

General Plan Land Use Element (2019)

Goals and Objectives

The land use strategies and policies in this section are organized under the following goals:

1. **Implement Sustainable Planning and Development Practices** - The City will guide development and infrastructure to be sustainable. This includes minimizing our impact on natural resources—especially wetlands, rivers, marinas, bays and the Pacific Ocean. New developments will be more compact to create walkable environments in the downtown, along corridors, surrounding transit stations and throughout Long Beach. Emphasis will be placed on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through conservation practices, providing transportation alternatives, and pursuing renewable energy sources.
2. **Stimulate Continuous Economic Development and Job Growth** - The City will continue to leverage its regional location and jobs base to make Long Beach a desirable place for businesses to locate. Priorities include creating jobs and promoting the City as a regional hub for commerce and education, in order to increase the jobs per household ratio. Investments will expand the application of emerging technologies, attract green businesses, and diversify employment opportunities. Pursued opportunities will expand creative and flexible building spaces in a way that incubates new local businesses. This Land Use Plan will be implemented in a manner allowing businesses to successfully operate within and support local neighborhoods. Long Beach will continue to lead as a regional destination for both small and large businesses, airport and port facilities, utilities, public administration, healthcare and educational campuses, manufacturing, transportation and logistics, and professional and information services
3. **Accommodate Strategic Growth and Change** - Long Beach continues to evolve. The City will accommodate development growth within strategic locations, while preserving established neighborhoods. Specific areas identified for growth are located in the downtown, around regional-serving facilities, along major corridors, and in transit-oriented development areas. Focusing on infill will allow new development to efficiently utilize existing land resources and infrastructure, promoting steady and sustainable growth in transit-accessible areas. The City will create attractive, distinct and sustainable commercial, education and employment centers and corridors.

4. **Support Neighborhood Preservation and Enhancement** - Long Beach is fundamentally a city of neighborhoods. This Land Use Plan provides the framework for protecting and enhancing low-density residential neighborhoods. These neighborhoods will be diverse, safe, healthy and sustainable places, with a mix of residential building types and connected streets that facilitate walking, biking and transit. From our historic and founding neighborhoods, to more contemporary ones, Long Beach endeavors to preserve and enhance our neighborhoods for generations to come. The City will strive to provide amenities and enhance facilities to support the Single-Family Neighborhoods and Multi-Family –Low and Moderate PlaceTypes. Proposed improvements include establishing commercial and retail uses on the periphery of neighborhoods or in commercial hubs, to better serve residents, integrating public facilities and open spaces into neighborhoods, providing convenient transit connections and walkable environments, and incorporating a variety of design enhancements and sustainable practices. The City will employ a range of land use compatibility strategies to ease transitions between new development and established lower-density residential buildings
5. **Diversify Housing Opportunities** - Long Beach will offer an increasingly diverse housing stock. Policies and practices will continue to promote and expand affordable housing options by accommodating a range of housing types, and by providing opportunities for an increased supply of housing through focused density throughout the City. Policies provide for an equitable distribution of housing types for all income groups throughout the City, thus avoiding concentrations of below-market-rate housing in underserved and low-income neighborhoods. The City's innovative Downtown Plan and PlaceTypes designations will facilitate the redevelopment of underutilized properties to create vibrant, walkable neighborhoods, centers and corridors, as well as preserve and enhance established and stable neighborhoods. New housing along corridors in or near activity centers is an integral part of the vision for Long Beach. A balance of housing opportunities for both affordable and market-rate housing is essential to meet this goal. The Multi-Family, Neighborhood Center, Transit-Oriented Development, Neo-Industrial, Downtown and Waterfront PlaceTypes, all allow a range of housing types at varying densities, including single-family homes, duplexes, triplexes, garden apartments, condominiums, mixed use, live/work lofts and mid- and high-rise residential towers. The following strategies and policies address the City's housing needs related to land use and complement strategies in the City's Housing Element.
6. **Ensure a Fair and Equitable Land Use Plan** - Recognizing Long Beach's large and incredibly diverse population, this Land Use Plan promotes the fair and equitable access and distribution of land resources for employment, housing, education, recreation, mobility, commercial goods and public services for all

residents, regardless of their ethnic or economic status. The Plan introduces policies aimed at protecting neighborhood health by promoting environmental, social and economic justice. Providing transparent planning processes with robust community participation also contributes to fair and equitable decision making.

7. **Provide Reliable Public Facilities and Infrastructure** - Long Beach's infrastructure and public facilities will be functional and economically sustainable. Infrastructure will be expanded and maintained to serve new development; established neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas; and regional-serving facilities at a high level of service. Priority for improvements will be given to remedy neighborhoods with existing deficiencies. Strategic investments will be made to infrastructure systems communication networks in all facets of City government to incorporate innovative technology aimed at creating a smarter city.
8. **Increase Access to, Amount of and Distribution of Green and Open Space** - Long Beach will create additional urban open spaces, quality greenscapes, clean beaches and water bodies, and natural preserves and parklands. The City will expand access to quality natural and recreational lands. Focused efforts will transform the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers to healthier, multi-functional open spaces that are accessible to adjoining neighborhoods. The City will transform underutilized and marginalized open spaces, including designating off-shore oil islands for conversion to future recreational open spaces. Increased urban green space recreation areas, together with interconnected wildlife habitat and open space areas, will be needed to successfully balance population growth within a sustainable urban environment. This Land Use Element will complement the Open Space and Recreation Element. Long Beach residents have made it clear that they want to see more quality open spaces within neighborhoods, especially in the north, west and central areas. Programming of these neighborhood open spaces should not be limited to active recreation, but should also include natural open space areas and wildlife habitats. Progress has been made in acquiring and improving significant open space acreage for parks and wetlands along the Los Angeles River. Likewise, a conservancy organization is acquiring the degraded Los Cerritos Wetlands at the mouth of the San Gabriel River, for purposes of protection and restoration. The recent emergence of new mini parks, community gardens and dog parks has greatly increased access to open space for many in the community. The Open Space and Recreation Element includes an ambitious goal of providing eight (8) acres of open space for each 1,000 residents. The Land Use Element supports this goal, and the Open Space PlaceType delineates areas where such new open space might be created.

9. **Preserve, Protect, Restore and Reconnect with Local Natural Resources -**
Long Beach will work to reconnect with nature's systems and natural processes to become a more sustainable, healthy and eco-friendly community. Using clean energy, best management practices, cutting-edge technologies and a willingness to learn from nature, the Long Beach community will become a regional trendsetter in environmental stewardship. The City is committed to preserving and restoring damaged and degraded water bodies, natural areas and wildlife habitats for present and future generations, to learn from and enjoy. Long Beach values its open space and natural habitat areas. Extensive open spaces provide rich aquatic and animal habitat, accommodating a diversity of wildlife, including birds, mammals, insects, fish and other marine animals. Long Beach will continue efforts to preserve expansive areas of this fragile ecosystem.