

Fresno County Conceptual Recreational Trail List	
(See Figure OS-1) (Policy OS-I.10)	
22. San Joaquin River Trail	Equestrian-hiking trail from Millerton Lake to Italian Bar Road at Redinger Lake, generally along the San Joaquin River.
23. Clovis/Pinedale Railroad Corridor Trail	Multiple purpose trail along the Clovis/Pinedale Railroad right-of-way.
24. Reedley Trail	Along old AT&SF railroad corridor between Reedley and the Tulare County line.

J. HISTORICAL, CULTURAL, AND GEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Fresno County’s history includes at least five indigenous Native American tribes and Spanish, Mexican, and American colonization. There are many archeological and historic sites and a large stock of historically significant buildings and landmarks in the county. The county also contains several unique geological features and geological resources of bygone eras.

Policies in this section seek to preserve the historical, archeological, paleontological, geological, and cultural resources of the county through development review, acquisition, encouragement of easements, coordination with other agencies and groups, and other methods.

Goal OS-J To identify, protect, and enhance Fresno County’s important historical, archeological, paleontological, geological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment.

Policies

Policy OS-J.1 The County shall require that discretionary development projects, as part of any required CEQA review, identify and protect important historical, archeological, paleontological, and cultural sites and their contributing environment from damage, destruction, and abuse to the maximum extent feasible. Project-level mitigation shall include accurate site surveys, consideration of project alternatives to preserve archeological and historic resources, and provision for resource recovery and preservation when displacement is unavoidable.

Policy OS-J.2 The County shall, within the limits of its authority and responsibility, maintain confidentiality regarding the locations of archeological sites in order to preserve and protect these resources from vandalism and the unauthorized removal of artifacts.

- Policy OS-J.3 The County shall solicit the views of the local Native American community in cases where development may result in disturbance to sites containing evidence of Native American activity and/or sites of cultural importance.
- Policy OS-J.4 The County shall maintain an inventory of all sites and structures in the County determined to be of historical significance (Index of Historic Properties in Fresno County).
- Policy OS-J.5 The County shall support the registration by property owners and others of cultural resources in appropriate landmark designations (i.e., National Register of Historic Places, California Historical Landmarks, Points of Historical Interest, or Local Landmark).
- Policy OS-J.6 The County shall provide for the placement of historical markers or signs on adjacent County roadways and major thoroughfares to attract and inform visitors of important historic resource sites. If such sites are open to the public, the County shall ensure that access is controlled to prevent damage or vandalism.
- Policy OS-J.7 The County shall use the State Historic Building Code and existing legislation and ordinances to encourage preservation of cultural resources and their contributing environment.
- Policy OS-J.8 The County shall support efforts of other organizations and agencies to preserve and enhance historic resources for educational and cultural purposes through maintenance and development of interpretive services and facilities at County recreational areas and other sites.
- Policy OS-J.9 In approving new development, the County shall ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, that the location, siting, and design of any project be subordinate to significant geologic resources.
- Policy OS-J.10 The County shall encourage property owners to enter into open space easements for the protection of unique geologic resources.
- Policy OS-J.11 The County shall consider purchasing park sites for the purpose of preserving unique geologic resources for public enjoyment.
- Policy OS-J.12 The County should encourage the inclusion of unique geologic resources on the National Registry of Natural Landmarks.
- Policy OS-J.13 The County shall encourage State and Federal agencies to purchase significant geologic resources for permanent protection.

Implementation Programs

- Program OS-J.A The County shall adopt and implement an ordinance to protect and preserve significant archaeological, historical, and geological resources. The ordinance shall provide for implementation of applicable development conditions, open space easements, tax incentives, related code revisions and other measures as needed. (Policy OS-J.1)

Responsibility: Planning & Resource Management Department
 Time Frame: FY 02-03

K. SCENIC RESOURCES

Fresno County encompasses a diverse landscape ranging from fine cultivated farmlands of the valley and foothill grasslands to high mountain peaks. The scenic qualities of the area are an important component of the quality of life in the county. Scenic resources also play an important role in the economic development of the region, including the expansion of tourism-based industries, and the locational decisions of businesses.

Policies in this section are intended to protect the scenic resources of the county and ensure that development enhances those resources through the identification of important scenic resources, development review, acquisition, encouragement of easements, coordination with other agencies and groups, and other methods. Related policies are included in OS-H, Parks and Recreation.

Goal OS-K To conserve, protect, and maintain the scenic quality of Fresno County and discourage development that degrades areas of scenic quality.

Policies

- Policy OS-K.1 The County shall encourage the preservation of outstanding scenic views, panoramas, and vistas wherever possible. Methods to achieve this may include encouraging private property owners to enter into open space easements for designated scenic areas.
- Policy OS-K.2 The County shall identify and map significant scenic resources within the County and shall develop a program to manage these resources.
- Policy OS-K.3 The County should preserve areas of natural scenic beauty and provide for public access to scenic vistas by purchasing sites for park use.
- Policy OS-K.4 The County should require development adjacent to scenic areas, vistas, and roadways to incorporate natural features of the site and be developed to minimize impacts to the scenic qualities of the site.

Implementation Programs

None indicated beyond existing programs.

L. SCENIC ROADWAYS

The retention of existing scenic qualities along roadways is an important part of the County's efforts to enhance the quality of life in the county. The County has a major responsibility for developing and maintaining a circulation system that facilitates the safe and efficient movement of goods and people. Concern for the maintenance of environmental quality and scenic resources also requires that emphasis be placed on the preservation and enhancement of visual amenities along roadways.