

OPEN

SPACE

Conservation Guidelines

for **Open Space Lands**
of the City of San Luis Obispo



city of
san luis obispo

Prepared by:

The Natural Resources Program

Administration Department

City of San Luis Obispo

City Hall – 990 Palm St.

San Luis Obispo

California 93401

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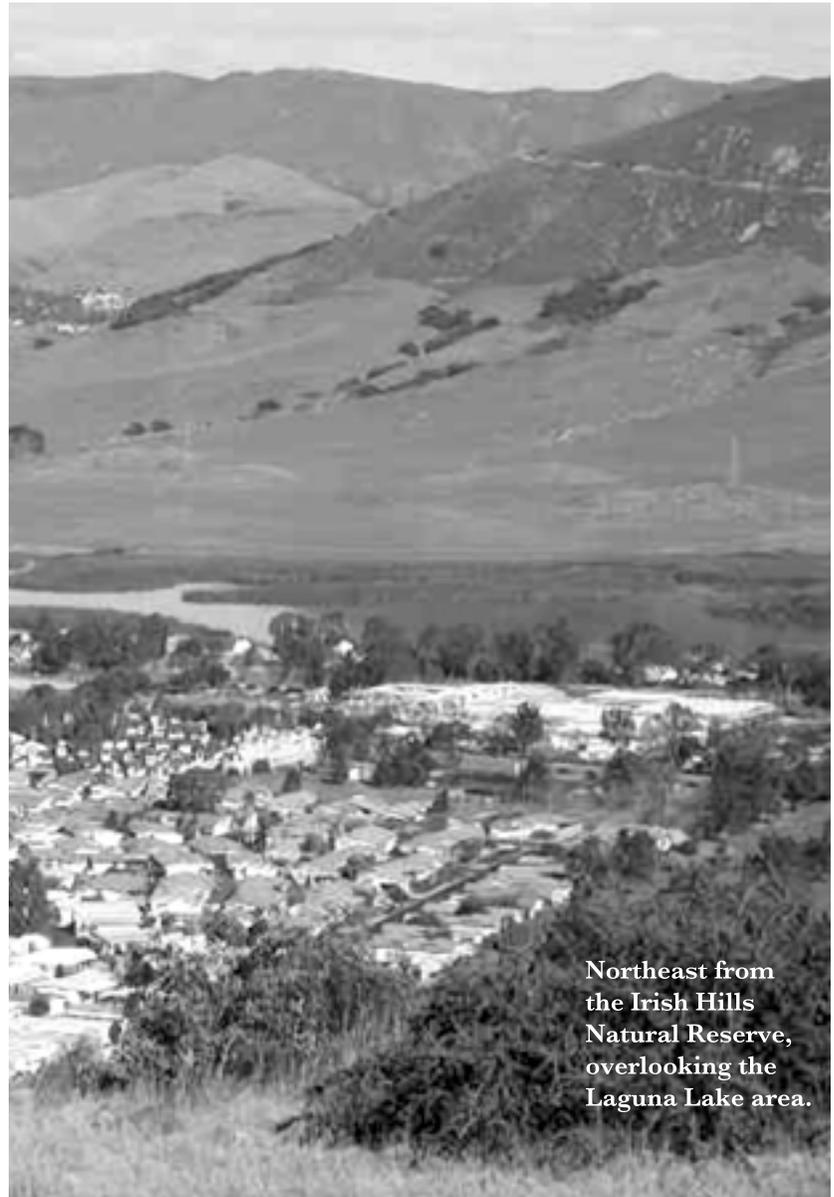
1 Executive Summary

The policies contained in this report provide guidance on the preparation of Conservation Plans for property acquired by the City of San Luis Obispo for open space purposes. They are not applicable to land owned by the City for parks, utilities, or other non-open space purposes.

Each City-owned open space has unique qualities; this requires each property to have its own plan to define the uses that will be allowed on the land, and to guide how the land will be enhanced, maintained and preserved.

The policies contained in this report describe a “tiered” approach to plan development that begins with the general and then leads to the specific. Each open space property will be divided into land use designations that define how the property will be managed. This report describes policies and guidelines applicable to each land use designation.

The final decision on which adopted policies and guidelines apply to individual open space properties will be made as the Conservation Plan for that property is prepared and approved. The Conservation Plan will translate policies into specific improvements, if any, necessary for each property, and give direction on how the property will be maintained. This report



Northeast from
the Irish Hills
Natural Reserve,
overlooking the
Laguna Lake area.

also describes the process by which Conservation Plans will be prepared and their content.

The concept of categorizing land use between or within open space properties has been adopted to provide a practical means of achieving management objectives. By dividing an open space property into discrete areas, each with a unique complement of resources

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Executive Summary | 3

Proposed land use designations

Conservation Guidelines Executive Summary *continued*

and requirements, the overall management objectives will be achieved by addressing the needs of smaller units.

The proposed land use designations are:

> **Habitat Area** – Land on which the primary objective will be to protect natural resources essential to the continued existence of native plants and resident and migratory wildlife.

> **Management Area/Trail Corridor** – Lands that have the potential to support low levels of recreational pressure or animal grazing; or those areas that may be impacted by adjacent land uses. Active management of land in these areas will be required to facilitate approved activities while protecting valuable natural resources.

> **Restoration Area** – Land on which restoration and enhancement of plant and animal habitats will be pursued in an effort to restore damaged or impacted natural resources.

> **Cultural/Historic Area** – Land managed to preserve and/or enhance cultural or historic

resources on the site and provide for their interpretation. Restorative measures may be implemented if necessary.

Agricultural Area – Land that will be managed for the production of row crops or forage (not including grazing lands) in a manner consistent with the protection and preservation of natural resources represented on the site.

For each land use designation policies have been developed to direct the management of:

> **Land and Vegetation** – Includes policies relating to the management of vegetation, pests, fire, mitigation projects, visual resources and scientific study.

> **Human Activities and Impacts** – Includes policies relating to the management of recreational activities and access.

> **Aquatic Systems** – Includes policies relating to the management of creeks, seeps and springs, stormwater, riparian vegetation, wetlands and aquatic habitat restoration efforts.

> **Agriculture** – Includes policies relating to agricultural practices on City-owned land.

> **Wildlife Protection** – Includes policies relating to the protection of wildlife and habitat, native plants, threatened species and species of special concern.

The final Conservation Plan for a City open space will include: a description of the resources represented on the property; an explanation of the land use designations identified; the management/resource protection



goals for each designation; an analysis of the actions required to achieve stated goals; and a description of the anticipated fiscal impact of adoption of the plan to the City.

2 Introduction

In January 1994, the City Council adopted an updated Open Space Element to the General Plan for the City of San Luis Obispo as required by California state law (Government Code, Title 7, Section 65302). The element's stated goals are to:

- > *Provide open space, agricultural, and rural lands that meet the needs of present and future City populations (OS 1.1.1).*
- > *Protect resources (such as creeks, sensitive habitat, and agriculture), and be sensitive to the factors which allow these resources to remain viable (OS 1.1.2).*
- > *Provide a greenbelt around the City's perimeter to: a) define the urban limit of San Luis Obispo; b) provide a physical separation between urban communities; c) protect important agricultural areas from urban uses and maintain agriculture as an economically viable activity (OS 1.1.3).*
- > *Provide for passive recreation where such low intensity uses will not damage the resources that are being protected, and preserve lands as open space or parkland which serve as important linkages between other open space lands, parks or trails (OS 1.1.4).*
- > *Provide continuing community education that underscores the value of the area's cultural, scenic and natural resources (OS 1.1.5).*



The Open Space Element contains numerous policies and programs to achieve the stated goals. Included among these are policies that govern the operation and management of City-owned open space (OS 14.2). Section OS 14.2.5E requires the preparation of plans that specify how City open space will be managed to provide recreation, resource protection, access, security, and long-term maintenance and operation. These plans will be prepared and implemented by the Natural Resources Program with the collaboration of appropriate City departments and input from the public and local agencies.

In recent years the City's open space system has grown rapidly. The amount and variety of property now in ownership require that the City systematically plan for the long-term stewardship of these areas. This will be done through the adoption of guidelines consistent with, and designed to implement the directives of the Open Space Element of the General Plan adopted in 1994.

City Natural Resources and Parks and Recreation staff, with support from staff from the Land

Conservation Guidelines
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In recent years the City's open space system has grown rapidly. The amount and variety of property now in ownership require that the City systematically plan for the long-term stewardship of these areas.

The goal of these guidelines is to provide a set of standards from which functional Conservation Plans can be tailored to address the specific requirements of individual open space properties.

Conservation Guidelines **Introduction** *continued*

Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County, have developed these guidelines to provide direction on the management and preservation of land, vegetation, aquatic, cultural, agricultural, recreational, and wildlife resources on City-owned open space.

The goal of these guidelines is to provide a set of standards from which functional Conservation Plans can be tailored to address the specific requirements of individual open space properties. Each document will be tiered, providing a menu of activities appropriate to each particular land use designation (or ‘area’ as defined in Section 3).

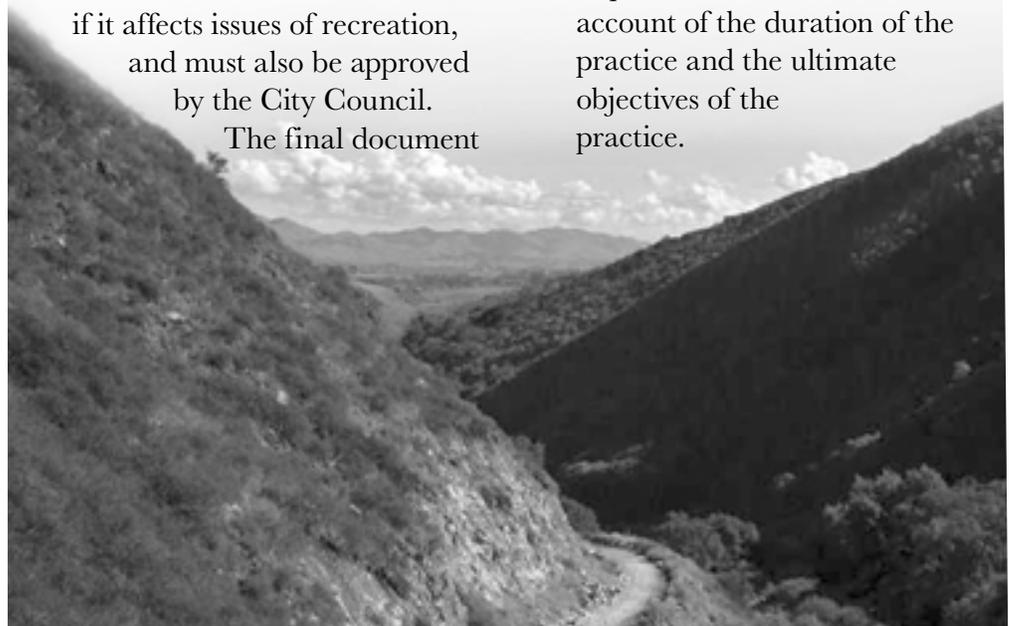
The recommendations contained within a Conservation Plan will be based on the unique complement of resources represented on a property, the activities and practices approved for it, and the influences of neighboring land uses.

The final product must be approved by the Planning Commission if it affects issues of land use and the Parks and Recreation Commission if it affects issues of recreation, and must also be approved by the City Council.

The final document

will provide information and recommendations on:

- > **The Prevailing Conditions on the Property** - A description of the physical, natural, and biological resources represented on a property (including species lists and distribution maps), resulting from initial surveys. This will evolve over time as knowledge of the property increases, resulting from field studies and observations made during the implementation of management and resource protection practices.
- > **Future Goals for the Property** - A detailed account of how a property has been classified (in accordance with the land use designations described in Section 3), the rationale behind the designations, and the future goals for each designation.
- > **Prescribed Means of Achieving Stewardship Goals** – A description of the resource management/protection practices to be implemented, and the rationale behind the implementation. A detailed account of the duration of the practice and the ultimate objectives of the practice.



3

Land Use Designations

The concept of categorization of land among or within individual open space properties is proposed. This will provide a means of achieving the management objectives of providing a diverse range of experiences and opportunities, while protecting natural resources on the property.

For example, it may be desirable to manage a portion of a large area for the protection of a sensitive species of plant or animal. Such areas would remain as natural areas and would not contain trails or other types of physical improvements. In other locations, managers may want to designate different types of open space experience which allow public use.

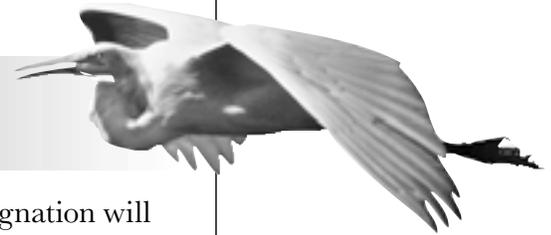
When deciding which designation to assign to a parcel of land the following factors will be taken into consideration:

- > The original intent of the City when purchasing the land (e.g. provision of recreational opportunities, protection of wildlife habitat, etc.).
- > The quantity and quality of natural and physical resources present on the land.
- > The approved uses for the land and the constraints upon the feasibility of those uses.
- > The influence of adjacent land uses.
- > The effect of the designation on wildlife corridors and maintenance of continuous tracts of wildlife habitat.
- > Legal requirements.

The policies implemented by City staff in the development of Conservation Plans will depend upon the unique combination of the above factors relevant to each open space parcel. A similar strategy of land categorization has been used by a number of private and governmental agencies to provide a frame work for the development of management and conservation plans ^(1,2).

Properties will be managed in accordance with the following land use designations:

3.1 Habitat Area



Areas receiving this designation will primarily be those which will not be significantly impacted by human activity. The primary purpose of this designation is to protect natural resources essential to the continued well-being of resident native plants and wildlife. This designation is synonymous to an “ecological area” as defined in the City of San Luis Obispo Municipal Code (chapter 12.22.30), which states that:

“(areas) shall be primarily utilized for their wildlife habitat or other ecological values and may be subject to restrictions upon, or prohibition of, public access.”

The preservation of resources and habitat shall be the dominant consideration in all management decisions where a choice must be made between preservation of the natural environment and recreational use. The long-term goal shall be to establish or preserve a fully functional self-sustaining ecosystem.

**Conservation Guidelines
Land Use Designations**
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The provision of open space seeks to achieve two overlapping yet conflicting goals: protection of the resource and opportunities for passive recreation.

The growing need for recreational resources requires systematic management and monitoring frameworks.

3.2 Management Area / Trail Corridor

The purpose of this designation is to recognize that some areas have the potential to support passive recreation, or may be adjacent to other land uses, and that active management of land in these situations will be required.

Examples of land receiving this designation may include existing areas that contain trails, and land adjacent to urban areas or beneath powerlines where active management of the land to reduce fire hazard is necessary.

When considering permitted uses and undertaking maintenance activities, efforts will be made to accommodate passive recreational activities as defined in the Open Space Element (OS 1.1.4). The amount of land within the City's

open space system receiving this designation will be kept to a minimum, and efforts will be made to reduce the impacts of human interaction on the habitat and natural resource value of the open space.

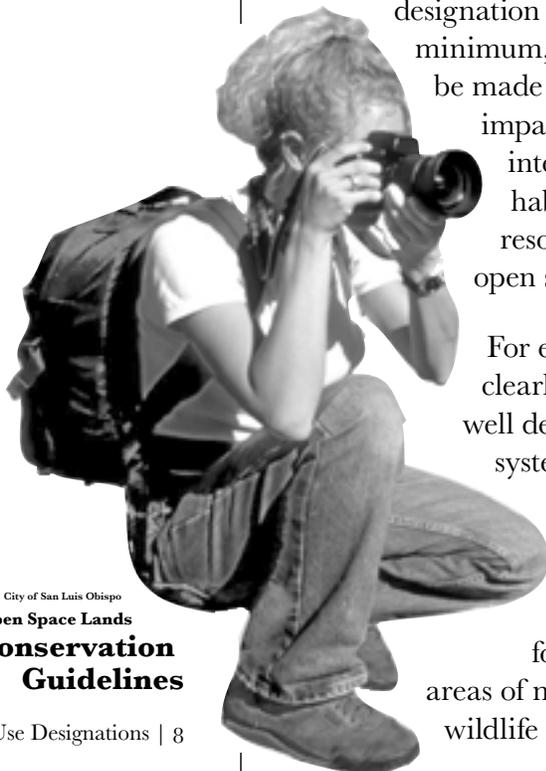
For example, a clearly defined and well designed trail system can limit the amount of damage caused by public use by focusing use in areas of non-sensitive wildlife habitat; and

well designed trails can eliminate many of the erosion problems associated with informal or 'social' trails. When new trails are built the width of the corridor will be kept to a minimum to reduce negative impacts associated with them. Management areas may be periodically closed if necessary for resource restoration or protection (e.g. protection of raptor nesting areas, etc.).

Under certain circumstances (e.g. if the City deems that a specific area is capable of sustaining increased levels of user pressure), active recreational activities that do impact the natural environment (such as mountain biking, or equestrian activities), may be permissible in designated areas. Input will be sought from the public and interested parties on whether to allow these activities, where they would be most suitable, and on the construction and design of suitable trails.

The growing requirement for recreational resources challenges resource managers to develop systematic management and monitoring frameworks. This is particularly challenging because the provision of open space seeks to achieve two overlapping, yet conflicting goals: (1) protection of the resource (OS 1.1.2); and (2) providing opportunities for passive recreation (OS 1.1.4). Inevitably, providing recreational access to open space results in some level of impact, the management challenge is to identify how much impact is acceptable.

To evaluate the effects of public access use on the resources indicators will be identified that reflect the types of impacts recreational use creates



(e.g. erosion problems; trail corridor width; visitor use); and these indicators monitored over time. The effectiveness of management actions designed to reduce impacts will be linked to quantifiable Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC's). Since the amount of acceptable impact is a value judgment, the determination of LAC's for an open space should incorporate the interests and values of various interested parties. Comment on the identification of LAC's, and how they should be monitored will be sought at public workshop sessions during which the Conservation Plan for a particular open space property is discussed.

If the monitoring program indicates that the status of a resource fails to meet the adopted Limits of Acceptable Change then management actions will be taken to correct the situation. Corrective measures may include but are not limited to: closure of an area; reclassification of a management area to a restoration area; re-routing of a trail; closure to certain activities (e.g. mountain biking) etc.

Management for approved low impact recreational activities may be active, such as trail building and maintenance, or may involve leaving an area in a natural state of succession (e.g. as grassland), requiring minimal maintenance.

Visual resources are also an important component of the City's open space. All management activities that may affect the viewshed (e.g. trail construction, utility corridors, fences, signs etc) will take into account and minimize adverse visual impacts.



3.3 Restoration Area

The purpose of this designation is to recognize that portions of some land acquired by the City have been degraded by prior activities and require restoration. This is seen as a temporary designation, and after restoration is complete the land would be re-designated as a 'Habitat' or 'Management' area.

Land receiving this designation may include riparian corridors where there has been collapse of the creek bank, eroded areas along old roads, or agricultural lands damaged by historic land uses.

The kinds of activities that would be performed are planting degraded areas with native species, and re-grading to prevent erosion or facilitate plantings.

Each 'Restoration' area will have a restoration blueprint associated with it which will make up an element of

Conservation Guidelines Land Use Designations

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Management for approved low impact recreational activities may be active, such as trail building and maintenance, or may involve leaving an area in a natural state of succession requiring minimal maintenance.

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Land receiving the Cultural / Historic Area designation will include archaeological sites as well as historical buildings and even mining or old railroad rights-of-way that provide a linkage to our local history.

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Land Use Designations** *continued*

the Conservation Plan. This will include an explanation of the restorative activities that will be performed, possible sources of funding, and a projected date for the re-classification of the area.

3.4 Cultural / Historic Area

The purpose of this designation is to provide special recognition and treatment of cultural and historic resources. Land receiving this designation will include archaeological sites as well as historical buildings and even mining or old railroad rights-of-way that provide a linkage to our local history. Guidance from the City’s Cultural Heritage Committee, recognized archeologists, and historical preservation experts will be sought in identifying these resources.

The kinds of activities that would receive priority are appropriate preservation and/or restorative measures implemented in accordance with policies adopted in the Open Space Element (OS 8.1.1). When appropriate, the City will apply for grant funds to preserve and restore such historically significant sites and buildings. Whenever possible, such areas will be open to the public and include features to educate visitors on the heritage value of the resource.

The City will require appropriate mitigation for impacts to recognized cultural or historic resources resulting from unforeseen City actions or projects.

3.5 Agricultural Area

The City of San Luis Obispo is committed to the protection of agricultural land around the City as a visual amenity for its citizens, and to assist in maintaining a viable agricultural economy. Therefore, the purpose of this designation is to identify sites within the City open space lands which are appropriate for continued agricultural production and provide the framework for their continued functioning in that capacity.

The kinds of uses that would be permitted include generally accepted forms of crop production, specialty crop production, and educational or research programs. Use of associated facilities such as barns, existing residences, and other buildings may also occur. Equipment and supplies may also be kept on agricultural lands in proper storage facilities. Potentially conflicting uses such as trails may be restricted or prohibited.

City-owned open space lands leased to agriculturalists will have included in the terms of the lease a program of approved “Best Management Practices” (BMP’s) developed for them that fosters sound stewardship of the land. BMP’s shall include at a minimum: accepted principals of proper tillage and soil and water conservation; principals of integrated pest management; and setbacks from sensitive habitats such as creeks or wetlands.

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General Policies**
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Fig.1

Open Space Lands Owned by the City of San Luis Obispo

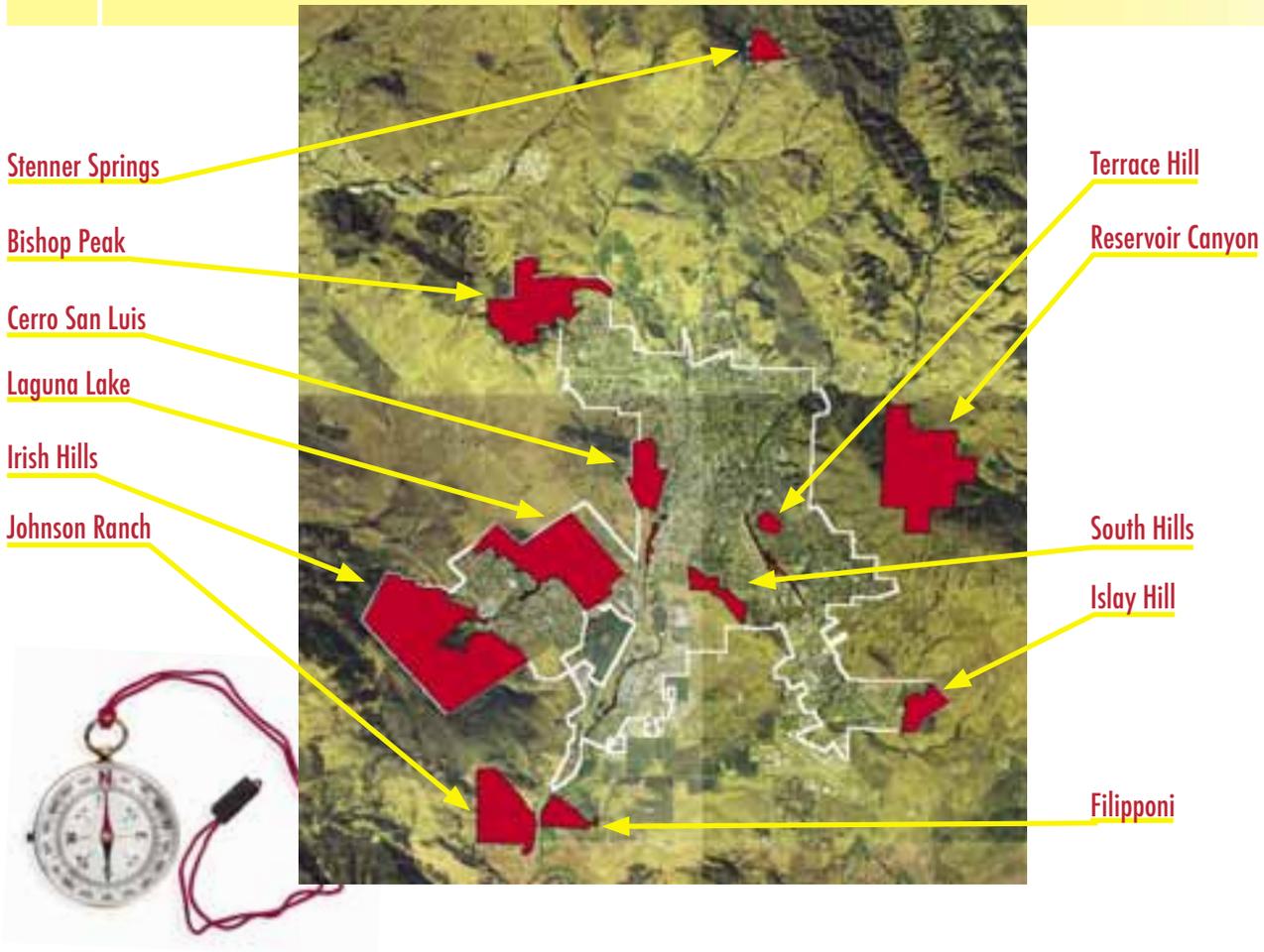


Fig.2

Example of Land Use Designations for the Irish Hills Natural Reserve



- 1, 6 Uninterrupted, pristine wildlife habitat areas.
- 2, 3 Grasslands requiring exotic vegetation removal.
- 4 New section of trail serving Madonna Road access.
- 5 Abandoned jeep road requiring regrading to address erosion.
- 7, 8, 9, 10 Sections of trail with excessive erosion problems requiring closure and/or revegetation.

Grazing will only be permitted during specific times of the year when the risk of damage to the resource is minimal.

4 General Policies

Policy relating to potential management decisions is required for each land use designation described in Section 3 of this document. Implementation of policy will be the responsibility of the Natural Resources Program in collaboration with other City programs or departments as appropriate. This will ensure that standardized management practices are applied throughout the City's open space system.

The policies and how they apply in each land use designation are summarized in tabular form in Appendix 1. Throughout the following discussion the relevant section of Appendix 1 is referenced (e.g. HA1; LV8; etc).

4.1 Land and Vegetation Management

Objectives:

To conserve, enhance, and restore natural plant communities; to protect sensitive and endangered plant species and their habitats; and to maintain biodiversity of native plants and animals.

Policies:

Vegetation Management

The City will monitor and manage vegetation to meet prescribed goals for the land (LV10). Management strategies such as the use of selective livestock grazing (LV1); physical pruning/removal of unwanted or

problematic vegetation (LV6); erosion and sediment control (LV7); application of Integrated Pest Management practices (LV12; LV13); and prescribed burning of native vegetative communities (LV8), will be implemented where necessary.

Restoration and/or re-vegetation techniques will be utilized when necessary to restore a degraded vegetative community to a fully functioning ecosystem. All restoration activities will utilize site- or region-specific native grasses, herbs, shrubs, and trees. Planting of invasive, non-native species will be prohibited (LV2). Adjacent land-owners will be encouraged to undertake efforts to control target non-native vegetation on their land (LV3).

All existing native trees will be preserved wherever possible, and new native trees planted to enhance wildlife habitat (LV4; LV5). Where possible, vegetation will be left to follow its natural course of succession and will not receive any form of active management. The ultimate goal will be to re-establish, or preserve, a self-sustaining ecosystem.

Grazing

Livestock grazing may be permitted on City-owned lands under certain circumstances (LV1). This shall be subject to conditions determined by the Natural Resources Program with input from the public, and stated in a grazing plan which shall be incorporated into the lease agreement. For example, grazing may be used as a vegetation management tool to reduce fire fuel load, as a strategy to remove weed species from a restoration area, or to maintain grassland areas by suppressing the natural process of

succession. City-owned lands will not be used for intensive grazing activities. Grazing will only be permitted during specific times of the year when the risk of damage to the resource is minimal, and grazing privileges may be revoked at any time at the City's discretion.

Fire Management

The status of vegetative communities will be monitored, particularly in grassland areas, to determine if brush, weeds or other heavy fuel loads are creating an unacceptable fire hazard (LV10). If the fire hazard is determined to be unacceptable, an evaluation will be carried out to determine the most desirable and effective means to correct the problem. Corrective measures may include, but are not limited to, thinning or removal of eucalyptus, pine, cypress, and shrubs or woodland occurring along the open space/urban interface (LV6).

If appropriate, the Conservation Plan for a specific open space will include a prescribed burn program. The decision to utilize prescribed burning of vegetation to reduce fuel load or manage vegetation composition will lie with the City with input from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (LV8).

At the urban/open space interface the City will, and adjacent land owners will be encouraged to, maintain adequate defensible spaces. This provides sufficient space between structures and flammable vegetation to allow the fire service to mount a defense against wildfire. This will help protect urban developments from fires originating on City-owned open space and vice versa (LV9).



The City will formulate Wildfire Preparedness Plans for individual open space parcels with the cooperation of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

This plan will identify appropriate firefighting methods for use in City open spaces that have minimal impact on the natural resources represented on the site, providing the use of such methods does not put property or human life at risk (LV9).

During periods of high fire risk the City reserves the right to close certain open space areas to the public (per San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, Chapter 12.22.050C). In the interest of public safety, open fires (including barbecues) are prohibited year-round (per San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, Chapter 12.22.050M [LV11]).

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General Policies**
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At the urban/open space interface the City will, and adjacent land owners will be encouraged to, maintain adequate defensible spaces. This provides sufficient space between structures and flammable vegetation to allow the fire service to mount a defense against a wildfire.

In the interest of public safety and resource protection, travel in open space lands is restricted to designated trails, and off-trail travel is discouraged.

Conservation Guidelines
General Policies *continued*

Pest Management

All City open spaces will be managed in accordance with established Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods to control pest infestations (LV12; LV13; AS7).

Appropriate pesticides will only be used to control noxious pests and weed species when other non-chemical methods of control (e.g. hand removal, grazing, planting of cover crops) do not succeed or are not practical.

The use of low toxicity, highly specific pesticides (e.g. the insecticide *Bacillus thuringiensis*), will be permitted on a localized scale to protect natural resources on City-owned open spaces. Highly toxic, broad-spectrum pesticides (e.g. organophosphates) will only be used in the case of a devastating pest outbreak when a wide variety of the City's natural resources are at significant risk. It is anticipated that the use of chemical pesticides on City-owned open space will be negligible.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) will be obtained from the manufacturer for toxicological information and personal safety protection requirements. All on-site pesticide handling will be done away from streams, ponds, and drainage areas. Records will be maintained for all pesticide uses as directed by state and federal regulations. Handling, disposal, and clean up of pesticides shall comply with the product label, and state and federal regulations (LV14).

Trails

The City is committed to the creation of an integrated trail system that connects City open space to other public or private lands (OS 12.1.2). The provision of multi use trails for recreational use has been identified as a major unmet need in the City's Parks and Recreation Element (PR 2.40.4)

Trails will be constructed and marked to facilitate recreational uses; they will be



located to minimize impacts to sensitive natural features and visual resources. All newly constructed trails will conform to an adopted City standard (e.g., a 1ft cleared tread [‘single-track’]; with not more than 5ft of vegetative clearance on either side). Use of trails may be subject to restrictions in some areas (HA12).

In the interest of public safety and resource protection, travel in open space lands is restricted to designated trails and off-trail travel is discouraged. Construction of new trails is prohibited, except where authorized by the City as part of an adopted Conservation Plan for the open space (HA12).

Signage on open spaces will be limited due to aesthetic considerations. In accordance with Open Space Element sections relating to public education, interpretive booths and signage will be constructed where appropriate. Size and style of signage will be standardized to maintain consistency throughout the City’s open space system (HA13).

Mitigation Projects

Mitigation for the impacts of private projects shall generally be conducted on private lands. However, special circumstances may arise that justify use of City-owned lands as a mitigation site, for instance:

Where there is a clear City benefit from a transaction that involves the use of City land as a mitigation site; or where General Plan goals will be furthered by the appropriate use of City lands for mitigation purposes.

Private mitigation actions on City-owned land shall have a clear resource protection or amenity value to the site, and shall be negotiated by the Natural Resources Program with input from the public and be subject to approval by the City Council. Under all circumstances a mitigation and monitoring plan will be prepared that meets the requirements of the relevant State or Federal regulating agency (LV15).

Scientific Study

Non-destructive scientific study and research will be permitted with written approval from the City’s Natural Resources Program. A condition of approval will be that the applicant provides the City with a written report of the findings of the study. This will assist the City in compiling a detailed inventory of natural and biological resources located on City open space lands (LV16).

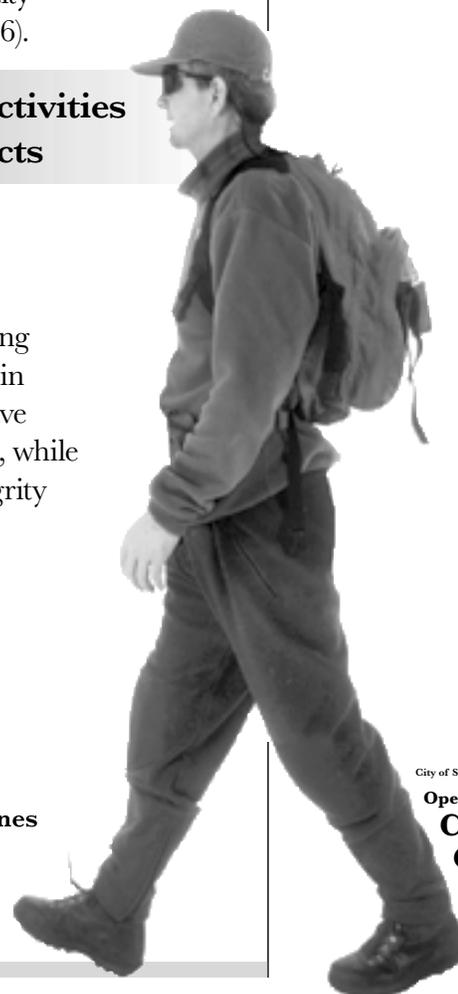
The system of open space lands that has been developed within and around the City is considered an important part of the community’s setting and character, providing opportunities for enjoyment of the natural environment by our citizens.

4.2 Human Activities and Impacts

Objectives:

Provide the public with a safe and pleasing natural environment in which to pursue passive recreational activities, while maintaining the integrity of the resource and minimizing the impact on the wildlife and habitat.

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General Policies

City open spaces will be managed to provide limited opportunities for low-intensity recreational activities such as hiking, bird-watching, photography, nature study, interpretive areas, and similar uses.

**Conservation Guidelines
General Policies, Human Activities
and Impacts** *continued*

Policies:

General

The system of open space lands that has been developed within and around the City is considered an important part of the community's setting and character, providing opportunities for enjoyment of the natural environment by our citizens. The Open Space Element states that uses of open space lands owned or managed by the City should:

“preserve the natural amenities of the open space land” and “may not include uses which would degrade or significantly impact resource preservation on-site or on an adjacent parcel” (per San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, Chapter 12.22.020).

Consistent with this direction, City open spaces will be managed to provide limited opportunities for passive recreation as defined in the Open Space Element (OS 1.1.4), i.e.:

“low-intensity recreational activities such as hiking, bird-watching, nature photography, trails, individual picnic areas, nature study, viewing stations, interpretive areas, and similar uses” (OS Def-5)

Such activities will only be permitted where there are no significant environmental or land use compatibility conflicts. All other forms of recreation, such as mountain biking and equestrian activities, are considered active recreation and will be subject to restrictions (HA2; HA4).

The City has adopted regulations that restrict or prohibit activities deemed inconsistent with the goals

for City open space as described in the Open Space Element. Activities which may be restricted or prohibited include: camping; horseback riding; bicycling; fishing; animal trapping; boating; walking of pets; consumption of alcohol; sound amplification; solicitation; possession of weapons; rock climbing; parasailing; operation of motor vehicles; and plant collection (San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, Chapter 12.22.050). The reader is referred to the Municipal Code for specifics. All management decisions relating to permitted activities on City-owned or managed open space will be consistent with these regulations (HA5; HA6; HA7; HA8; HA9; HA10; HA11).

Special events (e.g. competitive races, weddings or memorials) should not be permitted on City-owned open space (HA14).

In general, active recreation will be prohibited within creek corridors (except Mission Plaza and Mission



Plaza expansion areas), wetlands (except portions of Laguna Lake and the wetland area within Meadow Park), sensitive wildlife habitats, and areas where recreation would significantly mar the scenic quality of the site. No camping is allowed in any City-owned creek corridor or open space (OS 12.22.050B), as facilities to accommodate overnight use are not provided and such use can pose a significant threat to public health and safety.

Access

City open space lands, where public access is permitted, shall be open from dawn to dusk. It shall be unlawful to enter or remain within such lands between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise of the following day without approval from the City (HA1).

Temporary closure of a City-owned open space may be necessary if the prevalent conditions pose a threat to public safety. Such threats may include fires, landslides, or flooding (LV11).

Any section of the City's open space lands may be closed to the public at any time, and for any interval of time. Closures may be either temporary or at regular and stated intervals (daily or otherwise), and either entirely or merely to certain uses, as deemed necessary (per San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, Chapter 12.22.050B/C).

Public access may also be restricted in an area if the City determines that adopted Limits of Acceptable Change have been exceeded, as described in the Conservation Plan for the open space (HA1).

Access points to City-owned open space shall be established as inconspicuous trailheads, which may or may not provide off-street parking. Trailheads originating in residential areas will be located to minimize any potentially disruptive effects to the local neighborhood (HA3).

During the public review of the Conservation Plan for an open space, or at another appropriate time (such as review of a development proposal), public input will be sought on the design and location of trailheads originating in residential areas. Trailheads will consist of a gate preventing vehicular access, and a sign designating the trail. Specific facilities such as restrooms and garbage cans will generally not be provided.

Access issues will be reviewed on a 5-7 year cycle as the Conservation Plan is periodically updated and amended. Should public use of a trail or trailhead be causing disturbance to local residents, then measures to reduce these disturbances will be considered. These may include, but are not limited to, structural modification, re-alignment or closure of the trail or trailhead.

4.3 Aquatic Systems

Objectives:

To preserve and restore creeks, wetlands and ephemeral seeps or springs in a natural state, and provide suitable habitat to all native aquatic and riparian species. To minimize the impacts of harmful activities, such as the release of pollutants, while maintaining the

One objective is to preserve and restore creeks, wetlands and ephemeral seeps or springs in a natural state, and provide suitable habitat to all native aquatic and riparian species.





City-owned open space lands shall be regarded as refuge areas for native wildlife.

Conservation Guidelines **General Policies** *continued*

creek system as a means of conveying stormwater within urban areas.

Policies:

General

Riparian vegetation will be managed to preserve and enhance the wildlife habitat value of these important resources while minimizing the danger to life and property from flooding (AS8). New plantings within creek corridors or in setback areas will be restricted to trees, shrubs and groundcover native to the local area and normally found within creek corridors (AS4).

Due to their particularly sensitive nature, all wetland habitats located on City-owned property shall be identified, mapped, monitored and conserved. The City will avoid actions on open space lands that could result in a net decrease in wetlands. When wetland loss is unavoidable, a mitigation strategy will be adopted which has been approved by the appropriate state or federal regulatory agency, and replacement will be at a ratio of at least 2:1 (OS 6:C:1) (AS2).

Waterways, wetlands and floodplains will be managed to enhance and preserve their natural function and native fish and amphibian populations that utilize these areas as habitat. Public access will be regulated in riparian and wetland areas when necessary to protect natural resources (AS1; AS3). Erosion and sediment control practices sufficient to stabilize disturbed or actively eroding creek banks will be implemented when necessary (AS6).

Aquatic habitat improvements will be implemented as opportunities for restoration arise. All restoration work intended to improve in-stream habitat for southern steelhead will be in a manner consistent with guidelines published in the *California Dept. of Fish and Game Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual* ⁽³⁾ (AS4).

Where appropriate, efforts will be made to increase the public's knowledge and appreciation of the City's aquatic resources by provision of interpretative services on City-owned or managed property (AS5).

4.4 Agricultural Lands

Objectives:

The City is committed to the permanent preservation of farmlands to protect the agricultural economy of the County and the State (OS 10.1.1); and it is committed to conserve and maintain adequate natural resources (such as ground water) for productive agriculture (OS 10.1.5).

Policies:

In general, agricultural lands on City open space will be maintained for agricultural uses. Publicly owned agricultural lands will be leased back to farmers, or utilized as education or research projects of good stewardship practices. Organic farming practices shall be encouraged. All agricultural operations on City-owned lands must adhere to the policies and regulations outlined in a "Best Management Practices" document prepared for the site and incorporated into the terms of the lease. These will include the provision of protective measures

for wildlife habitat and endangered species identified on the site (AG1; AG2).

Agricultural practices on City-owned open space may be restricted if continuation of those practices conflicts with higher priority objectives.

For example, farmland may be reverted to wildlife habitat if the area historically had high habitat value (e.g. land adjacent to wetlands or creeks). Another example of such a conflict is the use of limited groundwater supplies for irrigation purposes on City-owned open space. This may be required for general consumptive use by the local populace during a period of extreme drought conditions.

Under such circumstances the City will make every effort to provide an alternative source of water to support agricultural practices. Alternative sources may be in the form of recycled water from the City's proposed wastewater re-use system.



4.5 Wildlife Protection

Objectives:

To conserve and protect native plant and animal species and enhance their habitats, in order to maintain viable wildlife populations within balanced ecosystems.

Policies:

Habitat

To the extent feasible, the City will protect and conserve local native habitat (such as grasslands) and the native wildlife that depends on it. The City will cooperate on a regular basis with other public and private land managers and recognized wildlife management experts, to address wildlife management issues on a regional scale (WP1).

City-owned open space lands shall be regarded as refuge areas for native

Conservation Guidelines General Policies

continued next page

The City is committed to the permanent preservation of farmlands to protect the agricultural economy of the County and the State. Organic farming practices shall be encouraged.

The habitat of native birds and migrants will be protected and enhanced.

Conservation Guidelines
General Policies *continued*

wildlife; activities inconsistent with this philosophy (e.g. hunting and fishing) will be prohibited (HA6; HA7).

Recognized restoration techniques will be used where appropriate to restore a degraded habitat to a fully functioning ecosystem. Only native plants will be utilized in restoration programs; the planting of invasive non-native species will be prohibited (WP2).

The creation of habitat islands (habitat surrounded by developed areas) will be avoided and necessary wildlife corridors (including corridors under proposed major roads, highways, or other impediments which restrict animal movement) will be provided whenever possible (WP1).



Birds

Habitat for native raptors (hawks, eagles, and owls) will be protected and enhanced (WP4), and nesting and roosting trees will be preserved wherever possible. Tree pruning will be performed only when nesting and brood rearing is not occurring.

If a structure that is acting as a perching site for raptors is removed, it will be replaced with a suitable alternative structure whenever feasible (WP4).

The habitat of native songbirds and migrants will be protected and enhanced whenever feasible and appropriate (WP5).

Exotics and Pests

Control programs may be implemented for exotic wildlife species, such as bullfrogs or carp, that are negatively impacting native species (WP7).

Mosquitoes may be controlled in the case of serious human or domestic animal health threat due to disease outbreak (e.g., encephalitis) (WP6).

The City will request the aid of the California Department of Fish and Game or County Office of Animal Control to remove any animal that poses a threat to public health or safety; or an animal that is preying on domestic animals or critical nesting birds (HA6; WP8). Such actions will be taken only when passive means have been exhausted (e.g. public education; signage; fencing; closure of open space, etc).

Species of Special Concern

Conservation of rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants and animals, and their supporting habitats, will take precedence over all other management objectives.

Management activities will promote, enhance, and protect habitat used by endangered species, threatened species, and species of local concern. In 'Restoration' areas management activities will enhance habitat that has the potential to support these species (WP9).

Native plant species of special concern (according to listings by the California Native Plant Society and the California Department of Fish and Game) may be reintroduced into suitable habitat on City open space only if targeted by special projects or grants (WP3).

5

Conservation Plan Elements

A Conservation Plan prescribes an ongoing land management program of activity undertaken to prevent or minimize adverse impacts of approved land uses on resources of importance to the City of San Luis Obispo.

Plans should be completed for a property within 2 years following acquisition. Plans for newly acquired properties adjoining existing City-owned open space may take the form of an amendment or addition to an existing Conservation Plan.

The overall purpose of a Conservation Plan is threefold:

- 1) to provide an account of the prevailing condition of a property;
- 2) to set out future goals for the property;
- 3) to prescribe a means of achieving those goals.

Each plan will consist of the following elements:

5.1 Executive Summary

This will include a concise summary of the plan's significant findings relative to recreational, visual, wildlife, habitat, agricultural, cultural/historic and land management needs on the property, and the actions proposed to meet those needs.

5.2 Inventory

The inventory will describe the physical, biological, natural, cultural and recreational resources represented on a property. Establishing a detailed resource inventory is likely to be a long-term, ongoing process. The initial plan will be formulated using the information gathered during base-line studies performed during preparation of the first draft of the Conservation Plan. Plans will be updated periodically as new resource information becomes available.

5.3 Goals and Policies

Clearly defined goals for the long and short-term management of the property will be set out; and the adopted policies and guidelines that will be implemented to achieve these goals identified. When a property has multiple land use designations as described in Section 3, individual sets of goals and policies may be established for each designation.

5.4 System Map

The system map will show the location and configuration of all proposed management, restoration, habitat, cultural/historic and agricultural areas together with justification for each designation. The proposed location of new trails or other physical improvements will also be identified.

Conservation Guidelines Conservation Plan Elements

continued next page

A Conservation Plan prescribes an ongoing land management program of activity undertaken to prevent or minimize adverse impacts of approved land uses on resources of importance to the City of San Luis Obispo.



The implementation strategy provides direction, and represents the City's decisions for addressing needs and goals based on the desires of the community and the City's fiscal constraints.

5.5 Needs Analysis

The Conservation Plan will include an evaluation of the adequacy of current management practices to satisfy present and projected public demands and desires for open space. The needs analysis will address such topics as:

- > A description of the existing wildlife habitat value of the property, together with recommendations on how to preserve and improve this value.
- > A description of any restorative work required on the property.
- > A description of current agricultural practices occurring on the property and how these practices are likely to change in the foreseeable future.
- > A description of cultural/historic resources occurring on the property and recommendations on how these resources can be preserved and/or restored in the future.
- > A description of current recreational activity levels, participation patterns, and trends likely to affect activity levels in the future. Recommendations on changes that need to occur to meet future goals (e.g., new trails or trailheads). Description of adopted Limits of Acceptable Change for the site, and identification of remedial measures that should be implemented if these limits are exceeded.
- > A description of educational resources (e.g. trail maps, brochures, interpretive signs etc), if any, appropriate for the site.

5.6 Implementation Strategy

The implementation strategy provides direction for the orderly and coordinated execution of the Conservation Plan. Actions should relate logically to the needs identified and should be based upon the adopted policies detailed in Appendix 1.

The implementation strategy represents the City's decisions for addressing needs and goals based on the desires of the community and the City's fiscal constraints. It should encompass specified time-periods and should be updated every 5-7 years to report on progress, make adjustments, and include any proposals for new actions.

The following points will be addressed when formulating the implementation strategy:

- > **Time Frame** – In this section the goals set out in Section 5.3 will be prioritized and a timeline established to define when these goals should be met.
- > **Physical Improvements** – This section will include a blueprint for any restorative work and/or plans for physical structures; such as informational booths, road improvements, footbridges etc, that are recommended for the site. When appropriate, detailed plans and engineer's drawings describing the structure should be included in this section.
- > **Cost Evaluation** – This section will contain the projected costs of recommended management activities and physical improvements. Any costs that fall outside the approved normal

operational budgets for the City's open space program will be acknowledged, and possible sources of external funding identified.

- > Staffing resources – This section will outline the staff necessary to meet specified goals. It is anticipated that staff from the Natural Resources Program and Parks and Recreation Department will play a major role in the day-to-day management of the open space system. Additional assistance from other City departments and groups such as the California Conservation Corps and local non-profits will be solicited as necessary.

5.7 Fiscal Impact of Council Adoption of Conservation Plans

Adoption of this document as a policy guide for City-owned open space lands will not of itself involve any expenditures not currently anticipated by the City Council or by staff. However, adoption does imply a greater level of inventory and planning for City-owned open space lands than has heretofore been the case. Therefore, some increased level of resource management activities (such as vegetation manipulation, prescribed burning, in-stream habitat enhancements, restoration of degraded areas, and development of trailheads and trail systems) is a possible result of this planning effort as it applies to each open space area. Additional effort and costs will be estimated as part of the development process for individual Conservation Plans.

5.8 Amendment

The Conservation Guidelines, and individual Conservation Plans, or any portion thereof, may be considered for amendment upon request. Any citizen or other interested party may initiate such a request, however such requests shall be directed to the City Administrative Officer or designee. Such a request will include the nature of the requested amendment and rationale for the request. If appropriate, the amendment will be processed in the same manner as the original Conservation Guidelines or individual Conservation Plan.

6 References

1. City of Fort Collins. Natural Resources Dept. 1995. *General Management Guidelines for City-owned Open Spaces and Natural Areas*. 281 N. College Ave. P.O. Box 580, Fort Collins, CO 80522-0580.
2. Jefferson County Open Space. 1998. *Open Space Master Plan*. 700 Jefferson County Pkwy. Suite 100 Golden, CO 80401.
3. Flosi, G., S. Downie, J. Hupelain, M. Bird, R. Cowy, and B. Collins. 1998. *California Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual*. California Department of Fish and Game, Inland Fisheries Division, Sacramento, CA. 227 pages.

[We stand] today poised on a pinnacle of wealth and power, yet we live in a land of vanishing beauty, of increasing ugliness, of shrinking open space and of an overall environment that is diminished daily by pollution and noise and blight. This, in brief, is the quiet conservation crisis.

– Stewart L. Udall



Fairy Lantern



Chocolate Lily



Monkeyflower



Wild Morning Glory



Columbine



Lupine

7

Glossary

Active Recreation All forms of high intensity recreation not consistent with the adopted definition of passive recreation as described in the Open Space Element (OS Def-5) of the City's general plan (includes: horse riding; biking; and team events)

Agricultural Areas Lands utilized for the production of approved cultivated row crops. Such lands may be used to produce forage crops, but does not include grazing land.

Best Management Practices (BMP's) A technique or methodology that through experience and research, has proven to reliably lead to a desired result.

Conservation All the processes of looking after places or objects so as to retain their natural functions.

Conservation Plan A plan for the long term stewardship and conservation of resources located on City-owned open space, that are of importance to the citizens of the City of San Luis Obispo.

Cultural/Historic Areas Lands that support resources of significant cultural or historic interest.

Ecosystem Unit including a community of organisms, the physical and chemical environment of that community, and all the interactions among those organisms and between the organisms and their environment.

Grazing The consumption of forage in situ by wild and/or domestic animals.

Habitat The normal locality or place of living for an organism.

Habitat Areas Lands that have special value as wildlife habitat and will be protected as such.

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC's) A planning tool that establishes explicit measures of acceptable and appropriate resource conditions, as well as strategies for maintaining or achieving those desired conditions.

Management Areas Lands requiring active management of vegetation for reasons of public safety or to accommodate City-approved grazing leases.

Mitigation The restoration, creation, enhancement and preservation of habitat, undertaken expressly to provide for the advance compensation of unavoidable habitat losses usually resulting from development actions.

Passive Recreation Low-intensity recreational activities such as hiking, bird-watching, nature photography, trails, individual picnic areas, nature study, viewing stations, interpretive areas, and similar uses (OS-Def 5).

Pesticide Poisonous or hazardous chemicals of any kind used to control noxious pests, insects or weed species.

Preservation Maintenance of land or habitat in its existing state and preventing deterioration.

Prescribed Fire (Burn) A fire deliberately lit and controlled by humans, usually as part of a land management program, for example, to reduce the chance of uncontrollable wildfires or to control weeds.

Restoration Areas Lands actively managed to restore habitat value that has been degraded by historic land use practices.

Riparian Geographically delineated areas with distinct resource values that occur adjacent to streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and other specified water bodies.

Trail Corridors Areas extending up to, but not more than 5' either side of an existing or proposed City-approved trail.

Viewshed The area which can be seen from any particular viewing place, vista or viewpoint and conversely the areas from which these view points may be seen.

Wetlands Areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing and associated riparian vegetation.

Wildlife Corridors Areas of land or water that are capable of providing habitat in their own right while allowing for use by fauna to move to and between other habitats.

Wildfire Preparedness Plan A plan formulated by the City in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, to identify appropriate methods of fire fighting on City-owned open space lands. Such methods should effectively control wildfires with minimal risk to life and liberty, and minimize the amount of damage caused to the natural resources represented on the site.



Hummingbird Sage



Blue-Eyed Grass



Wild Rose



Pearly Everlasting



Paintbrush



California Poppy

City of San Luis Obispo

**Open Space Lands
Conservation
Guidelines**

8
Appendix 1



Conservation Guidelines for City Open Space Lands

The following table contains the official language that will be used to direct the preparation of individual Conservation Plans for land acquired for open space purposes, and shows how policies will be implemented within the various land use designations.

| | Habitat | Restoration | Management | Cultural/Historic | Agricultural |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|-------------------|-----------------|
| Land and Vegetation | | | | | |
| LV1 Livestock grazing | Generally prohibit (may be permitted under special circumstance). | Permit the use of livestock grazing, with a grazing plan, as a management technique to help maintain a balanced and diverse ecosystem; increase the biodiversity of native plants; or reduce fire risk. | | | |
| LV2 Native vegetative communities | Preserve and protect native vegetative communities. Restore native vegetative communities by employing restoration and/or re-vegetation techniques. Utilize only site or region specific native trees, grasses, herbs and shrubs; prohibit the planting of invasive, non-native species within native vegetative communities. | | | | Not Applicable. |
| LV3 Adjacent land | Encourage adjacent landowners to undertake efforts to control targeted non-native vegetation on their lands. | | | | |
| LV4 Native trees | Preserve all native trees when feasible. | | | | |
| LV5 Tree planting | Plant new native trees to increase benefits to wildlife where appropriate. Use fencing to exclude livestock and damaging wildlife (e.g. deer) from newly planted areas. | | | | Not Applicable. |
| LV6 Vegetation thinning | Prohibit. | | Thin eucalyptus, pine and cypress plantations, shrub-land or woodland areas occurring along the wildland/urban interface to create a less fire-prone condition. | | Not Applicable. |
| LV7 Erosion control | <p>Implement erosion and sediment control practices (e.g. vegetation, water bars etc) sufficient to stabilize disturbed areas, where appropriate.</p> <p>Reclaim burnt areas that are deemed susceptible to excessive erosion.</p> <p>Manage unpaved access roads to minimize erosion or decommission and re-vegetate them.</p> | | | | |
| LV8 Controlled fires | Use controlled burns for vegetation or pest management, as per prescribed burn plan prescribed for the site. All affected residents will be notified prior to any prescribed burn. | | | | |
| LV9 Fire safety | <p>Maintain adequate defensible spaces at the urban/open space interface, providing sufficient space between structures and flammable vegetation within which the fire service can mount a defense against fire.</p> <p>Formulate fire preparedness/management plans for City open spaces. Employ firefighting methods which have the least impact on the natural resources represented on the site, providing the use of such methods do not put property or human life in danger.</p> | | | | |

| | Habitat | Restoration | Management | Cultural/Historic | Agricultural |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------|------------|-------------------|--------------|
| LV10 Monitoring | <p>Monitor the stability of plant communities in selected areas, particularly grassland areas, to determine if brush, weeds or other heavy fuel materials are encroaching.</p> <p>Employ Limits of Acceptable Change standards to evaluate the impacts of human use on land and vegetation.</p> | | | | |
| LV11 Public safety | <p>Reserve the right to close certain open space areas to the public during periods of extreme fire hazard conditions or other emergencies, and/or to protect natural resources, including endangered species. Reserve the right to limit the use of vehicular traffic and machinery on agricultural lands during periods of extreme fire risk. Closures will be made on a daily basis, except in certain areas mutually agreed upon for long-term closure.</p> | | | | |
| LV12 IPM methods | <p>Manage City open spaces in accordance with established Integrated Pest Management (IPM) methods to control noxious weed and pest infestations.</p> | | | | |
| LV13 Pesticide usage | <p>Use appropriate herbicides only when other IPM measures have failed to control noxious weeds and invasive, non-native shrubs.</p> <p>Use insecticides only for devastating pests (e.g. gypsy moth outbreak).</p> | | | | |
| LV14 Pesticide safety | <p>Obtain Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) from the manufacturer for toxicological information and personal safety protection requirements.</p> <p>Handle on-site pesticides away from streams, ponds and drainage areas.</p> <p>Maintain records of the use of restricted use pesticides as directed by state or federal regulations.</p> <p>Handle, dispose, and clean up pesticides in compliance with the product label, and state or federal regulations.</p> | | | | |
| LV15 Mitigation Projects | <p>Permit the use of degraded areas on City open space for mitigation projects:</p> <p>Where there is a clear City benefit from a transaction that involves the use of City land as a mitigation site; or</p> <p>Where General Plan goals will be furthered by the appropriate use of City lands for mitigation purposes.</p> <p>Private mitigation actions on City-owned land shall have a clear resource-protection or amenity value to the site, and shall be subject to approval by the City Council. Under all circumstances a mitigation and monitoring plan will be prepared that meets the requirements of the relevant state or federal regulating agency.</p> | | | | |
| LV16 Scientific Study | <p>Permit non-destructive scientific study and research on City open spaces with the prior evaluation and written approval of the Natural Resources Program. Approval will only be granted on the condition that a written report of findings is submitted to the City on completion of the study.</p> | | | | |

| | Habitat | Restoration | Management | Cultural/Historic | Agricultural |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|---|------------------------------------|--------------|
| Human Activities and Impacts | | | | | |
| HA1 Public access | Discourage. | Prohibit. | <p>Permit public access to City open spaces from dusk until dawn.</p> <p>Entry to such lands shall be unlawful between the hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise of the following day without approval of the City.</p> <p>Public access may be restricted in an area if the City determines that the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC's) have been exceeded; as described in the Conservation Plan for the open space.</p> | Prohibit, unless posted otherwise. | |
| HA2 Passive Recreation | Discourage. | Prohibit. | <p>Permit passive recreation as defined in the City's Open Space element (OS 1.1.4).</p> <p>Such activities will only be permitted where there are no significant environmental or land use compatibility conflicts, as determined by the City.</p> | | |
| HA3 Trailheads | Prohibit. | | <p>Establish access points to City-owned open space as an inconspicuous trailhead which may or may not provide off street parking.</p> <p>Locate trailheads originating in residential areas in such a manner as to minimize any potentially disruptive effects to the local neighborhood.</p> | Prohibit. | |

| | Habitat | Restoration | Management | Cultural/Historic | Agricultural |
|--|---|-------------|---|-------------------|--------------|
| HA4 Active Recreation | Prohibit. | | Permit in designated areas as per Open Space regulations, (San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, 12.22.040). | Prohibit. | |
| HA5 Dogs | Prohibit. | | Permit dogs on trails on a leash (per San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, Chapter 12.22.050F.1.e). Unless otherwise posted. | | |
| HA6 Animal trapping/ collecting/ hunting | Prohibit, except for special circumstances to trap nuisance wildlife (i.e. wildlife posing a threat to people, property or pets neighboring open space areas; or users of open space when other means of addressing the problem [e.g. temporary closure] have failed), or to conduct research in cooperation with the City's Natural Resources Department. Any trapping activities will require written approval from the City. | | | | |
| HA7 Fishing | Prohibit, unless posted (except for Laguna Lake). | | | | |
| HA8 Weapons | Prohibit the use of firearms, bows, paintballs, and fireworks on City open space lands (San Luis Obispo Municipal Code, 12.22.050M). | | | | |
| HA9 Rock climbing | Prohibit. | | Permit only in designated areas with prior City authorization. Said areas are subject to closure during raptor nesting periods. | Prohibit. | |
| HA10 Parasailing | Prohibit. | | Permit only in designated areas and with prior City authorization. Said areas are subject to closure during raptor nesting periods. | Prohibit. | |

| | Habitat | Restoration | Management | Cultural/Historic | Agricultural |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------------------|
| HA11 Collection of specimens | Prohibit collection of any plants, animals or minerals from the natural environment, except where authorized as an integral part of the land management program or for scientific study (with written City approval). Approval will only be granted on the condition that a written report of findings is submitted to the City on completion of the study. | | | | |
| HA12 Trails | Prohibit. | | Construct and mark trails to facilitate recreational uses as part of an approved trail systems plan. Place trails to avoid impacts to sensitive features of the site. Prohibit construction of trails without city authorization. Restrict the use of trails on sensitive sites. | | Prohibit unless otherwise posted. |
| HA13 Visual Resources and Signage | All management activities that may affect the viewshed (e.g. trail construction, utility corridors, fences, signs etc) will take into account and minimize adverse visual impacts. Allow interpretive features for educational purposes. | | | | |
| HA14 Special Events | Special events (e.g. competitive races, weddings or memorials) should not be permitted on City-owned open space. | | | | |
| Aquatic Systems | | | | | |
| AS1 Aquatic habitat | Conserve, enhance and restore native fish and amphibian populations and their habitats; monitor fisheries resources to determine species composition, size, and population; and cooperate with the State Department of Fish and Game to conserve, enhance and manage its fisheries resources for ecological benefit. | | | | |
| AS2 Wetland habitat | Avoid initiation of actions on City open space lands that could result in a net decrease in wetlands. If City actions do result in a decrease in wetlands mitigation shall consist of creating twice the area of habitat of equal quality (OS 6.C.1). Manage wetland areas to enhance and preserve populations of native species. Restrict livestock access to riparian and wetland areas, when necessary to protect natural resources. | | | | |

| | Habitat | Restoration | Management | Cultural/Historic | Agricultural |
|-------------------------|--|--|------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| AS3 Public access | HA1 applies in riparian and wetland areas. Public access to these areas will be regulated to protect natural resources. | | | | Not Applicable. |
| AS4 Restoration | <p>Restore and rehabilitate creek, wetland and seep/spring vegetation to enhance and preserve the natural value of the habitat. New plantings within creek corridors should be California native plants (trees, shrubs and ground cover) normally found in creek corridors.</p> <p>Follow pertinent guidelines published in the California Department of Fish and Game Salmonid Stream Habitat Restoration Manual (CDFG, 1988), when performing in-stream restoration work designed to improve habitat for southern steelhead.</p> | | | | Not Applicable. |
| AS5 Public awareness | Increase public knowledge and appreciation of natural resources and provide public interpretative services on City-owned or managed property. | | | | |
| AS6 Erosion control | Implement erosion and sediment control practices sufficient to stabilize disturbed or actively eroding creek banks. | | | | |
| AS7 Pesticide use | Limit the use of pesticides within creek corridors. When herbicides are used they should be hand applied only to those species identified as appropriate to remove. | | | | |
| AS8 Flood control | Generally prohibit (may be permitted under special circumstance). | Manage waterways, wetlands and floodplains to enhance and preserve their natural function and native fish and amphibian populations that utilize these areas as habitat. | | | |

| | Habitat | Restoration | Management | Cultural/Historic | Agricultural |
|---|-----------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|--|
| Agriculture | | | | | |
| AG1 Protection of agricultural lands | Not Applicable. | | | | Maintain agricultural lands for agricultural uses, except in cases where: past agricultural practices have degraded the area and restoration is needed; or threatened or endangered species occupy the area, and protection of sensitive habitat is necessary. |
| AG2 Leasing of publicly owned lands | Not Applicable. | | | | Lease publicly owned agricultural lands back to farmers, or utilize such land demonstration projects that will benefit local farmers and the environment. |

| | Habitat | Restoration | Management | Cultural/Historic | Agricultural |
|--|---|-------------|------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Wildlife Protection | | | | | |
| WP1 Wildlife and habitat protection | <p>Protect native wildlife and habitat. The City will cooperate on a regular basis with other public and private land managers and recognized wildlife management experts to address wildlife management issues on a regional scale.</p> <p>Avoid the creation of habitat islands (habitat surrounded by developed areas); provide necessary wildlife corridors (including corridors under proposed major roads and highways, around agricultural land, or other impediments that restrict animal movements).</p> | | | | |
| WP2 Habitat restoration | Employ restoration techniques where required to achieve a self sustaining natural system; use only native plants in restoration areas, and prohibit the planting of invasive, non-native species. | | | | Not Applicable. |
| WP3 Reintro- ductions | Target native species reintroductions for special projects. | | | | Not Applicable. |
| WP4 Raptors | <p>Promote, enhance, and protect habitat of raptors (hawks, eagles and owls).</p> <p>Preserve nesting and roosting trees wherever possible.</p> <p>Delay tree pruning until nesting and brood rearing is completed.</p> <p>Preserve or replace historic raptor perching sites wherever possible.</p> | | | | |
| WP5 Song birds | Promote, enhance and protect habitat of native songbirds as appropriate for site characteristics. | | | | |
| WP6 Mosquitoes | Control mosquitoes in the case of serious human or domestic animal health threat due to disease outbreak (e.g., encephalitis). | | | | |
| WP7 Exotics | Control exotic wildlife species (e.g. bull frogs, carp) if they are endangering the continued existence of native species of special concern. | | | | |
| WP8 Animal control | Control problem individual animals (e.g., Coyotes) preying on domestic animals or nesting birds. Action will be taken only when passive means of control been exhausted (e.g. public education; signage; closure of open space etc). | | | | |
| WP9 Rare, threatened and endangered species | Conserve rare, threatened, and endangered species of plants and animals and their supporting habitats in precedence over all other activities. | | | | |



city of san luis obispo
natural RESOURCES
protection program

Neil Havlik, Ph.D.

Natural Resources Manager

805 | 781-7211

Michael Clarke, Ph.D.

Biologist

805 | 781-7511

Melissa Ellsworth

Administrative Assistant

805 | 781-7123



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GAIA GRAPHICS
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805 | 544-9676
www.gaiagraphics.com

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