

Lafayette Park and Recreation Facilities Master Plan



November 16, 2009

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Prepared for:

City of Lafayette
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission
Alison Hill, Chair
Geoffrey Bellenger
Robert Lobron
Judy Nelson
Jeff Peacock
Mark Poole
Peter Read
Carol Singer

Jennifer Russell, Director of Parks, Trails & Recreation
Steven Falk, City Manager
Ann Merideth, Community Development Director
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Services Manager

Prepared by:



511 First Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 746-1948
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2002 General Plan Parks, Trails and Recreation Element

Attachments

1. Background Report
2. Public Feedback Report

Executive Summary

This Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (Master Plan) presents initiatives for new park and recreation facilities in keeping with the City of Lafayette's adopted General Plan goals for meeting the needs of its citizens. These initiatives are the result of a two-year process conducted by the Parks, Trails, and Recreation (PTR) Commission, including background research and documentation, extensive public outreach, and investigation of opportunities and implementation strategies. To keep pace with the General Plan goal of 5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, more parks and recreation facilities are needed. As the City grows to approximately 27,000 people over the next 20 to 30 years, 44 acres of parks will need to be added to the current 91 acres.

The process to develop this Master Plan included extensive efforts to contact and obtain input from the general public and parks and recreation interest groups in the City. This public outreach included a public workshop, notices in City publications and on the City's web site, local newspaper articles, an on-line or write-in survey, and a series of presentations to local organizations and neighborhood groups. Public input was carefully documented and analyzed in the *Public Feedback Report*. In addition to the public comments that were captured from the public survey, the PTR Commission also received comments from the downtown strategy planning process and at PTR Commission meetings.

Based on the expressed community need and distribution of existing parks, parkland should be developed to provide the following specific facilities:

- **One or two active or passive neighborhood parks**, with a potential size from 0.1 acres to 2 acres, to be located in Northeast Lafayette or West Lafayette as shown on Figure 5-1.
- **Downtown parks**, to be identified in the separate Downtown Specific Plan process (see Section 1.5 for more information).
- **A new sports field facility** to accommodate soccer, lacrosse, softball and/or baseball, with a potential size of 2 to 10 acres or more.
- **A Bike Park** to accommodate bicycle motocross (BMX) and mountain bicyclists with a potential size of 1 to 2 acres.
- **An off-leash dog park** with separate areas for large and small dogs, with potential size of 1 to 5 acres.
- **A nature park** to support nature education and appreciation, and nature-oriented outdoor recreation and activities, with a potential size of 2 to 20 acres or more.

The Master Plan details the rationale for these desired facilities and their features, lists criteria for finding suitable sites, and includes analysis of potential costs for acquiring, developing and maintaining the proposed parks.

1 Introduction

1.1 Master Plan Requirement and Scope

Preparing a Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a goal of the City's 2002 General Plan:

“Program P-1.1.1: Prepare and adopt a Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan. The Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan will include standards for parks, trails and recreation facilities. The Plan will address the need for active and passive recreation facilities and the distribution of facilities throughout the City. It will build on the Lafayette Master Trails Plan (adopted in 1983 and updated in 2006), the Community Center Master Plan (adopted in 1984), the Community Park Master Plan (adopted in 1988), and the 711 St. Mary's Road Park and Recreation Master Plan (adopted in 1991).

The objective of this Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is to outline the specific goals and steps to provide the park and recreation facilities needed to serve the citizens of Lafayette according to goals and policies established in the General Plan.¹

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan covers existing and potential City-owned or City-controlled property that can be used for recreation. City parks may include open space areas that are partially preserved in their natural state, but whose primary purpose is to provide space and facilities for recreation.

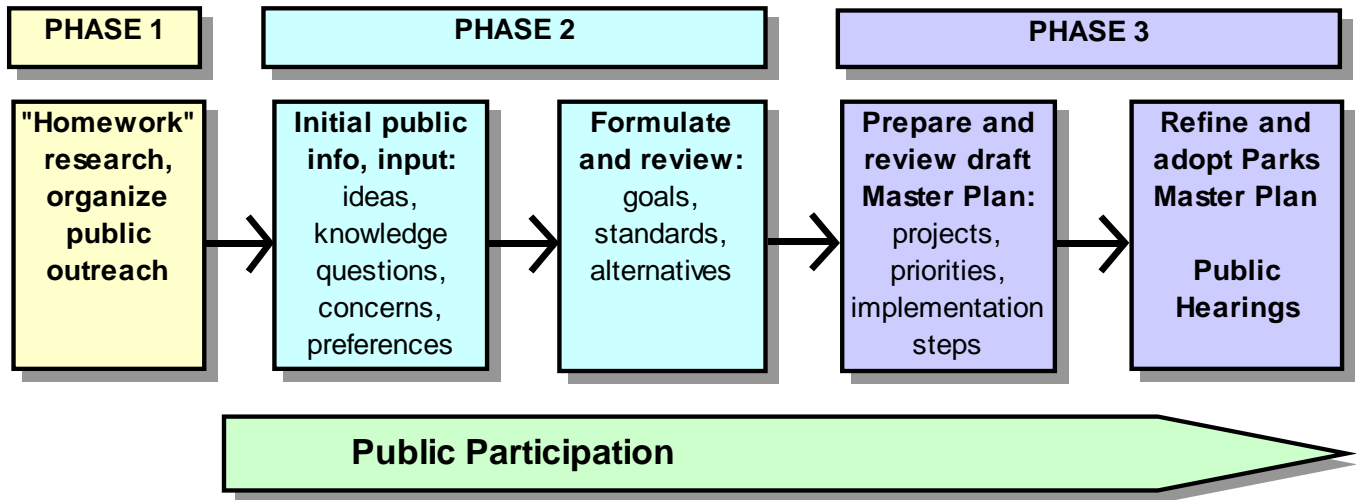
1.2 Master Plan Process

This Master Plan document is the third and final phase of the planning process conducted by the PTR Commission, as shown in Figure 1.1.

A *Background Report* (Attachment 1) was prepared and published during Phase 1 to provide detailed information about existing parks and the overall context for planning parks for Lafayette. The *Background Report* includes a summary of the benefits of providing parks, a summary of the features and history of the existing Lafayette park facilities, the pertinent goals and policies in the General Plan, and summary of prior community surveys and current trends in the use of, and need for, park and associated recreational facilities.

¹ Chapter IV of the Lafayette General Plan, Adopted October 28, 2002.

Figure 1.1: Master Plan Process



Development of a successful Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan requires the active participation of Lafayette citizens. To that end, a *Public Feedback Report* (Attachment 2) was prepared during Phase 2 of the planning process which documents the results of the public participation process conducted by the PTR Commission.

1.3 Public Participation Process

The objective of the public participation process for the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan was to obtain ideas, preferences and concerns from all interested parties regarding new parkland acquisition and development in the City of Lafayette. The process included the following steps over an approximate ten month period:

- An initial public workshop with the PTR Commission;
- Notices of the process, the workshop, and the survey in City publications and on the City's web site;
- Press releases resulting in a series of local newspaper articles on the Parks Master Plan;
- An on-line or write-in survey on park and recreation facility preferences; and
- A series of presentations by PTR Commissioners to local neighborhood groups and organizations in conjunction with the survey.

All public input was carefully documented and analyzed in the *Public Feedback Report* (Attachment 2), and the results are documented in Section 4 of this Master Plan.

In addition to the public comments that were captured from the public survey, the PTR Commission also received comments from the downtown strategy planning process and at PTR Commission meetings; particularly in regard to the need for a dog park and a bike park.

1.4 General Plan Guidance

The City of Lafayette General Plan, updated in October 2002, contains the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Element, which sets forth parks-related goals, policies and programs.² These are listed in Appendix A. A primary goal, as stated in Policy P-1.3, is to provide 5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. Lafayette has 91 acres of existing parkland. Based on a projected population of 27,000 people, the City needs a total of 135 acres to meet its goal.³ Therefore, an additional 44 acres need to be acquired and developed by the City.

In addition to the parkland goal, the General Plan provides guidance on park planning, park development and park operations. These are discussed in more detail in Section 4.

The General Plan defines parks as “open space lands whose primary purpose is recreation”⁴. The General Plan defines two categories for City-owned parks: Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks. The PTR Commission, through this Master Plan, has identified implementation strategies (contained in Section 7.0) and clarifications to the General Plan.

1.5 Relationship to the Downtown Specific Plan

The City is developing a Downtown Specific Plan (DSP or Downtown Plan). The Downtown is defined primarily as the Redevelopment Area, which is made up of parcels zoned for commercial or multifamily uses. The objective is to plan land uses and improvements in the downtown for the next 20 years or more. Therefore, specific downtown parks will be considered in the context of the DSP process. This Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan indicates the public desire for such parks and specifies the characteristics for Downtown Parks.

² Lafayette 2002 General Plan, Chapter IV.

³ The most current population number is 23,953, which is from the Department of Finance for January 2007. So, at the current population, the goal is to have about 120 acres.

⁴ Lafayette General Plan, Chapter IV.

2 Types of Parks and Recreation Facilities

2.1 Definitions

As indicated above, the General Plan defines parks as “open space lands whose primary purpose is recreation.” This is generally referred to as “parkland”. Parkland is real property owned or controlled by the City on which recreation facilities have been or will be built. A park is generally parkland with existing recreation facilities. The term “Open Space” is also used to refer to land that is essentially unimproved and devoted primarily to nature preservation. If there is public access, use is typically limited to hiking. This “Open Space” is not parkland covered by this Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.⁵ The City has an adopted General Plan Open Space Element and has established an Open Space Committee to develop a plan for the acquisition of City-owned Open Space.

Parks and recreation facilities can be “active” (e.g. community center, sports fields, children’s play equipment, designed sports areas⁶) or more “passive” (e.g. play lawn, picnic area, wayside stop for walkers or bike riders, horseshoes, nature interaction and education).

2.2 Park and Recreation Facility Categories

The General Plan defines two broad categories for City-owned parks: Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks. This Master Plan adds two categories – Community Center and Downtown Parks – as described below. Subcategories are also defined in order to more precisely characterize the types of parks that exist and are desired by the Community. Desirable characteristics of Lafayette park types are described below and are detailed in Table 2.1. These definitions are used to characterize existing parks and guide the search for new parks.

Neighborhood Parks:

A neighborhood park is a relatively small park that primarily serves a local residential area within a ½ to 1 mile distance. Typically people would walk to a neighborhood park.

Passive: Developed with surfaced pathways; turf, ornamental and/or natural landscape; picnic tables and benches for resting and socializing; may include features for quiet recreation such as chess.

Active: Similar features to a passive park, but also includes active recreation facilities such as a tot lot (young children’s play area/structures) and/or older children’s play structure/equipment, and may include a stage for outdoor performances and possibly restrooms.

⁵ The California General Plan Guidelines refer to Open Space as land preserved in a natural or agricultural state, that nature and/or agriculture is primary, and public access and use is secondary, and may not occur at all. Typically the only improved facilities in Open Space are trails. See California General Plan Guidelines, 2003, p. 82

⁶ Examples of designed sports areas include Bike Park, Petanque Courts, The Rink, basketball courts, and the bocce court.

Community Parks:

A Community Park is a larger area whose recreation facilities and features are designed to serve the entire community. Typically, people would drive or bike to a Community Park. Often, restrooms would be at a community recreational facility given the level and duration of expected use.

Sports Fields: Formally improved, irrigated turf fields for baseball, softball, football, rugby, soccer, and/or lacrosse. Often designed to be multi-purpose. Typically requires benches or bleachers for attendees.

Bike Park: An area with improved dirt-surfaced course(s) of runs and jumps for beginning, intermediate and advanced riders of mountain bikes and BMX bicycles.

Dog Park: A fenced area for off-leash dog play and exercise. Often features separate areas for small dog and large dogs. May be turf or natural surface. Requires source of drinking water, station for waste clean-up, and basic amenities such as benches, shade.

Nature Park: A fairly large site that is primarily natural and/or agricultural land, which would be improved with trails and facilities for group or individual picnicking, and potentially a day camp for youth. Complementary facilities could include a campfire circle, an outdoor amphitheater, wildlife observation areas, native plant garden, interpretive walks and a structure for gatherings and activities sheltered from the weather.

Community Center:

A recreational facility consisting primarily of indoor spaces for classes, meetings and recreational activities. Typically includes complementary outdoor spaces developed for gatherings and activities – patios, benches, play area/equipment. All or part could be focused on age groups such as youth, teens, or seniors. Includes restrooms and parking.

Downtown Parks:

A Downtown Park would be a relatively small site, similar to a Neighborhood Park, except that it relates to the commercial activities of a downtown. Therefore, it serves people shopping, eating, walking and biking in the downtown area. Downtown parks are a common feature in cities around the world.

Passive: Developed with surfaced pathways; turf, ornamental and/or natural landscape picnic facilities, benches. May feature frontage on, and connection to, a creek; a garden club area; a paved plaza for formal or informal gatherings or events.

Active: Similar features to a passive park, but also includes children's play area/structures; may include a stage for outdoor performances and possibly restrooms.

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Table 2.1: Park Categories and Subcategories

	Type	Facility Options	Approx. Minimum Acreage Required	Approx. Minimum Width Required	Approx. Minimum Length Required	Approx. Slope Range	Parking and Restrooms	Examples
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS	Passive Neighborhood Park	Picnic facilities, benches, trail	0.1 - 1.0	20 ft.	20 ft.	0-5%	No parking; No restrooms	Leigh Creekside Park, Mildred Lane Pocket Park
	Active Neighborhood Park	Children's play area / tot lot, picnic facilities, benches	0.25 – 2.0	80 ft.	150 ft.	0-5%	No parking; May include restrooms	Brook Street Park
COMMUNITY PARKS	Sports Fields	Soccer, softball, baseball, Lacrosse	2 – 10	800 ft.	330 ft.	0-5%	Parking and Restrooms	Buckeye Fields, South-End Community Park
	Off-Leash Dog Park	Separate large and small dog areas	1 – 5	flexible	flexible	0-10%	Parking; Probably no restrooms	----
	Bike Park	fenced unpaved bicycle challenge course	1 - 2	flexible	flexible	0-20%	Parking; May include Restrooms	----
	Nature Park	Trails, picnic areas, day camp facilities, native plant garden, wildlife observation	2 - 20 ac. or more	flexible	flexible	0-20%	Parking; May include Restrooms	----

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Table 2.1: Park Categories and Subcategories (continued)

	Type	Facility Options	Approx. Minimum Acreage Required	Approx. Minimum Width Required	Approx. Minimum Length Required	Approx. Slope Range	Parking and Restrooms	Examples
COMMUNITY CENTER	Recreation Facilities	classrooms, assembly rooms, kitchen, senior center, teen center,	2 - 10 ac.	NA	NA	0-5%	Parking and Restrooms	Lafayette Community Center
DOWNTOWN PARKS	Passive Downtown Park	Picnic facilities, benches, turf, creek connection, garden club area, plaza	0.1 - 1.0	20 ft.	20 ft.	0-5%	No parking; No restrooms	Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza
	Active Downtown Park	Children's play area / tot lot, picnic facilities, benches, play lawn, creek connection, outdoor stage	0.25 – 2.0	80 ft.	100 ft.	0-5%	No parking; May include restrooms	

3 Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities

3.1 City Owned Park and Recreation Facilities

City park and recreation facilities include seven parks and the Community Center.⁷ Four of the seven City parks are Neighborhood Parks. Typically, Neighborhood Parks are situated and designed for users within walking distance of that location, which is generally defined as within ½ mile of the park boundaries. A Downtown Park exists in the form of a small plaza. The two Community Parks serve the broad needs of the Community, including sports fields and facilities, group picnic area and other amenities. The *Background Report* provides more detail on each of the City-owned facilities.

Table 3.1: Existing City Parks and Recreation Facilities by Type

<u>Neighborhood Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Brook Street Park (Active)	0.4
Leigh Creekside Park (Passive)	0.6
Mildred Lane Pocket Park (Passive)	0.1
Murray Lane Site (Undeveloped)	<u>2.2</u>
Subtotal	3.3
<u>Community Parks</u>	
Lafayette Community Park (Active and Passive)	68.0
Buckeye Fields (Active)	<u>11.5</u>
Subtotal	79.5
<u>Community Center</u>	
Lafayette Community Center	8.2
<u>Downtown Parks</u>	
Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza	0.3
Total Existing Acreage	91.3

3.2 Other Parks and Recreational Facilities

There are two regional parks that residents use to meet their recreational needs: East Bay Regional Park District's (EBRPD) Briones Regional Park and East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) recreation facilities at Lafayette Reservoir. Figure 3.1 shows these parks on a Lafayette map.

⁷ The Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza is a small parcel at the corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Boulevard that was deeded to the town by Elam Brown in 1864. For more historical background, see "Images of America, Lafayette," by Mary McCosker and Mary Solon, Arcadia Publishing, 2007. This downtown plaza is used for City-sponsored events and is not explicitly designated as City parkland.

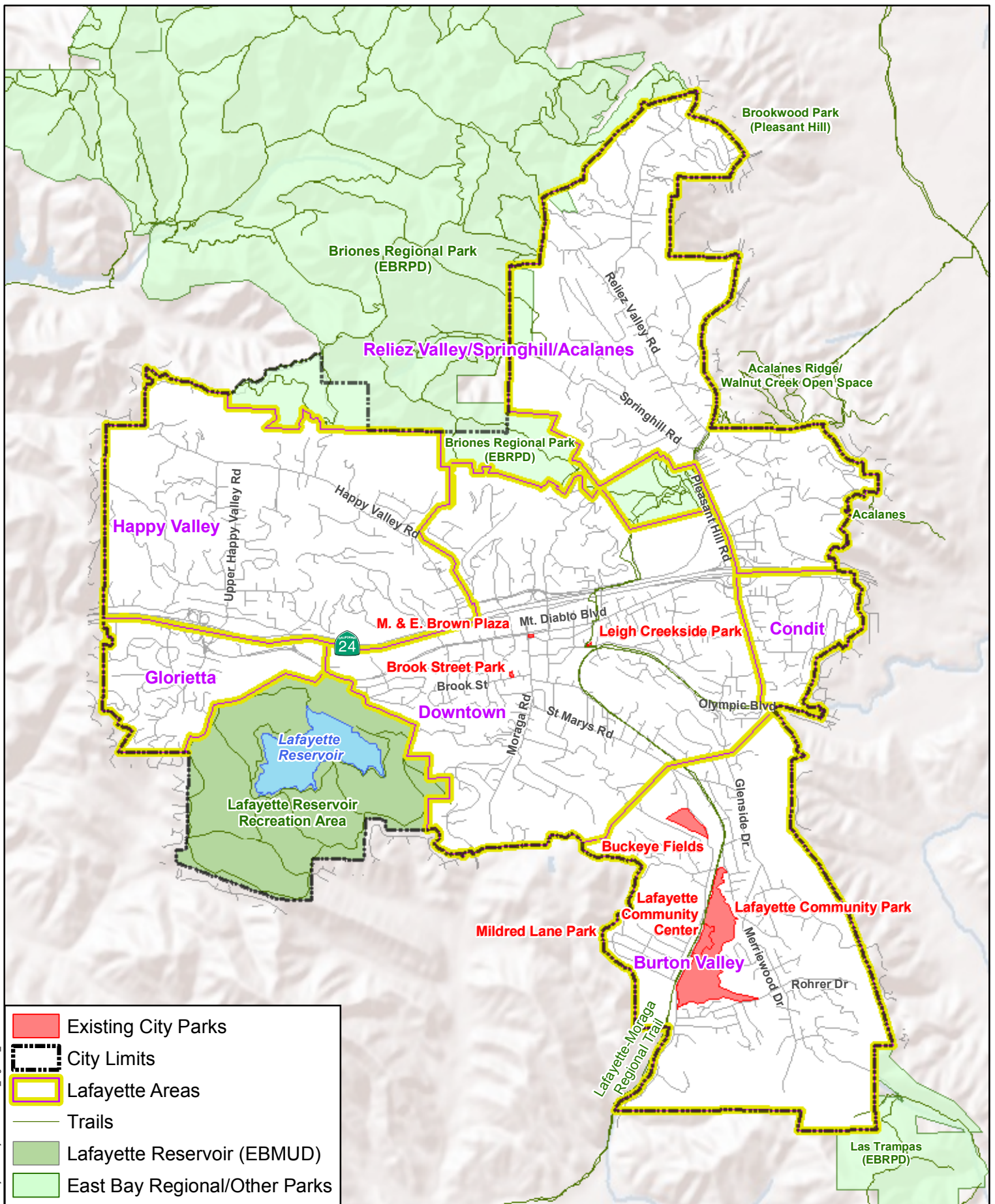
Schools play an important function as recreational facilities, but their primary function is education, and use for general recreation can conflict with school district objectives and policies. The schools may provide limited public access to swimming pools, gymnasiums and other facilities for such activities as swimming, volleyball, running and tennis. There are also three private schools serving elementary and high school students in Lafayette, each with various private recreation facilities.

Lafayette citizens of all ages also enjoy the benefits of many private membership recreational facilities, including swim clubs, tennis clubs and health clubs.

3.3 Existing Park and Recreation Facility Planning Documents

Site-specific master plans have been adopted for the major facilities, and most existing parks are fully developed, with limited additional improvements anticipated.

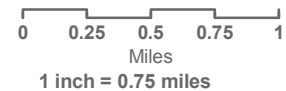
In addition to the site-specific master plans, the PTR Commission generates a multi-year Parks, Trails and Recreation Capital Improvement Plan (PTRCIP) which is reviewed annually during the budget cycle. The PTRCIP identifies funding sources and cost estimates for specific parks, trails and recreation facility projects that have been identified and prioritized by the PTR Commission.



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FIGURE 3.1 - EXISTING PARKS

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
 City of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department



4 Guiding Policies and Public Input

This section highlights existing General Plan policies that provide a foundation for parks and recreation facilities planning, and presents the key results of the public input process that was conducted for the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan.

4.1 Key General Plan Policies

The Parks, Trails, and Recreation Element from the 2002 Lafayette General Plan (reproduced in an Appendix) is the guiding policy document for planning new parks and recreation facilities. General Plan Program P-1.2.1 provides basic criteria:

Program P-1.2.1: Plan parks subject to the following criteria:

- a) distribution of parks and/or open space areas on a neighborhood basis
- b) natural setting and scenic beauty
- c) relationship to the existing and proposed parks and trails
- d) natural resource protection
- e) recreational opportunities
- f) operating and maintenance costs
- g) accessibility of the park to pedestrians and cyclists

This Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan references and incorporates General Plan policies that are intended to mitigate impacts of park development on biology, hydrology, seismic hazards, transportation, and other resources, per item d) in the above policy. Other relevant policies in the Parks, Trails and Recreation Chapter of the General Plan relevant to environmental impacts include:

Program P-1.2.2: Ensure that the development and maintenance of parks and public recreation facilities are consistent with the goals and policies related to visual impact contained in the Land Use and Open Space Chapters.

Program P-1.3.3: Conduct a thorough analysis of geoseismic and other related potential hazards before City acceptance of dedications of land for park or open space. Identified hazards shall be fully repaired and/or financial protection provided to the City for liability before acceptance of land.

4.2 Current Conditions and Previously Identified Needs

The *Background Report* details the overall context of park and recreation facilities that serve Lafayette residents. The PTR Commission considered the overall context in preparing this Master Plan. Some needs for specific park and recreation facilities were identified prior to initiating the Master Plan. The highlights of current park conditions and previously-identified needs are:

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- Studies across the nation and around the world have shown that parks are one of the most beneficial investments any community can make.
- Lafayette has 91.3 acres of City-owned parkland. This includes four neighborhood parks, one downtown park, and two community parks, along with the Community Center.
- Currently, the City needs to acquire an additional 44 acres of parkland to meet its General Plan goal of 5 acres per 1000 people.⁸
- There are no city neighborhood or community parks in the northern and eastern areas of Lafayette.
- More playing fields are needed to serve all age groups, but with an emphasis on our young people.
- The City is built out, and there are limited opportunities for new park and recreation sites. Thus it is very important to develop a Master Plan that can serve as a basis for meeting the park and recreational needs of Lafayette.

4.3 Public Input on New Park Facilities

Community desires for new park and recreation facilities were clarified by the public feedback survey and other outreach efforts conducted for this Master Plan.

As detailed in the *Public Feedback Report*, over 90% of the survey respondents wanted the City to provide more parks. The most desired facilities, in order, are:

1. Additional sports fields;
2. Neighborhood parks, especially in the Reliez Valley/Springhill/Acalanes area of the City (the northeast portion, where there are no existing city parks);
3. Parks in the downtown area (children's play areas and an outdoor performance venue were desired in this category);
4. A dog park;
5. A nature park (nature-oriented outdoor recreation area);
6. A gym/indoor sports facilities;
7. More trails and paths (addressed by the Trails Master Plan).

The area-specific results helped identify more localized desires, especially for neighborhood and downtown parks.

⁸ Based on a projected population of 27,000.

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Beyond the higher priority facilities, other park and recreation facilities were mentioned in some of the survey comments. As noted below, these are not realistic facilities for City ownership.

- **Swimming Pool:** These are very costly and impractical for the City to provide, especially given the availability of existing public and private swim facilities.
- **Tennis Courts:** The courts available at the schools and at private facilities are considered adequate to address the primary demand, especially given the existing shortage of other recreation facilities where the City can better help with the supply.
- **Skate Park:** The City contributed significant capital dollars to the Lamorinda Skate Park, located in Moraga, as a means to provide a facility to serve Lafayette residents.

Subsequent to the efforts and conclusions reflected in the *Public Feedback Report*, public surveys and community workshops were conducted in 2007 and 2008 by the Lafayette Community Development Department as part of the Downtown Specific Plan process. Lafayette residents were asked to describe their vision for the downtown area. Responses indicated a desire to retain the current small town charm that blended with the surrounding natural environment of oak-studded hillsides and cool, shady creeks. The public also expressed a keen interest in downtown parks, creek greenways and pedestrian-friendly facilities.

In addition to the public comments that were captured from the public survey and the Downtown Specific Plan process, the PTR Commission received public comments at regular PTR Commission meetings particularly in regard to the need for a dog park and a bike park.

5 Park and Recreation Facility Initiatives

This section outlines criteria for identifying and evaluating prospective park sites, describes specific park and recreation facilities for which planning was initiated prior to completion of this Master Plan, and describes future specific initiatives for park and recreation facilities.

5.1 Park and Recreation Site Criteria

The Park and Recreation Site Criteria identified in Table 5.1 below expand on the basic site criteria contained in the General Plan. These criteria will be used to identify and evaluate potential park sites for acquisition and improvement.

5.2 Previously Identified New Parks and Recreation Facility Projects

At the time the Master Plan was in the final review stage three specific new projects were undergoing preliminary design. Each of these specific projects is receiving or will receive its own environmental review. It should be noted that approval of the Master Plan would not commit the City to approving or implementing these three projects; rather, the Master Plan only establishes the categories of park and recreational facilities within which these three proposals fall. If any of these three proposals are not approved by the City in the future, the Master Plan would remain unaffected, and different proposals could then be submitted to establish these categories of facilities elsewhere in the City. The three projects are:

Lafayette Community Park

- **Bike Park:** A bike jump facility is currently being designed and undergoing environmental review. The preliminary design includes a 1.8 acre area in the south end of the Lafayette Community Park and includes runs and jumps for bicycle motocross (BMX) and mountain bikes. There are areas being proposed for beginner, intermediate and advanced level riders.

Lafayette Community Center

- **Classroom Renovation:** An unimproved classroom, formerly used by the Friends of the Lafayette Library to store used books and conduct bi-monthly book sales, is currently being designed and undergoing environmental review. Preliminary design includes a full refurbishment of the walls, ceiling, windows, heating system and flooring so the space can be used as a multi-use classroom.
- **Manzanita Building Renovation:** Improvements to enhance usability of the Manzanita Room are currently being designed and undergoing environmental review. The project includes replacing center support posts with new crossbeams, adding restrooms and air conditioning, replacing the ceiling and roof, and expanding access to the back patio.

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Table 5.1: Park and Recreation Site Criteria

LOCATION	1	BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN ACCESS**	Is the proposed site accessible by bicycle, by walking, or by transit? Is it served by bike lanes, sidewalks, or close to (i.e., ¼ mile) a regional multi-use path?
	2	EXPANDS EXISTING TRAILS OR PARKS**	Does the site expand/enhance an existing park and/or extend a trail system?
	3	LAND USE COMPATIBILITY	Are the site and its proposed use(s) compatible with actual uses and activities taking place on adjacent parcels? Compatible with the surrounding land use designations?
	4	RIDGELINE PROTECTION	Are portions of the site located within a protected ridgeline/ridgeline setback?
	5	VEHICULAR ACCESS	Is the site currently served by public roads? If not, is the site served by private roads/easements only? Is there room for a driveway connection? Do the road(s) have sufficient carrying capacity?
DESIGN	6	SIZE	Is the parcel size consistent with the approximate size and dimensions of the potential park type?
	7	SLOPE / TOPOGRAPHY	Can the site be reasonably developed to support the proposed use without significant re-grading of hillsides/slopes? Are prospective sites a maximum of 20% slope or less?
	8	RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**	Does the site accommodate additional recreational uses, especially new ball fields/playing fields?
AESTHETICS	9	NATURAL SETTING / SCENIC BEAUTY**	Do the site and its proposed use(s) enhance or detract from the surrounding natural setting / beauty?
ENVIRONMENTAL	10	NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION**	Does the site contain significant natural resources, such as creeks, wetlands, native vegetation, oak trees?
	11	NATURAL HAZARDS	Is the site located within flood, seismic or known landslide areas/zones?

** Denotes criterion matches in the General Plan

5.3 Proposed New Park and Recreation Facilities

The General Plan sets the goal of adding 44 acres of new parkland as the City realizes its projected population at build-out of approximately 27,000. The addition of this parkland responds to the specific needs and priorities detailed below. These initiatives are based on detailed review of existing facilities, consideration of other types of parks and recreation facilities in and around Lafayette, potential park and recreation site opportunities, and especially on the feedback received from Lafayette citizens.

The identification of specific new sites for park facilities depends on the application of the site criteria and an opportunity to acquire the property. Obtaining new parkland requires a willing seller, donor, or a long-term use arrangement. It is influenced by the real estate market, City finances and priorities, and input from citizens, the surrounding neighborhood, and other parties with an interest in the outcome. Therefore, this Master Plan indicates only general regional locations for some of the parks, based on the interests expressed in the citizen survey for park facilities in geographic areas of the City, as shown in Figure 5.1, and the distribution of existing parks.

1. Neighborhood Parks

Add one or two active or passive neighborhood parks. The creation of these new parks would depend on the characteristics of available sites, the interests of the adjacent neighborhoods, and the needs and desires of citizens in the park's service areas – generally ½ mile from the park site. As per the Table 2.1, Park Categories, the size could be as small as 0.1 acre or as large as 2 acres, depending on interests and opportunities, and could be passive, like Leigh Creekside Park, or have more active facilities, like Brook Street Park, or a combination of the two. Neighborhood parks are proposed in two geographic areas: West Lafayette (Area 1), and Northeast Lafayette (Area 3).

2. Community Parks

Sports Fields

Add a new sports field facility to accommodate soccer, lacrosse, softball and/or baseball. Although rated as the highest priority, this facility is potentially the most difficult to achieve, given the scarcity of large, undeveloped, relatively flat sites. The size could be anywhere from 2 to 10 acres or more, but would need to be toward the larger end of this scale in terms of usable land in order to accommodate more than one type of field along with the required parking and restroom. The impacts of noise, traffic, and potential lights on the surrounding neighborhood will make site selection, layout and design critical considerations, per the Site Evaluation Criteria.

Off-Leash Dog Park

Add a dog park with separate areas for large and small dogs. In 2001 the City Council adopted a set of criteria specific to selection and design of a dog park. The PTR Commission prepared this document based on visits to several Bay Area dog parks and study of criteria of a successful dog park in Tucson, AZ.

The Lafayette Dog Owners' Group (LDog) has been formed to advocate responsible dog ownership, support off-leash dog exercise, and serve as a local educational resource to the community. LDog is working with the Lafayette City Council and PTR Commission in the development of an off-leash dog park.

Nature Park

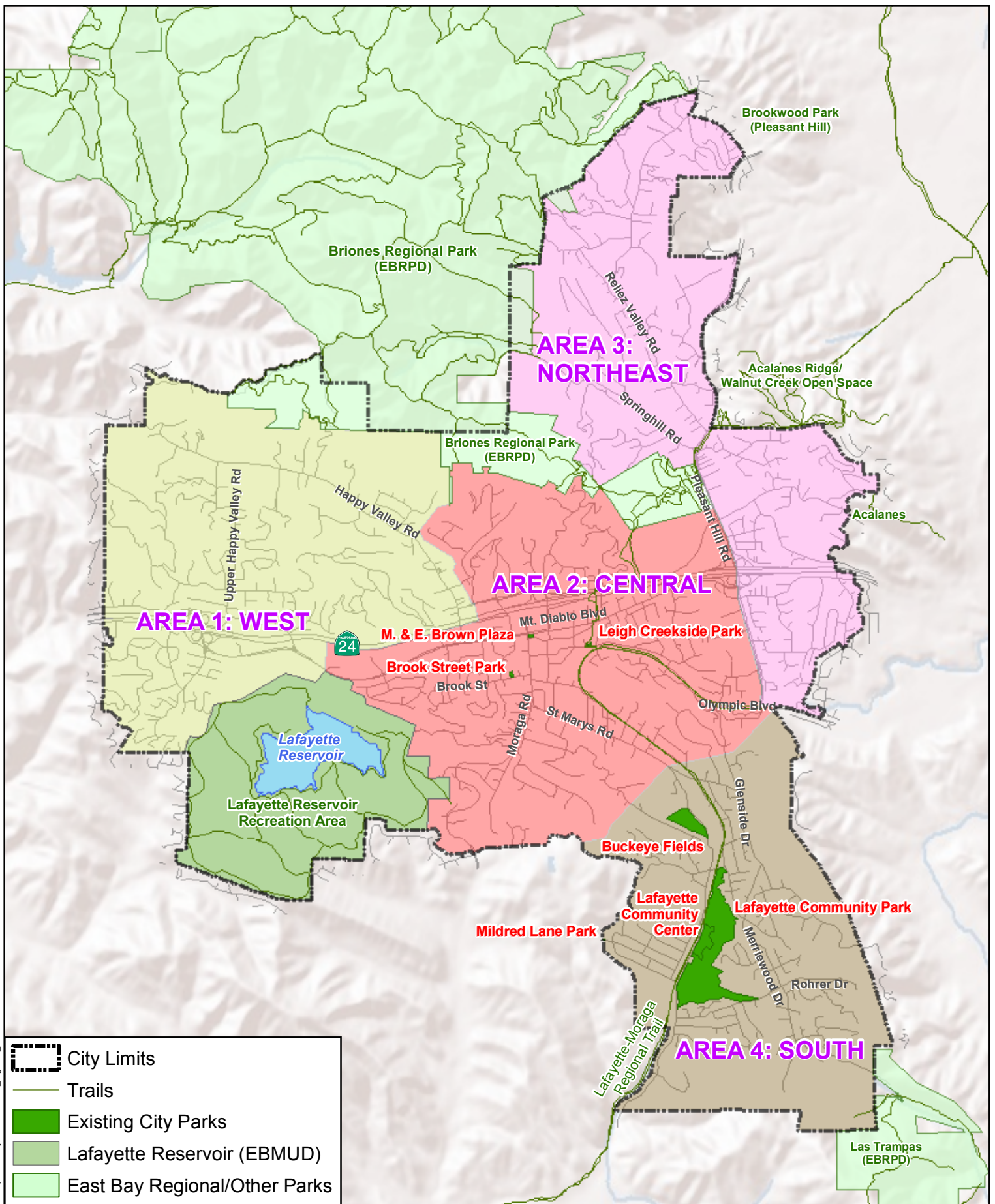
Add a nature park to view and appreciate the abundant plant and animal species that thrive in Lafayette. The priority for this nature-oriented facility is very much opportunity-driven. Its feasibility depends on the availability of a suitable site at a price that the City can afford.

Bike Park

Add a Bike Park to accommodate BMX riders and mountain bicyclists. This facility should be approximately one to two acres in size and should include runs and jumps for bicycle motocross (BMX) and mountain bikes. The park should include areas for beginner, intermediate and advanced level riders. The bike users should have major responsibility for maintaining the bike park.

3. Downtown Parks

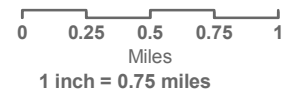
The community has expressed a desire for parks in the downtown. A small facility Downtown for outdoor music and theater events was mentioned several times in the parks survey. The DSP related surveys and public meetings indicated a public desire for downtown parks and recreation facilities. As described in Section 1.5, specific downtown park opportunities will be considered as part of the City's Downtown Specific Plan process.



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FIGURE 5.1 - LAFAYETTE GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
 City of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department



6 Costs and Funding

This section presents factors for estimating the cost of new parks, and potential opportunities to fund and implement new parks through public and private grants or partnerships.

6.1 Cost Categories and Factors

Costs for new city parks will include land, improvements, and ongoing maintenance.

1. Acquisition and Improvement

Land Cost. The cost for park land acquisition varies widely based on the real estate market, the development potential of the land, seller needs, and other factors. There may be opportunities for below-market sales or outright donation of land, which provides some tax benefits to the seller. Development projects may afford opportunities to acquire parkland through dedication in lieu of park fees, but given the mostly built-out condition of Lafayette, these opportunities will be limited.

Facilities Cost. Improvement costs also vary widely, depending on the specific site, the improvements and facilities proposed, and current construction market conditions. Based on past examples, typical facilities cost for Neighborhood Parks is estimated at \$740,000 per acre, and typical facilities cost for Community Parks at \$560,000 per acre.⁹

2. Operation and Maintenance

Adding new parks and recreation facilities will add a corresponding increase in operation and maintenance (O&M) costs. Maintenance requirements and costs for new parks and recreation facilities can be estimated from actual cost records kept by PTR staff. For the fiscal year July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009, operations and maintenance costs included:

- Buckeye Fields, an 11.5 acre sports field park with about 4.5 acres of developed area, at \$121,000, or about \$27,000 per developed acre;
- Minor Parks, with one acre of developed area in Brook Street and Leigh Creekside Parks, at about \$13,000 total/per developed acre, and;
- Community Park, 68 acres, with approximately 12 acres developed area for active and passive recreation, at \$156,000, or about \$13,000 per developed acre.
- Total park operation and maintenance cost for the above 80.5 acres of parks was about \$290,000, or an average of \$3,600 per overall acre, or \$16,500 per developed acre.
- Community Center, an 8.5 developed site at \$214,000 or about \$25,000 per developed acre.

⁹ Parkland and Park Facilities Fees Report, City of Lafayette, Seifel Consulting Inc., July 2008.

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The O&M costs for the 2.2 acre Murray Lane park site or the 0.1 acre Mildred Lane Pocket Park are insignificant. At present, the 0.3 acre Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza is maintained by the Public Works Department, and the cost is part of that budget.

The General Plan park and recreation facilities goal of adding 44 acres to the existing 80.5 acres of park maintenance detailed above would be more than a 50% increase in acres of facilities to be maintained. This would result in an approximate 50% increase in operations and maintenance cost, or approximately an additional \$85,000 per year at 2008 costs.

As new parks are more specifically planned and implemented, the ability to fund the corresponding operations and maintenance cost of approximately \$5,500 per developed acre must be addressed. This has already occurred at a general level through the environmental and financial analysis completed for the General Plan in conjunction with establishment of the original park facility goal and other City goals.

6.2 Funding Sources and Partnerships

1. City Funding Sources

Historically, City-generated funds for parks and recreation facilities are limited. Funds for acquiring and improving parkland are derived primarily from three sources: (1) park fees paid to the City in conjunction with permits for new residential construction, including the addition of living space to existing housing; (2) grants, primarily from the State of California from voter-approved park and environmental bonds; and (3) donations from the users of the facility and/or foundations supporting the facility. In addition, the City transfers \$15,000 each year to the Playground Equipment Sinking Fund, which is part of the parks capital fund. This supports the replacement or upgrading of the playground equipment.¹⁰

There are two types of park fees on new residential construction. One is a Parkland Fee that goes to a Parkland Acquisition Fund to help the City meet its parkland goal. The other is a Park Facilities Fee. The City recently changed to this fee structure.¹¹ Also, a mechanism was added to adjust the fees each year based on changes in property values and construction costs, respectively.

¹⁰ There are play structures at Brook Street Park, the Community Center and the Community Park.

¹¹ City of Lafayette Parkland and Park Facilities Fees Report, Seifel Consulting Inc., July 2008

2. Private Funding and Support Opportunities

There are many potential forms of private support and participation in implementing new or improved park and recreation facilities.

Donations and Sponsorships. Service groups, corporations, and private individuals may donate land, cash, materials, and/or services to complete park and recreation facilities. This could occur in small increments through a coordinated fundraising program, or as a major donation or sponsorship of a project. Many cities have park “friends groups” that are formally organized as non-profit corporations to facilitate soliciting and accepting donations in ways that the city may not be able to pursue.

Private Grants. Some private trusts and foundations provide funding for park and recreation projects. These grants are typically competitive, and often are available only when an application is solicited. The grant objectives, criteria and amounts vary widely, but tend to be focused on specific social or environmental objectives, including extreme need.

3. Facility Partnerships or Use Agreements

While Lafayette currently owns all its city parks, land ownership is not necessarily required to provide land for parks, as long as the City has control over the park property or recreational facility. In this context, control means that the City has an agreement with the property owner for long-term use of the property for park and recreation purposes commensurate with the economic life of any facilities at that site paid for with City funds. Another park and recreation opportunity may be partnership arrangements. These are potential park sites or recreational facilities owned by public or private entities where the use would be shared with the City. These can include churches, private clubs, schools, and other organizations, or public agencies. To develop such an opportunity requires a contract between the entity and the City that allows the City’s Parks, Trails and Recreation Department to schedule the use of the facility for predetermined time periods. If the contract covers a substantial number of years, then City investments in the site and facilities are possible.

4. Government Grants

State and federal grant programs provide opportunities for park and recreation facility funding. However, government grant funding for these facilities are quite limited for a relatively affluent community such as Lafayette. There may be some opportunities to obtain grants that fund certain aspects of parks, such as trails and pathways, habitat protection or tree planting.

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Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA- 21). This federal program funds a wide variety of transportation-related projects. Funding is passed through Caltrans. It primarily funds trail and transportation projects and related landscape and amenity improvements. The money can be used for both maintenance and capital construction, but is primarily focused on regional, rather than local bike and pedestrian systems and does not include local neighborhood trails.

Land and Water Conservation Funds. Funded through the National Park Service and administered by California Department of Parks and Recreation. Funds can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities that include protection and restoration of habitat, and require a 50% match.

Urban Forestry Grants. The U. S. Forest Service administers the Urban and Community Forestry challenge cost share grant program [<http://treelink.org/>]. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's Urban Forestry Program offers grants of over \$1 million dollars a year to plant trees and over \$2.5 million for related projects in urban communities [http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry.php].

California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Department may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance wildlife habitat and water quality, such as invasive plant management, native plant restoration, debris removal, flood mitigation, and water crossing enhancements.

Proposition 84. In 2006, California voters passed Proposition 84, providing \$5.4 billion to fund competitive grants for the creation of new parks and recreation opportunities in critically underserved and impoverished communities.

Proposition 40. In 2002, voters passed Proposition 40, providing 2.6 billion dollars for several park grant programs, including a per capita allocation, and several competitive grant programs. These grant funds have now been expended.

7 Implementation Measures

The following actions are important to implementing this Master Plan and to pursuing other opportunities as they arise to provide needed park and recreation facilities for Lafayette citizens.

1. Park and Recreation Site Evaluation Criteria

The Park and Recreation Site Evaluation Criteria identified in Table 5.1 will be used to identify and evaluate potential park sites for acquisition and park and recreation facility improvement and use. In addition, public and neighborhood opinion will be obtained as part of the site evaluation process.

2. Cost Estimation

Specific costs and corresponding funding for land purchase, park improvements, and operation and maintenance cost will be developed and reviewed for each specific proposed park, using the information provided in Section 6, Costs and Funding, as a guide. To the extent costs change with time, these changes will be reflected.

3. Environmental Analysis

The specific environmental impacts of each park and recreation opportunity or proposal will be evaluated to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) at the time that the project is sufficiently defined. The impact of the current general park and recreation facilities initiatives are consistent with, and addressed by, the environmental analysis prepared for the General Plan, as determined by a CEQA Initial Study and memorandum.

4. Review of Development Proposals

The Community Development Department, as part of its review of land subdivision and development projects, will identify potential areas that meet the Park and Recreation Site Evaluation Criteria and specific park site acquisition objectives in this Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan, and will coordinate with the Parks, Trails and Recreation Department to determine if dedication and/or acquisition of park land is desirable/feasible in conjunction with the project.

5. Funding and Partnerships

Public and private grant funding, donations, sponsorships and partnership agreements should be pursued to provide new park and recreation facilities or opportunities, using the information provided in Section 6.

6. Use of School Sports Fields

Lafayette and regional youth sport leagues use the school fields for their programs, in addition to the City parks.

The PTR Commission and staff will stay apprised of School District and Lafayette youth sports organization efforts to meet the demand for sports fields. If a school were to close, the City will consider potential acquisition for fields and other park and recreation facilities, taking advantage of the public law that requires that the City be offered the first opportunity to purchase surplus public school property.¹²

7. Update of the Master Plan

This Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a “living” document that should be updated regularly by addendum as public sentiment, conditions, needs and opportunities change. A comprehensive update of the document, incorporating all the amendments and reflecting current conditions, should occur at intervals of 10 years or less.

8 Environmental Analysis

As required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Lafayette has completed an Environmental Checklist / Initial Study (IS) for the purpose of determining whether the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan might have a significant effect on the environment as compared to those significant and unavoidable impacts detailed in the City's General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR). It was determined from the IS that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment. As a result, an Addendum to the General Plan will be filed.

As specific parks and recreation facilities are located, acquired and/or developed, all information relating to any specific impacts not anticipated in the General Plan EIR (as modified by the Addendum) will be analyzed. If warranted by that analysis, supplemental CEQA documentation will be prepared and subject to public review at the time of acquisition or development. CEQA documentation regarding the Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan will be on file with the City of Lafayette Park, Trails and Recreation Department.

¹² California Education Code Sections 17485-17500

CHAPTER IV

PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION

PURPOSE

This chapter addresses the City's existing and future requirements for parks, trails and recreation facilities. It emphasizes coordination with other jurisdictions such as the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), along with City programs to achieve a high quality of City facilities. It provides a policy framework through which we can continue to provide a diversity of recreation opportunities for our community.

REGIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

Lafayette is fortunate to be surrounded by three large regional facilities:

1. Lafayette Reservoir, located in the southwest corner of the City, is operated by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) and provides a trails system, boat rental, fishing, picnic facilities, group camping and biking.
2. Briones Regional Park, located north of the City limits, is operated by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) and provides hiking, equestrian, and picnic facilities.
3. Las Trampas Regional Wilderness, located southeast of the City, is also operated by the EBRPD, and provides hiking, equestrian and picnic facilities.

These regionally managed lands provide large areas of open space that are easily accessible to Lafayette residents. They constitute a major part of the beautiful natural setting of the City. However, the lands are only partially linked to each other and public access is limited. Publicly owned parcels along Lafayette Ridge and along Burton Ridge are not contiguous and are accessible only by foot from EBRPD and Lafayette City trails. The City's *Master Trails Plan*, on file at the City offices and at the Parks and Recreation Department, shows several existing and proposed trails to open space areas.

LAFAYETTE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The City's park system is made up of three types of facilities: a community center, community parks and neighborhood parks.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Lafayette Community Center: The Lafayette Community Center, 500 St. Mary's Road, is well used by the community and serves as a community gathering place. It provides rooms for community meetings and classes, a large event space, an outdoor roller hockey rink in the parking lot and a fenced tot play area. Lafayette's City Council, commissions and committees utilize the facility for meetings, and the offices of the Parks and Recreation Department are housed there. The facility is also available for rental and is largely self-supporting.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Lafayette Community Park: The Lafayette Community Park, 480 St. Mary's Road, is only partially developed, with a City approved Master Plan to guide further development. Under the Master Plan, 70% of the park will remain in its natural state, preserving riparian habitat, oak woodlands, and the scenic value of the park. Trails will allow access to these nature areas. The southern portion of the park contains the active recreation areas and consists of two high-quality baseball and soccer fields, a children's play area, group picnic facilities and a parking lot for about 81 vehicles, which also serves as a park-and-ride lot.

711 St. Mary's Road Park: Buckeye Fields: This 11.5 acre park has many oak and buckeye trees on the site. The two baseball fields are primarily used by Lafayette Little League during the baseball season pursuant to a lease with the city. A plaza and concession/restroom building are located behind the fields near the road. The meeting building is used by a number of community organizations. The paved parking lot provides year round use.

Murray Lane Parkland: This 2.18 acre site is adjacent to the Lafayette Community Park and provides an important trail connection. The property contains a heritage oak on the southern end. There are plans to install a meandering crushed walk pathway, benches and landscaping.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Brook Street Park: Located at the corner of Brook Street and East Street, this park consists of a small play area for children and neighborhood picnic facilities.

Leigh Creekside Park: Located at the corner of Moraga Boulevard and 4th Street, this park is within walking distance of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail and adjacent to Las Trampas Creek. By design, Leigh Creekside Park has passive recreation uses including picnic facilities. This neighborhood park was acquired using State funds and funds raised by the immediate neighborhood.

Mildred Lane Park: Located at the end of South Lucille, this park provides a small nature observation area serving the local residents.

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TABLE 1
LAFAYETTE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Facility	Map Key	Gross Acres	Developed Acres		Existing Recreation and Park Facilities	Proposed Recreation and Park Facilities
			Now	Planned		
Lafayette Community Center	A	8.2	7.5	8.0	Recreation class rooms, Friends of the Lafayette Library, League of Women Voters, meeting rooms, kitchen, tot play area, patio, native garden, Petanque court and roller hockey area	Storage room, additional restrooms, and other amenities
Lafayette Community Park	B	68.0	~6.0	~20.0	Baseball and soccer fields, equipment storage, children's play area, trails, scenic and natural areas, group picnic area, bridges, restroom.	North end improvements including family picnic sites, restrooms, , multi-use trails, nature areas, open lawn play areas, other active recreational uses. A wetland nature area is proposed for the central area and a trails system throughout the park.
Buckeye Fields	C	11.5	8.5	8.5	Baseball fields, meeting room and picnic area	Master Plan calls for relocation of baseball fields, soccer fields and a concession facility.
Murray Park Land		2.18	1.5	1.5	Trail Connection	Crushed walk pathway
Brook Street Park	D	0.38	0.38	0	Children's play equipment and picnic facilities	Complete
Leigh Creekside Park	E	0.6	0.6	0	Nature study and picnicking	Complete
Mildred Lane Park	F	0.10	0.10	0.10	Nature observation bench and native landscaping	Complete
Total Existing Acreage		90.98	24.58	37.6		
Acreage Required to meet standard of 5 acres per 1000		135.00	---	---		
Acreage Deficit		(46.2)	---	---		

SOURCE: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT AND THE PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, CITY OF LAFAYETTE, 1998

TRAILS

Trails offer scenic views, commute alternatives and recreational opportunities. Lafayette has an extensive system of trails provided by the City, the East Bay Regional Park District, and the East Bay Municipal Utilities District.

The Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail – the first "rails to trail" conversion of its kind (dedicated 1978) - is maintained by the East Bay Regional Parks District and extends southward from the trail head at Olympic Boulevard and Reliez Station Road to the Town of Moraga. The East Bay Municipal Utility District maintains an extensive network of trails adjacent to the Lafayette Reservoir. The City maintains a number of neighborhood trails including the Walter Costa Trail, the Petar Jakovina Trail, the Silver Springs Loop, the Springhill Valley Trail, The Moraga Road to the Reservoir Trail and the Rohrer Drive Trail.

The existing trails, although primarily for hiking, allow for some cycling and equestrian use. This system could be enhanced with additional connections. The *Lafayette Master Trails Plan* on file at the City offices and the Parks and Recreation Department shows the complete system with additional connections.

The trails system as shown on the *Lafayette Master Trails Plan* provides access to public places and to scenic vistas that represent a significant natural amenity to the community. Where feasible, the proposed trails interconnect, providing a continuous trails system.

Refer to the Circulation Chapter for a discussion of bikeways and walkways.

PLANNING FOR FUTURE PARKS, TRAILS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

According to the standard of five acres for each one thousand persons, the City presently has a shortage of about 46 acres of parkland. While new development (i.e., subdivisions) will be required to supply parkland up to this ratio, this cannot address the entire deficit. The City recognizes that it must continue to identify specific recreation needs, possible park and trail locations, and appropriate funding sources. Previous planning efforts for individual park facilities have underscored the need for a comprehensive, city-wide park plan.

As Lafayette's demographics change, there will be increased demand for certain recreation facilities. In recent years, the number of school-age children has grown and population trends point to further growth in the youth segment. Meanwhile, past public school closures (Ellis, Burton, Montecito and Vallecito Schools) have reduced the number and type of recreation facilities. Consequently, the City's playing fields are now used to capacity by organized sport groups, such as the Lafayette Moraga Youth Association (LMYA), the Lafayette Moraga Soccer Club (LMSC), and the Lafayette Little League. This demand is only expected to increase. The City has concluded that for the time horizon of this plan, there will be a persistent need for additional playing fields for soccer, baseball, roller hockey and lacrosse. Map IV-1: *Parks and Recreation Facilities* shows recommended general locations for additional parkland and recreation facilities.

The City lacks adequate funds for all needed parks, trails and recreation improvements identified in this Plan, including the acquisition of additional parkland. Funding to date has come from

grants, gifts, parkland dedication fees and bond measures. Acquisition and development of future parks are also expected to rely on outside funding sources. The City will continue to work with the EBRPD to acquire open space and trail easements for Lafayette Ridge and Burton Ridge, and to acquire any suitable lands that may unexpectedly become available over time. While pursuing its planned development of parklands, the City should capitalize on unanticipated opportunities when they arise.

GOALS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Goal P-1 Provide an attractive system of parks, trails and recreation facilities throughout the City to meet the needs and interests of all ages and capabilities.

Policy P-1.1 Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan: Existing and future parks, trails and recreation facilities will be acquired and designed in accordance with a comprehensive, community-wide vision.

Program P-1.1.1: Prepare and adopt a *Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan*.

The Parks, Trails and Recreation Master Plan will include standards for parks, trails and recreation facilities. The Plan will address the need for active and passive recreation facilities and the distribution of facilities throughout the City. It will build on the Lafayette Master Trails Plan (adopted in 1983), the Community Center Master Plan (adopted in 1984), the Community Park Master Plan (adopted in 1988), and the 711 St. Mary's Road Park and Recreation Master Plan (adopted in 1991). Masterplan updated in 2006

Program P-1.1.2: Actively solicit public participation in the selection and design of, and facilities planning for, existing and future parks, trails and recreation facilities.

Program P-1.1.3: Work with other public and private agencies and groups to acquire, develop, operate, and maintain parks, trails and recreation facilities.

Program 1.1.4: Seek to acquire and develop neighborhood parks throughout the city, and particularly in those areas and neighborhoods that are comparatively underserved by parks.

Policy P-1.2 Park Planning and Design: Develop a system of high quality, well designed parks and recreation facilities that take advantage of the City's semi-rural character.

(See *Map IV-1: Park, Trails and Recreation Facilities*.)

Program P-1.2.1: Plan parks subject to the following criteria:

- a) distribution of parks and/or open space areas on a neighborhood basis
- b) natural setting and scenic beauty
- c) relationship to the existing and proposed parks and trails
- d) natural resource protection

- e) recreational opportunities
- f) operating and maintenance costs
- g) accessibility of the park to pedestrians and cyclists

Program P-1.2.2: Ensure that the development and maintenance of parks and public recreation facilities are consistent with the goals and policies related to visual impact contained in the *Land Use and Open Space Chapters*.

Policy P-1.3 Parkland Standard: Provide parks and recreation facilities in accordance with standards and practices appropriate to a semi-rural and largely built-out residential community.

Program P-1.3.1: Use the standard of up to five acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for the dedication, acquisition, and improvement of parkland pursuant to the provisions of the Quimby Act. (Government Code §66477)

Program P-1.3.2: Maintain a separate fund for the collection and accounting of Parkland Dedication in lieu fees as required by the Quimby Act.

Program P-1.3.3: Conduct a thorough analysis of geoseismic and other related potential hazards before City acceptance of dedications of land for park or open space. Identified hazards shall be fully repaired and/or financial protection provided to the City for liability before acceptance of land.

Policy P-1.4 Operate, Maintain and Improve Facilities: Operate, maintain and improve facilities, as needed, to achieve high-quality and good design.

Program P-1.4.1: Prepare an annual report to the City Council on the status of acquisition and improvement of parks, trails and recreation facilities. The report shall include a list of existing and proposed projects, associated costs and sources of funding. The report should also identify what additional actions may be necessary to implement the policies of this chapter.

Program P-1.4.2: Include expansion and improvement of the City's parks, trails and recreation facilities in the Capital Improvement Program.

Policy P-1.5 Fund Operation, Maintenance and Improvements: Fund operation, maintenance and improvements for parks, trails and recreation facilities through a variety of funding mechanisms outside the General Fund.

Program P-1.5.1: Outline in the *Parks and Recreation Master Plan* potential sources and strategies for funding capital projects and for acquiring, operating and maintaining recreation facilities, parks, and trails.

Goal P-2 **Provide recreational, educational, and cultural programs to meet the needs and interests of all age groups.**

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Policy P-2.1 Community Center: Maintain the Community Center as a multi-use facility available for recreational, educational, and cultural programs and civic and community activities.

Policy P-2.2 Locate programs throughout the community: Locate recreational, educational and cultural programs throughout the community to provide convenient access and local support.

Program P-2.2.1: Work with school districts, civic organizations, and business groups to provide additional programs throughout the community to serve community needs and interests.

Goal P-3 *Implement the Lafayette Master Trails Plan.*

Policy P-3.1 Complete the Trail System: Complete the trail system as shown on the *Lafayette Master Trails Plan* on file at the City offices and the Parks and Recreation Department.

Program P-3.1.1: Work with the East Bay Regional Parks District (EBRPD), East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), Contra Costa County, adjacent cities, regional trail groups and other public agencies on trail planning issues.

Program P-3.1.2: Construct trails according to the standards established by the *California Trails Manual* and EBRPD standards.

Program P-3.1.3: Incorporate trails development in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

Program P-3.1.4: Where development is proposed on a parcel that includes a planned or proposed trail as shown on the *Lafayette Master Trails Plan*, the applicant shall be required to provide an easement or dedicate public right-of-way that can be used to construct a public trail per the *Lafayette Master Trails Plan*.

Program P-3.1.5: Require easement surveying and permanent marking as a condition of approval.

Program P-3.1.6: Periodically review and update the *Lafayette Master Trails Plan*.

Policy P-3.2 Design of Trails: Locate and design trail routes to the following criteria:

- a) Emphasis on scenic qualities
- b) Use and enjoyment by neighborhoods and City residents
- c) Connection with local and regional open space areas, parks, points of interest, and community facilities

Policy P-3.3 Local Use: Encourage residents to use the trail system.

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Program P-3.3.1: Continue to prepare, update and distribute maps of neighborhood trails for local use.

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Attachment 1 - Background Report



November 16, 2009

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan Attachment 1 – Background Report

Prepared for:

**City of Lafayette
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission**

Alison Hill, Chair
Geoffrey Bellenger
Robert Lobron
Judy Nelson
Jeff Peacock
Mark Poole
Peter Read
Carol Singer

Jennifer Russell, Director of Parks, Trails & Recreation
Steven Falk, City Manager
Ann Merideth, Community Development Director
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Services Manager

Prepared by:



511 First Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 746-1948

November 16, 2009

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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1 Introduction and Benefits of Parks

1.1 Purpose and Summary

Parks are and can be one of the significant resources that make Lafayette a special place to live. This Lafayette Parks Background Report (Report or Background Report) is the first phase in the creation of a Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan for the City. Preparing a Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan is a goal of the City's 2002 General Plan. The general objective is to create a road map for providing the park facilities needed to serve the citizens of Lafayette according to goals and policies established in the General Plan.¹ This includes meeting the goal of five acres of parkland per 1,000 inhabitants, which requires an additional 44 acres of City parkland.

The purpose of this Background Report is to inform the public about (a) the existing park facilities serving Lafayette citizens, (b) the goals and policies in the General Plan, (c) prior community surveys and current trends in the use of and need for park and associated recreational facilities, and (d) proposed criteria for identifying and evaluating new park sites.

The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan will not address open space or trails. The Master Plan is focused on City-owned or City-controlled property that can be used for active recreational or passive park purposes. City parks may provide open space areas that are preserved in their natural state, but their primary purpose is to provide active recreation.

The highlights of this Report are:

- Parks are one of the most beneficial investments any community can make.
- Lafayette has 91 acres of City-owned parkland. This includes four neighborhood parks and two community parks, along with the Community Center.
- Currently, the City needs to acquire an additional 44 acres of parkland to meet its General Plan goal of 5 acres per 1000 people.²
- There are no neighborhood or community parks in the northern and eastern areas of Lafayette.
- More playing fields are needed to serve all age groups, but with an emphasis on our young people.

¹ Chapter IV of the Lafayette General Plan, Adopted October 28, 2002.

² Based on a projected population of 27,000.

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- An off-leash dog park is a City goal, and the Lafayette Dog Owners Group is actively pursuing a site.³
- As part of the Downtown Strategy process, the desire for a downtown park with children's play facilities has been strongly expressed.⁴
- The City is built out, and there are limited opportunities for new park sites. Thus it is very important to develop a Master Plan now that can serve as a basis for completing the park and recreational needs of Lafayette.

To develop a successful Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan requires the active participation of Lafayette citizens. The public participation process included widely-noticed public workshops, an on-line and written survey, meetings with neighborhood and recreation groups, and other forms of outreach to check in with Lafayette citizens about their need and desire for additional parks and recreation facilities, and about any issues associated with acquiring and developing additional parks.

1.2 Report Contents

This Background Report includes the following chapters:

1. **Introduction and Benefits of Parks**
Overview, including a summary of significant studies and findings regarding the benefits of providing parks and definitions of park types.
2. **Existing Park Facilities Serving Lafayette**
Brief history, descriptions and maps of existing City-owned park facilities. Description of other parks and associated recreational facilities in and around Lafayette, including schools and private recreation facilities.
3. **Park Goals, Policies and Financing**
Adopted park goals and policies from the General Plan. Existing City-owned parkland compared to other neighboring cities and towns. Sources of funds for Lafayette parks.
4. **Park Use, Trends and Community Needs**
Current park use. Trends and requests for facility use that are not being met. Summary of prior community surveys about parks.
5. **Proposed Park Site Criteria**
Categories for potentially needed/desired parks, and criteria for evaluating potential park sites.
6. **Conclusions and Next Steps**

There are also two appendices supporting the materials and discussion in this Report.

³ Go to www.lafayettetdog.org for more information.

⁴ See Section 1.6, below, for more on the Downtown Strategy.

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1.3 Why Plan for Parks?

Through the early 1900's, most Americans lived in rural environments or small towns. Today, in the 21st century, over 85% of the population lives in large cities, metropolitan areas, and sprawling suburbs. As population increases, so does our need for parks⁵.

Parks provide considerable benefits to a community. The Trust for Public Land notes that parks "improve our physical and psychological health, strengthen our communities, and make our cities and neighborhoods more attractive places to live and work."⁶ Research for the Background Report identified numerous studies and public surveys that document the benefits of parks. These are detailed in Appendix A to the Report. The key benefits are listed below in Figure 1.1.

⁵ Trust For Public Land, 2005. *The Benefit of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*, p. 4.

⁶ Lafayette General Plan

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Figure 1.1: Benefits of Parks⁷

PERSONAL BENEFITS

- Physical recreation and fitness contributes to a FULL AND MEANINGFUL LIFE.
- Regular physical activity is one of the very best methods of HEALTH INSURANCE for individuals.
- Relaxation, rest and revitalization through the opportunity of leisure is ESSENTIAL TO STRESS MANAGEMENT in today's busy and demanding world.
- Meaningful leisure activity is an essential SOURCE OF SELF-ESTEEM AND POSITIVE SELF-IMAGE.
- Leisure provides the opportunity to lead BALANCED LIVES, ACHIEVE OUR FULL POTENTIAL and GAIN LIFE SATISFACTION.
- CHILDREN'S PLAY IS ESSENTIAL TO THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.
- Leisure opportunities for youth provide POSITIVE LIFESTYLE CHOICES AND ALTERNATIVES to self-destructive behavior.
- Parks and open spaces bring beauty to an area while GIVING PEOPLE SATISFACTION AND IMPROVING THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Leisure provides leadership opportunities that BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES.
- Community-recreation reduces ALIENATION, LONELINESS AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOURS.
- Community recreation PROMOTES ETHNIC AND CULTURAL HARMONY.
- Recreating together BUILDS STRONG FAMILIES, the foundation of a stronger society.
- Leisure provides opportunities for COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT, AND SHARED MANAGEMENT AND OWNERSHIP OF RESOURCES.
- INTEGRATED AND ACCESSIBLE LEISURE SERVICES are critical to the quality of life of people with a disability and disadvantaged individuals.
- Leisure opportunities, facilities and the quality of the local environment are the FOUNDATIONS OF COMMUNITY PRIDE.
- Leisure services enrich and complement protective services, for LATCHKEY CHILDREN through after-school and other recreational services.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

- Pay now or pay more later! Investment in recreation as a PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICE makes sense.
- A fit work force is A PRODUCTIVE WORK FORCE.
- Small investments in recreation yield BIG ECONOMIC RETURNS.
- Parks and recreation services motivate BUSINESS RELOCATION AND EXPANSION in your community.
- Meaningful leisure services REDUCE THE HIGH COST OF VANDALISM AND CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.
- Recreation and park services are often the CATALYST FOR TOURISM, growing sector of our economy.
- INVESTMENTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION through the provision of parks and open spaces PAY FOR THEMSELVES.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

- Through the provision of parks, open spaces and protected natural environments, recreation can contribute to the ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH of our communities. This is an essential, life-sustaining role.
- The public is often prepared to pay for ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION in their communities, and to support parks and recreation organizations that play a lead role in that protection.
- INVESTING IN THE ENVIRONMENT through parks and the provision of open space in residential areas, leads to an increase in neighborhood property values through accessibility to environmentally friendly green spaces and associated recreation opportunities.
- The trend toward natural environment based leisure activities is INSURANCE FOR A NEW AND IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE.

⁷ Source: *The Benefits of Recreation: An Essential Service*, The Parks and Recreation Federation of Ontario, 1992.

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1.4 Park Definitions

The Lafayette General Plan defines parks as “open space lands whose primary purpose is recreation”⁸. Lafayette benefits from neighborhood, community, and regional parks. While the City owns limited neighborhood and community facilities, it also benefits from regional parks that are used by both local and regional residents. Citizens of Lafayette also enjoy the benefits of a number of private recreational facilities. The next chapter details the many facilities that serve Lafayette residents.

The General Plan offers the following definitions for the City-owned parks.

- *Community Park*: Land with full public access intended to provide recreation opportunities beyond those supplied by neighborhood parks. Community parks are larger in scale than neighborhood parks but smaller than regional parks
- *Neighborhood Park*: City-owned land intended to serve the recreation needs of people living or working within one-half mile radius of the park.

The General Plan also classifies parks into two recreation categories: *active* and *passive*:

- *Active* recreation includes any “type of recreation or activity which requires the use of organized play areas including, but not limited to, softball, baseball, football and soccer fields, tennis and basketball courts and various forms of children's play equipment.”
- *Passive* recreation includes any “type of recreation or activity which does not require the use of organized play areas.”



“Parks,” as defined in the current Master Plan, do not include open space, which is generally land in a natural condition without any formal facilities except for trails. Open space is probably one of the most important aspects of Lafayette’s setting and desirability as a place to live, and should be considered as part of the context for studying parks. Almost all of Lafayette’s open space, outside of defined parks, is under

⁸ Lafayette General Plan, Chapter IV.

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private ownership. It is preserved in a variety of ways, including conservation easements, scenic easements and ordinances that govern development on ridges and hillsides. The City and the East Bay Regional Parks District have trail easements throughout the City that provide access to open space, traverse ridgelines and connect parks.

1.5 Relationship to the Lafayette Downtown Strategy

The City is developing a Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan. The Downtown is defined as the Redevelopment Area, which is made up of parcels zoned for commercial or multifamily uses. It follows along both sides of Mt. Diablo Boulevard from the new Veteran's Memorial Building at Risa Road on the West to just past Pleasant Hill Road on the East. Details of this effort can be found at the City's website at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us.

A representative of the PT&R Commission participated on the Downtown Strategy Advisory Committee to ensure collaboration and continuity between the two planning efforts.

As of the preparation of this report, the Downtown Strategy and Specific Plan was undergoing a final round of revisions directed by the City Council prior to consideration of final adoption.

1.6 Public Input

This Report provided background information for the public as a first step in the Parks Master Plan process. It represents extensive research and documentation by the PT&R Commission. The primary objective of the next phase of the Master Plan process was to obtain ideas and concerns from all interested parties regarding new parkland acquisition and development in the City of Lafayette. The results of this process are documented in the *Public Feedback Report* and reflected in the Master Plan recommendations.

2 Existing Park and Recreation Facilities

2.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the park and recreation facilities currently available to the citizens of Lafayette. Some of these are privately owned, and may require membership in order to use them. The focus is on the current development, history and planned enhancements to the City-owned park and recreation facilities.



2.2 City-Owned Parks and Recreational Facilities

There are six City-owned parks, including the Community Center and a downtown plaza in Lafayette.

Table 2.1: Existing City Parks and Recreation Facilities by Type

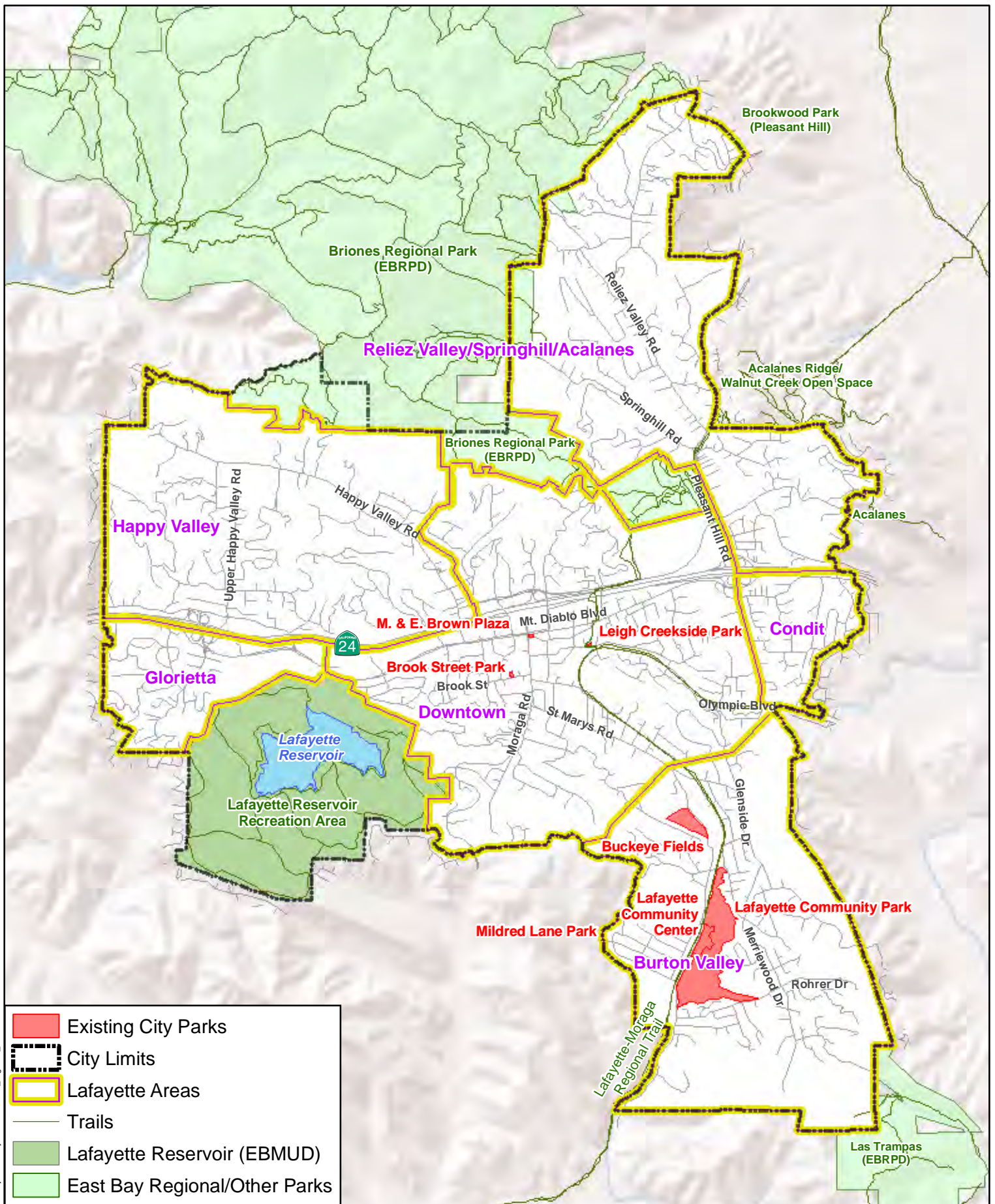
<u>Neighborhood Parks</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Brook Street Park (Active)	0.4
Leigh Creekside Park (Passive)	0.6
Mildred Lane Pocket Park (Passive)	0.1
Murray Lane Site (Undeveloped)	<u>2.2</u>
 <u>Community Parks</u>	
Lafayette Community Park (Active and Passive)	68.0
Buckeye Fields (Active)	<u>11.5</u>
 <u>Community Center</u>	
Lafayette Community Center	8.2
 <u>Downtown Parks</u>	
Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza	0.3
Total Existing Acreage	91.3
	91.0

Figure 2.1 shows these parks on a Lafayette map, with a shading of areas that lie within ½ mile of the park boundaries. This is typically identified as a reasonable walking distance, and therefore, provides neighbors in the highlighted area with ready access to these parks. This map shows that the areas to the north of Highway 24 and to the east

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do not have ready walking access to any City-owned parks. In the case of community parks, most citizens make use of the facilities by driving or riding bikes to those locations since they are primarily designed to serve the community as a whole. This is also true for the two regional parks that are located in Lafayette. Typically, neighborhood parks are situated and designed for users within walking distance of that location. City-owned neighborhood parks are prevalent in many residential areas of those cities and towns that have a well-developed park system. This is currently not the case with Lafayette.

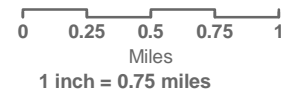
The next sections of this chapter provide more detail on each of the City-owned facilities.



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FIGURE 2.1 - EXISTING PARKS

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
 City of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department



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2.2.1 Brook Street Park (3562 Brook Street)

General Description: Tucked into a residential, downtown neighborhood, this small park was acquired in 1969 and the facilities were built in 1979. Children's play equipment and picnic tables were installed using a combination of State Grant funds (\$37,107), City funds (\$20,178) and donated labor, in this case the local Rotary Club and Sea Bees.

Specific Amenities: In the fall of 2001, the rundown play structure was replaced with a whimsical Pirate Ship play structure for \$36,929. This structure captures the imaginations of young children with its top deck, steering wheel, climbing ropes and port holes. The play equipment area has a low perimeter fence that keeps the children safely enclosed. In the back, beneath a shade structure, is a children's picnic table and side serving table that can accommodate small parties.

How It Was Acquired: The City purchased this .4 acre site in 1969 for the purpose of creating the City's first neighborhood park. The cost was \$26,700.

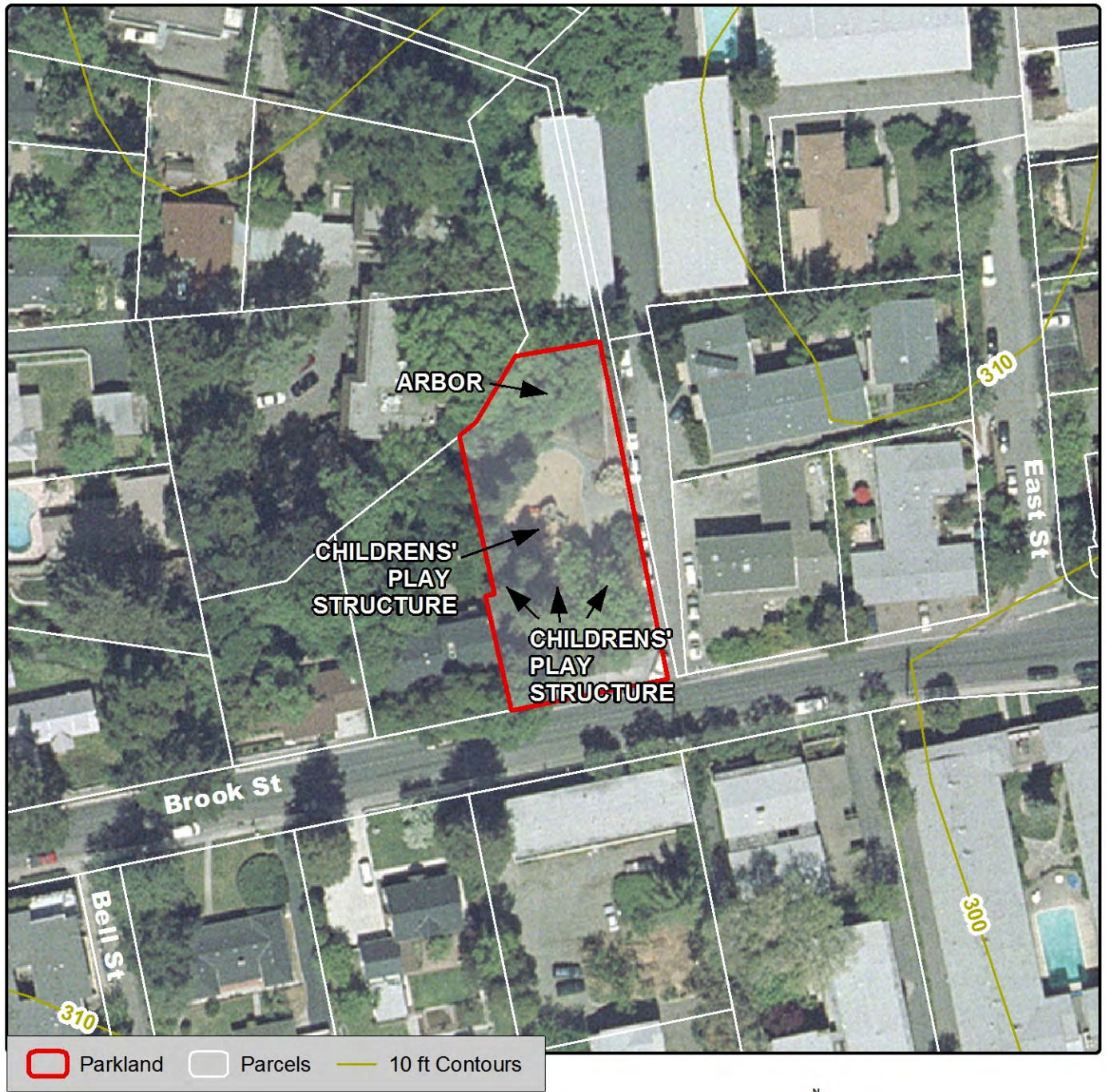


FIGURE 2.2 BROOK STREET PARK

Size (acres)	Location	Existing facilities / uses	% of total citywide parkland
0.4	Brook street between Hough Ave. and East St.	Childrens' play structure with picnic facilities, benches	0.4 %

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2.2.2 Leigh Creekside Park (Moraga Boulevard)

General Description: The .6 acre park is located on the corner of Moraga Blvd. and 4th Street and bordered on one side by Las Trampas Creek. It is easily accessed by the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail. A majestic, heritage Valley Oak takes center stage to numerous other trees and riparian plants. The park provides a shady resting place for people who use the regional trail and an open area for neighborhood kids to play. The name Leigh Creekside Park was adopted to recognize the Leigh Family who owned the property and whose estate worked cooperatively with the City to conclude the property transfer transaction.

Specific Amenities: Two picnic tables, benches, a drinking fountain, lawn, creek side views and informal paths.

How It Was Acquired: Late in 1998, the City Manager noticed that this property was on the market by the Leigh family estate and thought it might be a great neighborhood park. At a public meeting, numerous citizens voiced strong support for a city neighborhood park at this location. The neighbors also submitted a petition with 105 signatures supporting its purchase by the City. Following a Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission recommendation, the City Council purchased the property subject to obtaining funding from the local citizens and grant sources. The Leigh family agreed to a one-year purchase option at an agreed to price so the necessary money could be raised. In mid-1999, the City was notified that the Legislature and Governor approved a grant for \$375,000. By the fall, the neighbors raised a total of \$33,224. The State funds plus the donations provided enough money to purchase and develop the property as a passive neighborhood park. The City took title of the property on October 21, 1999.

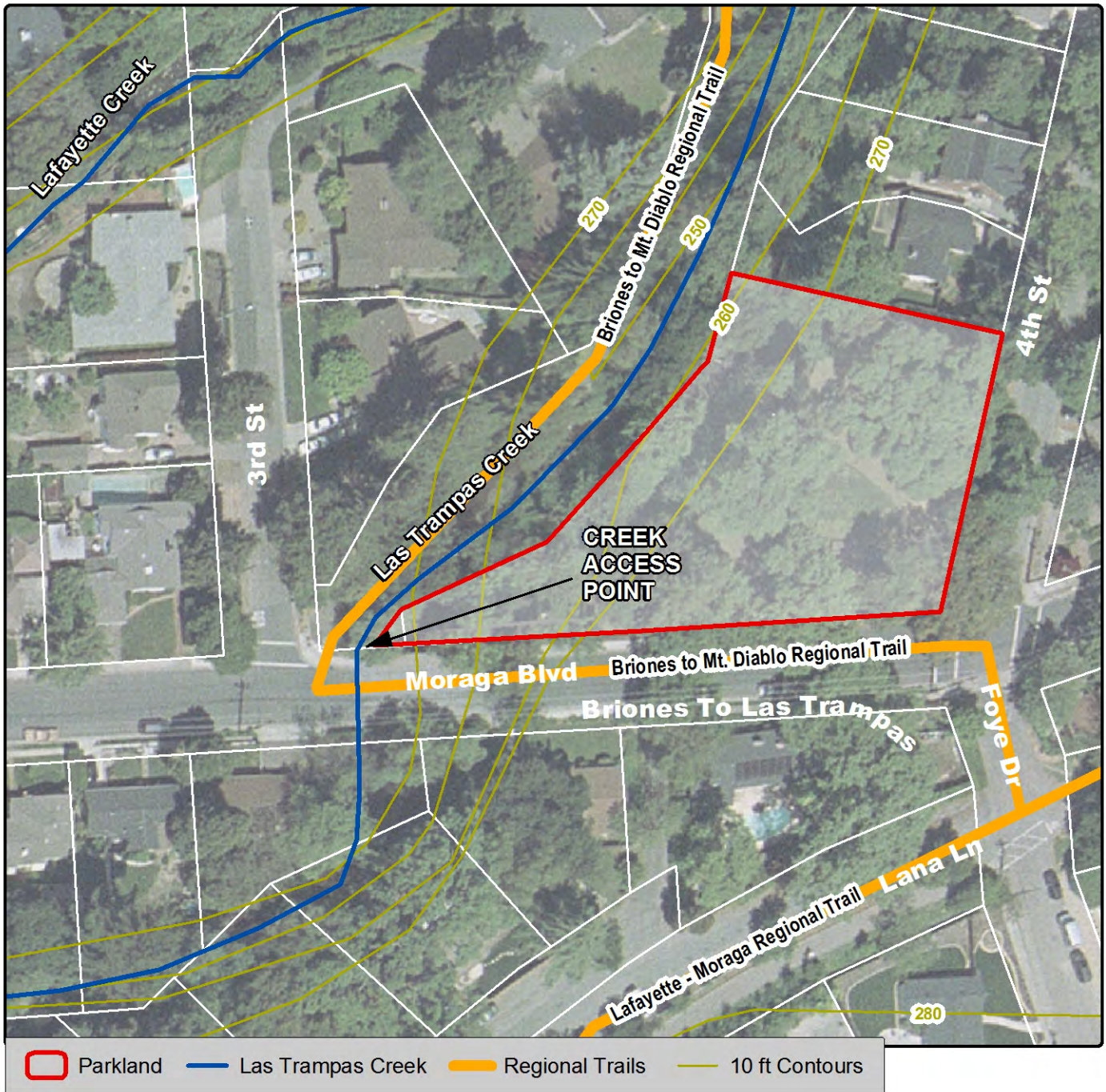
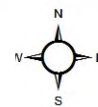


FIGURE 2.3 LEIGH CREEKSIDE PARK



1 inch equals 80 feet

Size (acres)	Location	Existing facilities / uses	% of total citywide parkland
0.6	Moraga Boulevard at 3 rd Street	Nature study, passive recreation, picnicking.	0.7%

2.2.3 Mildred Lane Pocket Park (Lafayette Valley Estates)

At the end of the City-owned Mildred Lane, adjacent to open pasture land that rises steeply and borders the Town of Moraga, is an inviting .1 acre pocket park where local residents can observe wildlife. A small arbor and single bench face grassy slopes offering broad, expansive views. The total cost of the project was \$6,455. The park was completed in December 1997. The park is located at the edge of Lafayette Valley Estates off of St. Mary's Road near the Community Center.

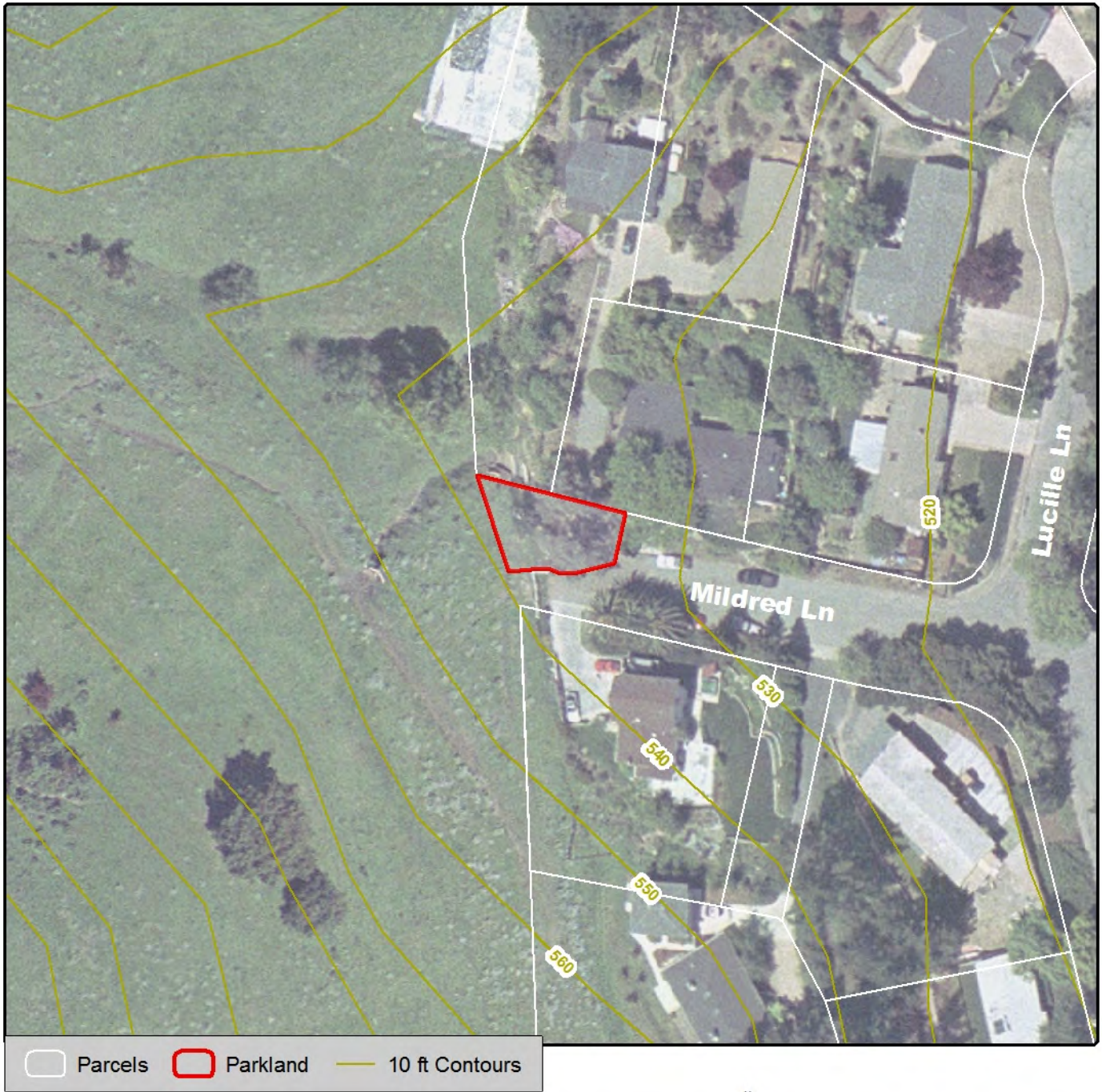
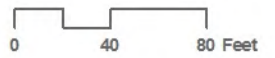
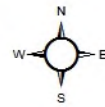


FIGURE 2.4 MILDRED LANE POCKET PARK



1 inch equals 80 feet

Size (acres)	Location	Existing facilities / uses	% of total citywide parkland
0.1	End of Mildred Lane west of Lucille Lane	Nature observation bench, passive rec, native landscaping.	0.1%

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2.2.4 Murray Lane Site

General Description: This 2.2 acre site, which is about 1/3 mile long and 50 feet wide, parallel to the roadway, adjoins Lafayette Community Park and provides a crucial section of the City's "Burton Ridge Trail System." This connector, or feeder, trail is on the Trails Master Plan. A heritage oak is located on the southern end of the property.

Specific Amenities: No park or trail improvements have occurred, but there are plans to build a pathway and other landscaping improvements using a combination of grant funds and park land fees.

How It Was Acquired: In 1987, the City received a land dedication as part of a 23 lot subdivision.

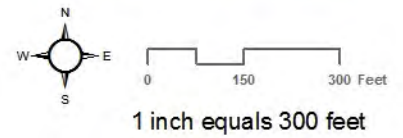


FIGURE 2.5 MURRAY LANE SITE

Size (acres)	Location	Existing facilities / uses	% of total citywide parkland
2.2	Along Murray Lane Between Michael Lane and Burton Drive	Undeveloped	2%

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2.2.5 Lafayette Community Center (500 St. Mary's Road)

General Description: Located 2.5 miles from downtown Lafayette, the Community Center is fronted by Saint Mary's Road on the west side. Pedestrians and bicyclists can easily access the Center via the Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail. The east side is adjacent to Las Trampas Creek and the Lafayette Community Park which is rich in native plant life and wildlife. The Center provides a variety of recreational classes, programs and events for all ages and abilities. It has 20,650 square feet of indoor facilities that have been uniquely designed to meet multiple recreational needs. A recreation brochure, describing over 250 activities each season, is mailed to all residents. The outdoor amenities include parking lots for 140 cars, patios, a bocce court, a multi-sport rink, tot playground and picnic tables.

How It Was Acquired: A former elementary school, this 8.2 acre site was purchased in 1983 from the Lafayette School District for \$500,000.

Specific Amenities: Seven Classrooms; Large and Medium Assembly Rooms, Fully Equipped Kitchen, Senior Services Center, Pre School, Kinder Gym, Tot Playground, Brick Patios, Native landscaping, Public Restrooms, Parking Lots, Large Multi-Sport Rink, Bridge Access for Community Park, Parks, Trails & Recreation Department Office Pedestrian Walkway.

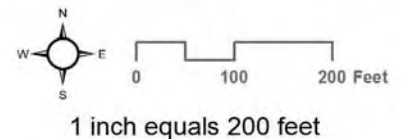
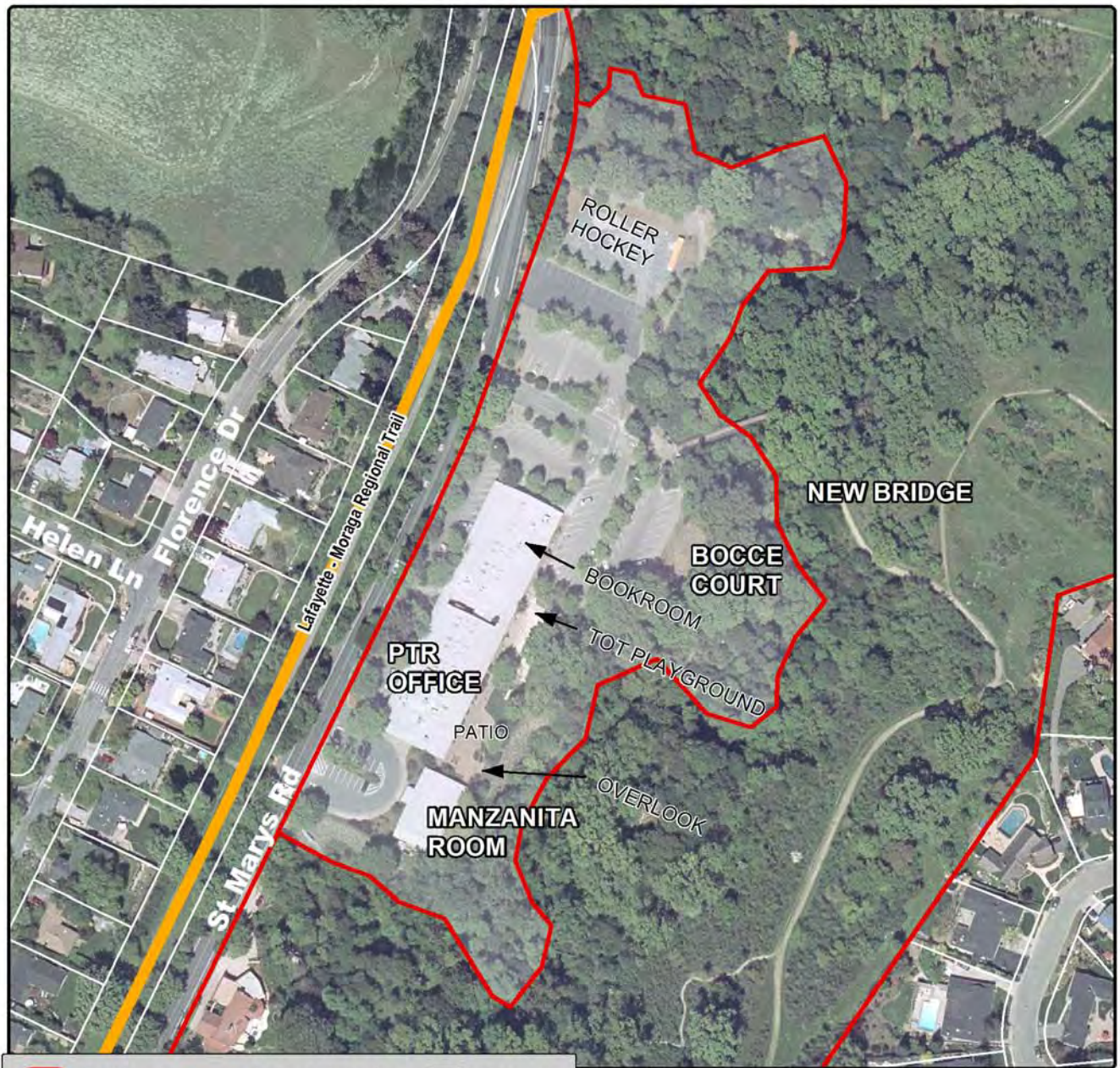


FIGURE 2.6 LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY CENTER

Size (acres)	Location	Existing facilities / uses	% of total citywide parkland
8.2	500 St. Mary's Road	Recreation classes, meeting rooms for community groups and city staff, kitchen, tot play area, patio, native garden, petanque court, roller hockey.	9.21%

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2.2.6 Lafayette Community Park (480 St. Mary's Road)

General Description: The 68 acre site contains a diverse array of topography, wildlife and recreation opportunities including field sports, playing on a variety of playground equipment, picnicking, hiking, horse-back riding, mountain biking and communing with nature. Las Trampas Creek has formed a narrow meandering strip with steep-sided banks along the western edge of the site, and Grizzly Creek runs along the northern edge. Remnants of walnut and pear orchards still remain. The rolling hills form the highest ground and support a variety of vegetative communities, including a well-developed oak woodland, open grassland and two eucalyptus groves. The south end of the park contains facilities and equipment that support active use while the central portion and north end support more passive use.

Specific Amenities: Playing Fields (with grass infields, backstops, players benches, drinking fountains) for baseball, softball, soccer, lacrosse, sports clinics and camps; two batting cages; children's playground (subdivided for younger and older children); group picnic area; restrooms; Pétanque courts; footbridges; multi-use trails; and two paved parking lots.

How It Was Acquired: In 1983, the City bought two parcels from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for \$709,150. Caltrans had planned to build a freeway between Oakland and Pleasant Hill through parts of Lamorinda, but due to strong local objection this plan was dropped. In 1973, the City purchased 11 acres north of Burton School for \$14,650. The 11 acres plus the 57 acres made up the 68 acres for the park.

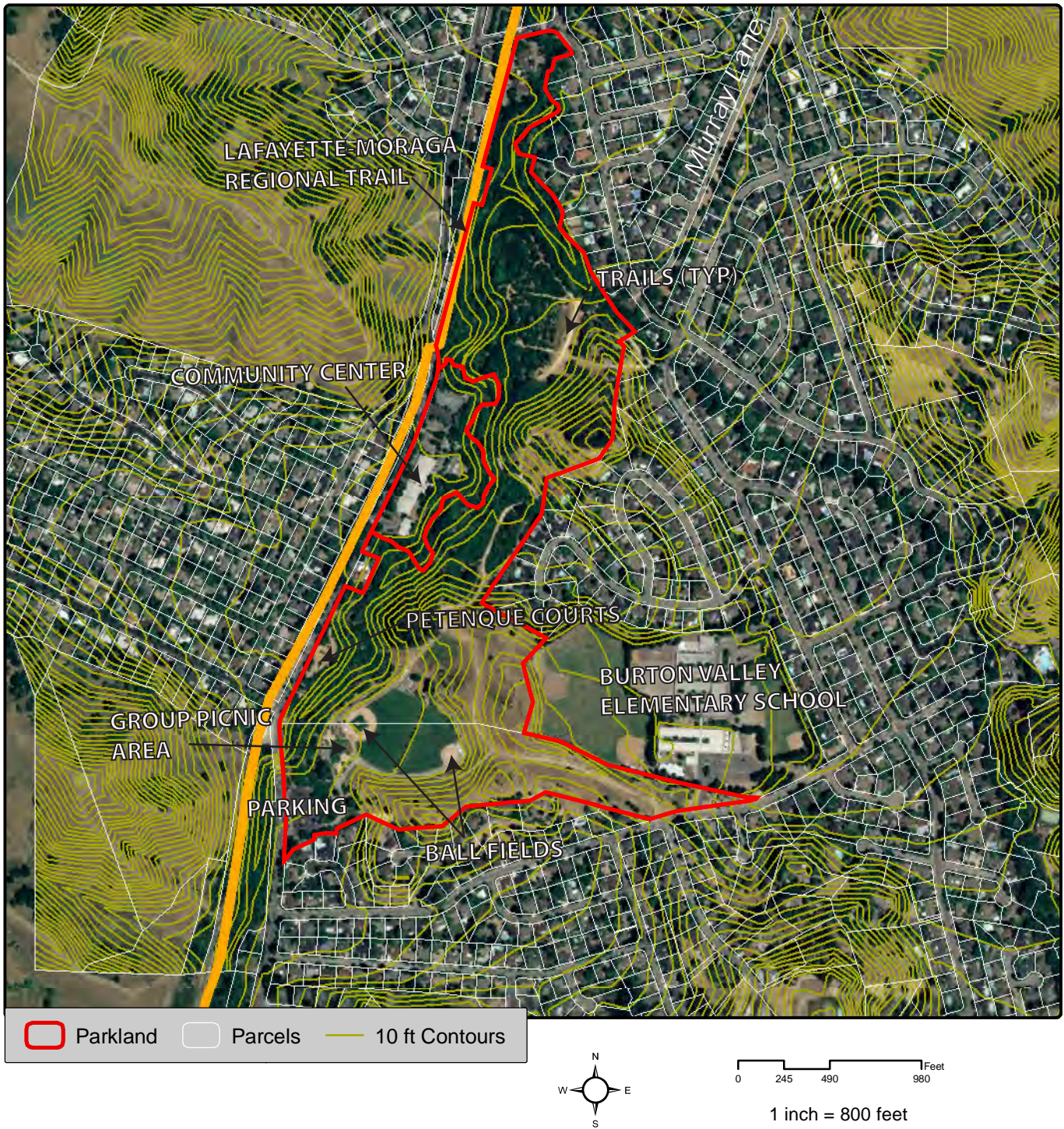


FIGURE 2.7 LAFAYETTE COMMUNITY PARK

Size (acres)	Location	Existing Facilities/uses	% of total citywide parkland
68	St Mary's Road from Glenside Dr. to Lucille Lane	Baseball and Soccer fields, equipment storage, children's play area, trails, scenic/natural areas, group picnic areas, resroom, petenque court	75%

2.2.7 Buckeye Fields (711 St. Mary's Road)

General Description: This 11.5 acre site lies in a bowl shaped property along a curving portion of St. Mary's Road about 2.5 miles south of downtown. There are oak and buckeye trees on the site. The two baseball fields are primarily used by Little League during the baseball season pursuant to a lease with the City. A plaza and concession/restroom building are located behind the fields near the road. The meeting building is used by a number of community organizations. The paved parking lot provides year around use. Because of the location, bicycle and pedestrian access are not currently available.

Specific Amenities: Baseball fields (with backstops, turf infield, bleachers, scoreboards), juniors soccer field, batting cages, meeting room, picnic area, restrooms, plaza area, concession stand and paved parking lot.

How It Was Acquired: A nonprofit, all volunteer organization of local residents called Lafayette Community Center, Inc. was established to identify a location for a community center. After investigating over 30 properties, the 11.9 acre site at 711 St. Mary's Road was selected. It was purchased in 1952 from the Oliviera family at a cost of \$35,000. A number of attempts were made to secure construction funding, but in 1973, the property along with \$18,000 was conveyed to the City with the understanding that it be dedicated solely for recreational and cultural activities.

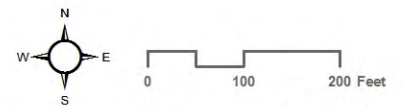


FIGURE 2.8 BUCKEYE FIELDS

Size (acres)	Location	Existing facilities / uses	% of total citywide parkland
11.5	711 St. Mary's Park Road	Baseball / softball fields, meeting room, play area, concession stand.	13%

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2.2.8 Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza (corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd.)

General Description: This 0.3 acre site is centrally located in the Downtown area, and was the City's first public space. It is often used for City-sponsored events.

Specific Amenities: The plaza is developed with a rectangle of lawn surrounded by trees and paved areas with seat planters.

How It Was Acquired: Lafayette was first settled in 1848. While the original land grant was made in 1834 to Candelario Valencia, the town founder was the third Rancho owner, Elam Brown. He bought the one square league of the Rancho for \$900.

As the hamlet straddled the road that led from the Moraga Redwoods to the lumber shipping point at Martinez, early Lafayette became a stop-over spot for wagon drivers. When Brown established a grist mill in 1853, the center of the farming village moved toward the present Mt. Diablo-Moraga Road intersection.

A triangle of land, originally five times its present size, was donated to the town as public plaza by Elam Brown in 1852.⁹

The parcel was officially deeded to the town in 1864.

⁹ Lafayette Historical Society website



FIGURE 2.9 MARGARET & ELAM BROWN PLAZA

Size (acres)	Location	Existing facilities/uses	% of total citywide parkland
0.22	Mt. Diablo Blvd. and Moraga Rd.		0.32 %

2.3 Lafayette Trail System

The trail system within Lafayette is also very important in providing walking and hiking opportunities. The trails also connect open space to residential areas and provide connections to park facilities. They can be an important consideration in selecting and planning park sites. The City's Trails Master Plan identifies existing and planned trails.¹⁰ The trail system is not within the scope of the Parks Master Plan. However, as discussed in Chapter 5, one of the important criteria for siting new parks is connection to trails.

2.4 Regional Parks in Lafayette

There are regional parks and open space areas in Lafayette that are managed by other agencies. These serve a regional population including residents both within and beyond Lafayette. However, they are important in determining needs for City parks and recreation facilities. These regional parks are the immensely popular Lafayette Reservoir Recreation Area, owned and managed by the East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD); and the huge Briones Regional Park on the north side of the City owned and managed by the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD).

2.4.1 Lafayette Reservoir Recreation Area (EBMUD)

Lafayette Reservoir and the surrounding recreation area comprise 915 acres. The Recreation Area is located on the southwest side of Lafayette entirely within city limits. It includes facilities for hiking, jogging, fishing, non-motorized boating and picnicking; a paved path goes around the lake. There is also a new children's play structure, open lawn areas and an interpretive center. The parking fee is \$6 per day. A \$4 daily permit is required to fish.

2.4.2 Briones Regional Park (EBRPD)

Briones covers a total of 5,756 acres, with 482 acres in Lafayette city limits. Entry from the Lafayette Ridge Staging Area requires a \$5 per vehicle parking fee. Briones is an ideal park for hikers, runners, and horseback riders. From Briones Peak, the highest point in the park, there are panoramic views of Mount Diablo and the Diablo Valley to the east, the Sacramento River and Delta to the north, the East Bay hills and Mt. Tamalpais to the west, and Las Trampas Regional Wilderness to the south.¹¹

¹⁰ The Trails Master Plan is available through the City website at www.ci.lafayette.ca.us by clicking on Commissions, the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission and scrolling down to the Master Plan link.

¹¹ East Bay Regional Parks Website, May 3, 2007. <http://www.ebparks.org/parks/briones.htm>

2.5 Parks Near Lafayette

Parks and open space, adjacent to or near Lafayette, serve Lafayette's residents and are thus germane to any discussion regarding Lafayette's park needs.

2.5.1 Las Trampas Regional Wilderness

Las Trampas, part of EBRPD, lies to the southeast of Lafayette city limits. The park offers 3,798 acres of wilderness and an expanded trail system that allows hikers and horseback riders to enjoy its remote and rugged areas.

2.5.2 Acalanes Ridge Open Space

Acalanes Ridge, in the Walnut Creek Open Space system, borders Lafayette on the northeast. Serving as a greenbelt between Walnut Creek and Lafayette, Acalanes Ridge Open Space is a relatively small (127 acres) natural area providing sweeping vistas of Mount Diablo, particularly Castle Rocks and Rock City. From the ridgeline you can see Mount Diablo as well as the Carquinez Strait and the Delta to the north. The Briones-Mt. Diablo Trail passes through the park. The area also has hidden sylvan creek side settings and provides short hiking opportunities. Acalanes Ridge is primarily a neighborhood open space area, rather than a destination for visitors from other parts of the larger community. Certain private parcels located within Lafayette's city limits abut the Acalanes Ridge Open Space and have informal trails on them, and therefore are often considered or assumed to be inclusive within the park's boundaries. These parcels have occasionally been identified as priority conservation opportunities.

2.5.3 City of Pleasant Hill Parks

The Pleasant Hill Park and Recreation District (the District) manages parks within the City of Pleasant Hill and a portion of unincorporated Contra Costa County with Lafayette addresses. Brookwood Park is a 6.3 acre facility located at the northwest corner of Taylor Boulevard and Withers Avenue, just outside the Lafayette City limits. It is used by local area residents. The park includes a turf area, exercise course, surfaced court, picnic/barbecue areas, and children's play area.¹²

2.5.4 Town of Moraga Parks

Moraga Commons is the Town's main community park, sitting on 40.2 acres in the center of town. The Commons houses a sizable amphitheater, play equipment, a disc golf course, skate park, basketball courts, and a volleyball court. Lafayette residents

¹² Bob Berggren, General Manager, Pleasant Hill Recreation and Park District, personal communication, May 7, 2007.

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use Moraga Commons because it offers amenities not available in Lafayette. The Lamorinda Skate Park, for example, is used by Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda residents, and all three cities contributed to its construction.

Rancho Laguna Park is 8.4 acres set in the midst of rolling hills at the outskirts of town and has tot lots, swings, picnic areas, a par course, volleyball, horseshoes, an amphitheater and large lawn all set among the trees. In 2004, a child's wooden train and train station was installed for young park goers to enjoy. There is a group picnic area which accommodates 200 persons available for rent. The park is also available for off-leash dogs use during certain hours of the day, and can be used by Lafayette residents.

St. Mary's College, relatively close to Lafayette City limits, has a number of athletics facilities utilized by Lafayette residents, including McKeon Pavilion (basketball and volleyball), the Saint Mary's swimming pool, Saint Mary's stadium (soccer and lacrosse), Madigan Gym (Rec sports), Louis Guisto field (baseball), Cotrell Field (softball) as well as an additional soccer field, a rugby field and an intramural field. The college also has a tennis court area.

Moraga recently adopted a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which includes two new neighborhood parks, a special use area (Multi-generational Community Center/Gym) and acres of open space.

2.5.5 City of Orinda Parks

Orinda Oaks Park is a 12-acre site located on Moraga Way between Hall and Ivy Drives. The facilities include a BBQ area and picnic tables and playing field. Hikers may enjoy the open space comprised of native grasses and oak trees. The upper ridgeline offers vistas of Lamorinda and the entire Diablo Valley. This is probably not a destination park for Lafayette residents. However, next to the Orinda Community Center are park facilities including a large open grass area, two playground areas (one featuring a water play area), picnic and barbecue areas, and three tennis courts with lights. The Community Center includes auditorium, kitchen, meeting rooms and amphitheater available for rental and community events. This facility is known to be used by Lafayette residents.

Orinda, in conjunction with the developer of the "Wilder/Gateway" development, will soon be adding several new sports fields and an art and garden center to its park facility inventory.

2.6 School Sites

Schools play an important function as recreational facilities, but their primary function is education, and use for general recreation can conflict with school district objectives and policies. There are six public schools in two school districts in Lafayette. Lafayette School District includes Burton Valley, Happy Valley, Lafayette, and Springhill Elementary School and Stanley Middle School. Acalanes High School and Campolindo High School, which includes a major swim center, are in the Acalanes Unified School District. The high schools also provide limited public access to gymnasiums and facilities for running and tennis. There are also three private schools serving elementary and high school students in Lafayette, each with various private recreation facilities.

As with the Lafayette Community Center, former school sites can offer key opportunities for future parks. California Education Code Sections 17485-17500 include the requirement that surplus school property first be offered to the city, park or recreation district, or county for lease or purchase before being made available for private development.

While school recreation facilities are not counted as part of the City park system, youth sports leagues often have agreements with schools for the use of their fields. The Lafayette-Moraga Youth Association (LMYA) is a private non-profit all-volunteer organization that provides year-round athletic programs for all school age youth in Lafayette and Moraga. These sports programs serve over 5,000 children in soccer, basketball, swimming, softball and volleyball. The Lafayette School District has a steering committee currently working with a consultant on a master plan for more efficient use and maintenance of playing fields. LMYA provides a recreation function that is often provided by the city recreation department in other communities.

2.7 Private Recreation Facilities

A number of private institutions offer significant recreation facilities within the City. While not open to the general public, these private recreation facilities can influence the need for specific City-owned park and recreation facilities. Table 2.2 lists some examples of these private facilities in Lafayette.

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Table 2.2: Examples of Private Recreation Facilities in Lafayette

Facility	Recreation Opportunities
Athletic Clubs	
Las Trampas Pool	pool, swim team and lessons, family social events
Rancho Colorados Swim and Tennis Club	2 pools with swim team and lessons, clubhouse, 3 tennis courts, tennis leagues and lessons, family social events
Oakwood Athletic Club	court sports: volleyball, handball, squash, basketball; 2 pools with swim team and lessons, fitness center with classes, café, spa
Springbrook Pool	large pools with swim team and lessons, children's pool, picnic tables, barbecue, play areas, and family social events
Lafayette Tennis Club	9 tennis courts with leagues and lessons, pool, clubhouse,
Sun Valley Swimming Pool Association	2 pools, swim team, lessons, family activities
Churches	
Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church	playground
Lafayette United Methodist Church	preschool and playground
St. Anselm's Episcopal Church of Lafayette	playground
St. Perpetua's Catholic Church	Kindergarten through Junior High school-related recreation facilities
Sun Valley Bible Chapel	basketball court

Figure 2.10 shows the location of these private facilities along with the City facilities, schools and the regional parks.

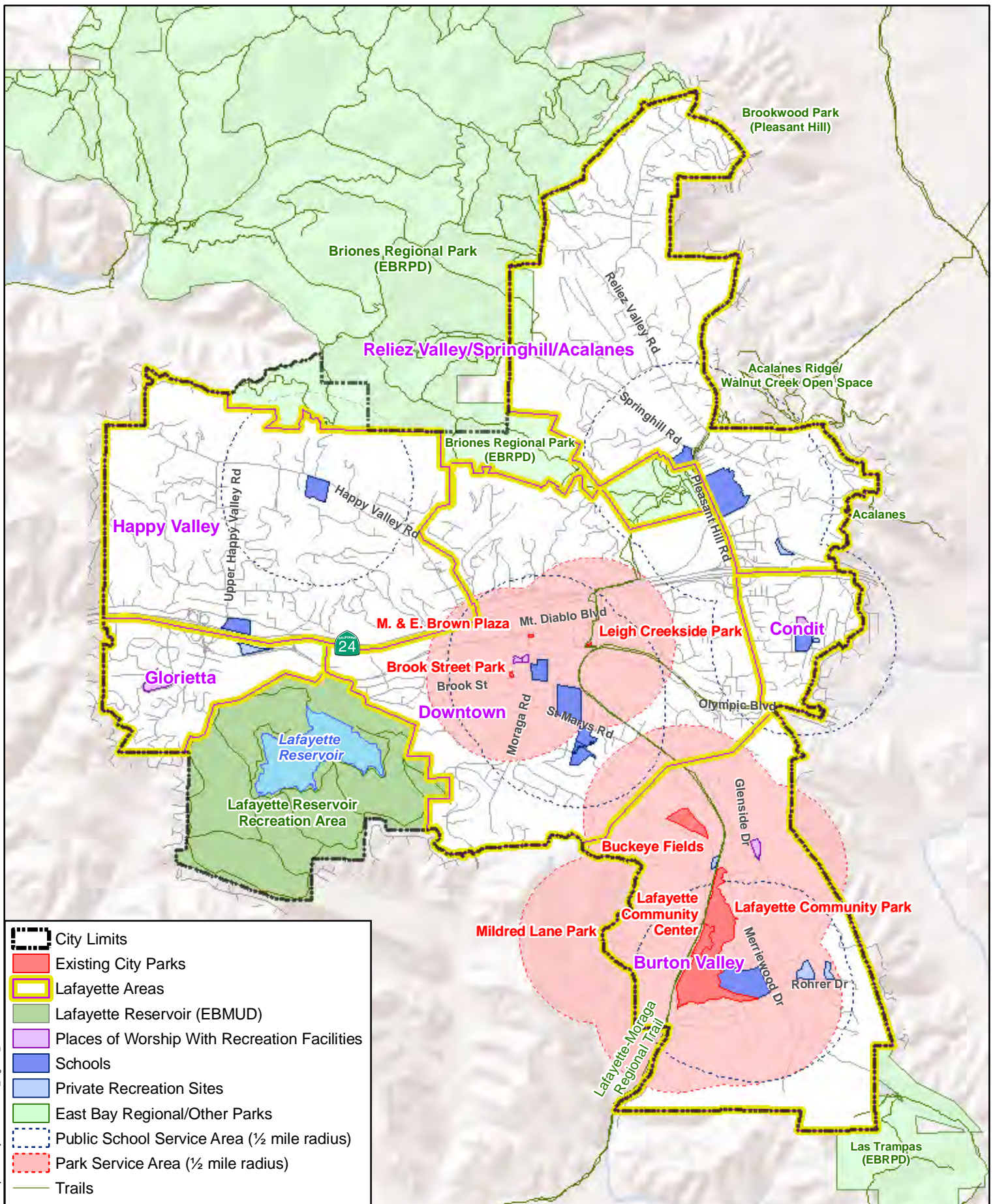


FIGURE 2.10: PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES

PARK AND RECREATION FACILITIES MASTER PLAN
 City of Lafayette Parks, Trails and Recreation Department



0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1
 Miles
 1 inch = 0.75 miles



3 Park Goals, Policies and Financing

3.1 Introduction

Lafayette has clear goals for its parkland and related policies and programs to meet these goals for many years. At the same time, the funding for parkland and recreational facilities has limited what could realistically be accomplished. The Parks Master Plan is intended to take the next forward-looking step to develop a specific plan for achieving the City's park and recreation goals. This chapter reviews these goals and the means for financing park and recreation facilities.

3.2 Park Goals and Policies for Lafayette

The City of Lafayette General Plan, updated in October 2002, contains the Parks, Trails, and Recreation Element, which sets forth parks-related goals and objectives.¹³ The primary goal is to provide 5 acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. As shown in the General Plan and Section 2.1, above, Lafayette has 91 acres of existing parkland. Based on a projected population of 27,000 people, the City needs a total of 135 acres to meet its goal.¹⁴ Therefore, an additional 44 acres need to be acquired and developed by the City.

In addition to the broad parkland goal, the General Plan provides guidance on park planning, park development and park operations. For example, Program P-1.2.1 is very important to how parks are planned and located.

Program P-1.2.1: Plan parks subject to the following criteria:

- a) distribution of parks and/or open space areas on a neighborhood basis
- b) natural setting and scenic beauty
- c) relationship to the existing and proposed parks and trails
- d) natural resource protection
- e) recreational opportunities
- f) operating and maintenance costs
- g) accessibility of the park to pedestrians and cyclists

Achieving the goals of the General Plan is a work in progress. The Parks Master Plan process is intended to help chart a clear path to achieving these goals.

¹³ Lafayette 2002 General Plan, Chapter IV.

¹⁴ The most current population number is 23,953, which is from the Department of Finance for January 2007. So, at the current population, the goal is to have about 120 acres.

3.3 Financing Parkland Acquisition and Development in Lafayette

Funds for parkland development have been derived primarily from three sources: (1) Parkland Fees paid to the City in conjunction with permits for new housing, including the addition of living space to existing housing; (2) Grants primarily from the State of California in conjunction with bond approvals; and (3) Donations from the users of the facility and/or foundations supporting the facility. In addition, the City transfers \$15,000 each year to the Playground Equipment Sinking Fund, which is part of the parks capital fund. This supports the replacement, and possible upgrading, of the playground equipment.¹⁵

Each year, the PT&R Commission submits a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to the City Council for its approval as part of the fiscal year budget cycle. The CIP shows the forecast of funds and the projects on which that money is planned to be spent. It also shows historical sources of funds and the spending for projects that were completed or are in progress.

On June 25, 2007 the City Council approved the creation of a Parkland Acquisition Fund in recognition that the City needs more parkland to meet its goal. On July 28, 2008 the City Council established new parkland and facility fees on residential construction. The Park Fees will allow the City to purchase and improve new parkland as well as to intensify the use of current recreational resources so that they can accommodate more users. The potential revenues from the combined Park Fees will fund the acquisition of new parkland; improvements to parks and supporting facilities; expansion of trails; construction and renovation of playgrounds, playing fields, and outdoor courts; as well as other amenities that will be needed to serve future Lafayette residents.¹⁶

On December 8, 2008 the City Council approved the inclusion of a Bike Park Project in the PTR Capital Improvement Program and approved entering into a contract to begin designing such a park.

Historically, City-generated funds for parks and recreation facilities have been limited. State grants have provided a substantial supplement for certain projects and for the purchase of Leigh Creekside Park. State funds may become available in the future for specific projects with statewide bond approval for park and recreation purposes. However, for planning purposes, it is not possible to count on such funding. With

¹⁵ There are play structures at Brook Street Park, the Community Center and the Community Park.

¹⁶ Date of city approval June 25, 2007

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limited funds, the focus has been on developing the existing parkland, particularly at the Community Park, and most recently, with the addition of The Rink at the Community Center.

Looking forward, funding is increasing and most of the large recreational projects at the existing parks and the Community Center are completed. Therefore, the primary thrust for the Master Plan and the future development of Lafayette parkland is identifying and adding parks and recreational facilities to meet the City's goals and to meet the specific park and recreational needs of the Community.

4 Park Use, Trends and Community Needs

4.1 Introduction

This chapter reviews current and past data and information to help determine what the community desires and needs are for park and recreation facilities. A critical part of the Parks Master Plan process will be to validate, modify and/or add to this information.

4.2 Park Use and Trends

Current Park Usage. Based on staff estimates, the Community Park receives approximately 3,500 sport participants, 5,000 spectators and 7,300 non-sports visits per year. Buckeye Fields receives approximately 1,200 sport participants and 2,400 spectators per year. Leigh Creekside and Brook Street Parks average approximately ten people per day, or 3,500 visits per year each.

Recent Park Use Trends. According to the 2002 General Plan, the number of school-aged children in Lafayette had been growing steadily. More recent trends, presented in Table 4.1, show a slight decline in school enrollment since 2003. Past public school closures have been a factor in limiting the type and number of sports fields available. Currently, all City-owned playing fields (located at the Lafayette Community Park and Buckeye Fields) and public school facilities are used to capacity by youth leagues and demand is increasing. There are numerous requests for field time that cannot be met, particularly for practice and for growing field sports such as Lacrosse. The City has concluded there will be a “persistent need for additional playing fields for soccer, baseball, and lacrosse.”¹⁷ The Lafayette Moraga Youth Association (LMYA) reports that “LMYA typically fields about 130-150 soccer teams each year. Every blade of grass is used during soccer season for practices and games and there is always a push and pull situation with all of the other groups in town that need space at the same time. In the spring, the situation is almost as bad. The addition of Lacrosse has impacted baseball and softball programs that were already needing more fields.” In addition to a demand for more sports fields, the City became aware of a rising interest in BMX and mountain bike jump courses. The building of unauthorized jumps in the Lafayette Community Park kept increasing to a point where the Parks, Trails and Recreation Staff and Commission concluded that the best solution was to provide a suitable location where riders could enjoy their sport.

¹⁷ City of Lafayette General Plan 2002

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Table 4.1: Lafayette Public School Enrollment Trends¹⁸

School District	School	School Year								
		98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07
Lafayette	Burton Valley Elem.	864	847	847	801	774	759	753	744	699
	Happy Valley Elem.	470	462	459	456	450	442	417	416	407
	Lafayette Elem.	418	452	464	442	452	423	410	443	420
	Springhill Elem.	480	518	522	477	467	452	463	464	450
	Stanley Middle	1,237	1,266	1,214	1,257	1,282	1,313	1,235	1,195	1,188
Acalanes Union High	Acalanes High	1,328	1,317	1,270	1,262	1,262	1,316	1,342	1,389	1,376
	Campolindo High	988	1,167	1,271	1,355	1,415	1,315	1,350	1,339	1,372
Total		5,785	6,029	6,047	6,050	6,102	6,020	5,970	5,990	5,912

The overflow uses from City-owned fields and the recreation needs for other field sports (including soccer and lacrosse) are absorbed in part by public school grounds. In recent years, the School District has indicated that the fields are overtaxed and that the District would like the City, as well as the leagues, to either help reduce the field use and/or to assist in funding their maintenance¹⁹.

As mentioned earlier in this report, a number of parents have indicated a need for a downtown play area for children. There have also be requests for more swings at City parks, which are now only at the Community Park. As presented in the next section, prior surveys and studies also help in identifying the general needs for City park and recreation facilities.

4.3 Previous Lafayette Surveys Related to Parks

The public opinion survey conducted for the 1992 “Parklands for Lafayette” study, described in more detail below, canvassed attitudes regarding park and recreational facilities within the City, and, more specifically, potential attitudes toward supporting future parkland tax measures. Out of twelve options, survey respondents indicated that

¹⁸ Data from Education Data Partnership (Ed-Data) website, obtained on November 14, 2007. <http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us/welcome.asp>

¹⁹ Personal Communication with Steven Falk, City Manager on February 8, 2006

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their highest priority was playgrounds (80%), their second highest priority was preserving open space areas (78.5%), and their third highest priority was baseball/softball fields (75.6%). Because this data is now 15 years old, it should not be relied upon, but considered an indicator of historic and current trends.

4.3.1 Parklands for Lafayette Report

A Parklands Blue Ribbon Task Force was established in 1991 in response to the need to fund development of the City's two community parks in accordance with their approved master plans – the Lafayette Community Park and the 711 St. Mary's Road park. The main purpose of the task force was to assess community sentiment toward park development, researching potential parks sites, and finding potential funding sources for parkland acquisition and development. The City provided the following mission statement for the task force²⁰:

“Through an aggressive multi-pronged outreach approach, the parks Blue Ribbon Task Force will:

- *Evaluate community sentiment regarding youth playing fields and other City recreation needs;*
- *Research feasible site utilization of City and/or other publicly-owned properties available and adequate to meet those needs;*
- *Determine costs and recommend any financing strategies appropriate to fund the requisite improvements and maintenance.”*

In preparation of their landmark 1992 report to the City Council, the task force conducted extensive research on properties and funding sources, and hired a research firm, Strategic Research Institute (SRI), to conduct public opinion surveys on sentiments toward park and recreation use and needs. Below is a summary of some of the findings that are most pertinent to this Background Report for the Parks Master Plan.

There is broad-based support for the Community's Open Space Resources. The study defined open space as “ranging from public parks to private undeveloped land, including areas such as trails, small picnic areas, nature study areas, meadows, bike trails, and play lawns.”

- Open space was prioritized as the most important city service or program in which to invest tax dollars.

²⁰ July, 1992, Parklands for Lafayette: Report to Lafayette City Council. Lafayette Parklands Blue Ribbon Task Force

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- 83% of respondents ranked open space as very important or absolutely essential
- 77% of respondents felt that open space areas should be provided by the city and 70% said they would use open space at least 2-3 times per year.
- 63% of respondents were willing to pay at least \$40 per year for projects supporting the implementation and maintenance of open space.

Lafayette is currently underserved in neighborhood and community parks compared to other cities in Contra Costa County. This is a similar result to that shown in Table 3.1, above. However, the SRI survey also noted that Lafayette residents use many facilities that are not City owned. The Lafayette Reservoir and the Lafayette-Moraga Trail were the most used facilities, with the Community Center being third. The survey also indicated that 62% of residents used facilities outside Lafayette, especially Heather Farms in Walnut Creek and the Moraga Commons. SRI concluded that people tend to distinguish by facility and not by ownership.

Public opinion is mixed on the need for park and recreational facilities and is dependent on specific demographic factors. The survey noted the dichotomy between the older age groups without children at home and families with children as shown in the following responses.

- 56% rated parks and playing fields as either a first or second City priority in which to invest tax dollars (76% with children versus 47% with no children).
- 40% disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that “The City of Lafayette lacks adequate parks and recreation facilities.” (29% with children versus 46% with no children).

The Study concluded that the survey results demonstrate a need for additional park and recreation facilities, although residents were divided on the type of facilities needed.

The most recognized active use park and recreation need is for playing fields. In keeping with its demographics findings, the highest rated specific response in the public opinion survey was a call for more playing fields.

A key finding in the Recommended Development Program section of the Parkland Blue Ribbon Task Force report was:

“The City’s objective should be, to the greatest extent possible, to provide a broad geographic diversity of recreation facilities within the City. Facilities provided in

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southern Lafayette should be complemented by other facilities proximate to northern Lafayette residents. Though the City is limited by available land constraints in certain geographic areas, all avenues for a mix of offerings throughout Lafayette should be explored.” (page 14)

4.3.2 Community Park North End Design Process Survey

The Lafayette Community Park North End Design Process was conducted in 2004 to resolve plans for the completion of the park. As part of the public outreach process a survey was distributed in January 2004 through the ‘Lafayette Vistas’ newsletter. The survey primarily asked questions specific to the North End park design, including questions about levels of use and preferred park activities. The following information resulted from tabulation of the 228 survey responses.

◆ Age Spread

- 46.5% of respondents are over 55 years of age
- 24.6% of respondents are 45-54 years of age
- 21.5% of respondents are 35-44 years of age
- 6.0% of respondents are 25-34 years of age
- 0.4 % of respondents are 19-24 years of age

◆ Frequency of Visits to Community Park

Of the total respondents 225 answered the question.

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| • Weekly | 37.7% |
| • Several Times | 22.8% |
| • Once or Twice | 24.0% |
| • Never | 13.0% |
| • Not Sure Where the Park Is | 1.0% |

◆ Adjacency to the Community Park

Of the total respondents 225 answered the question.

- | | |
|---------------------|-------|
| • Live Adjacent | 24.3% |
| • Less than 3 miles | 59.5% |
| • More than 3 miles | 16.3% |

◆ Top 5 Community Park North-End Activities

1. Nature Trail
2. Leave As Is
3. Family Picnic
4. Lawn
5. Group Picnic

This survey was specific to the North End portion of the Community Park. The people that responded to the survey clearly used the Community Park frequently, and apparently a high percentage of Community Park users live relatively close to

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the park. In terms of recreational facility needs, this survey offers little insight given its narrow scope. The result of this survey, a workshop and several public hearings was that the PT&R Commission voted unanimously to leave the North End area of the Community Park in a natural state at this time, with the possible weatherizing of the main trail and the installation of a few benches.

4.4 Future Growth and Development

Given pressures to provide more housing choices and more affordable housing options, the City's Planning Department staff has indicated that the City may consider higher density infill development in the form of condominiums in the downtown core. The General Plan calls for an additional 450 units over the next 20 years. This growth in downtown residential density could create a need for additional parks in the downtown area and for additional sports fields. As discussed in Chapter 1, the Downtown Strategy is addressing parks in the downtown area. Supporting work for the Downtown Strategy has noted projections of population increase ranging from less than 1,000 to over 5,000 people. The consultant for the Downtown Strategy used a conservative estimate of a population increase of 2,100 residents in the City between 2005 and 2035. The Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan should reflect a growing population and hence a growing demand for park and recreation facilities, while accounting for demographic changes.²¹

²¹ Census data from 2000 indicated that the two fastest growing age groups were youth aged 5-17 and persons aged 65 or older. Census data from MTC's and ABAG's *Bay Area Census 2000*.

Appendix A: Research on Park Benefits

"The Benefits of Local Recreation and Park Services - A Nationwide Study of the Perceptions of the American Public"

In a 1992 nationwide study conducted at Pennsylvania State University, researchers compiled a listing of the benefits of local recreation and park services as perceived by the American public.

Participants in the study could be divided into two groups: users of local recreation and park services and non-users. Surprisingly, 71% of non-users said they received some benefit from their communities' parks and recreational services.

Benefits identified by non-users were as follows:

- Availability
- Keeping kids off the streets
- Keeping kids occupied
- Community awareness
- Giving kids a place to go
- Feeling good because of being there
- Exercise, fitness & conditioning
- Good for kids
- Kids' enjoyment
- Having a place to go

Individual and family benefits identified by users of local parks and recreation services:

- Personal - 42%
- Social - 38%
- Facility/Activity - 12%
- Environmental - 6%
- Economic - 2%

- Personal Benefits:
 - Exercise, fitness & conditioning
 - Fun and entertainment
 - Learning and education

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- Relaxation
- Health
- Social Benefits:
 - Getting to know people
 - Group participation
 - Interaction of adults and kids
 - Community awareness
 - Team spirit
- Facility Benefits:
 - Having instructional classes
 - The joy of playing
 - A place to go
 - A place for recreation
 - Exposure to arts
 - Crafts
 - Watching organized sports
- Environmental Benefits:
 - Fresh air
 - Nature
 - A place to be outdoors
- Economic Benefits:
 - Affordability

Benefits ranked by recreation and parks professionals in order of importance:

- Basic services to poorer residents
- Protection of natural environment
- Civic identity and pride
- Community visual appeal and function
- Develops strong communities
- Percent of population using regularly
- Individual growth and development
- Avoidance of costly damage due to mismanagement of the ecological system
- Prevents social problems
- Reduces health problems and costs
- Integrates disabled, disadvantaged and socially alienated
- Job creation
- Percent of population who might use

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- Assists tourist industry
- Attracts industry
- Prepares individual to cooperate with others
- Increases property values and tax revenues
- Opportunities for underemployed
- Desire to replace volunteer effort
- Saves property owner expense
- Stimulates leisure retail industry

Conclusions of the Study

- The vast majority of the American public uses local recreation and park services.
- Park and playground use is the most common use.
- Park and recreational service use continues throughout the life cycle. Recreational participation declines with age, but park use does not. In fact, people between the ages of 65 and 74 use local parks more frequently than any other age group from those 15 and older.
- The majority of people that do not use parks and recreational services still perceive substantial benefit from them.
- Sixty percent of the study's respondents perceive a "great deal" of community benefit from such services.
- Seventy-five percent of respondents said that "local recreation and park services are worth \$45.00 or more per member of their household" per year.
- Local parks and recreation are associated with a sense of community. Community level benefits are considered more important than individual or household level benefits.

"The Economic Benefits of Parks and Open Space: How Land Conservation Helps Communities Grow Smart and Protect the Bottom Line," Trust for Public Land, 1999.

http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cdl.cfm?content_item_id=1145&folder_id=727

- Growing Smart
 - Development actually costs towns more than it gives because schools, streets, police officers, and other necessary municipal services drain more than they are required to pay in taxes.

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- Open space preservation helps communities grow smart, preventing the higher costs of unplanned development.
- Open space reduces pressure to construct on valuable farmland and natural areas on the urban fringe.
- A community must decide which lands to protect for recreation, community character, the conservation of natural resources, and open space. This in turn determines where compact development will occur.
- The state of New Jersey leads the way in open space preservation. \$1.4 billion has been generated by New Jersey's Green Acres land acquisition program in 34 years with \$1 billion more expected to protect another 1 million acres which is 50% of New Jersey's remaining open space.
- Attracting Investment
 - Parks and open space create a high quality of life that attracts tax-paying businesses and residents to communities.
 - Corporate CEOs say that employee quality of life is the third most important factor in locating a new business.
 - Small company owners say recreation, parks, and open space are the highest priority in choosing a new location for their business.
 - Arizona's "outdoor lifestyle and recreation opportunities" were cited as the reason for the location or expansion of 70 firms in that state.
 - In Salem, Oregon, land next to a greenbelt was found to be worth approximately \$1,200 per acre more than land just 1,000 feet away.
 - In Oakland, California, a 3 mile greenbelt around a lake at the city's center added \$41 million to the surrounding area's property values.
 - Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, California, increases the value of nearby property from \$500 million to \$1 billion while generating \$5-\$10 million in annual property taxes.
 - Across the U.S., access to parks and open spaces has become a measure of community wealth - a tool for attracting businesses and residents by guaranteeing quality of life and economic health.
- Revitalizing Cities
 - Urban parks, gardens, and recreational open space stimulate commercial growth and promote inner-city revitalization.
- Boosting Tourism
 - Open space boosts local economies by attracting tourists and supporting outdoor recreation.
 - Across the U.S., parks, rivers, scenic lands, wildlife areas, and open space help to support the \$502 billion tourism industry.

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- According to the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, outdoor recreation generated at least \$40 billion in 1996, creating 768,000 full-time jobs and \$13 billion in annual wages.
- Because tourists cite natural beauty and quality of view to be the most important criteria in selecting a destination, many communities are now striving to protect scenic views and vistas by moving utility wires underground and protecting trees and historic buildings.
- In 1993, the National Park Service estimated that national park visitors contributed more than \$10 billion in direct and indirect benefits to local economies.
- According to the National Park Service, the tourism/leisure industry will soon become the leading U.S. industry of any kind at its present rate of growth.
- Trail such as the MKT and Katy Trails in Columbia that have been built along former railroad corridors stimulate tourism. The federal government has invested \$300 million in recent years for more than 9,500 miles of rail trails in 48 states. It has paid off in communities similar to Columbia. In Iowa, Florida, and California, trails contributed between \$1.2 million and \$1.9 million each year to host communities.
- Wildlife enthusiasts visiting our nation's parks also contribute significantly to the economy. Sport fishing generated \$108.4 billion in 1996, supporting 1.2 million jobs. Sport fishing produced \$2.4 billion in state taxes (nearly 1% of all state tax receipts) and \$3.1 billion in federal income taxes. People interested in birds and wildlife photography contributed another \$85.4 billion to the U.S. economy
- Safeguarding the Environment
 - Open space conservation is often the cheapest way to safeguard drinking water, clean the air, and achieve other environmental goals.
 - One acre of wetland is estimated to generate \$150,000 to \$200,000 in economic benefits.
 - Forested lands control erosion, help clean the air of pollutants, absorb carbon dioxide and other harmful greenhouse gasses, help shelter our houses from heat and wind.
 - Wetlands serve as wildlife habitat, absorb storm and flood water, and reduce pollutant and sediment loads in watershed runoff. Without wetlands, society would have to pay for these services. With wetlands, they are free.

Benefits of Physical Activity

From National Recreation and Park Association web site

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<http://www.nrpa.org/content/default.aspx?documentId=2527>

Physical activity has been identified as one of ten of our nation's leading health indicators in *Healthy People 2010* (US Department of Health and Human Services, 2000).

The 1996 Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health stated that **regular physical activity improves health in the following ways:**

- Reduces the risk of dying prematurely.
- Reduces the risk of dying from heart disease.
- Reduces the risk of developing diabetes.
- Reduces the risk of developing high blood pressure.
- Helps reduce blood pressure in people who already have high blood pressure.
- Reduces the risk of developing colon cancer.
- Reduces feelings of depression and anxiety.
- Helps control weight.
- Helps build and maintain healthy bones, muscles, and joints.
- Helps older adults become stronger and better able to move about without falling.
- Promotes psychological well-being.

(US Department of Health and Human Services, <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/sgr.htm>, 1996)

Regular physical activity among children and adolescents with chronic disease risk factors can:

- Decrease blood pressure in adolescents with borderline hypertension
- Increases aerobic fitness in obese children
- Decrease the degree of overweight among obese children

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, <http://www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/physicalactivity/guidelines/index.htm>, 1997)

Physical activity among adolescents is consistently related to higher levels of self-esteem and self-concept and lower levels of anxiety and stress. Although the relationship between physical activity during youth and the development of osteoporosis later in life is unclear, evidence exists that weight-bearing exercise increases bone mass density among young

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people (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1997).

The Surgeon General's report (US Department of Health and Human Services, <http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/sgr/sgr.htm>, 1996) concluded that regular participation in physical activity during childhood and adolescence:

- Helps build and maintain healthy bones, muscles, and joints.
- Helps control weight, build lean muscle, and reduce fat.
- Prevents or delays the development of high blood pressure and helps reduce blood pressure in some adolescents with hypertension.
- Reduces feelings of depression and anxiety

The Health Benefits of Parks: How Parks Help Keep Americans and Their Communities Fit and Healthy—The Trust for Public Land, 2006.

http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=21053&folder_id=175

Draws from the latest research to outline ways in which parks support and promote healthy lifestyles, particularly in cities, where eighty percent of Americans live, work...and play!

Intended for parks and open space advocates and professionals, *The Health Benefits of Parks* is intended to make the case for parks as a wise community investment. Topics include:

- Parks, greenways, and trails enable and encourage people to exercise.
- Exposure to nature improves psychological and social health.
- Play is critical for child development.
- Parks help build healthy, stable communities.

Documents from California Department of Parks and Recreation

http://www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=796

California State Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP): The SCORP is a five-year statewide recreation plan published by California State Parks. The SCORP identifies outdoor recreation issues and opportunities and to explore state and local response strategies. It

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includes valuable data on current trends in recreation participation and demand in California.

Park and Recreation Trends in California, California Department of Parks and Recreation, May 2005 This report is an element of the California Outdoor Recreation Plan, and shows how significant changes in the size and structure of California's population, changing participation patterns, and shifts in recreation styles and preferences will have a dramatic effect on the adequacy of existing park and recreation services.

Health and Social Benefits of Recreation, California Department of Parks and Recreation, March 2005 This publication is directed toward park and recreation professionals, policy makers, health care providers, public safety officers and educators. The report documents the positive impacts that California's parks, trails, scenic views, beaches, waterways, cultural and historical sites have on the physical, mental and social health of individuals and their communities.

Poll Results

81% of California voters are more concerned about "safe neighborhood parks, playfields and places for children to play" than they are about taxes, pollution and drug abuse.

– Year 2000 Bond Survey by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates

The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space. Prepared for The Trust for Public Land by Paul M. Sherer, 2003. Available online at:

http://www.tpl.org/tier3_cd.cfm?content_item_id=13843&folder_id=175

This paper outlines the need for city parks -- especially in inner-city neighborhoods -- and describes the social, environmental, economic, and health benefits parks bring to a city and its people.

Appendix B: History of Lafayette Parks

Introduction

The oak studded hills and meandering creeks that beautify our city have long been prized by Lafayette residents. But it wasn't until 1983, 136 years after Lafayette's first citizen, Elam Brown, purchased the Rancho Acalanes land grant and donated a small 100' x 150' triangular piece of land for a public plaza, that Lafayette citizens began to realize that the small triangular plaza, a .4 acre site on Brook Street and a couple of run-down ball fields were all that the city owned; and that the vast number of oak woodlands and creeks were actually privately owned and expendable. It was at that time that 68 acres of vacant land were put up for sale along with an adjacent 8.2 acre surplus school site. The governing boards realized that the time had come to embrace the importance of securing parks and recreation facilities for its citizens before such opportunities disappeared forever.

The following detailed descriptions will give the reader an idea of the process that occurred to secure each of these parks.

Brook Street Park (3562 Brook Street, located in the downtown area)

The City purchased this .4 acre site in 1969 for the purpose of creating the City's first neighborhood park. The cost was \$26,700. Using a combination of State Grant funds (\$37,107), City funds (\$20,178) and donated labor, in this case the local Rotary Club and Sea Bees, the Brook Street Park was developed in 1979 primarily as a children's area with a play structure.

In the fall of 2001, the play structure was replaced with a whimsical Pirate Ship play structure for \$36,929, which came from Parkland fees. This structure captures the imaginations of young children with its top deck, steering wheel, climbing ropes and port holes. The play equipment area has a low perimeter fence that keeps the children safely enclosed. Tucked in the back, beneath a shade structure, is a children's picnic table and side serving table that can accommodate small parties. There is no restroom and street parking is limited. The park is also adjacent to Lafayette Creek and shaded by tall Redwoods, providing local residents a great spot for picnicking and communing with nature.

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Leigh Creekside Park (Located on the corner of Moraga Blvd. and 4th Street)

On November 24, 1998, the City Council initiated a public process for determining whether to acquire a .6 acre property for a neighborhood park that was for sale by the estate of the Leigh family. The parcel is located at the corner of Moraga Blvd. and Fourth Street.

The Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission was asked to spearhead an effort to solicit neighborhood support, both conceptual and financial.

On December 9, 1998, the Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission held a public meeting attended by about 40 people who voiced strong support for a city neighborhood park at this location. The neighbors also submitted a petition with 105 signatures supporting the purchase of the property. The Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission voted unanimously to recommend the purchase of the property for use as a city neighborhood park.

On December 14, 1998, after hearing public testimony and discussing the issue, the City Council decided to purchase the property subject to obtaining funding from volunteer and grant sources. A purchase option was approved setting a period of one year to raise the necessary money. On December 30, 1998 the Planning Commission determined that acquisition of the land for park purposes was consistent with the goals and policies of the General Plan.

On August 9, 1999, the City Council passed resolution No. 56-99 approving an application for State Grant Funds in the amount of \$375,000 for the purchase of Leigh Creekside Park. On July 19, 1999 the City was notified that the Legislature and Governor approved the grant.

From December 1998 through September 1999, the neighbors worked diligently to solicit donations and were able to raise a total of \$33,224. These funds, together with the State funds, provided enough money to purchase the property.

The City took title of the property on October 21, 1999. The name Leigh Creekside Park was adopted to recognize the Leigh Family who owned the property and whose estate worked willingly with the City to conclude the transaction. The park was dedicated on October 23, 1999.

The park is bordered on one side by Las Trampas Creek and easily accessed by the Lafayette Moraga Regional trail. A majestic, centennial Valley Oak takes center stage to numerous other trees and riparian plants. The park provides a shady resting place for

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people who use the regional trail and an open area for neighborhood kids to play. Picnic tables, benches, a drinking fountain, creek side views and informal paths make it a great place to enjoy the natural surroundings.

Mildred Lane Pocket Park (Lafayette Valley Estates off St. Mary's Road)

At the end of Mildred Lane, adjacent to open pasture land that rises steeply and borders the Town of Moraga, is an inviting pocket park where local residents can observe wildlife. A small arbor and single bench face grassy slopes offering broad, expansive views. The total cost of the project was \$6,455. The park was completed in December 1997.

Murray Lane Site (Burton Valley)

In 1987, the City received a land dedication as part of a 23 lot subdivision. This 2.2 acre site adjoins Lafayette Community Park and provides a crucial section of the City's "Burton Ridge Trail System." This connector, or feeder, trail is on the Trails Master Plan. A heritage oak is located on the southern end of the property. Specific Amenities: No park or trail improvements have occurred, but there are plans to build a pathway and other landscaping improvements using a combination of grant funds and park land fees.

Lafayette Community Center

As far back as 1949, Lafayette residents had been trying to establish a community center in their city. It wasn't until 1983, when the Lafayette School District decided to sell a surplus school site, that the City Council approved recommendations from the Parks & Recreation Commission and Burton School Steering Committee, to purchase the property and develop the City's first community center. The former Burton School, built in 1954, was structurally sound but in need of major renovation. A Community Center Master Plan was adopted in 1984, which allowed the City to develop accurate cost estimates for future improvements, apply for Regional, State and Federal grants and seek donations.

A Lafayette Community Center Foundation also was established in 1984 and began raising funds for physical improvements to the buildings. Volunteers donated thousands of hours to get the facility in shape. It took 10 years to complete the majority of the interior and exterior spaces. During this 10-year period, \$631,577 in grant money was obtained and \$171,000 in donations was raised by the Foundation. As each space

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was improved, recreational classes, special events and facility rentals began bringing in revenue and by 1994, the Community Center programs had become self-supporting.

In 1995, there was an interest in starting a roller hockey league. The only available location was the parking lot at the Community Center. Using old-fashioned ingenuity, a temporary rink was erected and the Lafayette roller hockey program began. The sport became so popular that, twelve years later, the City decided to build a permanent rink. The Tanaka Design Group was hired to design a multi-sport rink which would accommodate a wide variety of recreational activities. The project broke ground on Wednesday, April 18, 2007 including hockey, basketball, soccer, public skating, dodge ball, Lacrosse and numerous other games. The outdoor tile provides a smooth yet durable playing surface. The total project cost, which included architectural design, engineering, construction and project management was \$1,285,000. Local sports enthusiasts donated \$70,000. A grand opening was held on September 29, 2007. Considered an innovative and ground-breaking facility in the world of outdoor sports arenas, the Rink attracts a lot of notice in the Bay Area.

The Lafayette Community Center has played host to tens of thousands of people enjoying classes for self improvement and exercise, both for themselves and their families and sometimes even their pets. It has hosted countless important City government meetings and assemblies as well as civic and service groups. Many celebrations and ceremonies have been held at the LCC such as weddings, anniversaries and birthday parties. The facilities for children and seniors fill a vital need for the community. A state of the art enclosed playground provides a safe environment for small children to interact with their parents and other children. The indoor facilities for children provide important developmental opportunities that would not be normally available to the average family. The senior center provides in many cases a vital link to the outside world and aids many elderly citizens in their every day lives, from exercise to important information. A city shuttle bus is now providing transportation to a hot meal program to otherwise housebound seniors. It is rare to find a citizen of Lafayette who has not graced the halls of the Lafayette Community Center at sometime during the course of their residency. It is truly a major gathering place and hub for the community.

Lafayette Community Park

The current site of the Lafayette Community Park lies on lands of the Rancho Laguna de Los Palos Colorados, a 13,316 acre land grant awarded to Joaquin Moraga and Juan

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Bernal in 1835. Up until the 1960's, the park site was used to grow winter cattle feed, walnuts and pears. In the 1960's, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) purchased land for a freeway between Oakland and Pleasant Hill. The freeway route was planned to go through Moraga, then follow St. Mary's Road to just past Rohrer Drive, and cut east to Michael Lane and Reliez Station Road. The freeway proposal was abandoned in 1974. A questionnaire at the Bicentennial town meeting in 1976 indicated that Lafayette residents wanted a community park. This led to local residents banding together in 1979 to form the Lafayette Park Committee to discuss the development of a community park. Around the same time, Caltrans offered to sell their right-of-way land, and the City negotiated to purchase a portion of the property for the community park. Two adjacent parcels behind the Community Center totaling 57 acres were purchased in 1983 for \$709,150. Back in 1973, the City had purchased the 11 acres north of Burton School at 500 St. Mary's Road for \$14,650. It is the 11 acres plus the 57 acres that make up the 68 acres for the park. In 1982, the City also purchased the 8.2 acres of Burton School property for \$500,000 from the Lafayette School District for use as a Community Center (see details under "Lafayette Community Center"). The Community Center also serves as an access and staging area to the park.

In early 1985, the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce commissioned a public opinion survey. This voter phone survey specifically asked what Lafayette needed most. The number two response was more parks and recreational facilities, just second in priority to solving traffic problems. Later in 1985, the Parks and Recreation Commission began public meetings, initiating the first steps toward creating a master plan to develop the Lafayette Community Park. Two early public hearings were held with residents of the adjacent neighborhood on October 2, 1985 and March 26, 1986.

In June 1987, Dillingham Associates, landscape architects, were retained to prepare the Master Plan for the Lafayette Community Park. This plan was developed starting with the Master Plan Concepts and Guidelines prepared by the Parks and Recreation Commission between January 1986 and March 1987.

In 1988 and 1989, the City Council held a series of neighborhood meetings and coordinated two public opinion surveys. All results indicated support for assessments to fund specific improvements, such as roads, park development, storm drains and police services.

The Master Plan was reviewed by all commissions in the City and went before the Planning Commission as a Land Use Permit application. The Land Use Permit was

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granted. After additional public hearings, the Lafayette Community Park Master Plan was adopted by the City Council on July 25, 1988, Resolution 65-99 (City File L 3-88). Also, some changes were made in 1988 pursuant to Resolution 47-88.

The main objective of the Community Park Master Plan was to blend high quality recreation facilities with the site's natural features so that both would be enhanced. The ball fields proposed for the south-end of the site were nestled into the hillside. Features were incorporated into the plan to keep development out of the environmentally sensitive riparian zones. The north end of the park incorporated meandering trails and other passive recreational activities. The facilities that were selected reflected those activities that were in highest demand and also reflected a high regard for native environments.

Some of the elements of the Master Plan were revisited by the Parks and Recreation Commission, including the addition of other low cost, low impact amenities. Input from neighbors led to the removal of a small parking area off of Burton Drive, and reducing the parking at the main entrance. Following public hearings, the City Council approved amendments to the Master Plan for the Park on September 12, 1988.

On July 16, 1990, following public hearings, the City Council held a workshop to discuss municipal financing options. Experts on municipal finance were invited to discuss various funding methods. After discussing the options, the City Council chose to explore in more detail the use of assessment bonds under the Landscaping and Lighting Act of 1972. In response, the Parks and Recreation Commission, with the help of City Staff and outside expertise, developed an Information Book on establishing an Assessment District to fund the development of the Lafayette Community Park and the 711 St. Mary's Road Park in accordance with their approved Master Plans.

On July 15, 1991, the City Council held a public hearing in the Stanley School Auditorium to discuss the concept of a parks assessment district. There were considerable public objections to forming a district and creating an assessment. In response, the Council set aside the concept and formed the Parks Blue Ribbon Task Force. As discussed elsewhere in this Background Report, the work of this Task Force help set the direction for the funding and construction of parks in Lafayette.

By 1994, the City had enough funds to begin the first phase of the approved Lafayette Community Park Master Plan This phase included the construction of much needed fields for baseball and soccer, a gravel parking lot, drainage work and hillside stabilization. The fields opened in the spring of 1996. Local youth groups began

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immediate use of the two fields which had turf infields, backstops, dugouts and bleachers. Two batting cages were added later. A paved Park and Ride lot, funded by Measure C, and a children's playground were completed in 1999, followed by a group picnic area (\$85,016), restrooms and a footbridge connecting to the parking lot (\$247,691) in 2001. These improvements completed the south-end of the Community Park and a Grand Opening was held on September 23, 2001.

On November 25, 2002, a 138 foot long bridge was built behind the community center parking lot to finally connect the Lafayette Community Center with the Lafayette Community Park. Suspended 30 feet above Las Trampas Creek, the bridge had to be installed using a huge crane that picked up the entire bridge and placed it on two cement abutments that were engineered to hold its solid 55,000 pounds. The City's two major recreational sites were now united.

The total cost of the bridge installation was \$325,000 with \$252,225 coming from state funding and \$72,775 from City Parkland Dedication Fees which are originated from city development fees. The bridge was named after former Parks, Trails & Recreation Commissioner and Park advocate Kathryn Petersen.

The Community Park is also home to several Pétanque Courts. The courts were built with the assistance and guidance of the Lamorinda Pétanque Club. Pétanque (pronounced "pay-tonk") is an outdoor bowling game (similar to Bocce Ball) which originated in France in the twentieth century. The addition of these courts to the Community Park was in keeping with the spirit of Lafayette's identity with the Marquis de Lafayette, a major hero in the American Revolutionary War. The game is played on any area of bare ground, crushed stone or gravel. Local landscape architect and Pétanque enthusiast, Greg Arthur, generously donated his services and created a beautiful, unique plan that embraced one of the City's original pear orchards into his design. The project was built for a modest cost of \$74,000 and over \$10,000 in community donations were received. A Grand Opening was held on April 22, 2007.

Buckeye Fields (711 St. Mary's Road)

In April 1949, a nonprofit, all volunteer organization of local residents called Lafayette Community Center, Inc. was established to identify a location and needed facilities for a community center. After investigating over 30 properties, the 11.5 acre site at 711 St. Mary's Road was selected. It was purchased in 1952 from the Oliviera family at a cost of \$35,000. A master plan for site development was prepared by Wurster, Bernardi &

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Emmons, and reflected the needs of the community at that time – a youth building, a large multipurpose meeting building, off-street parking, play and picnic areas, community swimming pool and bath houses. Numerous fund raising events and campaigns were held during the 1950's; however, the funds could only partially support development consistent with the master plan.

In the late 1950's, the St. Nicholas Building (which was located in what is now the center of LaFiesta Square) was moved to the 711 site, and bathrooms and a kitchen were added. Also, two baseball fields were built with the assistance of the Navy SeaBees and other volunteers. Lafayette Little League, Inc. entered into a lease agreement with Lafayette Community Center, Inc. to use and maintain these ball fields.

In 1961-62, a second attempt was made to obtain major funding from the community to construct a youth building. A local architect donated a building design; but again, the lack of funds halted the project. In 1968, two important issues were on the ballot – incorporation of the City and formation of a Parks and Recreation District. Incorporation was approved by a narrow margin, but the formation of a District failed, also by a narrow margin. Without the district, funds were not available for significant construction. In 1972, a tot playground was constructed by volunteers and funded by the Lafayette Suburban Junior Women's Club.

The Board of Directors of Lafayette Community Center, Inc. determined that developing and operating the facility could best be handled by the now-incorporated City. The property, along with \$18,000, was conveyed to the City in 1973 with the understanding that it be dedicated only to recreational and cultural activities.

Following the transfer of the 711 proper to the City, the Parks and Recreation Commission and City staff worked with the firm of John Sue and Associates to develop another master plan. The plan included the two ball fields, a mini-park, picnic sites, a clubhouse and overall landscaping improvements. Due to continued funding constraints, this plan was never adopted. In the early 1990's, the City had a strong need for additional playing fields. With this in mind, the City Council asked the Parks and Recreation Commission to look at a plan for 711 St. Mary's Road that would incorporate a soccer field, in combination with the two baseball fields. A new master plan was prepared by Royston Hanamoto Alley and Abey (RHAA). The plan moved the two baseball fields next to each other, and overlaid a soccer field. It provided improved parking, including handicapped parking. Numerous public meetings were held on the plan which was adopted by the City Council on June 10, 1991 (Resolution 39-91).

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However, funding remained limited, and it was not until 2001-02 when two State grants were obtained (\$1,014,550 and \$214,730) that construction could begin. The total cost for design, engineering, administration and the construction of two multi-sport fields, a plaza, concession building, restrooms, parking lot, pathways and landscaping was \$1,530,704. Lafayette Little League families raised \$120,000 of this sum. A grand opening celebration held on March 6, 2004 was attended by over 350 people. The park is widely considered the finest youth ball park in the Bay Area and is a bustling area during baseball season.

Elam and Margaret Brown Plaza (corner of Moraga Road and Mt. Diablo Blvd.)

This 0.3 acre site is centrally located in the Downtown area, and was the City's first public space. It is often used for City-sponsored events. The plaza is developed with a rectangle of lawn surrounded by trees and paved areas with seat planters.

Lafayette was first settled in 1848. While the original land grant was made in 1834 to Candelario Valencia, the town founder was the third Rancho owner, Elam Brown. He bought the one square league of the Rancho for \$900.

As the hamlet straddled the road that led from the Moraga Redwoods to the lumber shipping point at Martinez, early Lafayette became a stop-over spot for wagon drivers. When Brown established a grist mill in 1853, the center of the farming village moved toward the present Mt. Diablo-Moraga Road intersection.

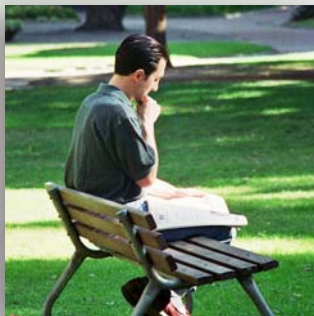
A triangle of land, originally five times its present size, was donated to the town as public plaza by Elam Brown in 1852.²²

The parcel was officially deeded to the town in 1864.

²² Lafayette Historical Society website

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Attachment 2 - Public Feedback Report



July 9, 2009

**Draft Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Attachment 2 – Public Feedback Report**

Prepared for:

**City of Lafayette
Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission**

Alison Hill, Chair
Geoffrey Bellenger
Robert Lobron
Judy Nelson
Jeff Peacock
Mark Poole
Peter Read
Carol Singer

Jennifer Russell, Director of Parks, Trails & Recreation
Steven Falk, City Manager
Ann Merideth, Community Development Director
Niroop Srivatsa, Planning Services Manager

Prepared by:



511 First Street
Benicia, CA 94510
(707) 746-1948

July 9, 2009

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- Appendix B: Survey Responses and Analysis by Question
 - Figure 1: Lafayette Geographic Areas
- Appendix C: Write-In Responses from Surveys
- Appendix D: November 28, 2007 Workshop Notes

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1 Introduction: Objectives for Public Participation

This report presents the results of the public participation process conducted by the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission (PTR Commission) for a Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan (Master Plan). Detailed information and background on the City's park system and the goals and process for the Master Plan can be found in Master Plan Attachment 1, *Background Report*.

The primary objective of the public participation process was to obtain ideas and concerns from all interested parties regarding new parkland and recreation facilities acquisition and development in the City of Lafayette.

Throughout the public participation process all input was carefully documented, analyzed, and considered by the PTR Commission, with the objective of accurately reflecting public opinion in the draft and final Parks Master Plan work products.

This Public Feedback Report includes the following sections:

- Description of the participation process;
- Summary of public workshop;
- Description of the survey and associated public outreach;
- Summary of the Survey results; and a
- Description of next steps in the Parks Master Plan process;

The Report also includes appendices containing the detailed responses to each survey question, including the write-in responses, workshop notes and a copy of the survey form.

2 Public Participation Process

The participation process was conducted largely by the PTR Commissioners over an approximate ten month period, with support from PTR staff and the project consultant. The process included the following steps:

- An initial public workshop with the PTR Commission;
- Notices of the process, the workshop, and the survey in City publications and on the City's web site;
- Press releases resulting in a series of local newspaper articles on the Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan;

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- An on-line or write-in survey on park and recreation facility preferences; and
- A series of presentations by PTR Commissioners to local neighborhood groups and organizations in conjunction with the survey.

2.1 Public Workshop

The first step in the process was a public workshop held by the PTR Commission on November 28, 2007 at the Community Center. The workshop was widely advertized on the City's web site, in City publications, and in local newspapers. The following articles were published.

- *Fall 2007 – Lafayette Vistas* – “Help Plan the Future of Lafayette Parks” by Lafayette staff.
- *Friday, November 23, 2007 – Lamorinda Sun* – “City Wants Input on Parks Master Plan” by Paul Thissen.
- *Friday, November 30, 2007 – Lamorinda Sun* – “Lafayette Parks Plan Discussed” by Paul Thissen.
- *Wednesday, December 12, 2007 – Lamorinda Weekly* – “A New Master Plan for Lafayette Parks” by Jean Follmer.

The workshop was lightly attended. A topic of the workshop was to identify ways to get better public participation. The ideas that were contributed were reflected in the next steps.

The public attendees participated in breakout groups with the PTR Commissioners, and contributed ideas and preferences about parks for Lafayette. Workshop notes are contained in Appendix D. Some highlights of the comments include:

- There was interest in increased supply of sports fields;
- Joint arrangements between the City and the schools should be investigated;
- There was a desire for unimproved/minimally improved parks;
- Some attendees felt there are enough parks, given schools and open space; and
- Maintenance and use management are important issues.

2.2 Survey and Outreach Meetings

To better understand the wants and desires of Lafayette residents, a survey was developed with several multiple choice and write-in questions about Lafayette parks and recreation facility preferences (see Appendix A for sample survey form). The

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survey could be completed on-line, through a link from the City's web site, or by hand and turned in to the PTR office. The survey was available to complete between early March and the end of June 2008. The survey results are summarized below in Section 3 and are presented in detail in Appendices B and C.

Efforts to obtain press coverage were continued, resulting in articles in local publications about the Parks Master Plan and the survey:

- *Wednesday, April 2, 2008* – **Lamorinda Weekly** – "Survey Says..." by Cathy Tyson.
- *Friday April 4, 2008* – **Lamorinda Sun** – "Park Planners Seek Input" by Paul Thissen (ran for several weeks).
- *Winter 2008* – **Lafayette Recreation Guide** – "Help Plan the Future of Lafayette Parks."

As part of the outreach, PTR Commissioners and staff attended meetings with numerous neighborhood and civic groups to discuss Parks Master Plan objectives, get direct comments and encourage participation in the survey. During March through June 2008, presentations were made to the following Lafayette groups. At many of the meetings, surveys were handed out and completed at the meeting.

- Chamber of Commerce
- Happy Valley Improvement Association -- Board
- Homeowner's Council
- Little League Board
- Youth Commission
- Juniors
- Suburban Women
- Lafayette Moraga Youth Association (LMYA)
- Happy Valley Improvement Association -- Annual Meeting
- Springhill School PTA
- Lafayette School PTA

Additionally, e-mails about the survey were sent to two neighborhoods by PTR Commissioners: the Walnut Drive area and the Hawthorn Drive/Lafayette Oaks area. The survey was also highlighted on the burtonvalley.com web site.

3 Summary of Survey Results

343 surveys were received, with 247 completed on-line and 96 filled in on paper (some of the website-generated results summaries show fewer responses, depending on how many actually answered the question). The paper responses were entered into the on-line form by PTR staff in order to create a single database for all the results.

Detailed survey results by question, as well as analysis, are presented in Appendix B. Appendix C categorizes the write-in responses from Questions 5, 6 and 7. There was a lot of similarity between these write-in responses.

The responses to Questions 4 through 7 were sorted into six geographic areas of the City if sufficient information was provided (see Figure 1 in Appendix B). Of the 343 survey results, 274 could be classified geographically. This helped to identify more localized preferences. Residents of the Downtown area had a higher level of participation in the survey than other areas, accounting for 143 surveys or 42%.

Responses to Question 1 indicated that 85% of those completing the survey used Lafayette's parks and/or sports facilities at least once a month. This is a high percentage. Question 2 responses indicated over 60% signed up for Community Center classes at least once per year. Over 75% of respondents knew that a Parks Master Plan for the City was being prepared (Question 3).

Of the respondents, 91.7% said they would like the City of Lafayette to acquire more park and recreational facilities (Question 4). In the Downtown area, the support was slightly higher at 93.7%.

Question 5 asked respondents to rank a selection of five types of park and recreation facilities or their own preference. Sports fields were the strongest preference, followed by neighborhood park, downtown park, and dog park. Community Center improvements ranked the lowest overall.

Question 6 asked whether they would like a neighborhood park in their neighborhood: 55.8% said "yes", while 57.9% of Downtown respondents said "yes."

Question 7 asked if there were other park and/or recreational facilities that the respondents would like the City to provide: 61% said "yes" and, as requested, wrote in their preferences. However, these preferences tended to support the prior basic choices and preferences, with highest support for various types of sports fields. Second highest was other types of outdoor recreation facilities, including basketball, tennis, and a skate

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park. Other significant write-in preferences included a dog park, play areas/facilities, trails, open space, and an outdoor theater/concert facility.

This was a widely noticed and distributed volunteer survey, and the level of participation was relatively high.¹ The survey provides valuable guidance to the PTR Commission and the City about citizens' preferences.

E-mail comments were also encouraged. Only two such comments were received in addition to the surveys. One supported downtown parks and adding swings to existing children play areas. The other focused on specific properties in the Deer Hill Road area.

¹ This was not a random telephone survey of a specific sample size. These surveys are much more expensive, but do provide statistically verifiable results.

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Appendix A
Resident Opinion Survey Form

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix A – Resident Opinion Survey Form**

1.



Lafayette Parks Master Plan - Resident Opinion Survey

1. Do you or your family currently use, or have you used, Lafayette's parks and/or sports facilities, including The Rink? (Pick your closest frequency of use over a year. **Do not include visits to the Lafayette Reservoir or Briones.**)

- Daily
- Once a Week
- Once a Month
- Once a Year
- Never

2. How many times a year do you or your family sign up for recreational classes through the Lafayette Community Center, not including The Rink?

About _____ Classes per year

3. Have you read or heard that the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission and Director are preparing a Parks Master Plan for Lafayette?

- Yes
- No

4. Would you like the City of Lafayette to acquire more park and recreational facilities? (Note: **City of Lafayette General Fund money is seldom used to buy or improve existing park and recreation facilities.** Money for park and recreation facilities comes from park-only fees on new construction, grant money and donations.)

- Yes
- No

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix A – Resident Opinion Survey Form**

5. Please rank the following in order of preference for the City to acquire and/or develop. (Put numbers on the lines from 1 through 6, with 1 being your highest preference and 6 being your lowest preference.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Downtown Lafayette Park, possibly with a children's play area	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Neighborhood Park with picnic tables and possibly children's play structure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sports Fields (Soccer, Lacrosse, Baseball, etc.)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Community Center Enhancements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Dog Park for off-leash dogs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Other Preference	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please Describe Your preference

6. Would you like a neighborhood park in your area of Lafayette?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe your location and the park features you would like; e.g., picnic table (s), children's play area, benches and the like.

7. Are there any other park and/or recreational facilities that you would like the City of Lafayette to provide?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe.

*** 8. To help us evaluate how well this survey represents Lafayette please tell us the nearest intersection to your home. (e.g. Moraga Rd and St. Mary's)**

9. FURTHER CONTACT:

If you would like to receive future e-mails on public participation events relating to the development and approval of a Parks Master Plan for the City of Lafayette, please provide the following information.

Name:

Address:

Address 2:

City/Town:

State:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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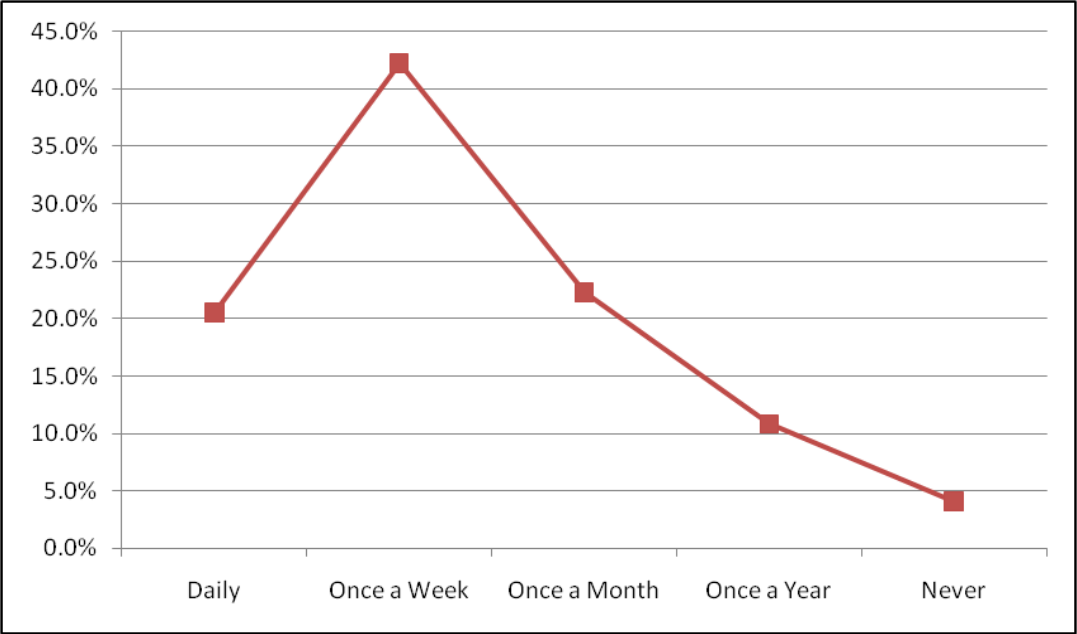
Appendix B
Survey Responses and Analysis by Question

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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 1: Do you or your family currently use, or have you used, Lafayette’s parks and/or sports facilities, including The Rink? (Pick your closest frequency of use over a year. Do not include visits to the Lafayette Reservoir or Briones.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Daily	20.5%	70
Once a Week	42.2%	144
Once a Month	22.3%	76
Once a Year	10.9%	37
Never	4.1%	14
<i>answered question</i>		341
<i>skipped question</i>		2



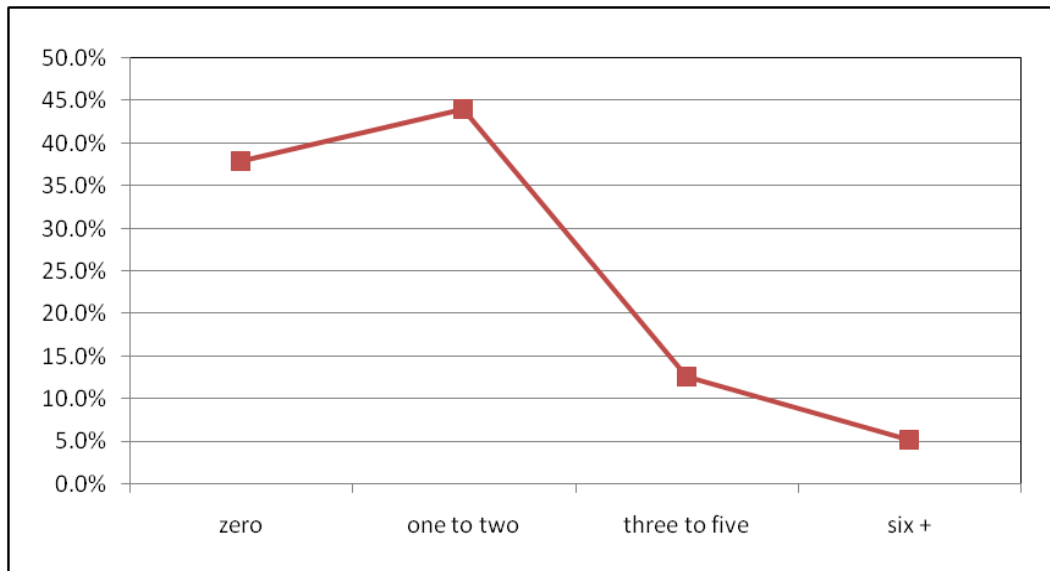
Analysis: 85% of the respondents use Lafayette Parks at least once a month, a very high percentage.

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Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 2: How many times a year do you or your family sign up for recreational classes through the Lafayette Community Center, not including The Rink?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
zero	37.8%	123
one to two	44.0%	143
three to five	12.6%	41
six +	5.2%	17
<i>answered question</i>		325
<i>skipped question</i>		18



Analysis: Over 60% of the respondents have signed up for classes at the Community Center at least once a year.

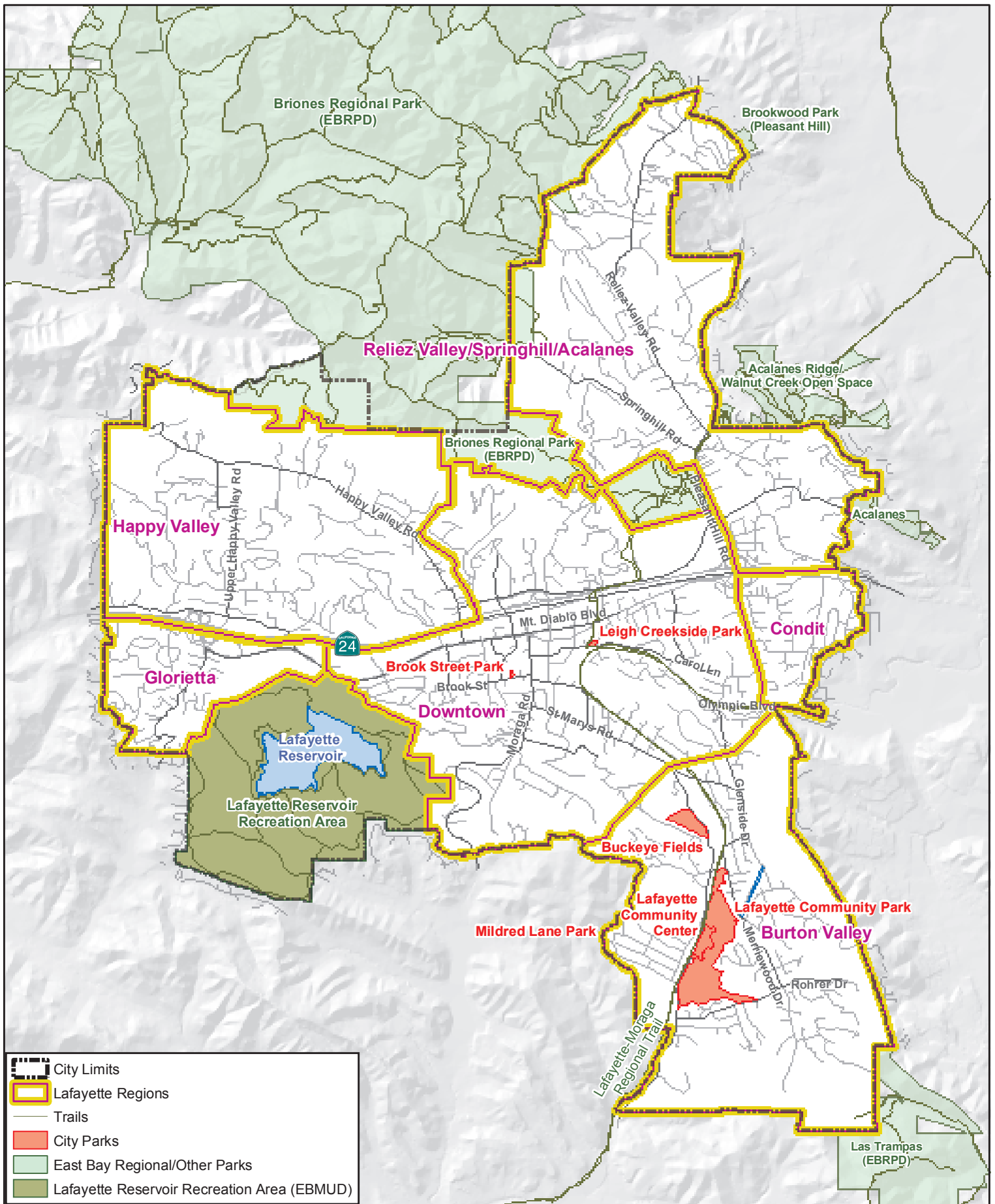


FIGURE 1 - LAFAYETTE REGIONS



**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 3: Have you read or heard that the Parks, Trails and Recreation Commission and Director are preparing a Parks Master Plan for Lafayette?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	76.8%	262
No	23.2%	79
<i>answered question</i>		341
<i>skipped question</i>		2

Analysis: Over three fourths of the respondents had heard about the Parks Master Plan before they took the survey - an indication that the public outreach was working.

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 4: Would you like the City of Lafayette to acquire more park and recreational facilities? (Note: City of Lafayette General Fund money is seldom used to buy or improve existing park and recreation facilities. Money for park and recreation facilities comes from park-only fees on new construction, grant money and donations.)

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	91.7%	299
No	8.3%	27
<i>answered question</i>		326
<i>skipped question</i>		17

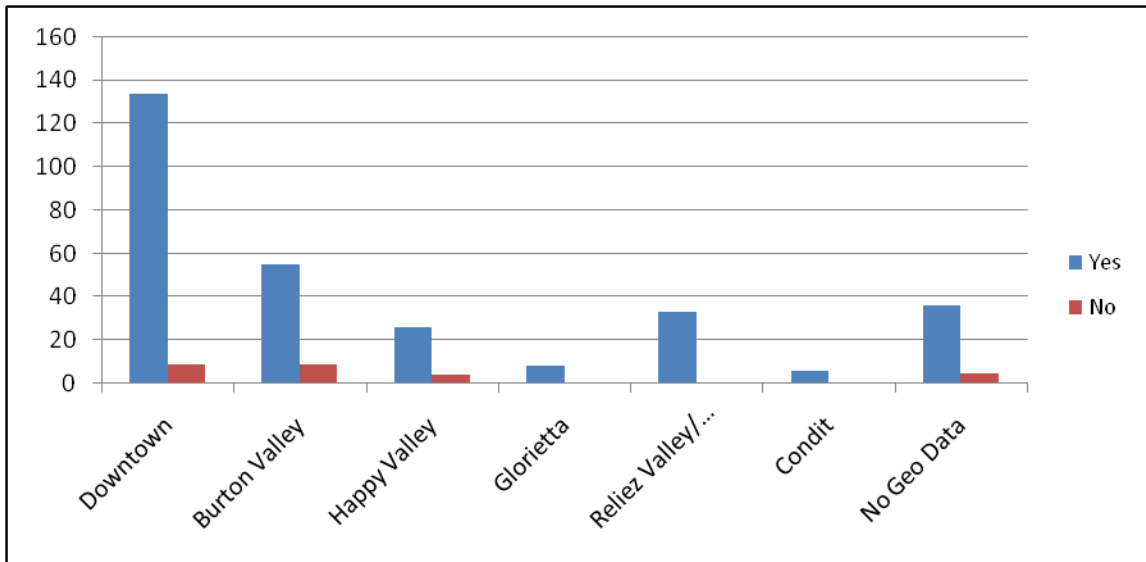
Results by Geographic Area (see Figure 1 for areas)

Lafayette Area	Yes	No
Downtown	134	9
Burton Valley	55	9
Happy Valley	26	4
Glorietta	8	0
Reliez Valley/ Springhill/Acalanes	33	0
Condit	6	0
No Geo Data	36	5

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Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 4 (continued): Would you like the City of Lafayette to acquire more park and recreational facilities? (Note: City of Lafayette General Fund money is seldom used to buy or improve existing park and recreation facilities. Money for park and recreation facilities comes from park-only fees on new construction, grant money and donations.)



Analysis: A very high percentage of respondents desire more parks. Because the survey was widely advertized and available, it also indicates that there is not a large population that is opposed to more parks. Downtown area respondents in particular had a high level of participation in the survey and support for parks and recreation facilities.

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Resident Opinion Survey Results

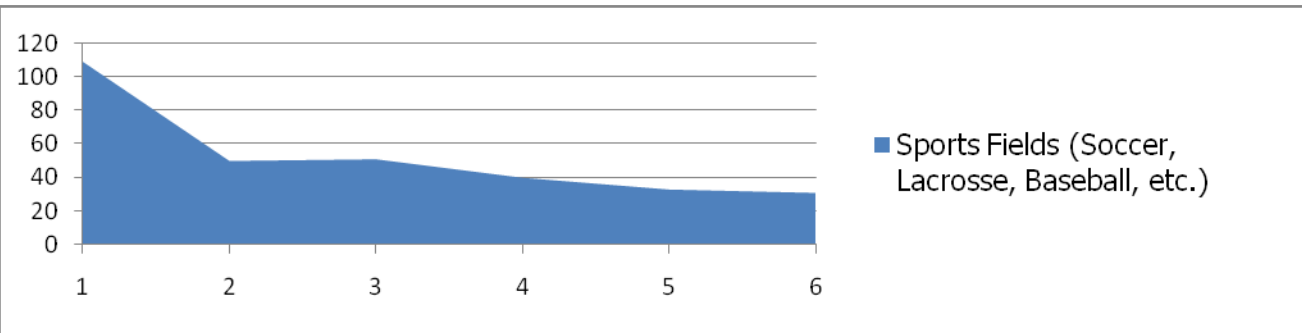
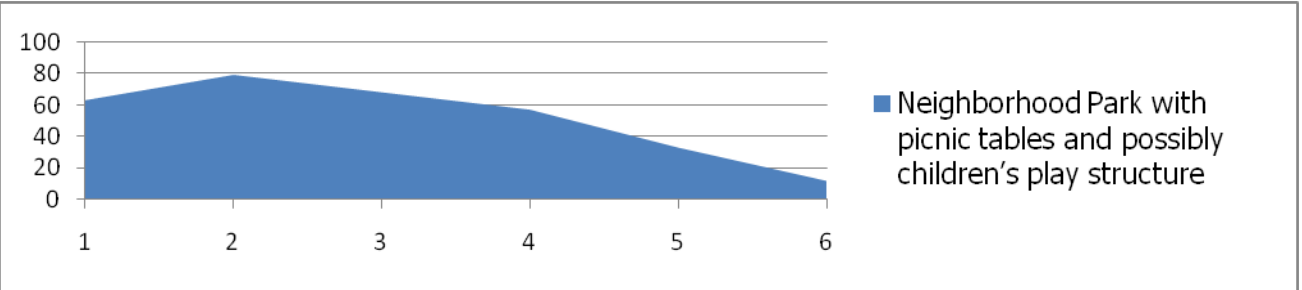
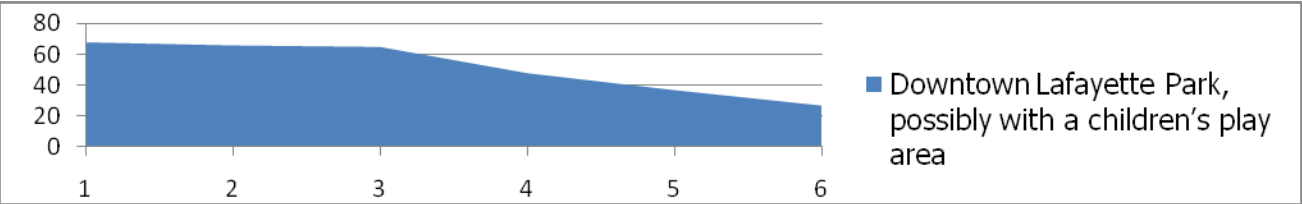
Survey Question 5: Please rank the following in order of preference for the City to acquire and/or develop. (Put numbers on the lines from 1 through 6, with 1 being your highest preference and 6 being your lowest preference.)

Answer Options	1	2	3	4	5	6	Response Count
Downtown Lafayette Park, possibly with a children's play area	68	66	65	48	37	27	311
Neighborhood Park with picnic tables and possibly children's play structure	63	79	68	57	33	12	312
Sports Fields (Soccer, Lacrosse, Baseball, etc.)	109	50	51	40	33	31	314
Community Center Enhancements	28	46	67	75	63	26	305
Dog Park for off-leash dogs	76	48	29	17	64	81	315
Other Preference	50	13	8	6	7	43	127
Please Describe Your Preference							128
<i>answered question</i>							339
<i>skipped question</i>							4

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Lafayette Parks Master Plan - Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 5 (continued): Please rank the following in order of preference for the City to acquire and/or develop. (Put numbers on the lines from 1 through 6, with 1 being your highest preference and 6 being your lowest preference.)

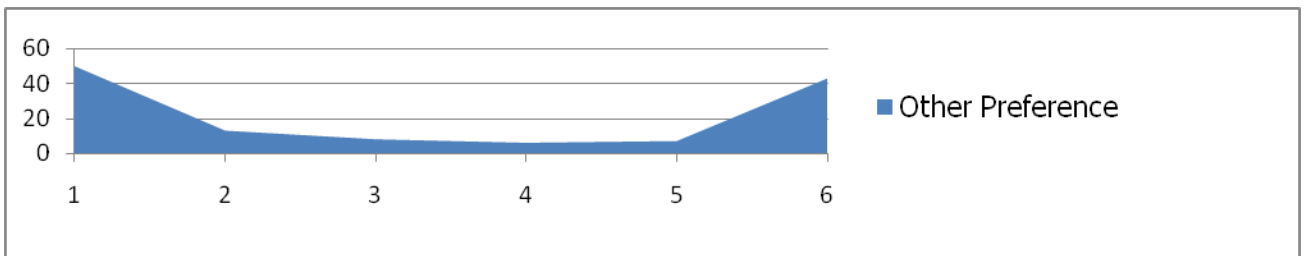
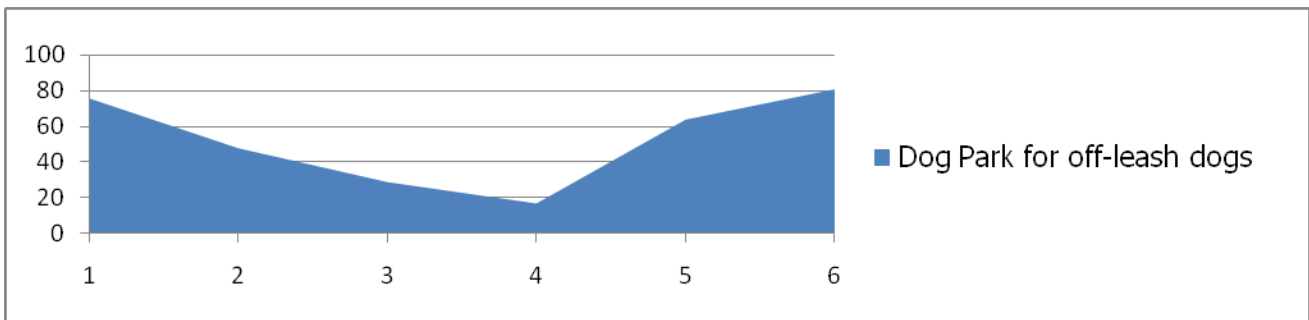
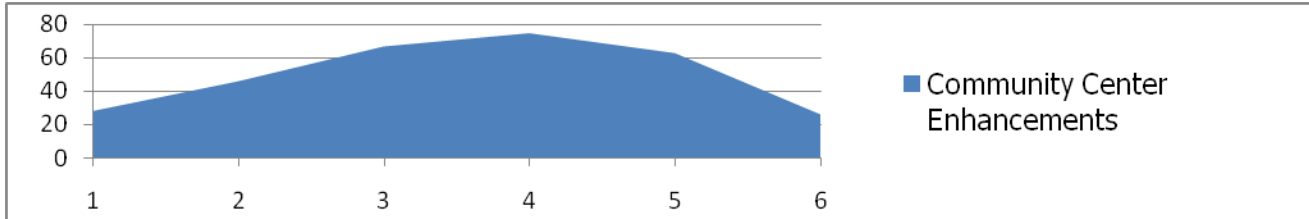


Analysis: The area charts show the relative preference for the five basic park facility options, and “Other Preferences.” Greater area of the color band on the left side means that item has a higher preference. Conversely, greater area on the right side means more people think that item is a low preference. A shape with a bulge in the middle has moderate level of preference. A “bow tie” shape as with the Dog Park option means the opinion is somewhat polarized, with some seeing the item as a high preference, and some as a low preference. Again, the moderate and low preference results do not necessarily counter the high preference results, e.g. they do not necessarily mean that there is opposition to this choice. There was a relatively low number of Other Preferences, and the write-in results for these, presented in Appendix C, show that some of them are actually within the 5 original choices.

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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Lafayette Parks Master Plan - Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 5 (continued): Please rank the following in order of preference for the City to acquire and/or develop. (Put numbers on the lines from 1 through 6, with 1 being your highest preference and 6 being your lowest preference.)



Analysis: The area charts show the relative preference for the five basic park facility options, and “Other Preferences.” Greater area of the color band on the left side means that item has a higher preference. Conversely, greater area on the right side means more people think that item is a low preference. A shape with a bulge in the middle has moderate level of preference. A “bow tie” shape as with the Dog Park option means the opinion is somewhat polarized, with some seeing the item as a high preference, and some as a low preference. Again, the moderate and low preference results do not necessarily counter the high preference results, e.g. they do not necessarily mean that there is opposition to this choice. There was a relatively low number of Other Preferences, and the write-in results for these, presented in Appendix C, show that some of them are actually within the 5 original choices.

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 5 (continued): Please rank the following in order of preference for the City to acquire and/or develop. (Put numbers on the lines from 1 through 6, with 1 being your highest preference and 6 being your lowest preference.)

Answer Options	High 1 + 2	Mod. 3 + 4	Low 5 + 6
Downtown Lafayette Park, possibly with a children's play area	134	113	64
Neighborhood Park with picnic tables and possibly children's play structure	142	125	45
Sports Fields (Soccer, Lacrosse, Baseball, etc.)	159	91	64
Community Center Enhancements	74	142	89
Dog Park for off-leash dogs	124	46	145
Other Preference	63	14	50

Analysis: This chart combines the preference choices to simplify the results. Sports fields are the highest preference, with neighborhood parks a strong second place, closely followed by a downtown park, which could overlap with the neighborhood park preference as a combined first place. The moderate and low preference results do not necessarily counter the high preference results, e.g. they do not necessarily mean that there is opposition to this choice.

Analysis - Write-in Results: The write-in results (presented in Appendix C) for this and other questions underscore preferences for facilities that are options on the list, and indicate some preferences for facilities that aren't on the list.

Question 5 - Other Preferences:
Sports fields (18 - not really an "other preference" since it is on the list, but there were 9 votes for rugby fields); play areas/facilities (9); swimming (6), indoor sports/gym (5), and trails and paths (11).

Question 6 - Desired Neighborhood Park Features:
Picnic tables/BBQs (58); play areas/facilities (57); open space/nature (17); dog park (12).

Question 7 - Other Park and/or Recreational Facilities Desired:
A wide range of sports fields were the most popular category (41), with baseball fields the highest specific type (13); many types of outdoor sports facilities (32) with skate park the highest tally (9); dog park (25); play areas (14); trails and open space/nature (each with 14); outdoor theater/concerts (11); and swimming/water play (9).

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 6: Would you like a neighborhood park in your area of Lafayette?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	55.8%	173
No	44.2%	137
If Yes, please describe your location and the park features you would like; e.g., picnic table(s), children's play area, benches and the like.		200
<i>answered question</i>		310
<i>skipped question</i>		33

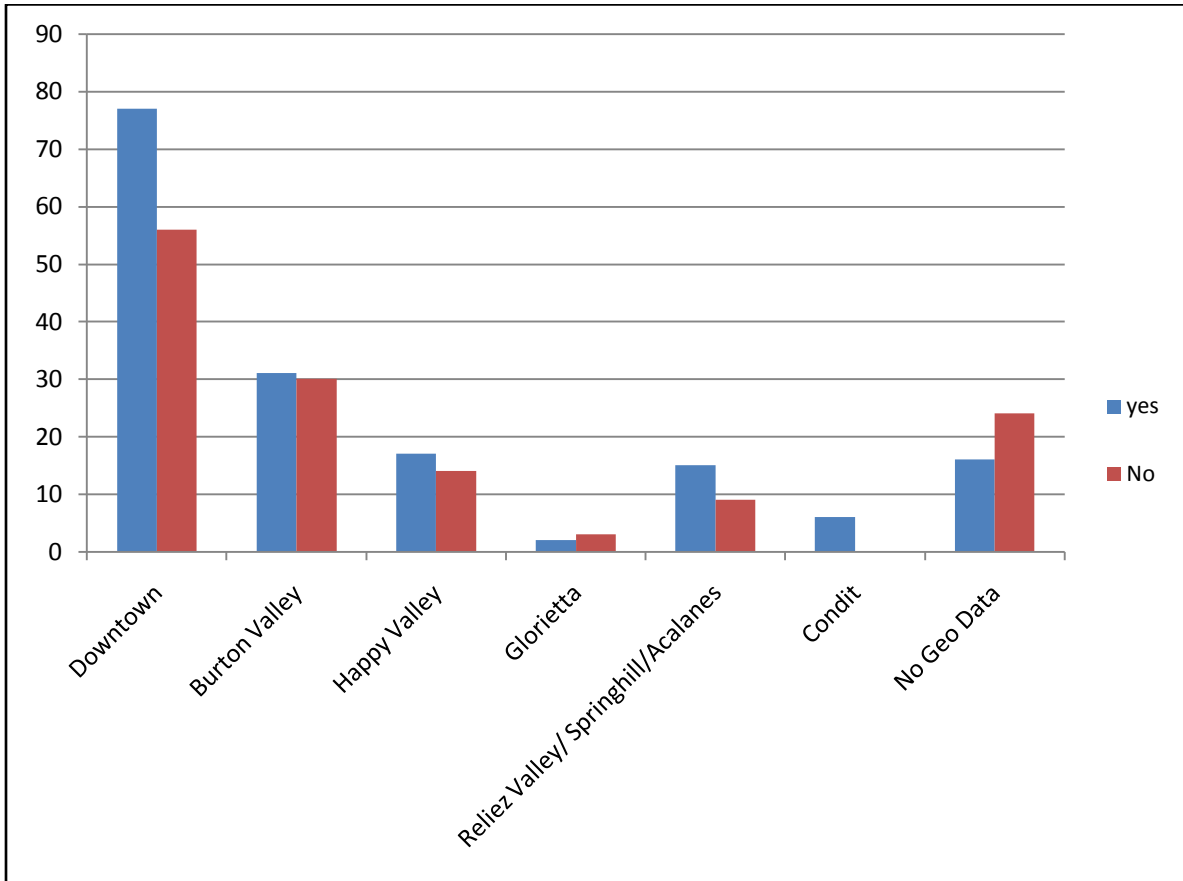
Lafayette Geographic Area	yes	No	Percent Yes
Downtown	77	56	57.9%
Burton Valley	31	30	50.8%
Happy Valley	17	14	54.8%
Glorietta	2	3	40.0%
Reliez Valley/ Springhill/Acalanes	15	9	62.5%
Condit	6	0	100.0%
No Geo Data	16	24	40.0%

Analysis: 56% of respondents want a neighborhood park in their neighborhood, whereas nearly 92% of respondents said they want more park facilities in Question 4. This underscores the challenge of finding specific park sites, and the importance of the geographic area results - more Reliez Valley/ Springhill/Acalanes, Downtown, and Condit area respondents want a neighborhood park in their area than respondents in other areas. Again, Downtown residents had a high level of participation in the survey.

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 6 (continued): Would you like a neighborhood park in your area of Lafayette?



Analysis: 56% of respondents want a neighborhood park in their neighborhood, whereas nearly 92% of respondents said they want more park facilities in Question 4. This underscores the challenge of finding specific park sites, and the importance of the geographic area results - more Reliez Valley/ Springhill/Acalanes, Downtown, and Condit area respondents want a neighborhood park in their area than respondents in other areas. Again, Downtown residents had a high level of participation in the survey.

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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 7: Are there any other park and/or recreational facilities that you would like the City of Lafayette to provide?

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes	61.2%	161
No	38.8%	102
	If Yes, please describe.	176
	<i>answered question</i>	263
	<i>skipped question</i>	80

Lafayette Geographic Area	yes	no	Percent Yes
Downtown	71	36	66.4%
Burton Valley	26	24	52.0%
Happy Valley	13	10	56.5%
Glorietta	6	2	75.0%
Reliez Valley/Spring Hill/Acalanes	9	8	52.9%
Condit	1	3	25.0%
No Geo Info	31	18	63.3%

Analysis: A high percentage of respondents indicated that there are other facilities they would like, but many of the write-in responses (detailed in Appendix C) are the same as basic choices or write-ins for the prior questions. The primary value is in new ideas for facilities that were not mentioned in the other write-in responses, including an outdoor theater (11) and a skateboard park (9). The largest number of responses with other preferences were from Downtown, followed by Burton Valley, which is consistent with their high level of participation in the survey.

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix B – Survey Responses and Analysis by Question**

Figure 1: Lafayette Geographic Areas

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix C
Write-in Response Summary
Survey Questions 5, 6, 7

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Attachment 2 – Public Feedback Report
Appendix C – Survey Write-in Response Summary

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 5 Write-in Responses: (Please rank the following in order of preference for the City to acquire and/or develop - Downtown Park, Neighborhood Park, Sports Fields, Community Center Enhancements, Dog Park, Other Preference). Please describe your "Other Preference."

	No Geo Info	Lafayette Geographic Areas					Condit	Total
		Downtown	Burton Valley	Happy Valley	Glorietta	Reliez Valley/ Springhill/ Acalanes		
Parks and Recreation (more parks)	4	2					1	7
Sports Fields/Outdoor Facilities	3	9	2	1	1	2		18
Sports fields	1							1
Soccer fields		2						2
Rugby fields	2	4		1	1	1		9
Baseball Parks (like Buckeye)		3	2			1		6
Play Areas/Facilities	2	6	1					9
Children's play structure/swings	1	4						5
Playground for all abilities children			1					1
Skateboard park		1						1
Bicycle park		1						1
Teen Center (small bowling alley/video games)	1							1
Other Outdoor Facilities	3	1	1	1	2			8
Fitness Park			1					1
Lighted tennis facilities					1			1
Outdoor tennis courts	1							1
Outdoor basketball/volleyball court		1		1				2
An area to do Tai Chi and Yoga outdoors	1							1
Outdoor entertainment (i.e. movies, concerts)					1			1
Amphitheater for concerts/events	1							1

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix C – Survey Write-in Response Summary

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 5 Write-in Responses (continued): (Please rank the following in order of preference for the City to acquire and/or develop - Downtown Park, Neighborhood Park, Sports Fields, Community Center Enhancements, Dog Park, Other Preference). Please describe your "Other Preference."

	No Geo Info	Lafayette Geographic Areas					Condit	Total
		Down-town	Burton Valley	Happy Valley	Glorietta	Reliez Valley/Spring-hill/Acalanes		
Indoor Sports Facilities	1	2	1			1		5
Indoor sports facilities		1				1		2
Indoor courts for basketball and volleyball		1	1					2
Community gym	1							1
Swimming/Water Play	2	3		1				6
Indoor swimming pool	1							1
Outdoor community swimming pool	2	2		1				5
Water park for kids		1						1
Trails	7	1	1	2				11
Trails and easements	4	1	1	1				7
Bike trails/lanes				1				1
Creek walk	1							1
Maintain open space areas and walkways	1							1
More equestrian trails	1							1
Dog Facilities	3	1						4
Open Space/Nature	2			1				3
Enriching natural terrain/gardens	1							1
More open space settings				1				1
Community Vineyard on local hillside	1							1

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix C – Survey Write-in Response Summary**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 5 Write-in Responses (continued): (Please rank the following in order of preference for the City to acquire and/or develop - Downtown Park, Neighborhood Park, Sports Fields, Community Center Enhancements, Dog Park, Other Preference). Please describe your "Other Preference."

	No Geo Info	Lafayette Geographic Areas					Condit	Total
		Down-town	Burton Valley	Happy Valley	Glori-etta	Reliez Valley/Spring-hill/Acalanes		
Improvements to Existing Facilities	4	2	1					7
Improved parking	1							1
Restrooms in children's play areas	1							1
Add restrooms at Brook Street Park	1							1
Maintenance of what already exists(trails/parks)		1	1					2
Upgrades to what already exists	1							1
Shade trees		1						1
Indoor Facilities and Activities	3		1					4
Movie theater	1							1
Community Center	1							1
Senior Activities	1							1
Senior Center			1					1
total responses per zone	65	52	16	12	6	6	1	158

Analysis: Write-in responses were summarized and sorted into similar types of facilities, and the responses were sorted by geographic areas of the City, where information was provided. Downtown residents had a high level of response to the survey and had far more write-in responses than other areas. Sports fields were the most desired facilities, followed by facilities for kids. There was a wide range of other facilities desired, with no strong clusters either by type or location. The responses tended to be consistent with the basic options in the question, but there was some specific new input regarding the desire for rugby (9), swimming (6), indoor sports/gym (5), and trails and paths (11).

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Appendix C – Survey Write-in Response Summary

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 6 Write-In Responses: Would you like a neighborhood park in your area of Lafayette? If Yes, please describe your location and the park features you would like; e.g., picnic table(s), children’s play area, benches and the like.

	No Geo Info	Lafayette Geographic Areas					Condit	Total
		Down-town	Burton Valley	Happy Valley	Glori-etta	Reliez Valley/ Spring-hill/ Acalanes		
Parks and Recreation	6	33	10	15	2	2	2	70
More parks	1	5		5	1			12
Picnic tables and benches	5	24	10	10	1	2	2	54
Picnic tables and barbeque pits		4						4
Outdoor Facilities				2				2
Rock-climbing wall				1				1
Bocce Courts				1				1
Play Areas/Facilities	4	27	11	9		4	2	57
Children's play areas (with lawns)	3	27	10	9		4	2	55
Swings	1		1					2
Other Outdoor Facilities		2						2
Swimming/Water Play		1	1			1		3
Public Swimming Pool			1					1
Water feature		1				1		2
Trails		1		3		1		5
Hiking/walking trails		1		3		1		5
Dog Park		7	3			1	1	12

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Appendix C – Survey Write-in Response Summary**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 6 Write-In Responses (continued): Would you like a neighborhood park in your area of Lafayette? If Yes, please describe your location and the park features you would like; e.g., picnic table(s), children's play area, benches and the like.

	No Geo Info	Lafayette Geographic Areas						Total
		Downtown	Burton Valley	Happy Valley	Glorietta	Reliez Valley/ Springhill/ Acalanes	Condit	
Open Space/Nature		12	1	1	2		1	17
A pond		1						1
More Open Space		7		1	1			9
Shade trees		4			1		1	6
Gardens			1					1
Improvements to Existing Facilities		4						4
Remove power lines		1						1
Restrooms		2						2
Amphitheater		1						1
total responses per zone	20	172	52	60	8	18	12	342

Analysis: Write-in responses were summarized and sorted into similar types of facilities, and the responses were sorted by geographic areas of the City, where information was provided. Write in responses that were not consistent with neighborhood park type facilities (e.g. baseball field) are not displayed. Downtown residents had greater survey participation and far more write-in responses than other zones. Picnic tables and benches and children's play areas were the most popular items (probably encouraged because they were mentioned in the question), followed by open space/nature features and dog park.

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Attachment 2 – Public Feedback Report
Appendix C – Survey Write-in Response Summary**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 7 Write-In Responses: Are there any other park and/or recreational facilities that you would like the City of Lafayette to provide? If yes, please describe.

	No Geo Info	Lafayette Geographic Areas						Grand Total
		Down-town	Burton Valley	Happy Valley	Glorietta	Reliez Valley/Spring-hill/Acalanes	Condit	
Parks and Recreation	3	8	1					12
More Parks	3	6						9
Picnic tables and benches		1	1					2
Drinking fountains		1						1
Sports Fields	4	21	8	5	2	1		41
More sports fields	2	6	2			1		11
Rugby field	1	3			1			5
Sports fields with artificial turf		1						1
More baseball fields like Buckeye	1	4	4	4				13
Soccer fields		6		1				7
Lighted sports fields			2		1			3
Lacrosse field		1						1
Other Outdoor Sports Facilities	3	20	5	1		3		32
Sports complex/facilities						1		1
Skateboard park	2	5	2					9
Basketball courts		3	2					5
Tennis courts		5	1			1		7
Luge course, downhill go-kart tracks	1							1
Ice rink		2						2
Sand volleyball courts		1		1				2
Bocce ball		1				1		2
Batting cages		1						1
Velodrome		1						1
Bike park		1						1
Play Areas/Facilities	3	6	2	1		2		14
Bucket swings for toddlers		1						1
Children's play area	3	3	2	1		2		11
Play area for all abilities		2						2

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix C – Survey Write-in Response Summary

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 7 Write-In Responses (continued): Are there any other park and/or recreational facilities that you would like the City of Lafayette to provide? If yes, please describe.

	No Geo Info	Lafayette Geographic Areas						Grand Total
		Down-town	Burton Valley	Happy Valley	Glorietta	Reliez Valley/ Spring-hill/ Acalanes	Condit	
Other Outdoor Facilities		2						2
Farmer's market		1						1
Amusement park		1						1
Indoor Sports Facilities	1	4	4					9
Indoor gym	1	1	4					6
Bowling alley		1						1
Multi-purpose recreation complex		2						2
Other Indoor Facilities	3	1	3			1		8
Movie theater	1	1						2
Community center	1							1
Senior center	1		3					4
Event hall/banquet facilities		1				1		2
Swimming/Water Play	2	6	1	2	1	1	1	14
Indoor Pool				1		1		2
A water park	1	3						4
Outdoor community pool	1	3	1	1	1		1	8
Trails	3	7	1			2		13
Trails	2	4	1					7
Hiking Trails						2		2
Mountain bike trail		1						1
Bike corridor		2						2
More bike lanes	1							1
Dog Facilities	4	14	1	2	2	1	1	25
Open Space/Nature	4	7	2					13
Open Space			1					1
Camping		1						1
Creekwalk with art		1						1
Landscaped gardens	1							1

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Attachment 2 – Public Feedback Report
Appendix C – Survey Write-in Response Summary**

Resident Opinion Survey Results

Survey Question 7 Write-In Responses (continued): Are there any other park and/or recreational facilities that you would like the City of Lafayette to provide? If yes, please describe.

	No Geo Info	Lafayette Geographic Areas						Grand Total
		Down-town	Burton Valley	Happy Valley	Glorietta	Reliez Valley/Spring-hill/Acalanes	Condit	
Outdoor Theater/Concerts	3	5	1		1	1		11
Concerts in the park		2						2
Music festivals/bandstand	1	1						2
Amphitheater/stage for concerts	1	1	1		1	1		5
Downtown music park	1							1
Outdoor theater		1						1
Improvements to Existing Facilities	3	5	3			1		12
Maintenance of what already exists		5	2					7
Upgrades to what already exists			1			1		2
Curb park drug use	1							1
Improved/additional parking	1							1
Café at the library	1							1
total responses per zone	33	86	27	10	6	10	2	174

Analysis: Write-in responses were summarized and sorted into similar types of facilities, and the responses were sorted by geographic areas of the City, where information was provided. Once again, Downtown residents had far more write-in responses than other zones. A wide range of sports fields and outdoor sports facilities were the most popular category, followed by facilities for dogs, for kids, and for swimming. Trails, indoor sports facilities, improvements to existing facilities, and open space/nature features were moderately popular.

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Attachment 2 – Public Feedback Report

Appendix D
November 28, 2007 Workshop Notes

**Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
Attachment 2 – Public Feedback Report
Appendix D – November 28, 2007 Workshop Notes**

**Notes – Park Master Plan Public Workshop, November 28, 2007,
6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Lafayette Community Center**

Attendees:

Parks, Trails & Recreation Commission

Judy Nelson, Chair
Peter Read, Vice Chair
Geoffrey Bellenger
Michelle Edmonds
Alison Hill
Robert Lobron
Jeff Peacock
Carol Singer

City Staff

Jennifer Russell, Parks, Trails & Recreation Director

Consultant

Randy Anderson, LandPeople

Public

1. Joanie Brodsky
2. Kate Kelly
3. Aileen Wilson, EBMUD
4. Tom Davenport
5. Ronda Davenport
6. Scott Honegger
7. Judy McNeil
8. Carine Hoaran
9. Myra Becker
10. Mark Cameron
11. Lynn Hiden
12. Tom Stack

Notes:

1. PT&R Commission Chair Judy Nelson opened the workshop and introduced consultant Randy Anderson.
2. Mr. Anderson gave a PowerPoint presentation of background about the parks system, and goals and process for the Master Plan. He gave an overview of the participation exercise and asked for general public comments.
3. General public questions and comments
 - a. City asked before if people wanted to donate land, and it worked.
 - b. Community trusts Parks & Rec to do this for them – possible reason for low workshop attendance.
 - c. City would be park rich if we counted the open space.
 - d. Schools serve as parks according to most people.
 - e. If citizens like the situation now, might need to revisit the goal.
 - f. People on north side, especially Reliez Valley, feel they are underserved.
 - g. Some constituencies are not represented here – e.g. youth sports – demand has out grown supply.

Lafayette Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan
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Appendix D – November 28, 2007 Workshop Notes

- h. Judy McNeil: represents sports group LMYA – real shortage of fields – more than community field.
 - i. Older people want to know where they fit in [to park facilities provided].
4. Breakout Group and Voting Exercises
- Public comments were recorded in response to questions:
- What would you like in a City park?
 - Are your park and recreation needs being met?
 - What specific improvements would help meet your needs?

The attendees then regrouped and reviewed the combined comment lists. Participants voted by placing dots on their highest priorities (3 votes per participant, all attendees voted on combined list):

Group 1 comments:

- a. Sports fields – allocate field time fairly **(4 votes)**.
- b. Facilities for adults:
 - walking
 - horseshoes
 - lawn bowling
 - archery
 - picnic tables/restrooms/barbeques
- c. Facilities for children:
 - petting zoo (small)/toddlers swing set
 - Merry-go-round/children's rides/horseback riding
- d. North end of Community Park:
 - ADA accessible
 - restore creek habitat/creek access/creek trails not just north end but throughout City (in downtown survey)
- e. Foot bridge/bike path over the creek.
- f. Park [maintenance/management] **(2 votes)**:
 - need parking
 - garbage pickup
 - stop trespassing (detrimental to property value)
- g. Downtown park includes creek across– 2 locations identified **(3 votes)**:
 - Golden Gateway & First Street behind new library
 - Gazebo and Virginia Anderson garden

Group 2 comments:

- a. Natural open space (unimproved parkland) retained for the children **(5 votes)**.
- b. Kids need to be able to bike and bus to these parks. Parks do not need to be right next door. More bus service **(1 vote)**.

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Appendix D – November 28, 2007 Workshop Notes

- c. The City is well-served with its school playgrounds, parks, regional parks and trails **(4 votes)**.
 - d. There is a great toddler playground at the Lafayette Reservoir. It is also a wonderful social spot for all age groups (young parents, grandparents, seniors).
 - e. Perhaps Lafayette could cooperate with other agencies to improve our parklands or acquire other parklands **(1 vote)**.
 - f. Encourage Lafayette citizens to donate property for parkland development. Idea: hillside development into community vineyard.
 - g. Multi-use of [recreation] area is high priority – runners, walkers, seniors, dogs **(2 votes)**.
 - h. City field use fees too expensive for some users (LMYA). School use fees are less expensive.
 - i. Residents have found in the community park, near the benches, beer cans, liquor bottles and cigarette butts.
 - j. Joint venture of park/trail funds [with schools] to be used to rehab school fields **(1 vote)**
 - k. Must provide adequate parking for any new park **(1 vote)**.
5. General Comments after Breakout/Voting Exercise
- a. Parking for parks should be a priority.
 - b. Counter opinion – emphasize biking and public transportation.
 - c. Trails Commission did survey when they didn't get attendance at their task force meeting – could do online.
 - d. Post meeting notices on telephone poles? Put out sawhorses – against sign ordinance.
 - e. Local groups use could use their email mailing lists.
 - f. Burton Valley, through schools.
 - g. Put A-frame signs on people's private property with permission (not against ordinance).
6. Mr. Anderson reviewed next steps: additional outreach, formulate Master Plan alternatives for further public review.

The workshop concluded at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Prepared by Randy Anderson