

5. RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Palm Springs is known for its recreational amenities such as developed parks, extensive trails system, golf courses, and recreational programs, which inspire the City's relaxed lifestyle and distinction as a "recreational oasis." The towering San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains and vast desert floor provide various habitats for a brilliant display of plants and wildlife. Few cities have the same opportunities to provide a full range of recreational facilities while providing for the preservation of the precious open spaces defined by the steep geological features of the mountain and the gentle sloping yet dynamic land in the flood plains.

Palm Springs' popularity has caused it to become increasingly urban, and with urbanization come pressures on the environmental elements that make the City attractive. These ongoing pressures emphasize the need to carefully manage and preserve the City's environmental resources for future generations. These resources are not only related to parks and recreation, but also the City's energy, water, habitat and historic and cultural resources—all of which are discussed further in this element.

Palm Springs' natural environment also provides the setting for its rich history and culture. Taken together, the City's park, recreation, and open space amenities beckon many to Palm Springs and define Palm Springs as an extraordinary place in the Coachella Valley.

PURPOSE AND FUNCTION

State law requires that general plans address the comprehensive and long-range preservation of mountains, deserts, floodplains, and other open space areas. General Plans are required to set forth policies and programs to

preserve open space for park and recreation purposes. In addition, general plans are required to provide guidance related to the protection of habitat and wildlife resources, as well as the responsible conservation and use of minerals, energy, and water. This Element provides policy direction for City parks and recreational facilities, outdoor recreation associated with the numerous state parks, and the recreation programs provided by the City and nonprofit and for-profit organizations.

In addition, this element will provide guidance for the City's natural resources, including the preservation of open space lands and the conservation of minerals, energy, and water. Last, the Recreation, Open Space and Conservation Element addresses historic and cultural resources, including local archaeology and paleontology within Palm Springs.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMS

The conservation and preservation of open space for parks and recreation, biological and natural resources, and culture and history are addressed in different elements of the General Plan. The General Plan Land Use Element provides guidance on the allocation and designation of land uses for park and recreation purposes, biological resources, natural resources (such as energy and water), and areas deserving unique protection.

The City's Park and Recreation Strategic Plan governs the priorities and operations of the City's park and recreation services and implements the goals and policies of this Element. The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan addresses the recreational assets on land owned by the Bureau of Land Management. The State of California Department of Parks and Recreation has also adopted a recreation plan for the San Jacinto State Park.

State and federal law govern the management and preservation of habitats for protected plant and animal species. The Endangered Species Act, Agua Caliente Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan, Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (in preparation), and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Management Plan provide specific guidance. State and federal law govern the use and management of water resources, and identification, preservation, and management of historic and cultural resources.

Historic and cultural resources are also protected by state and federal law. The Public Resources Code requires mandatory consultations with Native American Indian tribes regarding the preservation of cultural and historic resources as part of any General Plan Update or preparation of a new Specific Plan. Many of the aforementioned documents also contain more specific policy guidance to protect and preserve the heritage, history, and cultural resources within Palm Springs.

GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS

This portion of the Recreation, Open Space and Conservation Element is organized into three sections: (1) Parks and Recreation, (2) Natural Resources, which includes energy resources, and (3) Cultural and Historic Resources. Each section provides an overview and is followed by a discussion of key planning issues facing the community. After discussion of each issue, City goals, policies, and actions are set forth to address the issue.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Palm Springs owns and maintains 156 acres of developed parkland, 160 acres of City-owned golf courses open to the public, as well as miles of developed greenbelts along major thoroughfares throughout the City. The City is also home to numerous privately owned golf courses, many of which are also open to the public. These parks and recreational areas contain an array of amenities. Palm Springs classifies its parks by their function and amenities. The City's Park and Recreation Strategic Plan provides further detail. Table 5-1 summarizes the City's park network, which is mapped in Figure 5-1.

City Parks and Golf Courses

Local Parks

The City of Palm Springs has local parks that are primarily designed to serve the recreational needs of residents living within an immediate one-quarter- to one-half-mile radius of the park. Local parks may also be located near commercial and downtown areas to serve visitors, shoppers, and the business community.

Frances Stevens and Baristo Parks are the two local parks in Palm Springs. Frances Stevens, located at Palm Canyon Drive and Alejo Road, is a 1.2-acre park that provides an art center, historical site, and picnic tables within the City's commercial and tourist centers. Adjacent to the Downtown, the park is a center for arts, history, and cultural activities—the Palm Canyon Theatre leases the indoor theatre for productions and the City holds the Renaissance Fair at the park each year as well as weekly art fairs.

Baristo Park is a two-acre park, located at Calle Encilia and Saturnino Road, with basketball courts, landscaped areas with picnic facilities, and playgrounds for children, and the park is located in a medium density residential neighborhood. A variety of special events are held annually at this park.



Village Green



Wellness Park



Ruth Hardy Park

Specialty Parks

Specialty parks are designed to support the tourist industry, preserve unique cultural and historic traditions, preserve, or enhance environmental resources, or simply serve special recreational needs. The City of Palm Springs has three specialty parks—the Village Green, the Wellness Park, and the Dog Park.

The Village Green Heritage Center is a 0.4-acre park in downtown Palm Springs, and is home to the Village Green Museum and two nineteenth-century pioneer homes. The McCallum Adobe, the oldest remaining building in Palm Springs, was built in 1884 for John McCallum. Miss Cornelia's "Little House," built in 1893 by the city's first hotel proprietor, was made of railroad ties from the defunct Palmdale Railway. Both homes provide historic information about early Palm Springs. The Cornelia House is home to the Palm Springs Historical Society.

The Wellness Park is a 5-acre park near Desert Medical Center located at Via Miraleste and Tachevah Roads. The Park was created in collaboration with the City of Palm Springs, Desert Healthcare District, Desert Water Agency, and Palm Springs Unified School District. The Wellness Park contains exercise stations, paths for those using wheelchairs and walkers, and tranquility and meditation gardens. The park is a demonstration project for drought conservation techniques and landscaping.

The Palm Springs Dog Park is a popular 1.6-acre park for dogs and their owners. Located north of City Hall between Civic Drive and El Cielo Road, the park features grass, trees, awnings, a fenced-off area for smaller dogs, recycled picnic benches, 11 antique fire hydrants, and dual drinking fountains. The park is one of the most popular spots for pet lovers in Palm Springs.

Neighborhood Parks

Palm Springs has two neighborhood parks that serve the non-programmed recreational needs of residents in nearby neighborhoods. These parks are within a convenient walking distance (about one-half mile) from the people they serve. Park amenities include children's play areas, sports fields, basketball courts, landscaped picnic areas, and open areas for walking and strolling.

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The City's two neighborhood parks are the 21-acre Ruth Hardy Park and the 8-acre Victoria Park. Both parks serve central and northern Palm Springs. Major events at Ruth Hardy Park include the annual Easter Egg Hunt, Firemen's annual fish fry, and town fair during Black History Month. The City is planning a third neighborhood park, Whitewater Park, at the northern end of Sunrise Avenue.

Palm Springs has three community parks. Desert Highland Park is an 18-acre park that serves north Palm Springs. Presently, 12 acres of parkland are developed; 6 acres are undeveloped. Desert Highland Park contains ballfields, basketball courts, multiuse fields, playgrounds, and landscaped picnic areas. Desert Highland Park also contains the James O. Jessie Desert Highlands Unity Center, a multipurpose center used for programmed recreational activities for children and adults.

Sunrise Park, a 38-acre park, is home to the City Library, Swim Center, Skate Park, Palm Springs Stadium, City Park and Recreation Department offices and Olympic-sized pool. The Park is also home to the City's Leisure Center and Pavilion, which provides a range of programmed activities for residents. The City partners with local nonprofit organizations to provide a wide range of recreational programs and, under low-cost lease agreements, leases land at the park to the Boys & Girls Club.

DeMuth Park, a 61-acre park, is located adjacent to the Tahquitz Creek Golf Course, Tahquitz Creek, and Knott's Soak City Water Amusement Park and the wastewater treatment facility. DeMuth Park contains all of the City's soccer fields and a majority of its multipurpose fields and is designed to serve the needs of active organized sports leagues. DeMuth Park has other recreational amenities, including tennis courts, volleyball courts, tot lots, playgrounds, and landscaped picnic areas.

Golf Courses

Golf in Palm Springs is a popular activity for visitors, and residents. The City boasts 11 golf courses, including championship and tournament level courses, and a new golf course is under construction—at North Indian Canyon Drive and San Rafael ("Avalon"). The City owns the 36-hole Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort, a 160-acre public golf course, and leases 39 acres of open space to the O'Donnell Golf Club, a private-use course, which will revert to the City for general park use in 2034.



Desert Highland Park



DeMuth Park



Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort

Greenbelts and Public Parkways

Palm Springs has a number of major and secondary thoroughfares in which wide landscaped greenbelts or parkways have been developed with meandering bike paths, walking paths, and amenities such as benches and rest areas. These parkways, while not included in the City's inventory of developed park acreage, provide passive park use areas for the residents of Palm Springs and contribute to the open space needs of the city. Greenbelts can be found along major portions of Sunrise Parkway and portions of East Palm Canyon Drive.

**Table 5-1
City Parks and Golf Courses (Open to the Public and Private)**

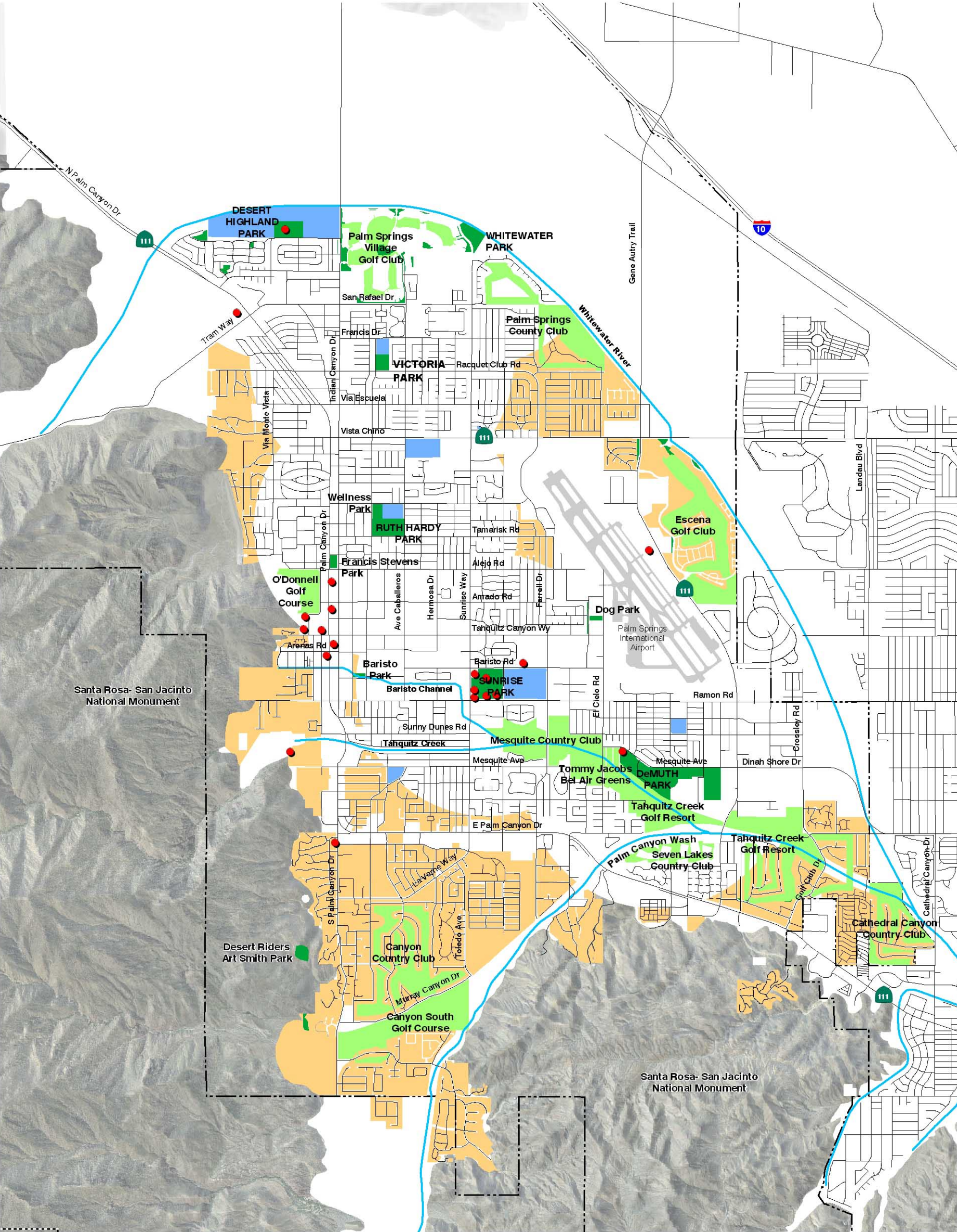
Park Type	Number	Acreage
Local Parks	2 parks	3.1 acres
Specialty Parks	3 parks	7.7 acres
Neighborhood Parks	2 parks	35.7 acres
Community Parks	3 parks	117.0 acres
Golf Courses	11 courses	1,353.5 acres
Total		1,517 acres

State, Federal, and Tribal Parks

Palm Springs is unique in that it contains state, federal, and tribal lands, including those with park and recreational opportunities (Figure 5-1). These include the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument, San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness Area, tribal lands owned by the Agua Caliente Tribe, and various ecological preserves. Although these resources extend well beyond the City's boundaries, Palm Springs is a gateway to these assets and they play an integral role in park and recreational resources and planning efforts.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains provide a dramatic backdrop to the southern and western edges of Palm Springs. Designated as a National Monument in 2000, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains cover 272,000 acres, predominantly in the City's sphere of influence, and are noted for topography, stunning views, diverse wildlife, and cultural value. The Monument encompasses five major ecological zones and is home to more than 500 species of indigenous plants and animals. The Monument provides many opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding, camping, skiing, rock climbing, and sightseeing. The National Monument is also home to the 14,000-acre San Jacinto State Park and Palm Springs Tramway, which carries passengers to San Jacinto Peak, where visitors enjoy skiing, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, and sightseeing.



- Parks

Golf Courses

Schools

Park Deficiency Areas*
- Channel/Creek/River

Community Facility

City Boundary

Sphere of Influence

*Residential areas outside 1-mile radius of a community park.

Parks and Recreation Facilities

Figure 5-1

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Indian Canyons Heritage Park

The Indian Canyons Heritage Park is an approximately 400-acre park located at the base of San Jacinto Mountains at the south end of Palm Springs. The Park boasts the largest system of native fan palm oases in the United States. Visitors from around the world visit these spectacular oases nestled in steep rocky canyons where the force of running water over millennia has carved the rocks into curvaceous pools and waterfalls. Higher up the canyon walls, the rocks sheen with the beautiful patina of desert varnish. The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians manages the park and leads hiking and horseback riding tours. The Indian Canyons Heritage Park also has adopted a management plan for preserving the unique biological and cultural resources in the park.

PARK ACREAGE AND DESIGN

Palm Springs owns 10 parks that encompass more than 156 acres, of which approximately 7 acres are for specialty parks. In addition, the City owns approximately 160 acres of open space developed as the Tahquitz Creek Legends Golf Course. The City of Palm Springs requires that a minimum of 5 acres of developed parks be available for every 1,000 residents, including 2.5 acres for community parks and 2.5 acres for neighborhood parks. Palms Springs today has a population of approximately 60,000, which includes seasonal residents. At this population, the goal of a minimum of five acres per 1,000 residents yields a target of 300 acres of developed park land. The City has approximately 316 acres of developed park area including the City-owned Legends golf course. However, as the City continues to grow and develop, more park acreage, especially areas to accommodate specialized play fields (soccer, baseball, softball, football, tennis, etc.) will be required. With a projected population of 94,949 by buildout, the City will need 184 more park acres to accommodate this growth. It should be noted that this population projection is the number of residents in Palm Springs at *full* buildout. The Land Use Element shows a slightly lower population projection because a 5 percent vacancy rate is assumed. Total population is used in this case to be consistent with the city's *Quimby Ordinance*.

To ensure that parks fulfill their intended role, the City's standard is that homes be located within one mile of a neighborhood or community park so that residents are within walking distance of a park. Presently, less than one-half of all residences meet this standard. Table 5-2 summarizes the City's present and future park needs and Figure 5-1, *Parks and Recreation Resources*, illustrates the deficient areas. The southern and western portions of Palm Springs have the greatest deficiency of parkland, though both areas are within close proximity to outdoor recreational opportunities.

Quimby Act: The Quimby act of 1975 authorizes a city to adopt a local ordinance that can require dedications of land or in-lieu fees for development of new, or rehabilitation of existing, park facilities as a condition of subdivision map approval. The amount of fees paid or land dedicated can, at most, provide for five acres of parklands and recreational facilities per 1,000 persons.

Table 5-2
Palm Springs Parkland Needs

	Population	Parkland Standard	Current Needs	Current Acreage	Deficit/ Surplus
Present Need	60,000	5.0 ac/1,000	300	316	16
Future Needs	39,941	5.0 ac/1,000	200	—	200
Total Need*	99,941	5.0 ac/1,000	500	316	184

Source: U.S. Census, 2000; Department of Finance, 2006.
General Plan Land Use Element, 2007.

* This population figure assumes full buildout. The Land Use Element shows a slightly lower population figure due to an assumption of a 5 percent vacancy factor. However, this figure reported here is total population and is intended to be consistent with the City's Quimby Ordinance.

The **Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan** provides a detailed description of City parks and amenities available at each facility. The Plan also discusses the role of park design standards and includes recommendations to ensure that established standards reflect the actual and intended role of each facility.

While providing adequate park acreage is important, parks must be equipped with the desired recreational amenities that meet the needs of Palm Springs' diverse population, including families with children, retirees, single people, snowbirds, and tourists. Developed parkland must be carefully tailored with an appropriate mix of amenities and recreational facilities that meet the needs of users within the park's intended service area. The City's park classification and design system, based on National Park and Recreation Standards, can be found in the *Department of Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan*.

Many of the City's parks vary from the established design standards. For instance, Sunrise Park, originally intended to be a community park, has limited acreage for unstructured recreation activities (e.g., Frisbee) due to the many facilities occupying the site. DeMuth Park accommodates organized sports leagues, rather than serving as a community park. Specialty parks, envisioned to satisfy the City's tourist industry, currently serve local needs. These issues underscore the need to reconsider the current location and amenities of parks to best match the needs of residents and demands placed on each park.

GOAL RC1:

Provide sufficient park, trail and recreational facilities that meet the diverse needs of residents and visitors.

Policies

RC1.1 Develop high-quality park, trail, and recreational facilities that meet the varied needs of children, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities.

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- RC1.2 Ensure that a minimum of five acres of developed parkland are provided for every 1,000 residents in Palm Springs.
- RC1.3 Locate and distribute parks in such a manner to serve residential areas in terms of both distance and residential density.
- RC1.4 Establish and strengthen partnerships with the school district for the joint use, maintenance, and development of school facilities for parks, educational programs, and recreational use.
- RC1.5 Encourage variety in the design and intended function of park and recreational facilities to reflect the needs of the community.

Actions

- RC1.1 Periodically conduct a community-wide survey of full-time and seasonal residents to gauge park usage, satisfaction with level of services provided, and desired recreational amenities in parks to meet their needs.
- RC1.2 Develop and maintain an inventory of potential park sites, such as City-owned sites, areas along rivers or washes, and vacant land or underutilized land, including golf courses.
- RC1.3 Establish and/or revise, as needed, agreements with Palm Springs Unified School District and other community organizations that govern joint use of facilities.
- RC1.4 Develop and approve customized standards or design plans for the retrofit and modernization of each park and trailhead.
- RC1.5 Analyze park needs for areas of higher concentration of residents and uses. For example, the analysis should explore the proximity of existing and proposed parks to multifamily residential uses to determine if the concentration of population is properly served, or if additional parklands are needed in these areas.
- RC1.6 Amend and revise park designations to accurately reflect park conditions and needs in Palm Springs and establish minimum standards for developers and the City to follow in the Zoning Ordinance for park development.
- RC1.7 Amend and revise park designations to accurately reflect park conditions and needs in Palm Springs and establish minimum standards for developers in the City to follow in the Zoning Ordinance for park development.

PARK SAFETY, MAINTENANCE, AND CONDITION

Parks are among the most highly desired amenities in the community, and their continued enjoyment depends on their safety, maintenance, and condition. Parks serve as gathering places where neighbors can meet and form social ties that produce stronger and safer neighborhoods. In recent years, however, homeless people have begun to reside in the public parks, causing unpleasant experiences that lead neighboring residents to avoid using the parks and to disengage park usage from the neighborhood's activity center. The community has also expressed concern for the need to reduce illegal activities in the parks (e.g., loitering). Improving and maintaining the safety and desirability of parks is thus of utmost concern.

Proper management of physical assets ensures that parks are well maintained, safe, and provide the greatest enjoyment to residents. Although the City benefits from exceptional park and recreational facilities, many were built more than 30 years ago and are in need of rehabilitation. In other cases, the present design of the park and facilities are outdated, and thus require significant investment and modernization to better match current needs. The level of park maintenance appears to be adequate, although information on the type and frequency of maintenance activities needs to be compiled in one location to facilitate the periodic evaluation of maintenance service levels.

GOAL RC2:

Ensure that parks are safe, well maintained, and provide a pleasant experience for residents and visitors.

Policies

- RC2.1 Ensure that parks are safe by using the latest in playground design and technology, minimizing conflicts created by incompatible land uses, and cooperating with the Police Department.
- RC2.2 Encourage broad-based community and neighborhood support and ownership of local parks by creating an adopt-a-park program made up of volunteers.
- RC2.3 Initiate a program for the redesign, reconfiguration, and replacement of existing facilities for multiple uses, while preserving existing parks, open turf areas, and trees.
- RC2.4 Incorporate efficient water and energy use and conservation principles in the design and retrofit of parks and recreation facilities, including expanding the use of reclaimed water.

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- RC2.5 Ensure that parks and recreational facilities are fully accessible to people of all ages and abilities, including people with disabilities.

Actions

- RC2.1 Retrofit existing parks and recreational facilities using Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.
- RC2.2 Audit facilities every five years for the purpose of monitoring the condition and adequacy of park and recreational facilities and incorporate findings into the City's capital improvement program.
- RC2.3 Adopt an ordinance banning after-hours loitering in parks.
- RC2.4 Request utility providers to perform periodic water and energy audits of park and recreational facilities.
- RC2.5 Periodically update the City's ADA compliance report to ensure adequate disability access improvements are identified, and adequate financing and capital improvement plans are in place.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Palm Springs has an exceptionally diverse community of seniors, snowbirds, families, working professionals, and single people. Palm Springs is also a noted tourist destination for avid recreational enthusiasts. Thus, the City is responsible for providing recreational programs that meet the diverse needs of all residents and visitors. Programs and facilities described herein include those provided by the City and those partnering with the City to provide recreational opportunities.

Children

The City provides a variety of recreation programs, such as dance, swimming, music, exercise and fitness, after-school programs, and camping trips for schoolchildren. Children's programs are held at the Leisure Center in Sunrise Park and at the James O. Jessie Highland Unity Center. The City supports organizations that provide services to youth, such as the Family YMCA of the Desert and the Palm Springs Boys & Girls Club. Dance and drama classes are also held at Frances Stevens Park.



City Dance Class



The Skate Park and Mary Bremer Patrick Teen Center at Sunrise Park



Mizell Senior Center

Teen Activities

Providing meaningful activities for teens is a priority in Palm Springs. The James O. Jessie Desert Highland Unity Center provides after-school programs for teenagers. The Boys & Girls Club and YMCA offer after-school activities. The City and nonprofit organizations also expanded the following programs:

- ◆ The Boys & Girls Club opened a Teen Center at Sunrise Park with a game room, café, learning center, career development, computer center, and art center.
- ◆ In 2004, the City of Palm Springs opened an award-winning Skate Park for skateboarding at Sunrise Park.
- ◆ The Public Library expanded its library facilities by building a new Teen Center to encourage learning.

Organized Sports

The City organizes and provides active sports events for all ages. In addition, the City fosters partnerships with nonprofit groups, such as American Youth Soccer Organization, Palm Springs Youth Baseball and Softball, Palm Springs/Cathedral City Junior All-American Football, Piranhas Swim Team, Palm Springs Aquatics (Swim Club), Senior Softball League, and Desert Adult Soccer League. The City also provides a range of passive programs for residents.

Senior Programs and Services

The Mizell Senior Center in Palm Springs, an independently run agency, is the focus of senior programs and activities. The Center's mission is to "support independence and self-sufficiency through an inclusive network of education, information, and assistance with problem solving." The Center provides programs such as nutrition and food services, health care and fitness, counseling and support groups, music and special events, and advocacy, among other programs. Partnering with service providers in the greater Palm Springs area, the Mizell Senior Center also refers seniors to agencies that provide a range of supportive services.

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Special Events

The Parks & Recreation Department organizes and coordinates a wide variety of events throughout the year that bring residents together as a community. One of the largest draws is the Villagefest Street Fair. This weekly event attracts thousands of residents and tourists to the heart of Downtown to listen to local bands, enjoy the international foods, visit the Farmer's Market, and participate in various arts and crafts. The Parks & Recreation Department also organizes annual events, some of which attract thousands of people each year. Notable events include the Festival of Lights Parade, Palm Springs Pride Festival, Palm Springs American Heat (motorcycle tour), Veterans' Day Parade, and classic car shows.

The City holds special events each year at the Palm Springs Stadium, which has a seating capacity of 5,300. Top draws include the Palm Springs Pride Festival and the Fourth of July celebration. The Palm Springs Power Baseball team, a collegiate-level team, plays at the Palm Springs Stadium.



The Palm Springs Villagefest attracts thousands of residents and visitors each week.

GOAL RC3:

Support a variety of recreational opportunities that meet the needs and interests of residents, visitors, and tourists.

Policies

- RC3.1 Ensure residents have equal access and opportunity to participate in recreational activities and programs regardless of their age, economic status, disability, or other arbitrary factor.
- RC3.2 Support the presence of after-school programs that provide supervised homework, recreational programs, and other activities.
- RC3.3 Establish and maintain a reciprocal working relationship with the Mizell Senior Center to provide ongoing services to seniors.
- RC3.4 Ensure recreational program and service fees, to the extent feasible and desirable, recover the full cost of providing the particular service.
- RC3.5 Work with nonprofit and private organizations in the community to provide a broad range of recreation programs and services in a manner that complements existing City services.

- RC3.6 Work with the City's Park and Recreation Commission to define park and recreation needs, strategic priorities, and recreational programs for the community.

Actions

- RC3.1 Periodically review City recreation programs and survey other nonprofit and private providers of recreational programs in the community to ensure that they adequately meet user needs.
- RC3.2 Expand after-school programs in partnership with the Palm Springs Unified School District and other local educational providers.
- RC3.3 Periodically review and revise joint use agreements with entities using City parks and facilities to ensure a mutually beneficial relationship.
- RC3.4 Conduct periodic fee studies of City recreation programs and make revisions as appropriate.
- RC3.5 Develop an administrative policy that expands the accessibility of recreational programs to people of all ages and abilities.

QUALITY TRAIL SYSTEM

Bicycle Trails

The City complements its natural trail system with 47 linear miles of bicycle trails with three bikeway classifications. The Circulation Element provides an overview of the classifications and locations of the City's bikeways.

Trails in the hills, canyons, and mountains of Palm Springs serve as cultural, historical, and recreational assets as well as practical alternative means of circulation and movement about the City and adjacent communities. Natural trails also serve as tangible links to the past. Wildlife in the Palm Springs area originally carved trails in the hillsides and canyons. The Agua Caliente Indians, who settled in the mountains and canyons, used trails to travel to nearby villages. During the mid-1800s, early miners and ranchers established wagon roads and cattle driveways along trails long used by the Cahuilla people.

Today, Palm Springs benefits from over 80 miles of trails that provide hiking, equestrian, and other recreational uses, shown in Table 5-3 and Figure 5-1. Several trails hold outstanding scenic, historic, and/or cultural significance. The Pacific Crest Trail, which connects to San Jacinto State Park, is the jewel of America's scenic trails, spanning 2,650 miles from Mexico to Canada. Trails through Tahquitz and Andreas Canyons hold cultural significance for the Agua Caliente and are in the National Register of Historical Places.

Equestrian use of trails is a popular outdoor activity that dates to the early pioneer days of Palm Springs, when ranching dominated the Coachella Valley.

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One notable establishment reminiscent of those days is the Smoketree Ranch, which covers 400 acres in southern Palm Springs. Horseback riding remains a popular activity and 38 miles of natural trails and 13 miles of drainage basins and natural washes serve as equestrian trails. The Desert Riders, an organization formed in the early 1930s as an equestrian group, continues to organize rides and maintain trails.

The General Plan proposes a complete system of riding and hiking trails that will permit hikers and riders to explore Palm Springs and its environs. The trails should follow natural watercourses and usable mountainous areas, and utility corridors, offering a variety of surroundings and terrain. In areas of gentle topography, bicycle paths might be developed in conjunction with these trails.

Trails are located on county, state, federal, and tribal land. The federal and state governments manage the use and maintenance of trails in their jurisdiction, while the Agua Caliente Indians manage their trails in accordance with an adopted tribal trails management plan. The Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) proposes a trail management plan that applies to all local governments within the Coachella Valley to protect sensitive habitats and species. Proper management of these assets requires a coordinated effort.

Table 5-3
City of Palm Springs Trail Network

Trail Type	Linear Miles	Percent
Hiking and Equestrian Trails	38.5	47%
Drainage Basins and Washes	12.7	15%
Off-Road/4WD roads	20.2	24%
All Other Trails	11.2	14%
Total	82.6	100%

GOAL RC4:

Provide a comprehensive trail network that is sensitive to the natural environment, wildlife and habitat, culture and history, and recreational and circulation needs of residents.

Policies

- RC4.1 Provide a comprehensive and quality system of hiking, biking, and equestrian trails that are, to the extent feasible, accessible to people of all ages, and connect the City's park and recreational facilities with other commercial centers in Palm Springs.

- RC4.2 Initiate and maintain dialogue with the Tribe and federal and state governments to allow for continued and coordinated access and maintenance of trails that cross-jurisdictional boundaries.
- RC4.3 Develop and regulate the use of trails in a manner consistent with regional and tribal habitat conservation plans so that they do not affect sensitive habitats and wildlife.
- RC4.4 Require trailheads and staging areas for trails that are equipped with adequate parking, restrooms, informative signage, interpretive displays, and rules of appropriate use and conduct on the trails.
- RC4.5 Recognize the Whitewater River Wash, the Palm Canyon Wash, and the Tahquitz Wash as valuable open spaces and community resources and promote recreational uses and trail and park development in these areas.
- RC4.6 Seek to develop trails and related facilities for horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, and jogging in the washes that interconnect with City parks and recreational areas, commercial areas with residential areas, and links with open space areas and other desert cities and trail systems.
- RC4.7 Ensure that the location of existing and proposed trails and trailheads are evaluated with each proposed subdivision or tract map and that the appropriate easements are established to preserve those trails.
- RC4.8 Research the feasibility of an in-lieu fee for trails to support the development and improvement of the multi-use trail system in Palm Springs prior to receiving development permits.
- RC4.9 Limit the use of four-wheel-drive vehicles and off-highway vehicles to specially designated areas to preserve natural habitat, topography, and the integrity of sensitive areas.

Actions

- RC4.1 Prepare a Master Plan of Multi-use Trails for the City of Palm Springs and update periodically to address changing needs.
- RC4.2 Prepare a Recreation and Trails Management Plan that is consistent with regional habitat conservation plans in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Land Management and cooperating jurisdictions.

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- RC4.3 Implement the following strategies to acquire land for trail expansion and development:
- a) Identify land for trails on abandoned roads, flood control channels, utility easements, and rights-of-way;
 - b) Require developer dedications, accept donations, and seek grants to expand the City's trail system;
 - c) Require proposed residential and nonresidential projects to provide permanent easements for trails, staging areas and other needed improvements where appropriate; and
 - d) Develop adequate funding sources to support the development, maintenance, and improvement of trails.
- RC4.4 Develop trailheads and appropriate parking to ensure long-term access to trails.
- RC4.5 Where possible, institute joint agreements and encroachment permits with the public and private sectors that control easements and unused rights-of-way to incorporate such lands into permanent trail linkages. Implement trail easements or other mechanisms with landowners to ensure long-term viability and access to trails and trailheads.
- RC4.6 Develop trail standards, as needed, which create a comprehensive and safe trail system, including adequate width and signage. Surface drainage of trails along hillsides shall be designed to control runoff yet not detract from the stability of the hillside.
- RC4.7 Develop and adopt an inspection and maintenance program that addresses the condition, maintenance, and safety of the trail system. Work with other Coachella Valley jurisdictions and the state, federal, and tribal governments to implement this program.

GOAL RC5:

Protect the hiking, biking, jogging, and horseback-riding interests and needs in the City by maintaining existing trails and by promoting the development and expansion of the City's trail system for the purpose of providing a safe and viable form of recreation and circulation.

Policies

- RC5.1 Institute joint agreements and encroachment permits, where possible, with the public and private sectors (e.g., utility companies, water districts, development companies, and homeowners associations) that control easements and unused rights-of-way for the

purpose of incorporating such land into permanent trail linkages throughout the City.

- RC5.2 Recognize the Whitewater River Wash, the Palm Canyon Wash, and the Tahquitz Wash as valuable open spaces and community resources, encouraging the preservation of their recreational trail heritage.
- RC5.3 Seek to develop trails and related limited facilities for horseback riding, hiking, and jogging in the washes that interconnect with City parks and recreational areas, and provide linkage opportunities between open areas and other desert cities and trail systems.
- RC5.4 Allow developers flexibility in development standards in exchange for providing trail easements and rights-of-way that tie into and expand the greater trails network.
- RC 5.5 Strongly encourage developers to incorporate trails and pedestrian and bicycle linkages into their projects to reduce dependence on vehicular use.

FINANCING PARK, TRAILS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Financing the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and improvement of park, trails, and recreational facilities is a key challenge for Palm Springs. The City's Quimby Ordinance requires developers to dedicate or pay for the five acres of developed parkland for every new 1,000 residents that will live in proposed residential subdivisions. However, the Ordinance cannot by law address the existing shortage of park facilities for residents today. The City also does not have explicit policies regarding the type and quality of parks, trails, and recreational amenities desired in the community.

Even if new parks, trails, and recreational facilities are built, however, Palm Springs needs a dedicated source of revenue to maintain and rehabilitate facilities. The City uses part of its transient occupancy taxes to fund improvements and General Funds to maintain parks and recreational facilities. Both of these revenue sources are limited. A permanent source of funding is necessary to address the present deficit of parks as well as fund the maintenance of new parks, trails, and recreational facilities.

RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

GOAL RC6:

Provide a stable and adequate source of funding that enables the acquisition, development, maintenance, and modernization of park and recreational facilities.

Policies

- RC6.1 Ensure that adequate public funds are available to pay for the full costs of acquiring land, building facilities, and maintaining new parks, trails, and recreational amenities.
- RC6.2 Pursue funding to address the existing shortage of parks, trails, and recreational facilities through grants, bond measures, locally adopted special taxes, or partnerships with local organizations.
- RC6.3 Maintain contact with governmental entities, private, and nonprofit foundations for grant opportunities that promote the arts, culture, and historic preservation.
- RC6.4 Explore opportunities to enter into lease agreements for public/private partnerships to provide services in parks such as bike rental, towel rental, coffee carts, and vendor carts.

Actions

- RC6.1 Update the parkland in-lieu fee ordinance to provide adequate funding sources for parks, trails, open space, and recreational facilities as described in the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan.
- RC6.2 Develop a benefit-assessment district that is earmarked for the long-term maintenance, repair, and modernization of parks, trails, and recreational facilities.
- RC6.3 Develop a formal five-year capital improvement program with annual updates that allocates a portion of the transient occupancy tax to address shortages or improvements of park and recreational facilities.

For information related to the application of sustainable and green building programs that help to preserve the City's natural resources, see the Community Design Element.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Palm Springs has a rich array of natural resources tied to the location and topography of the area. The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and the desert landscape are home to a wide range of habitats and sensitive wildlife and plants. The City also has unique mineral and wind energy resources. Within this context, it is critical that the City also conserve and manage water and other natural resources to support the community. This section describes the biological, mineral, energy, and water resources and conservation efforts in Palm Springs, and the City's goals, policies, and actions to manage these resources.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Palm Springs' climate and natural topography offer unique natural habitats and some of the most diverse plant and wildlife in southern California. Ongoing development places greater pressure on preserving the natural environment. The challenge is to recognize the value of our wildlands and wildlife, be sensitive to our unique and valuable biological resources, and carefully plan to protect, preserve, and enhance the region's valuable biological resources. The City has the opportunity to be in the forefront of protecting and managing the biological diversity of the community, and preserving those resources for future generations.

The Federal and California Endangered Species Acts are designed to protect and conserve any species of plant or animal that is endangered or threatened with extinction, as well as the habitats in which these species are found. The State of California and the federal government have documented plant and animal species that are considered "sensitive," "threatened," or "endangered" as defined below.

- ◆ *Threatened* species are those whose numbers have dropped to such low levels and/or whose populations are so isolated that the continuation of the species could be jeopardized.
- ◆ *Endangered* species are those with such limited numbers or subject to such extreme circumstances that they are considered in imminent danger of extinction.
- ◆ *Sensitive* species are naturally rare, have been locally depleted, or are put at risk by human activities and may eventually be listed as threatened or endangered.

RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Protected Species

Palm Springs is home to two plant, three amphibian, two reptile, two bird and one mammal species that are considered threatened or endangered by the federal government. Each is described below.

Plants

The Coachella Valley milk-vetch and the triple-ribbed milk-vetch are endangered plant species in Palm Springs. The former is an erect winter annual or short-lived perennial that produces pink to deep magenta-colored flowers. It is found among the Sonoran desert scrub, sandy flats, and washes. The latter is a short-lived perennial that produces a white to pale cream-colored flower and is found on sandy and gravelly soils of dry washes or on decomposed granite or gravelly soils at the base of canyon slopes.



Coachella Valley Milk-Vetch
Source: CVAG

Birds

The least Bell's vireo and southwestern flycatcher are endangered species, and 17 other birds are considered sensitive. The least Bell's vireo inhabits riparian woodland habitats, including the dense understory of desert species such as arrow weed and wild grape. The Southwestern willow flycatcher is restricted to dense riparian woodlands and requires extensive thickets of low, dense willows for nesting and roosting. Chino Canyon, Andreas, Murray, Palm Canyons, and Oasis de Los Osos provide suitable breeding grounds for birds.



Peninsular Bighorn Sheep
Source: Bighorn Institute

Mammals

Peninsular bighorn sheep live on dry, rocky, low-elevation desert slopes, canyons, and washes in Palm Springs. The peninsular bighorn sheep once numbered nearly 2 million, yet only 70,000 sheep survive today. The federal government has designated the peninsular bighorn sheep as an endangered species, and the protection of this species and its habitat is managed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

Amphibians and Reptiles

The arroyo southwestern toad, mountain yellow-legged frog, and California red-legged frog are considered threatened or endangered species. The desert tortoise is an endangered species that inhabits the creosote scrub and desert wash communities. The Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (CVFTL), which inhabits the windblown desert regions in Palm Springs, is considered threatened. The CVFTL inhabits areas located north of the urbanized area of Palm Springs. The federal government's CVFTL Habitat Conservation Plan is designed to increase the population and the viability of this species.



Fringe-Toed Lizard

Habitats and Wildlife Corridors

Palm Springs has a diversity of habitats that support plants and wildlife. Habitats are the place or set of environmental conditions in which plants and animals naturally live and grow. In the Coachella Valley, desert habitats are generally distinguished by physical differences in elevation, soil, solar and wind exposure, temperature, and water supply. Palm Springs contains five general habitats, as described below.



Creosote Scrub is the dominant plant community and covers the Alluvial Plain and Rocky Slope habitats.

Sonoran Desert Scrub Habitat

Sonoran creosote bush scrub, burro brush, and Sonoran mixed woody and succulent scrub grow on the blowsand habitat of the valley floor and the rocky, well-drained slopes of the surrounding mountains. Plant species associated with this habitat include the Coachella Valley milk-vetch and triple-ribbed milk-vetch. This habitat also supports wildlife, including the peninsular bighorn sheep, Palm Springs ground squirrel and pocket mouse, desert tortoise, burrowing owl, Casey's June beetle, Coachella giant sand treader cricket, and Coachella Valley grasshopper.

Chaparral Habitat

Chaparral habitat is composed of three main vegetation communities: semi-desert chaparral, interior live oak chaparral, and red shank chaparral. Each is generally found between elevations of 2,000 and 5,000 feet in the San Jacinto, Santa Rosa, and Little San Bernardino Mountains. Some of the dominant plant species include California juniper and California buckwheat. Other plant species associated with these communities include the triple-ribbed milk-vetch. Wildlife species associated with this community may include the gray vireo, Pratt's blue butterfly, and peninsular bighorn sheep.

Riparian Forest and Woodland Habitat

This habitat includes the Sonoran cottonwood-willow riparian forest, southern sycamore-alder riparian woodland, and desert dry wash woodland. These communities grow in the sandy to gravelly washes and arroyos in canyon mouths, alluvial fans, and well-watered soils along perennial desert rivers. The desert fan palm oasis woodland is found in Andreas, Murray, Palm, and other canyons and is the only palm native to the western United States. This habitat supports the peninsular bighorn sheep, Palm Springs pocket mouse, and desert tortoise. Bird species include Le Conte's thrasher, least Bell's vireo, yellow warbler, yellow-breasted chat, southwestern willow flycatcher, and the summer tanager.

RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Juniper Woodland Habitat

Peninsular juniper and scrub/pinyon juniper woodland occur on the slopes of the San Jacinto and Santa Rosa Mountains. Plants and animals live at different elevations and climate. Bush penstemon, coast horned lizard, California thrasher, and Pacific kangaroo rat are confined to pinyon-juniper woodland on alluvial flats, whereas pancake prickly-pear, granite spiny lizard, rock wren, and canyon mouse live on the rocky hillsides of pinyon-juniper woodland. Other wildlife species associated with this community include gray vireo, peninsular bighorn sheep, and desert tortoise.

Desert Interior Dune Habitats

High winds that funnel through the San Gorgonio Pass create blowsand habitats that form active, shielded, and ephemeral dunes and sand fields. Desert dunes and sand fields are “Communities of Highest Inventory Priority,” because they are essential for the CVFTL. Active dunes are concentrated in the northern portion of the City and at Windy Point. Species associated with the dunes also include the Palm Springs ground squirrel and pocket mouse, flat-tailed horned lizard, Le Conte’s thrasher, burrowing owl, Coachella giant sand treader cricket, Coachella Valley grasshopper, and Coachella Valley milkvetch.

Wildlife Corridors

Wildlife corridors provide areas of undisturbed open space that allow wildlife to migrate or move between natural habitats, seek food and water, mate and seek suitable places for breeding, escape from fire or urbanization, and otherwise ensure the proliferation of indigenous species. Palm Springs has several wildlife corridors that allow wildlife to move north–south through the San Gorgonio Pass area and east–west through the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, as described below.

Northwestern Palm Springs, located in the San Gorgonio Pass, is regarded as the only connection for wildlife migrating between the Peninsular and Transverse ranges. Stubbe and Cottonwood Canyons and the Whitewater River also connect areas north of I-10 and the Planning Area (i.e., the San Gorgonio Wilderness and Whitewater Areas of Critical Environmental Concern in the San Bernardino Mountains) to portions of the Planning Area south of I-10 (Snow Creek and San Jacinto Mountains). Several east–west wildlife corridors exist in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains and in the canyons and washes. The Whitewater River, though a managed flood-control channel, is occasionally used by wildlife as a travel route.

Wildlife and Habitat Conservation

Ensuring the conservation of habitat is critical for the protection of plants and wildlife. Federal, state, and local government entities, private organizations, and the Tribe have established preserves and conservation areas to protect wildlife and habitat in Palm Springs, as described below.

Coachella Valley Preserve System

The Coachella Valley Preserve System was established primarily for conservation of the CVFTL and its habitat. The CVFTL Habitat Conservation Plan set aside more than 30,000 acres in three areas: the Coachella Valley Preserve, the Willow Hole Preserve, and the Whitewater River Preserve (located in Palm Springs). The Preserve was recently expanded to include the 9,000-acre Joshua Hills wildlife corridor, connecting the Preserve to Joshua Tree National Park.

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

This 272,000-acre National Monument was established to protect mountains and desert valleys that are home to the endangered peninsular bighorn sheep and threatened desert slender salamander. Most of the land is already under some protection, including the Santa Rosa Mountains National Scenic Area, parts of the San Bernardino National Forest, the San Jacinto State Park and Wilderness, and part of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian reservation.

James San Jacinto Mountains Reserve/Oasis de Los Osos Reserve

University of California at Riverside owns and maintains the Oasis de Los Osos Reserve, located at the northwestern edge of Palm Springs. The Oasis de Los Osos Reserve is sited on a steep elevation grade near the base of the north-facing escarpment of Mount San Jacinto. Lambs Creek, a perennial stream, runs through the reserve and supports one of the very few riparian woodlands in the Colorado Desert.

Magnesia Springs Ecological Reserve

The California Department of Fish and Game manages the Magnesia Springs Ecological Reserve, located in southeastern Palm Springs within the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. The reserve assures the protection of the natural fan palm oasis and habitat critical to the peninsular bighorn sheep and other sensitive species, including the least Bell's vireo, southwestern willow flycatcher, and prairie falcon.

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Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan

The Tribal Conservation Program covers 2,600 acres that include the Indian Canyons Heritage Park and Tahquitz Canyon. In 2002, the Tribe adopted a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to protect 18 plant and animal species (10 are listed). The Tribal HCP will encompass a 16,000-acre Mountain and Canyons Conservation Area and 16,000-acre Valley Floor Conservation Area. Indian Canyons Heritage Park is the site of some of the most extensive stands of native palms in the United States and is home to protected species. Tahquitz Canyon is also known for its habitat for protected species and the Tribe implements a wetland conservation plan.

Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan

Palm Springs, the Coachella Valley Association of Governments, the County of Riverside, and state and federal governments cooperated to prepare a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The Plan covers 1.1 million acres in Riverside County and includes 27 desert and mountain natural communities and 27 species. Of the 22 conservation areas covered in the Plan, three Conservation Areas (Snow Creek/Windy Point, Highway 111, Whitewater Floodplain, and Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains) are within the City. Eventually, this plan will cover all the aforementioned conservation areas in Palm Springs.

Figure 5-2 illustrates the areas containing sensitive biological resources and the established conservation areas and plans that cover these resources. Presently, much of the area outside the urban portion of Palm Springs is included in conservation areas protected from future development.

GOAL RC7:

Support the preservation and protection of biological resources, especially sensitive, rare, threatened, or endangered species, wildlife, or habitats.

Policies

- RC7.1 Support local and regional efforts to evaluate, acquire, and protect natural habitats for sensitive, threatened, and endangered species occurring in the City and vicinity.
- RC7.2 Actively participate with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments and member agencies to support the identification, monitoring, and preservation of important biological resources, including the acquisition of land in the greater Coachella Valley.

- RC7.3 Support the adoption of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and Agua Caliente Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan.
- RC7.4 Coordinate special-status species management with the California Department of Fish and Game, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, researchers, and local jurisdictions to promote consistency, effectiveness, and efficiency of recovery and monitoring activities.
- RC7.5 Protect and enhance known wildlife and migratory corridors, including corridors leading into the Santa Rosa Mountains, the San Jacinto Mountains, and along the Whitewater River.
- RC7.6 Create and implement appropriate regulatory tools that help to minimize the impacts that new and intensified development may have on habitat and wildlife.
- RC7.7 Actively encourage and promote the understanding and appreciation of the natural environment and sensitive biological resources in and around Palm Springs.

Actions

- RC7.1 Implement the provisions of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan and the Tribal Habitat Conservation Plan.
- RC7.2 In the event that the aforementioned habitat conservation plans are not adopted, the following actions shall be implemented:
 - a) Create a biological resources overlay zone and associated regulations that require proposed development projects to comply with the following practices prior to approval:
 - i) Provide appropriate biological studies to the City, signed by a registered biologist, that document potential impacts to habitats and wildlife from proposed projects;
 - ii) Comply with land use, development regulations, site planning, and construction practices that will be set forth in the City's Zoning Code; and
 - iii) Provide the appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring plan, in compliance with federal and state statutes, to minimize the impacts to habitat and wildlife.
 - b) In the event that the MSHCP is not adopted, the City shall implement mitigation measures, ultimately to be

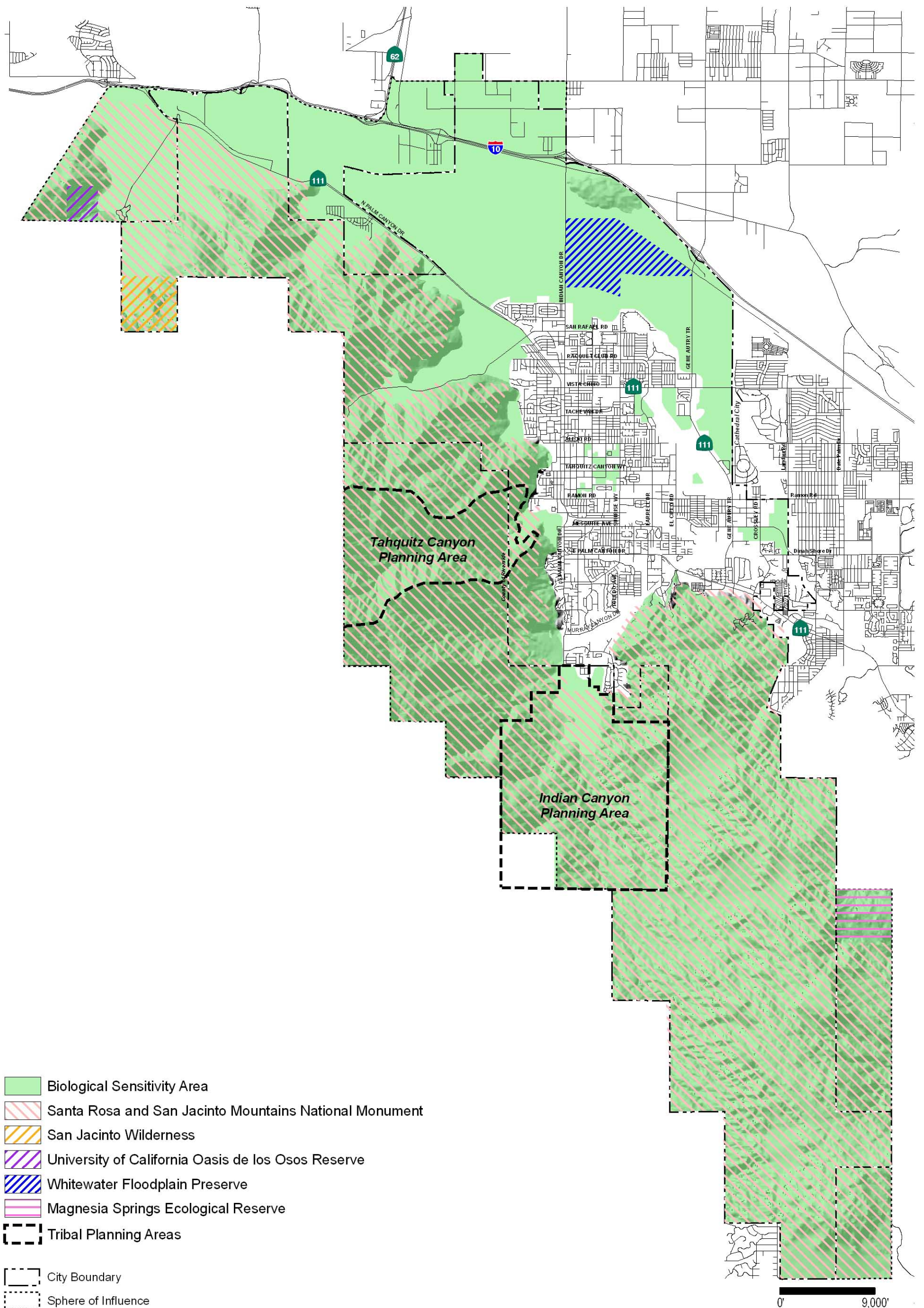
RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

determined by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, to mitigate impacts to the Desert Tortoise. This mitigation can involve developer fees given to the California Department of Fish and Game to purchase lands within prime tortoise habitat elsewhere in the state. The City shall work toward creation and/or participation in a Habitat Conservation Program for this species.

RC7.2 Develop a comprehensive educational program that emphasizes the importance of the preservation, management, and appreciation of the unique biological resources in and around Palm Springs. In cooperation with public, private, and nonprofit agencies, the program should:

- a) Maintain an updated inventory and maps of important habitats and wildlife species in Palm Springs;
- b) Facilitate volunteer activities that protect or enhance important biological resources, such as removal of invasive species, trash removal, and other restoration projects; and
- c) Develop a campaign to promote the City as a sanctuary for habitat and wildlife and the region's leader in the responsible protection of the environment.

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Biological Sensitivity & Conservation Areas

Recreation, Open Space and Conservation Element

Figure 5-2

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RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

State law requires that the General Plan address the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources, including minerals, oil and gas, geothermal, agricultural land, and timber, among others. Palm Springs lacks oil, gas, geothermal energy, and agriculture resources, and the forests of the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains are protected from logging. The two primary resources are minerals and energy potential.

Mineral Resources

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains, including the high desert areas, have a long history of mining. In the late 1800s, prospectors flocked to the mountains seeking their fortunes. Asbestos, beryllium, gold, limestone, tungsten, copper, garnet, and tourmaline have been extracted from mines in the National Monument. However, except for the limestone deposits known on the northern front of the Monument, these mineral deposits are limited, not precisely known, or have not been extensively mined.

Palm Springs has one active sand-and-gravel mining operation within its incorporated boundaries, in the northeasternmost portion of the community. Two smaller mines are located just beyond the northern boundary of the City. These mines specialize in providing boulders and other crushed rock. Both mines operate under the jurisdiction of the County of Riverside and must operate in full compliance with the Surface Mining Reclamation Act of 1979 and appropriate environmental regulations.

The State of California Geological Survey Mineral Resources Project provides the most recent and accurate information about mineral resources in Palm Springs and the surrounding area. Based on an assessment of local and regional mineral deposits, the State of California assigns different Mineral Resource Zones (MRZs) designations. These include:

- ◆ **MRZ 1:** Areas where adequate information indicates that no significant mineral deposits are present or likely to be present.
- ◆ **MRZ 2:** Areas where significant mineral deposits are present or likely to be present and development should be controlled.
- ◆ **MRZ 3:** Areas where the significance of mineral deposits cannot be determined from the available data.

The City's primary mineral resource is sand and gravel, collectively referred to as aggregate, which is used for asphalt, concrete, road base, stucco, plaster, and other similar construction materials. Northern Palm Springs has been classified an MRZ-2 zone. The State of California has not classified or

The Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monuments have 41 inactive and unpatented mining claims. However, the legislation that created the National Monument prohibits mining activity, except where prior mining rights already existed. Given their inactive status, the Bureau of Land Management is in the process of permanently closing all inactive mines for future exploration.

designated mineral resource zones within the National Monument, and the Bureau of Land Management mineral potential maps also indicate no prospective valuable deposits. The federal legislation that created the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto National Monument prohibits mining except where mining rights already exist.

The only other widely known mineral commodity known to be present in Palm Springs is limestone, which is typically used in the production of cement. Limestone deposits occur along the northern flanks of the San Jacinto Mountains, though the extent is unknown. Other mineral commodities (such as precious minerals, rare earths, uranium, clay, tungsten, etc.), while possibly present in isolated localities, are not well known, developed, or even present within the City's boundaries.

Electricity and Natural Gas

Southern California Edison (SCE) provides electricity to Palm Springs. High-voltage transmission lines deliver power to the substation where power is stepped down and distributed through lower-voltage lines. Homes and businesses receive power through a final transformer, which brings voltages down to usable levels. Natural gas is an energy source that is increasingly in demand, relatively inexpensive, clean burning, and convenient.

Natural gas is found in association with petroleum crude oil deposits and is transported through the country through high-pressure transmission lines. Gas service is provided by the Southern California Gas Company.

The Southern California Gas Company also offers a wide range of energy management, conservation, and equipment retrofit programs for its customer base. The Self-Generation Incentive Program provides financial incentives to encourage the installation of electricity generation technologies, including photovoltaic, fuel cells, wind turbines, and cogeneration. Many local companies, including the City and the Spa Resort Casino, have taken advantage of programs offered by the Southern California Gas Company.

Palm Springs participates in the Southern California Local Government Initiative, sponsored by SCE and the building industry, and specifically in SCE's Community Energy Efficiency Program. Under this program, participating local governments give builders incentives to exceed state energy-efficiency standards in new construction by granting local recognition, fee deferral, prioritized plan checks, and expedited field inspections. In exchange for these benefits, developers must construct homes that use 15 percent less energy than the state's energy efficiency requirements.

RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

Alternative Energy Resources

The favorable wind conditions, nearly year round sunshine, and the adjacency of major regional utility corridors at the area at the north end of the City provide a unique opportunity for development of clean, renewable, and alternative energy production and distribution industries in Palm Springs. Encouraging industries based on clean technologies is consistent with the City's General Plan Priority to be a leader in energy conservation and to attract and create a diverse and stable economic base.

An adequate supply of affordable energy is essential to Palm Springs' economic growth and quality of life. However, the retrieval, harnessing, and use of natural resources may adversely impact the environment and public health. This is forcing communities to develop technologies to generate, conserve, and recycle energy. State law requires all investor-owned utilities and retail suppliers to derive 20 percent of their retail sales from renewable energy by 2017, and the California Energy Commission has adopted the same standard by 2010. Palm Springs is taking the opportunity to lead the production of cleaner energy sources that benefit the environment and local economy.

Wind Energy. Wind turbines in the San Geronio Pass Area supply one-third of the state's wind capacity, and advances in wind turbine technology provide the opportunity to generate additional wind energy. The General Plan designates areas in the far northern area as a Wind Energy Overlay. This overlay allows for the operation of wind turbines in conjunction with industrial uses, which are ancillary to the wind energy operations.

Solar Energy. The abundance of year-round sunshine in Palm Springs provides opportunity for solar energy, and public agencies in Coachella Valley are developing such uses. The Desert Water Agency operates the largest solar generation system in the Coachella Valley. The City is home to numerous companies involved in the research, design, manufacturing, and installation of alternative energy production systems.

Cogeneration. Cogeneration is an increasingly used source of power in the desert and a proven alternative for Palm Springs. The Spa Resort Casino uses a cogeneration system to provide 95 percent of its energy needs. Palm Springs also has cogeneration stations at its Wastewater Plant, Airport, and City Hall. In fact, the City of Palm Springs received an "Excellence in Public-Private Partnership Award" from the United States Conference of Mayors for its cogeneration-powered wastewater system in 2005.

Cogeneration produces additional revenue for Palm Springs where once only energy expenses existed. The City is able to supply its own electricity, air conditioning, and heating at prices far less than utility rates. After business hours, when electrical and thermal demand are reduced, excess electricity can



Wind turbines dot the landscape in northern Palm Springs.



Solar Energy Generation Plant

Cogeneration systems use a common energy source to produce both electricity and steam for other uses, resulting in increased fuel efficiency.

be sold to Edison. In addition, the City can supply energy for nearby county and private buildings on City property at a lower rate.

Hydrogen Fuel Cell. Hydrogen technology is quickly becoming one of the leading renewable energy sources. Fuel cell technology uses hydrogen to generate electricity for vehicles, homes, and business. Palm Springs’ transit provider, the Sunline Transit Agency, is currently working on a renewable hydrogen-based transportation project.

Figure 5-3, *Managed Production of Resources*, illustrates the areas that are valuable for mineral extraction and energy production in Palm Springs.

GOAL RC8:

Employ the efficient, sustainable, and environmentally appropriate use and management of energy and mineral resources to ensure their availability for future generations.

Policies

More information about the **Wind Energy Conversion Systems Development Agreement** can be found in the Palm Springs Municipal Code.

- RC8.1 Facilitate the orderly and efficient development of wind energy resources and regulate their location, operation, and management through the *Wind Energy Conversion Systems Development Agreement*, conditional-use permit process, and appropriate environmental clearance.
- RC8.2 Support and encourage the use of alternative energy sources, such as cogeneration, solar, wind, ethanol and natural gas, fuel cell technologies, and other alternative and sustainable fuel sources and generating industries to provide more reliability in the supply of electricity to the City and to promote the development of clean, sustainable, and alternative energy industries in the City. The use of alternative energy sources should also be encouraged in the construction of new buildings and retrofit of existing buildings.
- RC8.3 Encourage and support the incorporation of energy efficiency and conservation practices in land use, transportation demand management, subdivision, and building design.
- RC8.4 Encourage “green technologies,” renewable energy, and related activities as a business development goal and to attract this type of business activity to Palm Springs.
- RC8.5 Work with the Coachella Valley Association of Governments to develop a regional energy policy and foster the development of associated energy industries in the Coachella Valley.

RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

- RC8.6 Ensure that future mining activities, should they become necessary, fully comply with the State Mining Reclamation Act, federal and state environmental regulations, and local ordinances.
- RC8.7 Require that new, non-mining land uses located adjacent to existing mining operations provide appropriate buffers between the uses. The buffer distance shall be based on evaluation of noise, aesthetics, drainage, operating conditions, biological resources, topography, lighting, traffic, operating hours, and air quality.
- RC8.8 Continue to document current extraction sites, including the status and duration of existing mining permits and approvals.
- RC8.9 Limit the impacts of mining operations on the City's biological and scenic resources.
- RC8.10 Require appropriate review and environmental clearance of solar generation, cogeneration facilities, mining, and wind energy conversion systems related to commercial uses to ensure proper siting and operation.
- RC8.11 Utilize solar technologies to replace conventional water heating, as well as space cooling and heating requirements, whenever possible.
- RC8.12 Make all practical use of indigenous wind resources
- RC8.13 Make the maximum use of solar electric capabilities on an individual and community wide basis.
- RC8.14 Utilize municipal sewage and solid wastes as an alternative energy source.
- RC8.15 Encourage cogeneration facilities, clean natural gas, and ethanol-fueled generating facilities to increase the reliability of energy production and service to the City and to encourage the creation of diversified sources for energy production.
- RC8.16 Require the use of tertiary-treated wastewater for golf course and landscape irrigation whenever feasible.
- RC8.17 Equip large irrigation systems with master valves that automatically shut off the system if excessive flows due to damaged sprinklers occur.
- RC8.18 Recess planter beds and lawns below adjoining sidewalks and other hardscape to contain irrigation water. Mounds shall be designed to prevent sheet-flow across hardscape areas.

RC8.19 Control water pressure within irrigation systems to prevent drifting onto sidewalks, roads, or bike paths during wind conditions.

RC8.20 Encourage the use of mulch and proper topsoil preparation in planter beds to increase the water absorption capacity of the soil.

Actions

RC8.1 Review City ordinances to ensure mining plans comply with the State Mining Reclamation Act and local environmental concerns.

RC8.2 Develop zoning regulations that restrict encroachment of incompatible land uses in areas that are conserved for mineral use, and minimize conflicts between extraction activities and other uses.

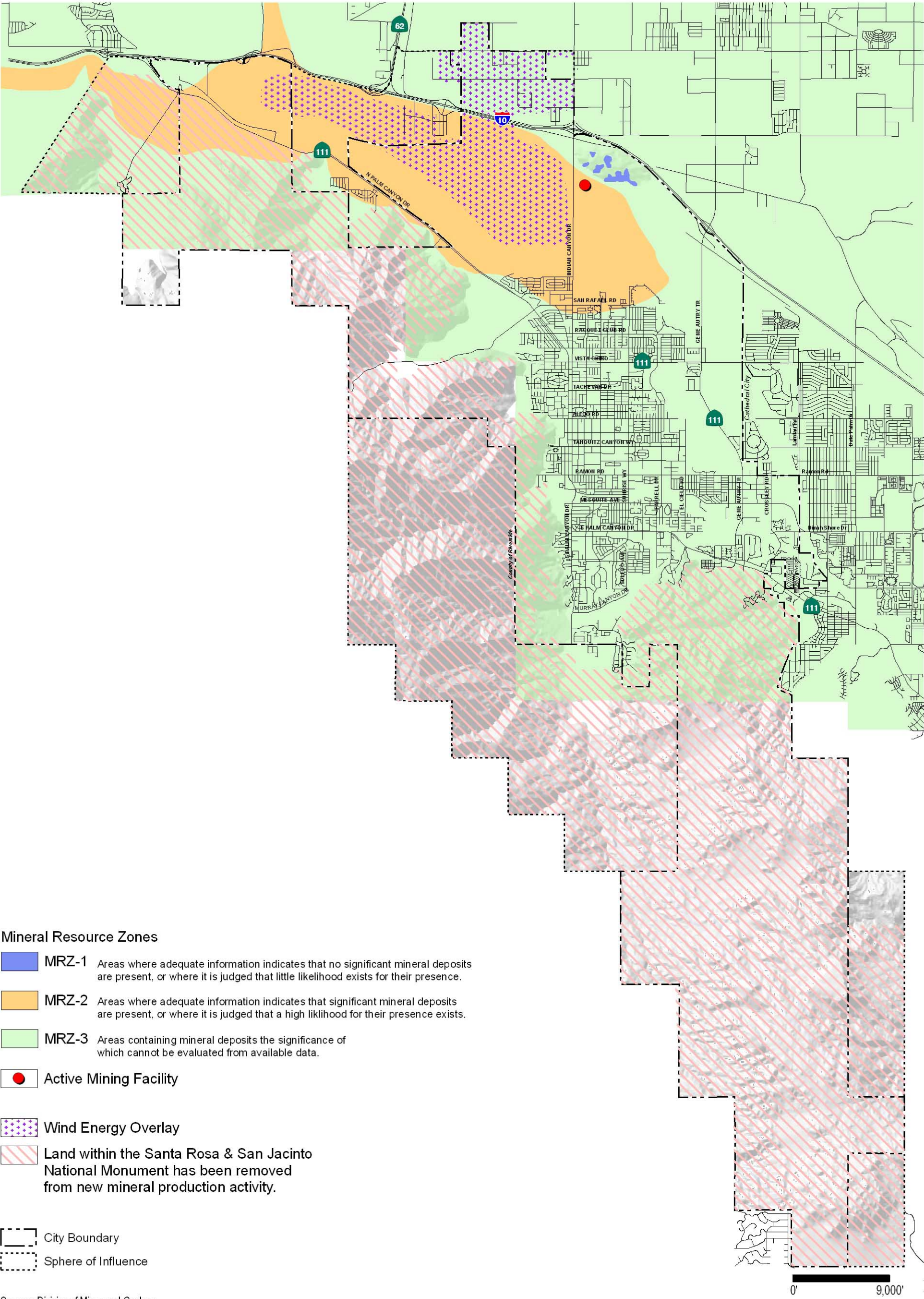
RC8.3 Require post-reclamation plans that identify desired land uses for mining areas once mining activities have ceased.

RC8.4 Achieve the mandated waste reduction and recycling objectives set forth by the California Integrated Waste Management Board and implement a program to recycle construction and demolition debris, in particular concrete and gravel products.

RC8.5 Implement energy conservation practices in existing buildings and subdivision design by enforcing the following:

- a) Energy efficiency standards for residential and nonresidential construction in Title 24 standards;
- b) Solar energy development regulations through the enforcement of the California Solar Shade Control Act;
- c) Incorporation of alternative energy sources and conservation practices at all public facilities; and
- d) Other practices as deemed appropriate.

RC8.6 Coordinate with local utility companies to explore the implementation of a district-wide, heat-pump-generated cooling system to reduce dependency on individual air conditioning units that consume high levels of energy.



Managed Production of Resources

Recreation, Open Space and Conservation Element

Figure 5-3

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RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

WATER RESOURCES

Water sustains life in both the urban and natural environment. Water is essential for domestic use and irrigation purposes, including agriculture. In the natural environment, water sustains healthy ecosystems, supports wildlife, sustains riparian communities, and recharges groundwater basins. Developing an integrated approach to managing the City's water resources will ensure that a healthful, reliable, and adequate water supply is available for Palm Springs' residents and its plants and wildlife.

Water Supply

The Coachella Valley Water District, Desert Water Agency, and Mission Springs Water District provide water to the City of Palm Springs. These water agencies prepare an Urban Water Management Plan every five years. The Plan identifies historic and projected water usage, identifies existing and future water supply sources, describes purveyors' demand-management programs, and sets forth a program to meet water demands during normal, dry, and multiple dry years.

Three groundwater subbasins—Whitewater River, Mission Creek, and Indio—serve Palm Springs and its planning area. The Whitewater River, the largest basin, contains 28 million acre-feet and extends 70 miles from the junction of I-10 and Highway 111 to the Salton Sea. Whitewater Subbasin is recharged by flows from the San Geronio Pass area, normal seasonal rainfalls, and surface water from various creeks. However, inflow is limited. Depletion of groundwater basins has been accelerating since the expansion of agricultural activities in the 1900s and the development of the Coachella Valley. Today, groundwater demand exceeds available recharge, leading to a condition known as "overdraft."

To ensure that adequate water is available, Coachella Valley water agencies contract with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) to exchange their water entitlement from the State Water Project for like amounts from the Colorado River. MWD's aqueduct is tapped where it crosses the Whitewater River and water is diverted to 19 spreading ponds, where it percolates into the Whitewater Subbasin. This agreement is intended to assure adequate water supplies through the year 2035.

Water Conservation

Water is a finite resource, invaluable to the wellbeing of Palm Springs. To ensure adequate water supplies to meet current and future needs, the City of Palm Springs, local water suppliers and various regional agencies cooperate to

encourage the responsible use and conservation of water resources. Among others, these water conservation programs address demand management strategies, wastewater recycling, water shortage contingency plans, and water education plans.



Desert Water Agency Water Recycling Plant

Managing water demand, particularly outdoor water use, is important in the desert environment. Based on the State Model Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance, the Palm Springs Municipal Code requires all new and rehabilitated landscape projects to meet the requirements of the State of California Water Conservation in Landscaping Act. Each agency that supplies water to Palm Springs provides information that will help residential and business users reduce water demand for irrigation purposes. Water conservation is also encouraged through tiered water rates.

Recycling wastewater is also an important water conservation strategy, because it reduces the amount of potable water used for irrigation.

Desert Water Agency (DWA) operates a wastewater recycling facility. Palm Springs provides primary and secondary treated domestic sewage to DWA, who then provides tertiary treatment. The recycled water produced is then used to irrigate public facilities such as the Tahquitz Creek Golf Course, DeMuth Park and Mesquite Golf Course.

The Desert Water Agency, in 1962, became the first State Water Contractor in the Coachella Valley for the purpose of importing water to be used as groundwater recharge. The Coachella Valley Water District became a State Water Contractor in 1963. Together, Desert Water Agency and Coachella Valley Water District developed a recharge program that began in 1973 to protect the valley from groundwater overdraft.

The California Water Code requires water agencies to adopt a Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The Plan identifies actions to be taken to prepare for and implement during a catastrophic interruption of water supplies that could occur as a result of a regional power outage, earthquake, or other disaster. The Plan may include a variety of measures to reduce water consumption through water use practices, rationing, and penalties for excessive use.

Each water agency provides education programs to encourage water conservation. For instance, water purveyors provide a water-wise home calculator that provides homeowners with useful ways to minimize water use. Water purveyors also provide education to schoolchildren in the Palm Springs Unified School District. Residents can also participate in working groups to learn more about water management and conservation in the Coachella Valley. Finally, water purveyors provide helpful water-conservation tip to the Palm Springs business community.

Water Quality

Maintaining water quality is essential for the health of residents and the sustainability of habitats and wildlife in the City of Palm Springs. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board implements federal and state laws to assure the proper planning, management and enforcement of water quality standards. These laws include the Federal Clean Water Act,

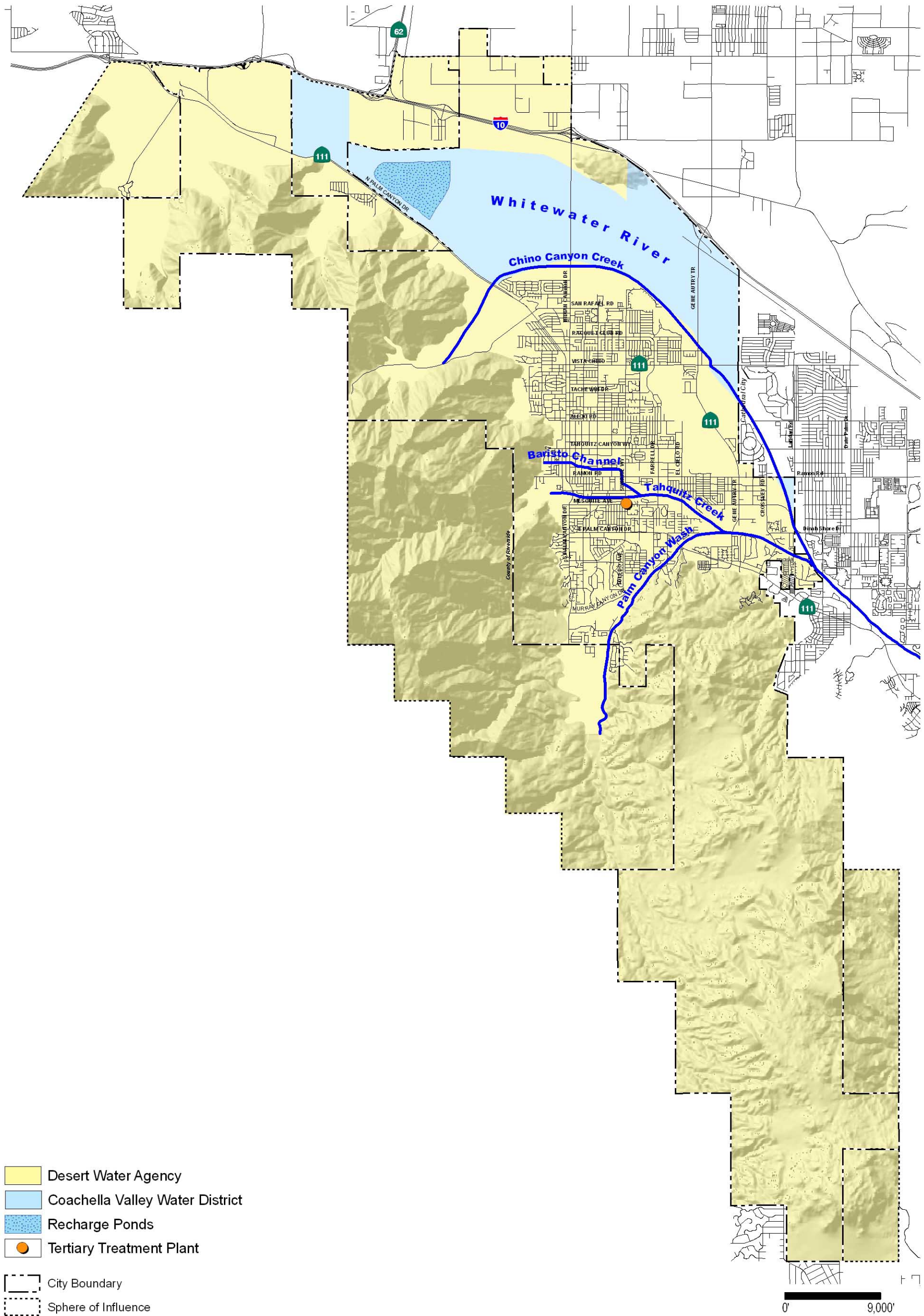
RECREATION, OPEN SPACE & CONSERVATION ELEMENT

National Environmental Policy Act, the California Water Code, California Environmental Quality Act, California Health and Safety Code, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, and other laws. The City's water consistently meets and exceeds state and federal quality standards.

The most prominent concern affecting water quality is stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff is one of the most common sources of water pollution. Stormwater that drains from streets, parking lots, businesses, private yards, and agricultural land may contain grease, oil, pesticides and herbicides, heavy metals, paint, household chemicals, and other pollutants. Polluted stormwater can affect plants and wildlife, as well as increase the cost of treating water. The City works in partnership with Riverside County, local water agencies, Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and all cities in Coachella Valley to manage storm water runoff.

Figure 5-4, *Water Resources*, illustrates the water districts, major recharge areas and water features in Palm Springs.

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Water Resources

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GOAL RC9:

Ensure an adequate supply of quality water is provided to the City.

Policies

- RC9.1 Work with the Desert Water Agency, Coachella Valley Water District, and Mission Springs Water District to ensure that a sufficient quantity and quality of potable water is available for current and future residential, business, and visitor uses.
- RC9.2 Encourage the responsible management and use of water resources through appropriate water conservation measures, financial incentives, and regulations.
- RC9.3 Ensure the highest quality of potable water resources continues to be available by managing stormwater runoff, wellhead protection, septic tanks, and other potential sources of pollutants.
- RC9.4 Encourage the preservation and management of natural floodplain areas that allow for water percolation, replenishment of the natural aquifers, proper drainage, and prevention of flood damage.
- RC9.5 Protect the quality and quantity of water from adverse impacts of development activities so that sufficient water is available to sustain habitats and wildlife.
- RC9.6 Cooperate with surrounding jurisdictions and the Coachella Valley Association of Governments to serve as a voice for drafting and advocating an integrated water policy for the region that addresses the supply, quality, and reliability of water.
- RC9.7 Encourage the reclamation of hard-lined natural drainage channels toward a natural condition, where possible. Manmade and vegetative material used to stabilize channel slopes shall complement adjacent land uses, recreation areas, and the distinctive visual environment of the City.

Actions

- RC9.1 Develop and implement, in conjunction with Palm Springs water purveyors, an integrated water-conservation program that:
 - a) Contains a policy to expand use of reclaimed water to irrigate all City parks and public facilities, landscaped medians, golf courses, and other applications;

- b) Ensures that water purveyors serving Palm Springs incorporate a progressive rate structure that discourages unnecessary water usage and rewards water conservation;
- c) Implements the City's water-efficient landscape ordinance to ensure that best management practices are routinely incorporated into development plans;
- d) Provides incentive to convert lawns to drought-tolerant, low-water landscapes; and
- e) Requires that water conservation education be communicated to local schools, the public, and businesses.

RC9.2 Review model ordinances published by the California EPA and water service providers to update the citywide Municipal Storm Water Pollution Management Program. The program should include, at minimum:

- a) Identification of nonpoint and point pollutant sources and programs to monitor discharges;
- b) Best management practices to be applied throughout the City's street network, parks, and other public facilities;
- c) Guidance regarding on-site stormwater retention and treatment facilities to reduce storm drain runoff;
- d) Financial incentives or disincentives to promote the incorporation of innovative best management practices;
- e) Mandatory evaluation of proposed land use and development plans for their potential to create groundwater contamination hazards from point and nonpoint sources; and
- f) Means of enforcing compliance with the Municipal Storm Water Pollution Management Program.

RC9.3 Work through the Coachella Valley Association of Governments and member jurisdictions to advocate for the construction of the Coachella Valley Water Aqueduct to ensure a long-term supply of water from the State Water Project.

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CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Culture and history are integral to the fabric of the Palm Springs community. Palm Springs culture dates back to the earliest civilization of the Cahuilla people, whose culture is present today. Palm Springs modern history has been shaped by many of the same forces shaping the southern California landscape. Palm Springs' cultural and historic resources continue to reinforce for each new generation the importance of studying and valuing the community's cultural and historic foundations.

Palm Springs History

More than 2000 years ago, the original inhabitants of the Palm Springs area were the Cahuilla Indians. Cahuilla villages were concentrated along the shores of ancient Lake Cahuilla, a freshwater lake formed by alterations in the course of the Colorado River. Prior to historic contact, the Cahuilla were primarily hunters and gatherers of wild plant foods and lived in permanent villages, linked by social and economic ties. The drying of Lake Cahuilla led to the gradual dispersal of villages to the canyons and alluvial fans in the mountains near permanent water sources. Complex communities were developed in Palm, Murray, Andreas, Tahquitz, and Chino Canyons where the Agua Caliente managed hundreds of plant resources. The Agua Caliente also fashioned a network of trailways connecting them with other cultures in southern California.

In the late eighteenth century, Spanish conquests throughout California led to the expansion of Spanish influence, including the establishment of missions. The Cahuilla's first encounter with non-Indians was with Juan Bautista de Anza's expedition, which sought to establish a route from Mexico to the missions of the California coastline. Spanish missions introduced agriculture, animal husbandry, Catholicism, and other European influences to the Cahuilla Indians. Mission life hastened the demise of traditional subsistence and social patterns of the Tribe.

Following the Mexican-American War of 1848, the State of California was admitted to the Union in 1850. In 1853, the federal government took an interest in the Coachella Valley and dispatched a land survey party, led by William P. Blake. Creating the first wagon route through San Geronio Pass, Blake's expedition paved the way for later ranchers, loggers, miners, and others to travel through the valley. Mining operations scoured the land for gold, limestone, tungsten, and garnet, among others, during the mid-1800s. Early miners and ranchers established wagon roads and cattle driveways along trails long used by the Cahuilla and their ancestors.

Pioneers settled unclaimed and surveyed public land under the Homestead Act of 1862 and the Desert Irrigation Act of 1882. Completion of the Southern Pacific Railroad through the desert in 1877 fueled a greater influx of pioneers and settlers into the Coachella Valley. Many of these original pioneers envisioned the Palm Springs area as a major agricultural and ranching center for the burgeoning Los Angeles region. However, natural disasters, including severe droughts during the late 1800s and early 1900s ended those aspirations. Palm Springs' destiny would ultimately be tied to its attraction as a resort community.

The World War periods shaped the evolution and growth of many communities, including Palm Springs. During World War II, the desert region became the training grounds for General Patton's troops as they prepared to invade North Africa. The El Mirador Hotel, the site of today's Desert Regional Medical Center, served as Torrey General Hospital, treating U.S. soldiers wounded in action. The Palm Springs airfield, originally built to handle military cargo and personnel planes, would become Palm Springs International Airport.

Palm Springs' evolution into a modern city began in the postwar period. Fueled by the construction of the Colorado River Aqueduct, which brought water to the desert, Palm Springs boomed. The Palm Springs International Airport now could attract tourists from across the country. The City's thriving downtown expanded along Palm Canyon Drive. Expanding residential developments began during the early 1960s when large tracts of popular and reasonably priced Modernist-style homes were constructed. Although development slowed during the 1980s and 1990s, several thousand new homes are presently proposed within and just outside its urbanized area.

Historic Places within the City

The City of Palm Springs contains properties that are listed by the federal government, State of California, and City of Palm Springs as historically significant. These resources are recorded by the University of California, Riverside, Eastern Information Center, and are described in detail below.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. The National Register includes districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are deemed significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Park Service of the Department of Interior administers the National Register program. Palm Springs does not have any sites listed within the City's incorporated boundaries on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Palm Springs has two prehistoric archaeological districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Andreas Canyon (or Rincon Village) is a group of sites dating from the pre-Columbian period to the twentieth century. Tahquitz Canyon is a large village site containing the remains of an aqueduct built by the Native Americans during the 1830s. Both these canyons are home to some of the largest standards of native fan palms in the United States, which provide habitat for sensitive, threatened, and endangered species. These canyons also have spiritual significance for the Tribe and played a large role in the history and culture of the Tribe.

Palm Springs also has prehistoric resources that are significant to the local Indian tribes, yet are not designated in the National Register of Historic Places. These include rock shelters, lithic workshops, milling features, and seasonal habitation areas. Areas likely to contain prehistoric village sites include Whitewater, Chino, Tahquitz, and Palm Canyons and the areas around the foot of the San Jacinto Mountains. “Sensitive” sites include those associated with traditional life, including trails, collection areas, springs and sources of water, burial grounds, sites referred to in literature and songs, and sites where people visited, recreated, traded, or processed food.

Additional discussion about **Class 1 and Class 2 Historic** buildings in Palm Springs can be found in the Community Design Element.

California Historic Places

Properties of California historic importance are designated in the State Historic Landmarks, Points of Historic Interest, and the California Register of Historic Resources programs. State Historic Landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific or technical, religious, experimental, or other value. Palm Springs does not have a designated State Historic Landmark. Frances Stevens School is listed on the California Register of Historic Resources. Four sites are designated as Points of Historic Interest: original Palm Springs, Desert Inn, Palmdale railroad, and El Mirador Hotel and Tower. The Desert Medical Center occupies the former hotel site and the tower is a replica of the original structure.

City Historic Places

The Historic Preservation Chapter of the Palm Springs Municipal Code sets forth the information about the Historic Site Register, which designates historic resources as **Class 1, 2, or 3**. Class 1 Historic Designation is intended for structures that remain, at their present condition, as they appeared during their period of significance. Class 2 Historic Designation is intended for sites no longer occupied by the historic structure or for structures significantly altered from the period of significance. More than 50 resources are covered under Class 1 and Class 2 Historic Designations. There are no designated historic districts at the time of this writing.

Palm Springs has other historical resources that are recognized locally. As a resort community, Palm Springs is rooted in the entertainment industry and has often been called the “Playground of the Stars.” One notable local resource is “Palm Springs Walk of Stars.” Over 250 stars adorn the sidewalks and entrances of Palm Canyon Drive and include some of Palm Springs’ and the entertainment world’s greatest personalities.

Preservation Efforts

Federal and state laws set the context for planning for the preservation of cultural and historic resources. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to maintain a National Register of Historic Places. NHPA mandates that federal agencies assume responsibility for the identification and preservation of historic properties owned or controlled by the federal government. The California Environmental Quality Act has a similar requirement for states.

The State of California Office of Historic Preservation receives funding from the federal government to implement the California Register Program and the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program. The CCLG Program is designed to encourage the participation of local governments in the identification, evaluation, registration, and preservation of historic properties in their communities. CLG communities are also eligible to receive a wide range of technical assistance and grants from the State Office of Historic Preservation.

The mission of the **Tribal Historic Preservation Office** is to ensure the continuance of the cultural heritage of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians for current and future generations. The Tribe will promote and protect its heritage while pursuing economic development on its lands and it will encourage developers and municipalities to partner in this effort.

The City’s Historic Preservation Ordinance is designed to preserve areas and specific buildings that reflect elements of its cultural, social, economic, political, architectural, and archaeological history. It also established a Historic Site Preservation⁴ Board to maintain and update the City’s Historic Resources Inventory, prepare local nominations for historic registers, monitor progress in preservation and development issues, and promote community awareness and participation in historic preservation. The Tribal Historic Preservation Office has jurisdiction over historic resources on reservation lands.

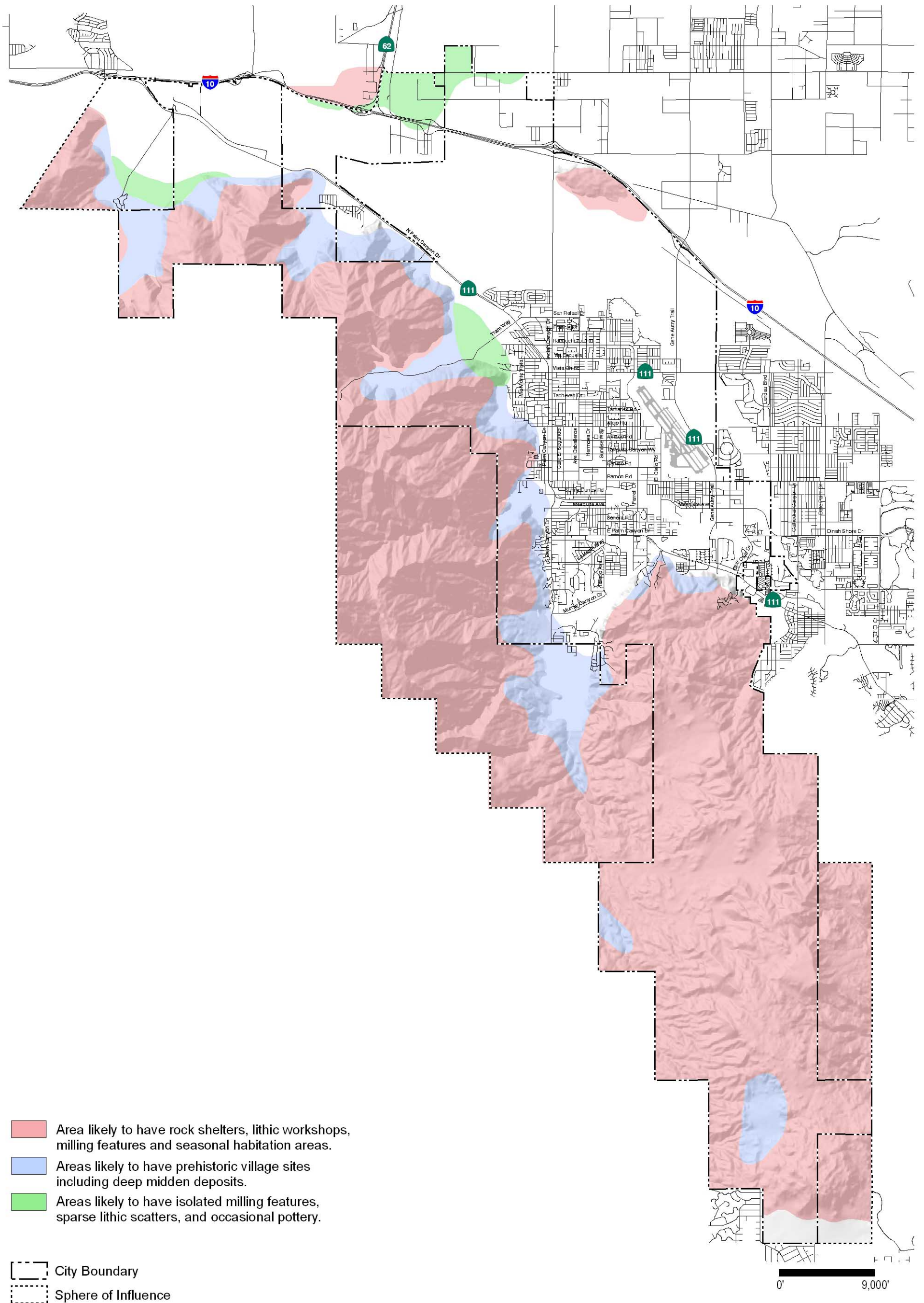
Under Senate Bill 18, California Native American tribes have the opportunity to influence local land use decisions at an early planning stage in order to assist in the protection of cultural places. A cultural place is a landscape feature, site, or cultural resource that has some relationship to particular tribal religious heritage or is an historic or archaeological site of significance or potential significance. State law requires local governments to consult with tribes prior to the amendment of general plans and specific plans, designation of open space in the general plan, and other situations.

Figures 5-5 and 5-6 provide maps of areas in the City known to contain or have the potential to contain cultural or historic resources. Generally, the

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areas containing the greatest sensitivity for cultural resources are located in the hillsides, canyons, and mountains in the south and eastern areas of Palm Springs, many of which were formerly occupied by the Agua Caliente and traversed by early pioneers and settlers. It is in these areas that midden deposits, which provide a useful resource for archaeologists who wish to study the diet and habits of past societies, are likely to be found. Common midden items include fragments of broken pottery, bits of tools, and other artifacts.

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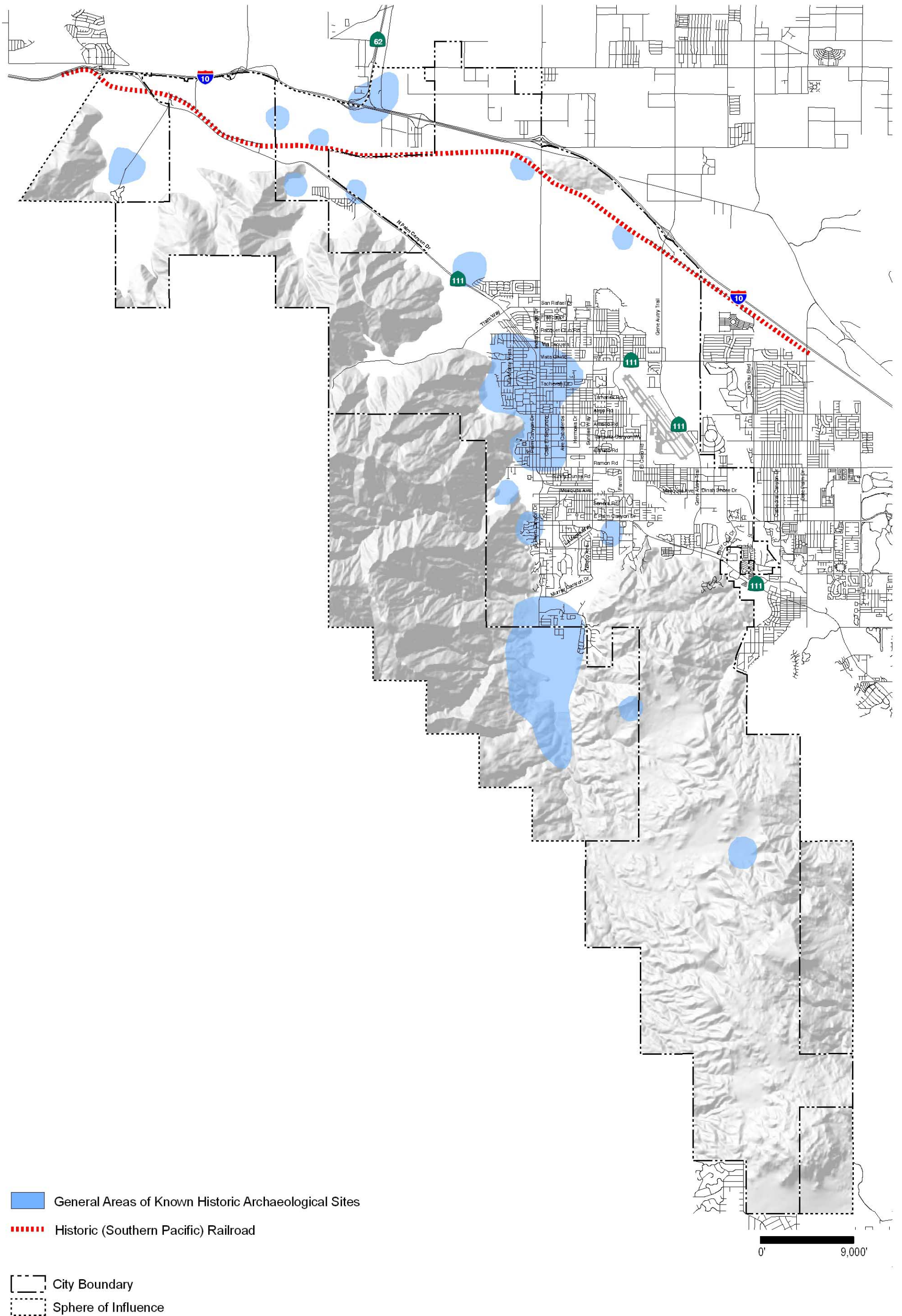


Cultural Resources: Prehistoric

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Figure 5-5

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Cultural Resources: Historic Archaeology

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Figure 5-6

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HISTORIC RESOURCES

Palm Springs benefits from a rich culture that is linked to the physical landforms and topography of the community, including the Santa Rosa Mountains, San Jacinto Mountains, and the canyons, hills, and peaks. These landforms hold and preserve a rich history and culture of the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, as well as Territorial Period settlers. Palm Springs modern history is evident in historic sites and structures, architecturally significant buildings, park and recreational assets, and the evidence of its history and culture in community events. Taken together, Palm Springs cultural and historic resources add to the quality of life and underscore the value and importance of preserving our past.

GOAL RC10:

Support, encourage, and facilitate the preservation of significant archaeological, historic, and cultural resources in the community.

Policies

- RC10.1 Support the preservation and protection of historically, architecturally, or archaeologically significant sites, places, districts, structures, landforms, objects, native burial sites and other features.
- RC10.2 Encourage and support the retention and adaptive reuse of buildings of architectural, historic, or cultural significance where financially feasible.
- RC10.3 Continue to support the role of the Historic Site Preservation Board to nominate and recommend to the City Council potential historic sites and the designation of historic districts in the City.
- RC10.4 Continue to protect individual historic sites, buildings, and neighborhoods as set forth by the Historic Preservation Ordinance and other related historic ordinances.
- RC10.5 Actively encourage and promote the understanding, appreciation, and preservation of the archaeological, historic, and cultural resources.
- RC10.6 Maintain active communication and cooperation with the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, the Palm Springs Historic Society and other historic preservation entities.

- RC10.7 Promote historic preservation-based tourism by raising awareness of the City's historic resources.

Actions

- RC10.1 Develop a formal historic and cultural preservation program that includes an update of the Historic Site Survey, historic preservation incentives program, and program funding strategies.
- RC10.2 Develop a comprehensive education program that emphasizes the importance of the preservation, management, and appreciation of the City's unique historic and cultural resources.
- RC10.3 Require site assessment conducted by a qualified specialist whenever information indicates that a site proposed for development may contain paleontological, historic, or archaeological resources.
- RC10.4 Establish an MOU with the University of California at Riverside to review and provide recommendations for projects potentially affecting archeological, historic, and cultural resources.

CULTURAL RESOURCES AND THE ARTS

The City is home to numerous theatres, art galleries, and programs that offer the opportunity to improve and enrich the quality of life for residents and visitors, and promote the City as a first-class tourist destination. The following describes some of the more notable resources.

Agua Caliente Cultural Museum

The Cahuilla people span nine reservations across southern California, linked by a shared language yet distinguished by tribal identities forged by geography, culture, and law. The Agua Caliente Cultural Museum is the centerpiece for recording, interpretation, and education about the culture and history of the Cahuilla peoples. The Museum is also the designated representative of the Tribe for the protection and repatriation of graves. In addition, the Tribe has established the Tahquitz Canyon Visitors Center, located at the foot of the Santa Jacinto Mountains. The Center provides information about and guided tours of Tahquitz Canyon and offers books and other material about the Cahuilla people in particular and Native Americans in general.

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Village Green Heritage Center

Village Green Center is comprised of two nineteenth-century pioneer homes, a Ruddy's General Store, and the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum. The McCallum Adobe, the oldest remaining building in Palm Springs, was built in 1884 for John McCallum, the first permanent white settler. Miss Cornelia White's "Little House" was built by the city's first hotel proprietor, Dr. Welwood Murray, in 1893, with railroad ties from the defunct Palmdale Railway. The Palm Springs Historical Society was formed in 1955 by Melba Berry Bennett, to record, preserve, and display historical artifacts of the area. The Historical Society manages the Village Green Heritage Center and is housed in the McCallum adobe, and the City maintains the grounds.

Palm Springs Air Museum

World War II was a defining moment in human history, costing nearly 70 million lives and forever shaping future generations. Palm Springs served as the desert training grounds for the conflict in North Africa and a crucial ferrying port for aircraft heading to the Pacific and European conflicts. The Palm Springs Air Museum is dedicated to preserving the legacy of legendary aircraft and trainers that helped change the course of the war. The Palm Springs Air Museum is a nonprofit educational institution, whose mission is to exhibit, educate, and memorialize the role of World War II combat aircraft and the role the pilots had in achieving victory.



Theater Venues in Palm Springs

The Annenberg Theater hosts an eclectic program of world-class dance, theatrical, and musical performances, including the Palm Springs International Short Film Festival. The International Film Festival is noted as one of the largest and most diverse festivals in the country, drawing films from more than 60 countries. The Plaza Theatre is home of the famous "Fabulous Palm Springs Follies." Palm Canyon Theatre also showcases Broadway productions, ballet, concerts, opera, symphonies, and plays, some of which are supported by the Opera Guild of the Desert.

Palm Canyon Theatre provides high quality, professional, and affordable regional theatre in the greater Palm Springs area. The gymnasium at the historic school at Frances Stevens Park was converted into a 230 seat banked stadium-style proscenium theatre, and the Palm Canyon Theatre opened its doors for its first production in the fall of 1997. In addition to providing an intimate setting for live theatre productions, the theater also serves as one of the venues for the Palm Springs International Film Festival



Palm Springs is also known for contributions to the visual arts. Shortly after the Southern Pacific Railroad opened the desert landscape to painters in 1876, California Impressionists came to the region's deserts, mountains, and canyons seeking fresh sources of inspiration. Their arrival helped to establish the "en plein air" school of painting outdoors. The Palm Springs area, with its culture rooted in the Cahuilla people, has also inspired Native American and pueblo artists, and the City today remains at the forefront of Southwest and Latin American traditions of art.

Palm Springs Art Museum

Palm Springs Art Museum is the renowned center for the visual arts in the Coachella Valley. Founded in 1938, the Museum promotes a greater understanding of art and performing arts through collections, exhibitions, and programs. The Museum's permanent art collection features nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first century works focusing on contemporary California art, classic western American art, Native American art, pre-Columbian art, Mexican art, European modern art, glass studio art, American contemporary twentieth-century architecture, and American photography. The Museum is also host to the Palm Springs International Film Festival.

The City's Public Art Commission, appointed by the City Council, oversees the City's public arts program. The Program is designed to develop and maintain a visual arts program for residents and visitors, add to the economic viability of the community, and enhance the environment and unique character of Palm Springs by providing for the acquisition and maintenance of quality works of public art.

GOAL RC11:

Sustain excellence, diversity, and vitality of the City's performing and visual arts, culture, history, and lifelong educational pursuits.

Policies

- RC11.1 Encourage and support, as feasible, a wide variety of performing arts productions, visual arts exhibitions and displays, the Art in Public Places program, and other local activities and programs.
- RC11.2 Consider expanding the functions of the Public Arts Commission to incorporate the performing and visual arts, history, and culture, and expand the Commission into a Cultural Arts Commission.
- RC11.3 Promote and support the arts and culture in Palm Springs through partnerships with the School District, Palm Springs Library, Historic Society, and the Tribe.

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- RC11.4 Celebrate and promote the arts, history, and culture of Palm Springs through special events, civic gatherings, and City marketing and tourism promotion efforts.
- RC11.5 Identify new cultural and arts opportunities to develop and add to the City's current array of resources, events, and activities.

Action

- RC11.1 Prepare a Cultural Arts Strategic Plan that includes the arts, culture, and history of Palm Springs. The Plan should include:
- a) identification of important cultural assets;
 - b) public arts program and guidelines;
 - c) joint program development with local museums, societies, educational institutions, and the Tribe;
 - d) funding to support cultural arts programs; and
 - e) an implementation schedule.
- RC11.2 Determine the usage for the Heritage Green Building when the Agua Caliente Cultural Center is moved to its own building on Tahquitz Canyon Way.

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