

4. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

Overview

Natural resources, including open space lands, agricultural lands, waterways, hillsides, scenic views, wildlife habitat, and historical resources form an important part of Brentwood's unique character and represent some of its greatest assets. The Conservation and Open Space Element provides the framework to protect, maintain, and enhance Brentwood's natural resources. The Conservation and Open Space Element balances the overall vision of the General Plan for preserving Brentwood's high living standards, agricultural heritage, and natural resources while simultaneously providing for economic development and balanced growth.

State law requires the General Plan to address open space issues, including the recognition of open space as a valuable resource for its own sake, the coordination of local policies with State and regional policies, and the use of open space to preserve environmentally sensitive natural areas and habitat. California Government Code Section 65560 defines open space lands as being essentially unimproved and devoted to the preservation of natural resources, managed production of resources, outdoor recreation, or public health and safety.

As required by State law, the Conservation and Open Space Element addresses the conservation and utilization of open space lands and natural resources, including natural habitats, riparian corridors, special-status species, and soils/hillsides. The Conservation and Open Space Element also addresses the topics of energy conservation, air quality, water quality, and the preservation of cultural and historical resources.

Background information regarding conservation, natural resources, and open space conditions in Brentwood is presented in Chapter 5 of the General Plan Update Existing Conditions Report.

Goals, Policies, and Actions

Goal COS 1 **Ensure the provision and preservation of diverse and accessible open spaces throughout the Brentwood Planning Area**

Policy COS I-1: General Plan land use designations that include agriculture, permanent open space, parks, and similar uses, as well as waterways (i.e., Marsh Creek, Dry Creek, Deer Creek, and Sand Creek), shall be considered open space.

Policy COS I-2: Preserve open space for conservation, recreation, and agricultural uses.

Policy COS I-3: Conversion of open space, as defined under Policy COS I-1, to developed residential, commercial, industrial, or other similar types of uses, shall be strongly discouraged. Undeveloped land that is designated for urban uses may be developed if needed to support economic development, and if the proposed development is consistent with the General Plan Land Use Map.

4. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

- Policy COS 1-4:** Where possible, integrate open space and stream corridors with trails and other recreational open space in an environmentally sustainable manner.
- Policy COS 1-5:** Recognize urban open space as essential to maintaining a high quality of life within the city limits of Brentwood.
- Policy COS 1-6:** Support regional and local natural resource preservation plans of public agencies that retain and protect open space within the city limits, the Sphere of Influence, and the Planning Area.
- Policy COS 1-7:** Encourage public and private efforts to preserve open space.
- Policy COS 1-8:** Common or private open space that is not City property shall be privately maintained.
- Policy COS 1-9:** Encourage the protection and incorporation of existing, native, mature, non-orchard trees and areas of natural vegetation as part of new development.

Actions in Support of Goal COS 1

- Action COS 1a: *Review all development proposals involving unincorporated land within the jurisdiction of Contra Costa County, and within or adjacent to the Sphere of Influence or Planning Area, to ensure adequate preservation of community separators and open space resources.*
- Action COS 1b: *Adopt an ordinance that specifies standards and responsibilities for the maintenance of private open space lands within the city limits. The standards should include provisions for public access, habitat management, water quality protection, safety, and aesthetics.*
- Action COS 1c: *Implement a coordinated and cost-effective plan for City management and maintenance of publicly-owned open space within the city limits.*

Goal COS 2 Preserve designated agricultural lands in Brentwood's Planning Area

- Policy COS 2-1:** Support and encourage the preservation of agricultural lands throughout Brentwood's Planning Area, particularly in areas to the south and east of the city limits.
- Policy COS 2-2:** Maintain permanent agricultural lands surrounding the city limits to serve as community separators and continue the agricultural heritage of Brentwood.
- Policy COS 2-3:** Encourage and support programs that create or establish permanent agricultural areas in Brentwood's Planning Area.

- Policy COS 2-4:** Participate in regional planning efforts with agencies and organizations such as Contra Costa County, land trusts, and other regional partners to establish and maintain permanent agricultural areas to the south and east of Brentwood.
- Policy COS 2-5:** Work with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) on issues of mutual concern including the conservation of agricultural land through consistent use of LAFCO policies, particularly those related to conversion of agricultural lands and establishment of adequate buffers between agricultural and non-agricultural uses, and the designation of a reasonable and logical Sphere of Influence (SOI) boundary for the City.
- Policy COS 2-6:** Minimize conflicts between agricultural and urban land uses.
- Policy COS 2-7:** Require the use of buffers such as greenbelts, drainage features, parks, or other improved and maintained features in order to separate residential and other sensitive land uses, such as schools and hospitals, from agricultural lands and agricultural operations.
- Policy COS 2-8:** Require new development to have structural setbacks that respect agricultural operations.
- Policy COS 2-9:** Developers shall be responsible for mitigating impacts upon nearby agriculture. Setbacks and buffers shall be provided by the developer and not encroach upon productive agricultural areas.
- Policy COS 2-10:** Limit incompatible uses (i.e., schools, hospitals, and high density residential) near agriculture.
- Policy COS 2-11:** Work with agricultural landowners to improve practices that have resulted in adverse impacts to adjacent properties. Such practices include site drainage and flood control measures.
- Policy COS 2-12:** Promote best management practices in agricultural operations to reduce emissions, conserve energy and water, and utilize alternative energy sources.
- Policy COS 2-13:** Assist agricultural landowners and farmers with a variety of programs aimed at preserving agricultural lands, increasing opportunities for local sales of agricultural products, and increasing access to local commodities markets.
- Policy COS 2-14:** Encourage agricultural landowners in Brentwood's Planning Area to participate in Williamson Act contracts and other programs that provide long-term protection of agricultural lands.
- Policy COS 2-15:** Support the procurement of expanded and additional water rights which provide for contractual supply reliability for agricultural use.

4. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

Policy COS 2-16: Encourage small-scale food production, such as community gardens and cooperative neighborhood growing efforts, on parcels within the city limits, provided that the operations do not conflict with existing adjacent urban uses.

Policy COS 2-17: Encourage and support the development of new agricultural related industries featuring alternative energy, utilization of agricultural waste, biofuels, and solar or wind farms.

Actions in Support of Goal COS 2

Action COS 2a: Continue to implement Chapter 8.01 (Right to Farm) of the Brentwood Municipal Code in order to protect farming uses from encroaching urban uses and to notify potential homebuyers of nearby agricultural operations.

Action COS 2b: Consider impacts to agricultural lands and agricultural productivity when reviewing new development projects, amendments to the General Plan, and rezoning applications.

Action COS 2c: Amend Title 17 (Zoning) of the Brentwood Municipal Code to include specific agricultural buffer requirements for residential and sensitive land uses (i.e., schools, day care facilities, and medical facilities) that are proposed near existing agricultural lands in order to protect the associated agricultural operations from encroachment by incompatible uses. Buffers shall generally be defined as a physical separation, depending on the land use, and may consist of topographic features, roadways, bike/pedestrian paths, greenbelts, water courses, or similar features. The buffer shall occur on the parcel for which a permit is sought and shall favor protection of the maximum amount of agricultural land.

Action COS 2d: Collaborate with water suppliers and wastewater treatment plant operators to increase the availability of treated or recycled water for agricultural purposes.

Action COS 2e: Work with Contra Costa County to establish and implement consistent policies for agricultural lands in Brentwood's Planning Area that prioritize the preservation of agricultural lands and support ongoing agricultural activities.

Action COS 2f: Continue to implement, and periodically review/update as necessary, Chapter 17.730 (Agricultural Preservation Program) of the Brentwood Municipal Code.

Action COS 2g: Continue to implement the Agricultural Enterprise Implementation Plan to assist local farmers with a variety of programs that facilitate infrastructure improvements, business ventures, and other initiatives to grow the agricultural industry in and around Brentwood.

Action COS 2h: Coordinate with groups such as the Agricultural-Natural Resources Trust of Contra Costa County (ANRT), the Brentwood Agricultural Land Trust (BALT), and Harvest Time in Brentwood in order to fund agricultural easements, programs that protect agricultural lands, and programs that provide marketing assistance and economic support to local farmers.

Action COS 2i: Develop a program to provide additional support for agricultural tourism, u-pick farms, and other agricultural activities that serve as a regional draw to Brentwood and enhance its agricultural heritage.

Goal COS 3 Protect and enhance Brentwood’s ecosystem and natural habitats

Policy COS 3-1: Sensitive habitats include creek corridors, wetlands, vernal pools, riparian areas, wildlife and fish migration corridors, native plant nursery sites, waters of the United States, sensitive natural communities, and other habitats designated by State and Federal agencies.

Policy COS 3-2: Preserve and enhance those biological communities that contribute to Brentwood's and the region's biodiversity including, but not limited to, wetlands, riparian areas, aquatic habitat, and agricultural lands.

Policy COS 3-3: Focus conservation efforts on high priority conservation areas that contain suitable habitat for endangered, threatened, migratory, or special-status species and that can be managed with minimal interference with nearby urban land uses.

Policy COS 3-4: Conserve existing native vegetation where possible and integrate regionally native plant species into development and infrastructure projects where appropriate.

Policy COS 3-5: Avoid removal of large, mature trees that provide wildlife habitat or contribute to the visual quality of the environment to the greatest extent feasible through appropriate project design and building siting. If full avoidance is not possible, prioritize planting of replacement trees on-site over off-site locations.

Special-Status Species

Special-status species include any species of plant or animal, which is listed, or proposed for listing, as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, or the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Actions in Support of Goal COS 3

Action COS 3a: Require new development, as well as infrastructure projects, long-range planning projects, and other projects, to comply with the requirements of the East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan / Natural Community Conservation Plan to ensure that potentially significant impacts to special-status species and sensitive resources are adequately addressed

Action COS 3b: Where sensitive biological habitats have been identified on or immediately adjacent to a project site, the project shall include appropriate mitigation measures identified by a qualified biologist.

Action COS 3c: Develop CEQA Thresholds of Significance to assist staff, project applicants, and decision-makers in determining whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment under Section 21082.2 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

4. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

Goal COS 4 **Protect and enhance water resources in local creeks, riparian habitat, wetlands, the Marsh Creek Watershed, and aquatic habitat**

Riparian Habitat

Riparian habitat is the assortment of native plants that occur adjacent to freshwater streams, creeks, and rivers.

Marsh Creek Watershed

The Marsh Creek Watershed drains the east side of Mt. Diablo. It covers about 128 square miles of rangeland, farmland, protected parkland, and urban land. The creek flows approximately 30 river miles from its headwaters in Morgan Territory Preserve through Brentwood and Oakley to empty into the Delta at Big Break.

- Policy COS 4-1:** Where feasible, protect and enhance surface water quality in creeks, streams, channels, seasonal and permanent marshland, wetlands, sloughs, riparian habitat, and vernal pools through sound land use planning, community design, and site planning.
- Policy COS 4-2:** Rehabilitate existing channelized waterways, as feasible, to remove concrete linings and allow for a connection with the stream channel and the natural water table. Avoid creating additional channelized waterways, unless no other alternative is available to protect human health, safety, and welfare.
- Policy COS 4-3:** Where feasible, restore existing channelized waterways to a more natural condition. Restoration efforts should provide for naturalized hydraulic functioning. Restoration should also promote the growth of riparian vegetation to effectively stabilize banks, screen pollutants from runoff entering the channel, enhance fisheries, and provide other opportunities for natural habitat restoration.
- Policy COS 4-4:** Require discretionary projects, as well as new flood control and storm water conveyance projects, to integrate best management practices and natural features to the greatest extent feasible, while ensuring that these features adequately convey and control storm water to protect human health, safety, and welfare.
- Policy COS 4-5:** Encourage the use of natural features such as bio swales, vegetation, retention ponds, and other measures to remove storm water pollutants prior to discharge, subject to State regulations.
- Policy COS 4-6:** Where feasible, new development adjacent to creeks and streams should include opportunities for beneficial uses, such as flood control, ecological restoration, public access trails, and walkways.
- Policy COS 4-7:** Consult with State and Federal agencies during the development review process to help identify wetland and riparian habitat that has candidacy for restoration, conservation, and/or mitigation. Focus restoration and/or conservation efforts on areas that would maximize multiple beneficial uses for such habitat.
- Policy COS 4-8:** Conserve riparian habitat along local creeks, including but not limited to Marsh Creek, Deer Creek, Dry Creek, and Sand Creek, in order to maintain water quality and provide suitable habitat for native fish and plant species.
- Policy COS 4-9:** Consider the effects of development on ground and surface water quality, and implement measures to reduce water contamination.

Policy COS 4-10: Where feasible, encourage and support multipurpose detention basins that provide water quality protection, storm water detention, open space amenities, and recreational amenities.

Actions in Support of Goal COS 4

Action COS 4a: *Coordinate with interested public and private entities to create new and expanded public access trails along creeks and streams that connect to parks and open space areas within Brentwood's Planning Area.*

Action COS 4b: *Continue to identify which storm water and drainage facilities are in need of repair and address these needs through the City's Capital Improvement Program.*

Action COS 4c: *Utilize existing regulations and procedures, including but not limited to, the Zoning Ordinance and the environmental review process, in order to conserve wetlands and riparian habitat within the city limits and the Planning Area.*

Action COS 4d: *Coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Contra Costa County, and local watershed protection groups to identify potentially impacted aquatic habitat within Brentwood's Planning Area and to develop riparian management guidelines to be implemented by development, recreation, and other projects adjacent to creeks, streams, and other waterways.*

Action COS 4e: *Continue to implement, and periodically review/update as necessary, Chapter 15.52 (Grading, Erosion and Sediment Control) of the Brentwood Municipal Code. The City shall review projects to ensure that best management practices are implemented during construction and site grading activities, as well as in project design to reduce pollutant runoff into water bodies.*

Action COS 4f: *Explore revising Title 17 (Zoning) of the Brentwood Municipal Code to include standards for creek setbacks and the protection of riparian habitat along creek corridors. The standards should include minimum setback requirements, site design standards, and requirements for the ongoing maintenance of creek and riparian habitat on public and private lands.*

Action COS 4g: *Update the Creek Trails and Revegetation Master Plan. Solicit public input during the preparation of the update, and include outreach efforts to community organizations with knowledge of and interest in key issues associated with local creeks, trails, and habitat restoration.*

Action COS 4h: *Encourage volunteer-based programs that organize community creek restoration and/or clean-up events and provide public education regarding the benefits of city and regional water resources.*

Action COS 4i: *Provide a conservation page (or similar page) on the City's website that provides links to resource agencies (i.e., CDFW, USFWS, USACE, etc.) and provides information regarding local and regional conservation and environmental programs, to the extent that the City has readily available information.*

4. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

Goal COS 5 Utilize Brentwood's mineral resources while preserving development and conservation options for the future

Policy COS 5-1: Ensure that areas of mineral resources can be mined while productive and are ultimately reused for urbanization or open space.

Policy COS 5-2: Allow resource extraction of gas, oil, and mineral resources as an interim use.

Actions in Support of Goal COS 5

Action COS 5a: *Work with property owners to develop reclamation plans for areas with mineral resources.*

Action COS 5b: *Continue to implement, and periodically review/update as necessary, Chapter 17.680 (Oil and Gas Production) of the Brentwood Municipal Code.*

Action COS 5c: *Identify and evaluate areas within Brentwood's Planning Area with potential resource value, including oil, gas, sand, and gravel.*

Goal COS 6 Preserve and enhance prehistoric, historic, and cultural resources in and around the Brentwood community

Policy COS 6-1: Protect important historic resources and use these resources to promote a sense of place and history in Brentwood.

Policy COS 6-2: Encourage the voluntary identification, conservation, and reuse of historical structures, properties, and sites with special and recognized historic, architectural, or aesthetic value.

Policy COS 6-3: Encourage historic resources to remain in their original use whenever possible. The adaptive use of historic resources is preferred, particularly as museums, educational facilities, or visitor-serving uses, when the original use can no longer be sustained. Older residences may be converted to office/retail use in commercial areas and to tourist or business use, so long as their historical authenticity is maintained or enhanced.

Policy COS 6-4: Leverage the City's strong cultural and historic heritage to support and encourage historically-oriented visitor programs and heritage tourism through cooperation with local, regional, and State marketing efforts.

Policy COS 6-5: Continue to support and promote annual festivals and community events that celebrate Brentwood's cultural heritage.

Policy COS 6-6: Encourage and support community art projects, including murals, sculptures, educational programs, and events that highlight Brentwood's cultural and historic heritage.

- Policy COS 6-7:** Review new development projects and work in conjunction with the California Historical Resources Information System to determine whether project areas contain known archaeological resources, either prehistoric and/or historic-era, or have the potential for such resources.
- Policy COS 6-8:** Ensure that human remains are treated with sensitivity and dignity, and ensure compliance with the provisions of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.
- Policy COS 6-9:** Consistent with State, local, and tribal intergovernmental consultation requirements such as SB 18, the City shall consult as necessary with Native American tribes that may be interested in proposed new development and land use policy changes.

Actions in Support of Goal COS 6

Action COS 6a: *Explore the development of an historic Brentwood program to identify historic resources, encourage landowners to voluntarily preserve and rehabilitate historical structures, and provide a coordinated approach to draw visitors and tourists to these areas.*

Action COS 6b: *Develop guidelines for remodels of potentially historic residential structures to ensure that the character and individuality of such residences is maintained. The guidelines should address:*

- 1. Design styles, age of home, and other criteria to determine applicability of the guidelines;*
- 2. Exterior features that are important and covered by the guidelines (e.g., siding and exterior finishes, windows, doors, roofs, porches, garages, outbuildings, and streetscapes);*
- 3. Standards for modifications and renovation, including the extent of changes that can occur, and*
- 4. Activities that are exempt from the guidelines, such as interior improvements and routine maintenance and repair.*

Action COS 6c: *Collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce and other interested community groups to support and promote community festivals and events.*

Action COS 6d: *Require a cultural and archaeological survey prior to approval of any project which would require excavation in an area that is sensitive for cultural or archaeological resources. If significant cultural or archaeological resources, including historic and prehistoric resources, are identified, appropriate measures shall be implemented, such as documentation and conservation, to reduce adverse impacts to the resource.*

Action COS 6e: *Require all new development, infrastructure, and other ground-disturbing projects to comply with the following conditions in the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources or human remains:*

4. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

1. *If construction or grading activities result in the discovery of significant historic or prehistoric archaeological artifacts or unique paleontological resources, all work within 100 feet of the discovery shall cease, the Community Development Director shall be notified, the resources shall be examined by a qualified archaeologist, paleontologist, or historian for appropriate protection and preservation measures; and work may only resume when appropriate protections are in place and have been approved by the Community Development Director; and*
2. *If human remains are discovered during any ground disturbing activity, work shall stop until the Community Development Director and the Contra Costa County Coroner have been contacted; if the human remains are determined to be of Native American origin, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and the most likely descendants have been consulted; and work may only resume when appropriate measures have been taken and approved by the Community Development Director.*

Goal COS 7 Protect hillsides and ridgelines from visual impacts and erosion

- Policy COS 7-1:** Protect Brentwood's ridgelines (hilltops and steep hillsides) from erosion, slope failure, and development.
- Policy COS 7-2:** Preserve the topography of Brentwood's hills by discouraging unnecessary leveling/grading activities prior to site-building on hillsides where development is permitted.
- Policy COS 7-3:** Preserve and protect prominent community views of scenic resources, including Mount Diablo, local hills and ridgelines, and open space areas surrounding Brentwood, and consider community visual access and view corridors when reviewing development proposals.
- Policy COS 7-4:** Discourage development on hillsides and ridgelines where structures would interrupt the skyline.

Actions in Support of Goal COS 7

Action COS 7a: *Require assessment of critical public views and ridgelines as part of the project review process in order to ensure that projects protect natural resources through proper site planning, building design, and landscaping.*

Action COS 7b: *Develop and adopt a hillside grading and development ordinance. The ordinance should include standards for slope stability, building heights, lot coverage, ridgeline and site line protection, drainage, revegetation, erosion control, emergency vehicle access, and other standards determined to be applicable by the City.*

Goal COS 8 Reduce air pollutants and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions

- Policy COS 8-1:** Improve air quality through continuing to require a development pattern that focuses growth in and around existing urbanized areas, locating new housing near places of employment, encouraging alternative modes of transportation, and requiring projects to mitigate significant air quality impacts.
- Policy COS 8-2:** Minimize exposure of sensitive receptors to concentrations of air pollutant emissions and toxic air contaminants.
- Policy COS 8-3:** Require discretionary projects involving sensitive receptors such as children, the elderly, or people with illnesses that are proposed within 500 feet of the State Route 4 corridor to include an analysis of mobile source toxic air contaminant health risks. The analysis, if necessary, shall identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce health risks to acceptable levels.
- Policy COS 8-4:** Encourage new development or significant remodels to install fireplaces, wood stoves, and/or heaters which meet Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) standards.
- Policy COS 8-5:** Continue to require all construction projects and ground disturbing activities to implement BAAQMD dust control and abatement measures.
- Policy COS 8-6:** Support the development and implementation of a GHG reduction plan, or Climate Action Plan, that addresses and reduces GHG emissions associated with community operations, including but not limited to, mobile sources (vehicle traffic), energy consumption, and solid waste.
- Policy COS 8-7:** Coordinate with Contra Costa County and nearby cities to implement regional GHG reduction plans and consolidate efforts to reduce GHGs throughout the county.
- Policy COS 8-8:** Encourage local businesses and industries to engage in voluntary efforts to reduce GHG emissions and energy consumption.
- Policy COS 8-9:** Preserve, protect, and enhance, as appropriate, the City's carbon sequestration resources, also referred to as "carbon sinks," to improve air quality and reduce net carbon emissions.
- Policy COS 8-10:** Encourage public transit, ridesharing and van pooling, shortened and combined motor vehicle trips to work and services, use of bicycles, and walking. Minimize single passenger motor vehicle use.
- Policy COS 8-11:** Encourage new construction to incorporate passive solar features.

4. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

Actions in Support of Goal COS 8

- Action COS 8a: Review all new industrial and commercial development projects for potential air quality impacts to residences and other sensitive receptors. The City shall ensure that mitigation measures and best management practices are implemented to reduce significant emissions of criteria pollutants.
- Action COS 8b: Review development, infrastructure, and planning projects for consistency with BAAQMD requirements during the CEQA review process. Require project applicants to prepare air quality analyses to address BAAQMD and General Plan requirements, which include analysis and identification of:
1. Air pollutant emissions associated with the project during construction, project operation, and cumulative conditions;
 2. Potential exposure of sensitive receptors to toxic air contaminants;
 3. Significant air quality impacts associated with the project for construction, project operation, and cumulative conditions; and
 4. Mitigation measures to reduce significant impacts to less than significant or the maximum extent feasible where impacts cannot be mitigated to less than significant.
- Action COS 8c: Prepare and adopt a Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan should include the following components:
1. A baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory;
 2. An adopted GHG emissions reduction target of at least 15% below the business-as-usual projections by 2020;
 3. GHG reductions measures that apply to community wide operations, City operations, and future development projects; and
 4. An implementation and monitoring program.
- Action COS 8d: Work with Contra Costa County and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to implement programs aimed at improving regional air quality.
- Action COS 8e: Adequate buffers between new industrial uses and sensitive receptors shall be required to avoid potential air quality and nuisance impacts.
- Action COS 8f: Provide a conservation page (or similar page) on the City's website that provides links to resource agencies (i.e., CARB, BAAWMD, EPA, etc.) and provides information regarding local and regional conservation and environmental programs, to the extent that the City has readily available information, including methods for pollution prevention such as reduced air pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions through use of alternative forms of transportation (i.e., bicycling, pedestrian, transit), through reducing wood-burning activities using EPA-certified wood-burning devices, etc.

Goal COS 9 Promote conservation of energy and other natural resources

- Policy COS 9-1: Require all new public and privately constructed buildings to meet and comply with the most current “green” development standards in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24.
- Policy COS 9-2: Support innovative and green building best management practices including, but not limited to, LEED certification for all new development, and encourage project applicants to exceed the most current “green” development standards in the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24, if feasible.
- Policy COS 9-3: Promote the use of alternative energy sources in new development.
- Policy COS 9-4: Incorporate innovative green building techniques and best management practices in the site design, construction, and renovation of all public projects.
- Policy COS 9-5: Promote water conservation among water users.
- Policy COS 9-6: Continue to require new development to incorporate water efficient fixtures into design and construction.
- Policy COS 9-7: Promote the use of reclaimed water and other non-potable water sources.
- Policy COS 9-8: Encourage large-scale developments and golf course developments to incorporate dual water systems.
- Policy COS 9-9: Encourage and support the use of drought-tolerant and regionally native plants in landscaping.
- Policy COS 9-10: Ensure that the layout and design of new development and significant remodels encourages the use of transportation modes other than automobiles and trucks.
- Policy COS 9-11: Continue the citywide recycling program and actively encourage recycling.
- Policy COS 9-12: Continue efforts to reduce solid waste generation throughout the life of the General Plan.
- Policy COS 9-13: Continue to encourage and support the use of bicycles as an alternative means of transportation.

LEED

LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is an internationally-recognized green building certification system.

4. CONSERVATION AND OPEN SPACE

Actions in Support of Goal COS 9

- Action COS 9a: Continue to review development projects to ensure that all new public and private development complies with the California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 24 standards as well as the energy efficiency standards established by the General Plan and the Brentwood Municipal Code.
- Action COS 9b: Connect residents and businesses with programs that provide free or low-cost energy efficiency audits and retrofits to existing buildings.
- Action COS 9c: Explore amending the Brentwood Municipal Code to incentivize the use of small-scale renewable energy facilities and, where appropriate, to remove impediments to such uses.
- Action COS 9d: Develop and provide incentives to developers and businesses that use reclaimed water and other non-potable water for landscaping.
- Action COS 9e: Continue to implement Chapter 17.630 of the Brentwood Municipal Code, particularly as it relates to water conservation efforts.
- Action COS 9f: Provide a conservation page (or similar page) on the City's website that provides links to resource agencies and provides information regarding local and regional conservation and environmental programs, to the extent that the City has readily available information, including recycling guidance for single family residences, businesses, and apartments, opportunities for reuse of materials, a description of how to compost, and a description of methods to reduce water use, such as appropriate reuse and recycling of water, water conservation measures, and xeriscaping.
- Action COS 9g: Develop a list of drought-tolerant and native plants appropriate for use in Brentwood and review development projects for adherence to this list.