. Footpaths and paved trails will connect the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site to the western ridgeline, the rest of the park, and to Culver City Park and West Los Angeles College. The park shuttle system will connect this site to the wilderness group campground and throughout the rest of the park.

Culver City Park Entrance and Ballona Creek Trail Connection Management Area

This entrance shall be a secondary entrance, providing parking for trailheads and connections to public transit and to the park shuttle system. The park bicycle trail will connect to Culver City Park, the par course and climbing area, West Los Angeles College, and along Duquesne Avenue to the Ballona Creek Trail. Development of the Culver City Park Entrance, the bicycle trail connection along Duquesne Avenue to the Ballona Creek Trail, and trailhead parking will be coordinated with the City of Culver City.

Culver City Park Active Recreation Management Area

The City of Culver City will continue to manage the Culver City Park, which includes baseball diamonds, a skate park and a handicapped access trail. This is a secondary entrance, providing important public access from the west. A trailhead for the footpath and bicycle trail is proposed for this area, with bicycle trail connections from Culver City Park to the Ballona Creek Trail via Duquesne and with both footpath and bicycle trail connections to the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site. The park shuttle will connect Culver City Park to the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, the wilderness group campground and to West L.A. College.

West Los Angeles College Entrance and Trailhead Parking

This entrance shall be a secondary entrance, providing parking for the trailhead giving access to trails in the Western Preserve and Natural Area, connections to public transit and to the park shuttle system. Connections via bicycle trail and park shuttle from this area can be made to the par course and climbing area and to Culver City Park. Weekend and special event parking will be provided at the ample parking lots at West L.A. College.

Sculpture Garden Management Area

The Sculpture Garden shall be managed to create the highest possible quality outdoor sculpture and park experience, with carefully designed and coordinated landscaping, walking paths and signage. The garden will maximize public accessibility to outdoor sculpture, which should be a mixture of permanent and rotating exhibits. In selecting sculpture, both permanent and temporary, coordination with local art museums and community art centers shall be

encouraged. Native vegetation should be planted in the northern portion to screen the houses from visitor use and to connect the native habitat areas with a better corridor.

Amphitheater and Multi-Use Festival Management Area

This area encompasses the outdoor cultural events components of the park. The Multi-Use Festival fields will be available for rent for a wide number of fairs, contests, art exhibits, and festivals, as well as for recreational events. These fields will be managed to provide a wide range of cultural opportunities to the region, to provide public uses not otherwise available in the park, and to provide a source of revenue for the park. The amphitheater will provide professional, high-quality theater, music, dance and other cultural performances, and will be managed to coordinate scheduled events with other park events and to ensure sustained economic viability of the facility. A significant portion of revenue generated from this facility will be dedicated to park development and maintenance, and the amphitheater shall be managed to make possible this revenue dedication.

Golf Course, Clubhouse, Banquet Facility Management Area

The golf course shall be managed to provide a quality recreational experience to course users, to protect adjacent natural habitat and to prevent light spillage, and shall be designed to the highest environmental standards. Native landscaping shall be used on at least 75% of the course, and all runoff shall be captured on site and filtered or otherwise treated before being released into the storm drain system. Golf course management shall be coordinated with other park uses, especially during tournament, contests or other high-volume special events.

The banquet facility shall be available for rent on a reservations basis, and shall be managed to provide an attractive and convenient location for weddings, banquets and other similar events. A significant portion of revenue generated from the golf course, pro shop and banquet facility will be dedicated to park development and maintenance, and all shall be managed to make possible this revenue dedication to the park.

Ball Fields, Tennis & Recreation Center, Community & Senior Center and Active Recreational Management Area

This area shall be managed to accommodate many different active recreational opportunities and to accommodate a maximum number of park visitors. Easy public access and convenient parking to high-volume uses is emphasized. Recreational events shall be coordinated with other nearby park uses and events to make best use of parking areas. A narrow-gauge train may be a possible use in this area and could be operated as a park-related economic use. If lake areas are used for swimming, appropriate design and safety precautions shall be put in place, including a lifeguard service and a system to control water quality. A fly-fishing casting pond is proposed for the lakes area.

Five Points Park Entrance and Trails Connection Management Area

This entrance shall be a secondary entrance, providing parking for the trailhead giving access to trails in the Eastern Natural Preserve area, and providing important connections to bicycle trails, footpaths, pedestrian walkways and other city parks. These include the Stocker Street Trail, pedestrian walkways along La Brea Avenue and Overhill Drive, Norman O. Houston Park and Jim Gilliam Park. Due to serious traffic concerns at Five Points and the high-volume usage of this entrance due to the number of people living in close proximity or having public transit access, a pedestrian bridge shall be a very high priority between the Stocker Street Trail and the KHSRA entrance.

Stocker Street Trail and La Brea Greenway and Trail Management Area

Both the Stocker Street trail and the La Brea Greenway and Trail shall be managed to provide maximum safe pedestrian access to KHSRA. The Stocker Street Trail shall include a landscaped footpath and paved bicycle trail, a trailhead and parking area at the southern end and a trailhead at Five Points. The La Brea Greenway and Trail shall include landscaping along the eastern side of La Brea Avenue, median plantings, street trees and a footpath connecting Jim Gilliam Park, Norman O. Houston Park and KHSRA. A bicycle trail can be included if feasible. Norman O. Houston Park shall serve as a trailhead and parking area. Landscaping along both trails shall be primarily with native plants. Both trails shall connect via pedestrian bridge over the intersection to the KHSRA entrance and connecting to Norman O. Houston Park. The bridge shall be an aesthetic design that reflects the overall Baldwin Hills Park vision.

Western Natural Preserve, Western Scenic Ridgeline, Wilderness Group Camping, and Picnic Sites Management Area

This area consists of all of the western ridgeline and canyons, and is bordered by West Los Angeles College, the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, Holy Cross Cemetery, Ladera Heights and the western loop of the park road. This area shall be managed to protect natural habitat, scenic views and appropriate public access, and to provide necessary buffers between visitor-serving uses and surrounding neighborhoods. Management shall maximize the viability of existing natural habitat and habitat being restored to a natural condition, protect areas in process of restoration, and prioritize protecting the connections between habitat areas. Protection of wildlife, including breeding, nesting and feeding areas shall be of highest priority. Location of trailheads, footpaths, service and shuttle roads and any other necessary facilities will be designed to avoid sensitive plant and wildlife areas, to maximize views from the ridgeline and to provide trail loop alternatives.

Existing and restored riparian habitat in canyons shall be given highest levels of protection. The Bird Lake shall be developed in conjunction with natural drainage patterns on the east side of the western ridgeline, and shall be managed to provide healthy, sustainable habitat for year-round and migratory birds.

Landscaping in the natural habitat areas shall be with plants native to Southern California. Irrigation shall be designed to protect native habitat, and shall be used only where necessary for restoration efforts or where runoff does not impact natural habitat areas. Other designated open space in this area shall be transitional landscape, and shall be landscaped primarily, although not exclusively, with native vegetation. These open space areas serve as a transition between native habitat areas and active recreation or more intensively developed park areas. Established picnic sites on grassy areas are in this open space area.

The Wilderness Group Camping Site shall be available only by reservation and only to organized groups, such as youth and church organizations. The emphasis is on a wilderness experience, so the campground shall provide basic camp sites, restrooms and picnic facilities, but minimal lighting. Access shall be via park shuttle, with the staging area either at Culver City Park or at the La Cienega Boulevard park entrance. The footpath network is easily accessible from the campground. Coastal sage scrub habitat in the surrounding area shall be protected from off-trail or other use.

Oil History Site Management Area

The Oil History Site shall be managed primarily as an outdoor interpretive site, with displays and exhibits that explain the history of oil discovery and production in the Baldwin Hills and oil's role in the history of the Baldwin Hills, Los Angeles and California. Access shall be by footpath.

Eastern Natural Preserve, Eastern Scenic Ridgeline and Picnic Sites Management Area

This area consists of all of the eastern ridgeline and canyons on both sides of the ridgeline, and is bordered by La Brea Avenue, the neighborhoods of Baldwin Hills and Baldwin Vista, Five Points and the golf course and other landscaped parts of the park in the central valley area.

This area shall be managed to protect natural habitat, scenic views and appropriate public access, and to provide necessary buffers between visitor-serving uses and surrounding neighborhoods. Management shall maximize the viability of existing natural habitat and habitat being restored to a natural condition and protect areas in process of restoration and prioritize protecting the connections between habitat areas. Protection of wildlife, including breeding, nesting and feeding areas shall be of highest priority. Location of trailheads, footpaths, service roads and any other necessary facilities will be designed to avoid sensitive plant and wildlife areas, to maximize views from the ridgeline and to provide trail loop alternatives.

Landscaping in the natural habitat areas shall be with plants native to Southern California. Irrigation shall be designed to protect native habitat, and shall be used only where necessary for restoration efforts or where runoff does not impact natural habitat areas. Other designated open space in this area shall be transitional landscape, and shall be landscaped primarily, although not exclusively, with native vegetation. These open space areas serve as a transition between native habitat areas and active recreation or more intensively developed park areas. Established picnic sites and playground areas are on the edges of the habitat areas and on grassy areas in this open space area.

North Central Valley Management Area

This area shall be managed to provide a quality visitor experience, including picnic sites, level walking areas, a fishing lake, Lotus Pond, playground and small-scale community center that can be used for small group meetings.

General Management Goals

Economic Opportunities

The Baldwin Hills Park presents a number of economic opportunities consistent with development of park, recreation and open space uses. Ensuring appropriate park and recreation-related economic development within the park that is balanced with overall park and natural lands needs is an important management goal of the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan.

World class parks attract visitors from across the globe. The Baldwin Hills Park is envisioned as a major destination point, providing the opportunity to develop high quality visitor-serving uses that enhance people's enjoyment of the park and its amenities, contributing to the local economy by providing jobs and business opportunities, and ensuring a revenue stream to help support on-going park development, maintenance and operations. Implementation of the Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan will create a wide range of jobs. Ensuring these jobs and related

job-training are available to people in the areas surrounding the Baldwin Hills will be prioritized. The multi-year effort of designing, planting, building and maintaining a park of this scale and of restoring a degraded industrial area to a healthy, vibrant natural landscape will employ thousands of workers at all levels of trades and skills. Implementation of certain components of the plan will require long-term concession agreements with experienced concessionaires.

Economic opportunities related to the Baldwin Hills Park include:

- Park design, landscaping and construction
- Job training, internships and job-skill related education
- Architecture, engineering and construction of park buildings and facilities
- Construction of the land bridge and park roads, bridges and entrances
- Landscape architecture and planting of gardens and park landscapes
- Restoration and maintenance of natural landscapes
- Visitor-serving uses, including restaurants, food vendors and visitor center
- Visitor-serving uses in adjacent areas, such as restaurants and coffee shops
- 1,000 to 2,000 seat amphitheater
- Small-scale, narrow-gauge train ride in recreation area
- Recreation equipment sales rental, repair and instruction
- Pro-shop for golf course and tennis center
- Banquet facility, catering and related concessions
- Golf course design, construction, operation and maintenance
- Coaching, training, sports instruction
- Park administration, operations and maintenance, public safety, law enforcement

Management of the Baldwin Hills Park will include allocation of specific areas for park-related economic uses, and will ensure that these economic uses add to and enhance the park experience. Parking, access, sound, lighting and all other issues related to specific economic uses shall be addressed with the primary goal always being protection of natural habitat and wildlife, protection of adjacent neighborhoods, and provision of visitor-serving uses that enhance or improve the park and the overall park experience.

Active Recreation

The Baldwin Hills can provide a wide range of active recreation opportunities not otherwise readily available in the surrounding area, and this is an important goal of the park plan. Management of active recreation areas shall include providing easy public access, scheduling of events and uses to allow field and facility maintenance, controlling night lighting and noise, and buffering active recreation areas from natural areas and adjacent neighborhoods.

Restoration and Natural Habitat

The Baldwin Hills presents exciting opportunities for restoring lands degraded and/or impacted by urban development, inappropriate landscaping or industrial uses to a natural condition. Restoration of coastal sage scrub and riparian habitats require long-term planning, a comprehensive approach to soils, hydrology and plant palette, and sustained, careful maintenance over many years. Management of natural habitat and restored natural habitat areas shall be science-based to the maximum degree possible, and shall address ecosystem components. Rehabilitation of key insect, reptile, amphibian, bird and mammal species shall be

considered where feasible. Implementation of the plan shall prioritize protection of existing natural habitat and restoration of lands that re-connect these existing areas.

Management of the Baldwin Hills Park will recognize the long-term nature of native habitat restoration efforts, and will design management strategies to accommodate long-term restoration needs, including: the on-going removal of invasive, non-native plants; adjusting irrigation patterns and systems as necessary; replacement of native plants over time with additional plantings as necessary; on-going biological monitoring; on-going labor to restore habitat areas over time; location and design of all footpaths, trails and other public access infrastructure and attention to adjacent landscaping and the effects these areas have on native habitat restoration efforts.

Management of the Baldwin Hills Park shall maximize the viability of existing natural habitat and habitat being restored to a natural condition, protect areas in process of restoration, and prioritize protecting the connectivity between habitat areas. Protection of wildlife, including breeding, nesting and feeding areas shall be of highest priority. Where necessary, controlled burns may be used on a limited basis to eradicate and control non-native plant species and to encourage native plant regeneration. Location of park facilities, buildings, trailheads, footpaths, service and shuttle roads and any other necessary facilities will be designed and sited to avoid sensitive plant and wildlife areas and to protect natural habitat. On-site management shall include nurseries for native plants to facilitate restoration efforts and the supply of plants suitable for the Baldwin Hills, and facilities for wildlife care, rescue and rehabilitation to the wild. Natural habitat areas shall be managed to allow ample use of these areas as a living laboratory in coordination with area schools and park visitor education and science programs.

Education & Interpretation

Providing opportunities for outdoor education and use of the Baldwin Hills Park as a living laboratory is a primary management goal. Protecting and restoring natural habitat shall be coordinated with education programs whenever possible, in conjunction with park-provided visitor interpretive programs, area schools, after-school and other youth programs and West Los Angeles College. Management should include technological links between the park and park facilities to other science facilities and educational institutions, including the California Science Center and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and non-profit organizations providing environmental or science education. Management of educational, laboratory and auditorium facilities should place the highest priority on education programming.

Art & Aesthetics

Park management shall place a strong emphasis on consistency with the overall park vision and design elements, and on the maintenance of public art and a strong aesthetic in all aspects of the park. All park design and design and siting of park components, buildings and facilities shall be attentive to the aesthetics of and be consistent with the overall Baldwin Hills Park vision. Bridges, fencing, lighting, roads, signage and other park infrastructure shall be treated as integral parts of the park aesthetic and shall be managed consistent with the park vision and design themes.

Park Maintenance

Park management shall place a high emphasis on quality maintenance, on location of support facilities needed for park maintenance and operation, and on screening maintenance yards and facilities from view. Maintenance shall be managed as an integral part of the park, with the goal of not intruding into park uses. Park service roads shall be designed so that maintenance vehicles and equipment can easily access all visitor-serving uses, recreation and active use fields, the golf course, and all park buildings and restrooms. Management of all park facilities shall include appropriate accommodation for service vehicle parking, tree trimming and landscaping maintenance, and other related infrastructure maintenance. All park facilities, gardens, landscaped areas, picnic areas, parking lots, buildings and other visitor-serving uses should be equipped with recycling and trash bins. Service yards and garages for heavy equipment shall be of adequate size and appropriately located to maximize convenience to high demand areas; these areas should be screened from park view and sited to be unavailable to park visitors. Green waste disposal shall be state-of-the-art and shall be screened from park view.

Public Transportation

In addition to the in-park shuttle and tram or funicular planned for the Vista Pacifica Scenic Site, public transportation shall be accommodated at all entrances and trailheads to the park. Public transportation systems from surrounding cities shall be coordinated with the park shuttle system, and transit stops at park entrances and within the park shall be located in conjunction with heavy use areas. Bus and shuttle stops shall be within the park boundaries to provide safe passenger transfer.

Public Safety

Public safety is a top management goal for the Baldwin Hills Park. Private vehicles will not have road access throughout the park, preventing many types of safety issues. Public safety also includes a full-time park ranger force trained in both law enforcement and park interpretation, on-site security, and regular patrols throughout the park. The multi-jurisdictional public safety center should be adjacent to park administrative headquarters to facilitate coordination of all park events and public safety needs. Signage and lighting shall facilitate night patrols of high-use areas. Park service roads and associated gating and signage shall be managed to allow easy and rapid access to the park by public safety personnel. Fencing of the park perimeter and use of vegetation designed to prevent public access both at the perimeter and in other key areas shall be used where necessary. Fire roads and hydrants shall be installed where necessary to facilitate fire protection. Park hours shall be limited to daytime only, except for scheduled events in controlled areas.

INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION

Interpretation and education are based on the premise that knowledge deepens the park experience and provides lasting benefits not only to individuals but also to society in general. Interpretive themes define the point of view given to the presentation of the park's natural, cultural, aesthetic, and recreational resources. Interpretation and education also assist in the preservation of these valuable resources by reducing crime and educating visitors to the impacts that they have on the resources.

Baldwin Hills Park contains some of the most significant natural, cultural and industrial features within the highly urbanized area of Los Angeles County. This plan calls for sustaining native wildlife and plant habitat, thereby preserving the natural character of the areas for educational opportunities. Baldwin Hills Park will provide an opportunity to work closely with all levels of education providers to enhance curricula in the Science and History-Social Science frameworks as well as other frameworks. The park is in close proximity to over 55 schools with an enrollment of over 30,000 students. The proposed development of a group campsite will create an opportunity to provide Environmental Living Programs that can focus on the natural and cultural elements of the Baldwin Hills. It will be imperative to have constant communication with the education providers to ensure that interpretive and educational programming directly reflects the needs/curriculum of local school children and other park visitors.

Baldwin Hills Park may be the first and most relevant natural park experience for many of our visitors. We can serve as a catalyst to educate these new park users to the importance of restoring and preserving natural landscapes and sensitive features of the area. Through this educational effort, we may realize increased support for the preservation of the remaining natural environments of the state.

The plan includes science and educational facilities to create a living laboratory that, with support of partner institutions, will become a model urban learning resource. Specific areas of the park will have distinct and unique learning opportunities contained within the proposed development. This Interpretive Element will provide an overview of the park by identifying primary themes with appropriate supporting themes and secondary themes. These will be used as a starting point to identify the rich interpretive values contained in the Baldwin Hills Park as the park is developed to its fullest potential.

Plans for the Specific Management Areas will be developed and, as part of the process, Interpretive Plans will be written to identify interpretive and educational opportunities contained in these areas. The Specific Management Areas incorporate recreation, natural preserves, historic sites, scenic sites, multi-use facilities and other elements to make the park an important amenity of the Los Angeles community.

Primary Theme: A natural refuge within the highly urbanized area of Los Angeles County, Baldwin Hills reveals California's rich natural history and our responsibility to respect it.

> **Supporting Theme:** Native plants and animals find refuge in the fragile natural environment of Baldwin Hills Park.
>
> This theme will introduce the beauty and diversity of California native flora and fauna with emphasis on their adaptations. It will contrast native vegetation and native wildlife with introduced species and the associated outcomes of reduced viability of native species.
>
> **Supporting Theme:** Showing respect for the environment and other visitors while recreating at Baldwin Hills Park will ensure safety for the park and people.
>
> Baldwin Hills Park's location within the major urbanized area of Los Angeles will put extreme pressure on the natural, cultural and recreational opportunities offered in the park. This theme will educate visitors on how to recreate while preserving nature, respecting the solitude of other visitors, and maintaining the park's resources for future generations.

Supporting Theme: This park is an Island requiring community participation to protect.

What we do in our communities impacts the health of this Island of habitat. Our personal practices can effect the health of this Island refuge. Its viability in providing a home for flora and fauna is dependent upon our decisions as a community. Each individual decision we make contributes to the health of a watershed and of the places we value. This theme looks at issues of habitat connectivity, watershed management and community environmental standards/stewardship. This supporting theme will look at the interconnection with the community and with and other natural areas (i.e. Ballona Creek and wetlands) surrounding the proposed park.

Primary Theme: Home to humankind, the Baldwin Hills Park area has created a haven for many cultures.

Supporting Theme: Baldwin Hills has been the home to many cultures.

From the Native Americans to the diverse population of Los Angeles today, Baldwin Hills has been a center for cultural history. This theme will interpret the history of the many cultures that have called Baldwin Hills home. Specific periods include: The Native American period, European Colonization period (1540 – 1771), Mission Period (1771 – 1843), Mexican Period (1822 – 1846), and Anglo Period (1848 – present). All of these periods need to be represented in the interpretive plans for Baldwin Hills Park.

Baldwin Hills was the site of the Xth Olympiad Olympic Village (1932. The idea of the Olympic Village was conceived from a deep sentiment that children of all nations could live peacefully, side by side, regardless of color, race, or creed. The concept of an Olympic Forest was incorporated in the previous general plan to allow the planting of at least one representative tree species from each nation that participates in the Olympic Games. These trees should be accompanied by interpretation of the cultures they represent.

Supporting Theme: For a variety of reasons, people have come to and settled into the Los Angeles Basin, including Baldwin Hills.

This supporting theme will look at the reasons so many people call LA home, what brought them here and why they choose to stay. The climate, jobs, and other motivators have created the interconnection of many cultures within the Baldwin Hills area.

Primary Theme: Geologic history has shaped the Baldwin Hills area and our lives.

Supporting Theme: The geography has shaped human habitation of this region.

This theme will interpret the enormous variety of environmental factors and patterns as they affect the human community. The quality of our life styles is closely related to the quality of the environment in which we live.

Supporting Theme: Petroleum production is both a natural and a man-made process.

The Baldwin Hills contain a variety of geologic features that created the oil reserves. This theme will investigate the formation, extraction and refining of oil and the

manufacture of petroleum products. The finite quantity of the resource and the need to conserve energy should be primary elements of this theme.

Supporting Theme: From the hills and mountains to the flatlands of southern California, geologic formations impact our daily lives.

This supporting theme will interpret the changing geology of southern California. From plate tectonics to earthquakes, geology strongly influences our day to day decisions as individuals and as a society.

Primary Theme: Great parks are a part of healthy communities.

Supporting Theme: Parks provide for healthy vibrant communities.

The vision for this park has been compared to New York's Central Park and San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Such parks offer a refuge from the intensity of our City pressures. They provide places for renewal and refuge. They offer opportunities for personal fitness and social gathering. By interpreting the value of such a park we reinforce the need to fulfill the vision and associate the effort with the great community building efforts of the past and can share the Los Angeles Area Park Vision.

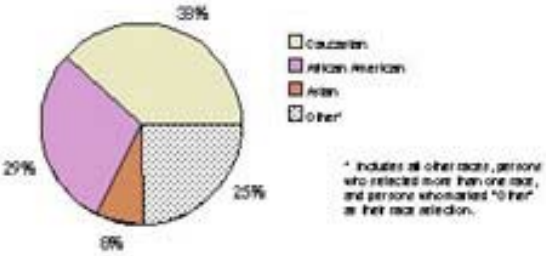
Supporting Theme: This theme will discuss what it takes to make a park, concept through completion. A focus on Baldwin Hills is essential in making this theme relevant to the visitors. Process, funding, partnering and politics all play a role in the development of a park and should be included in the story covering this theme. All of the partners should be prominently acknowledged.

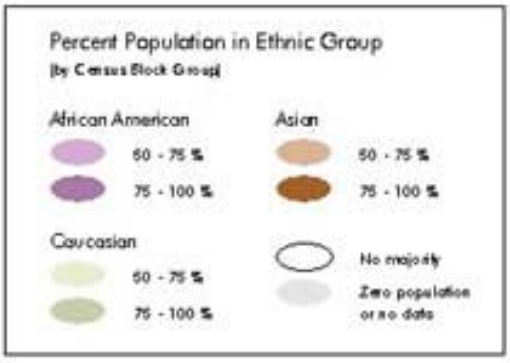
APPENDICIES

Demographics - Ethnicity

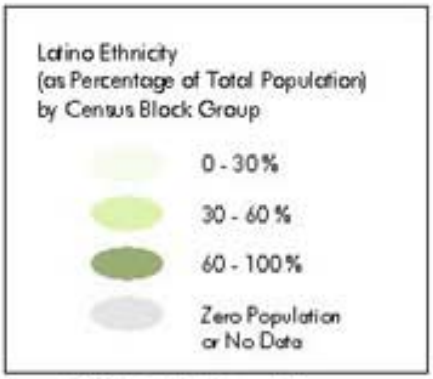
Ethnicity within 5-Mile Radius

(Percentages calculated for a 5-mile radius around the park site)





Source: 2000 United States Census Data



Source: 2000 United States Census Data

Demographics - Income Level, Households with Children

Median Household Income, US Dollars

- Greater than $60,000
- $37,941 - 60,000 (above LA County average*)
- $15,000 - 37,940 (below LA County average*)
- Less than $15,000
- Zero Population or No Data

* Average household income ($37,940) based on the mean value of all Median Household Income figures (per Census block group) for Los Angeles County.

Source: 1990 United States Census Data

Percent Households with Children (under 18) by Census Block Group

- At least 1 child for every 4 households
- Less than 1 child for every 4 households
- Zero population or no data

Source: 1990 United States Census Data

2.5 0 2.5 5 Miles

- 5-Mile Radius
- Project Boundary
- Highway
- Major Road
- Coastal Water
- River

Community Conservancy

APPENDIX C

BALDWIN HILLS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ORGANIZATIONS	REPRESENTATIVES
Homeowners Associations	
Baldwin Hills Estate Homeowners Assoc.	Cal Lawrence, Board Member
Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Coalition	Opal Young, Chair
Baldwin Village Gardens Association	Calvin Hall, President
Blair Hills Association	Mary Ann Greene, President
Concerned Citizens of Jefferson Buckingham	Harold Johnson, President Adams Crenshaw
Crenshaw Neighbors	Marvin Jackson, President
Culver City Homeowners Association	Ted Smith, Board Member
East Culver City Alliance	Marta Zaragoza, Board Member
Fox Hills Property Owners Association	Helen Creve, Board Member
Hyde Park Network	Bertha Wellington, Chair
Ladera Heights Civic Association	Steve Leon, Secretary
Raintree Townhouse Association	Kay Kemp, President
United Homeowners Association	Yvonne King, Board Member
Village Green Association	Les Roberson, Member
Chambers & Business Organizations	
Community Development Technologies	Dr. Denise Fairchild, President
Crenshaw Chamber of Commerce	Linda Young, Executive Director
Culver City Chamber of Commerce	Michael Balkman, Board of Directors
Greater L.A. Af-Am Chamber of Commerce	Tim Lester, Executive Director
Inglewood Chamber of Commerce	Wayne Spencer, President
Community & Youth Organizations	
Brotherhood Crusade	Noel Foucher, Assistant to President
Big Brothers of Greater Los Angeles	Frederick G. Scott III, Vice President
Concerned Citizens of South Central L.A.	Mark Williams, Program Director
Culver City Senior Center	Beverly Violin, Vice President
L.A. Conservation Corps	Bruce Saito, Executive Director
Ladera Seniors Advisory Committee	Charles Caballero, Board Member
NAACP, L.A. Chapter	Dr. Geraldine Washington, President
Conservation Organizations	
Audubon Society, Los Angeles Chapter	Richard Epps, President
Ballona Creek Renaissance	Jim Lamm, President
California League of Conservation Voters, L.A.	David Allgood, So. Calif. Director
Environmental Defense Fund	Robert Garcia, Senior Attorney
Environment Now	Terry Tamminen, Executive Director
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter	Bill Vanderberg, Task Force Member
Sierra Club, Angeles Chapter Member	Ron Webster, Task Force Board
Educational Institutions	
USC	Dr. Tridib Banerjee, Professor, School of Policy & Planning
Culver City Unified School District	Jonathan Flyer, Director of Facilities
Los Angeles Unified School District	Renee Jackson, Superintendent

Natural History Museum of L.A. County	**Dr. John Heyning, Director**
West Los Angeles Community College	**Mr. Frank Quiambo, Interim President**

Religious Institutions

Southern Christian Leadership Conference	**Rev. G. Lind Taylor**
African Methodist Episcopal Church	**Rev. Carolyn Tyler Guidry**
Inglewood Ministerial Alliance	**Rev. William Thurmond**
L.A. Council of Churches	**Rev. Norman Copeland**

Public Agencies

Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Auth.	**Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke, Chair**
California Coastal Conservancy	**Bill Ahern, Executive Director**
California Conservation Corps	**H. Wess Pratt, Director**
California Department of Parks & Rec.	**Rusty Areias, Director**
City of Los Angeles Dept. of Rec. & Parks	**Ellie Oppenheim, General Manager**
Culver City Human Services	**Don Rodgers, Director**
Department of Fish and Game	**Bob Hight, Director**
Department of Conservation	**Darryl Young, Director**
Inglewood Parks & Recreation	**Matt Robinson, Director**
Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area	**Lori Bennett, Park Superintendent**
L.A. County Dept. Parks & Recreation	**Jim Park, Assistant Director**
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy	**Joseph T. Edmiston, Executive Director**

Law Enforcement

L.A. County Police Dept./Parks Bureau	**Captain Carl Moore**
L.A. County Sheriff's Dept./Marina Substation	**Captain Rod Lyons**
California Highway Patrol West Los Angeles	**Captain Lauren Dummer**

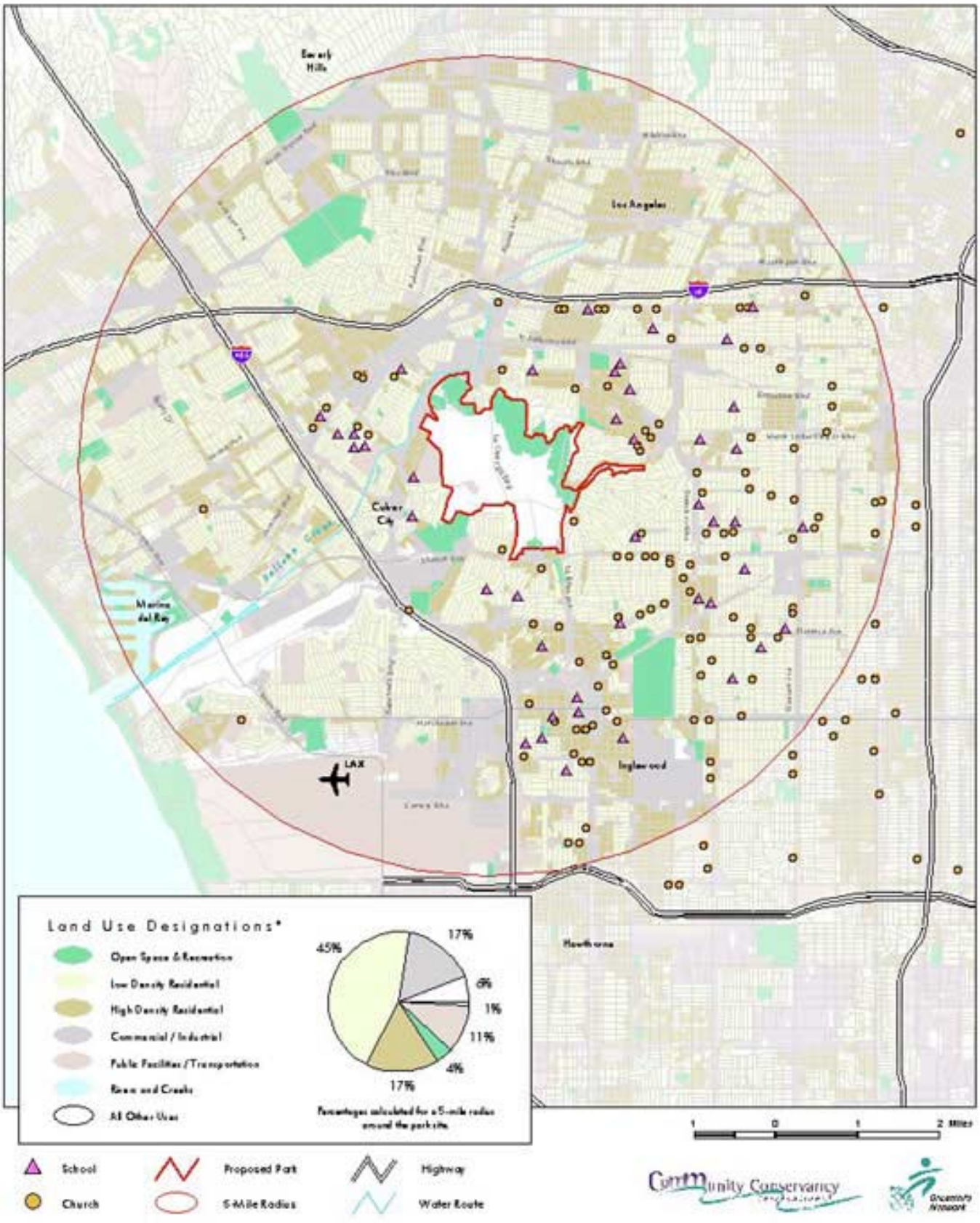
Elected Officials

Congresswoman	**Maxine Waters**
Senator	**Kevin Murray**
Senator	**Ed Vincent**
Assemblyman	**Herb Wesson**
L.A. County Supervisor	**Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke**
Mayor, City of Culver City	**David Hauptman,**
Mayor, City of Inglewood	**Roosevelt Dorn,**
L.A. City Councilwoman	**Ruth Galanter**
L.A. City Councilman	**Nate Holden**
L.A. City Councilman	**Mark Ridley-Thomas**

Landowners

Airey Family Trust	**J.B. Airey**
Baldwin Stocker LLC,	**Maury Spanier**
Cone Family	**Peter Hoss**
Inglewood Hills Partners LLC	**Don Lovingfoss**
Lloyd Properties	**Frank Cribbs**
Stocker Resources	**Mark Armbruster & Kerman Maddox**
Vickers Group	**Roy Naftzger**

Land Use with Area Schools and Churches



History of the Baldwin Hills Area

1542	Cabrillo's expedition contacts the Tongva Indians in present day San Pedro Bay. Native American population is estimated at 30,000.
1781	The first pueblo in Los Angeles is established by a group of 11 families of Spanish, Native American, Mexican, African and Caucasian descent.
1784	The Spanish government institutes the rancho system in order to establish sovereign title to land.
1822	Mexico gains its independence from Spain and begins an extensive process of land redistribution.
1839	Augustin and Ygnacio Machado and brother Tomas Talamantes are granted legal title to **Rancho La Ballona** (Culver City). Just northeast of this rancho is Policarpio Higuera's **Rancho Rincon Rincon de los Bueyes** (East Culver City).
1843	Mexican Governor Manuel Micheltorena grants Rancho Cienega O'Paso del la Tijera (Baldwin Hills, View Park) to Vincente Sanchez.
1846	Vincente Sanchez's son, Los Angeles Sheriff Thomas A. Sanchez moves into adobe ranch house on Rancho Cienega O'Paso de la Tijera (now Consolidated Realty Board Building).
1849	California becomes a part of the U.S. and Los Angeles incorporates as a city. **L.A. Population=3,530**
1875	Millionaire E.J. (Lucky) Baldwin buys 3,667 acres of Rancho Cienega O'Paso de la Tijera, comprising present day Baldwin Hills, View Park and Windsor Hills for $60,000.
1892	First commercial oil well developed in Los Angeles by E.L. Doheny.
1897	Over 500 oil wells operate in Los Angeles.
1903	California becomes top oil-producing state in the United States.
1908	City of Inglewood is incorporated. **Population=1,536.**
1917	Harry Culver gets Culver City incorporated. **Population=503**
1918	Ince/Triangle Studios is purchased by Samuel Goldwyn Studios which evolves into Metro-Goldwyn Mayer (MGM).
1920	**Los Angeles population=577,000.**
1924	**Oil is discovered in the Baldwin Hills** (Inglewood Field) by Standard Oil of California (Chevron) Getty, Texaco and Shell purchase and operate oil production facilities in the Baldwin Hills.
1931	Olympic Village is erected in present day View Park to house athletes for the 1932 Olympic Games.
1933	Walter Leimert creates the Leimert District.
1935	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pave and channelize Ballona Creek to control flooding.
1940	The Leimert District is 99% white. African American celebrities such as Ella Fitzgerald and Dinah Washington and a few Asian Americans make up the 1% minority.
1941	Landscape architect Fred Barlow and Clarence Stein create the Village Green "Super Block".
1947	The Crenshaw Shopping Center (Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza) opens at Santa Barbara Boulevard and Crenshaw Boulevard, pioneering the concept of multiple department stores under one roof.
1950	Future L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley buys a house in Leimert Park by enlisting white "dummy buyers".
1952	Culver Crest, Blair Hills and McManus Park are all annexed into Culver City.
1963	The Baldwin Hills Dam bursts, releasing 292 million gallons of water, drowning five people and destroying hundreds of homes.
1964	Annexation of Fox Hills brings two 18 hole golf courses and the Red Riding Stables to Culver City.
1965	The Watts riots precipitate white flight to the suburbs. Professional African American and other minorities begin moving to the Crenshaw area.
1970	**African American population of the Crenshaw district is 83%. Crenshaw Boulevard replaces Central Avenue as the center of African American culture Los Angeles.**

1975	Fox Hills Mall opens.
1975-76	Supervisor Kenneth Hahn and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approve the concept of a regional park within the Baldwin Hills.
1980	**Los Angeles population = 3 million**
1982	**500 acres of park land are purchased in the Baldwin Hills.**
1983	Park plan for Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and surrounding area is completed.
1984	The Olympics are held in Los Angeles, inspiring the planting of the Olympic Forest in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.
1988-89	Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area is officially formed by state legislation.
1990	Stocker Resources, Inc. takes over oil operation in the Baldwin Hills.
1990	**1 million people live within a five mile radius of the Baldwin Hills. Ethnic make-up is 36% African American , 36% White, 27% Latino.**
1994	Ladera Crest homes open in the Baldwin Hills.
1995	L.A. County Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite-Burke creates the La Brea Avenue Greenbelt.
1997	L.A. County purchases and develops the Ladera Little League baseball fields at Fairfax and Slauson.
1998	85 homes are built at the old Studio Drive-In site in Culver City.
1998	**Community Conservancy International re-invigorates effort to create a two-square mile world-class park in the Baldwin Hills.**
1999	**Senator Kevin Murray secure $4 million in state funds for Baldwin Hills Planning and acquisition.**
1999	**Senator Kevin Murray and Assemblyman Herb Wesson sponsor state legislation to plan for the expansion of Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.**
2000	420 active wells produce 6,900 barrels of oil and 3.2 million cubic feet of natural gas daily.
2000	Sierra Club Angeles Chapter and the Inglewood Boy Scout Troop 192 build two new trails in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area.
2000	**Governor Gray Davis approves $32.5 million for park acquisition in the Baldwin Hills.**
2000	California State Parks department dedicates the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area Rim Trail.
2000	Community Planning workshops begin to develop a draft plan Kenneth Hahn SRA Plan.
2000	The State of California along with L.A. County purchase 68 acres of land, known as the Vista Pacifica property for $41.1 million. The most expensive urban park acquistion in California history.

LIST OF BALDWIN HILLS PARK PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Baldwin Hills Park Planning Workshops – Series I

Date	Location
July 11th, 2000	Oasis at the Baldwin Hills Crenshaw Plaza
July 13th, 2000	Community Room, Inglewood City Hall
July 15th, 2000	Park Hills Community Church, Windsor Hills
July 25th, 2000	Wilfandel Club, West Adams
July 27th, 2000	Community Room Westfield, Fox Hills Mall
July 29th, 2000	Veterans Memorial Building, Culver City

Baldwin Hills Planning Workshops – Series II

Date	Location
March 14th, 2001	West Los Angeles College
March 17th, 2001	West Los Angeles College

City Jurisdictions and Unincorporated Areas

Community Conservancy International

Community Conservancy International (CCI) has led the effort to develop a plan for the Baldwin Hills Park since 1998. Working closely with hundreds of community, recreation, business, conservation, homeowner and religious organizations, local and state public agencies, elected officials, and with the help of dozens of consultants, CCI developed the draft Baldwin Hills Park Master Plan. CCI remains dedicated to helping realize the vision for this world-class park, recreation and natural area in the heart of urban Los Angeles County, and will continue to work towards acquisition, park development and restoration of natural lands.

Community Conservancy International's mission is to combine protecting natural lands and waters with conserving local communities around the world. CCI focuses on developing compatible, sustainable and economically sound solutions to complex community development and conservation issues by working closely with local communities, businesses, and governments.

CCI forms broad-based coalitions to ensure that all conservation efforts include providing economic stability, long-term employment, housing, and safe food, water and fuel sources to local communities.

As a private, non-profit organization, CCI works with communities, landowners, local and international public agencies and investors to achieve long-term, viable, and economically sound conservation projects. CCI is based in Los Angeles, California.

MIA LEHRER
+associates
landscape architecture

FIRM DESCRIPTION

Mia Lehrer + Associates is a full service, international landscape architecture practice located in Los Angeles, California. Under the leadership of Mia Lehrer the firm has been responsible for a diverse range of public and private projects including large urban parks, corporate landscapes and urban spaces. Ms. Lehrer's projects have been published in international journals and she has lectured in South & Central America.

In our projects we have met the challenges of highly complex sites and explored the possibilities of inspirational landscapes. Our work illustrates the firm's strong interest in innovative, buildable design. The Union Station project introduced new construction materials to the Southern California region within a fast track schedule. The EPA project in Sacramento has explored the use of native natural stones long out of commercial use.

Mia Lehrer + Associates is committed to the integration of creative design and quality service. We are equally committed to the rewards of the collaborative design process working with architects, engineers and other design consultants. In the past we have found that every project gains from the collective energy of not only internal collaborations but the whole project team working together.

Alameda Entry - UNION STATION LOS ANGELES
American Society of Landscape Architects, Honor Award 1999

Master Plan Concept Model -
THE CAMPUS AT PLAYA VISTA
Exhibited at MOCA
One-Hundred Years of Architecture
The Geffen Contemporary

Current Work: master plan for ***Baldwin Hills Park***; a 1200 acre area in Los Angeles; the ***Rand Corporation*** headquarters in Santa Monica; the master plan for ***The Campus at Playa Vista's*** entertainment, media, and technology district located in Los Angeles; **Villa Venetia Apartments** in Marina Del Rey; sustainability concepts for elementary and high schools in Los Angeles Unified School District through the ***Cool Schools program***; and the master plan for ***Silver Lake and Ivanhoe Reservoirs*** in Los Angeles.

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HOOD DESIGN

URBAN LANDSCAPE AND SITE ARCHITECTURE

Hood Design was established in 1992, in Oakland CA. The firm is committed to issues that address the re-construction of urban landscapes within towns and cities. Urban is defined as those landscapes where there is a collective density of inhabitants who share physical, social, political and economic resources. The firm's approach is multi-dimensional, exploring the role of specific landscape typologies that together reinforce and re-make landscape into the city morphology.

The firm's principal, Walter Hood, is the Chair of the Department of Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning, and Associate Professor in the Urban Design program at the University of California, Berkeley. His area of teaching and research, American urban history and design, is intertwined with office practice creating a didactic approach to projects.

Hood Design is committed to the development of environments which reflect their place, time and social uses. Our interest in the re-construction of urban landscapes seek to develop new elements, spatial forms and objects, validating their existing familiar context. The firm's method of design utilizes 'research' in lieu of standardized analytical practices. Research for each project include archival and oral histories, physical, environmental and social patterns and practices, to uncover familiar and untold stories. These elements are layered together through an improvisational design process which yields familiar yet new spaces, forms and elements. They assimilate and reconcile the past with the future.

Walter Hood's published monographs: "Urban Diaries" (Spacemaker Press) and "Blues & Jazz Landscape Improvisations" illuminate his unique approach to the design of urban landscapes. His work won an ASLA Research award in 1996. Hood participated in the Cooper-Hewitt Museum 2000 Triennial and in the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Revelatory Landscapes Exhibition 2000-2001. Recent professional projects include; Courtland Creek Park, Oakland,CA 1997, Lafayette Square, Oakland, CA 1998, Poplar Street Improvement Project, Macon, GA 1998-2001, Yerba Buena Lane, San Francisco, CA 1998-2001, the Richmond Neighborhood Project, Richmond, CA 1999-2000, and the New de Young Museum in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA, 2000-2005.

GreenInfo Network

American Institutes of Research
Association of Bay Area Governments
Bay Area Open Space Council
The Bay Institute
The California Endowment
California Food Policy Advocates
California Child Care Resource and Referral Network
California Coastal Conservancy
Conserving California Landscapes Initiative of the Packard Foundation
Great Valley Center
Greenbelt Alliance
Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District
Napa County Land Trust
Natural Heritage Institute
The Nature Conservancy
Peninsula Open Space Trust
Policy Analysis Center for Education (PACE)
The San Francisco Foundation
Save the Redwoods League
Sierra Nevada Alliance
The Trust for Public Land

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www.greeninfo.org

GreenInfo Network is a non-profit, tax-deductible organization

Computer mapping — or Geographic Information Systems (GIS) — is a new and explosively growing field with huge potential for non-profits dealing with environmental or social issues. It can be used to develop public policy, educate and involve the public in local issues, conduct detailed research, and improve organizational focus and effectiveness. But the complexity of GIS requires that most non-profits have a guide to help them make best use of it – that's the role of GreenInfo Network.

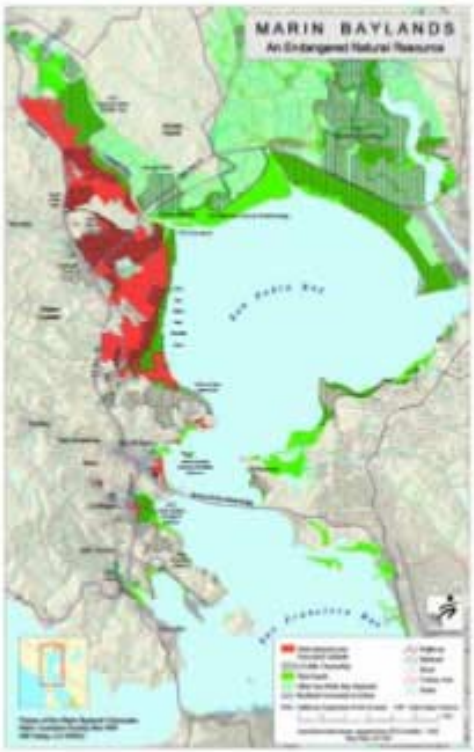
The mission of GreenInfo Network is to bring the power of mapping and information technologies to non-profits, governmental agencies and other public interest organizations, enabling them to more effectively understand and communicate the relationships between issues, people and places. We accomplish our mission by: effective, efficient and creative use of information technology on behalf of our clients; enabling others to use these same tools; educating the public about the importance of place-based thinking; and bringing our perspective to bear on public policy issues.

GreenInfo Network has a wide range of capacities for creating, analyzing and communicating geographic information, including:

- Data creation (digitzing) and acquisition
- Large format display graphic products
- Geospatial analysis
- High quality cartography
- Geographic model building
- GIS to offset printing methods
- GIS programming and application development
- Regional and local land use planning
- Database development and analysis
- Conservation planning
- Internet map serving
- Large existing store of California data

GreenInfo Network was founded in 1995 and is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization working primarily in California.

Offices are located in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Staff includes half a dozen full time GIS professionals plus interns, volunteers, and consultants.



LAND, PEOPLE, ISSUES: *GIS enables issues like the threat of land development to be accurately portrayed so that policy alternatives may be quickly generated.*

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SPECIAL THANKS
The communities of the Baldwin Hills area
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City of Inglewood
City of Los Angeles
County of Los Angeles
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FUNDED BY
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Community Conservancy International
California State Coastal Conservancy
ARCO Foundation
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
The Quercus Fund
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County Foundation
Los Angeles Audubon Society
Environment Now
J.B. Berland Foundation