
Policy CR-1.6: Continue joint-use agreements with the school district.



Joint-agreements with the school benefit the City and school district because the City maintains the athletic fields, and children near the school get to use the facilities. Developing new parks can be difficult since Manhattan Beach is nearly built out and the cost of land is extremely expensive.

Policy CR-1.7: Continue to upgrade the parks and recreation system in Manhattan Beach.



Maintenance of existing parks is essential to the on-going use of developed parkland. Including funding of park maintenance in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) ensures that the residents of Manhattan Beach derive the full benefits of City parkland.

Policy CR-1.8: Provide a range of educational and recreational activities for the youth of Manhattan Beach at the various community centers.

Policy CR-1.9: Promote public awareness and education about the marine environment through development of appropriate facilities in the beach area.



The Roundhouse, a small building at the end of Manhattan Beach Pier, is home to a casual and informative exhibit of Santa Monica Bay's marine environment. Roundhouse staff is eager to talk about the creatures in the aquaria and touch tanks.

Policy CR-1.10: Design recreation programs to respond to the special needs of all of the various segments and age groups of the community.

Children know how to have fun on the variety of playground equipment available at Marine Avenue Park.



Cultural Arts

Through visual arts, music, dance, drama, literary, and other performing arts, we as humans express our emotions and convictions and reach out to share these feelings with others. The arts bring us together as a community. Manhattan Beach has long recognized the importance and value that cultural arts bring to the community. Visual and performing arts provide programs that meet the creative, social, and cultural needs of residents by providing entertainment, spiritual expression, and life-long education. In recognition of the humanizing effects the arts produce and the benefits they provide, the City sponsors visual, literary, musical, and performing arts programs, exhibitions, festivals, and Concerts in the Park. The Cultural Arts Program also facilitates the arts-in-education program, which is designed to fully and cohesively integrate arts into the school curriculum.



Manhattan Beach's cultural arts facilities include the Creative Arts Center and the Ceramic Studio. The Creative Arts Center is located at 1560 Manhattan Beach Boulevard. The Center includes free exhibits, art education classes, workshops, camps, after-school arts programs, and other classes offered by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The Ceramic Studio, located at Live Oak Park, offers ceramic classes at various levels for children and adults.

This ongoing support of the arts has been achieved through City commissions, volunteerism, and private and public sector support. Manhattan Beach's diversity of cultural arts programs, services, and activities has become a source for community education and enrichment, and has added to the special qualities that distinguish Manhattan Beach from other cities.

The Parks and Recreation Department anticipates a growing demand for cultural arts programs in Manhattan Beach and has outlined a response in the Cultural Arts Education Master Plan. The Plan includes initiatives to cultivate and sustain a sense of civic identity and pride by fostering awareness of visual and performing arts through education programs. The Plan sets the foundation for exhibits, concerts, festivals, performances, and art education programs.

Throughout the year, the Cultural Arts Division offers a variety of art camps for children who are interested in one or more weeks of concentrated training in a specific area. The children above are participating in *Drama Camp*.

Public Art

Recognizing that art in public places is important to the vitality of Manhattan Beach and its mission to preserve, enhance, and strengthen quality of life, the City has defined and approved a Public Art Master Plan. The goals of the Plan are to preserve the heritage of Manhattan Beach, and to educate and cultivate a sense of civic identity and pride by expressing the ideas, traditions, and value of the community in which public art is placed.

The Public Art Master Plan establishes goals and criteria for the acquisition of art works, sets guidelines for inclusion in capital improvement projects, defines appropriate site locations, establishes a process for documentation, maintenance and acceptance of art donations, provides a variety of funding mechanisms, establishes a public art trust fund, and outlines an implementation plan.

In support of the Public Art Master Plan, the City adopted a one percent for art fee in November, 2002. The fee applies to large residential, commercial, and industrial projects for the development of public art.

Goals and Policies: Cultural Arts

The goals and policies below reemphasize and underscore the City’s commitment to the arts in Manhattan Beach.

Goal CR-2:	Enhance cultural arts programs in the community.
Policy CR-2.1:	Implement the Public Art Master Plan to coordinate the establishment and maintenance of art in public places.
Policy CR-2.2:	Continue to encourage and support cultural arts programs and events.
Policy CR-2.3:	Continue to implement the Cultural Arts Education Master Plan, as feasible.
Policy CR-2.4:	Include artwork in City capital improvement projects.
Policy CR-2.5:	Encourage the continuation and expansion of non-profit charitable organizations which accept and disburse donations, funds, and gifts from the community for the support of cultural arts.

Arts Manhattan Beach is an existing non-profit organization that the City partnerships with in presenting cultural arts programs. Other organizations are encouraged to establish themselves in support of cultural arts.



Policy CR-2.6: Provide cultural arts programs that offer a variety of opportunities to all age groups.

Educational Institutions

Education is the foundation of a community. Education is at the heart of economic prosperity and security; it channels creativity and success and enriches lives. A community that values and promotes education and learning benefits its residents and the business sector. Public and private schools, extension centers, and continuing educational opportunities are most successful when they have the support of students, families, City officials, and the business community. These partnerships are essential to providing quality education that all deserve.



Mira Costa High School has been recognized as a National Blue Ribbon (recognized between 1994 and 1996) School and as a California Distinguished School.

The Manhattan Beach Unified School District (MBUSD) operates all public schools located in Manhattan Beach. MBUSD operates eight schools, including five elementary schools (K-5), one middle school (6-8), and one high school (9-12). Other facilities include an adult school, transition school site, and several child development centers. In addition to educational services, school facilities provide recreation opportunities for all residents of the City. In fact, school parks represent approximately twenty-eight percent of the park and open space area in Manhattan Beach.

MBUSD, along with the Redondo Beach Unified School District (RBUSD), make up the South Bay Adult Education Authority, which operates the South Bay Adult School. The adult school has been in operation for over sixty years and is the eleventh largest in California. In addition to fine public schools, Manhattan Beach is home to many private schools such as American Martyrs' School, Community Baptist Preschool, and Child Space.

**Table CR-2
Public and Private Schools**

Name	Address	Type
Public Schools		
Meadows School	1200 N. Meadows Ave.	Elementary
Pennekamp School	100 S. Rowell Ave.	Elementary
Pacific School	1431 15 th St.	Elementary
Robinson School	80 S. Morningside Dr.	Elementary
Grand View School	455 24 th St.	Elementary
Manhattan Beach Middle School	1501 N. Redondo Ave.	Middle School
Mira Costa High School	701 S. Peck Ave.	High School
Private Schools		
American Martyrs School	1701 Laurel Ave. and 1808 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Catholic Elementary
Manhattan Academy	1808 Manhattan Beach Blvd.	Montessori Elementary
Community Baptist Preschool	1243 Artesia Blvd.	Baptist Preschool
Montessori School of Manhattan Beach	315 Peck Ave. and 2617 Bell Ave.	Montessori Preschool thru Middle School

Source: Manhattan Beach Unified School District, 2003.

Goals and Policies: Educational Institutions

Goal CR-3: Maintain relationships with educational institutions, as they represent a cornerstone of the community’s foundation.

Policy CR-3.1: Work with the Manhattan Beach Unified School District to continue joint-use agreements of City and school district facilities for arts and recreation programs.

Policy CR-3.2: Emphasize crime prevention education in local public and private schools.



Teaching crime prevention to school children reinforces the issue of crime and public safety.

Landscape Resources

Trees and other landscaping provide extraordinary biological and aesthetic benefits to the community. They filter airborne pollutants, conserve energy by shading buildings and paved surfaces, remove atmospheric carbon dioxide, serve as wind breaks, reduce stormwater runoff, support wildlife, and provide a welcome “greenscape” in the urban environment.



Trees

In Manhattan Beach, where buildings substantially cover lot areas, streets are narrow and open space is limited. The City and residents have worked hard to provide landscape relief in the form of trees on public and private property. In neighborhoods where trees have grown to maturity, the trees create a distinct character and feel, particularly within the Tree Section (so designated, however, to reflect the street names: Elm, Pine, etc.) and neighborhoods along the Valley/Ardmore greenbelt of Veterans Parkway. Increasingly, City residents have recognized the value trees create for their homes and the quality appearance trees contribute to Manhattan Beach’s business districts. City staff and policy makers have realized that a more comprehensive, coordinated approach to street tree planning, maintenance, and protection of mature trees on private property can amplify the benefits trees provide.

Trees have always been a part of Manhattan Beach history. The Eucalyptus tree, an Australian native, was introduced into Manhattan Beach in the early 1900s. The tree was first established in California in 1856 and from 1870 on, the various subspecies were widely planted for windbreaks, firewood, shade, and beauty. The trees were later spread throughout California to create wooded landscapes for housing developments. Rosecrans Avenue, El Camino Real (today Sepulveda Boulevard), and Center Street (today Manhattan Beach Boulevard) were all lined with Eucalyptus trees to work as windbreaks and also help reduce soil erosion. In the 1930s, during the widening of Center Street, 284 Eucalyptus trees were declared traffic and pedestrian hazards and later removed. Today, unfortunately, this tree has been dwindling in numbers in Manhattan Beach and throughout California due to the infestation of the Red Gum lerp psyllids (*Glycaspis brimblecombei*), a non-native insect pest that is slowly killing the trees. A collaborative effort by State and local

government representatives, university researchers, and interested parties is taking place to find a method to eradicate the pest to slow the number of trees being destroyed.

Trees need space to grow. The restricted rights-of-way along City streets challenge landscape planners and City engineers who must balance infrastructure needs — such as new sidewalks, parking pads, and utility undergrounding — with root space and canopy requirements for street trees. The Municipal Code requires property owners to maintain the public property adjacent to their real property, including sidewalks, so it is imperative that residents and the City implement tree planting and maintenance standards to minimize damage to the urban infrastructure while maintaining the health of the urban forest.

The City is committed to preserving existing trees and expanding the urban forest by replacing trees that are damaged or dying, and planting new trees. As part of this commitment, and as assessment district elections approve of funding, the City will refine adopted tree planting guidelines by adopting and maintaining a comprehensive street tree plan that establishes a consistent and coordinated approach to urban forestry.

Trees and landscaping on private and public property provides tremendous value to everyone, not just the property owner. Eucalyptus trees, as shown here, are quite large and provide extensive greenery and shade.



Landscaping

Landscaping can enliven and give purpose to outdoor space; a rich, coordinated palette of landscape materials can provide scale, texture, and color. Well-maintained landscaping can beautify property, adding character and uniqueness to private and public areas.

Private Property

Landscaping of private residential and business properties should be designed, installed, and maintained for long-term sustainability by a knowledge of and respect for the natural environment. Appropriate landscaping that is well maintained can add aesthetic richness within any context. Well-landscaped properties add value, reduce and control stormwater runoff, and create unique and recognizable qualities to neighborhoods and districts.

The City's Tree Ordinance protects front yard trees in the Tree Section, and the ordinance has been expanded to all residential areas except the Beach area.

Walkstreets and Right-of-Way

Walkstreets provide convenient pedestrian access to the beach, and they create stunning corridors with ocean vistas from those properties along the walkstreets and vistas for the public using walkstreets. Landscaping in the encroachment area (the section of public right-of-way located between the property line and the edge of the walkway) that is excessive in height can obstruct vistas and limit these "view corridors". The Manhattan Beach Municipal Code provides standards for landscaping, as well as other encroachments (fences, walls, and decks), in the public right-of-way to preserve these vistas.

City standards for landscaping the walkstreets and public rights-of-way balance protection of scenic vistas, safety visibility for pedestrians and vehicles, provision of parking areas, and creation of beneficial landscaped areas.

Goals and Policies: Landscape Resources

Goal CR-4: **Preserve the existing landscape resources in the City, and encourage the provision of additional landscaping.**

-
- Policy CR-4.1: Protect existing mature trees throughout the City and encourage their replacement with specimen trees whenever they are lost or removed.
-
- Policy CR-4.2: Investigate methods to improve the quality and maintenance of street trees and public landscape improvements.
-
- Policy CR-4.3: Recognize that landscaping, and particularly trees, provide valuable protection against air pollution, noise, soil erosion, excessive heat, and water runoff, and that they promote a healthy environment.
-
- Policy CR-4.4: Review the tree ordinance to consider its application citywide and to determine the need to strengthen tree preservation criteria.
-
- Policy CR-4.5: Discourage the reduction of landscaped open space and especially the removal of trees from public and private land.
-
- Policy CR-4.6: Prepare lists of appropriate landscaping materials for the climate, and encourage residents and businesses to use them.

Conservation of Energy and Water Resources

Conserving and managing natural resources in Manhattan Beach ensures that these resources remain available for future residents to enjoy.

Energy Conservation

When we drive our children to school, boil a pot of water, or cool down the house on a warm sunny day, energy is consumed. The use of energy keeps our appliances and vehicles running but requires the burning of fossil fuels. Recognizing the sources of our energy – particularly those sources that are nonrenewable – and understanding the consequences associated with energy waste help us use it efficiently.

Half of our energy use powers our transportation. Industrial, commercial, and residential users account for the other half. In Southern California, the burning of fossil fuels accounts for about one quarter of the electricity generated. Not only is supply limited, but extracting and using these fuels dirties the air and can cause health problems such as chronic respiratory ailments.

The City's goals and policies recognize the importance of efficient energy use and conservation by Manhattan Beach residential, commercial, office, and industrial consumers. Efficient energy use can be encouraged by changing customer behavior, rewarding use of energy-saving appliances, and employing building design and construction approaches that reduce electric power and natural gas usage. Alternative energy sources such as solar – both active and passive – provide opportunities to reduce reliance on more traditional sources. While the General Plan accommodates very little net new development in the City, with new development resulting largely from land use recycling, Manhattan Beach residents, the business community, and institutions can use less energy through simple conservation techniques and can thereby contribute to environmental enhancements locally and throughout the region.



Most households and businesses can save on energy by updating old, inefficient appliances, making minor household and business repairs, modifying electricity habits, and making other smart choices about using electricity.

Water Conservation



People in the U.S., directly and indirectly, use more than 380 billion gallons, or approximately 1,668 gallons per person daily.

The Water, Sewer, and Storm Drain section in the Infrastructure Element further describes the water system in Manhattan Beach.

The Los Angeles Basin is a semi-arid desert environment. Manhattan Beach, like the rest of the basin, receives less than 13 inches of rainfall annually.¹ Water is considered a limited natural resource given our climate, with the majority of domestic water imported from as far away as the Colorado River and Northern California. The City typically obtains approximately 80 percent of its water supply from imported sources² and 20 percent from local groundwater extracted by two City-owned wells. With the continuing potential for Colorado River supplies to be reduced because of Federal requirements, the Metropolitan Water District may need to look to other sources to supply its customers with water.

Manhattan Beach residents and businesses consume an average of 6.4 million gallons of water per day, or nearly 2,300 million gallons annually. That is equivalent to every Californian drinking three cups of water per day. Water conservation represents the most cost-effective and environmentally sound way to reduce current and future demand. Reclaimed or recycled water (water that has received at least secondary treatment and basic disinfection and is reused after flowing out of a domestic wastewater treatment facility) can be used for landscape irrigation, park and school ground irrigation, industrial use, and for groundwater recharge. Reclaimed water requires a dedicated pipeline supply and storage network, such as the one used to water parks and school grounds. With this backbone infrastructure in place, the opportunity exists to expand use of reclaimed water as conditions change over time.

Landscaping with drought-tolerant plants represents another effective method to help conserve water. The garden is where a large percentage of residential water is used. Drought-tolerant plants, shrubs, and trees are specially adapted to grow well in regions that get little, or infrequent, amounts of normal rain. These plants require less water to live in Southern California's climate and soil and tend to be more pest and disease resistant.

¹ City of Manhattan Beach, Manhattan Beach Facts, 2002.

² The Metropolitan Water District (MWD) conveys treated surface water from Northern California and the Colorado River and delivers it for distribution to the West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD).

Manhattan Beach has long promoted efficient water use through education and public information, municipal water management programs, and regulations involving landscaping and requirements for water conservation during shortages. Economic and financial incentives can be used to encourage conservation and prudent use of water, although sometimes legislative mandates are required. In 1991, the City imposed conservation measures when the City experienced a substantial water shortage. However, the City’s preferred approach is to continually promote and encourage wise water use.

Goals and Policies: Conservation of Energy and Water Resources

The following goals and policies aim to conserve energy and water resources.

Goal CR-5: Conserve and protect the remaining natural resources in Manhattan Beach.

Policy CR-5.1: Employ principles of a sustainable environment in the development, operation, and maintenance of the community, emphasizing the importance of respecting and conserving the natural resources.

Principles for promoting a sustainable environment include any procedure or process that minimizes resource use or disruption of environmental systems, thereby contributing to improved life conditions on earth.



Policy CR-5.2: Educate the community regarding resource conservation by providing information on current techniques and technologies.

Policy CR52.3: Encourage water conservation, including landscaping with drought-tolerant plants, use of reclaimed water, and recycling of cooling system water, in all development.

Policy CR-5.4: Educate the public about the importance of water conservation, and require new development to comply with local and State codes for water conservation.

Policy CR-5.5: Support expanded use of reclaimed water.

Policy CR-5.6: Encourage drainage designs which retain or detain stormwater run-off to minimize volume and pollutant concentrations.

Policy CR-5.7: Encourage the use of energy-saving designs and devices in all new construction and reconstruction.



Examples of energy-saving devices for new construction include:

- An advanced programmable thermostat
- Windows with high-performance, low-emission, double-pane glazing
- Duct work installed inside the conditioned space to reduce cooling and heating losses to the exterior
- An exterior house wrap which acts as an infiltration barrier under the stucco
- A fluorescent-lighting system
- High-efficiency appliances
- An increased attic insulation level
- A solar hot water pre-heating system
- An advanced programmable home energy management system
- A photovoltaic-powered attic fan

Information on energy efficient designs and energy conservation is provided on the City's website.

Policy CR-5.8 Encourage utilization of "green" approaches to building design and construction, including use of environmentally friendly interior improvements.



Green approaches to building design involve an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to design and construction, together with investments in energy- and resource-efficient materials and technology. Benefits to developers and homeowners include:

- Efficient use of water, energy, lumber, and other resources, which also minimize maintenance and operation costs to homeowner
- Site, climate, and context specific
- Site plan design that promotes a sense of community
- Pollution prevention and reduced waste

Policy CR-5.9: Encourage the use of public/private partnerships to upgrade existing buildings for energy efficiency, water conservation, and storm water run-off pollution reduction.

Policy CR-5.10 Encourage and support the use of alternative fuel vehicles, including support of charging or “fueling” facilities.

The City’s vehicle fleet consists of vehicles that require compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, and electricity. Alternative fuel vehicles burn cleaner and consume fewer natural resources. Fueling stations should be widely available to the public, such as commercial areas, as this technology grows.



Policy CR-5.11: Support sustainable building practices.

Sustainable building practices include designing, constructing and operating buildings and landscapes to incorporate energy efficiency, water conservation, waste minimization, pollution prevention, resource-efficient materials, and indoor environmental quality in all phases of a building's life. Information and resources related to sustainable building are provided to the public on the City’s website. The City is developing standards for recycling of construction and demolition debris.



Policy CR-5.12: Support other agencies in their Livable Communities programs.

Livable Community programs include the following key elements:



- A healthier human and natural environment
- A more sustainable economy
- An actively engaged populace
- An equitable society³

³ Local Government Commission, <http://www.lgc.org/about/index.html>.

Air Quality



In the 1950s, smog levels in Southern California were worse than they are today in Mexico City, where U.S. standards for smog are violated every day of the year.

Every day, each of us breathes about 3,400 gallons of air, yet our air is contaminated on a daily basis by our activities: driving cars, burning fossil fuels, and manufacturing chemicals. Although air quality has improved since the 1960s despite substantial economic expansion and population growth, further improvements are needed. The Los Angeles basin still has some of the most polluted air in the nation.

South Coast Air Basin

Manhattan Beach lies within the South Coast Air Basin, a geographic area that extends from the Pacific Ocean north to the San Gabriel Mountains and east to the San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. The Basin is a “non-attainment” area for Federal and State air quality standards for ozone and State standards for particulate matter less than ten microns in diameter (PM₁₀). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) regulates air quality improvement programs within the Basin and works to improve regional air quality to achieve Federal and State standards.

The AQMD monitors the air quality in the basin through a regional network of air pollution monitoring stations to determine if the national and State standards for air pollutants and emission limits of toxic air contaminants are being achieved. One of these monitoring stations is located in the city of Hawthorne, less than two miles from Manhattan Beach’s boundary. The AQMD is also responsible for controlling emissions from stationary sources of air pollution. These can include anything from large power plants and refineries to the corner gas station. Manhattan Beach has continued to work with the AQMD and in accordance with the Air Quality Management Plan to improve the regional transportation system and regional air quality.

Sources of Air Pollution

Motor vehicles represent the major source of regional emissions throughout the Basin and within Manhattan Beach. Land use patterns which poorly disperse housing densities, employment

centers, and mass transit facilities lead to excessive automobile usage. Vehicles idling in heavy traffic congestion, such as those crawling along Sepulveda Boulevard during peak hours of the day, can contribute to excessive and sometimes unnecessary exhaust in the air. Most pollution control strategies have aimed at reducing vehicle usage and using cleaner-burning fuels.

Other sources of air pollution include auto repair businesses, dry cleaners, and businesses that regularly use chemical solvents. Common sources of fine particulate matter, or PM₁₀, include road dust, construction activity, grading, and fireplaces. The Chevron Oil Refinery, El Segundo Power Plant, and the Los Angeles International Airport – all located outside of Manhattan Beach – are also major regional sources of air pollution.

The Hazardous Materials Release section in the Community Safety Element provides a discussion on toxics released into the air.

Table CR-3
Sources of Ozone-Forming Pollution

Sources	Percent
On-Road Vehicles	49%
Paints and Solvents	18%
Other Mobile Sources	13%
Stationary Fuel Burning Sources	11%
Petroleum Process, Storage and Transfer	5%
Industrial Processes	2%
Miscellaneous Processes	2%

Source: South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD)

Manhattan Beach’s local air quality benefits from prevailing westerly ocean breezes that normally push air pollution inland. Although the normal sources of pollutants are nearby in the form of refineries, power plants, and freeways, the fresh ocean breezes from the west help make the air in Manhattan Beach, the South Bay, and coastal areas cleaner than most other Los Angeles areas. Manhattan Beach, nevertheless, must participate in efforts to improve air quality within the region. One of the ways the City is accomplishing this is through the use of alternative fuel vehicles. Fifteen percent of the City's fleet operates on an alternative fuel, such as compressed natural gas (CNG), electric power, or propane. The City also sponsors an employee rideshare program that offers incentives to encourage City employees to carpool or use an alternative form of transportation to get to work.

See the Circulation section of the Infrastructure Element for a detailed description on how Manhattan Beach incorporates Transportation Demand Management to efficiently use the transportation system.

Goals and Policies: Air Quality

Cooperation among all agencies in the Basin is necessary to achieve desired improvements to air quality. Manhattan Beach can continue to participate and contribute its share to those efforts by proper planning and participation in regional air quality management programs.

Goal CR-6: Improve air quality.

Policy CR-6.1: Encourage alternative modes of transportation, such as walking, biking, and public transportation, to reduce emissions associated with automobile use.

Policy CR-6.2: Encourage the expansion and retention of local-serving retail businesses (e.g., restaurants, family medical offices, drug stores) to reduce the number and length of automobile trips to comparable services located in other jurisdictions.

Policy CR-6.3: Cooperate with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and Southern California Association of Governments in their efforts to implement the regional Air Quality Management Plan.

Policy CR-6.4: Cooperate and participate in regional air quality management planning, programs, and enforcement measures.