



CHAPTER

3

RESOURCE CONSERVATION

INTRODUCTION

Citrus Heights' natural resources and open space are important to the heritage, identity, and quality of life of the community. This element of the General Plan addresses biological resources, open space, energy conservation and cultural resources. Its focus is on the protection and enhancement of these limited resources.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES



Stinkbell

Biological resources include natural and altered biotic habitats (vegetative communities and corresponding wildlife habitat) as well as associated flora and fauna. Four distinct biotic habitats are present within Citrus Heights – Urban, Annual Grassland, Interior Live Oak Woodland, and Valley Foothill Riparian. Each of these habitats provides cover, food, and water necessary to meet biological requirements of a variety of animal species. Within Citrus Heights, three types of plants are accorded “special status” designation: Sanford’s arrowhead, stinkbell, and bigscale balsam root. Special status animal species with known occurrences in the Citrus Heights vicinity include while-tailed kite and northwestern pond turtle. Wetland features in Citrus Heights are limited to perennial and intermittent streams and drainages.

Citizens place a high priority on protecting the valuable natural features that remain in the City. The City’s oak trees, wildlife habitat, creeks and riparian areas contribute to quality of life in many ways. They are visual resources, unique places to visit, and key departures from the urban character that surrounds them. While Citrus Heights is largely built out, some of the City’s largest vacant parcels adjoin sensitive natural areas. The General Plan recognizes the need to balance growth with the conservation and enhancement of the area’s natural resources. The City promotes a low impact development (LID) approach to balance the needs of land development and stormwater management. This is especially important in areas in close proximity to sensitive habitats, which may potentially be polluted by runoff from developed areas. Low impact development uses

various stormwater best management practices such as vegetated swales, bio-filters, and constructed wetlands. Typically, the first flush after a storm event flows over polluted land and carries the pollution to City's natural drainage system. LID measures ensure that the first flush gets cleaned by natural process of vegetation filters or at least delays the run-off by retention and infiltration methods before running into the City's natural drainage systems. The policies in this section are intended to enhance and preserve the City's existing natural resources.

Goal 34: Preserve, protect and enhance natural habitat areas, including creek and riparian corridors, oak woodlands, and wetlands

Policy 34.1: Preserve continuous riparian corridors and adjacent habitat along the City's creeks and waterways.

Policy 34.2: Achieve and maintain a balance between conservation, development and utilization of open space to enhance air and water quality.

- Actions*
- A. *Prepare and adopt Community Design Guidelines to include standards to protect habitat areas from encroachment of lighting, non-native landscaping, noise, soil erosion and toxic substances.*
 - B. *Revise grading guidelines to minimize removal of significant vegetation and promote creation of pervious surfaces around natural habitat areas.*
 - C. *Adopt a landscape ordinance complying with Department of Water Resources guidelines. The City's landscape ordinance should update landscape provisions to incorporate climate-appropriate native trees and water conserving landscaping that increase infiltration rates and protect sensitive areas.*
 - D. *Ensure that maintenance activities along the City's creeks and waterways are carried out in compliance with Memoranda of Understanding with the California Department of Fish and Game, and will not create habitat that exceeds thresholds established by the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District.*

Policy 34.3: Provide for "no net loss" of sensitive habitats such as aquatic and riparian areas.

- Actions*
- A. *Update development standards to limit construction activity and development to maximize the water-holding capacity and maintain natural nutrient levels of the soil within buffer zones adjacent to drainages.*
 - B. *Require new development and redevelopment projects to incorporate LID measures and source controls in all cases to reduce runoff to the community's sensitive habitat areas.*



Goal 35: Protect special status species and other important species that are sensitive to human activities

Policy 35.1: Identify and protect significant natural resource areas critical to protecting and sustaining wildlife populations.

Policy 35.2: Maintain habitat corridors to connect conservation areas such as parks and open space, protect biodiversity, accommodate wildlife movement, and sustain ecosystems.

Goal 36: Preserve, protect and increase plantings of trees within the City



Policy 36.1: Incorporate existing trees into development projects. Avoid adverse effects on health and longevity of native oaks or other significant trees through appropriate design measures and construction practices. When tree preservation is not possible, require appropriate tree replacement.

Actions A. Review and strengthen the City's Tree Preservation Ordinance.

B. Prepare a plan to systematically increase tree canopy in the City.

Policy 36.2: Raise community consciousness about the value and importance of trees, including native oaks.

Actions A. Participate in Arbor Day programs and promote planting of trees on a Citywide basis.

B. Involve community groups, such as schools and youth, and partner with other regional non-profit organizations in tree planting programs.

C. Prepare and adopt a climate-appropriate tree list to inform community planting and preservation choices.



Goal 37: Ensure that surface and groundwater quality supports public use, enjoyment and a healthy aquatic environment

Policy 37.1: Implement low impact development strategies to create water-conserving landscapes.

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Policy 37.2: Celebrate potable water as a critical community resource.

Policy 37.3: Implement water sensitive urban design techniques to promote water efficiency and protect water quality.

OPEN SPACE

While much of Citrus Heights is developed with urban and suburban uses, important areas of open space remain. Much of the remaining open space adjoins creeks and streams. Direct public access is currently not widely available to much of the City's open space. Residents desire greater access and protection of these unique resources.

The policies in this section are intended to protect open space, including oak and riparian areas, while also making them more available for public leisure and recreation.

Goal 38: Establish a system of creekside trails, passive open space and parks for public use

Policy 38.1: Provide for recreational trail rights-of-way along local creek channels through development easements and agreements.

Action A. Pursue development of recreational trails that respect privacy of adjoining properties, safety of users, and maintenance of natural areas.

Policy 38.2: Continue working with the Sunrise Recreation and Park District to develop an integrated creekside trail system including low impact development strategies.

Actions A. Establish a city trail network program for acquisition, development and administration of a natural trails system and recruit volunteers for trail construction and maintenance.

B. Coordinate with the Police Department and Sunrise Recreation and Park District for patrol of creekside trails and open space areas.

C. Implement low impact development strategies such as pervious paving for trails, water conserving landscapes along the trails to enhance water quality of creeks and promote public education.

Policy 38.3: Consider potential impacts to natural habitat areas when establishing links between developed areas. Identify alternative sites for linkages where sensitive habitat areas have the potential to be adversely impacted.



Goal 39: Create open spaces in future urban development with natural features for public use and enjoyment

Policy 39.1: Provide for appropriate open space amenities in new development, protecting existing usable open space to the extent feasible.

Action A. Amend the Zoning Code to establish standards for incorporating open space in new development.

Policy 39.2: Require new development to provide linkages to existing and planned open space systems.

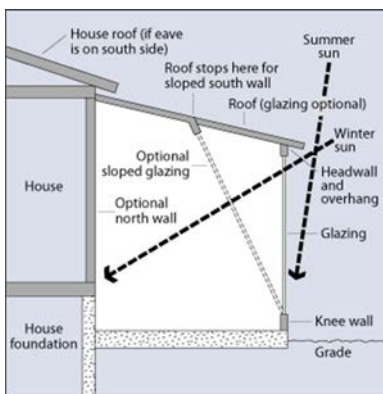
Policy 39.3: Require buildings to conform to existing natural topography, and minimize cutting and filling.

Action A. Develop and adopt Community Design Guidelines that include standards for earthwork and grading.

Policy 39.4: Utilize the services and expertise of organizations involved in resource conservation and open space protection.

Policy 39.5: Pursue agreements with other jurisdictions to provide for conservation and open space protection within the City's General Plan Area.

Policy 39.6: Enlist the support and efforts of appropriate state and federal agencies and private foundations in pursuit of conservation and open space protection.



ENERGY CONSERVATION

The climate of Citrus Heights is Mediterranean in character, with mild, rainy weather from November through March and warm to hot, dry weather from April to October. The abundant sunny weather affords an excellent opportunity to take advantage of solar energy.

As the City is nearly built-out, the focus of energy conservation in Citrus Heights is on retrofitting existing homes and businesses. Remodels and renovations offer an opportunity to increase energy efficiency. Building energy usage can also be reduced by planting shade trees in appropriate locations.

The policies in this section are intended to increase the use of active and passive solar design, renovations to increase insulation and weatherization, orientation and landscaping to reduce energy use in both new and existing structures.

Goal 40: Promote energy conservation through appropriate design and construction techniques.

Policy 40.1: Encourage new buildings to maximize solar access to promote passive solar energy use, natural ventilation, effective use of daylight, and on-site solar generation.

Action A. Amend the Zoning Code to include standards for building construction and siting that promote energy conservation.

Policy 40.2: Promote a climate-appropriate tree planting and maintenance program in order to reduce ambient air temperature on hot sunny days, and require that all tree plantings and outdoor lighting be integrated.

Goal 41: Minimize building energy consumption and transition to clean, renewable energy sources

Policy 41.1: Require energy-efficient site and building designs in new construction.

Actions A. Explore use of grant funds and programs with SMUD and non-profit agencies to establish programs for energy conservation (such as home weatherization, Energy Star appliances) and transition to the use of clean and renewable energy (such as photovoltaic retrofit, solar hot water heating and pumps).

B. Consider ordinances that would require energy audits, solar access, insulation, solar retrofit, and solar water heating.

Policy 41.2: Provide financial incentives to maximize energy conservation and the use of clean and renewable energy.

Policy 41.3: Retrofit existing buildings using low maintenance, durable building materials and high-efficiency energy systems and appliances.

Policy 41.4: Reduce energy consumption supporting municipal operations.



CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prior to the arrival of Spanish explorers and American trappers, the Valley Nisenan (Maidu) and Plains Miwok inhabited the Sacramento area. Both Native American groups were hunting and gathering cultures that established seasonal encampments along small creeks and streams. Evidence of such encampments has been found along Arcade and Cripple Creeks in Citrus Heights. As

development occurs near local creeks, it will be incumbent upon the City to ensure that any archaeological discoveries are properly investigated and archived.

Following the Gold Rush, the mid-to-late-1800s saw early pioneers establish ranches in the Citrus Heights area. Unfortunately, most of the structures from the early settlement period were demolished in the 20th century to make way for new development. In May 2006, a Historic Resources Survey was performed and there are a few noteworthy historical remnants. *Map 11: Historic Resources* highlights some of the structures still in existence today.

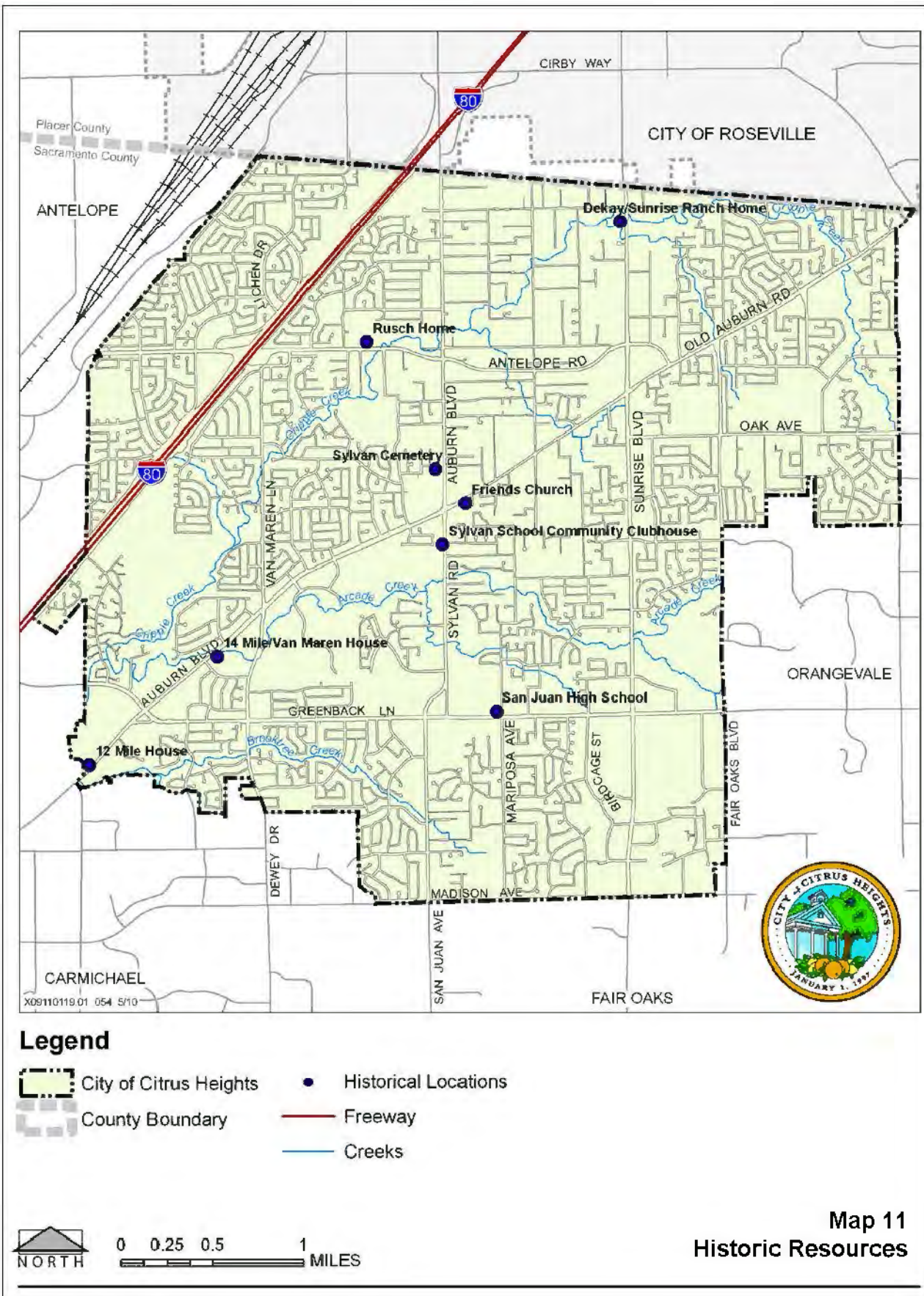
The General Plan also recognizes that today's residents, with their diverse backgrounds and interests, are a cultural resource. The citizens of Citrus Heights have historically united to address issues, as demonstrated by their efforts that led to incorporation. The City desires to continue the active involvement of its citizens in decision making, and wishes to support an environment supportive of youth and families. The City's cultural diversity should be celebrated by providing events and facilities that bring people together.

The policies in this section are intended to preserve and bring to public attention physical reminders of early settlement in the area, treat local artifacts appropriately and respectfully, promote cultural diversity and encourage citizen participation in decision making.

Goal 42: Preserve and protect the City's Native American heritage

Policy 42.1 Determine early in the planning process whether archaeological resources may potentially be located on a development site.

- Actions*
- A. *In the event that any prehistoric, historic, or paleontological resources are discovered during construction-related earth-moving activities, all work within 50 feet of the resources shall be halted and the developer shall consult with a qualified archaeologist or paleontologist to assess the significance of the find. If any find is determined to be significant by the qualified archaeologist, then representatives from the City of Citrus Heights and the qualified archaeologist and/or paleontologist would meet to determine the appropriate course of action.*
 - B. *In the event that human remains are discovered during the implementation of the proposed project, the local coroner must be contacted immediately. Both the Native American Heritage Commission (pursuant to NAGPRA)*



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and any identified descendants should be notified, and recommendations received, if the remains are determined to be of Native American origin (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, Health and Safety Code Section 7070.5, Public Resources Code Sections 5097.94 and 5097.98).

Policy 42.2: Require that any development and tentative subdivision map approvals include the condition that upon discovery of any archaeological artifacts, development activity will cease immediately and a professional archaeologist will be consulted.

Goal 43: Preserve and protect places that embody the City's social, architectural and agricultural history

Policy 43.1: Encourage property owners to maintain and preserve historic properties in the best possible condition.

Action A. Adopt a Historic Preservation Ordinance to identify and preserve important historic resources.

Policy 43.2: Incorporate natural resources such as land and water into development when appropriate to understanding and appreciating the history of a site.

Action A. Review and revise the grading ordinance to require appropriate mitigation measures when historic or archaeological resources are discovered prior to or during development of property.

Policy 43.3: Support preservation of historic resources, including providing for adaptive reuse where appropriate.

*Actions A. Pursue grants for historic preservation.
B. Implement the State Historical Building Code on eligible resources.
C. Establish thresholds by which future projects can be judged when considering historic impacts. These standards should include height and massing considerations for proposed projects that are located in close proximity to historic resources (individual structures or districts) and should define locations for potential prehistoric resources.*

Goal 44: Promote appreciation and awareness of Citrus Heights history

Policy 44.1: Work with the Citrus Heights Historical Society to establish a museum to provide for visual displays of the City's past.

Policy 44.2: Encourage use of historically significant place names.

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Action A. Maintain historic markers to delineate sites of historic buildings, events, people and activities.

Policy 44.3: Incorporate historic observances into the annual celebrations of the City's birthday.

Goal 45: Promote and enhance involvement and participation in City government by all sectors of the community

Policy 45.1: Promote participation by residents in government decision-making processes and in community social, cultural and recreational activities.

Actions A. Explore opportunities to involve volunteers in carrying out needed City programs.

B. Work with REACH and the Neighborhood Associations to develop methods to increase citizen participation in City programs and processes.

C. Increase use of technology and the City's website to promote participation in the City and the community.



Policy 45.2: Continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce to develop business involvement in City decision making processes.

Policy 45.3: Encourage youth participation in a variety of community service and public policy activities.

Action A. Work with public and private schools to bring students into City Hall and City officials to classrooms.

Policy 45.4: Promote the concept of Healthy Cities, expanding the definition of community health to include multiple aspects of health, ranging from air quality to economic prosperity to transportation efficiency.

Goal 46: Celebrate and support the diversity of residents

Policy 46.1: Participate with local educational groups in programs that support cultural diversity.

Policy 46.2: Practice an open-door policy in City programs, welcoming all individuals, regardless of ethnicity, race, religion, class, ability, gender and age.

Policy 46.3: Ensure that the disabled are afforded opportunities for full participation in City life.

- Actions
- A. *Work with government, private and non-profit entities to provide a broad range of support in such areas as transportation, job training, recreation and housing.*
 - B. *Ensure that all City facilities, including communication devices, comply with applicable Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions.*

Goal 47: Provide a supportive environment for youth and families



- Policy 47.1: Support businesses, organizations, and programs that respond to youth and family needs.
- Actions
- A. *Work with agencies and non-profits to address the problems of youth in innovating, caring ways.*
 - B. *Work with the private sector to develop businesses that serve youth and families.*
- Policy 47.2: Encourage events that integrate family, school and community.
- Action
- A. *Continue to help support and host community building events such as Sunday FunDay; the Red, White, and Blue Parade; Community Campout; Race Unity Day; and the Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony.*
- Policy 47.3: Promote the development of a range of child care facilities and arrangements, including family day care homes, quasi-public and private child care centers, before- and after-school programs and recreational activities, to fulfill the needs of Citrus Heights residents and employees.
- Actions
- A. *Prepare and adopt Community Design Guidelines that encourage child care facilities to be located in multi-family housing developments and in commercial developments, especially near major transportation corridors.*
 - B. *Ensure access to child care referral services for Citrus Heights citizens and workers.*
 - C. *Pursue funding for development of child care facilities and programs.*
 - D. *Support training programs for child care providers.*
- Policy 47.4: Ensure citizen access to an adequate supply of elder care facilities and services.
- Action
- A. *Review community needs for elder care and assess how well the supply of care in the private sector is meeting the demand.*

Goal 48: Expand opportunities for community-wide cultural events

- Policy 48.1: Support the expansion of local art and cultural activities, events, and venues (such as farmers' markets, outdoor/street fairs, public art displays, and performing arts).
- Policy 48.2: Promote Sunrise MarketPlace as a desirable location for cultural events.
- Policy 48.3: Coordinate with other public and private agencies to promote joint use of facilities, where appropriate, for cultural and arts events.
- Policy 48.4: Encourage coordination among local cultural and arts groups and event promoters to expand their appreciation by the community.

