



8. Parks, Recreation, and Trails

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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 with other Elements and Plans

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 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 reveal 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.



Goals and Policies

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 460 total acres. Facilities include regional, community, neighborhood, and miniparks. These facilities are described below and illustrated 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 61 acres. The San Bernardino Soccer Complex also covers a total of 42 acres.

Community Parks

These parks are 15 to 30 acres in size and serve residents living within a 1 to 2-mile distance from the park. 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

Miniparks 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 miniparks covering approximately 48 acres.

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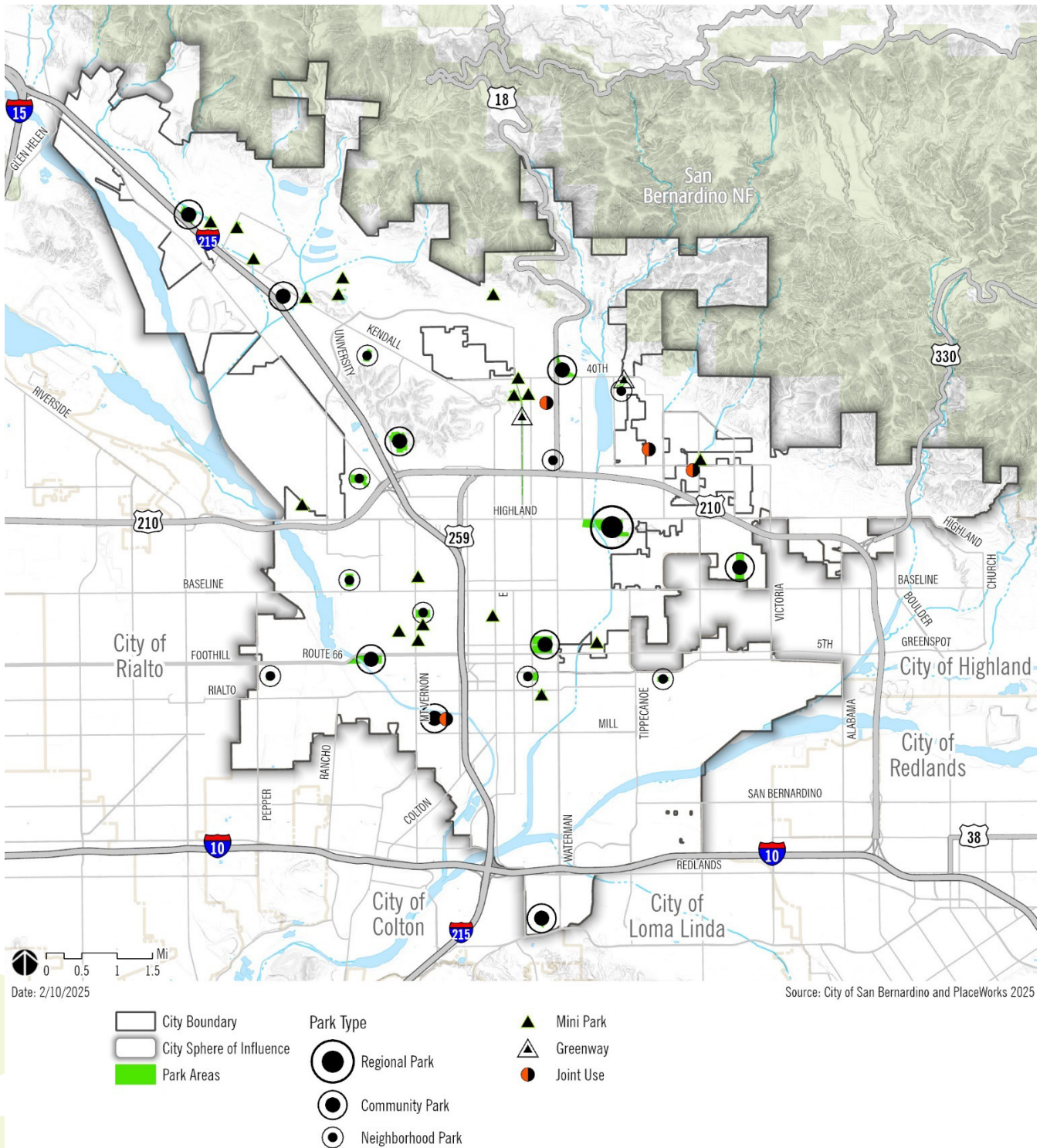


Figure PRT-1 Park Facilities

Park Supply

San Bernardino residents desire a park system that offers ample recreational opportunities that are in their neighborhood. The 2050 General Plan includes two standards to achieve that goal: 1) providing three 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 (1/2 mile) from their home.

Table PRT-1 summarizes the types of City-owned and maintained parks, the intended service area for different types of parks, and acreage for all parks within the community. Taken together, the City offers approximately 460 acres of parkland to residents.

Table PRT-1 City Parks Inventory

Park Types	Park Service Area	Number of Parks	Parkland Acres
Mini Park	< ½ mile	19	48
Neighborhood Park	½ - 1 mile	9	95
Community Park	1-2 miles	9	215
Regional Park	Varies	2	103
Subtotal		39	461

Source: City of San Bernardino, 2025

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.

The General Plan 2050 goal is to have 3.0 acres of parks per 1,000 residents, consistent with state law. The California Quimby Act allows cities to charge developer fees to meet the 3-acre standard for their proposed residential projects. At a standard of 3-acres of parks/1,000 residents, the City should have 675 park acres. Presently, the City has only 2 acres per 1,000 residents based on a population of 225,000. This translates into a shortfall of 215 park acres in San Bernardino.

The Quimby Act is not designed to address the shortfall of parkland. Addressing the shortfall of parks will require creative efforts to locate, acquire, and purchase new park sites. In lieu of that cost, the City maintains joint use agreements with four schools that allow community use of facilities after school hours. Expanding the number of joint use facilities is a key opportunity for addressing the shortfall of parks, particularly for neighborhood specific needs.



Park Equity

San Bernardino's current park system, at a broader level, is intended to provide an equivalent acreage of parks for all neighborhoods. Achieving this goal can be challenging given the development types, demographics, associated local recreational needs. The following shows the distribution of park acreage by City quadrants.

- **Westside.** The westside includes all areas west of the I-215. This area has 1.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and 90 percent of homes are within a mile of a park/community center. Meanwhile, Muscoy is by far the most disadvantaged area.
- **Northwest.** This area has 2.5 acres of parks per 1,000 residents and 18 percent of homes are within a mile of a park/community center. This area has the greatest level of services because it was developed primarily after the Quimby Act was adopted.
- **Northeast.** An area north of SR-210 and east of Waterman). This area has 1.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and 2 percent of homes are within a mile of a park/community center.
- **Central Core.** A large area south of SR-210 and north of the I-10. This area has 1.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and 84 percent of homes are within a mile of a facility.

The Trust for Public Land also indicates that the accessibility of residents to parks within San Bernardino is generally equitable. As shown below, the percentage of households living within a 10-minute walk from a park appears equitable by demographic characteristics:

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

Figure PRT-2 shows the location of existing parks, homes within a 10-minute walk of a park, and existing public schools. The figure shows areas where access to parks can be improved and the potential benefit of establishing joint City-school agreements.

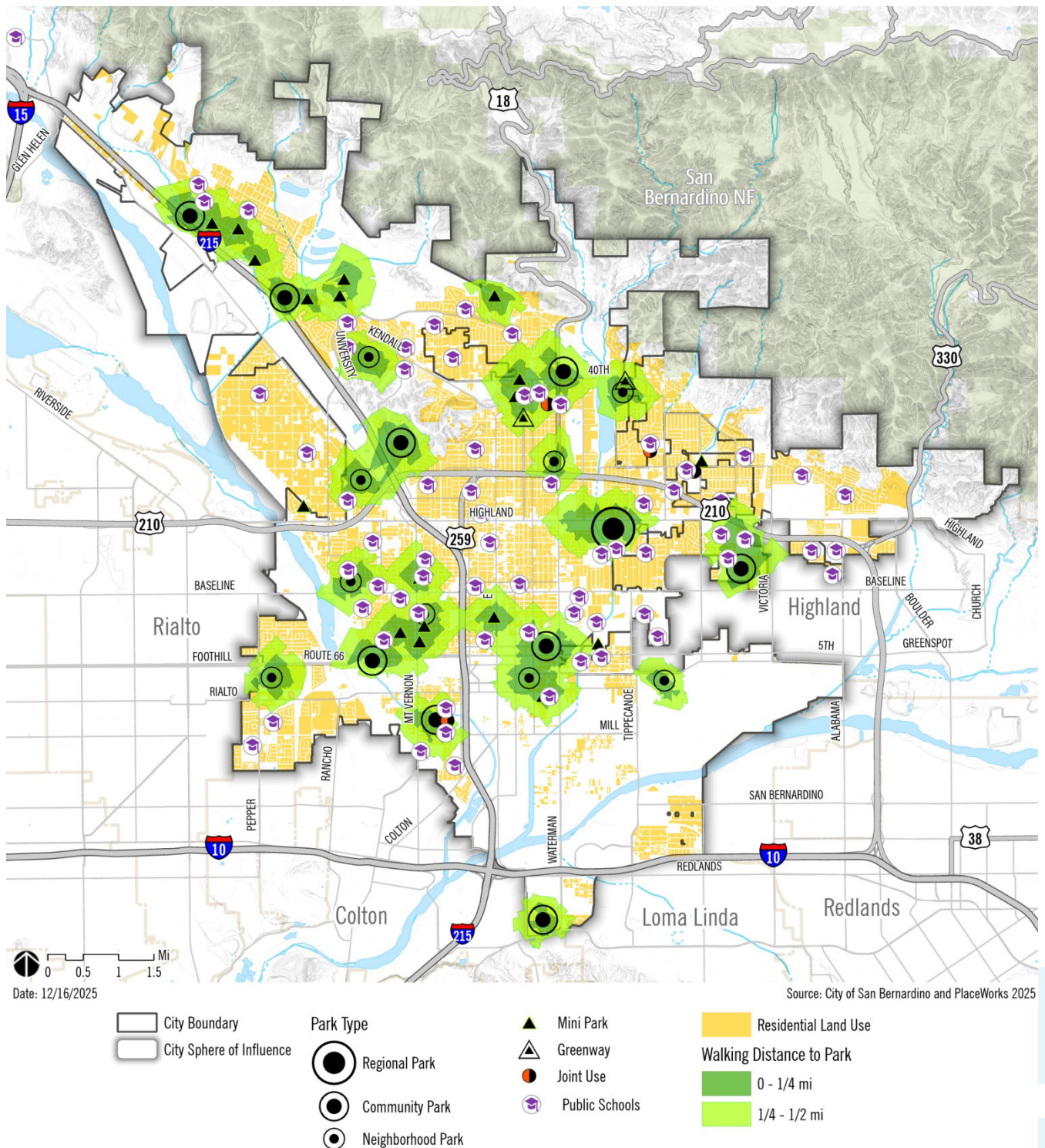


Figure PRT-2 Park Accessibility



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

- PRT-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 facilities in the community.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.

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

- PRT-2.1 Community responsiveness.** Collaborate 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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-2.3 Natural environmental setting.** Design and develop parks to complement and reflect their natural setting and maximize their open space character.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-2.6 Shade structures.** Provide sufficient shade at all parks, facilities, and playgrounds through ample tree planting, vegetation, shade structures, and so forth.
- PRT-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



Rudy Hernandez Gym

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
- 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.

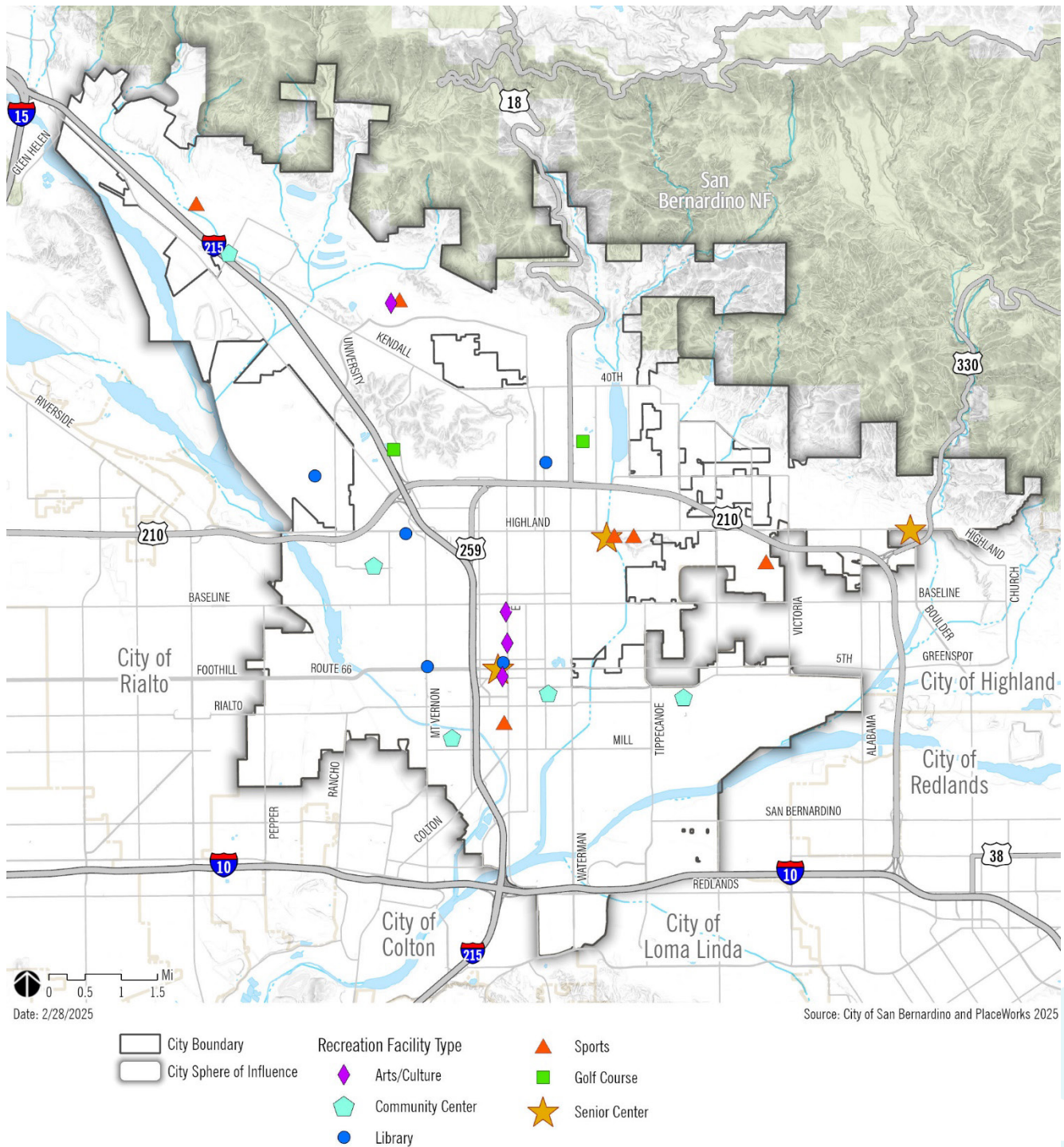


Figure PRT-3 Recreational Facilities



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.

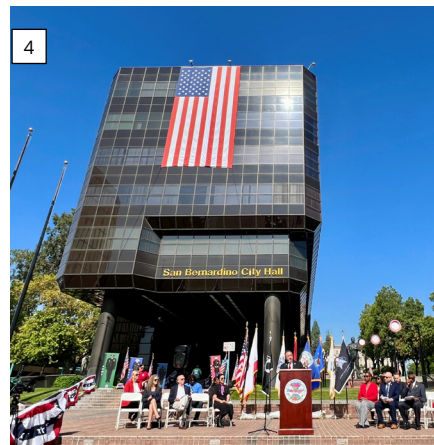
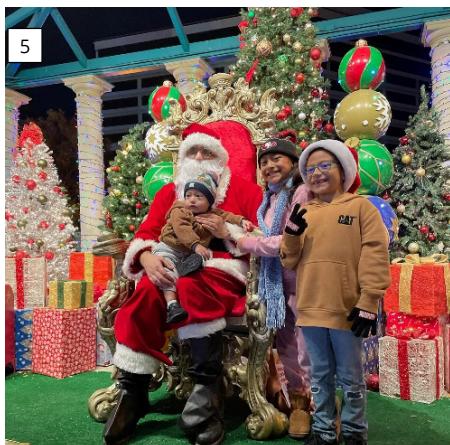
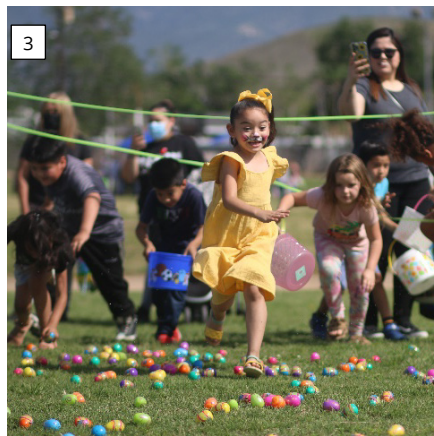


San Bernardino's art programs for children

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, 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

- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-3.3 Community collaboration.** Collaborate with community-based organizations, school districts, businesses, and other community stakeholders to develop and promote recreational programs.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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 City's trails are still in the planning stages, but the intent is to complete them over the course of the General Plan.

The City of San Bernardino offers a variety of bicycle routes and trails. They are classified into distinct categories based on the location of the trail, the intended use of the trail, and the design. These bicycle and trail routes are described below, listed in **Table PRT-2**, and mapped in **Figure PRT-4** and **Figure PRT-5**.

- **Multipurpose Trails.** The City has various multipurpose trails that extend into the surrounding mountains. These include Cajon/Lytle, MidCity, Sand Canyon, and others.
- **Class I Bikeways.** These bikeways have a dedicated travel way for cyclists. Class I Bikeways are typically found along rivers, utility rights-of-way, or within/between parks.
- **Class II Bikeways.** These bikeways delineate the right-of-way assigned to bicyclists along City roadways. Bike lane signs and pavement markings help define these designated "bike lanes."
- **Class III Bikeways.** These bikeways are facilities along streets, normally shared with vehicles on the street or with pedestrians on sidewalks. In either case, bicycle use is secondary.



Badger Canyon Trail View



Chestnut Trail

Table PRT-2 Multipurpose and Pedestrian Routes

Bicycle and Trail Type	Existing Miles	Planned Miles	Buildout Miles
Class 1: Multiuse Trail	3	44	47
Class 2: Bike Lane	22	65	87
Class 3: Bike Routes	0	3	3
Class 4 Bikeways	0	29	29
Multipurpose Trails			

Source: City of San Bernardino, 2025

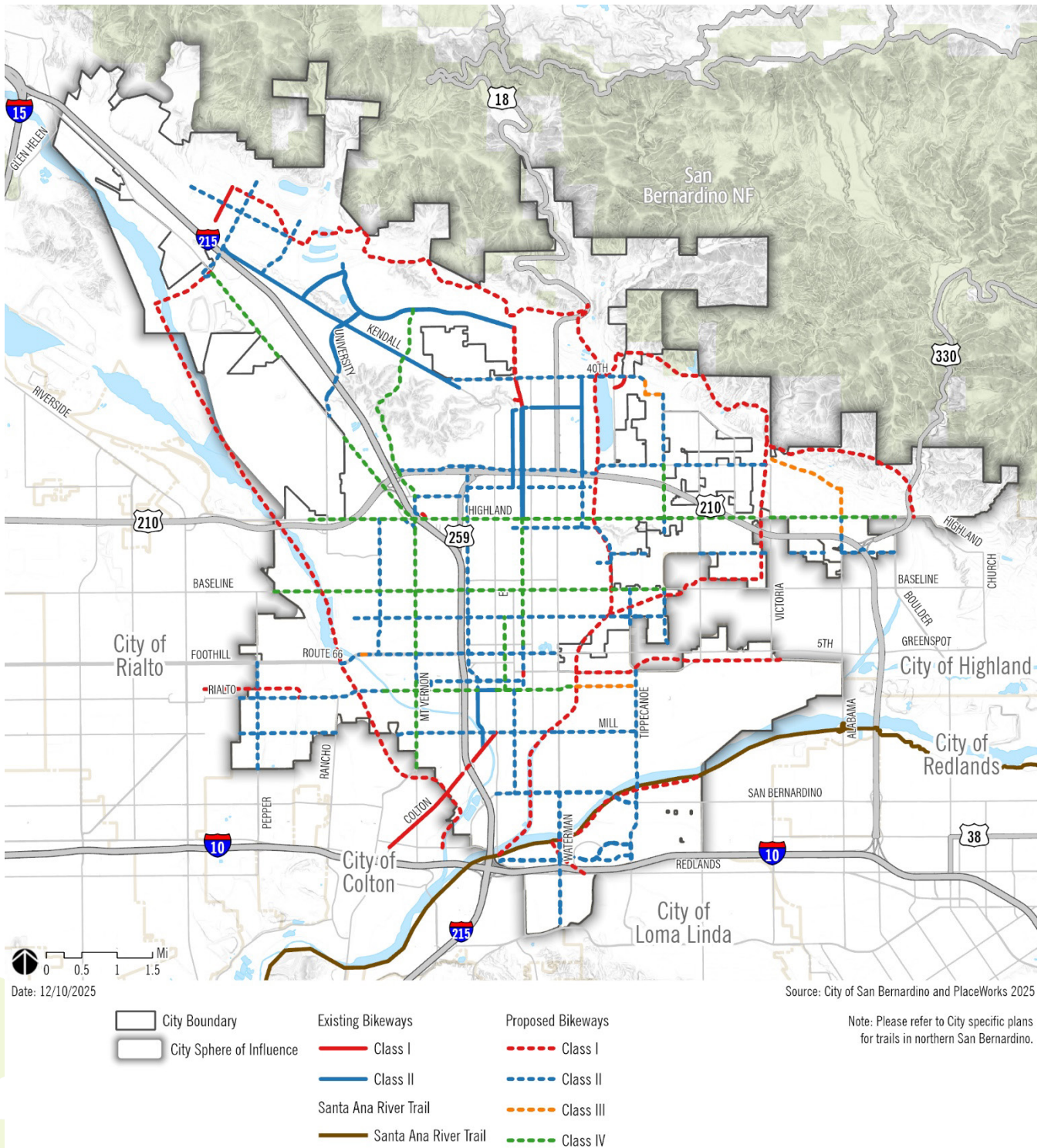


Figure PRT-4 San Bernardino Bikeway Plan

Looking toward the future, the City of San Bernardino understands the importance of nature and pedestrian trails for the community. As part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, residents cited trails and pedestrian routes at parks as the most desired amenities in the community. The City will strive to create a network of recreational trails that can safely and comfortably accommodate those who like to hike, bike, stroll, or otherwise enjoy the outdoors.

To achieve this vision requires special considerations for the planning, designing, and maintenance of trails.

- **Property ownership.** Most trails pass through land owned by other entities. The City has many options to provide access to the trails. They could acquire the land in its entirety, acquire an easement, collaborate with landowners for rights of entry and usage, or explore other creative partnerships.
- **Trail design.** Trails should be designed for their surroundings. For trails that go through natural landforms, they should reduce disturbances and impacts to habitats and natural environment and provide opportunities for users to experience and engage with the outdoor space, while respecting the natural ecology.
- **Trail accessibility.** Trails should also consider the accessibility needs of walkers, hikers, or cyclists who will use the trails. While trails within hillsides are typically rugged, most cannot be made to accommodate Americans with Disability Act (ADA) access. However, trails in existing parks could provide access for all.
- **Trail amenities.** Multiuse trails should have adequate signage and wayfinding to provide users with information about the trails. Trailheads should have sufficient parking and, wherever practical, have trash receptacles, shade structures, seating, restrooms, and check-in boxes to sign in.
- **Trail maintenance.** Trails require maintenance to remain safe. Trails should be regularly maintained to be free of debris, reduce potential hazards for users, and sustain integrity and intent of the original trail design. This could be accomplished by residents that have stewardship over the trails.

Figure PRT-5, San Bernardino Trail Plan, illustrates the location of existing and proposed trails in San Bernardino.

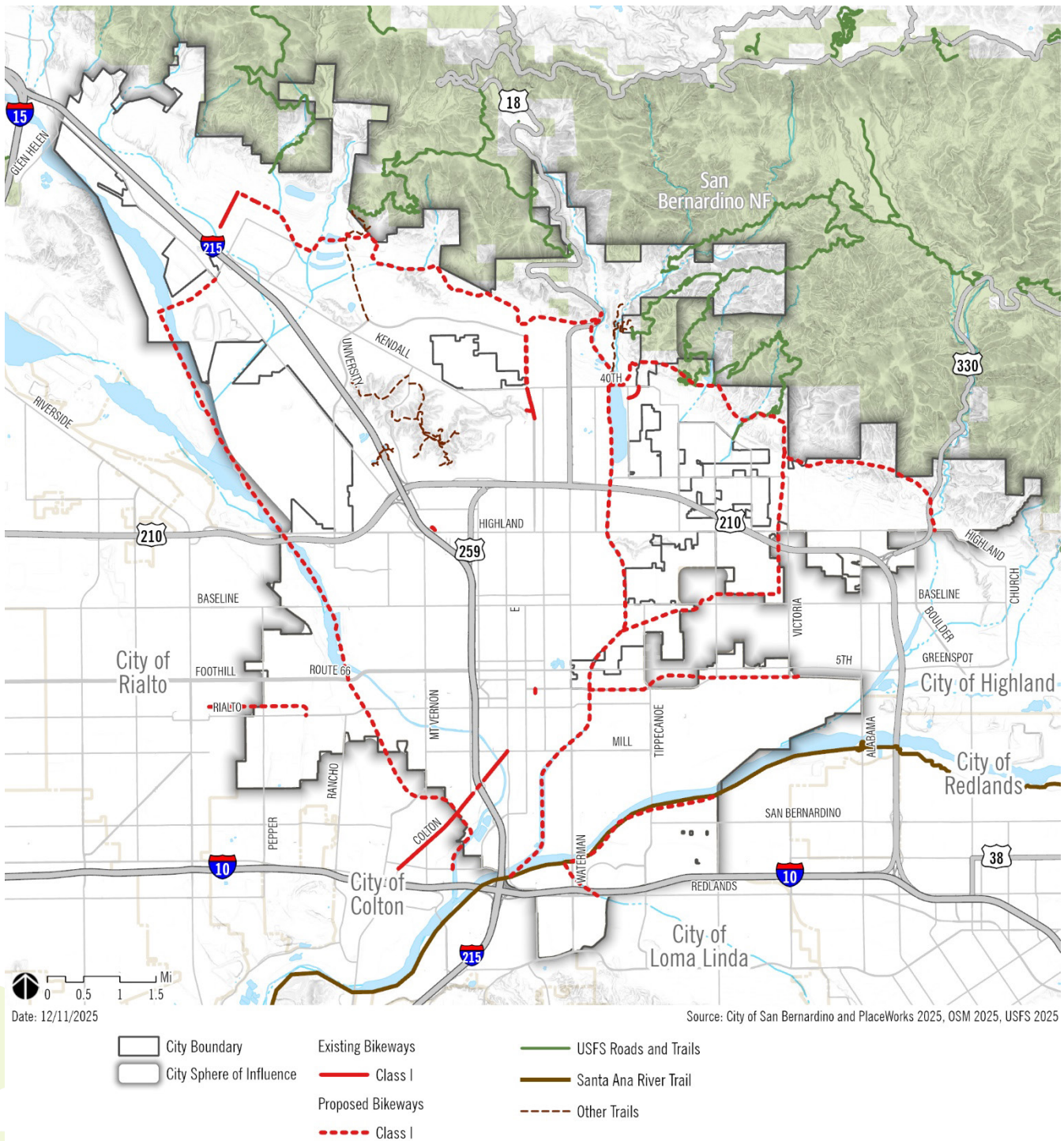


Figure PRT-5 San Bernardino Trail Plan

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 a vast pedestrian network, with an estimated pedestrian coverage of 73 percent. The most deficient areas in the planning area are Muscoy and county islands under the authority 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. **Figure PRT-6** shows the location of sidewalks and locations where a sidewalk is still needed.

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

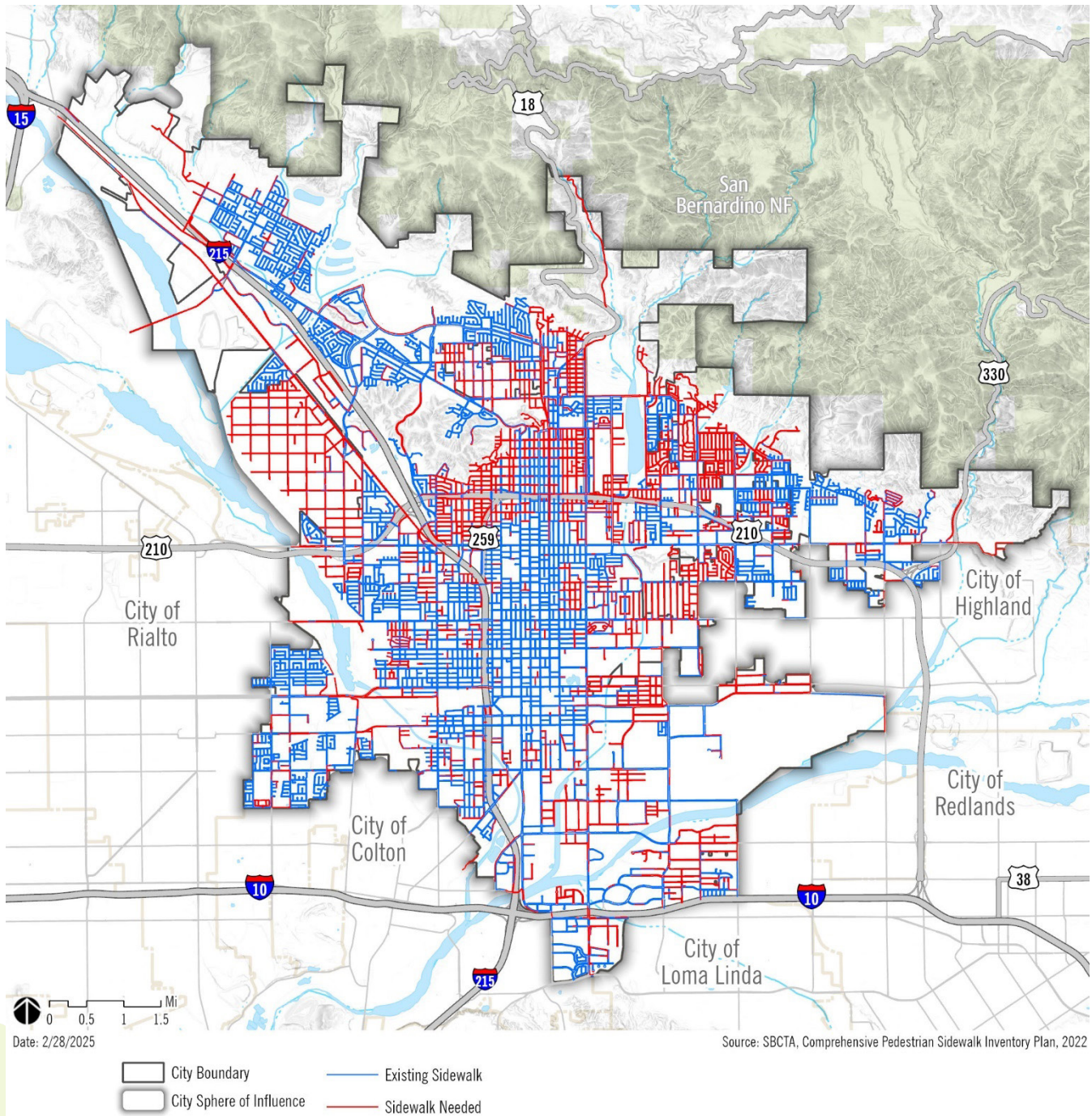


Figure PRT-6 San Bernardino Sidewalk Plan

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

- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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.
- PRT-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

PRT-5.1 Land acquisition. Pursue acquisition of surplus federal, state, and local lands, where feasible, to meet present and future park, recreation, and community services.

PRT-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.

PRT-5.3 Shared community resources. Collaborate with community organizations, agencies, and other stakeholders to develop opportunities for sharing facilities, programs, and activities.

PRT-5.4 Facility evaluation. Evaluate each park and recreational facility for safety and maintenance on an established schedule as a way to identify maintenance, improvement, and repair needs.

PRT-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.

PRT-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.

PRT-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.