



## Section 8

# 8. Parks, Recreation, and Trails





## Introduction

San Bernardino enjoys unparalleled access to natural features—mountains, rivers, and canyons. The City is home to a wealth of local recreational amenities, including the Little League Baseball Complex, regional soccer facilities, and many city parks. Complementing these facilities are a wide range of recreational programs from its community centers. The programs offered at the city parks and recreation facilities offer opportunities for residents to come together for different purposes—enjoying the beauty of a park; participating in community events or programs; or just enjoying time with their children, family, or friends.

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Element conveys the high priority that the City places on providing ample open space, parks, and recreational facilities for all community members. This element affirms the City's desire to provide a healthy environment for its residents by making available opportunities for active living and associated recreation pursuits and providing a place for community-building. This element, in conjunction with other chapters of the General Plan, also sets the framework for identifying, preserving, and enhancing open space resources, parks, and recreational assets.



Lytle Creek Park, San Bernardino





## Regulatory Framework

The regulatory framework for preserving open spaces for recreation is found in the California Government Code § 65560 et seq. and the General Plan Guidelines. While state law calls for comprehensive general plans to include open space and conservation topics, a Parks, Recreation, and Trails Element is not required by state law. However, because the City places great value on its parks, recreation, and trail amenities, the 2050 General Plan therefore includes this element as a separate elective chapter.

## Organization Framework

As an elective element, the following topics are included in the Parks, Recreation, and Trails Element.

- Inventory of parks and associated facilities (refer to the Open Spaces and Conservation Element for open space amenities).
- Recreational facilities, programs, and activities administered or supported by the City of San Bernardino.
- Bicycle routes and natural trails that are maintained by or within the City of San Bernardino.
- Community events that are sponsored or supported by the City of San Bernardino.

## Relationship to Other Elements

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Element is related to other chapters of the General Plan. For instance, the Open Space and Conservation Element contains goals, policies, and programs to address the use of public open space lands for recreational purposes. The Land Use Element designates various sites for parks and recreation. The Cultural Resources Element is also related in that some of the recreational facilities or activities are cultural resources as well.

The Parks, Recreation, and Trails Elements is also related to other implementation plans. The City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan also includes programs that increase the availability, adequacy, and suitability of park and recreational facilities. The City's Active Transportation Plan lays out programs to improve the bicycle and trail network in San Bernardino, and many of these physical improvements are detailed in the Capital Improvement Plan.

## Achieving the Vision

San Bernardino residents have made clear how valuable parks, recreation, and trail amenities are for the community's quality of life. They desire to have a diverse range of parks and recreational amenities for themselves and their families to enjoy. However, the City is underserved by parks and recreational facilities. The City has two acres of parks per 1,000 residents—less than half of the General Plan goal. In addition, neighborhoods in San Bernardino are underserved in the type, quantity, and condition of parks offered.

Equally important to residents' quality of life are the recreational programs, groups, and community events sponsored by the City. Community surveys have found that many of the City's parks lack modern amenities that are in good working condition. Programs, though innovative, are in short supply due to the overwhelming need and lack of funding. Community facilities that provide services are also aging and need rehabilitation and modernization.

The 2050 General Plan's priority is to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to gather at parks and enjoy an array of passive and active recreation programs near their home or work. The City also strives to provide meaningful recreational programs.

To that end, the following goals and policies are intended to:

- Ensure that residents have adequate access to parks, bike routes, and trails to meet their needs.
- Ensure that parks of equivalent amenities are equitably distributed throughout the City in all neighborhoods.
- Ensure that parks and trails are safe, well maintained, and outfitted with age-appropriate amenities.
- Ensure that recreational programs and activities are available to residents of all ages and abilities.
- Leverage existing and future funding sources as available to fund the provision of parks, trails, and recreation programs.

The following presents the planning context, followed by goals and policies for parks, recreation, and trails in San Bernardino.



## Planning Context

The City of San Bernardino maintains and offers an extensive array of parks, open spaces, recreational facilities, and programs for its residents, as summarized and mapped in this section.

### Parks System

San Bernardino has 39 public parks, covering about 470 acres. Facilities include regional, community, neighborhood, and miniparks. These facilities are described below and displayed on **Figure PRT-1**.

#### Regional Parks

Regional parks are the largest facilities and offer the widest range of amenities in the City. They provide natural features and passive and active features such as sports fields/courts, picnicking, fishing, hiking, camping, and associated amenities. Perris Hill Park covers 64 acres. The San Bernardino Soccer Complex also covers a total of 46 acres.

#### Community Parks

These parks are 15 to 30 acres in size with a service radius of 1 to 2 miles. Typical amenities include pools, lighted sports fields and courts, picnic facilities, hiking, play areas, passive open space, restrooms, and off-street parking. San Bernardino's nine community parks cover approximately 215 acres.

#### Neighborhood Parks

These parks are 5 to 15 acres in size, serve a neighborhood area of approximately ½ to 1 mile, and are accessible by walking or bicycling. Typical amenities include court games, playgrounds, picnic areas, fields, passive green space, and off-street parking. San Bernardino's nine neighborhood parks cover approximately 95 acres.

#### Mini Parks

Mini-parks or play lots are less than 5 acres in size, serve a small area or development within ¼ to ½ mile, and are easily accessible by walking or bicycling. Typical amenities include court games, playgrounds, picnic areas, passive green space, and off-street parking. The city has 19 mini-parks covering approximately 48 acres.

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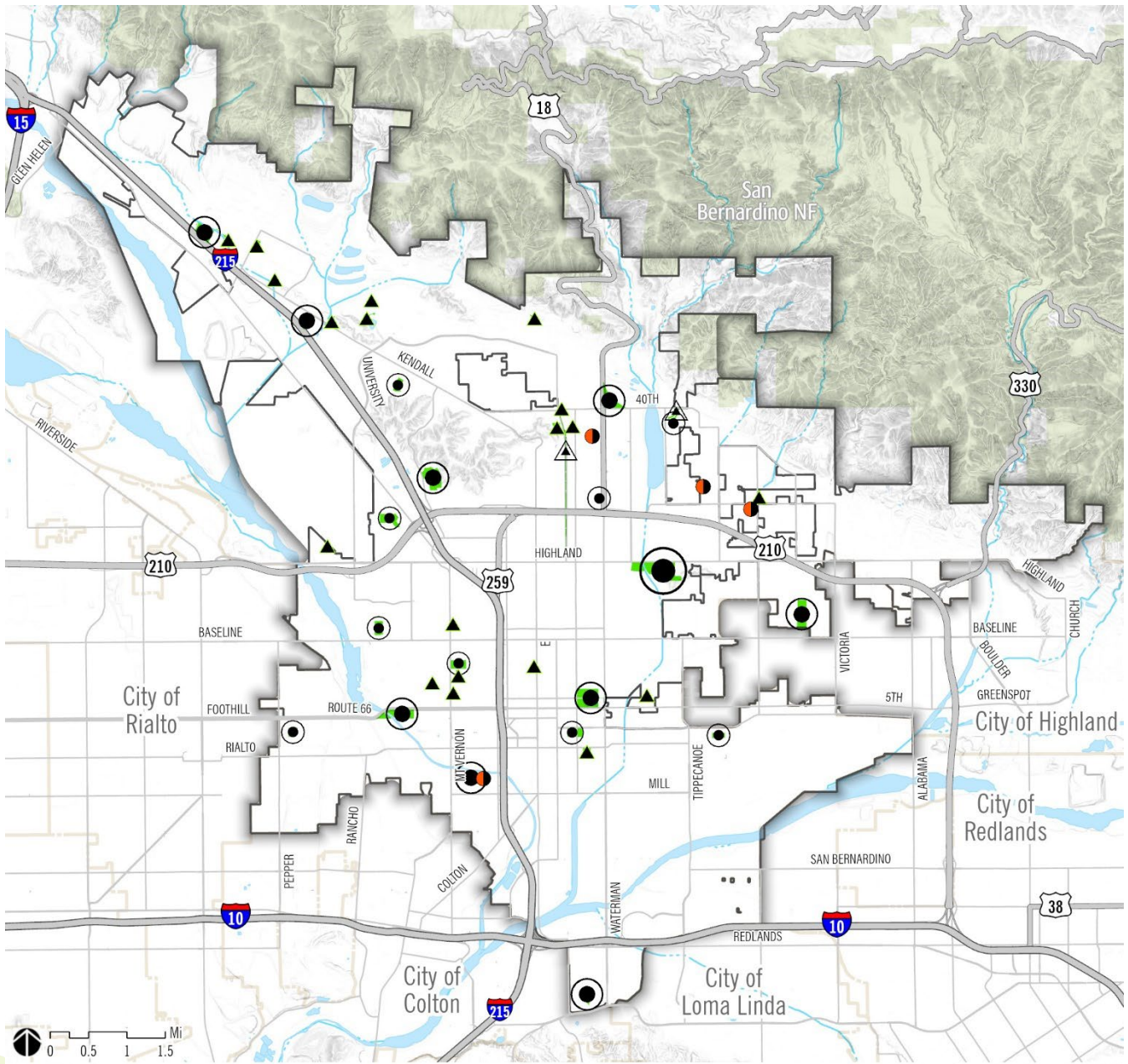
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Date: 2/10/2025

Source: City of San Bernardino and PlaceWorks 2025

- City Boundary
- City Sphere of Influence
- Park Areas

- Park Type
- Regional Park
  - Community Park
  - Neighborhood Park

- Mini Park
- Greenway
- Joint Use

**Figure PRT-1**

**Park Facilities**



## Park Access

San Bernardino residents desire a park facility system that offers ample recreational opportunities near their homes. The 2050 General Plan includes two standards to achieve that goal: 1) providing five acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents; and 2) distributing parks and facilities throughout the City so residents can access their local parks within a 10-minute walk from their home.

The General Plan goal of 5.0 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents requires that the City have a total of 1,125 acres of parkland in 2025. Currently the City has 470 acres, or 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents. Excluding the Regional Soccer Complex, the park acreage per 1,000 residents is distributed as follows:

- Westside (area west of I-215 including Muscoy): 1.6 acres
- Northwest (north of SR-210; west of Waterman): 2.5 acres
- Northeast (north of SR-210; east of Waterman): 1.5 acres
- Central (south of SR-210 and north of I-10): 1.5 acres

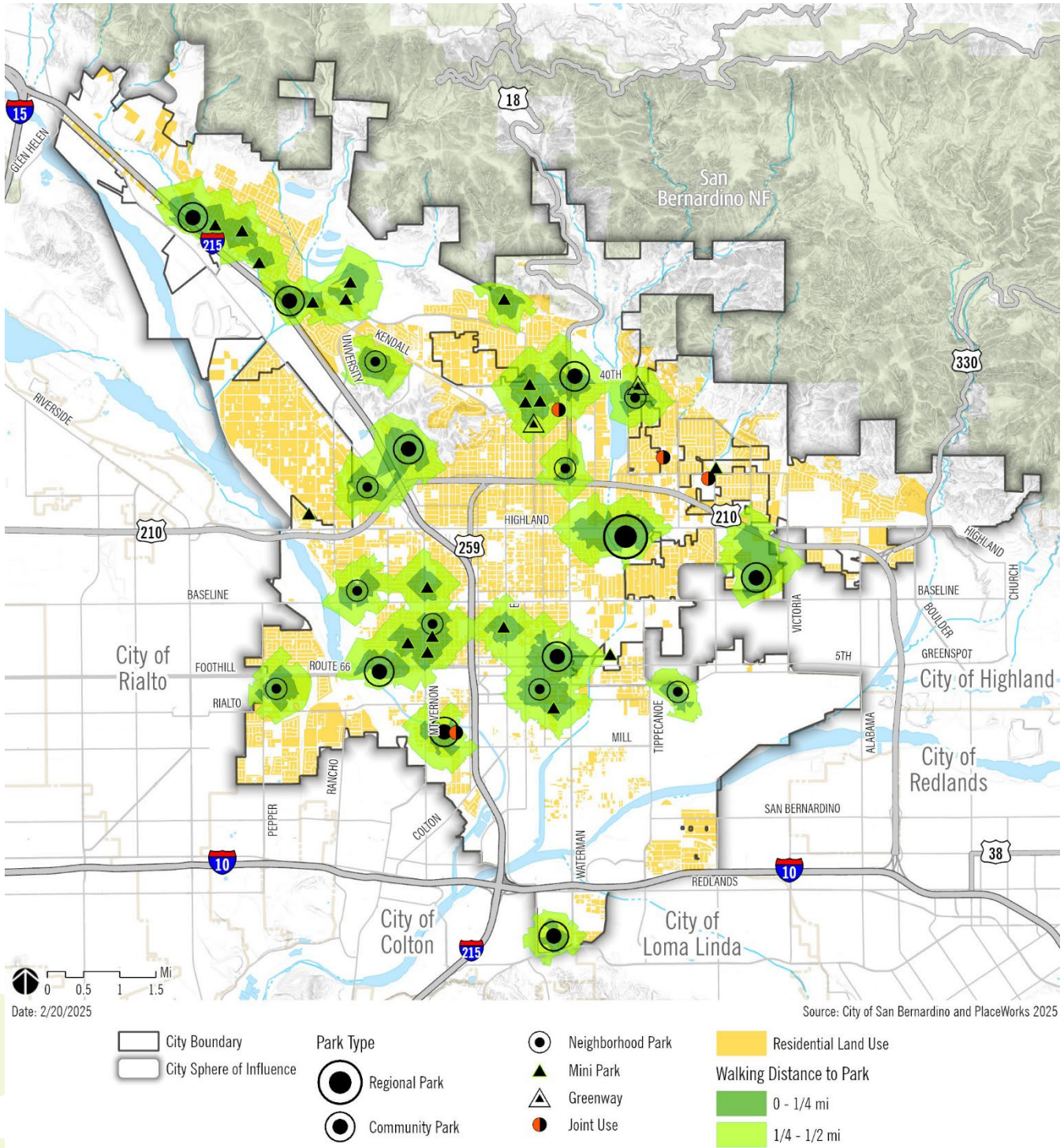
The Northwest sector has the higher per capita park acreage because that area developed primarily after the Quimby Act, which established minimum park acreage standards. Although no area meets the City's current park standard, the Trust for Public Land notes that accessibility to parks is fairly equitable. The percentage of households living within a 10-minute walk from a park is summarized below: for residents based on the following demographics:

- Race/ethnicity equity. 43 percent of Whites, 42 percent Blacks, 47 percent Hispanics, and 38 percent for Asians.
- Income equity. 47 percent of lower income, 44 percent for medium income, and 47 percent for high income households.
- Age equity. 47 percent of youth (<20 years), 45 percent of adults 20 to 64 years, and 44 percent of seniors.

**Figure PRT-2** shows the accessibility of parks in San Bernardino. This map can be used for prioritizing future locations for new parks.

### Parks Make Life Better

The San Bernardino Mayor and City Council, working with community partners and state and federal grant agencies, earmarked over \$50 million to substantially rehabilitate and renovate City parks, improving the recreational options for all City residents.



**Figure PRT-2 Park Accessibility**



## Goal PRT-1 Park Resources

An integrated system of parks and open space areas that is safe, in good condition, responsive to residents' needs, and equitably distributed across the diverse communities of San Bernardino.

### Policies

- 1.1 Master Plan.** Develop, implement, and regularly update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to carry out the City's vision, goals, and policies for parks and recreation.
- 1.2 Service Goal.** Ensure equitable access to parks by striving to develop and maintain at least 5 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents and locate a park within a 10-minute walk for all residents.
- 1.3 Shared Use.** Maintain and expand cooperative arrangements with local schools, City agencies, and community-based organizations for after-hour and summertime use of parks and recreational facilities.
- 1.4 Multi-Agency Coordination.** Coordinate with the Forest Service, County, and the State for joint use of recreational facilities, parkland acquisition, and the establishment of new recreational programs.
- 1.5 Park Prioritization.** Prioritize the development or rehabilitation of parks in neighborhoods with the highest unmet need per the Parks Master Plan priority list and service level goals in the General Plan.
- 1.6 Preventive Care and Maintenance.** Maintain, care for, and periodically renovate parks and recreation facilities, resources, and amenities to ensure that such facilities are in good condition for continual enjoyment.
- 1.7 Facility Evaluation.** Regularly evaluate the adequacy of City park facilities in meeting current and emerging needs; periodically adapt facilities as needed to provide meaningful recreational experiences.
- 1.8 Developer Contribution.** Require developers to meet their fair share of park needs by dedicating suitable land, paying a fair share of the costs for new parks and amenities, or renovating existing parks and facilities.



## Goal PRT-2 Park and Facility Design

Safe, sustainable, inclusive, innovative, and accessible parks, facilities and amenities that meet the diverse needs of residents

### Policies

- 2.1 Community Responsiveness.** Work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop and implement a park master plan for each site that addresses the siting of buildings, open air facilities, and landscape in a unified manner.
- 2.2 Safety Through Design.** Promote the safe design, use, and maintenance of City park facilities for the enjoyment and use by residents of all ages by:
  - Designing parks according to CPTED principles.
  - Installing lighting for safe evening use at all parks.
  - Patrolling parks for code compliance.
- 2.3 Natural Environmental Setting.** Design and develop parks to complement and reflect their natural setting and maximize their open space character.
- 2.4 Park Use Impacts.** Design and manage park and recreational facilities to address and minimize offsite impacts to neighboring residences, including night-time lighting, noise, parking, traffic control, and security.
- 2.5 Sustainable Design.** Incorporate sustainability in the design, operation, and maintenance of parks, such as:
  - Native landscaping and use of gray/recycled water.
  - Energy conservation features.
  - Infrastructure that reduces stormwater runoff.
- 2.6 Shade Structures.** Provide sufficient shade at all parks, facilities, and playgrounds through ample tree planting, vegetation, shade structures, and so forth.
- 2.7 Design for Inclusiveness.** Design and retrofit parks to allow for greater use, to the extent feasible, by residents of all ages and abilities as follows:
  - Offer equipment to accommodate disabled people.
  - Meet and exceed ADA accessibility requirements.
  - Consider the age of residents using the park.
  - Include features that reflect City cultures.



## Recreational Facilities and Programs

Recreation programs and leisure classes also enhance quality of life. A comprehensive range of recreation programs benefits residents in many ways: (1) provides a sense of place and belonging; (2) promotes health and wellness; (3) offers opportunities to play, grow, and learn; and enhances cultural unity.

### Recreational Facilities

San Bernardino's parks form the core of the City's recreational facilities, providing playgrounds, tennis and volleyball courts, and athletic fields among other recreational amenities. In addition, the Shandin Hills Course and the Arrowhead Country Club offer golfing. The Western Regional Little League Headquarters is in northwest San Bernardino. San Manuel Stadium and San Bernardino Soccer Complex offer specialized facilities for active recreational use. Many other local facilities provide opportunities for sports.

San Bernardino manages a variety of community centers that offer leisure and social activities for residents of all ages and interests. These centers include:

- Two Senior Centers
- Four Community Centers
- One Center for Individual Development

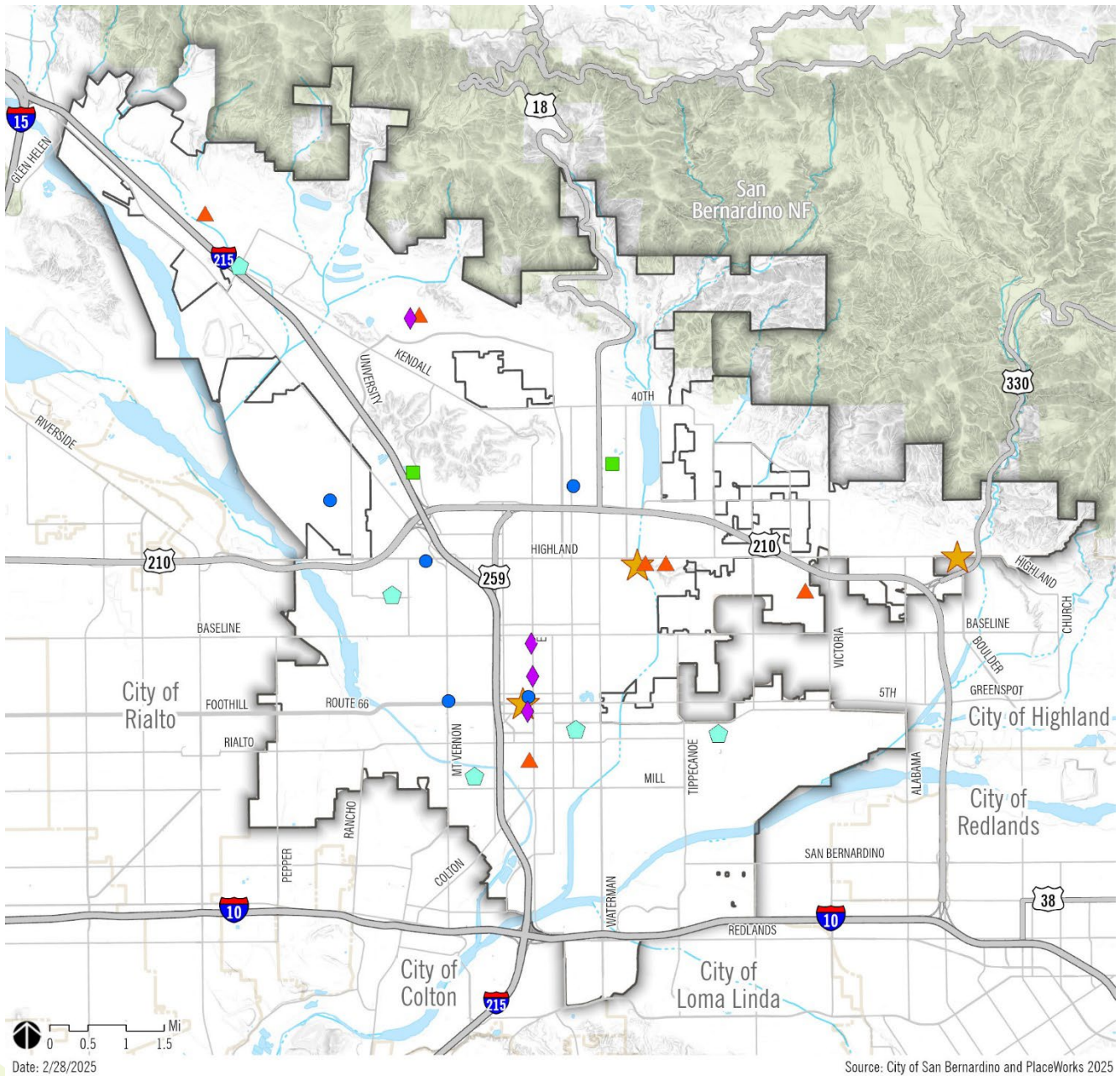
To supplement these facilities, San Bernardino organizations also provide a range of community recreation facilities and services. These include churches, sports clubs, local schools, nonprofit groups, and larger housing projects (e.g., Arrowhead Grove).

As part of the Parks Master Plan, residents were surveyed about why they do not use City park and recreational facilities more frequently. The reasons were: 1) safety concerns at the parks; 2) poor physical condition of facilities; 3) lack of open restrooms; 4) lack of amenities at the parks; and 5) lack of shaded areas. While the City has been making great strides in addressing the above issues, continued focus on these issues will be a priority for the duration of this General Plan.

**Figure PRT-3** shows the location and distribution of public recreational facilities in the city.



Rudy Hernandez Gym



Date: 2/28/2025

Source: City of San Bernardino and PlaceWorks 2025

- City Boundary
- City Sphere of Influence

Recreation Facility Type

- ◆ Arts/Culture
- ⬠ Community Center
- Library

- ▲ Sports
- Golf Course
- ★ Senior Center

Figure PRT-3

Recreational Facilities



## Recreational Programs

San Bernardino provides many recreational programs for children and youth. For our youngest residents, the City provides classes in arts and crafts, reading, ballet and dance, music, and exercise and movement classes. Older children and youth can participate in sports programs, including soccer, tennis, martial arts, basketball, and others. Some programs are offered at four joint use school sites. San Bernardino's youth service organizations (e.g., Boys and Girls Club and YMCA) and sports organizations supplement City programs.

The City of San Bernardino also values its cultural arts and the many expressions and forms it takes. The City owns the California Theatre, which holds regular performances. California State University of San Bernardino, San Bernardino Valley College, and San Bernardino Unified School District all have varied art programs for their enrolled students as well as a year-round schedule of events.



San Bernardino's art programs for children

The Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission is charged with overseeing the City's programs. Resolution 2018-47 authorizes the Commission with advising the Mayor, City Council, and City staff on community needs for the purpose of establishing City priorities, goals, and objectives with respect to parks, recreation and community services, youth services, and senior services.



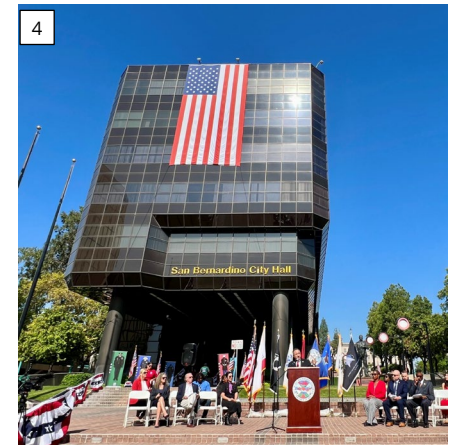
## Community Events

San Bernardino also sponsors a range of community events for residents of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. These events range from cultural events to seasonal events to occasional fairs. Venues such as the National Orange Show provide opportunities for larger events drawing from across the region or state.

### Community Events

Moving clockwise, some of the City's community events include:

1. Lunar New Year
2. San Bernardino: Cultures Connect
3. Spring Eggstravaganza
4. Memorial Day
5. Miracle on Court Street Christmas Event
6. Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead)



## Goal PRT-3 Recreational Programs

A diverse and inclusive recreational program that fosters community engagement and provides a variety of enriching programs and services for residents of all ages and abilities.

### Policies

- 3.1 Community Education.** Inform residents of recreational programs, services, and permitted activities at parks through educational campaigns and partnerships with school districts and charter schools.
- 3.2 Programming Experiences.** Offer a diverse range of recreational amenities and programs, including heated pools, community classes, and intergenerational and inclusive activities to support the needs of residents.
- 3.3 Community Collaboration.** Collaborate with community-based organizations, school districts, businesses, and other community stakeholders to develop and promote recreational programs.
- 3.4 Community Events.** Host a range of recurring events and activities at places across the City that bring together the community, celebrate the City's multi-culturalism, and foster community pride.
- 3.5 Age Specific Recreation Programs.** In coordination with local partners, stakeholders and residents, facilitate the provision of recreation services, programs, social services, and activities that address the needs of youth, teens, families, adults, and seniors.
- 3.6 City Commission.** Continue the role of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Commission as the advisory body for recreation and human services programs, services, and activities.
- 3.7 Community Centers.** Build upon the role of community senior centers and nonprofit resource centers to strengthen the cohesiveness of neighborhoods and provide meaningful and enriching activities for residents.





## Bicycle and Multiuse Trail System

San Bernardino envisions a multipurpose trail system of off-street and on-street trails that connect parks, schools, and civic facilities. The multipurpose trail system includes off-street routes (e.g., hiking, equestrian, bike trails), on-street bicycle routes, and pedestrian routes typically in the form of sidewalks and pathways. Many of the trails are still in the planning stages, but the intent is to complete them over the course of the General Plan.



Badger Canyon Trail View

### Multipurpose Trails

San Bernardino offers two basic types of multipurpose trails in the community that are based on the location of the trail and the intended use of the trail:

- **Regional Multipurpose Trails.** The City's two regional multipurpose trails are the Santa Ana River Trail and the Greenbelt Trail in the foothills. These trails serve an entire region and accommodate hikers, equestrian, and bicycle use.
- **Local Multipurpose Trails.** These trails serve multiple users but are more local in scope. These include the Cajon/Lytle, MidCity, Sand Canyon, City Creek, and Loma Linda trails. Local trails also provide connections in San Bernardino itself.



Chestnut Trail, Verdemont Neighborhood

## Bicycle Routes

San Bernardino's bicycle routes follow a hierarchy similar to the one used for parks and recreation facilities. The following system, derived from the State of California, categorizes bicycle facilities based on the intended user and physical design of the route.

- **Class I Bikeways.** This is a dedicated travel way for bicyclists. The most common type for Class I Bikeways are along rivers, canals, and utility rights-of-way; within college campuses; or within/between parks.
- **Class II Bikeways.** Class II Bikeways delineate the right-of-way assigned to bicyclists along City roadways. Bike lane signs and pavement markings help define these protected or designated "bike lanes."
- **Class III Bikeways.** Class III Bikeways are shared facilities along streets, normally shared with motor vehicles on the street or with pedestrians on sidewalks. In either case, bicycle use is secondary.

At buildout, San Bernardino will have more than 100 miles of bicycle routes/trails and more than 1,200 miles of sidewalks, as summarized in **Table PRT-2** and illustrated on **Figure PRT-4**.

**Table PRT-2. Multipurpose and Pedestrian Routes**

Park Types	Services Provided		
	Description	Existing Miles	Buildout Miles
Class 1: Multiuse Trail	Off-street bikeway that is physically separated from the street by vegetation, barriers, etc.	2.5	34.5
Class 2: Bike Lane	Roadway that is designated by striping, signaling, or markings for exclusive use of bicyclists.	16.5	78.0
Class 3: Bike Routes	A designated roadway where bicycles and motor vehicles share the same right-of-way.	0	1.5
Pedestrian Routes	Off-street sidewalks, paseos, and other walkways for exclusive use of pedestrians.	757	1,223

Source: SBCTA, Active Transportation Plan.



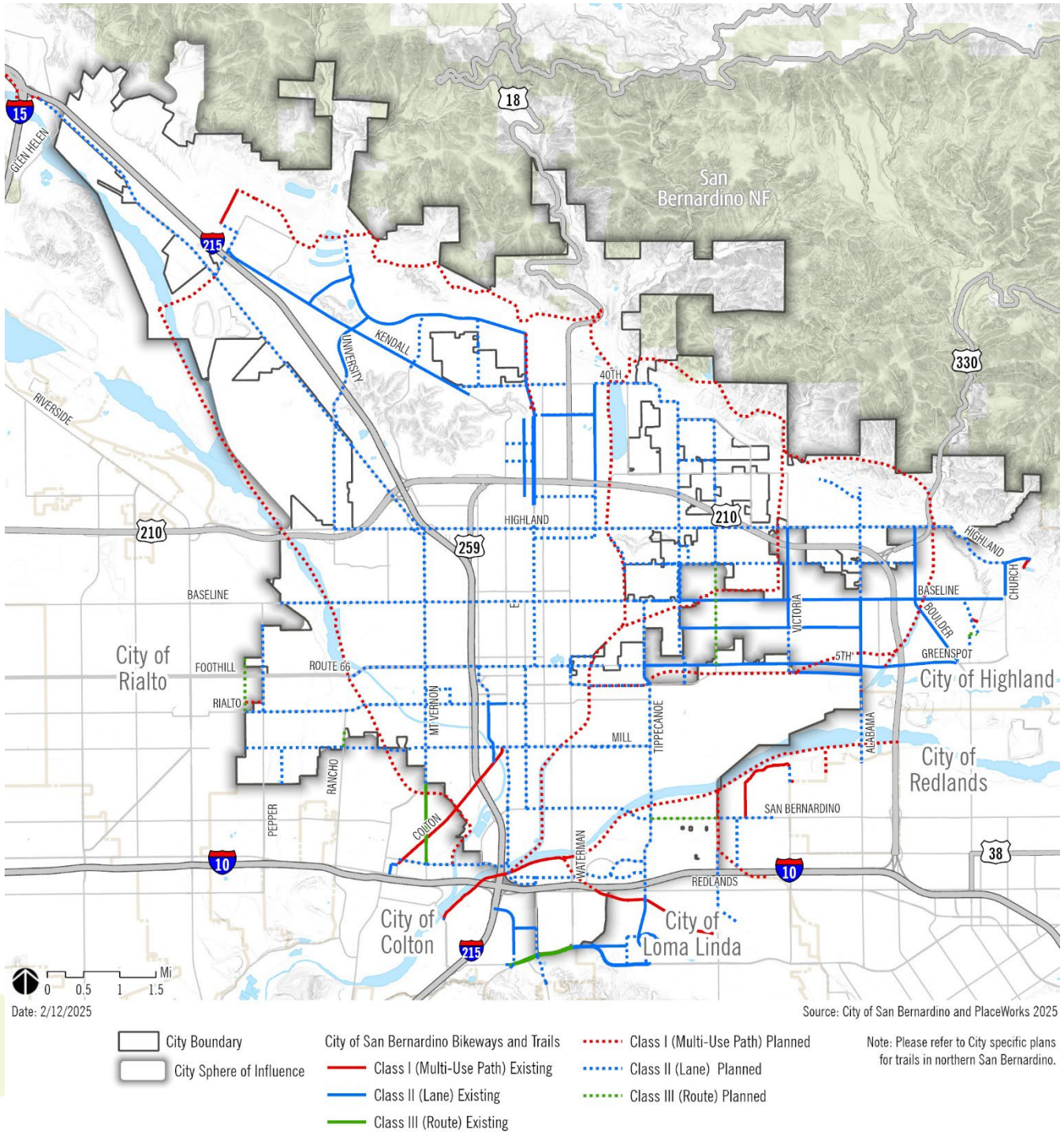


Figure PRT-4

Bikeways and Multipurpose Trails



## Pedestrian Routes

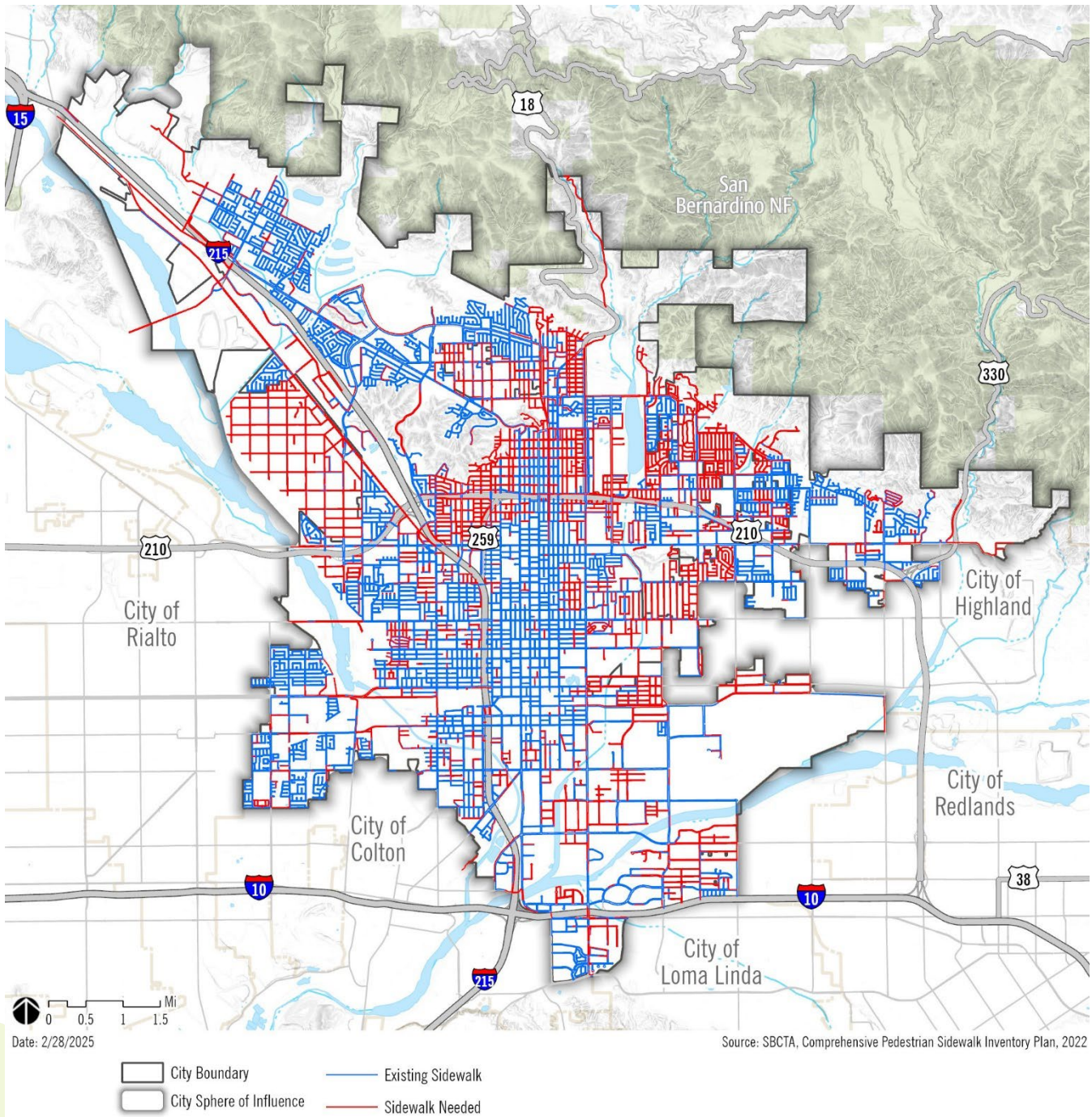
With a community of more than 60 square miles, San Bernardino has an extensive system of sidewalk infrastructure used by residents to walk and jog to parks, schools, and grocery stores. Walking is by far the most convenient way to exercise for all ages and is also often used in more urbanized parts of the city. However, residents desire a network that is safe, well designed, and pleasant.

San Bernardino has more than 750 linear miles of sidewalks, with 500 additional miles needed to complete the network. The most deficient areas in the planning area are Muscoy and county islands under the jurisdiction of the County. In the unincorporated areas, approximately 80 percent of the sidewalks are missing. In the City, the reverse is true, with 70 percent of the sidewalks having been built (see **Figure PRT-5**).

In addition to accessibility, the condition of the sidewalks is equally important to residents who use them. These include the extent and condition of the sidewalks, need for ramps and accessibility devices, crossings, and landscaping. The top three comments received from respondents during the preparation of the Active Transportation Plan were: (1) safer ways to cross streets (56 percent), (2) better lighting at night (46 percent), (3) and sidewalk connectivity (45 percent).



25th Street is pedestrian-friendly walking route for residents



**Figure PRT-5: Pedestrian Sidewalks**



## Goal PRT-4 Multi-Purpose Trails

A well-designed system of interconnected, multipurpose trails and sidewalks that offers opportunities for walking, hiking, equestrian, and bicycle use for all San Bernardino community members to enjoy.

### Policies

- 4.1 Multipurpose Trail System.** Establish a multipurpose trail system along the foothills of the San Bernardino Mountains, Santa Ana River, Cajon and Lytle Creeks, and interconnecting linkages.
- 4.2 Sidewalk Network.** Provide well-designed pedestrian routes that give residents of all abilities the opportunity to walk to and from locations on complete, safe, and pedestrian-friendly sidewalks.
- 4.3 Regional Collaboration.** Work cooperatively with appropriate regional agencies (U.S. Forest Service, County of San Bernardino, and adjacent cities) to facilitate the development of interjurisdictional trails.
- 4.4 Greenbelt System.** Establish a recreational greenbelt system of trails that links the Santa Ana river, washes, and drainage corridors with the mountains and other destinations in the community, as feasible.
- 4.5 Bicycle Route Planning.** Increase opportunities for walking through a comprehensive master planning process that improves the availability, safety, accessibility, and use of sidewalks.
- 4.6 Development Requirements.** Condition approval of new projects near existing or proposed trails to ensure access to multipurpose trails and/or contribute improvements, dedications, or fees to extend trails.
- 4.7 Environmental Protection.** Locate, design, and regulate the use of multipurpose trails so that they do not have a significant negative impact on natural habitat, wildlife, landforms, and cultural resources.
- 4.8 Trail Design.** Design trails to accommodate different users, with sustainable materials, trail heads and trail staging areas, trail signage and wayfaring, educational materials, safety sign-ins, and other amenities.





## Goal PRT-5 Funding and Maintenance

Adequate and reliable funding for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, programming, and maintenance of parks, community facilities, trails, parkways, and open space areas.

### Policies

- 5.1 Land Acquisition.** Pursue the acquisition of surplus federal, state, and local lands, where feasible, to meet present and future park, recreation, and community service needs.
- 5.2 Park Funding.** Expand and execute opportunities to fund park and recreation programs with:
- User fees for all recreation programs and services provided by the City.
  - Quimby fees and in-lieu requirements for new residential developments per City standards.
  - Gifts and dedications of parks, trails, open spaces, and facilities.
- 5.3 Shared Community Resources.** Collaborate with community organizations, agencies, and other stakeholders to develop opportunities for sharing facilities, programs, and activities.
- 5.4 Facility Evaluation.** Evaluate each park and recreational facility for safety and maintenance on an established schedule as a means to identify maintenance, improvement, and repair needs.
- 5.5 Landscape and Improvements Replacement.** Install new and replace existing deteriorated or inappropriately located landscaping and improvements within parks to ensure parks provide the type of experience desired.
- 5.6 Capital Improvements.** Install, upgrade, or replace recreational facilities and equipment in accordance with the City's Capital Improvement Program, as identified in priority order in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.