

Community Focus Statement C: Preserve and enhance the unique environmental features of Oak Glen including native wildlife, vegetation, and scenic vistas, while enhancing open space and recreational opportunities/amenities.

Action Statement C.2: *Identify scenic vistas in the community that should be protected and enhanced, and develop educational kiosks to share key information about these resources with tourists to the area.*

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Benchmark: Conduct a visual assessment identifying scenic vistas and potential locations for educational/informational kiosks, identify funding/donation sources, and establish an education program.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$50,000 - \$200,000



A visual assessment would identify the iconic view sheds within Oak Glen that should be preserved for future generations to enjoy. Photo source: Michael Baker International

While scenery is vital to the overall quality of communities, scenic vistas are often damaged during rapid change, in both the natural and built environments. Identification and protection of these assets is a significant component of smart growth and scenic stewardship. Scenic areas endow communities with substantial benefits, such as higher property values and increased tourism revenue. Protecting scenic vistas from the effects of haphazard development allows a community to preserve its unique charm, build civic pride, and attract positive growth to the area.

Conducting a visual assessment is one of the best ways to begin to identify what is at risk in Oak Glen, to protect it from loss, and to better manage growth. Citizens, school groups, local leaders, and business owners could be

encouraged to participate in a visual assessment to identify the community's assets and liabilities. This assessment would form the basis for identifying and discussing the future of Oak Glen's scenic vistas. Following the visual assessment, the information could be used to develop educational kiosks and related activities such as community walks and photography exhibitions to inform visitors of the importance of Oak Glen's scenic vistas and to encourage voluntary protection of scenic areas.

Currently, Oak Glen has outstanding scenic assets including mountain scenery, agricultural orchards, and scenic routes. Oak Glen Road is a two-lane road through the community and is designated as a county scenic route. The County preserves and protects important agricultural, cultural, agricultural, open space and scenic resources.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a Scenic Vistas committee or utilize the Historic Preservation committee created in Action Statement A.1.	Champion	Month 1	Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS) https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21361
2. Review identified historic inventory created in A.1 for scenic vistas	Scenic Vistas Committee	Month 1	National Park Service, Yosemite National Park Scenic Vista Management Plan https://www.nps.gov/yose/learn/management/vista.htm Scenic America, Strategies for Protecting Scenic Views and Vistas http://www.scenic.org/issues/scenic-easements-a-view-protection/strategies-for-protecting-scenic-views-and-vistas Wildlands Conservancy http://wildlandsconservancy.org/preserve_oakglen.html
3. Contact leaders from schools, community organizations, business owners, and interested parties to join a committee/team to address protection of Oak Glen’s scenic vistas	Scenic Vistas Committee	Month 2	
4. Conduct a visual assessment of current and potential scenic vistas.	Scenic Vistas Committee	Months 3 – 6	
5. Develop a budget and identify funding sources such as the Office of Grants and Local Services (OGALS), which administers the state-funded Habitat Conservation Fund grant program to purchase land for protection.	Scenic Vistas Committee	Months 4 – 6, on-going	
6. Work with the Wildland Conservancy or other land management non-profit to purchase and protect land.	Scenic Vistas Committee	Month 7-12	
7. Establish an educational program and kiosk that provides information and activities on scenic areas.	Scenic Vistas Committee	Months 7-10	
8. Ensure that education information is updated and kiosks are properly staffed regularly.	Scenic Vistas Committee	On-going	