

# Sustainability and Climate Resilience



As with the rest of the Los Angeles region, the Southwest Valley has been impacted by a changing climate, with more days of unhealthy air and excessive heat directly affecting health and wellness in our communities. Reliance on automobiles as a primary mode of transportation has resulted in greenhouse gas emissions that have exacerbated existing hazards and introduced new hazards, including extreme heat, precipitation and drought, wildfires, flooding and sea level rise, and unhealthy air quality.

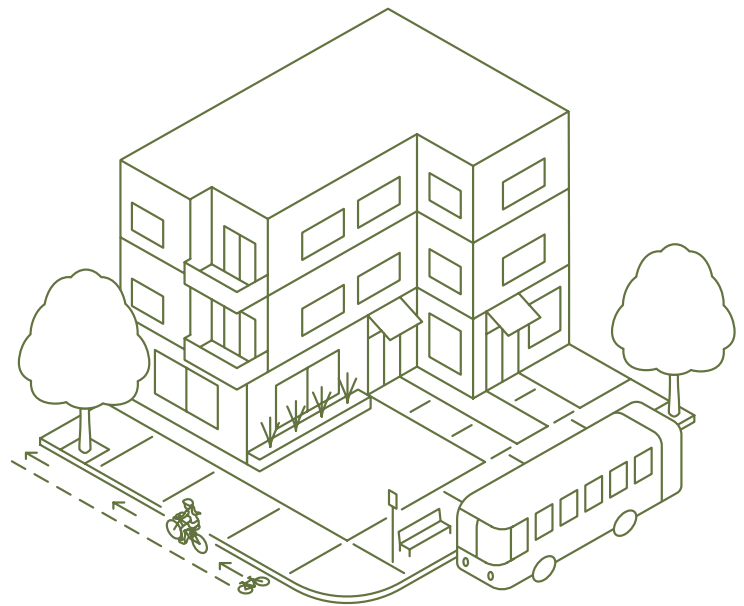
The update to the Southwest Valley Community Plans present an opportunity to respond to these impacts through changes in the built environment and how residents and visitors access their daily needs.

## Sustainable Land Use Strategies in the Southwest Valley

The Southwest Valley is currently organized in a way where housing is clustered and separated from daily commercial needs, resulting in a car-oriented environment that requires driving in order to access goods and services. The Community Plans respond to this by zoning for a greater mix of uses, which improves access to jobs and neighborhood amenities while reducing vehicle miles traveled, leading to reduced emissions. The plans also direct future housing and employment growth near transit infrastructure to support transit use and reduce reliance on single-passenger vehicles.

**Related Draft Land Use Goal:**

A built environment that prioritizes people over cars, reducing the negative health and environmental impacts of driving while increasing physical activity.



## Contribute to the Environmental and Ecological Health of the City's Watersheds



The Los Angeles River runs east-west through the Southwest Valley, including the Sepulveda Basin, as well as the Reseda, Winnetka, and Canoga Park communities. To promote a positive interface between the river and adjacent communities, provide native habitat to local species, apply planting that supports a healthy ecological system, and promote water irrigation and watershed health, the Citywide River Implementation Overlay is being codified into the Southwest Valley's zoning.

### **Related Draft Land Use Goal:**

A sustainable community that is resilient to the effects of climate change.

## Expanding the Southwest Valley Tree Canopy

Current tree planting regulations can be challenging for new developments to meet, resulting in trees being dedicated to the City's tree bank, City Plants, instead of onsite. However, the new Zoning Code being applied through the update to the Southwest Valley Community Plans will allow for the required tree planting to be positioned along the public right-of-way, if the number cannot be met on the development site. Additional trees, both onsite and along sidewalks in the public right-of-way, will contribute to an expanded urban forest that reduces temperatures while improving air quality and the pedestrian experience.

### **Related Draft Land Use Goal:**

A healthy and growing urban forest provides the community with cleaner air, cooler streets, and a more pedestrian-friendly public realm.