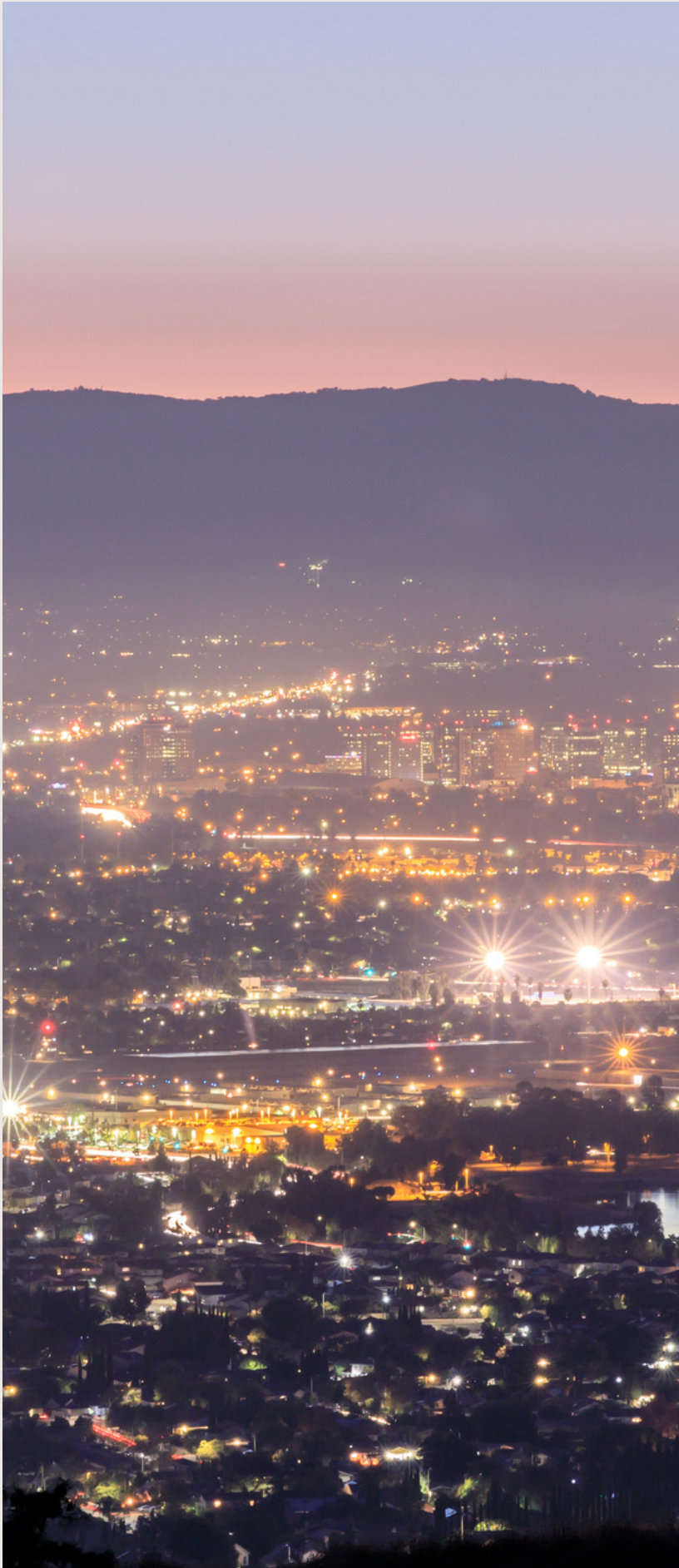


LA BIODIVERSITY GUIDELINES

# BUILT ELEMENTS





## Reduce artificial light pollution

Take steps to reduce ecological light pollution at your home, work, or school, especially if the building is in an area buffering natural areas, by directing lights away from natural habitat/open space, dimming lights, using timers, using motion sensors, drawing blinds, or turning lights off completely when not needed at night. In addition, limit overall lumens, shield lights and direct them downwards, use warmer lights (i.e., not blue LEDs), and avoid searchlights, as advised by the [International Dark-Sky Association](#) and the City's [Wildlife Ordinance](#).

## Use wildlife-friendly fencing

Choose fencing materials that are wildlife-friendly and are designed to allow animals to [jump over](#), [crawl under](#), or [pass through](#) without harm. Fencing should be highly visible for large mammals, like deer, and birds, that otherwise may collide with or become tangled in fencing. Use fencing free of sharp materials or spikes that can harm wildlife and avoid fencing with mesh or netting at the base as wildlife can get trapped in the netting. Specifically, avoid the following materials, which are called out in the City's [Wildlife Ordinance](#):

- Barbed wire
- Plastic mesh
- Concertina wire
- Razor wire
- Spikes
- Sharp glass
- Uncapped hollow fence posts.



## Minimize hardscape

When in doubt, don't pave. Minimize the use of impermeable hardscape surfaces such as concrete and asphalt paving, and maximize planted and landscaped areas with soils that can infiltrate rainwater. As feasible, remove existing concrete and hardscape to encourage infiltration. Where minimal hardscape is absolutely necessary, use permeable hardscape options, such as decomposed granite, gravel, and permeable paving like pre-cast concrete pavers, natural stone, or clay bricks with open joints to allow water to infiltrate and recharge groundwater.





**Minimize building footprint**

[Minimize overall square footage](#) of building footprints by building up, rather than out, to minimize habitat disturbance.



**Protect trees and tree roots**

Protect existing trees, and do not excavate soil, change the elevation, or construct foundations or other built elements within a tree's critical root zone (i.e., the area from the trunk of a tree to the edge of the canopy).



## Secure trash receptacles

Securely enclose outdoor trash receptacles to prevent wildlife scavenging and prevent human-wildlife conflict. Securing exterior trash enclosures is particularly important in neighborhoods near open space.



PHOTO: TIMOTHY BEATLEY

## Ensure windows are bird-friendly

Prevent window bird strikes by using bird-safe window glass or treatments, like frosting, fritting, or angling, or by using tall shrubs or trees to visually break up expanses of windows.



## **Install living roofs, terraces, & walls**

Install a living roof, terrace, or wall with proper soil volumes to add important greening and habitat elements to heavily urbanized areas. Some applications, such as living roofs, are best on the coast where average temperatures are cooler and more moisture is available. For hotter areas, consider climbing vines, hanging wall planters, or other alternatives.



**Establish buffers or setbacks for wildlife movement:**

Minimize harm to wildlife by establishing space, or a buffer, between natural areas and other biological resources and planned construction or development.



**Ensure safe crossings for wildlife**

Support the [Statewide initiative to prevent vehicle-wildlife collisions](#) (AB-2344) by strategically using fencing to guide wildlife to places they can safely cross roads or other barriers. If pertinent to the project, design wildlife-friendly road underpasses or overpasses or install large culverts that encourage safe wildlife passage and keep vulnerable animals off roadways.



## **Preserve ridgelines and minimize site grading**

Utilize all previously graded or disturbed areas on the site for new development to the greatest extent possible, before developing or grading new areas, to reduce impacts to undisturbed areas. Preserve the most prominent and unique slopes, hilltops and ridgelines, and contiguous undisturbed open space throughout the site.





## Adhere to wildlife regulations during construction

Take measures to protect habitat (e.g., shrubs and trees) and wildlife, including bird nests, onsite during construction. Construction in the City must adhere to the regulations set forth in the [Protected Tree Ordinance](#), the [Migratory Bird Treaty Act](#), and in [LAMC Sec. 53.48](#).



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# GET IN TOUCH

LASAN's Biodiversity Program oversees the City's efforts to protect and enhance biodiversity. The program originated in 2017 when the LA City Council adopted the Biodiversity Motion and directed LASAN to lead Citywide biodiversity efforts.

☎ 800-773-2489

➤ [lacitysan.org/biodiversity](http://lacitysan.org/biodiversity)

