

TUJUNGA WATERSHED PROJECT – GOALS, SUBGOALS & OBJECTIVES

Overarching goal: To revitalize the Tujunga Watershed, balancing water supply, water quality, community open space needs, environmental protection and restoration, and public safety

Optimize Local Water Resources to Reduce Dependence on Imported Water

- Improve groundwater infiltration
 - Develop groundwater management strategy for optimum use of local water resources
 - Improve quality and quantity of on-site water recharge to the SFV Groundwater Basin
 - Restore natural streams, washes, and floodplains in areas of high soils permeability
- Reduce dependence on imported water
 - Facilitate on-site collection systems for stormwater and greywater
 - Expand water conservation programs
 - Extend the distribution and range of uses for reclaimed water
- Integrate groundwater infiltration with other public and/or beneficial uses
 - Provide for compatible public activities and uses in infiltration areas
 - Restore natural streams, washes and floodplains and associated habitats

Improve Surface Water & Groundwater Quality

- Reduce pollutant loads
 - Expand source reduction programs
 - Implement Best Management Practices
 - Implement institutional controls such as water quality zones, urban forestry, product substitution/source control, and public outreach and education
- Maximize “nature’s services” before utilizing manufactured solutions
 - Reinstate sediment transport to support assimilative capacity
 - Increase permeable surfaces throughout the watershed area
- Implement a citizen-based water quality monitoring program

Restore Hydrologic Function to the Watershed while Maintaining Public Safety

- Reestablish functional streams
 - Restore/acquire functional floodplains
 - Restore natural, bioengineered streambanks
 - Daylight/reestablish tributary streams where feasible
 - Develop sediment management strategy
 - Establish meanders as needed to facilitate dynamic equilibrium of sediment transport
- Design restoration projects to maintain flood protection
 - Capture and infiltrate stormwater where it falls to reduce runoff volume in streams
 - Acquire gravel pits for stormwater detention
 - Remove or elevate structures in floodways
 - Implement a flood hazard warning system

Enhance Quality, Quantity and Connectivity of Native Terrestrial and Riparian Habitats

- Restore, protect and augment terrestrial and aquatic species habitat.
 - Create habitat corridors along Tujunga and Pacoima washes
 - Restore riparian habitat along historic tributaries where feasible
 - Identify, enhance and restore natural habitat and wildlife corridor between Verdugo and San Gabriel mountains
 - Acquire land or conservation easements in ecologically sensitive areas, including along streams
- Integrate fire and vector management strategies into native vegetation zones
- Reduce extent of invasive, non-native species
- Expand use of native plants in landscaping through mandate on publicly-owned lands and through incentives on private lands

Improve and Increase a Network of Public Open Space

- Augment overall open space network to meet the national standard for park space per capita ratio.
 - Protect existing open spaces
 - Implement a targeted, prioritized program to utilize surplus properties and acquire land from willing sellers

- Improve connectivity and access to Tujunga and Pacoima washes and the Angeles National Forest using tools such as easements and greenway linkages.
- Develop a design standard for open space that integrates natural resources management with various recreational needs
- Provide for maintenance and security of parks, open space, and trails

Create Green Transit Linkages and Recreational Access

- Improve multi-modal transit
 - Create a watershed-wide network of pedestrian, equestrian and bicycle routes utilizing BMPs in design
 - Connect multi-modal transportation routes to communities, public facilities, transit focal points, greenways and other open spaces
 - Design multi-modal routes for user safety
- Enhance and expand recreational opportunities to meet needs of local communities
 - Determine appropriate recreational uses with local community guidance
 - Group activities according to use compatibility
 - Provide a diversity of recreational opportunities and experiences within each community

Promote Watershed Awareness & Increase Stewardship through Public Outreach and Education

- Conduct education and outreach programs to expand appreciation of the natural character of Tujunga & Pacoima Washes and the importance of watershed restoration
 - Identify and understand target audiences to develop and deliver most effective outreach and educational programs
 - Focus on local eco-system, groundwater/water supply issues, flood safety, sustainable living, and environmental justice
 - Develop and deliver an educational curriculum for grades K-12
 - Partner with community colleges to gather data, monitor conditions, and implement plan development and also encourage continued participation of local universities
 - Use the internet as an informative outreach tool
- Engage community interest through participation in restoration activities
 - Include youth and community groups in watershed restoration activities
 - Involve the business community
 - Provide opportunities and resources for individuals to participate on their property
- Protect and interpret natural, cultural and historic resources

Implement Watershed-based Planning and Projects

- Implement ordinances and incentives to protect watersheds and streams:
 - Require “no net gain” of stormwater runoff on developed sites, based on natural conditions
 - Create a River Overlay Zone to acquire floodplains opportunistically or through long term programs
 - Incentivize multiple-objective developments and BMP integration in private-sector projects
 - Develop alternative approaches to land use designations in order to integrate, preserve, and protect natural systems within urban environments
- Require integrated open space in mixed use, live/work developments
 - Recycle underused sites along Tujunga & Pacoima Washes
 - Leverage Quimby and other park funds to acquire parkland in developed areas
 - Increase park acreage required by General Plan
- Preserve agricultural zones

Improve Collaboration among all Agencies, Organizations & Communities in the Watershed

- Institute a comprehensive program to facilitate communication and collaboration
 - Involve elected officials and their staff, governmental, regulatory and infrastructure agencies, NGO's, CBO's, professional and business organizations and individuals in a cooperative watershed stewardship program
 - Assign a liaison with decision-level capability from each agency to communicate with each other and the stakeholders
 - Develop a system that fosters early notification and cooperation amongst all stakeholders prior to all project planning
- Encourage mutual understanding of the goals, objectives and roles of each individual agency and organization involved
- Partner with existing local programs and projects where appropriate
- Develop a collaborative strategy to finance implementation of the Plan