

PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

LONG-RANGE PLAN

OCTOBER 1, 2025

CITY OF
LAKEWOOD

LONG-RANGE PLAN

Parks, Recreation and Community Services





PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

LONG-RANGE PLAN

OCTOBER 1, 2025



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are deeply grateful to everyone who participated in the creation of the City of Lakewood's first *Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan*. This significant accomplishment could not have been possible without the dedication, knowledge sharing, and collaboration of City officials, community members, residents and visitors, and the hardworking staff of the Department of Recreation & Community Services. Many thanks to all who shared their support and experiences during this planning process.

CITY COUNCIL

Todd Rogers, Mayor

Cassandra Chase, Vice Mayor

David Arellano, Council Member

Steve Croft, Council Member

Jeff Wood, Council Member

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION

Dave Allen

Kristie Larison

Veronica Lucio

Ted Spaseff

Anitza Valles

CITY MANAGEMENT

Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager

CITY PROJECT MANAGEMENT TEAM

Valarie Frost, Director of Recreation & Community Services

Kevin Bright, Assistant Director of Recreation & Community Services

Abel Andrade, Parks Superintendent, Recreation & Community Services

Chuck Martucci, Community Services Manager, Recreation & Community Services

Michael Cracium, Environmental Resources Supervisor, Recreation & Community Services

Sabrina Junkin, Community Services Supervisor, Recreation & Community Services

Kevin Yamakawa, Associate Civil Engineer, Public Works

Ted Spaseff, Recreation & Community Services Commissioner

CONSULTANT TEAM

MIG

Cindy Mendoza, Principal-in-Charge

Jose M. Rodriguez, Project Manager

Allison Lee, Deputy Project Manager

Jessa Miller, AICP, Park Planner

Zec Eight Insights

Austin L. Hochstetler, CPRE, Principal



Lakewood's slogan "Times Change. Values Don't" was coined in 2004 and reflects civic unity and pride.

V

Lakewood Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan

A FRAMEWORK FOR THE FUTURE



DEAR LAKWOOD COMMUNITY MEMBERS:

The City of Lakewood and our residents are proud of our parks, recreation programs and community services, which have been essential parts of Lakewood throughout our 71 years as a city. Indeed, community opinion surveys consistently show that Lakewood residents feel that our parks and recreation programs are one of our top strengths as a city.

But we can never rest on our laurels.

As with all of our city services, we need to continually look for ways to improve and to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future.

That is why our City Council commissioned this Long-Range Plan specifically focused on helping guide us into the future with our parks, recreation programs and community services.

We want to thank the many Lakewood community members who took part in the surveys and face-to-face meetings involved with this plan. Your input has been extremely valuable.

This Long-Range Plan will serve as a strategic framework for guiding critical decisions related to the enhancement of park infrastructure, green spaces, athletic courts and fields, recreation programs, and community centers and services over the next decade and beyond.

The City Council is committed to ensuring our residents remain proud and pleased with our park facilities and programs, which make Lakewood such a great place to live, work and play.

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this Long-Range Plan and to everyone who will use it as a valuable resource in the months and years ahead.

- Lakewood City Council, Spring 2025



“One of the reasons I moved to Lakewood over 30 years ago is the many parks available in this city. I love driving through Lakewood and seeing all the green lawns and beautiful trees, and I also enjoy hearing the children playing when I’m out working in my yard.”

—Public Survey Respondent

“I was raised in Lakewood and now live in Lakewood as an adult. I love this city and am very thankful for the leadership team who communicates with its residents. Keep up the great work!”

—Public Survey Respondent

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FRONT MATTER

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

VI

CHAPTER 1

A PIONEERING PLAN

1-1

Purpose of the Plan

1-2

Planning Process

1-3

Previous Planning Efforts

1-5

Plan Organization

1-6

CHAPTER 2

A DYNAMIC PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

2-1

Location

2-3

Department of Recreation & Community Services 2-6

Park and Recreation System Overview

2-12

CHAPTER 3

PRESERVING THE PAST, FORGING THE FUTURE

3-1

Lakewood's Recreation Legacy

3-2

An Evolving Community

3-6

Community Insights

3-14

CHAPTER 4

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PARKS

4-1

Park and Facility Access

4-3

Quality Park and Facility Development

4-10

Recreation Facility Needs

4-12

Park and Trail Connectivity

4-16

Needs for Recreation Programs and Community Events

4-20

CHAPTER 5

LOOKING AHEAD

5-1

Citywide Goals and Key Strategies

5-4



CHAPTER 6

TAILORING PARKS FOR TOMORROW **6-1**

Recreation Building Recommendations	6-4
Aquatic Facilities Recommendations	6-6
Guidelines for Park Design and Development	6-10
Additional Recreation Facilities	6-16
Site-Specific Recommendations for Existing Parks	6-18

APPENDICES

Appendix A. Park and Facility Inventory	A-1
Appendix B. Existing Conditions Summary	B-1
Appendix C. Engagement Summary	C-1
Appendix D. Equity, Access & Needs Assessment	D-1
Appendix E. Capital & Programmatic Project List	E-1

CHAPTER 7

TAKING ACTION **7-1**

Capital and Programmatic Project List	7-3
Project Prioritization Tool	7-4
Funding Sources	7-8
Other Implementation Strategies	7-18
Partnership Protocols	7-20
Facility Cost Menu	7-21

TABLES, FIGURES, & MAPS

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure ES-1. Engagement at a Glance	XIII	Figure 7-1. FY2023-24 Revised Budget Appropriations	7-9
Figure ES-2. Key Engagement Themes	XIII	Figure B-1. Asset Condition Scoring Summary	B-12
Figure ES-3. Lakewood Park Metrics	XIV	Figure B-2. Asset Condition Rating by Park	B-16
Figure ES-4. Citywide Parks and Recreation Goals	XVI	Figure B-3. Percentage of Total Recreation Activities Offered	B-72
Figure 1-1. Process Graphic	1-3	Figure C-1. Engagement at a Glance	C-2
Figure 1-2. Goals for Community Engagement	1-4	Figure D-1. Needs Assessment Methodology	D-1
Figure 2-1. Regional Location Map	2-3	Figure D-2. Park Acreage Level of Service (LOS)	D-7
Figure 2-2. Drainage Courses and Transmission Corridors	2-4	Figure D-3. Population Within Walking Distance of a Park	D-9
Figure 2-3. Tree Canopy Percentage by Location	2-5	Figure D-4. Access Map (10-Minute Walk)	D-10
Figure 2-4. Recreation & Community Services Divisions and Services	2-7	Figure D-5. Population Vulnerability	D-11
Figure 2-5. Park and Facility Distribution by Size	2-13	Figure D-6. Recreation Survey Results Related to Safety	D-14
Figure 2-6. Park and Facility Classification Map	2-22	Figure D-7. Bike Access to Parks	D-20
Figure 3-1. Lakewood Parks and Recreation Historical Timeline	3-4	Figure D-8. Transit Access to Parks	D-23
Figure 3-2. Demographic Stats (2023)	3-6	Figure D-9. Pedestrian Safety Around Parks	D-26
Figure 3-3. Population Growth 1960-2020	3-6	Figure D-10. Engagement Safety Comments Summary	D-28
Figure 3-4. Population per Square Mile	3-8	Figure D-11. Major Recreation Facilities Access	D-30
Figure 3-5. Race and Ethnicity Percentages (2022)	3-9	Figure D-12. Sports Fields and Courts Access (10-Minute Walk)	D-31
Figure 3-6. Race/Ethnicity Change 2010-2020	3-9	Figure D-13. Access to Swimming Pools	D-32
Figure 3-7. Housing Unit Types by Location	3-10	Figure D-14. Lakewood Recreation Asset Conditions Summary	D-34
Figure 3-8. Vulnerable Populations	3-11		
Figure 3-9. Percent Below Poverty (2022)	3-11		
Figure 3-10. Age Range Change 2010-2020	3-12		
Figure 3-11. Engagement at a Glance	3-15		
Figure 4-1. Park Access Map (10-Minute Walk)	4-4		
Figure 4-2. Population Vulnerability and Park Access	4-6		
Figure 4-3. Sports Fields & Courts Access (10-min Walk)	4-10		
Figure 4-4. Lakewood Parkland LOS Comparison	8		



LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1. Park Classifications	2-14	Table B-15. Family Programs (2021-2023) Overall Capture	B-75
Table 2-2. Sampling of Recreation Activities, Classes, and Programming	2-31	Table B-16. Aquatics (2021-2023) Overall Capture	B-76
Table 4-1. Trail and Pathway Types and Mileage	4-19	Table B-17. Tot Lot (2021-2023) Participants	B-76
Table 7-1. Park Project Prioritization Tool	7-5	Table B-18. Centre Reservations (2021-2023)	B-76
Table 7-2. CIP Funding Sources (FY 23/24 to FY 29/30)	7-10	Table B-19. Holiday Activities (2021-2023)	B-77
Table 7-3. RCS CIP Budget Funding Expenditures by Project Type (FY 23/24 to FY 29/30)	7-11	Table B-20. Teen Activities (2021-2023)	B-77
Table 7-4. New Build Capital Cost Range by Facility, based on 2025 Construction Costs	7-22	Table B- 21. Lakewood Youth Sports and Adult Sports (2021-2023)	B-77
Table 7-5. Modifications (%) to New Build Construction Costs	7-28	Table B- 22. Project Shepard Statistics (2021-2023)	B-78
Table A-1. Park and Facility Inventory	A-1	Table B- 23. Senior and Active+ Statistics (2021-2023)	B-79
Table B-1. Park Classifications	B-2	Table B-24. Activity Time Frames	B-80
Table B-2. Park Inventory	B-3	Table B- 25. Activity Meeting Frequency	B-81
Table B-3. Summary of Park Assets	B-4	Table B- 26. Activity Day of the Week	B-82
Table B-4. Major Recreation Facilities and Buildings	B-6	Table D-1. Parkland Level of Service (LOS)	D-8
Table B-5. Recreation Facilities Attendance	B-7	Table D-2. Bicycle Connectivity Score	D-19
Table B-6. Picnic Shelter Reservations	B-8	Table D-3. Transit Connectivity Score	D-22
Table B-7. Recreational Asset Condition Scoring	B-12	Table D-4. Courts Level of Service (LOS)	D-37
Table B-8. Asset Condition Rating by Park	B-14	Table D-5. Fields Level of Service (LOS)	D-39
Table B-9. Sampling of Lakewood Community Events	B-70	Table D-6. Trail Types and Mileage	D-46
Table B-10. Activities and Enrollment Statistics	B-73	Table E-1. Capital and Programmatic Project List Per Site	E-2
Table B-11. DASH Transit (2021-2023) Overall Capture	B-74		
Table B-12. DASH Transit (2021-2023) Trip Categories	B-74		
Table B-13. Adaptive Recreation Program (ARP) Overall Registered Participants	B-75		
Table B-14. Community Special Events (2021-2023) Overall Capture	B-75		



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan (the Plan) is a first for the City of Lakewood. It serves as a strategic blueprint for the development, enhancement, and management of our community's parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, events, and services over the next decade.

Through a comprehensive planning process involving community input, stakeholder engagement, and careful analysis of current resources and trends, this plan will guide decision-making and investment in parks and recreation over the next 10 years to ultimately meet the needs of diverse populations, improve quality of life, and foster a sustainable, vibrant community.

“I love this community and I am very grateful to be part of the Lakewood city. I am glad that we have an opportunity to voice our opinions.”

—Public survey respondent

LEARNING FROM THE COMMUNITY

The recommendations identified in this document are based on the needs, desires, and ideas generated by the community over a year-long engagement process. The process involved a variety of activities designed to elicit diverse voices and perspectives from the community. Engagement activities were both online and in-person; ranging from interviews, to a public survey, to pop-up events. Additionally, advisory groups were regularly involved to provide guidance, direction, and local insight. In total, nearly 1,850 people weighed in to shape the Plan.

Key themes from outreach highlighted a deep appreciation for Lakewood's park and recreation offerings, site maintenance, diverse programs, and emphasis on inclusivity. However, community members also pointed out a need for better access to parks, more variety of facilities, enhancements of community buildings, safety and comfort improvements, and creative partnership opportunities.



FIGURE ES-1. ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE



FIGURE ES-2. KEY ENGAGEMENT THEMES





NEEDS AND CONNECTIVITY ASSESSMENT

In addition to community feedback, a full needs and connectivity assessment was conducted as part of the planning process. The assessment focused on:

- Quantity of parkland and recreation facilities;
- Quality of access to parks and facilities;
- Connectivity between parks and trails;
- Availability of programs, events, and community services; and
- Maintenance and stewardship of parks, facilities, and trails.

The City of Lakewood is host to 207.6 acres of parkland well-distributed throughout the jurisdiction. The ample distribution means that 70% of Lakewood's residential population live within a 10-minute walk (one half-mile) to a park – meeting the national access standard promoted by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This reflects the foresight of past planning efforts that prioritized neighborhood-based parks as part of Lakewood's development pattern. To extend this legacy, the city is also exploring ways to reach the remaining 30% of residents who live beyond walking distance to a park.

FIGURE ES-3. LAKEWOOD PARK METRICS



Lakewood's 70th Anniversary Family Movie Night



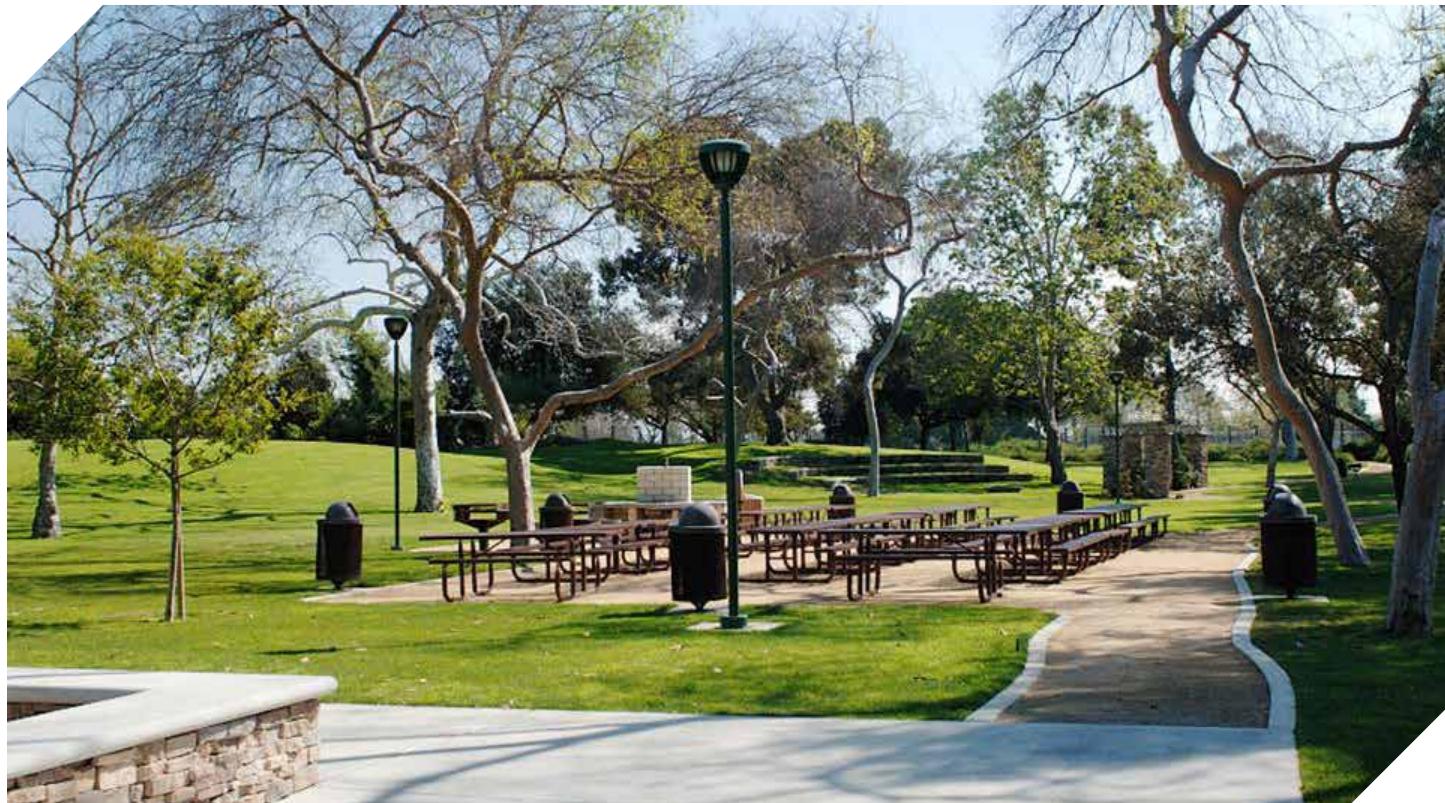
However, despite the successful distribution of parks and facilities, the city remains below the California State median of parkland provision for a population of its size.* As the city's population grows, it will continue to fall behind the state median unless it similarly increase its parkland acreage to match the growing residential population.

While Lakewood may be considered "deficient" in park acreage by these standards, it's important to recognize the city's built-out nature and limited availability of undeveloped land. The challenge of acquiring new parkland is compounded by

* The California State median for similarly sized cities has a Level of Service of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents, according to NRPA's Park Metrics. The Level of Service for Lakewood is 2.6 acres per 1,000 residents.

high land and development costs, making large-scale expansion unlikely. However, this reality also presents an opportunity to focus on enhancing and reimagining existing parks to better serve a growing and diversifying population.

To this aim, the city has already embarked on creative recreation opportunities such as turning utility corridors into low-maintenance recreation spaces, orchestrating rotating sports offerings on multi-use courts and fields, and partnering with local nonprofit organizations for inclusive play programs at various sites. These types of strategic approaches will continue to benefit the Lakewood community.



Group picnic tables at Monte Verde Park



CITYWIDE GOALS AND SITE RECOMMENDATIONS

The community's aspirations and needs for Lakewood's parks, parkways, recreation facilities, and programs are the guiding forces for the Plan. This document identifies eight goals for the park and recreation system, along with the strategies that will guide city staff in implementing projects, programs and services to achieve the community's vision. Furthermore, based on a facility and amenity condition assessment,* overarching design guidelines and site specific recommendations were provided for existing and future parks. These guidelines and recommendations, as outlined in more detail in Chapter 6, align with the citywide goals to enhance recreation opportunities for all residents.

* For more information, see Appendix B: Existing Conditions Summary.

FIGURE ES-4. CITYWIDE PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS



1 SAFE, WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS & FACILITIES

Prioritize safe, well-maintained facilities through design, asset management, efficient resource use, tiered maintenance, and coordination with public safety providers.



2 IMPROVED PARK & FACILITY ACCESS

Distribute parks, remove barriers, and improve park access to and within parks to meet or exceed the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).



3 UNIQUE, DIVERSE, PARKS & FACILITIES

Diversify parks and facilities to reflect and support Lakewood's diversity, history, culture, health, and wellbeing.



Enhance trails, bike lanes, park access, and DASH services to connect parks across the city and make it easier for people to reach parks.



FIGURE ES-4. CITYWIDE PARKS AND RECREATION GOALS



5

INCLUSIVE & VIBRANT PROGRAMS & EVENTS



6

RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE GREENSPACE

Strengthen city programs and events to meet community needs, while carefully prioritizing resource allocation for lasting impact.

Adapt to current and future climate conditions to enhance visitor comfort and promote ecosystem health across all parks and facilities.



7

FORWARD THINKING MANAGEMENT & STRATEGIC INVESTMENT



8

PARTNERSHIPS THAT ENHANCE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Develop a foundation for long-term planning and strategic operations in funding, communications, volunteer engagement, administration, and other key areas to sustain high-quality park and recreation offerings for the future.

Build relationships with other public and private entities within the City of Lakewood for expanded recreation opportunities and funding support.



DESIGN GUIDELINES

Design guidelines encourage best practice and strategic decision-making for sustainable parks and facilities. Improvements to buildings and aquatic facilities include approaches ranging from maintaining existing conditions, to renovating for improved conditions, to rebuilding into new structures, to demolishing and repurposing the space. While demolition may seem drastic, in some cases the capital and operational costs may not balance with the current use and needs of the community. In the case of demolition, alternative recreation options are presented that aim to fulfill the need without incurring the high costs or risks associated with the current structure.

Guidelines for park design and development cover areas such as:

- Park safety
- Park connectivity
- Park design/landscaping
- Dogs and dog parks
- Playgrounds and recreation amenities
- Comfort amenities
- Sports/exercise facilities
- Increased park space and trails

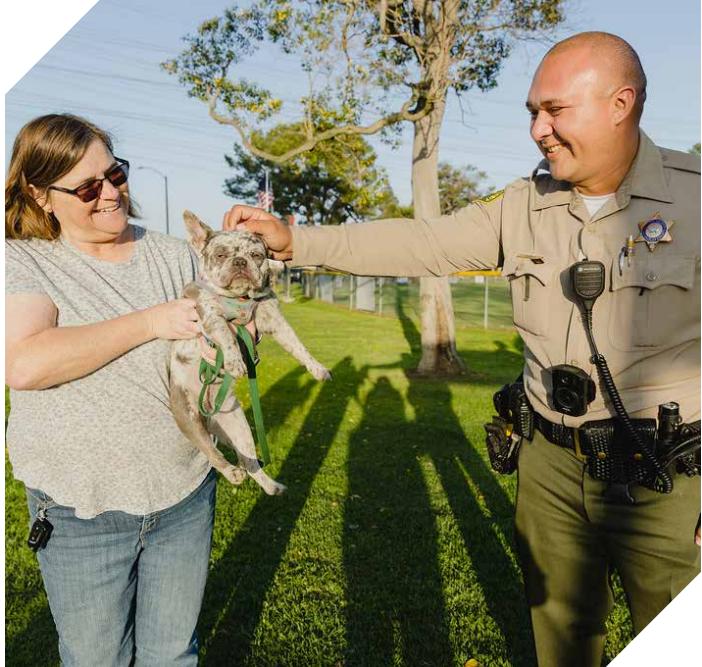
Additional recreation facilities are also proposed in the case where new parkland becomes available, existing parkland is repurposed, or partnerships are made possible. It is always beneficial for cities to look to the future to evaluate recreation trends, user demographic shifts, public health and wellness needs, and budgetary resources. With this foresight, Lakewood can maintain a high level of service for its residents while providing exciting and enticing spaces to play, relax, and recreate.



Park connectivity at San Gabriel River Nature Trail



Fitness stations for all at Rynerson Park



Dog-friendly spaces at Home Run Dog Park



Safe play structures at the Bolivar Park Playground



Play opportunities at Rynerson Park Playground



IMPLEMENTATION

This Plan provides the information and tools to make strategic decisions about park investments moving forward.

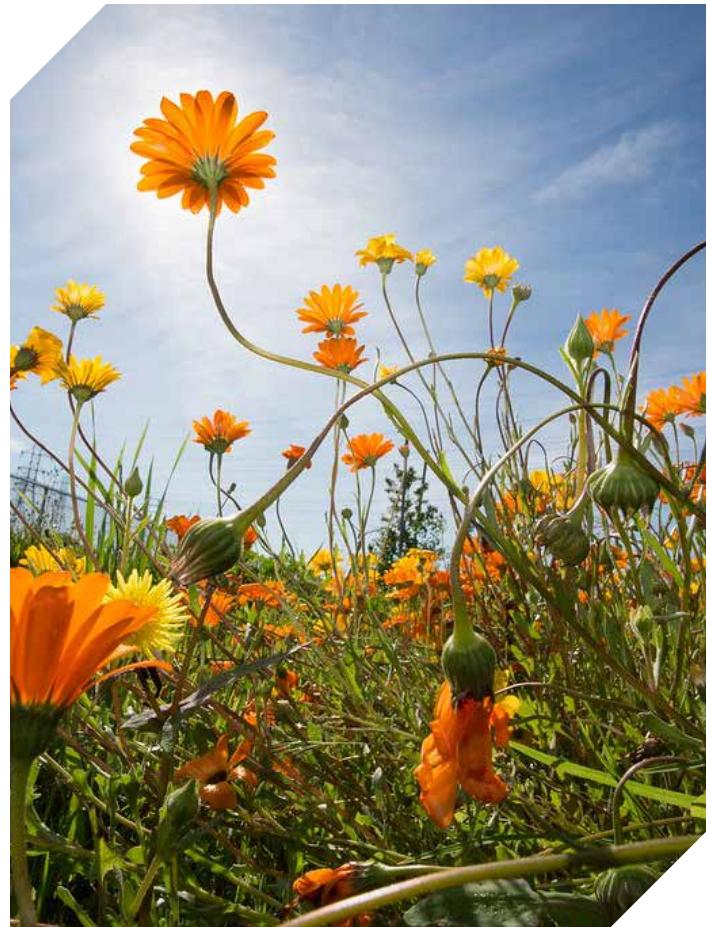
A Park Project Prioritization Tool ranks projects through three steps:

- **Step 1:** Alignment with city planning documents and assessments
- **Step 2:** Special catalysts or special circumstances
- **Step 3:** Prioritization criteria focused on community needs and implementation feasibility

Chapter 7 also discusses current funding sources, describing how and where the Department receives funding for capital and operational costs. Acknowledging that the city's park needs may outpace their resources, other implementation strategies are provided to augment current resources. These strategies include land acquisition mechanisms, leasing and easements, collective ownership models, and other partnerships. To help yield productive partnerships, an evaluation checklist is offered as aspects for consideration.

Lastly, a menu of facility capital costs is included to serve as a high-level guide for budget planning. This cost menu helps the city make informed investment decisions to repair, renovate, replace, improve, or expand on recreation facilities.

The implementation of this plan over the next 10 years will contribute to a high quality of recreation and green spaces within the City of Lakewood, with improvements to public health, city aesthetics, youth engagement and social wellbeing.



Spring flowers at San Gabriel River Nature Trail



Opening of airplane playground at Del Valle Park





CHAPTER 1

A PIONEERING

PLAN



CHAPTER 1

A PIONEERING PLAN

For many of us, core memories were formed at parks and recreation spaces. Learning new skills at summer camp, celebrating family birthdays with park picnics, meeting friends through an adult sports league – all made possible by city parks and programs. These spaces are not just stagnant places of leisure; instead they circulate life and energy throughout a community, connecting people to nature and to each other, and ensure a flow of wellness, recreation, and vitality in every corner.

This chapter serves as an introduction. It summarizes the 24-month planning process, describes previous citywide planning efforts, and outlines the Plan's organization.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This *Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan* (the Plan) is a first for the City of Lakewood. The Plan serves as a strategic blueprint for the development, enhancement, and management of our community's parks,

trails, recreation facilities, programs, events, and services over the next decade. The Plan is designed to reflect the needs, aspirations, and priorities of the Lakewood community, ensuring that residents have access to high-quality recreation opportunities that promote health, wellness, social connection, and environmental stewardship.

Through a comprehensive planning process involving community input, stakeholder engagement, and careful analysis of current resources and trends, the Plan will guide decision-making and investment in parks and recreation over the next 10 years to ultimately meet the needs of diverse populations, improve quality of life, and foster a sustainable, vibrant community. By providing a clear vision and actionable steps, the Plan will shape the future of our public spaces and recreation programs, ensuring they remain relevant, accessible, and enjoyable for generations to come.



PLANNING PROCESS

This Plan is the first comprehensive planning document of its kind since the *Long Range Plan for the Development of Recreation in Lakewood*, published in 1955. This new plan was developed over 24 months, beginning in summer 2023 and concluding in summer 2025. It was developed through a four-phased process that started by describing existing conditions and the city's park inventory to provide a foundation for development of the plan. This base data was used to identify community needs, recommend new projects and programs, prioritize future investment, and document steps and strategies to move forward.

Throughout the process, public feedback was solicited in various ways including a community survey, interviews with targeted groups, community focus groups, pop-up events at planned city events, regular check-ins with city staff and joint meetings with City Council and the Recreation & Community Services Commission. The city's overall engagement goal was to inform, collaborate and solicit input from the community in the development of the Plan. The intention was to ensure participation by a broad range of residents, stakeholders and community groups, and use input to inform key components of the Plan.

FIGURE 1-1. PLANNING PROCESS

PHASE 01	PHASE 02	PHASE 03	PHASE 04
EXISTING CONDITIONS Summer 2023 - Fall 2023  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parks Tour and Conditions Assessment• System Inventory• Base Maps• Community Involvement Strategy• Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups	NEEDS, TRENDS, & OPPORTUNITIES Winter 2023 - Summer 2024  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Survey• Pop-ups, Meetings, and Workshops• Park Accessibility and Connectivity Study• Programs, Services, and Events Review and Analysis• Level of Service, Trends, and Needs Assessment	RECOMMENDATION & PRIORITIES Fall 2024 - Winter 2024  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Systemwide Goals and Policies• Maintenance and Operations Review and Analysis• Capital Project List, Prioritization Criteria, and Cost Menu• Action Plan and Funding Strategies	PLAN DEVELOPMENT Spring 2025 - Summer 2025  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joint City Council/Commission Work Session• Public Draft Long-Range Plan• Final Long-Range Plan



FIGURE 1-2. GOALS FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Educate and inform community members about the Lakewood Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan update and development process.



Provide **varied** and **frequent** engagement opportunities for participation by a wide cross section of community members – residents, youth, teens, families, seniors, young adults, special needs groups, business community, service providers and groups, and non-profit organizations – to accurately capture the diverse perspectives and interests that represent Lakewood.



Solicit input from residents, stakeholders, visitors, businesses, and organizations who have a deep understanding of the Lakewood community and who can articulate aspirations for short- to long-term park and recreation changes.



Demonstrate **transparency** through **open, consistent interactions** with the community throughout the process and communicate how public comments and input are incorporated into recommendations and decisions.

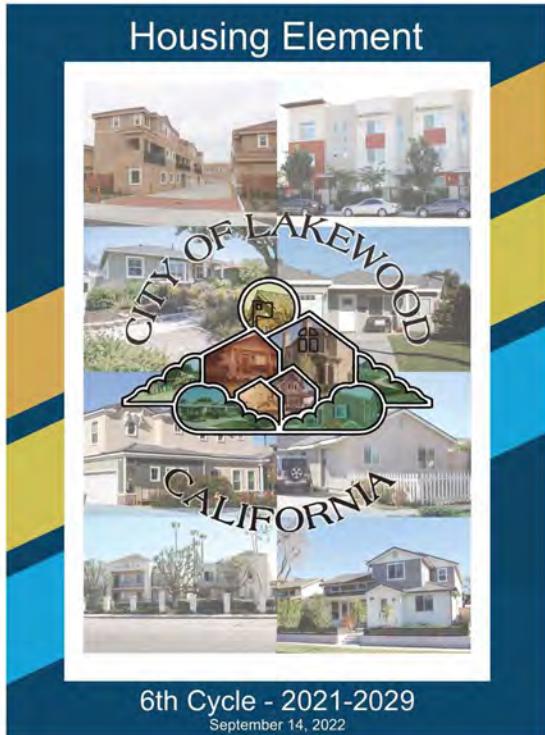


Civic Center Block Party



PREVIOUS PLANNING EFFORTS

The Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan builds on previous planning efforts, including community development initiatives, the *Capital Improvement Plan*, transportation planning, and environmental sustainability projects. Plan alignment ensures that the city's parks and recreation system reflects with broader community goals, such as improving connectivity through pedestrian and bike paths, enhancing green space in urban areas, and promoting ecological conservation. By coordinating with previous planning efforts, the benefits of parks and recreation spaces can be maximized and solidified as essential infrastructure for a cohesive and vibrant community.



1996 CITY OF LAKWOOD GENERAL PLAN

The City's *General Plan*, adopted in 1996, contains 10 elements, two of which pertain specifically to this Plan. The Open Space Element focuses on the preservation and expansion of passive and active open space lands in the city. The Recreation and Community Services Element discusses recreation opportunities, park facilities, trends and needs, and opportunities.

2021 RACE, EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION (REDI) COMMUNITY DIALOGUE ACTION PLAN

The Lakewood City Council approved the *Community Dialogue Action Plan* in 2021. The plan includes strategies such as engaging teens in REDI-focused activities, creating a public roundtable, creating a Lakewood Multicultural Festival and Food Festival, providing training on racial sensitivity and inclusion to city officials and staff and more. Since its adoption, the Action Plan has received regular progress updates with initiatives completed or advanced.

2021-2029 LAKWOOD HOUSING ELEMENT

Through the *Lakewood Housing Element 2021-2029*, the city provides an outline of the type and quantity of homes the city must accommodate through zoning and land use tools to meet regional and local housing needs. The Lakewood Housing Element also outlines projected residential growth, enabling the Department of Recreation & Community Services to better anticipate and plan for future demand for parks, facilities, and programs. The Element also details forecasted residential growth within the city, helping the Department of Recreation & Community Services define residential needs for parks, facilities and programs.



PLAN ORGANIZATION

The Plan is organized into the following sections:

Chapter 1. A Pioneering Plan serves as an introduction to Lakewood's first *Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan*.

Chapter 2. A Dynamic Parks and Recreation System showcases Lakewood's parks and recreation system, including providing an overview of geographic and governing context.

Chapter 3. Preserving the Past, Forging the Future discusses Lakewood's recreation legacy and future vision, in consideration of local demographics and engagement findings.

Chapter 4. Connecting People to Parks details findings on park access and recreation needs, as determined by spatial analysis, vulnerability assessment, transit studies, community feedback, survey results, and other forms of data analysis.

Chapter 5. Looking Ahead outlines key strategies and recommendations for the city, in alignment with the city's mission, vision, and values. This includes systemwide goals and strategies to improve the city's system.

Chapter 6. Tailoring Parks for Tomorrow, offers strategic recommendations for recreation facilities, park design, and site-specific improvements to enhance amenities, modernize infrastructure and meet the community's changing needs.

Chapter 7. Taking Action is focused on Plan implementation, and includes useful tools for project prioritization, funding mechanisms, partnership agreements and cost estimations.

Appendices provide more detail as well as capture the planning process over the 24-month period.

Appendix A. Park and Facility Inventory

Appendix B. Existing Conditions Summary

Appendix C. Engagement Summary

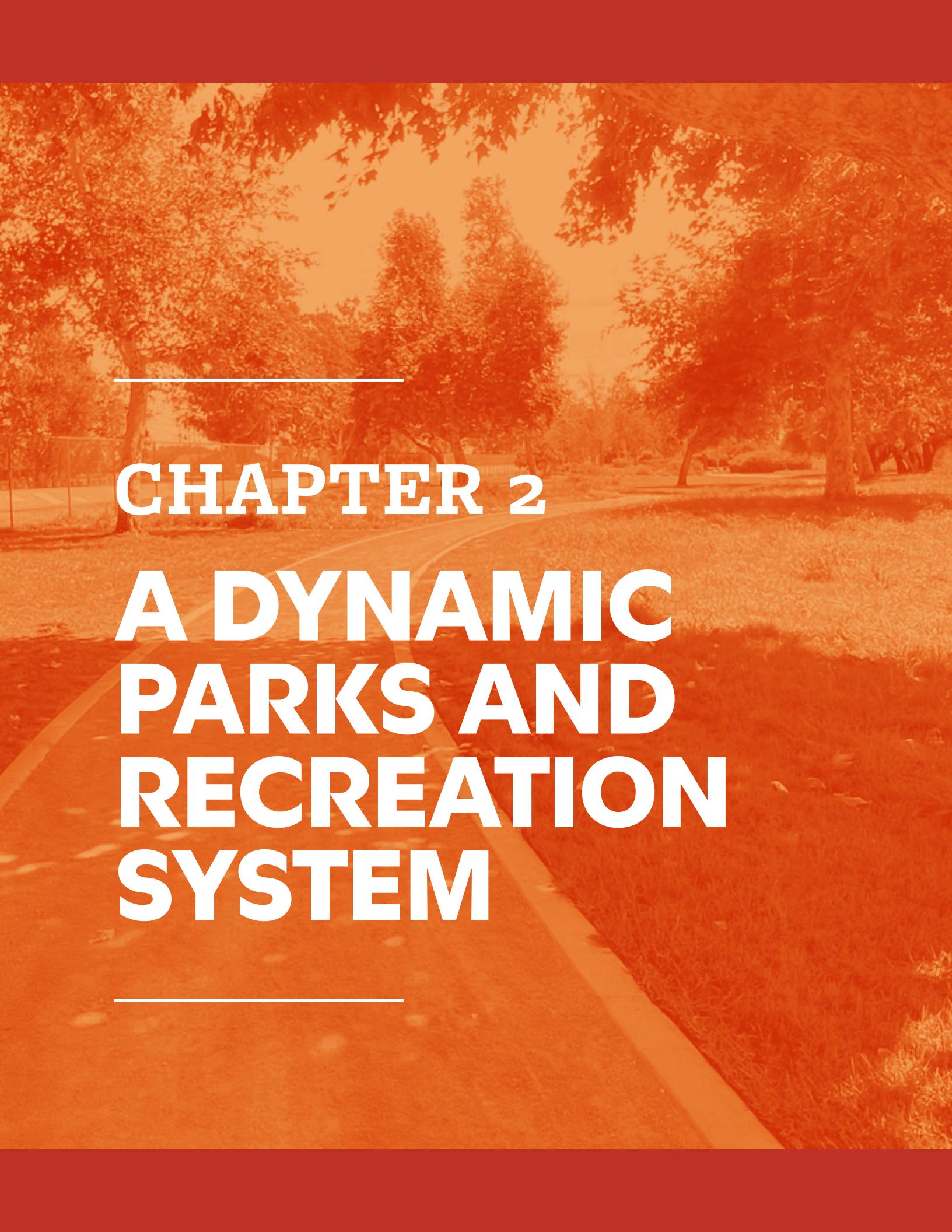
Appendix D. Equity, Access and Needs Assessment

Appendix E. Capital and Programmatic Project List



Lakewood youth can choose to participate in a variety of outdoor sports and recreation programs.



A scenic view of a park with a paved path, grass, and trees.

CHAPTER 2

A DYNAMIC PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM



CHAPTER 2

A DYNAMIC PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

Parks, recreation and community services play a vital role in enhancing the quality of life for individuals and communities. These spaces and programs offer a wide range of physical, mental, and social benefits—from promoting healthy lifestyles through exercise and outdoor activities to fostering social connections and encouraging community engagement.

This chapter provides an overview of Lakewood's parks, recreation facilities, and programs, including information on the city staff and advisory groups who work to ensure a successful system for years to come.



Active+ programming



Fitness classes at Weingart Senior Center



LOCATION

Lakewood, located in Los Angeles County, is characterized by a suburban environment with a mix of residential, commercial, school and recreation areas. Many parks and schools are centrally located, allowing residents to walk to parks and/or schools. Some key aspects of the physical setting and location of Lakewood include:



Geography: Lakewood sits in the southeastern part of Los Angeles County, bordered by the cities of Long Beach to the south, Bellflower to the north, Cerritos to the northeast, and Orange County to the east. The city is bisected by the I-605 freeway and the San Gabriel River.

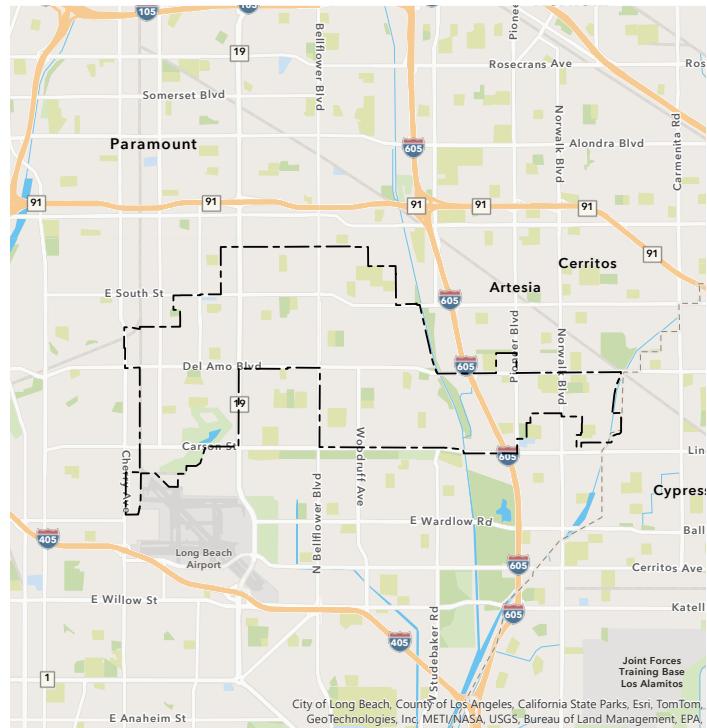


Residential: Lakewood is primarily a residential community, characterized by a mix of single-family homes, townhouses and apartment complexes. The neighborhoods are well-planned, and there are various amenities and services within reach for residents.



Commercial: Neighborhood commercial and retail centers are located at key intersections of major roadways. Lakewood Center, a regional shopping commercial center, is a prominent destination in the area.

FIGURE 2-1. REGIONAL LOCATION MAP



Connectivity: The city is traversed by Lakewood Boulevard as the major north-south roadway and Del Amo Boulevard, the key east-west roadway. Long Beach Airport is located several miles south of the city. This accessibility contributes to the connectivity and convenience for both residents and visitors.



Districts: The city is divided into five Council Districts and four School Districts. In some cases, the City has joint-use agreements to utilize school land and facilities for public recreation purposes.



URBAN ENVIRONMENTAL FEATURES

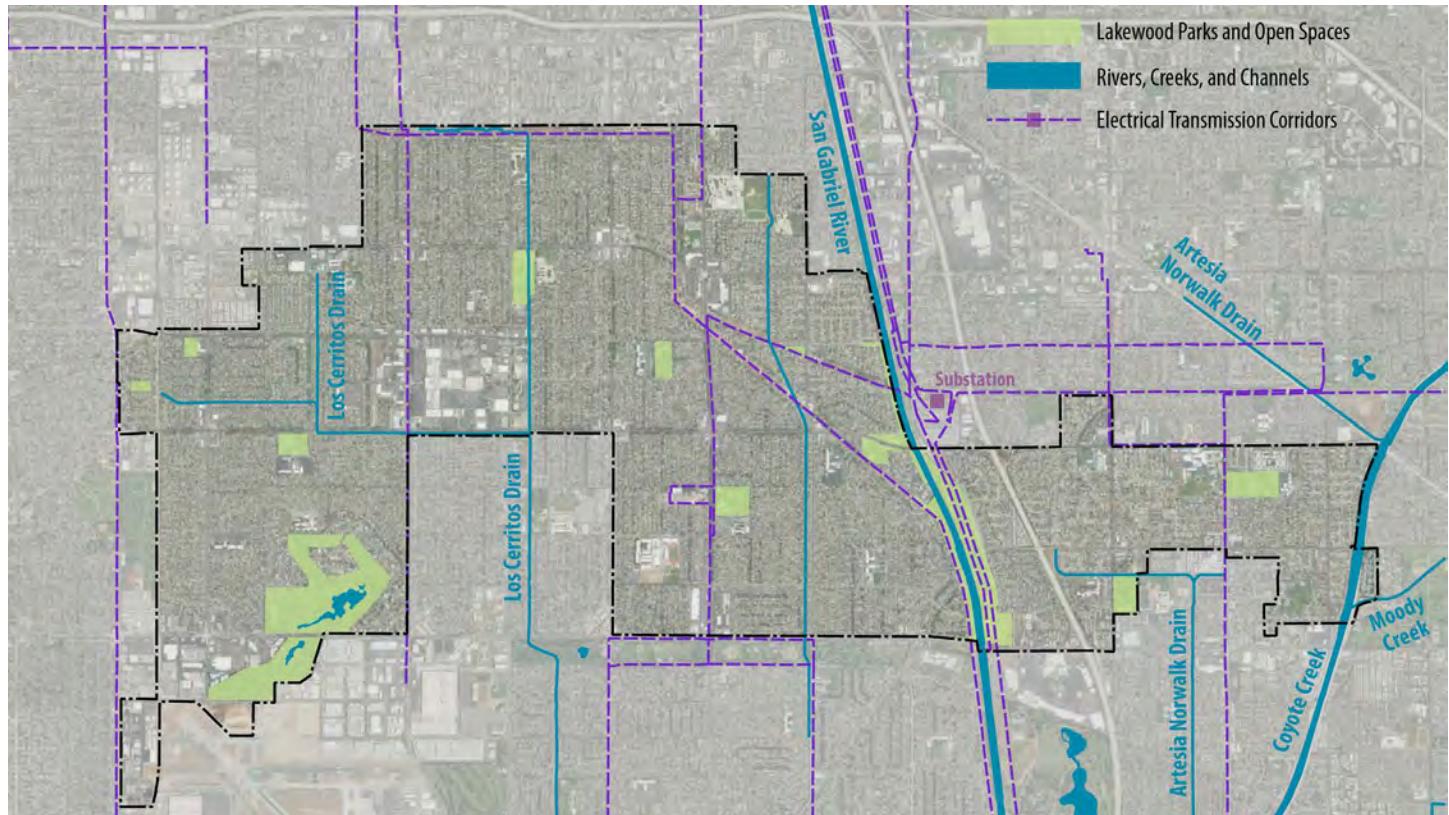
As a mid-size city in south Los Angeles County, Lakewood does not have access to vast open space preserves, coastal areas or large regional parks; though these recreation areas exist in the region surrounding the city. However, a series of environmental features do provide Lakewood with special recreation opportunities through partnership and creative approaches.

Concrete water drainage channels, such as the San Gabriel River and Coyote Creek, can offer uses beyond their main function as urban water drainage. For example, the Lakewood Nature Trail runs along the edge of the San Gabriel River among the electrical transmission lines.

Lakewood is also traversed by a series of electrical transmission corridors, with one owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power and the remaining corridors are owned and managed by Southern California Edison. Electrical transmission lines are essential components of the power grid responsible for transmitting electricity over long distances from power plants to distribution substations and eventually to consumers.

Rynerson Park, Candleverde Park, the Lakewood Equestrian Center, and Lakewood Community Gardens are facilities located under electrical transmission lines, with authorized recreation uses permitted through a license agreement with Southern California Edison.

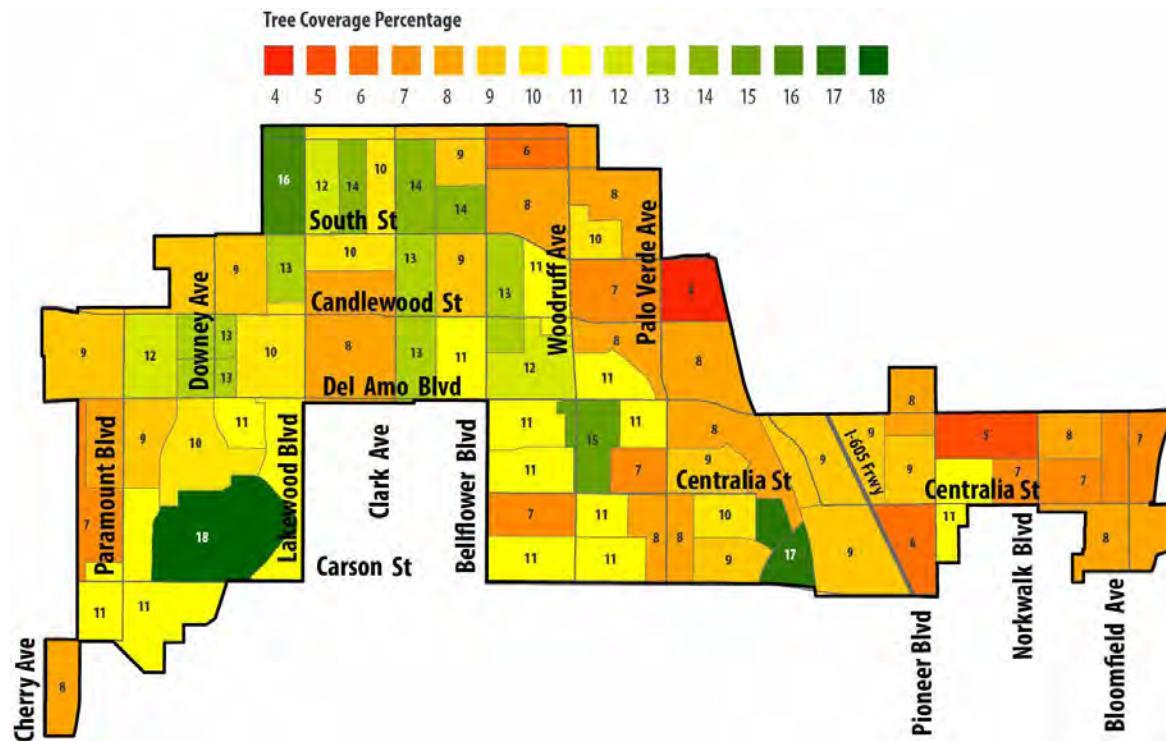
FIGURE 2-2. DRAINAGE COURSES AND TRANSMISSION CORRIDORS



Sources: MIG 2024, with data from California Energy Commission and California Natural Resources Agency Open Data.



FIGURE 2-3. TREE CANOPY PERCENTAGE BY LOCATION



Source: MIG 2024, with data from American Forests, Tree Equity Score.

URBAN FOREST AND TREE CANOPY

An urban forest refers to the collection of trees and vegetation within an urban area, including parks, streets, green spaces and private properties. Urban forests provide numerous benefits to communities, such as improving air quality, reducing urban heat island effects, mitigating stormwater runoff, providing wildlife habitat, enhancing aesthetics and promoting physical and mental well-being. While park spaces are key hosts for trees and vegetation, the urban forest extends beyond parks to include city sidewalks, medians, and private properties.

Lakewood's urban forest is made up of approximately 27,500 trees citywide. The city

has held the Tree City USA designation for over 40 years, underscoring its commitment to maintaining and growing a healthy urban tree canopy.

Given a rise in urban heat from climate change and increased development, it is important that cities maintain a robust tree canopy. On average, Lakewood has a 10% tree canopy coverage across the city, ranging from a low of 4% to a high of 18%. Coverage can be increased by planting more trees, starting with but not limited to, park spaces and recreation facility areas. Emphasis should be placed on areas with lower tree canopy coverage, as seen in areas of red-orange coloring on Figure 2-3.



DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Department of Recreation & Community Services (RCS) oversees a vast expanse of parks, trails and recreation facilities that span over 200 acres. The department undertakes landscape maintenance for parks, street medians, and city facilities. It also manages recreation programs, citywide events and quality-of-life services. Additionally, the department oversees the city's DASH specialized transportation service — a specialized curb to curb transit program for disabled and senior residents.

The department is organized into the Program Division and the Environmental Resources Division. Furthermore, it is responsive to the recommendations of the Recreation & Community Services Commission, which provides essential support to staff in the administration of Lakewood's recreation programs and community services.



Lakewood City Hall

The Department of Recreation & Community Services supports six key aims:

Gathering Places – By providing places for learning and socializing.

Forever – Parks enrich our lives by providing memories for a lifetime.

Play – By offering safe playgrounds and play spaces.

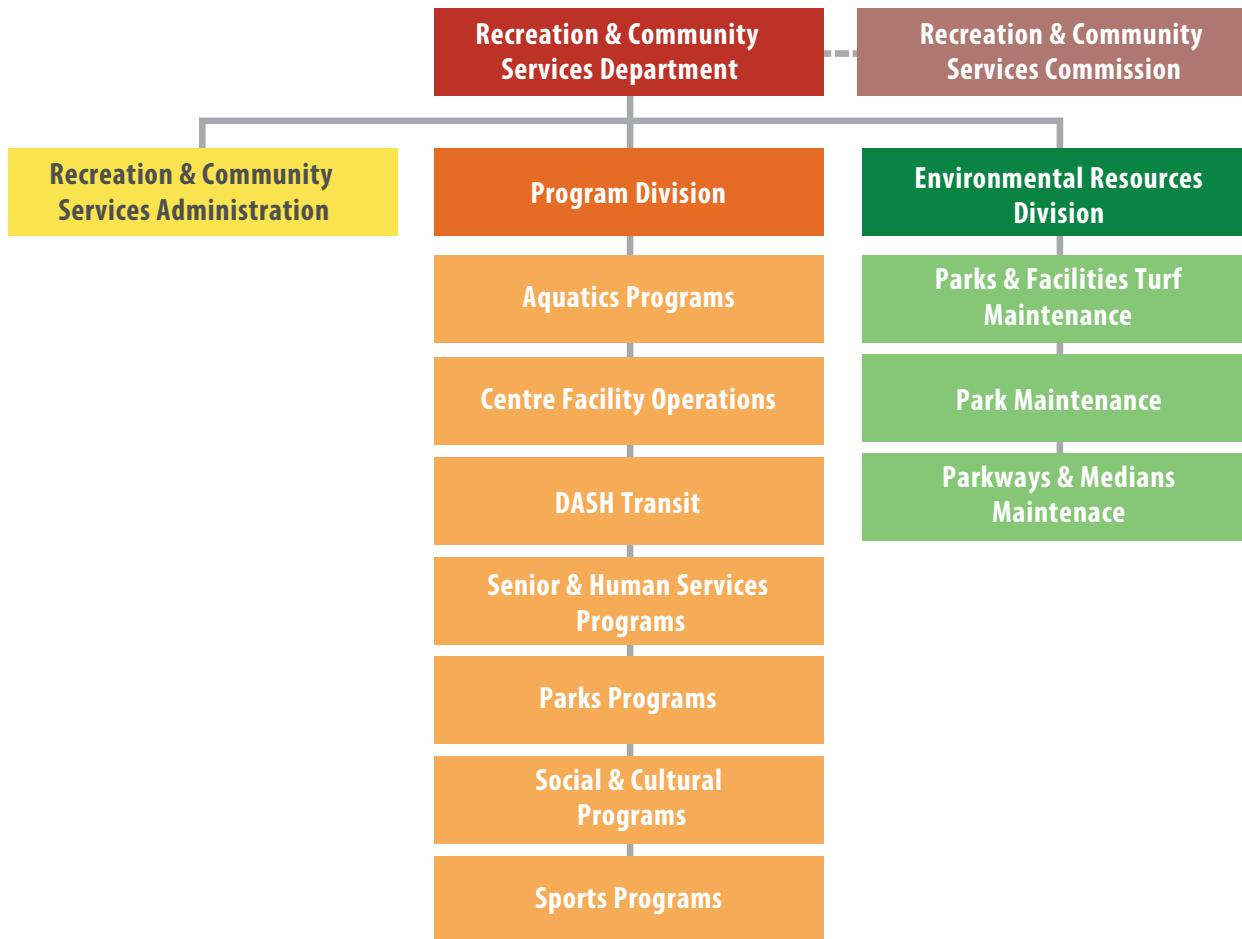
Nature – By providing beautiful landscaping and open space.

Exercise – By providing opportunities for healthy exercise.

Positive Spaces – By offering supervised places for youth.



FIGURE 2-4. RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISIONS AND SERVICES



Lakewood's Earth Walk at Monte Verde Park



RCS ADMINISTRATION

RCS Administration oversees the RCS Department operations and staff. Administrative staff also prepare studies, report, and recommendations for the City Council, City Manager and Recreation & Community Services Commission. It also reviews, recommends and administers licensed and professional service agreements, grant applications, and compliance contracts.

PROGRAM DIVISION

The Program Division, managed by the Assistant Director, has 21 full-time employees and nearly 300 part-time personnel who work across a variety of programs.

Aquatics Program

This program aims to enhance water safety education by offering residents opportunities to develop aquatic and swimming skills for personal recreation, physical fitness and survival. It also provides opportunities for recreation swimming.

Centre Facility Operations

The main objective of managing The Centre as a multipurpose facility is to offer instructional, meeting, audiovisual and banquet resources. It strives to provide a quality environment for various public and private functions.

DASH Specialized Transportation Service

DASH transit service is a vital mobility service for specified groups. The aim of this service is to plan, manage and operate a reservation-based paratransit system for elderly and disabled residents who lack access to private or existing public transportation. It also operates a community excursion program, focusing on providing social and memorable experiences for residents within the community.



The DASH service provides transit access to seniors and disabled residents.



Community spirit at Earth Walk 2024

Senior and Human Services Programs

This program aims to provide human and social services for all Lakewood residents, by connecting them with public and private service agencies. It includes senior adult programs, a community volunteer program, community health clinics, emergency food and utility assistance through the Project Shepherd Program in association with Rotary Club of Lakewood and senior services programs that encompass nutrition, socialization, recreation, health, wellness and safety awareness.

Parks Program

This program offers recreation experiences for residents of all ages and ensure that park facilities are accessible, inclusive, and safe. It includes the scheduling and supervision of recreation facilities, with park staff closely overseeing activities to maintain a safe and secure environment. This supervision helps ensure the safety of all participants while fostering an enjoyable and welcoming atmosphere. The program also focuses on planning and conducting adaptive recreation programs for individuals with developmental and physical disabilities, as well as organizing engaging teen programming to promote social interaction and community involvement.

Social and Cultural Programs

This program offers opportunities to develop personal skills through enrichment programs and community-wide special events. It includes instructional programs in arts, self-improvement, dance, fitness, and crafts for youth and adults. It also organizes seasonal recreation brochures and community special events such as Halloween Carnivals, Earth Walk, and Summer Concerts in the Park series.

Sports Program

The purpose of this program is to provide recreation experiences through team and individual athletic and fitness opportunities for youth and adults. The Lakewood Youth Sports program remains free for residents, ensuring that every child in the city has access to recreation sports. The program also coordinates field permits for community youth sports organizations such as Little League baseball and AYSO soccer, among others, for games and practices through a seasonal allocation.



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES DIVISION

The Environmental Resources Division, under the leadership of the Parks Superintendent, is dedicated to preserving the environmental integrity and visual appeal of Lakewood's public spaces. The division provides comprehensive landscape, irrigation, and custodial maintenance services across city facilities, city-owned properties, street medians, and parkways. The Parks Superintendent oversees a team of 38 full-time and 30 part-time personnel.

Turf and Landscape Maintenance

This area encompasses turf care, irrigation system upkeep, and pest control for parks, city facilities, public parkways, and street medians. The City's Turf Maintenance Program includes all aspects of turf management—from scalping to fertilization—to promote the health and aesthetics of City parks and community centers. Irrigation System Maintenance ensures the proper operation of controllers and valves across green spaces. This task also includes the Illegal Dumping Mitigation Program, addressing reports of illegal dumping in alleys and rights-of-way.

Park Maintenance

Park Maintenance provides custodial services as well as grounds and landscape upkeep for all city parks. It includes the maintenance and renovation of 260 ball diamonds and 10 sports fields to ensure optimal playing conditions. Daily safety inspections are performed on 19 playgrounds to maintain safe environments for children aged 2 to 12. Landscape maintenance extends to turf areas and planter beds within city parks.

Custodial Maintenance

Custodial services are performed daily across citywide facilities, including parks, community centers, and City Hall. The routine cleaning and sanitization of public spaces, buildings, and restrooms are a top priority for the Department of Recreation & Community Services (RCS), ensuring a clean and safe environment for all users.

Contract Services

Contracted services include floor care and carpet cleaning in large facilities, gopher abatement, landscape maintenance of select street medians, and mowing of large open park spaces.

Public Works Coordination

The Environmental Resources Division partners with the Public Works Department for a variety of essential services, including hardscape, playground, and building repairs such as plumbing, HVAC, and electrical and lighting work. Public Works is also responsible for tree trimming and planting, using both in-house and contracted crews.



Lakewood parks workers maintain lawns and landscaping for safety and comfort.



PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Lakewood's parks and recreation facilities boast a diverse range of functions and character, catering to both active and passive recreation and leisure pursuits suitable for individuals of varying ages and interests. These spaces vary in their degree of development, some featuring extensive amenities while others maintain a more tranquil ambiance. Lakewood's inventory includes 18 developed parks and recreation sites, spanning approximately 207.6 acres in total. The park and recreation system encompasses various recreation spaces, infrastructure, facilities and resources overseen and programmed by the Department of Recreation & Community Services. For a comprehensive overview of the current (2025) park system and facility inventory, refer to Appendix A: Park and Facility Inventory.

Lakewood parks and facilities are distributed throughout the city. Most neighborhoods are anchored by a park, however, there are some areas where few or no parks exist. Similarly, certain neighborhoods lack convenient access to recreation facilities, especially specialized ones such as the youth center or senior center. The largest facility is The Centre which is a 40,000 square foot building with rooms for receptions, banquets, meetings and conferences.

23 Parks and Facilities	
2 Swimming Pools	
6 Wading Pools	
19 Playgrounds	
1 Community Garden	
20 Baseball/Softball Fields	
10 Multi-use Fields	
2 Tennis Courts	
7 Multi-use Courts	
1 Outdoor Fitness Equipment	
1 Dog Park	

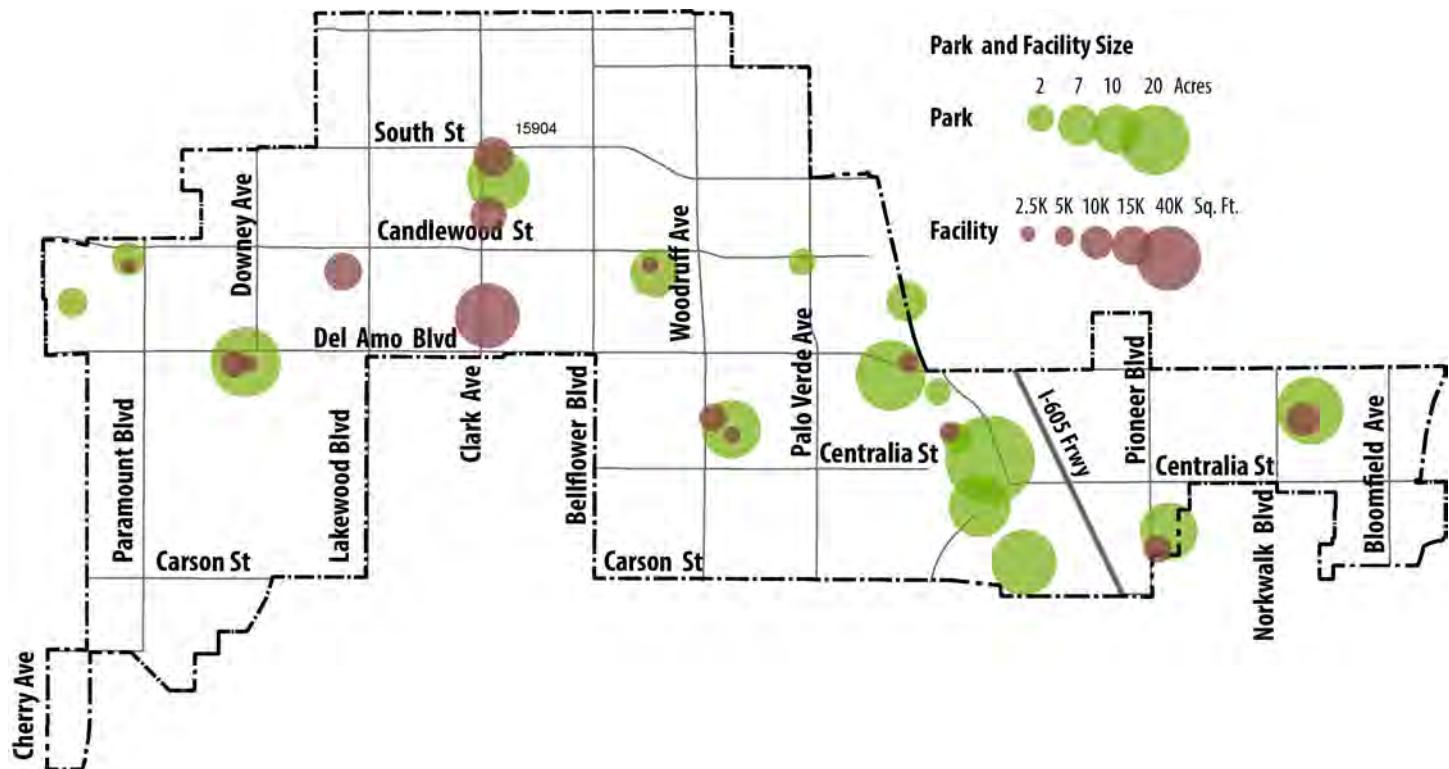


Colorful youth play structures at San Martin Park



Families enjoy Bolivar Park Playground.

FIGURE 2-5. PARK AND FACILITY DISTRIBUTION BY SIZE



Source: MIG 2024.



CLASSIFICATIONS

Classifications help the city plan and manage their existing system, as well as make decisions about the right amount of development, types of facilities and levels of park maintenance and programming based on the intent for each park site.

PARK SITES

A park's classification considers the purpose or functionality of the site, factoring in characteristics such as size, use, service area and available amenities and facilities. The City of Lakewood classifies its parks into six categories. The classifications are defined on the next several pages.



San Martin Park playground

TABLE 2-1. PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

CLASSIFICATIONS	COUNT	ACREAGE	PERCENT
Park Sites			
Passive Parks	2	5.3	2.6%
Neighborhood Parks	4	41.9	20.2%
Community Parks	5	102.7	49.4%
Special Use Parks	3	26.0	12.5%
Parkways and Nature Trails	1	26.4	12.7%
Major Recreation Facilities			
Standalone Major Recreation Facilities	3	5.4	2.6%
TOTAL	18	207.6	100%



PASSIVE PARKS

2 PARKS, 5.3 TOTAL ACRES

Average Size: 2-3 acres

Typical Amenities: Expansive lawn areas, trees, trash cans, and benches.

Passive parks (typically 2-3 acres) offer essential recreation facilities and amenities to community members. These sites tend to be embedded within residential neighborhoods and have amenities such as small playgrounds, benches, tables, trash cans and grassy areas. Passive parks are intended to serve the immediate surrounding area within walking distance. Candleverde and Cherry Cove are examples of passive parks.



Candleverde Park green space



Cherry Cove Park has open lawns and a small playground



NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

4 PARKS, 41.9 TOTAL ACRES

Average Size: 4-15 acres

Typical Amenities: Picnic shelters, play structures, sports field, and sports courts.

Neighborhood parks (typically 4-15 acres) are small parks that serve residential areas but feature more extensive amenities such as picnic shelters, wading pools, creative play structures, sports fields and courts. Sites may or may not include parking lots or restrooms. Compared with passive parks, neighborhood parks offer a wider range of facilities, amenities and programming opportunities. Biscailuz Park, Bloomfield Park, San Martin Park and Boyar Park are examples of neighborhood parks.



Boyar Park play structures



San Martin Park playground, affectionately known as "Pumpkin Park"



COMMUNITY PARKS

5 PARKS, 102.7 TOTAL ACRES

Average Size: 10-40 acres

Typical Amenities: Community centers, swimming pools, picnic shelters, sports fields, and sports courts.

Community parks (typically 10-40 acres) are mid-to-large-size parks that support sports, specialized facilities, group gatherings and programmable space for several neighborhoods or a portion of the city. They feature amenities and services such as sports programming and swimming pools. Shade structures and picnic tables are abundant in community parks. They are intended to serve the wider community rather than only the surrounding neighborhoods, therefore they often

include parking, restrooms, picnic tables, and other amenities that support longer stays, as well as programming for community-wide events. The programming and/or the presence of Community Centers or Major Recreation Facilities adds to the community-wide draw (e.g. teen centers, swimming pools, etc.). Bolivar, Mayfair, Del Valle, Palms, and Rynerson are examples of community parks.



McCormick Pool at Bolivar Park



Bolivar Park Playground



Del Valle Park Playground



Rynerson Park fitness stations



SPECIAL USE PARKS

3 PARKS, 26.0 TOTAL ACRES

Average Size: varies

Typical Amenities: Community garden beds, shaded picnic areas, nature trail, interpretive signage, meeting rooms, equestrian facilities, and rentable spaces.

Special use parks (size varies) provide singular or specialized uses. Some sites are closed to the public and require advanced notice or reservation to enter or use the site. Amenities vary but might include community garden beds, shaded picnic areas, nature trail loop, interpretive signage, meeting rooms, equestrian facilities, and rentable spaces. Lakewood Community Gardens, Lakewood Equestrian Center, and Monte Verde Park are examples of special use parks.



Monte Verde Park summer camp



Monte Verde Park picnic area



PARKWAYS AND NATURE TRAILS

1 TRAIL, 26.4 TOTAL ACRES

Average Size: varies

Typical Amenities: Meandering trail, native landscaping, natural habitat, trees, and benches.

Parkways and nature trails (size varies) combine natural resource protection, public access to nature and nature-based recreation. Most trailheads begin in residential areas, offering the immediate community an opportunity to access nature. The city currently has one nature trail, the San Gabriel River Nature Trail ("Nature Trail") (1.7 miles in length), which features interpretive signage, a meandering pathway, natural landscaping, tree groves, and native habitat planting. The Nature Trail is the only site of this park type in Lakewood.



San Gabriel River Nature Trail



San Gabriel River Nature Trail is a favored space for bird watchers due to the natural landscaping.



MAJOR RECREATION FACILITIES

15 FACILITIES

Average Size: varies

Typical Amenities: Varies per facility.

In addition to parks, RCS operates Major Recreation Facilities, consisting of community centers, swimming pools, and other unique sites. Major Recreation Facilities provide specified and often singular recreation experiences or target a specific audience (e.g. seniors, swimmers, etc.). These facilities are not classified as parks and may exist as standalone sites or reside within an existing park.

- Community Centers.** Lakewood community centers are versatile facilities that serve as hubs for various recreation, social, and educational activities for the local community. These centers typically offer a range of amenities and services, including multipurpose rooms for meetings, classes and events, and fitness centers with exercise equipment and workout spaces.

- Activity and Community Buildings.**

These buildings serve as central points for community activities within neighborhood parks. While not as spacious or adaptable as larger community centers, they generally consist of one community room, recreation staff offices and a maintenance area. Many of these structures date back to the 1950s, constructed during the establishment of the neighborhoods, often built with the help of volunteer residents.

- Swim Pavilion and Bath House.** The Swim Pavilion at Mayfair Park and the Bath House at Bolivar Park for McCormick Pool are facilities that provide amenities for swimming, showering, and changing. They also include maintenance equipment for pools, reception areas and lifeguard and staffing areas.



Community Center at Mayfair Park



STANDALONE MAJOR RECREATION FACILITIES

3 FACILITIES, 5.4 TOTAL ACRES

Average Size: varies

Typical Amenities: Multi-purpose rooms, office space, specialty rooms, permanent restrooms, and parking.

In total, there are 15 Major Recreation Facilities in Lakewood, including community centers, swimming pool, and activity buildings. Most of these are located within existing parks, and their acreage is counted towards their host park. However, three buildings are standalone recreation facilities that are not associated with a particular park site. These three include the Centre, Weingart Senior Center and Burns Community Center.



Burns Community Center

These sites provide flexible multi-purpose rooms, administrative and community services, and programming for the public. They require staffing and oversight to manage and maintain the buildings, and operate recreation and community service programs.



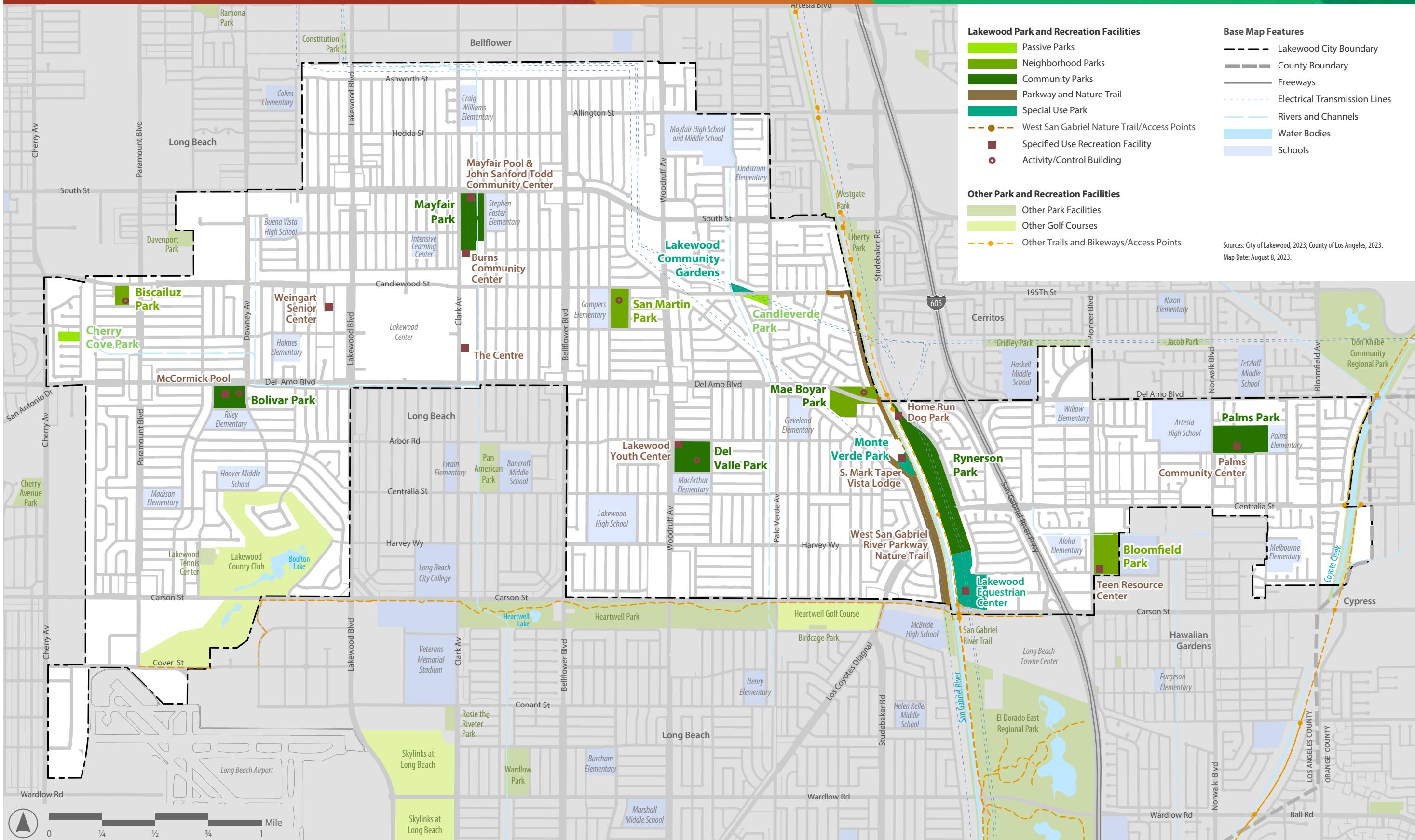
The Centre



Weingart Senior Center

FIGURE 2-6. PARK AND FACILITY CLASSIFICATION MAP

Lakewood Parks, Recreation, and Community Services
Long-Range Plan



PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK



RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND SERVICES

As part of its commitment to enhancing community well-being, Lakewood offers a diverse range of recreation programming suitable for individuals of all ages and interests. From aquatics programs held in two public swimming pools during the summer, to outdoor adventures along the San Gabriel River's nature trails, there's something for everyone. Year-round community events and seasonal family programs foster togetherness, while parks and community centers provide rental spaces for special events and business gatherings.

Recreation offerings like Tot Lot for toddlers, self-directed afterschool activities and Adaptive Recreation at Bloomfield Park cater to varied needs and interests. Whether reserving a community room or park facility for an event, arranging a catered meeting at The Centre or participating in sports activities, Lakewood ensures ample opportunities for recreation and community engagement.

For adults, a variety of fitness classes—including tennis and sports instruction—are available, along with dance classes and special interest workshops in arts and crafts, public safety and music instruction. Older adults can engage in Active+ programs, while adaptive programming ensures inclusivity for all. Travel programs provide exciting adventures, and family programs encourage bonding through shared experiences.

Youth are offered fine arts instruction, camps, and educational classes, alongside opportunities for dance, fitness and sports, such as gymnastics and tennis. Aquatics programs provide swimming opportunities for all ages, while preschool programs introduce young children to dance, gymnastics, and sports instruction, fostering early engagement in recreation activities.

The following bullet points on page 2-26 highlight the full range of RCS's core program areas, including both city-run and contract classes. For more information, see Appendix B: Existing Conditions Summary.



Lakewood youth aquatics programs



Monte Verde Park summer camp



Programming: Recreation Activities and Classes

The City of Lakewood offers a wide range of recreation activities and classes designed to serve residents of all ages, interests, and abilities. Activities take place at community centers, parks, and recreation facilities throughout the city, ensuring accessible and enriching experiences for everyone.

- **Active+.** The Active+ program offers older adults a variety of recreation and fitness activities based at the Burns Community Center. Programs are designed to support healthy, active lifestyles and graceful aging.
- **Contract Classes.** A wide range of specialized classes for all ages are offered seasonally and led by contract instructors. With over 400 classes per season—including fitness, arts and crafts and personal growth—sessions are listed in the recreation catalog published in January, May and September.
- **Adaptive Recreation.** The Adaptive Recreation Program provides individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities inclusive recreation opportunities. Hosted at Bloomfield Park, the program offers special events, field trips and life skills activities.
- **Adult Sports.** Organized sports leagues are available for adults, with three seasons offered each year. Leagues offered include men's and co-ed softball, and women's volleytennis. Drop-in pickleball is offered at Mayfair and Bolivar Parks, while drop-in volleyball and basketball are available at the Hoover Middle School gymnasium.
- **Adult Travel Trips.** Adult and family-friendly travel trips to Southern California attractions are offered each season. Trips include charter bus transportation and pre-arranged tickets, making travel easy and accessible for participants.
- **Lakewood Youth Sports (LYS).** LYS offers organized youth leagues for ages 4 to 17. Sports offered include baseball, softball, t-ball, football, volleyball, volleytennis, and basketball. The leagues focus on sportsmanship, participation, and volunteer-led coaching.
- **Aquatics.** Seasonal aquatics programs run from Memorial Day through Labor Day, offering recreation swimming, swim lessons, competitive opportunities, and special events. The popular Junior Lifeguard Program is available at two pools during the summer.
- **Park Programs.** Eight park facilities, with daily supervision by recreation staff, offer a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. Parks feature activity rooms, picnic shelters, ball fields and courts, with many amenities available on a drop-in or reservation basis.
- **Senior Programs.** Based at the Weingart Senior Center, Lakewood's Senior Programs offer socialization, fitness classes, dances, billiards and other active and passive recreation activities, alongside a variety of support services.



- **Special Olympics.** Lakewood hosts a strong Special Olympics program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities wishing to engage in competitive athletics. Lakewood offers softball, soccer, bocce, bowling, basketball, tennis and golf. All coaches are certified by Special Olympics of Southern California. This program is facilitated at Bloomfield Park.
- **Year-Round Camps.** The city provides a comprehensive array of recreation camps for children, offering a diverse range of activities and experiences designed to accommodate various interests and needs. These camps include programs in sports, the arts, adventure, STEM, and traditional summer day camps, as well as offerings during the spring and winter school recesses.
- **Teen Programs.** The Lakewood Youth Center offers activities such as teen dances, an open game room, excursions and a variety of special interest classes throughout the year. Programs such as Teens in Lakewood Care (TLC) and the Lakewood Teen Action Committee (LTAC) foster community involvement and volunteerism. Additionally, the Teen Resource Center at Bloomfield Park offers a unique teen atmosphere featuring computer stations, game tables, and modern gaming systems.
- **Tot Lots.** The Tot Lot program is a parent/guardian-led cooperative initiative for children ages 2 to 5, held at Del Valle and Mayfair Parks during the fall, winter, and spring. Sessions are conducted during the week in the fenced preschool play area of the park. Parents/guardians are responsible for the operation of each Tot Lot and participate in a rotating schedule to supervise the play area and oversee planned activities.



Teen programs



Adult sports leagues



Monte Verde Park summer camp



Weingart Senior Center



Services

Lakewood is committed to providing a wide range of services that support the well-being, safety and quality of life for all residents. From after-school recreation that offers safe and engaging environments for youth, to vital transportation and human services that assist seniors, families and individuals in need, these programs are designed to be responsive, inclusive, and community-focused. Through partnerships, proactive initiatives and a strong spirit of service, Lakewood works to ensure that every resident has access to the support and resources they need to thrive.

- **After-School Park Supervision.** Supervised parks offer secure, clean, and stimulating environments for youth during after-school hours. Youth are permitted to borrow sports equipment, such as basketballs, from recreation staff and participate in social activities, including playing table games such as carom, with their peers.
- **DASH Transit.** DASH Transit provides reservation-based transportation for Lakewood residents who are seniors or individuals with disabilities with limited access to public or private transportation. The service also supports transportation needs for city special events and youth programs.

- **Emergency Preparedness.** In partnership with Public Safety, RCS supports the city's emergency preparedness efforts. In the event of a disaster, all employees—including hourly staff—may be activated to assist the community.
- **Human Services.** Human Services programs, based out of the Burns Community Center and Weingart Senior Center, offer counseling, nutrition, emergency assistance, information, and referral services for seniors, individuals, and families in need.



Monte Verde Park summer camp



Community Events

Lakewood is a city that comes alive through its vibrant calendar of community events, celebrating the spirit, culture and togetherness that define residents. Throughout the year, Lakewood hosts a variety of gatherings that honor local heroes, showcase musical talents, embrace cultural traditions and create opportunities for families and neighbors to connect. From festive seasonal celebrations to meaningful commemorations and fun-filled fairs, these events bring energy and joy to parks, civic spaces and hearts, strengthening the bonds that make Lakewood such a special place to call home.

- **Arbor Week.** Lakewood celebrates its "Tree City USA" designation each March with Arbor Week programs. Woody the Tree visits Lakewood elementary schools, delivering educational presentations to approximately 3,000 students in grades K-3.
- **Special Events.** Special events encompass a variety of community-based celebrations including, but not limited to, the Civic Center Block Party, Fest-Of-All, Daddy/Daughter Date Night, Halloween Carnivals, Memorial Day Ceremony, Pan Am Fiesta and more.



Civic Center Block Party



Pan Am Fiesta



Lemonade Day



Volunteerism

Volunteerism is a cornerstone of Lakewood's community spirit, where neighbors helping neighbors has been a tradition since the city's founding. From lending a hand through organized service projects to supporting local charities or mentoring youth, residents of all ages play a vital role in strengthening the bonds that make Lakewood a special place to live. Whether residents have a few hours to give or are looking for a deeper way to connect, there are countless opportunities to make a meaningful impact and be part of the city's ongoing story of caring and community pride.

- **Project Shepherd.** A collaboration between the City of Lakewood and the Rotary Club of Lakewood, Project Shepherd supports families in need through holiday food and gift distribution, a back-to-school backpack program, scholarships for recreation and year-round emergency food and utility assistance at Burns Community Center and Palms Park.
- **Lakewood Teen Action Committee (LTAC).** LTAC offers teens opportunities to volunteer, participate in community outreach and learn about civic engagement and local government services.
- **Volunteer Day.** Each April, volunteers come together to assist eligible Lakewood residents with yardwork and minor exterior home maintenance. Teams made up of service organizations, businesses, scout groups, faith-based organizations and community members of all ages fan out across the city to provide support through yard cleanup and small painting projects, helping to maintain neighborhood pride and assist those in need.



Lakewood Volunteer Day 2025



Lakewood Volunteer Day 2025



TABLE 2-2. SAMPLING OF RECREATION ACTIVITIES, CLASSES, AND PROGRAMMING

AGE RANGE	SAMPLING OF PROGRAMS AND CLASSES ¹						
	FITNESS	SPORTS	DANCE/ MUSIC	SPECIAL INTEREST	EDUCATION CLASSES	AQUATICS	FINE ART AND ARTS & CRAFTS
Pre-School		Gymnastics, Soccer, Ice Skating, Tennis, Multi-Sport, Basketball	Hula, Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop	Musical Theater	Pre-K Readiness, Reading, Math, Spanish	Swimming Lessons, Wading Pools	Varies
Teen & Youth	Smart Fit, Girls Trampoline, Cardio	Gymnastics, Tennis, Wrestling, Karate, Soccer, Football, Ice Skating, Multi-Sport, Basketball, Lakewood Youth Sports, Sports Camp	Ballet, Hip Hop, Dance, Hula, Drums, Piano, Tap	Teen Life Skills, Board Games, Video Gaming, Trivia Night, Job Search, Summer / spring Camps, Youth in Government, Volunteer, Teen Scene, Family Camp, Date Nights, Movie Night, FUNtastic Family Night, Play at Palms	Reading, Spanish, Math, SAT Prep, Homework Help, Drivers Ed, Bilingual Spanish Camps, College Fair, STEM	Junior Lifeguard, Swimming Lessons, Recreation Swim	Paint Night, Creative Clay, Ceramics, Art Fun, Acting, Musical Theater
Adult	Ballet, Capoeira, Zumba, Yoga, Gentle Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi, Belly Dance Fitness, Aerobics, Walking Clubs, Strength Training, Chair Exercises, Fitness Classes, Martial Arts	Tennis, Kung Fu, Ice Skating, Pickleball, Lakewood Adult Sports, Volleytennis	Country Line Dancing, Belly Dance, Hula, Ballroom Dance	Family Camp, Dog Training, Computer, CPR, Language, Volunteer	Tech, Drivers Course, Health & Wellness, Writing	Water Aerobics, Aqua Fitness, Swimming Lessons, Recreation Swim, Adult Lap Swim, Lap Swim 50+	Painting, Decorating, Crafts, Sewing, Cross Stitch, crochet, Knitting, Cricut, Pottery, Candle Making, Quilters, Bunco, Glass Fusing
Seniors		Basketball Free Play, Pickleball	Dance, Line Dance	Travel, Book Club, Card Games, Lifestyle, Pool Room, Social Services, Cards, Wellness Series, Volunteer	Health and Wellness, Brain Games, History, Varies		

¹ This list of programs and classes is not exhaustive but offers a selection of the activities available. Many classes and programs can vary by season or by location.



CHAPTER 3

PRESERVING THE PAST, FORGING THE FUTURE



CHAPTER 3

PRESERVING THE PAST, FORGING THE FUTURE

As cities grow and evolve, their demographics shift, influenced by changes in population size, age distribution, and cultural diversity. These transformations are not just reshaping urban landscapes but also influencing how public spaces, particularly parks and recreation facilities, are used and valued. Historically, Lakewood parks have played a significant role in shaping community character, often reflecting the social and cultural priorities of their time. Today, as Lakewood grapples with the challenges of intensified urbanization, the historical legacy of parks must be balanced with a forward-thinking vision to meet evolving needs.

LAKEWOOD'S RECREATION LEGACY

Lakewood has a rich historical legacy when it comes to parks and recreation. The city's commitment to providing quality recreation

spaces dates to its early years of development. Lakewood was originally developed as a planned community in the post-World War II era, and from the beginning, emphasis was placed on creating a community with ample green spaces and recreation facilities.

The city's founders envisioned a well-designed urban environment that prioritized the well-being and recreation needs of its residents. As Lakewood grew, parks became integral to the city's identity. These early parks often served as gathering places for community events and social activities. Over the years, Lakewood has consistently invested in its parks and recreation infrastructure. This commitment is reflected in the continuous improvement of existing parks, the refurbishment of established community centers and recreation facilities, and the continued delivery of diverse programs and events for residents of all ages.



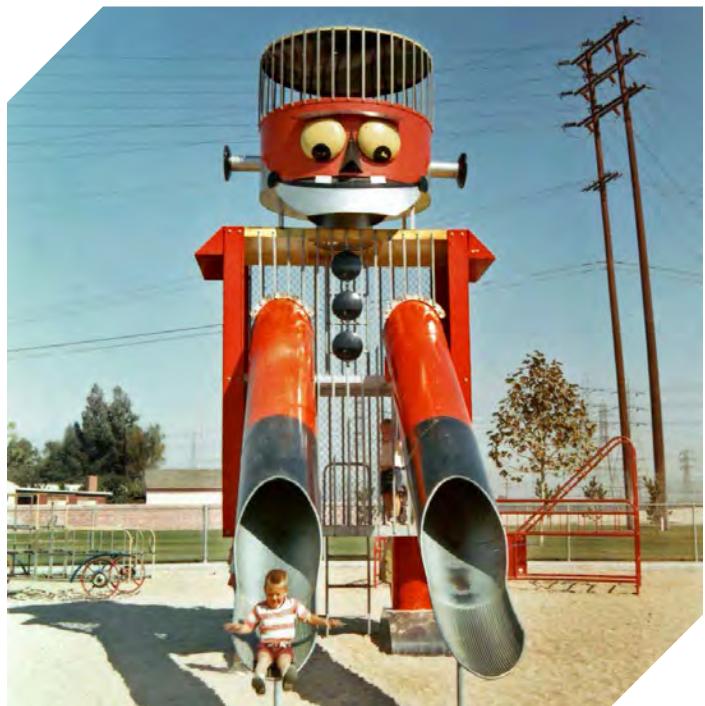
A Lakewood playground in 1957



The Pan American Festival in 1957



Boys playing basketball in 1958



A play structure at Mae Boyar Park in 1989

FIGURE 3-1. LAKEWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION HISTORICAL TIMELINE

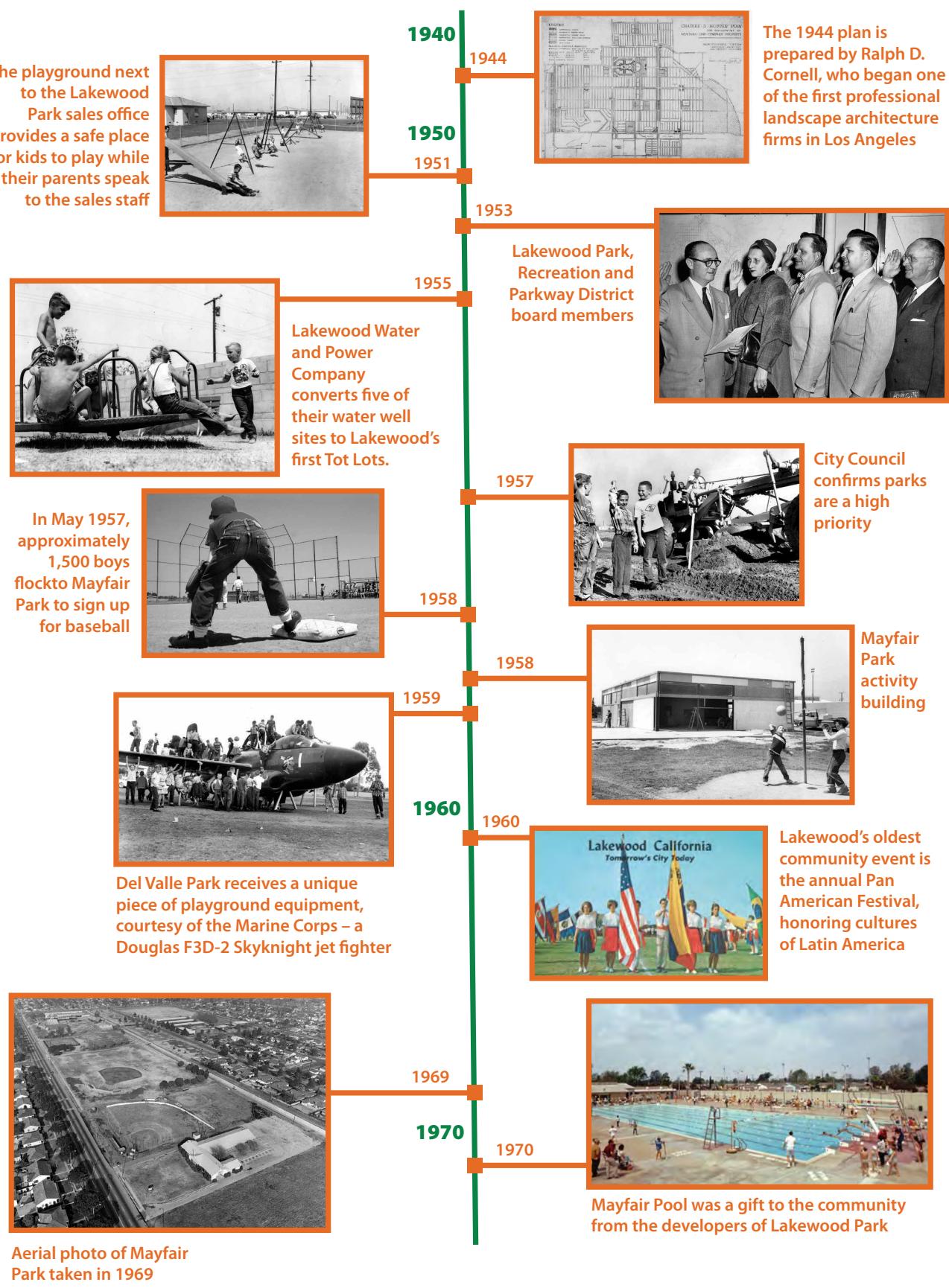


FIGURE 3-1. LAKEWOOD PARKS AND RECREATION HISTORICAL TIMELINE



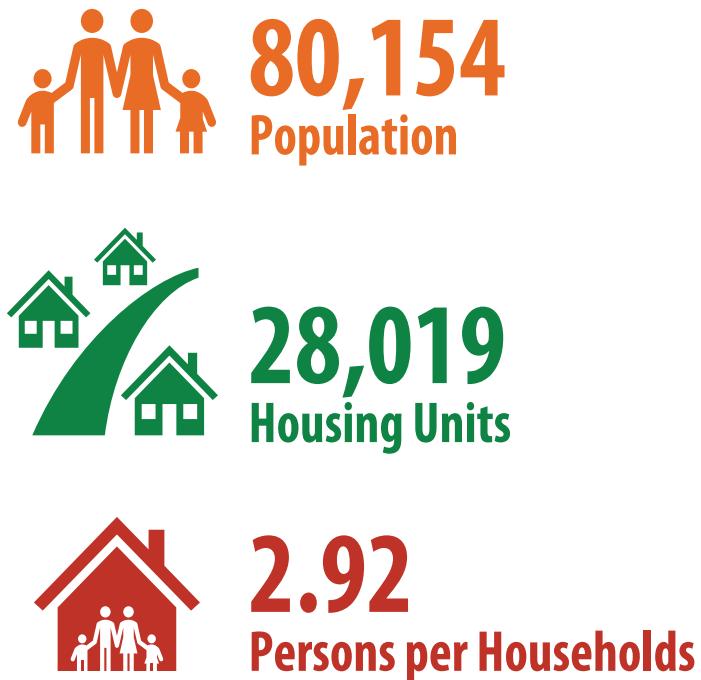


AN EVOLVING COMMUNITY

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

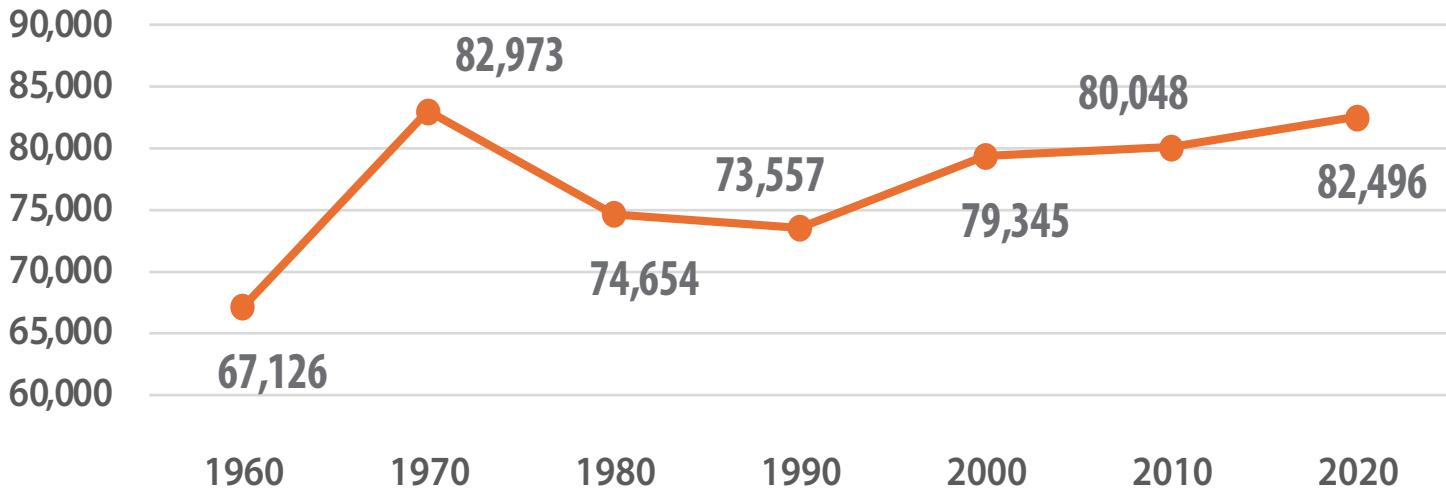
Lakewood possesses a diverse and vibrant community profile, with diverse age ranges and ethnic/racial backgrounds. Housing is mostly single-family units - a holdover from Lakewood's early development in the 1950s - with only 17% of housing being multi-family units built more recently. As demographics and housing types change across the city, there will be effects on social dynamics, community services, and parks and recreation planning. Understanding and responding to the changing needs of the population are essential for the city's future.

FIGURE 3-2. DEMOGRAPHIC STATS (2023)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020.

FIGURE 3-3. POPULATION GROWTH 1960-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2020.



Photos showing the diversity of the Lakewood population at various community events.

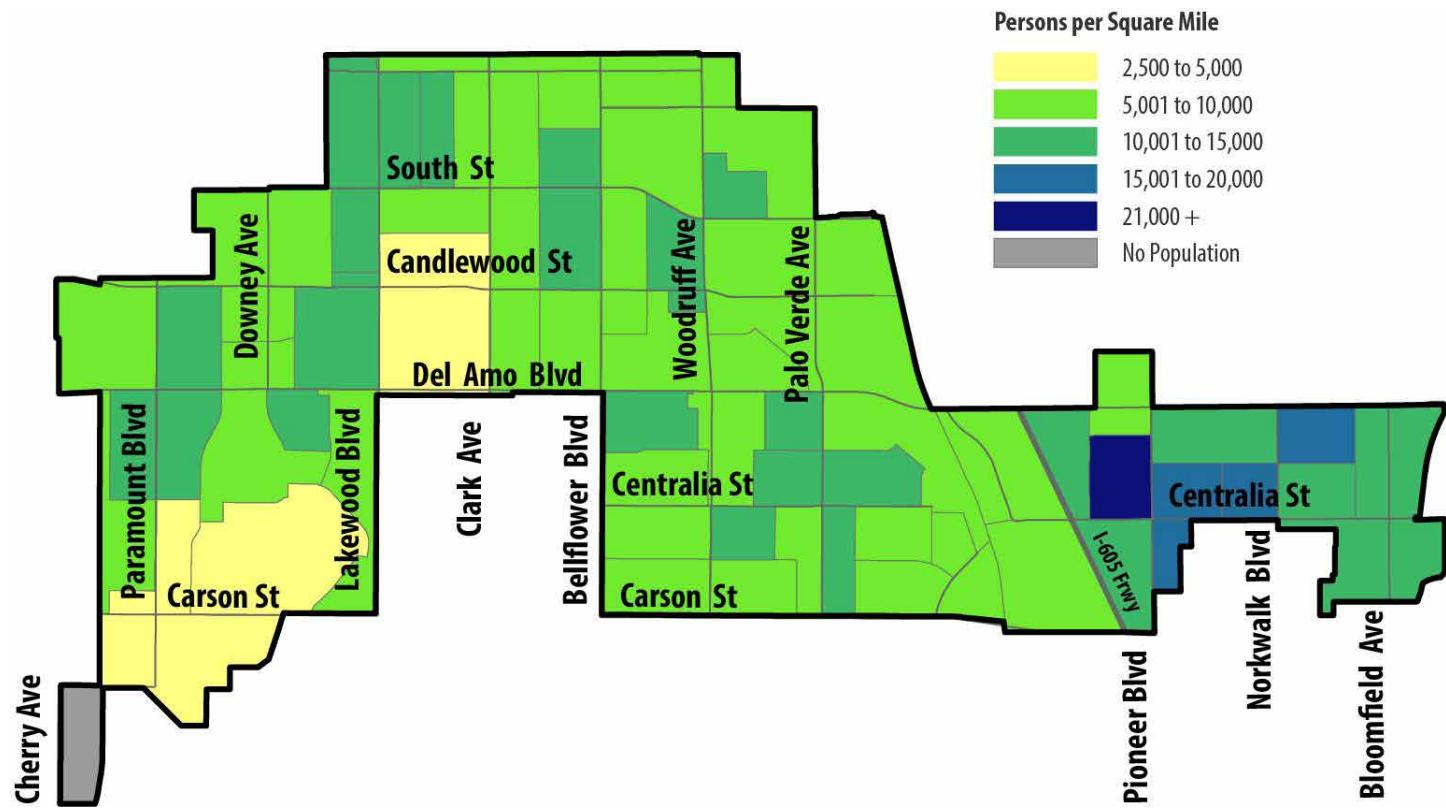


Population Density

On average, the city has a population density of around 10,000 people per square mile. The areas with the lowest population density include the Lakewood Country Club area and the offices and commercial businesses located south of Carson Street, just north of Long Beach Airport. Additionally, the Lakewood Center mall area exhibits low population density due to the presence of existing commercial businesses.

Conversely, the eastern portion of the city contains the densest areas, with several neighborhoods showing population densities exceeding 15,000 persons per square mile. Higher density areas may incur more use pressure on local recreation facilities and park spaces, requiring more maintenance and upkeep.

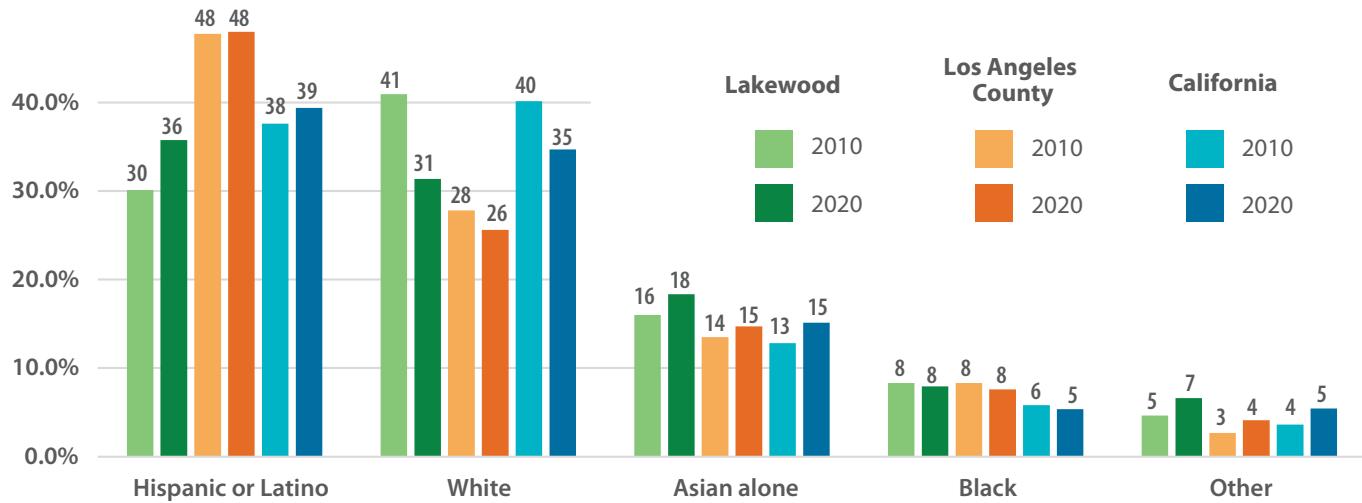
FIGURE 3-4. POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE



Source: MIG 2024, with data from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018.



FIGURE 3-5. RACE AND ETHNICITY PERCENTAGES (2022)



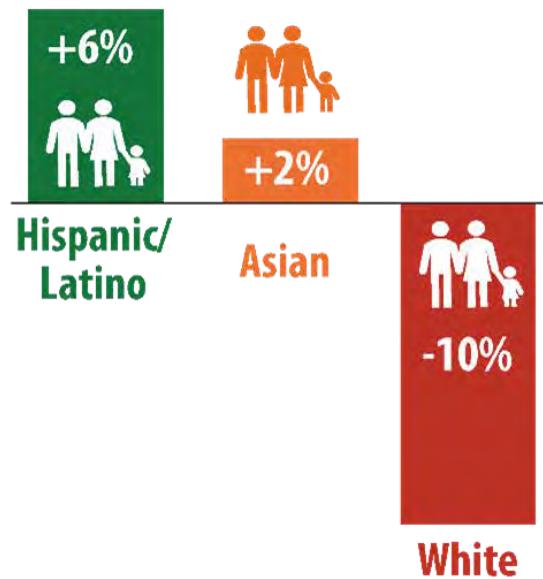
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2022.

Race and Ethnicity

Between 2010 and 2020, the Hispanic/Latino population increased by 6%, while the White population saw a decrease of 10%. The Asian population grew by 2% during the same period. These shifts indicate that Lakewood is becoming more diverse, with significant changes in the racial and ethnic composition of the community.

As the community's diversity evolves, the parks and recreation system will need to adapt to a more diverse population. The increase in Hispanic/Latino and Asian populations suggests a growing need for culturally relevant programming and amenities that cater to these communities. This might include multilingual signs, culturally specific events and festivals, unique facilities, and inclusive design elements. City staff will want to ensure that parks and recreation facilities, as well as programming reflect the evolving community's needs and preferences to foster inclusivity and engagement across all demographic groups.

FIGURE 3-6. RACE AND ETHNICITY CHANGE, 2010-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2022.



Housing Unit Types

Most homes in Lakewood are single-family units, which were predominantly built in the 1950s, when Lakewood was incorporated. Out of a total of 28,000 housing units, 83% are single-family homes. The remaining units primarily comprise multi-family residences situated at key intersections of major streets or near significant activity hubs.

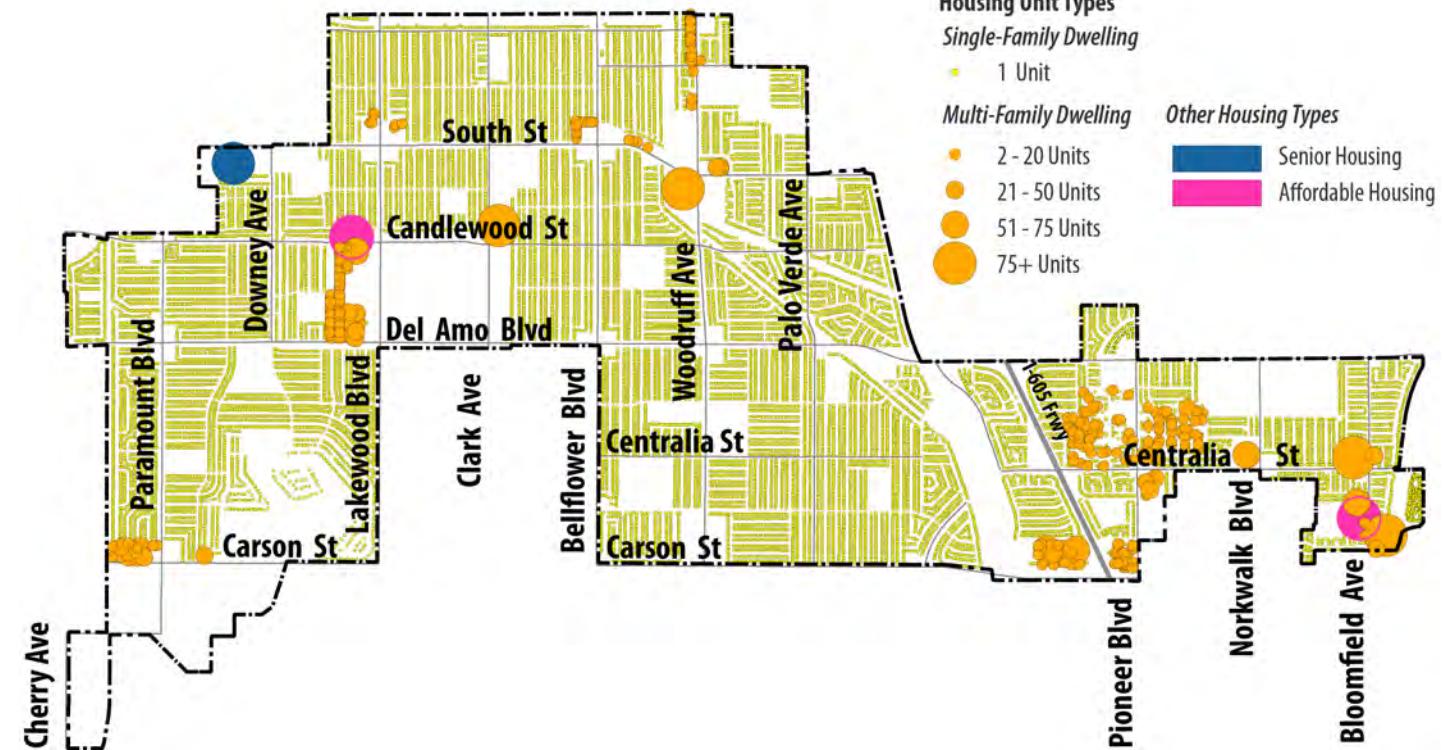
Senior housing is located on South Street just west of Downey Avenue, apartments line Hayter Avenue just west of the Lakewood Center and other multi-family dwellings are positioned at various key intersections. To the east of the I-605 freeway, there is a neighborhood characterized by duplexes, triples, rowhouses, townhouses and smaller multi-family units, situated between

Del Amo Blvd., Roseton Ave., Centralia St. and Norwalk Blvd. In densely populated areas featuring multi-family housing, the development of parks becomes crucial to providing essential communal spaces.



1950s housing by the Lakewood Park Corporation

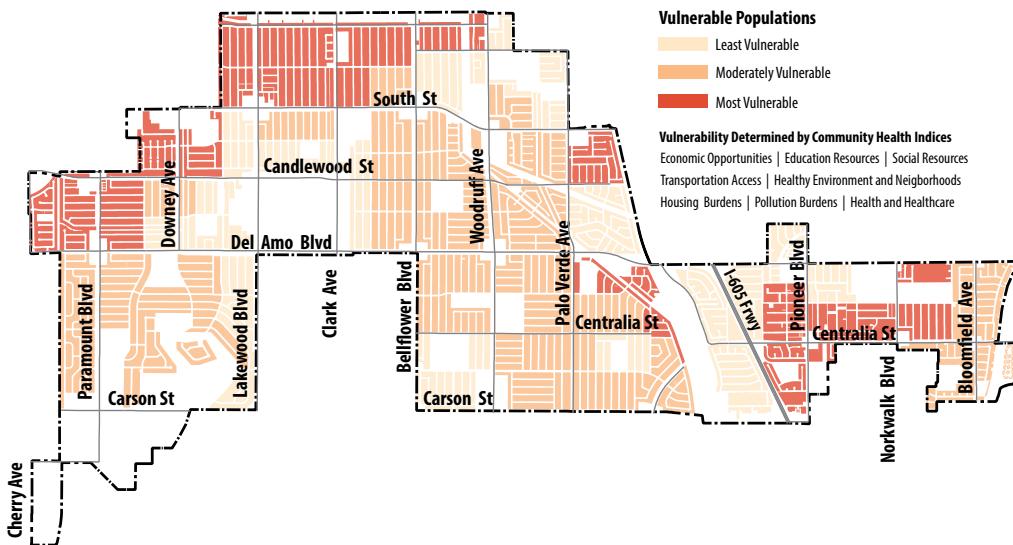
FIGURE 3-7. HOUSING UNIT TYPES BY LOCATION



Source: MIG and UrbanFootprint, 2024



FIGURE 3-8. VULNERABLE POPULATIONS



Source: MIG 2024, with data from Healthy Places Index, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, Child Opportunity Index, TCAC/HCD Opportunity Area Mapping, and UrbanFootprint Population.

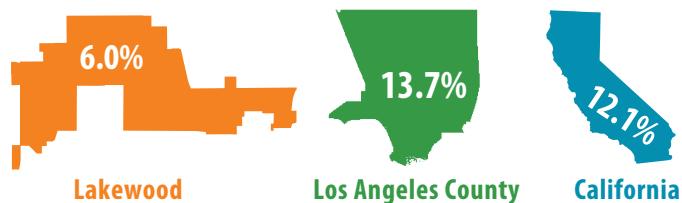
Vulnerable Populations

Vulnerable populations refer to groups or individuals who are at a higher risk of experiencing adverse outcomes or facing discrimination due to various factors such as socioeconomic status, age, race, ethnicity, disability, homelessness or being members of marginalized communities. These groups often have limited access to resources or social support systems, making them more susceptible to harm, exploitation, or neglect. Examples include children, the elderly, individuals with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and those that are unhoused.

Understanding vulnerable populations in a city is crucial when preparing a parks long-range plan because it ensures that parks are inclusive, accessible and responsive to the diverse needs of all residents. By considering the challenges faced by vulnerable groups such as low-income individuals, people with disabilities and minority

communities, park planners can design parks that promote health and well-being, foster social cohesion, enhance safety, address environmental justice concerns and encourage meaningful community engagement, ultimately creating vibrant and equitable public spaces for everyone to enjoy.

FIGURE 3-9. PERCENT BELOW POVERTY (2022)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2022.



DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Lakewood's parks, facilities, events and programs are intended to serve residents of all ages, incomes, race/ethnicity, abilities, family configurations, and varied interests. Demographic changes such as Lakewood's growing and aging population, declines in youth and shifts in race/ethnicity will affect recreation needs. By aligning activities and amenities with these evolving trends, communities can better meet the diverse preferences and needs of all residents.

Population Growth

With a projected 2.6% population increase (from 80,162 to 82,227 persons)* between 2024 and 2034, Lakewood's parks and recreation programs will face moderate impacts, requiring adjustments to accommodate additional users. The rise in accessory dwelling units could further strain park facilities and recreation services, as they contribute to increased density and demand for open spaces.

Aging Population

Between 2010 and 2020, Lakewood's ages 55 and over increased by 9.7%, while those ages 18 to 54 saw a decline of 2.9%, and the population aged 0 to 17 decreased by 6.8%. If the population continues to shift in this direction, parks will need to adapt by incorporating more accessible, older adult and senior-friendly amenities and wellness-focused programming for the growing 55 and over age group. With a moderate decline in the 18 to 54 age group, there could be shifts toward

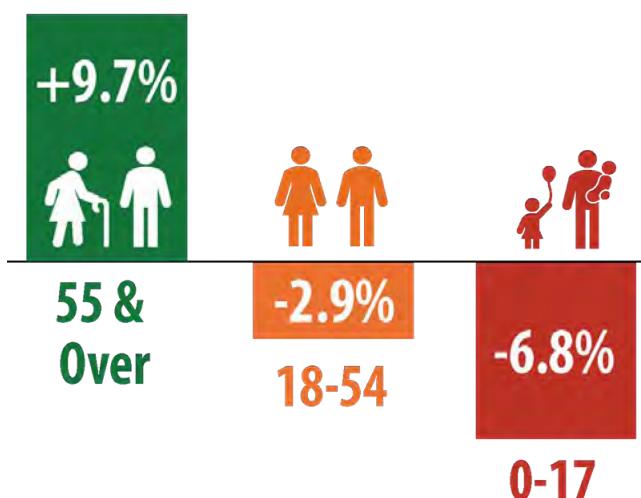
* The 2034 projected population is calculated using annual growth rates based on the estimated 2045 population (84,500 persons) as set in the SCAG RTP (2020).

more versatile spaces that accommodate a range of activities. The decrease in the population aged 0 to 17 suggests a reassessment of youth-centric programs and facilities, while focusing on features that appeal to a diverse age range.

Aging Populations and Declining Birth Rates

Cities are seeing a rise in older populations due to aging baby boomers, longer life spans, and declining birth rates. Migration plays a role, with younger people moving out of CA and older adults staying or relocating to urban and suburban areas for better services. Families are having fewer children due to high living costs and housing affordability, economic pressures, and shifting priorities.

FIGURE 3-10. AGE RANGE CHANGE 2010-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, 2022.



A new generation of Lakewood residents may have different recreation expectations and needs.



COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

As the city's population diversifies and changes, it is increasingly important to understand unique and evolving community priorities. It is also vital to use current data and public feedback to inform expected future priorities, in light of new recreation trends, public health needs, city budgetary resources and climate shifts.

ENGAGEMENT FOR THIS PLAN

In the early stages of developing *Lakewood's Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan*, engagement activities were conducted to gather community input on the future of city parks. These activities resulted in more than 1,800 interactions with community members, providing a diverse range of comments and feedback.

Interviews with 10 City Leaders were held in September 2023, involving key individuals selected for their deep knowledge and connections with the City of Lakewood. City leaders included City Council members; Recreation & Community Service Commissioners; city management; long-tenured, retired RCS staff; and others with historical knowledge of the city. These interviews, coordinated with city staff and mostly held in person, provided valuable insights into the community's needs and aspirations.

A comprehensive overview of the objectives, project timeline, and completed milestones associated with the development of the *Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan* was presented to the **Recreation & Community Services Commission**—the governing body composed of community members appointed by the Lakewood City

Council—to provide support to staff in administering the city's recreation programs and community services. Commissioners praised the Needs Assessment for its depth, responsiveness to community feedback and broad outreach efforts, and emphasized the importance of addressing aging facilities, expanding senior services, offering iconic amenities and coordinating better with schools. Key questions raised focused on demographic shifts, facility investment strategies, diversifying recreation opportunities and planning for future needs such as accessory dwelling units (ADUs), swimming pool upgrades and high-demand sports like pickleball.

The **Park Development Committee** was consulted as part of the planning process. The Standing Committee, made up of two council members, provides oversight and guidance on the planning, design and implementation of park projects. The Committee encouraged expanding partnerships, particularly with schools and community organizations, updating park facilities such as the Youth Center at Del Valle Park and replacing wading pools, and actively pursuing grant opportunities. They also emphasized the importance of improving bike, pedestrian and transit connectivity to parks, while supporting the exploration of new recreation amenities.

Additionally, a series of **Focus Group meetings** was conducted, involving at least 90 participants representing nonprofit organizations, sports organizations, service clubs, businesses and residents. These meetings, held both digitally and in person, gathered specific input on key topics to inform park facilities and recreation program needs assessment.



To further engage the community, **Pop-Ups** were organized at five existing city events, encouraging direct community involvement and feedback on potential improvements to parks and recreation facilities. More than 600 participants shared their priorities using stickers on interactive boards and spoke with project staff. In conjunction with the Pop-Up events, a paper survey was distributed specifically to teens to gather input on desired programs and amenities for teen and youth centers, resulting in 37 completed surveys.

Complementing these efforts, an online **Parks and Recreation Survey** was conducted to solicit broader community input on the status of parks and recreation, existing needs and improvement priorities. A total of 1,111 participants submitted an online or paper survey.



Long-Range Plan pop-up event at Monte Verde Park

FIGURE 3-11. ENGAGEMENT AT A GLANCE





OUTREACH KEY THEMES

Key themes emerged from interviews with city leaders, focus group meetings, pop-ups at city events, and the recreation survey. For a summary of individual engagement activities, see Appendix C: Engagement Summary. Key themes from all the engagement activities are as follows:



Appreciation for Existing Parks and Programs.

There is widespread appreciation for Lakewood's existing parks and programs, with high praise for their maintenance and cleanliness. These parks hold significant emotional value, especially for long-term residents and children. The diverse recreation programs and city events are commended for their uniqueness. RCS Department staff are recognized for their responsiveness and effective fiscal management. Established programs are rated as very good, with many opportunities to do many recreation activities and programming that the community enjoys.



Importance of Close-to-Home Parks.

Nearly half of respondents reported visiting parks weekly, and many walk to parks, which underscores the importance of having easily accessible parks within walking distance of residents.



Desires for More Recreation Facilities.

There is a strong desire for more recreation facilities, including more soccer fields, indoor basketball courts, pool upgrades for expanded use, exercise areas and fitness courts, and more soft-surface or unpaved trails for walking, jogging or dog walking.



Greater Variety of Recreation Facilities.

The community desires unique and diverse facilities such as specialized play features and playgrounds (e.g., nature play, water play, destination play), skateparks, bike pump tracks and dedicated pickleball courts. The community is excited about park facility renovations and the creation of modern, improved accessibility for children with disabilities, particularly for teens. Additionally, there is a desire to add splash pads and water play areas for families and expand dog-friendly areas. Adding more natural and passive areas with native plantings, along with additional community gardens was also identified. There were numerous comments on adding more drinking fountains with bottle fill stations.



Recreation Building Enhancements.

The community wants enhanced or expanded park buildings that include meeting spaces, indoor gyms for basketball and a community theater or public gathering space. They also emphasized the importance of having modern facilities equipped with technology to support various activities and events.



Partnership Opportunities.

Collaborating with community groups and businesses presents opportunities for growth. There is also a call for increased support and collaboration with local businesses for events and resources. Residents feel that expanding partnerships with local schools and organizations is important.



Photos showing Long-Range Plan community engagement pop-up events.



Expanded Trails and Connectivity.

The community expressed a strong interest in enhancing and expanding trails and paths, including adding fitness paths and outdoor workout equipment along trails. There is also a desire for safer, cleaner, and more accessible paths along the San Gabriel riverbed, and better connections to parks and shopping centers, particularly the Lakewood Mall and other commercial shopping centers. Suggestions include e-bike lanes, equestrian trails, lighted crosswalks at busy intersections, and unpaved or padded trails for walking, jogging, and nature hikes. Additionally, the community wants the city to landscape or otherwise beautify areas along storm drain channels.



Diversified and Increased Programming.

The community prioritizes the provision of more diverse and affordable programming for all ages, focusing on special events such as concerts and cultural diversity activities, arts, crafts, fitness and wellness classes. Desired family-focused activities include entertainment, food events and educational activities, with a strong emphasis on STEAM (science, technology, engineer, arts, and math) initiatives and family-friendly entertainment like movie nights, magic shows, and live music. For seniors, there is a desire for enhanced health and fitness programs, arts and crafts classes and travel excursion programs. Additional teen programming and events are desired, such as mentoring, educational programs, life skills courses, food preparation and sampling, and access to dance, movies, or performance spaces including small amphitheaters or stages. Ensuring ADA accessibility and supporting adaptive recreation and Special Olympics are critical goals.

The community also advocates for more inclusive programs, such as therapeutic facilities, adaptive pickleball and mentoring programs, as well as expanding teen programming to include more culturally relevant events.



Safety and Maintenance.

Maintaining clean and safe parks is of paramount importance, and there is a desire to address issues related to homeless populations in parks. There is a strong call for new or remodeled restroom facilities with enhanced security and lighting in parks. Increased police presence and more neighborhood watch groups were suggested to improve safety. Continuing to provide routine maintenance at parks and facilities was identified as important.



Community Engagement, Communication, and Inclusiveness.

Re-engaging the community after the pandemic and improving communication with non-digital users has been challenging. Residents noted a desire for enhanced translation services, ADA accommodations, and targeted diversity, equity and inclusion efforts. Effective community engagement through promotion and involving non-profits and organizations is also highlighted. Enhanced communication using various platforms is desired to keep the community informed and engaged, with social media being a preferred method while maintaining flexibility for different age groups.



Different generations of Lakewood residents weigh in on the future of their parks and recreation system.



A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, there is a paved walkway with a textured surface. To the left, a playground structure with a slide and climbing equipment is visible. In the background, there are several tall evergreen trees and a fence. The sky is clear and blue.

CHAPTER 4

CONNECTING

PEOPLE TO

PARKS



CHAPTER 4

CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PARKS

Access to parks and recreation spaces is essential for the well-being of individuals and communities alike. Ensuring that everyone has access to these spaces promotes healthier lifestyles, supports mental and emotional well-being, and encourages a sense of community. Moreover, equitable access to parks and recreation spaces is a critical step toward creating sustainable, vibrant cities where all residents can thrive, regardless of socioeconomic status or location.

Overall, Lakewood boasts a robust and well-distributed park system that is exceptionally well-maintained, thoughtfully programmed, and deeply valued by its residents. Building on this strong foundation, the City continues to adapt to the needs of a growing and diversifying population, shifting community priorities, emerging recreation trends, and opportunities to enhance access and experiences across the park system.

Informed by the community engagement findings (presented in Chapter 3 and Appendix D: Equity, Access and Needs Assessment), this chapter summarizes key needs and opportunities related to:

- Increasing access to parks and facilities;
- Providing high-quality parks and recreation spaces;
- Improving parks and trails;
- Diversifying recreation programs, events and community services; and
- Maintaining and stewarding parks, facilities, and trails.



PARK AND FACILITY ACCESS

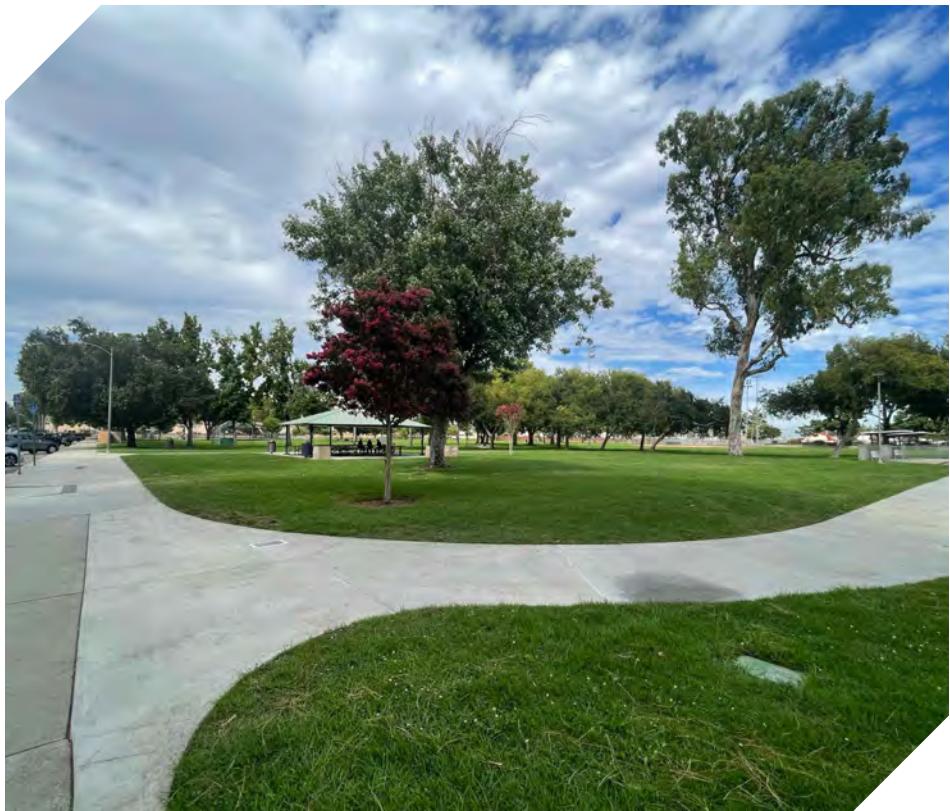
PARKS WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE

Parkland distribution, barriers to access, and land ownership patterns all shape how Lakewood residents experience the city's parks and recreation facilities. Impressively, approximately 70% of residents live within a 10-minute walk (one-half mile) of a park—meeting the national access standard promoted by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This reflects the foresight of past planning efforts that prioritized

neighborhood-based parks as part of Lakewood's development pattern. To extend this legacy, the city is also exploring ways to reach the remaining 30% of residents who live beyond walking distance to a park. These "underserved" areas—identified on the Park Access Map (Figure 4-1)—highlight opportunities for future investment through new parks where feasible, enhanced access routes, or creative partnerships such as joint-use agreements with schools and other public facilities to expand equitable park access citywide.



Percentage of city residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park

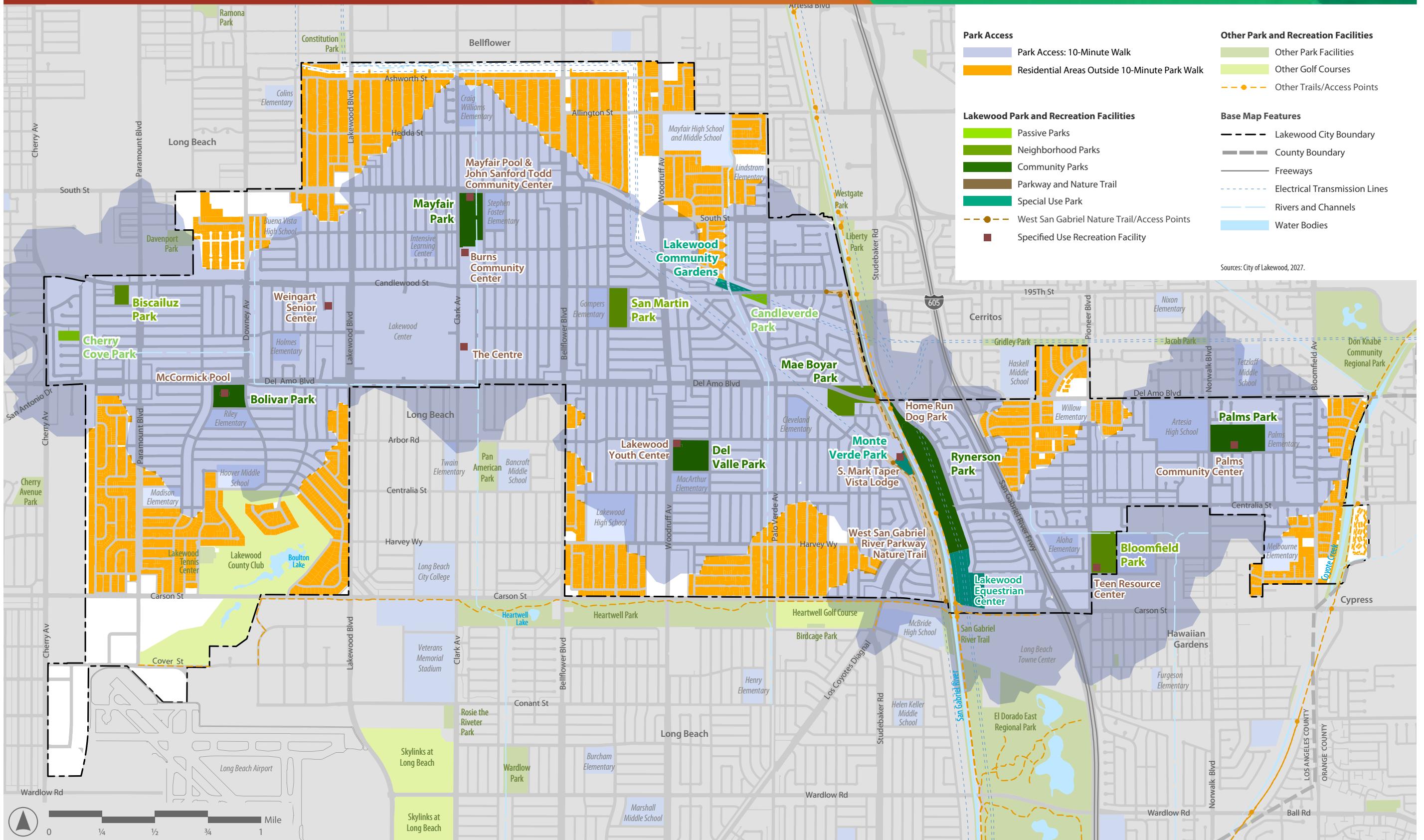


Safe and comfortable routes to and within parks is vital.

Lakewood Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Long-Range Plan



FIGURE 4-1. PARK ACCESS MAP (10-MINUTE WALK)



PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK



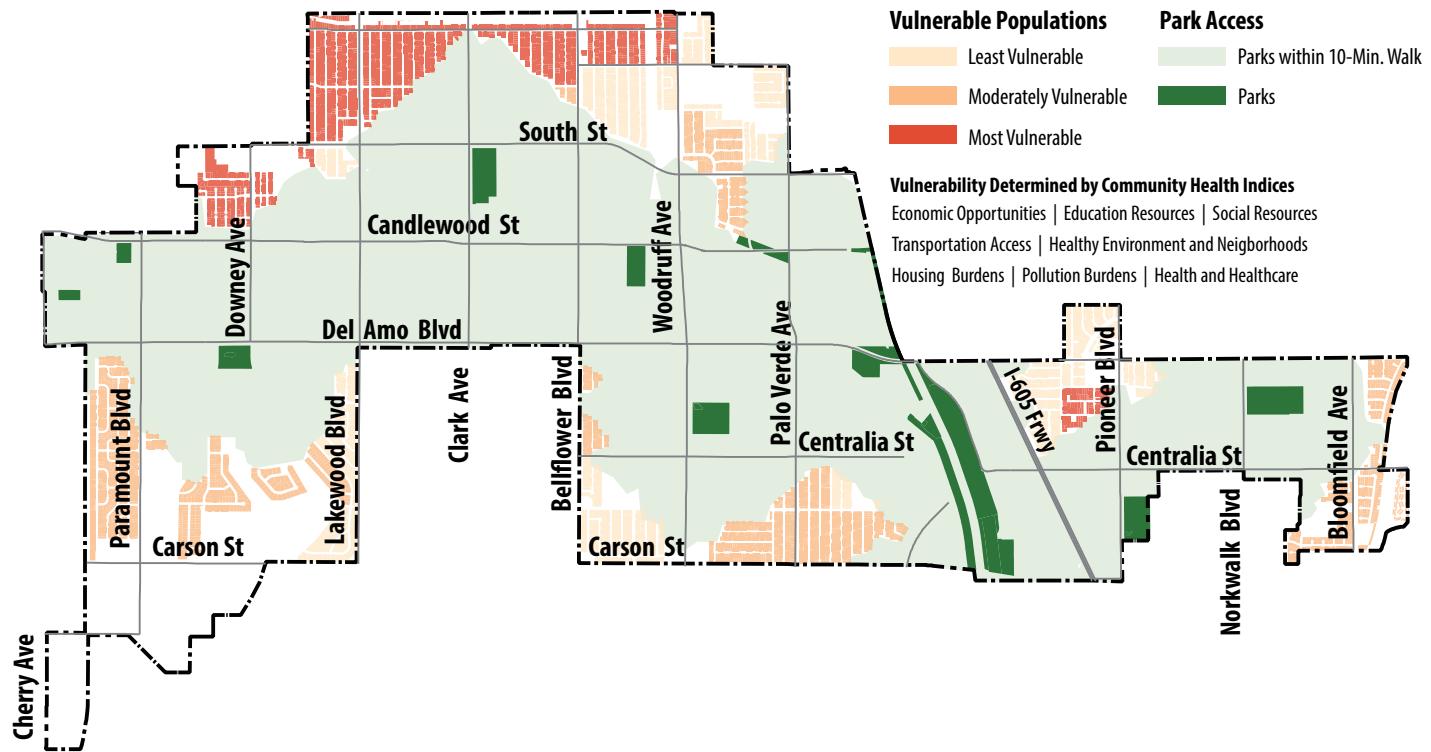
POPULATION VULNERABILITY

Population vulnerability factors – ranging from economic opportunities; education and social resources; transportation access; the presence of a healthy environment and neighborhoods; housing and pollution burdens; health and healthcare access; population density; and more – also contribute to the urgency for park and recreation spaces within Lakewood's neighborhoods. Vulnerable populations often have greater park needs due to limited access to recreation spaces, lower mobility, and higher health disparities, making nearby parks essential for physical and mental well-being.



Active lifestyles support health and wellness.

FIGURE 4-2. POPULATION VULNERABILITY AND PARK ACCESS



Source: MIG 2024, with data from Healthy Places Index, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, Child Opportunity Index, TCAC/HCD Opportunity Area Mapping, and UrbanFootprint Population.



Grooving at the 2023 Concerts in the Park event.



ACCESS TO SPORTS FIELDS AND COURTS

Sports fields such as baseball/softball diamonds and rectangular fields for football and soccer are well-distributed and available in most Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks (see Figure 4-3).

Sports courts are generally distributed throughout Lakewood. Most Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks feature multi-use courts, typically including basketball courts, along with a mix of volleytennis and pickleball courts.

Because most Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks offer sports fields, sports diamonds, and sports courts, there is need for additional sport facilities in neighborhoods that lack these park types.

ACCESS TO MAJOR RECREATION FACILITIES

Major Recreation Facilities include sports fields and courts, community centers, and swimming pools. Major Recreation Facilities are larger footprint spaces that tend to serve larger community groups and support organized recreation programs. They also require staffing and typically involve more city investment, resources, operations, and management.

Community Centers

Lakewood has eight community centers that are fairly well-distributed throughout the city; however, specialty centers such as the Weingart Senior Center and the Lakewood Youth Center may be difficult for distant residents to reach.

Swimming Pools

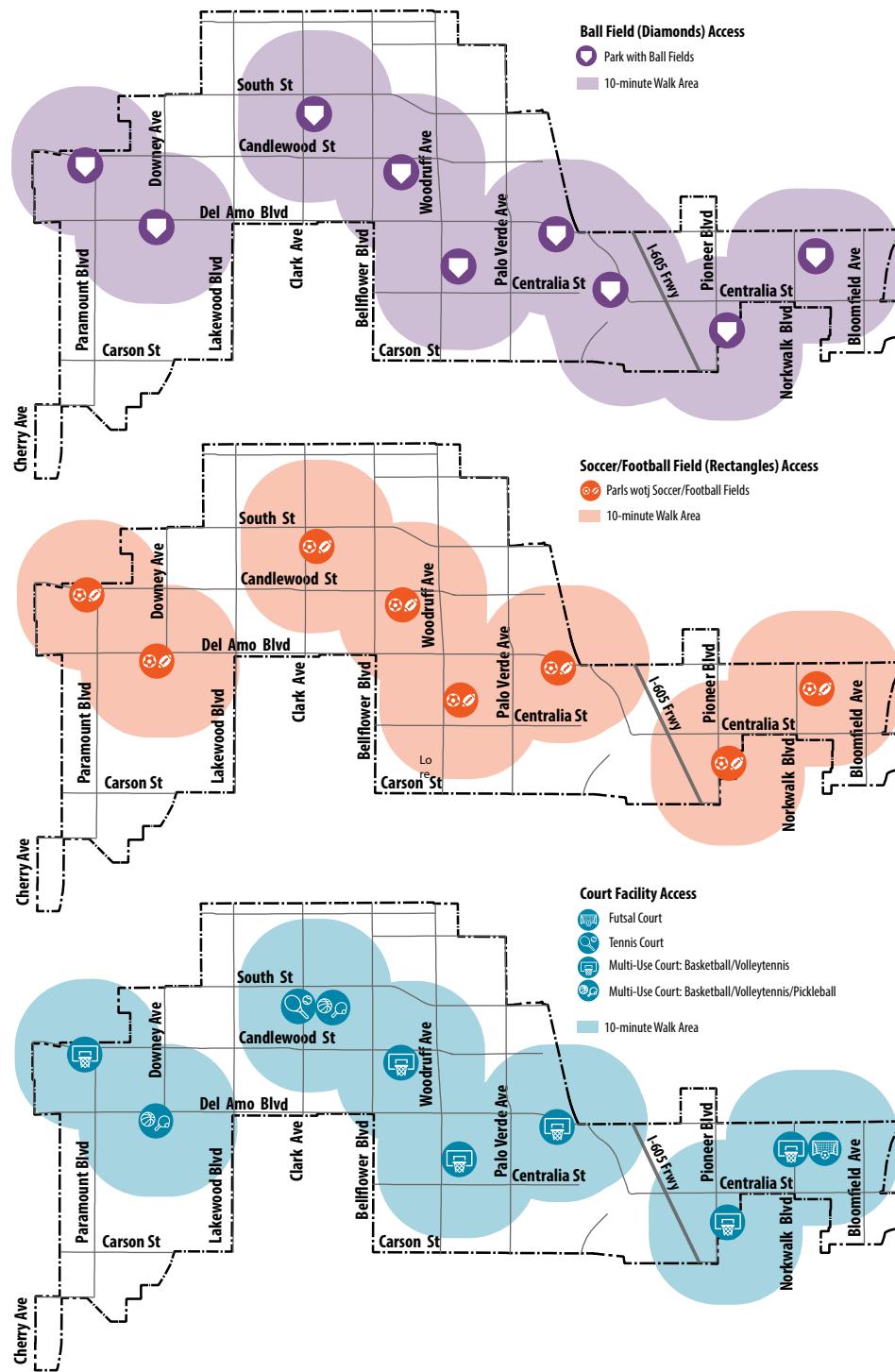
Lakewood's two swimming pools are located in the central and western parts of the city. Neighborhoods east of the San Gabriel River, south of Del Amo Blvd., and east of Woodruff Ave. must travel further to reach a City swimming pool.



Lakewood youth cool off at McCormick Pool at Bolivar Park.



FIGURE 4-3. SPORTS FIELDS AND COURTS ACCESS (10-MIN WALK)



Source: MIG 2024



QUALITY PARK AND FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

SUFFICIENT PARK ACREAGE

Cities should strive to provide sufficient parkland to meet the needs of current residents while also planning for the evolving needs of future residents. One common method for assessing parkland sufficiency is through a Parkland Level of Service (LOS) standard, which measures the amount of parkland provided relative to population size—typically expressed as acres per 1,000 residents. This benchmark helps communities evaluate whether their current supply of parkland meets current and forecasted future demand and informs future park planning efforts.

As of 2024, Lakewood provides 207.6 acres of parkland for its population of 80,162, resulting in a LOS of 2.6 acres per 1,000 residents.

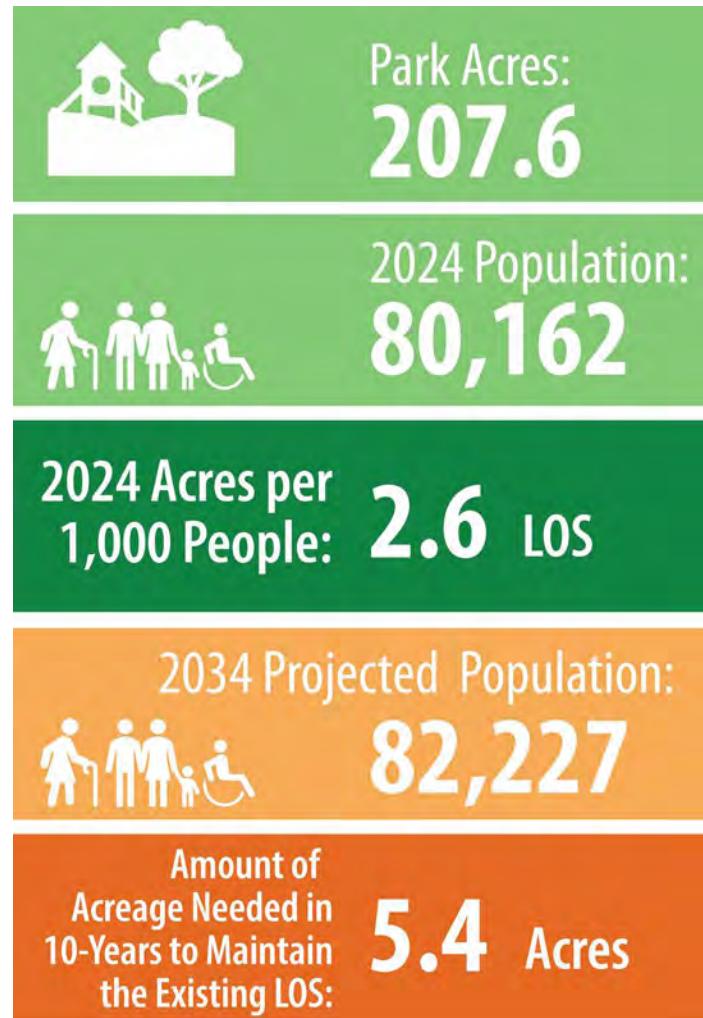
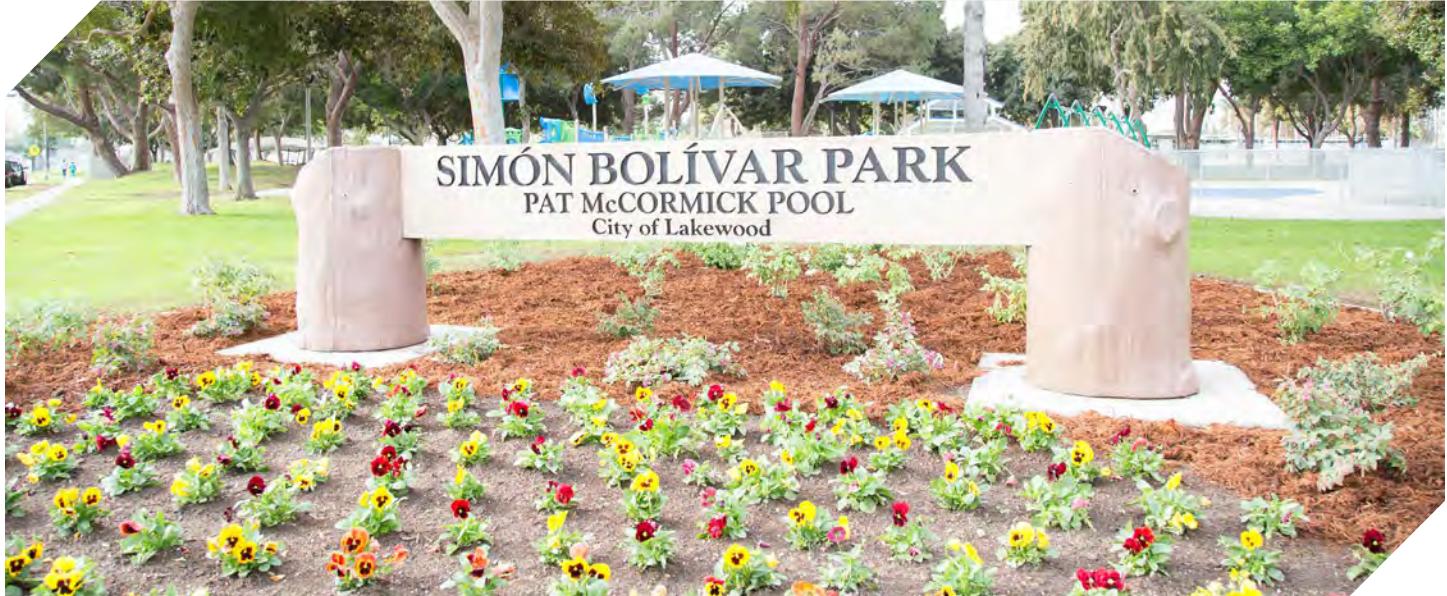


FIGURE 4-4. LAKEWOOD PARKLAND LOS COMPARISON

Parkland Level of Service
for City of Lakewood:
2.6 acres per 1,000 residents

Median Parkland Level of Service
for CA cities of similar size:
3.3 acres per 1,000 residents



The current Bolívar Park Playground opened in 2016.

Based on the Equity, Access and Needs Assessment conducted as part of this planning process, key findings are noted below (see Appendix D for details).

- Lakewood's current LOS of 2.6 acres per 1,000 residents falls below the median of similarly sized California cities (3.3 acres), according to NRPA's Park Metrics.
- Half of the city's total park acreage is provided by its Community Parks.
- To maintain its current LOS as the population grows, Lakewood would need to add approximately 5.4 acres of parkland over the next ten years.
- Without additional parkland, the city's LOS is projected to decline slightly to 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents by 2034.

While Lakewood may be considered "deficient" in park acreage by LOS standards, it's important to recognize the city's built-out nature and limited availability of undeveloped land. The challenge of acquiring new parkland is compounded by high land and development costs, making large-scale expansion unlikely. However, this reality also presents an opportunity to focus on enhancing and reimagining existing parks to better serve a growing and diversifying population.

Moving forward, efforts to improve park access and quality could prioritize creative strategies such as upgrading existing facilities, making more efficient use of underutilized spaces, and exploring joint-use agreements with schools or other institutions. If opportunities for land acquisition arise, adding smaller Neighborhood Parks or Passive Parks can help improve local access, while strategic investments in larger Community Parks will be important to meet broader recreation needs.



RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

To meet the evolving demands of Lakewood's growing population, the city must strive to provide sufficient recreation facilities that cater to a diverse range of activities. As of 2024, the City of Lakewood offers more than 100 recreation facilities and play spaces (such as baseball fields and tennis courts), with an additional 900 amenities (such as benches, grills, and picnic tables). This large inventory of recreation assets requires diligent maintenance, management, and resource planning for long-term upkeep.

CONDITION ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES

Based on a condition assessment conducted in late 2023, the majority of park and recreation assets are rated as excellent, good, or fair. However, assets flagged as poor or non-functional should be prioritized for repair or replacement. Addressing these issues promptly will ensure the comfort and safety of users.

SUFFICIENT RECREATION FACILITIES

A growing population can lead to overcrowding and overuse of recreation facilities, while also contributing to the underuse or deterioration of facilities that have become outdated or no longer meet the interests of current residents. As a landlocked city that is mostly built-out, Lakewood has intensively developed its current park space, but it is limited in its ability to provide additional recreation facilities, diverse facilities, large-footprint facilities, and single-use facilities. Instead, the city has creatively employed multi-use courts and fields to accommodate demand for varied sports. In order to continue serving the current and growing population, the city will need

to regularly assess demand for facility types and pivot-as-needed to meet that demand. For further details, see Appendix D: Equity, Access and Needs Assessment.

CHALLENGING FEATURES AND UNIQUE FACILITIES

As Lakewood looks to the future of their park and recreation system, more non-conventional sports and recreation options are needed to attract new users, engage people with parks and appeal to specific groups that are commonly overlooked in recreation facility programming. For example, teens and active users may be drawn to challenge features such as bike pump tracks, climbing walls, ziplines and obstacle courses. Another target group might be older adults, for whom acupressure pathways, fitness stations, or sensory gardens hold appeal for less-intense ways to recreate in parks.



Staff assessing court conditions at Bloomfield Park



OPTIMIZED USE OF EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION SPACE

An alternative approach to increasing parkland and recreation facilities is to optimize the use of current sites through extended hours, evening lighting, improved designs, small-footprint recreation additions and other creative actions. Such actions will have associated capital or operational costs but are expected to be less costly than the acquisition or development of new parks or facilities.

Examples of Park Optimization

Reconfigure Field Layouts. Convert single-use fields into multi-purpose spaces by adjusting field sizes and orientations to accommodate different sports (e.g., rotating soccer fields to accommodate the overlay of the outfield of smaller diamond fields), thereby maximizing usage and allowing for a greater variety of activities without needing additional space.

Enhance Accessibility. Improve pathways, entrances, and parking to ensure parks are accessible to larger groups of people.

Upgrade Amenities. Update or add amenities such as seating, shade structures, water fountains, restrooms, and picnic areas, to accommodate more park users and visitors.

Improve Lighting and Safety. Install or upgrade lighting along pathways and in key areas to extend park usability into the evening to extend park use.

Multi-use Spaces. Redesign existing spaces to accommodate multiple activities, such as converting open fields into flexible-use areas for sports, community events, or casual gatherings.

Signage and Wayfinding. Introduce clear signage for navigation, park rules, and information about available amenities.





PARK SAFETY AND COMFORT

Safety and comfort at parks are paramount to creating spaces that feel inclusive and welcoming to all. Parks are used by people in different ways and should encourage compatible, diverse activities. However, like all public spaces, it can be a challenge to balance the varied needs of park users and maintain a high level of safety and comfort for all.

Concerns around safety may center on personal safety and the deterrence of criminal activity or unwanted behavior. Safety can also relate to the condition of park spaces, facilities and amenities. It is vital that parks are maintained to avoid broken or damaged equipment, uneven or cracked court flooring, hazardous landscaping or overgrowth and other elements of potential safety risks due to natural or expected deterioration.

Supporting visitor comfort is closely related to safety. This extends to ensuring that all people – regardless of age, ability or ethnicity – feel welcome in park and recreation spaces, such as through bilingual signs, diverse programmatic offerings, ADA-compliant structures and pathways and specialized play structures that are accessible to all.



Safety measures at parks and playgrounds for even the youngest users.



CLIMATE RESILIENT PARKS

As the climate evolves the city will need to adapt its park design, development, and maintenance practices. In the case of Southern California, increasing temperatures, lengthened periods of drought, frequency of intense heat and other changes result in different needs for park design and management. In the future, parks will need more shade, water fountains, shaded playgrounds, strategic planting of shade trees and cooling facilities such as spray grounds. As heat affects recreation patterns—with people exercising in the early mornings, evenings, and seasonally when temperatures are cooler, changes in park design and maintenance may be needed. Park design may incorporate more field or pathway lighting, drought-tolerant and native landscaping, shade trees, and rest points. Management of parks should consider resource allocation for irrigation, maintenance, staff comfort and long-term environmental planning.

Comments from engagement activities and trends analysis related to climate resiliency include:

- **Shade and Comfort.** There is a strong desire for increased shade in playgrounds and tot lot areas, with specific requests for shade structures at playgrounds and seating areas.
- **Air Conditioning.** Upgrading older facility buildings to include air conditioning and providing indoor spaces for protection from the heat would also enhance visitor comfort.

- **Water Activities.** Suggestions were made to replace older wading pools with new splash pads and add children's water play features that include shade.
- **Native Plants and Wildlife Habitat.** Residents desire more native plants and natural areas within developed parks, such as landscaping that provides habitats for birds and butterflies.
- **Climate Resiliency.** Parks are evolving into essential components of climate adaptation strategies, integrating features such as stormwater retention, expanded urban tree canopies and shaded areas.



Milkweed plants along the Nature Trail offers habitat for native California Monarch butterflies.



PARK AND TRAIL CONNECTIVITY

ROUTES TO PARKS

The planning process included an evaluation of travel routes to parks to address opportunities to enhance park connectivity and access via bicycle, walking, and public and DASH transit. The provision of well-designed sidewalks, pathways, bike lanes, and public transportation options often requires coordination with other departments to address infrastructure and potential barriers outside of parks. These barriers may include the lack of sidewalks, busy roads without crosswalks, areas with frequent vehicle collisions, or physical obstacles such as freeways, rivers, or drainage corridors that make it more difficult to reach parks. However, the need to improve infrastructure is recognized as a key opportunity to enhance park access and connectivity.

Bicycle Access to City Parks

Most parks in Lakewood have limited or moderate bike connectivity, with only a few parks offering good bike access via bike paths, lanes, or routes.

To support bike and pedestrian access, ideally Community Parks and Major Recreation Facilities will be accessible by Class I bike paths or Class II bike lanes (as defined in the sidebar below). Ideally, Neighborhood Parks and Passive Parks will be accessible by sidewalks to support pedestrian access, with bike access provided through local streets.



Bicycle Class Types

Class I (Bike Paths). Dedicated bike paths that are completely separated from vehicle traffic, providing a safe, off-road space for cyclists.

Class II (Bike Lanes). On-street bike lanes marked by painted lines and symbols, running parallel to vehicle traffic but separated by a visible boundary.

Class III (Bike Routes). Shared roadways marked with signs or painted sharrows, where cyclists share the lane with vehicles via limited dedicated space.

An attendee bikes to Del Valle Park for a Summer Concert in the Park event.



Trail Access to City Parks

Lakewood is served by three transit agencies: Long Beach Transit, Metro, and Orange County Transportation Authority. Besides buses, the city's DASH transit service provides free transportation for Lakewood residents aged 60 and older who do not have access to their own transportation, as well as for disabled residents of any age. DASH transit is not integrated into the transit access analysis to city parks and facilities.

The analysis conducted as part of this Plan indicates that most Community Parks and Major Recreation Facilities are easily accessible via transit lines. One exception is the Weingart Senior Center, whose nearest bus stop is a moderate walk, which can pose challenges for seniors with mobility issues. In this context, DASH serves as a valuable option to bridge this transit gap.

Pedestrian and Street Safety

Pedestrian safety is essential when walking to parks, as it ensures that community members can access these spaces comfortably and without fear of accidents. Safe pedestrian routes encourage more people, including children, seniors, and individuals with mobility challenges, to walk to parks, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. Well-designed sidewalks, crosswalks, and traffic-calming measures such as speed bumps and signage help protect pedestrians from potential hazards.

A pedestrian safety analysis, conducted as part of this planning process, coupled with community input, highlighted a need for increased pedestrian safety measures at larger parks which tend to be located on or near major roadways and therefore experience more automobile collisions, speeding, and vehicular traffic.

Neighborhood Traffic Calming Report

The City of Lakewood has taken a proactive approach to addressing traffic safety through a Neighborhood Traffic Calming Report. These efforts analyze community concerns, collision data, and street conditions to identify locations where traffic calming measures can enhance neighborhood livability and pedestrian safety. Key corridors such as Clark Avenue, Del Amo Boulevard, Palo Verde Avenue, and Studebaker Road emerged as priority areas. Recommended strategies include high-visibility signage, pedestrian signal upgrades, speed feedback signs, and design interventions like lane reductions, additional parking, and traffic circles. Improvements also focus on enhancing safety at uncontrolled crosswalks throughout the city. Together, these efforts support broader goals of creating safer, more walkable neighborhoods and improving access to parks, schools, and community destinations.



TRAIL CONNECTIONS

According to the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) 2024 Parks Metrics, cities with a population similar to Lakewood's typically provide a median of 18 miles of trails and greenways. However, Lakewood has only 1.7 miles of trails, all of which consist of the West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail (Table 4-1). Sidewalks around parks, which some people use for fitness walking, are not technically counted as trails. Compared to similarly sized communities, Lakewood's trail mileage ranks in the lowest quartile, falling approximately 15 miles short of the median target.

The West San Gabriel River Parkway Nature Trail features a scenic, meandering path made of decomposed granite, offering a more natural trail experience. In contrast, the rest of Lakewood's trail network primarily consists of concrete sidewalks along park perimeters. Most parks

include both perimeter sidewalks and internal walkways for walking and circulation. The Nature Trail is Lakewood's most popular recreation facility, frequently cited by residents for its immersive natural experience.

The City of Long Beach, as of 2025, is also working to extend the Nature Trail through their city and closer to the Pacific Ocean. Public engagement findings highlighted the need for safer connections and improved access to the Nature Trail, such as the creation of a pedestrian bridge over the riverbed connecting Rynerson Park to the Nature Trail. A request for a pedestrian gate at Los Coyotes Diagonal reflects a desire for better access to the trail system. Some respondents, particularly from the western parts of the city, noted the lack of nearby nature trails, emphasizing the need for more accessible nature walks in residential areas.



The Nature Trail runs alongside a portion of the San Gabriel River.



TABLE 4-1. TRAIL AND PATHWAY TYPES AND MILEAGE

FACILITY NAME	MILEAGE	TYPE	LOCATION TYPE
Biscailuz Park	0.3	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
Bloomfield Park	0.5	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
Bolivar Park	0.5	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
Boyar Park	0.5	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
Del Valle Park	0.6	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
Mayfair Park	0.5	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
San Gabriel River Nature Trail	1.7	Decomposed granite walking trail	Meandering trail through park
Palms Park	0.7	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
Rynerson Park	1.0	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
San Martin Park	0.5	Concrete sidewalk	Park perimeter
TOTAL	6.8	N/A	



NEEDS FOR RECREATION PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

Lakewood offers a broad range of recreation programs, classes, and events across 15 different program areas. As the city's population grows and demographics shift, demand for these services is expected to change. Key findings from community engagement and program data needs analysis include:

- **General Programming.** There's a strong demand for expanded evening and weekend programs, with a focus on more options for working adults, children, teens and families. Requests include more inclusive and accessible programs for individuals with disabilities and lower-cost classes to improve affordability.
- **Senior Programming.** Seniors have expressed interest in more affordable trips, fitness classes, arts/crafts and social activities. There's also a need for expanded mental health wellness programs and senior-friendly exercise options, including tai chi and pickleball.
- **Teen and Family Programming.** Teens want more recreation and educational opportunities, including food-related programs, rock climbing and fitness activities. Families also desire more flexible, drop-in events and entertainment options like movie nights and live performances.
- **Adaptive and Therapeutic Recreation.** There's a demand for more programs tailored to individuals with special needs, including adaptive aquatics, art classes and therapeutic recreation. Additionally, community events focused on inclusion are desired.
- **Sports and Aquatics.** Lakewood's sports and aquatics programs are highly popular, particularly baseball, basketball, and recreation swim. There's a significant demand for expanded pool usage and additional program space to reduce waitlists, especially in aquatics.
- **Special Events.** Major events like the Pan Am Fiesta and Civic Center Block Party are large, successful gatherings that continue to attract sizable crowds, emphasizing the need to maintain culturally diverse programs that reflect the evolving population.

In summary, Lakewood residents are seeking a wider variety of programs, with an emphasis on inclusivity, accessibility, and expansion of sports and aquatics offerings. The city's special events and family programming also remain vital components of community engagement.



People enjoying the Lakewood Civic Center Block Party



CHAPTER 5

LOOKING

AHEAD



CHAPTER 5

LOOKING AHEAD

As Lakewood continues to evolve, its parks, facilities, and recreation programs and events must adapt to meet the changing needs of the community. This chapter presents the vision for the future of the city's parks and recreation system, guiding the Department of Recreation & Community Services in enhancing and expanding its offerings. It outlines key recommendations that reflect the city's commitment to safety, accessibility, diversity, connectivity, and environmental resilience.

This chapter identifies citywide goals and key strategies to guide future investments and improvements in Lakewood's parks and recreation system. It establishes a strategic framework to enhance amenities, infrastructure, and long-term stewardship, ensuring the city's parks remain a valuable asset for generations to come.

In preparing citywide park and recreation goals, it was important to reflect the city's vision, mission, and values to ensure alignment with larger city initiatives and community character.



The City's 70th City Anniversary luncheon at the Weingart Senior Center.



CITY VISION

To be a welcoming and thriving community where everyone can live, work and play in a safe and healthy environment.

CITY MISSION

To enhance the quality of life of the Lakewood community by providing efficient public services that are responsive and fiscally prudent and with a commitment to legendary customer service.

CITY VALUES

- **Legendary Customer Service**
- **Honest, Ethical and Trustworthy**
- **Fiscally Responsible and Financially Prudent**
- **Responsive and Accountable**
- **Equitable, Diverse and Inclusive**
- **Teamwork and Collaboration**



Pan Am Fiesta



CITYWIDE GOALS AND KEY STRATEGIES

The community's aspirations and needs for Lakewood's parks, parkways, recreation facilities, and programs are the guiding forces for the Plan. This document identifies eight goals for the park and recreation system, along with the strategies that will guide city staff in implementing projects, programs, and services to achieve the community's vision. These strategies provide overarching directions for park system management. Specific site recommendations to improve city parks and facilities are presented separately.



1 **SAFE, WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS & FACILITIES**



2 **IMPROVED PARK & FACILITY ACCESS**



3 **UNIQUE, DIVERSE, PARKS & FACILITIES**



4 **IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY**



5 **INCLUSIVE & VIBRANT PROGRAMS & EVENTS**



6 **RESILIENT & SUSTAINABLE GREENSPACE**



7 **FORWARD THINKING MANAGEMENT & STRATEGIC INVESTMENT**



8 **PARTNERSHIPS THAT ENHANCE COMMUNITY IMPACT**



GOAL 1. SAFE, WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS AND FACILITIES

Prioritize safe, well-maintained facilities through design, asset management, efficient resource use, tiered maintenance, and coordination with public safety providers.

1.1 Prioritize Deferred Maintenance for Safety and Usability.

Focus on addressing deferred maintenance needs to ensure the safety and usability of recreation facilities.

1.2 Replace Old and Worn Facilities.

Renovate or replace old and worn outdoor recreation facilities and amenities at the end of their lifecycles. Use data on facility age and condition to schedule and set aside funding for ongoing repair and replacement. [See also 7.1 Implement a Comprehensive Asset Management System.]

1.3 Apply CPTED Principles When Renovating or Developing Parks.

Address park safety by integrating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to guide the placement of facilities, visibility and site lines into the park, and other safety practices. Before replacing facilities at the end of their lifecycles with a similar element, determine whether a different alignment, location, access or facility style would enhance park visibility or safety.

1.4 Enhance Park Safety by Addressing Ongoing Nuisances.

Collaborate with the Department of Public Safety to increase Public Safety Officers (PSOs) and law enforcement presence in parks to address nuisance behaviors in parks, such as smoking, drug use, off-leash dogs and loud music, as well as more serious concerns such as vandalism and personal safety crimes. Consider contracting with an independent services contractor that provides assistance, support and resource referrals when dealing with people in parks who are loitering or are homeless.



Prioritizing safe and fun spaces for youth



GOAL 1. SAFE, WELL-MAINTAINED PARKS AND FACILITIES (CONT.)

1.5 Ensure Adequate Staffing for Park Maintenance and Management.

Maintain sufficient staffing levels to oversee routine and preventative park maintenance effectively. As population and housing growth increases park visitation and usage, particularly at heavily utilized sites, the city will need to increase its maintenance efforts. This may involve hiring additional staff, increasing maintenance funding, implementing efficiency-focused initiatives, and reallocating resources to address evolving demands.

1.6 Identify Service Tiers for Maintenance.

To ensure a consistent, system-wide approach to park maintenance, establish defined service levels and maintenance standards for various park elements (e.g., athletic turf, exterior facilities). A three-tiered maintenance system should be implemented:

- **Level 1:** High-profile areas with the most frequent maintenance.
- **Level 2:** Moderately used areas with standard maintenance frequency.
- **Level 3:** Low-use or budget-limited areas with minimal maintenance.

Adjust maintenance standards seasonally and align with staffing, tools and cost calculations to ensure operational efficiency and uniformity across similar park assets. Apply demand-based maintenance in areas where maintenance conditions minimally impact user experience.



Protecting the Lakewood community



GOAL 2. IMPROVED PARK AND FACILITY ACCESS

Distribute parks, remove barriers, and improve park access to and within parks to meet or exceed the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

2.1 Gradually Increase Park and Facility Acreage to Support a Growing Population.

Strive to increase park acreage through innovative means to sustain the current park level of service (2.6 acres per 1,000 residents) as the community grows. This may include acquiring new parkland, establishing joint-use partnerships, requiring developers to provide greenspace or recreation facilities and other strategic approaches to increase park and facility acreage across the city and in target locations.

2.2 Target Underserved Areas for Additional Recreation Opportunities.

Focus on enhancing recreation in underserved parts of the city by prioritizing new parkland, facilities, and partnerships when opportunities arise. As of 2025, approximately nine areas in Lakewood are beyond 0.5 miles from a city park and are considered underserved. Prioritize solutions and investments to introduce more parks space and recreation opportunities, ensuring equitable access to amenities across all neighborhoods. [See also 4.1 Connectivity to Parks.]

2.3 Enhance Park and Facility Accessibility.

Strengthen community access to parks and remove barriers within parks and facilities to enhance accessibility and meet the needs of all users. Upgrade pathways, entrances, and parking areas by adding ramps and accessible parking spaces. Provide universally accessible restrooms and inclusive play areas. Ensure compliance with the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), or exceed standards to create all-inclusive, universal spaces that welcome individuals of all abilities, and better support access to families with small children, parents with strollers and others.

2.4 Create Inclusive Facilities for Diverse Abilities.

When adding or replacing park facilities, ensure that designs and recreation programs reflect the needs of individuals with physical disabilities, autism, neurodiversity, ADHD, sensory processing disorders, mental health needs (e.g., anxiety, depression) and an aging population. This includes accessible pathways, sensory-friendly spaces and inclusive play areas with adaptive equipment. Focus on creating safe, quiet zones, multi-sensory activity areas and clear signage with braille and visual icons. Additionally, continue to expand adaptive sports facilities and train park staff regarding inclusive practices to support Lakewood residents and visitors.



GOAL 3. UNIQUE, DIVERSE PARKS AND FACILITIES

Diversify parks and facilities to reflect and support Lakewood's diversity, history, culture, health, and wellbeing.

3.1 Incorporate New and Diverse Opportunities into Lakewood Parks.

Introduce amenities, facilities and art that celebrate Lakewood's history, diversify recreation uses, and align with its future vision. These enhancements could include public art installations, historical themes and references, emerging sports facilities, flexible-use social spaces, innovative play areas, and engaging challenge features that cater to diverse community interests.

3.2 Diversify Facilities Through Asset Replacement.

When replacing facilities, consider community needs and desires for new or different types of facilities. Avoid like-for-like replacements (similar styles and footprints) if new trends can be incorporated, to maximize future facility use and provide unique recreation options.

3.3 Enhance Visitor Comfort and Park Use.

Upgrade and expand basic park amenities to improve the overall visitor experience. Focus on adding comfortable seating, shade structures, water refill stations, well-maintained restrooms, clear signage, and secure aesthetic bike racks to make parks welcoming, convenient and accessible for all users, including families, seniors, and individuals with disabilities.

3.4 Support Health and Fitness in Parks.

Promote public health by adding and improving facilities such as pickleball courts, outdoor fitness equipment, sports courts and walking/jogging trails. Design these spaces to support active lifestyles for all ages, with attention to providing sufficient shade, resting areas and hydration stations near fitness amenities.

3.5 Renovate and Modernize Major Facilities.

Strategically invest in the modernization and renovation of selected recreation buildings and major facilities that require operations, including pools, wading pools, community centers and control buildings, specifically where these support strategic and desired new uses. These upgrades should incorporate modern amenities, energy-efficient designs and accessibility improvements while ensuring that larger-scale renovations are balanced with smaller capital improvement projects and regular maintenance to maintain long-term functionality. Prioritize the renovation of buildings and major facilities based on a set of criteria, including but not limited to condition and safety, usage and demand, accessibility compliance, energy efficiency, programmatic needs, cost effectiveness and available funding. Evaluate the future of wading pools while considering alternatives such as splash pads, balancing historical significance with maintenance, safety, and operational concerns.



GOAL 4. IMPROVED CONNECTIVITY

Enhance trails, bike lanes, park access, and DASH services to connect parks across the city and make it easier for people to reach parks.

4.1 Enhance Connectivity to Parks.

Strengthen connections to parks by providing an integrated network of trails, safe intersections, pedestrian improvements, and bike lanes. In underserved areas, add new or improve access routes to nearby existing parks to better support access within walking distance. Collaborate with other city departments and transit agencies to enhance transit options, pedestrian pathways, bicycle infrastructure, and overall street safety.

4.2 Expand and Improve DASH Accessibility.

Ensure the DASH Transit reservation system is accessible to a wide variety of seniors and disabled residents. Consider factors such as digital literacy, broadband access, language diversity, participant ability, and overall inclusivity. The DASH system may also be expanded, as funding allows, to reach currently underserved areas of the city, to improve park access for all residents.

4.3 Enhance Wayfinding and Signage for Park Access.

Provide clear and effective wayfinding to improve park accessibility and enhance trail use. Continue to provide clear signage and maps throughout the city to direct residents and visitors to parks and community facilities. Incorporate digital tools such as interactive maps or apps to help users discover park locations, routes, and nearby amenities. These efforts will not only make parks more accessible but also encourage exploration and increased park use.



Exercise stations at Rynerson Park



San Gabriel River Nature Trail



GOAL 5. INCLUSIVE AND VIBRANT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Strengthen City programs and events to meet community needs, while carefully prioritizing resource allocation for lasting impact.

5.1 Sustain or Increase Facilities that Support High-Demand Programs.

Continue to track program participation and waitlists to prioritize enhancements to revenue-generating facilities and highly programmed facilities, such as swimming pools and an indoor gymnasium and/or indoor fitness space. Consider facility expansion and partnerships to reduce waitlists for popular programs such as aquatics and gymnastics.

5.2 Enhance Recreation Programs to Serve All Ages.

Expand recreation offerings to better meet community needs, with a focus on underserved age groups. Potential initiatives include STEAM classes for teens, technology education for seniors, sports opportunities for adults, and intergenerational programs that encourage family participation. Regularly assess community interests to ensure programs remain inclusive, relevant and engaging for all residents. Specifically consider the following:

- Senior Programs and Activities.** Expand senior-centered programs, including art and craft classes, adaptive fitness, dance and multi-generational activities. Prioritize additional events in east Lakewood, where opportunities are limited, and schedule more daytime activities to support safer travel for seniors.

- Travel and Excursions.** Enhance travel and excursion opportunities for residents, offering day trips and social outings that promote engagement, exploration and community connection.
- Programs for Working Adults.** Provide more programs for working adults, including weekend and after-work fitness, exercise, socialization, enrichment and skill-building activities to cater to busy schedules.
- Family Programs.** Provide more programs for families, such as parent-and-me classes, activities for children with disabilities and family-oriented events to encourage togetherness and community connection.



Civic Center Block Party



GOAL 5. INCLUSIVE AND VIBRANT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (CONT.)

5.3 Expand Wellness and Fitness Programs for Holistic Health.

Enhance recreation programming by integrating traditional fitness and exercise classes, such as yoga, aerobics, and strength training, alongside holistic wellness initiatives. Offer programs that support social, cultural, and intellectual well-being, including mindfulness activities, arts and culture events, and nutrition-focused workshops. Partner with local health organizations to provide integrated services such as health screenings, mental health resources and wellness education to create a more comprehensive approach to community health. Specifically consider the following:

- **Fitness Classes.** Recruit local fitness organizations and private or contracted instructors to host classes in designated park areas. Consider methods to keep classes affordable through subsidies, low or free space rentals and partnerships.
- **Nutrition and Cooking Classes.** Expand nutrition education by offering hands-on cooking classes. Utilize existing community center kitchens or establish a dedicated teaching kitchen at a central location to enhance learning opportunities, promote healthy eating and provide accessible culinary programs for residents of all ages.
- **Wellness Programs for Seniors.** Incorporate wellness programs for seniors focused on grief, loneliness, and coping to support emotional well-being and connection.



Monte Verde Park summer camp



Lakewood Meals on Wheels volunteers



GOAL 5. INCLUSIVE AND VIBRANT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (CONT.)

5.4 Diversify Recreation Programs to Leverage Existing and New Facilities.

Expand the variety of programming offered in existing parks, but also as new and different types of facilities are added to the park system. Specifically consider the following:

- **Gardening Programs and Environmental Education.** Leverage existing park sites to connect residents to nature and to promote community involvement in sustainable practices. For example, increase education programs in gardening and landscaping.
- **Arts, Crafts, and Cultural Enrichment.** Offer more arts, crafts, and cultural enrichment classes to boost skills and foster social engagement. These may include ceramics, game clubs, language courses, and more.

5.5 Enhance Inclusive and Accessible Recreation Programs.

Expand adaptive and therapeutic recreation opportunities to serve individuals of all abilities, including those with physical disabilities, neurodiversity, and sensory processing differences. Ensure parks and facilities incorporate universal design principles, ADA accessibility, and all-inclusive play features such as wheelchair-accessible equipment and sensory-friendly environments. Strengthen programming with skill-building, socialization, cultural engagement and wellness activities tailored to diverse needs. Improve citywide events by integrating accommodations like sensory-friendly hours, quiet zones, assistive technologies and private viewing areas to foster full community participation.

5.6 Continue to Expand and Diversify City-Hosted Events and Celebrations.

Continue to enhance the city's calendar of events by introducing new community-driven, culturally relevant, and seasonal activities that appeal to residents. Maintain and strengthen historically significant and popular city events that resonate with the community. Leverage parks and public spaces to host events that foster community connections and celebrate Lakewood's history and identity. Partner with local businesses, nonprofits and schools to expand resources and ensure successful execution.

5.7 Implement Mobile and Pop-Up Recreation Programs.

Expand mobile recreation initiatives to provide recreation activities at events and in underserved neighborhoods that lack park access. Mobile recreation vans, pop-up sports clinics and temporary play installations can provide high-quality recreation experiences directly to the community. Coordinate these efforts with local organizations and schools to maximize reach and participation.



Children enjoy Earth Walk 2024.



GOAL 5. INCLUSIVE AND VIBRANT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (CONT.)

5.8 Monitor Data to Discontinue Under-attended Programs.

Use ActiveNet—the City's online class and activity registration program—to determine where programs should be reduced or evaluated to understand barriers to participation. Continue to monitor the following:

- Classes with a low “go versus cancelled ratio” (GCR), such as fine arts instruction, educational classes, workshops, classes, fitness, and arts and crafts.
- Activities with negative participation trends or low capacities (less than 25%), such as tennis, fitness, and educational classes.
- Middle-of-the-week programs, which have lower average enrollments and capacities.
- Early afternoon programs, a timeframe that may be better served by self-directed and drop-in opportunities.

5.9 Track and Use Data to Project Program Needs.

Regularly gather community feedback to adapt programs to emerging needs. Add program location, format, length and time of day analyses to program evaluations to understand localized trends. Expand the use of ActiveNet for both contracted and non-contract classes to inform future programming decisions. Augment data collection methods to consider the use of cell phone data or other facility/event participation counts to anticipate programming and maintenance needs for events and activities not tracked through ActiveNet. Analyze trends to determine which activities drive the highest engagement and align with community needs. Use this data to strategically increase inclusivity, improve resource allocation, maximize revenue potential and design programs that have broad appeal.



Lakewood Summer Concerts in the Park



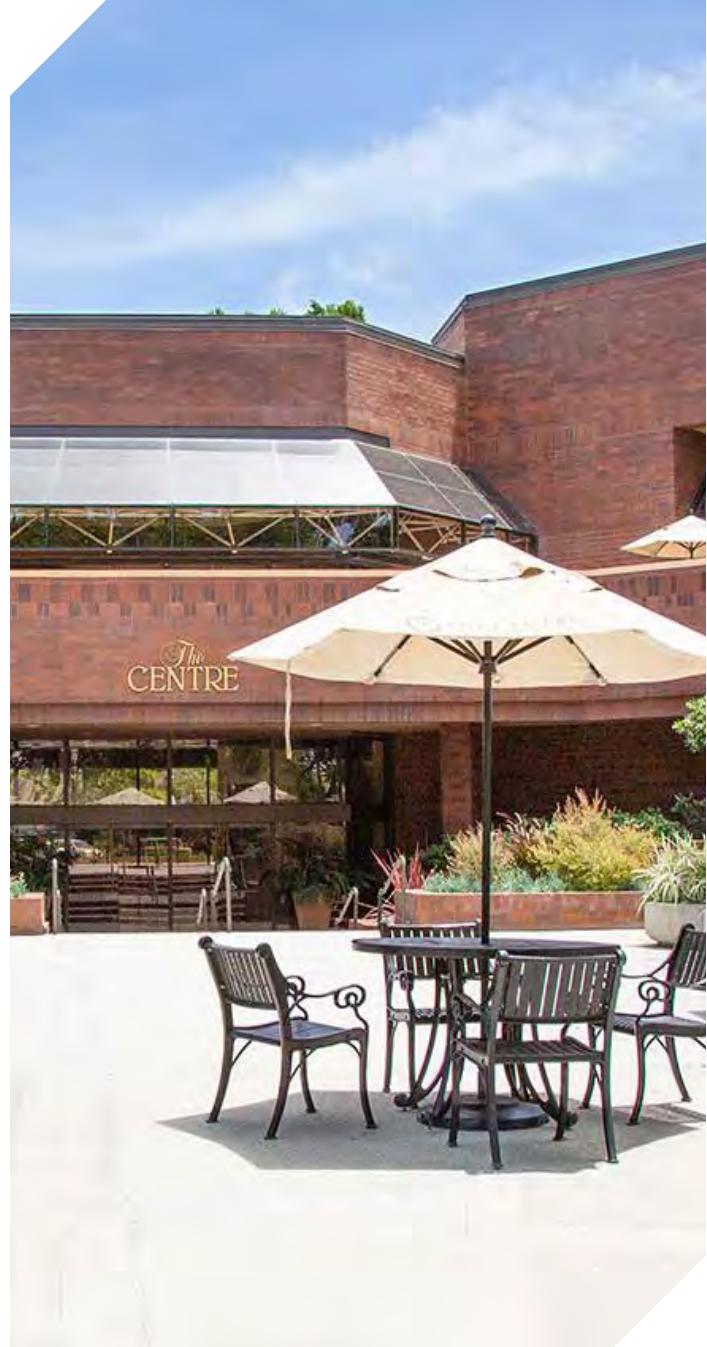
GOAL 5. INCLUSIVE AND VIBRANT PROGRAMS AND EVENTS (CONT.)

5.10 Create Business Plans.

Develop program category business plans every two years to refine cost recovery goals, performance measures, marketing strategies, and program objectives. These plans should include specific action items for achieving financial sustainability, setting clear metrics for success and identifying target audiences. Additionally, include an evaluation of current programs, with recommendations for adjustments or new initiatives based on community feedback and market trends. Regularly assess the effectiveness of these plans to ensure continuous improvement and alignment with the city's overall recreation and community service goals.

5.11 Update the Fee Philosophy and Cost Recovery Goals.

Establish cost recovery goals by program categories, to determine fees for services and manage the Department of Recreation & Community Services program portfolio annually. As part of this process, look for opportunities to increase program revenues and/or decrease subsidies while ensuring programs are affordable for residents. Revisit facility pricing and determine what portion of costs should be paid by Class I-IV groups for exclusive facility use so that—at a minimum—the City is collecting more revenues to offset added facility maintenance time. Reevaluate and potentially increase fees for non-residents for programs and facility rentals.



The Centre



GOAL 6. RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE GREENSPACE

Adapt to current and future climate conditions to enhance visitor comfort and promote ecosystem health across all parks and facilities.

6.1 Enhance Environmental Sustainability in Lakewood Parks.

Continue to increase environmental sustainability through strategic initiatives such as native plantings, efficient irrigation technologies and stormwater retention systems. Implement measures to address future droughts and intense storms by incorporating water-saving technologies and designing landscapes that can withstand heavy rainfall and fluctuating water availability. These practices reduce water usage, enhance biodiversity, improve resilience to extreme weather events, and contribute to the ecological health of park spaces, while aligning with broader environmental goals.

6.2 Maintain High-Quality Landscaping and Turf with Cost-Effective Strategies.

Provide high-quality maintenance for park landscaping and turf areas while prioritizing cost-effectiveness, operational efficiency and sustainability. Implement resilient practices such as efficient irrigation systems, seasonal maintenance scheduling, and native or drought-resistant plantings to reduce long-term costs, conserve resources, and enhance environmental sustainability. Maintain quality turf in parks for high-activity sports fields, multi-purpose greens and aesthetic appeal in high-visibility zones, ensuring it is used strategically based on its intended purpose, local climate, maintenance resources, and water availability. Regularly assess and adjust staffing, tools and technology to optimize maintenance efforts and ensure consistent, sustainable landscaping and turf quality across all park sites.

6.3 Balance Water Usage and Landscape Design.

Create a balanced approach to water usage by tailoring landscaping to park functions. Incorporate low-water and low-maintenance plantings in areas like natural pathways and decorative zones, while reserving higher water use for spaces such as turf fields and high-traffic areas. Striking this balance ensures environmental sustainability while meeting the recreation needs of the community.

6.4 Expand Shade Canopy in Parks.

Increase shaded areas in parks through a combination of natural tree planting and artificial shade structures. Focus on providing shade at high-traffic areas, including playgrounds, fitness zones, seating areas and trails. Adequate shade enhances visitor comfort, mitigates heat-related health risks and improves accessibility for vulnerable populations, such as seniors, children and individuals with health conditions.

6.5 Manage Wildlife and Nature in Parks.

Implement targeted strategies to protect and manage wildlife and natural areas along the San Gabriel River Nature Trail and other relevant parks. This includes utilizing low-impact night lighting and installing educational signage. Such initiatives can support biodiversity while fostering public awareness and stewardship of local ecosystems.



GOAL 7. FORWARD-THINKING MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

Develop a foundation for long-term planning and strategic operations in funding, communications, volunteer engagement, administration, and other key areas to sustain high-quality park and recreation offerings for the future.

7.1 Implement a Comprehensive Asset Management System.

Develop and maintain an ongoing asset management plan that tracks, updates and communicates the condition of park assets to relevant staff efficiently. While asset management can be resource-intensive, using advanced digital tools and software can streamline this process. Expand the promotion of the Lakewood Connect system within park spaces to encourage public reporting of issues, repairs, and concerns, fostering a community-driven approach to park maintenance and improvement.

7.2 Ensure an Accessible and User-Friendly Reservation System.

Implement a reservation system that is convenient, widely accessible and reliable for all users. The system should be intuitive, mobile-friendly, and provide real-time updates to avoid conflicts or confusion. Automating scheduling will also reduce the administrative burden on staff, enabling better resource allocation. Consider integrating this system with communication tools to notify users of reservation confirmations, reminders, and park updates.

7.3 Centralize Work Order System.

To improve efficiency and consistency within the Department of Recreation & Community Services maintenance and operations, it is recommended to implement a centralized work order system. This system should support preventative, recurring, repair/rehabilitation and capital improvement maintenance while tracking actual hours and costs. Work orders should be scheduled at manageable intervals (e.g., bi-weekly or monthly for preventative tasks). A centralized system will enhance asset management, streamline documentation, and improve long-term planning.

7.4 Clarify Roles and Resource Allocation.

To enhance maintenance and operations efficiency, it is essential to document the roles of the Department of Recreation & Community Services, Public Works, and contracted services in leading and supporting various functions. Once established, budgets and staffing (full-time, part-time, seasonal, and volunteer) should be assessed to sustain current service levels. This framework enables informed adjustments based on community needs, organizational goals and resource availability while ensuring a clear understanding of service level impacts due to budget changes, staffing constraints or shifts in responsibilities.



GOAL 7. FORWARD-THINKING MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC INVESTMENT (CONT.)

7.5 Evaluate Contracted Services.

Utilize a contracted services matrix to assess maintenance activities before outsourcing. This data-driven approach ensures informed decision-making by evaluating key criteria and assigning scores. Services scoring above a numerical threshold should be considered for contracting. Once vetted, the Department of Recreation & Community Services should determine the appropriate type and duration of the agreement to align with operational needs and service expectations.

7.6 Expand the Volunteer Program.

Continue to build upon the structured volunteer program to engage the community in park maintenance, beautification, and monitoring efforts, while also incorporating opportunities for sports coaching, refereeing and youth involvement. Partner with local organizations, service clubs, schools, and recreation sports leagues to recruit volunteers, including students and teens, to gain leadership experience and contribute to the community. Provide training in park maintenance, sports coaching, and refereeing to ensure high-quality service and enhance skill development. Offer incentives, such as certificates or recognition events, to motivate and reward volunteers, and highlight their achievements to foster community pride and encourage ongoing participation.

7.7 Pursue Grants and Alternative Funding Sources.

Aggressively pursue grants, sponsorships and other alternative funding sources to support park and trail maintenance, upgrades, and programming. Develop a dedicated team or staff member to identify grant opportunities and collaborate with regional and state agencies, nonprofits and private entities. Prioritize funding that aligns with the city's vision for improving park access, safety and amenities, especially for disadvantaged communities.

7.8 Develop a Prioritization Framework for Investment Decisions.

Create and implement a prioritization tool to guide investment decisions for Lakewood parks. This framework should balance community needs, asset condition, and fiscal responsibility, ensuring resources are allocated effectively. Include criteria such as safety, equity, community input, and alignment with long-term city goals. Regularly update the tool to reflect evolving priorities and maintain transparency in decision-making.



Lakewood Volunteer Day 2025



GOAL 8. PARTNERSHIPS THAT ENHANCE COMMUNITY IMPACT

Build relationships with other public and private entities within the City of Lakewood for expanded recreation opportunities and funding support.

8.1 Expand Recreation Opportunities Through Partnerships.

Forge partnerships with schools and other public institutions to increase recreation acreage and opportunities. Utilize open spaces at schools or other public facilities to provide additional amenities for the community. Collaborate with school districts serving Lakewood which are experiencing declining enrollments, and explore the potential for repurposing closed school sites as temporary solutions for recreation space in underserved areas. Any consideration of repurposing these sites for long-term use will be preceded by a financial feasibility study to evaluate the costs and benefits of acquiring, demolishing or renovating buildings. In the interim, prioritize programming outdoor spaces to meet immediate community needs. Long-term, explore partnerships and joint-use agreements to increase indoor recreation facilities such as gyms and indoor basketball courts, supporting year-round activities and diverse community needs.

8.2 Partner with Private Developers to Expand Park Acreage.

Encourage private sector collaboration in housing and commercial developments to incorporate parkland or recreation facilities into their development plans. Such partnerships can address park gap areas while enhancing community amenities.

8.3 Build Jurisdictional Partnerships to Expand Trails.

Collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to develop interconnected trails and bikeways. These partnerships can also facilitate shared maintenance and management responsibilities, creating a seamless regional network for recreation and mobility.

8.4 Leverage Partnerships for Programming and Services.

Collaborate with nonprofits, community organizations and private businesses to enhance recreation programming, environmental education and wellness activities. These partnerships can bring additional funding, resources, and services to underserved areas, diversifying offerings citywide.



Pool at Mayfair Park



Home Run Dog Park



A photograph of a park scene. In the foreground, a large tree with yellow and orange autumn leaves stands prominently. Behind it, a paved walkway leads towards a building with a red brick facade and large windows. The overall color palette is warm and orange-tinted.

CHAPTER 6

TAILORING

PARKS FOR

TOMORROW



CHAPTER 6

TAILORING PARKS FOR TOMORROW

Over the next decade, the City of Lakewood will implement strategic improvements to its parks and recreation system, ensuring continued access to high-quality facilities, programs, and open spaces. This plan identifies key recommendations to enhance recreation buildings, upgrade aquatic facilities, establish clear guidelines for park design and programming, and expand recreation opportunities citywide. Additionally, it provides site-specific recommendations to improve existing parks and ensure long-term sustainability.

A well-maintained and thoughtfully designed park system requires ongoing investment. As facilities age, the city must plan for reinvestment, replacement, and modernization to meet evolving community needs. This includes maintaining a high standard of care across all parks while adapting maintenance strategies as new amenities are introduced.

While this chapter identifies recommendations, the prioritization and implementation of improvements will remain flexible, allowing the

city to respond to changing community needs, emerging opportunities, and available funding. However, it is important to acknowledge that some recommendations may not be feasible due to constraints such as limited funding or the lack of available land, whether at existing parks or for new park development. As such, managing community expectations is essential to ensure that the Plan remains grounded in what is realistically achievable, while still striving to enhance recreation opportunities for all residents through thoughtful and strategic investments.



Herbalife, LA Galaxy, and the U.S. Soccer Foundation celebrate the unveiling of a new community mini-pitch at Palms Park.



To support these efforts, this chapter outlines clear recommendations for recreation buildings, aquatic facilities, park design and development, additional recreation facilities, and each existing city-owned park. While these recommendations align with the City of Lakewood's Capital Improvement Program Budget for Fiscal Years 2023–24 to 2029–30, the 2023 Facility Condition Assessment, established Measure L improvements, and the assessment of existing pool facilities, they also go beyond these documents to address broader community needs and long-term recreation goals as identified by public input and the needs assessment. Improvements identified in this chapter that

are determined to be high priorities can be incorporated into future updates to the Capital Improvement Program or considered during future budget planning cycles. While the city plays a central role in providing parks and recreation services, it is not the sole provider. Additional recreation opportunities are made possible through partnerships with non-city entities such as school districts, nonprofit organizations, and private providers—broadening the range of services and experiences available to the community.



Community members and local leaders gather for the ribbon cutting of the new playground at Biscailuz Park.



RECREATION BUILDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Lakewood's recreation buildings—including community centers, activity buildings, and control buildings—support a variety of park uses. Currently, the city has a mix of buildings that are essential hubs for community programs or provide passive space for community meetings, offices, restrooms, storage, etc. Few support indoor active recreation opportunities. Approximately half are at least 65 years old. As these facilities age, the city must assess their condition and determine whether to maintain, renovate, rebuild, or remove them based on lifespan, evolving needs and available funding. (Note: Pool building recommendations are discussed with the Aquatic Facilities Recommendations in the next section of this chapter.)

Decisions on aging buildings will be guided by structural integrity, renovation costs to bring older buildings up to code, maintenance costs, program demands and funding. Strategic investments will ensure these spaces continue to support diverse activities and services. Community centers provide multi-generational programming and event space. Activity buildings offer modern community spaces and offices, and control buildings house recreation offices, small community rooms and storage.

In some cases, demolition may be the most cost-effective option, especially if maintenance and renovation costs outweigh the benefits. The city may consolidate building functions in larger parks to reduce operational costs while maintaining services. In neighborhood parks with limited programming, small unstaffed structures—such as restrooms or storage—may enhance

usability without requiring dedicated staff. A strategic approach to facility planning will ensure Lakewood's recreation buildings continue to serve the community efficiently and sustainably. The following recommendations provide planning-level guidance on future building improvements based on identified community needs.

TYPES OF RECREATION BUILDING IMPROVEMENTS

Building Evaluation. A Facility Condition Assessment was completed in 2018 identifying \$31 million in facility renewal and maintenance needs over a 10-year period. However, to inform any building renovation, rebuilding, or demolition it is recommended that the city conduct an updated full architectural assessment (structural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing). This assessment update should determine the need for upgrades and cost effectiveness (return on investment) before decision-making.

1. Maintain. Maintaining a building involves regular janitorial care, upkeep and repairs to ensure a facility remains functional, safe, and aesthetically appealing. This includes routine tasks like cleaning, painting, HVAC service, and addressing minor repairs to prevent further deterioration. The goal of maintenance is to extend the lifespan of a building and preserve its ability to serve its intended purpose without major structural changes or renovations. While all park buildings require maintenance, the following buildings need this level of routine and preventative care only, and not more extensive renovations: Burns Community Center, S. Mark Taper Vista Lodge, and Boyar Activity Building.



2. **Renovate.** Renovating a building refers to upgrading or improving specific elements of an existing structure without completely replacing it. Renovation can include updates to outdated systems, such as electrical or plumbing, modernizing spaces to enhance functionality and meet current building codes, and changing the uses of specific rooms or areas to better meet community needs. It may also involve aesthetic improvements, such as flooring or finishes, while retaining the building's original structure. Renovation allows for efficient use of resources while extending the building's useful life. Palms Community Center and Weingart Senior Center are recommended for renovation and are scheduled to begin in 2025.
3. **Rebuild.** Reconstructing a building entails demolishing the original structure and building a new one in its place. This option is typically considered when a building has reached the end of its useful life, has significant structural issues or is not cost effective to renovate to meet the needs of the community. Rebuilding offers the opportunity to design a facility that aligns with current and future demands, incorporates modern building standards and enhances sustainability and energy efficiency. It also provides the chance to address evolving programmatic needs and improve overall functionality. The following buildings require further evaluation and facility planning to determine whether rebuilding is more cost-effective than renovation to provide the recreation opportunities desired: the Lakewood Youth Center, the Bolivar Control Building, and the McCormick Pool Bath House.
4. **Demolish (Repurpose Space).** Demolishing a building involves the complete removal of an existing structure when it is no longer needed or viable for renovation or reconstruction. This decision is typically made when a building is beyond repair or no longer serves its intended function. Demolition allows for the creation of new spaces or facilities that better meet the community's needs, offering an opportunity to reimagine the site and improve overall park or facility functionality. It may also provide flexibility to reconfigure the site for different uses, enhancing the overall efficiency and value of the space.



The old concessionaire building at Del Valle Park is recommended for demolition.



AQUATIC FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

SWIMMING POOLS

Lakewood has two public swimming pools: McCormick Pool at Bolivar Park and Mayfair Pool at Mayfair Park. Both facilities have faced ongoing operational and maintenance challenges, including aging equipment and infrastructure. Additionally, the McCormick Pool building is outdated and in need of modernization to improve functionality and accessibility.

Currently, both pools serve residents in the central and western portions of the city, leaving the eastern portion without a public swimming facility. This Plan prioritizes maintaining and improving these aquatics facilities (pools, buildings, and related infrastructure and equipment) to meet the continued demand for aquatic recreation, as identified through community engagement and technical analysis as part of the Needs Assessment. Recommendations include:

Pool and Building Evaluation. A 2023 Needs Assessment for Mayfair Pool identified over \$1 million in required improvements, some of which have already been completed. A 2024 Needs Assessment for McCormick Pool revealed the need for significant renovations, estimated at \$4.5 million for code compliance and over \$10.9 million for pool replacement. Further evaluation of each pool's structural integrity, mechanical systems, and compliance with safety and accessibility standards is recommended. Based on the findings, three options for future improvements are proposed:



Mayfair Pool at Mayfair Park



McCormick Pool at Bolivar Park



- 1. Renovation.** If the pool is in reasonable condition, proceed with upgrading the pool infrastructure. This includes resurfacing the pool shell, enhancing the filtration system at McCormick Pool, improving the chlorination systems, and upgrading the deck with slip-resistant surfaces. Additionally, update lane markers, depth indicators, and consider adding heating elements for extended seasonal use. Both the McCormick Pool Bath House and Mayfair Swim Pavilion should be modernized to improve accessibility, functionality, and the overall user experience, ensuring the facilities meet current standards and community needs.
- 2. Rebuild.** If long-term operational and cost considerations warrant, consider rebuilding or replacing the pool to bring it up to modern standards, even if it is not beyond repair. This approach would address ongoing maintenance challenges and improve safety, accessibility, and sustainability, ensuring the facility continues to serve as a key community asset. This could apply to both Mayfair Pool and McCormick Pool, with necessary upgrades to the pool buildings to enhance functionality and user experience. At a minimum, one pool should be rebuilt to meet community needs.



Youth swim lessons at Mayfair Pool at Mayfair Park



WADING POOLS RECOMMENDATIONS

Older wading pools in Lakewood, built decades ago, offer both advantages and drawbacks in the context of modern park and recreation planning. On the positive side, these pools hold nostalgic value for long-time residents, serving as cherished community gathering spots that have provided generations of families with affordable and accessible water play. Their shallow depth makes them ideal for young children, promoting early water interaction in a controlled environment. Additionally, because they were constructed in an era with fewer regulatory constraints, these pools often occupy prime locations within parks, offering convenient access and integration with surrounding amenities. When wading pools are in operation, city staff are present on site to monitor use and safety.

However, these aging facilities also present challenges. Many of them have outdated materials and filtration systems, leading to higher maintenance costs. High operational costs are also due to the staffing needs associated with standing water. Accessibility standards have evolved, and older pools may not meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. The wading pool at Palms Park is the only ADA accessible pool. Shifting recreation trends see declining use of wading pools due to high costs and staffing needs. However, other water play structures such as splash pads and interactive fountains are appearing as replacement cooling options in cities facing increasing summer temperatures. As Lakewood evaluates the future of its wading pools, balancing the historic and sentimental value of these pools with the need for modern, sustainable aquatic play options will be a key consideration.

Recommendations include:

Wading Pool Evaluation. Evaluate the condition of the City's six wading pools to identify any infrastructure issues that may require repairs, upgrades, or eventual replacement. Based on this assessment, the city can explore a range of options—including maintaining and enhancing all existing wading pools, selectively reducing the number, or phasing out some facilities over time. These options aim to balance community access, operational efficiency, and long-term sustainability. Consider the following options:

- 1. Maintain and Improve Existing Wading Pools.** Retain the current number of wading pools across the City, with targeted improvements based on condition assessments. Prioritize enhancements that address safety, ADA accessibility, and water conservation. Focus improvements on pools located in areas with limited access to other aquatic facilities, high population density, or overlapping youth programming. This option allows the city to preserve its existing footprint of wading pool access while modernizing facilities to meet contemporary standards.
- 2. Significantly Reduce Wading Pools.** Assuming the two swimming pools located in the central and western portions of the city remain, maintain and/or enhance one wading pool in the eastern portion of the city due to the lack of swimming pools in this area. Depending on pool condition findings, consider prioritizing the ADA accessible wading pool in Palms Park. Eliminate or phase out at the end of their lifecycles the remaining five wading pools. Consider replacing two to three with other water play options.



3. Strategically Fade Out Wading Pools.

Depending on the results of the condition assessment, keep three wading pools, prioritizing areas that are dispersed, do not have nearby access to swimming pools, are ADA accessible, have good multi-modal access (via transit, walking, biking and driving), are located at sites that offer other types of youth programming, and are located in Community Parks. Eliminate or phase out at the end of their lifecycles the remaining three wading pools. Either apply the cost savings to investing in the city's swimming pools, or consider replacing one to two with other water play options.

4. Alternative Water Play Options.

Consider the following water play options in lieu of wading pools:

- » **Splash Pads.** A popular and low-maintenance alternative, splash pads feature interactive water jets, fountains, and spray features that provide safe, engaging play for children of all ages. Spray pads, while popular, face challenges such as high-water usage, especially if they lack a recirculating system. Maintenance can be costly due to the need for regular cleaning and upkeep of spray nozzles and filtration systems.
- » **Interactive Water Play Areas.** Interactive Water Play Areas can feature themed elements like tipping buckets, small slides and water cannons, offering a dynamic and engaging experience. These areas allow children to explore and interact with water in creative and imaginative ways, providing both fun and physical activity.

» **Shallow Water Play Pools.** A redesigned wading pool with zero-depth entry, improved filtration, and modern play elements can provide a safer and more engaging aquatic experience while maintaining a pool-like setting.

» **Hybrid Splash and Shallow Pool Combination.** A design that integrates a splash pad with a small shallow pool allows for diverse water play experiences while optimizing water use and safety.

» **Nature-Inspired Water Play Areas.** Features such as hand pumps, sand areas, rock-like formations and stream-like play zones can create a more naturalistic, sensory water play experience while blending with park environments.

» **Multi-Use Water Features.** A space that can function as both a splash pad or sprinkler play area in the summer and a dry play plaza in cooler months, maximizing year-round usability.



Example: Always Dream Play Area water play area (Fremont, California)

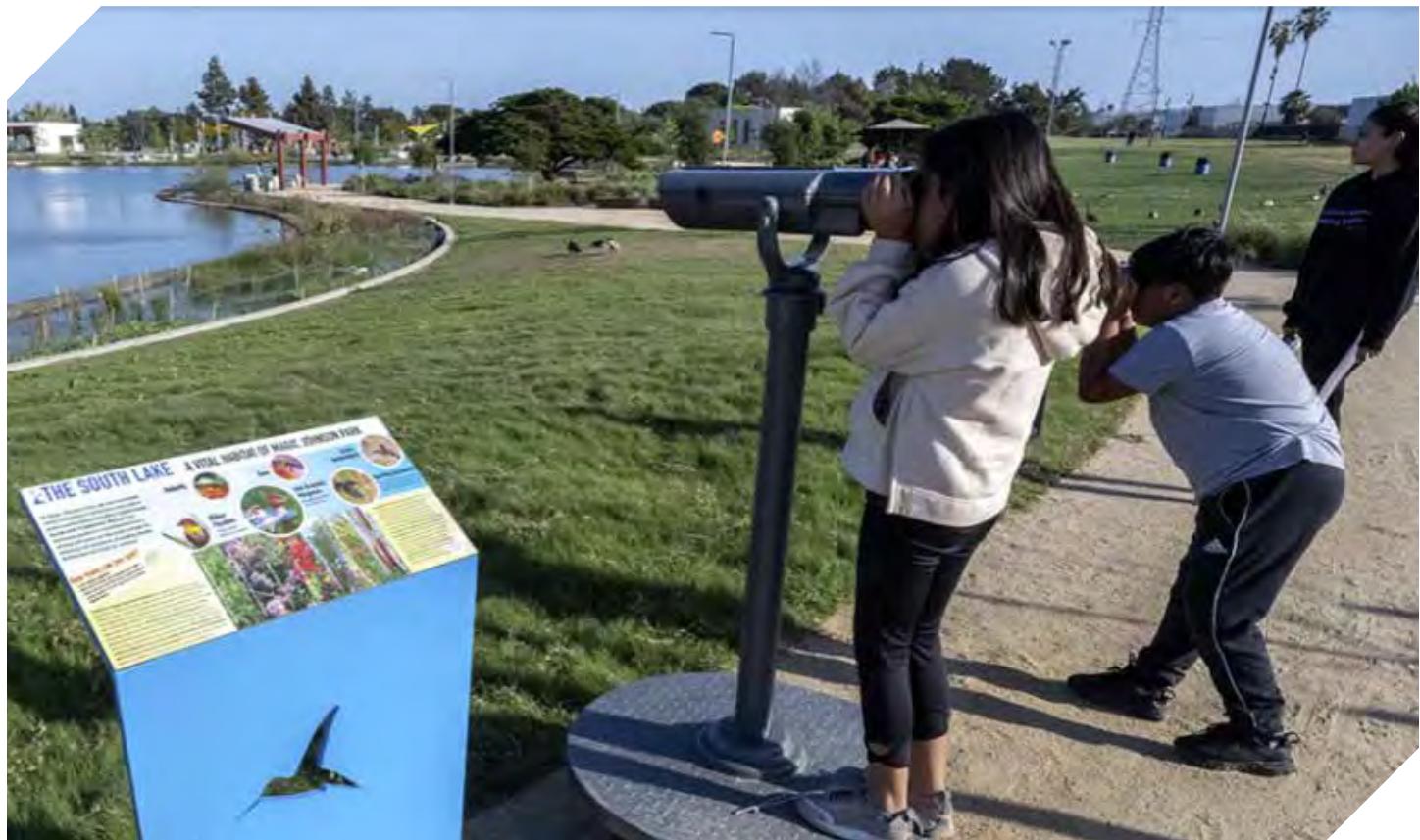


GUIDELINES FOR PARK DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

This section outlines key guidelines for enhancing Lakewood's parks through design, development, and renovation. While some items focus on improving existing facilities, others involve acquiring new park space or expanding recreation uses. These guidelines serve as a framework to ensure that Lakewood's parks remain safe, accessible, and engaging for residents of all ages.

Certain recommendations, particularly those related to programming, align with broader system wide strategies. Park improvements should be implemented in locations that provide necessary support amenities—such as restrooms, parking, and seating—and consider factors like noise mitigation, accessibility, and overall community benefit.

The following categories organize key recommendations for Lakewood's park system, covering safety, park design and landscaping, playgrounds, sports and fitness facilities, comfort amenities, and increased park space and trails.



Example: Earvin Magic Johnson Park (Los Angeles, California)



PARK SAFETY

- **Park Design:** Incorporate Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies and enhance park safety through design principles related to facility siting, access (or access control), visibility, natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement, activity support, and maintenance.
- **Encouraged Activities:** Encourage drop-in or programmed activities in Lakewood parks that provide a human presence from early morning to evening to foster safety and community engagement, while balancing impacts to surrounding residential properties.
- **Diverse Park Activities:** Develop diverse park activities beyond organized sports and playgrounds, including fitness programs, cultural events, and community gatherings.
- **Community Involvement in Design:** Involve community members in the design and redesign of Lakewood park spaces to reflect their needs and enhance safety.
- **Existing Park Signage:** Improve and simplify signage throughout Lakewood parks to enhance navigation, promote safety, and provide clear, helpful information. Incorporate maps and descriptive text to assist visitors in finding amenities and feeling more secure in their surroundings.
- **Encourage Natural Surveillance:** Promote formal and informal surveillance in Lakewood parks by designing spaces that can be easily observed by other park users to reduce vandalism and inappropriate behavior.

- **Enhanced Park Lighting:** Improve park lighting to enhance perceptions of safety, ensuring well-lit areas encourage legitimate nighttime use and better visibility. However, it is important to balance lighting with safety by ensuring that lighting does not encourage late-night gatherings or activities that could compromise security. In some cases, it may not be advisable to have visitors later at night or when the park is closed, as unregulated late-night use could lead to safety concerns or disturbances.
- **Clear Sightlines:** Improve safety within parks and facilities with clear sightlines that allow visitors to observe the activity around them.
- **Regular Park Maintenance:** Regularly maintain Lakewood parks to prevent vandalism and ensure a clean, safe environment that discourages negative behaviors.
- **Park Hardscape:** Repair or replace park walkways, patio slabs, picnic area driveways, and trash enclosure slabs as needed to ensure safety and functionality.
- **Park Fencing:** Repair and maintain park fencing as needed to ensure safety and functionality.
- **Collaboration with Local Law Enforcement:** Coordinate with the Lakewood Station to address traffic safety concerns and discuss potential mitigation solutions for improving safety near parks. Additionally, explore the feasibility of implementing horse-mounted Sheriff patrols along the Nature Trail and the San Gabriel River to enhance visibility, safety, and community presence in these areas.



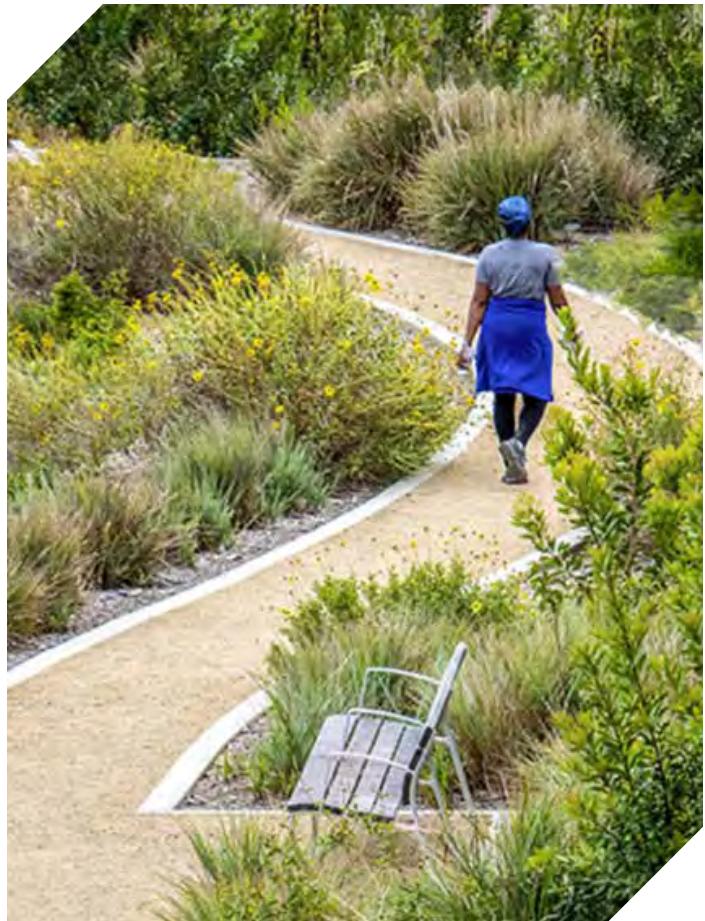
PARK CONNECTIVITY

- **Pedestrian Safety Enhancements:** Enhance pedestrian safety across all parks by collaborating with relevant City departments to explore and implement improvements that align with the Lakewood Local Roadway Safety Plan, focusing on increased safety, accessibility, and connectivity for all users. This collaboration should focus on enhancing pedestrian safety, accessibility, and connectivity, ensuring that improvements are consistent with the plan's objectives and designed to meet the needs of all users.
- **Bicycle Facility Improvements:** Improve biking access to parks and recreation facilities by expanding bicycle racks and other amenities, such as bike repair stations at key Community Parks with higher bicycle traffic. Coordinate with the General Plan Update to ensure any future bike lanes, including dedicated bike lanes, navigate to existing Community Parks and recreation facilities to improve connectivity. Additionally, consider expanding overall bicycle facilities to encourage cycling as a convenient and sustainable mode of transportation for park visitors.



Example: Bike lanes (Irvine, California)

- **Transit Access:** Enhance transit access to parks by improving pedestrian connectivity, sidewalks, and walkways between bus stops and park entrances where feasible. In areas where convenient transit access does not currently exist, explore opportunities to enhance connections or collaborate with transit agencies to improve service. These efforts should prioritize safe, accessible routes that encourage the use of public transportation to reach park and recreation facilities.



Example: Stoneview Nature Center (Culver City, California)



PARK DESIGN / LANDSCAPING

- **Celebrate Diversity and Identity through Art:** Integrate more art and interpretive features that celebrate Lakewood's diverse community, cultures, history, and heritage to enhance the cultural richness of the parks.
- **Sustainable Landscaping:** Convert select non-recreation portions of grass spaces into low-maintenance native plant garden beds to reduce water usage, provide visual appeal to underused sections, and support biodiversity and wildlife. Native and waterwise landscaping should not replace or decrease existing recreation lawn spaces, but only augment passive spaces, peripheral areas, medians, etc.
- **Wildlife and Nature Management:** Implement more management for wildlife and nature in City parks to enhance natural habitats and protect ecosystems.
- **Expert Consultation for Bird Protection:** Consult with a wildlife expert/ornithologist to reduce landscaping impact to nesting/migrating birds in City parks and along the San Gabriel River Nature Trail.
- **Tree Health and Care:** Consult with the city arborist to review the long-term health of trees, including current stressors. Continue to reference the Lakewood Tree Master Plan (2022) and master tree list for any new tree plantings.

DOGS

- **Strengthened Regulations:** Establish stronger regulations against littering, dog waste, and improper activities to maintain park cleanliness and safety.
- **Support Existing Dog-Friendly Areas:** Continue to allow leashed dogs at Rynerson Park and along the Nature Trail, and maintain off-leash access at Home Run Dog Park. Provide additional signage, waste stations, and enforcement at these designated locations to encourage responsible use.
- **Promote Education and Awareness:** Launch an outreach campaign to educate park users about the city's specific dog policies, including the areas where leashed dogs are allowed, such as at Rynerson, and where off-leash access is permitted, such as at Home Run Dog Park. The campaign should also encourage responsible pet ownership and proper dog behavior in public spaces.
- **Evaluate Demand and Feasibility:** Periodically assess community demand for additional dog-friendly spaces and explore the feasibility of creating new leash-only zones, including designated park walkways or grassy areas for walking dogs on leashes.



Example: Johnny Carson Park Native Landscaping (Burbank, California)



PLAYGROUNDS AND RECREATION AMENITIES

- **Wheelchair-Accessible Playground Flooring:** Replace sand with rubberized safety surfacing (flooring) in playgrounds to ensure wheelchair access and enhance safety for all children. Repair playground surfaces as needed.
- **Playground Equipment Maintenance:** Replace broken or non-functional playground equipment as needed, prioritizing the safety of users by addressing any items that pose potential hazards. Ensure that all play structures meet current safety standards and are suitable for the intended age groups, enhancing the overall play experience while preventing injury risks.
- **Sensory Learning Features:** Incorporate sensory learning opportunities into playgrounds and parks to engage children in meaningful, interactive experiences.
- **Shade Provision:** Provide ample shade for playground structures and seating areas to protect visitors from the sun and create comfortable spaces for relaxation.
- **Challenging and Unique Play Elements:** Introduce more challenging and unique play elements, such as climbing walls, rope courses, or innovative swings, to promote physical activity, problem-solving, and creative play for children of all abilities.
- **Inclusive Play for Special Needs and Neurodivergent Children and Youth:** Design playgrounds with specialized equipment and spaces that cater to children and youth with special needs or neurodivergent conditions, ensuring sensory-friendly spaces, quiet areas, and accessible play structures for a wide range of abilities and preferences, including the addition of communication boards to support non-verbal children and youth in expressing their needs and preferences.
- **Low-Cost Alternative Recreation Amenities:** Consider adding low-cost amenities that encourage physical activity, social interaction, and community engagement to enhance park accessibility and provide affordable recreation opportunities. Options such as ping pong tables, large chess or checker boards, bocce ball courts, and outdoor fitness stations can offer enjoyable and inclusive experiences for park visitors that are cost-effective to install and maintain, making them accessible to all while fostering a sense of community and active recreation.



Example: Playhouse Village Park (Pasadena, California)



COMFORT AMENITIES

- **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations:** Install electric vehicle charging stations at park parking lots (off-street parking) to promote sustainable transportation options for visitors.
- **Considerate Park Lighting:** Ensure park lighting includes the minimum number of fixtures and lighting levels necessary for safety while minimizing light pollution to maintain the wellness of neighboring people and animals.

SPORTS/EXERCISE FACILITIES

- **Casual Drop-In Exercise Facilities:** Offer more casual drop-in exercise facilities, such as outdoor gyms or fitness stations, to encourage physical activity for all ages and fitness levels.
- **Challenge Elements for Youth and Teens:** Integrate more challenge elements in existing parks, targeting youth and teens. These could include climbing walls, ziplines, obstacle courses, and other adventurous features to foster physical activity and engagement.



Example: Hing Hay Park (Seattle, Washington)

INCREASED PARK SPACE AND TRAILS

- **Feasibility of Fitness or Nature Trails:** Continue to explore the feasibility of developing fitness or nature trails within utility corridors, drainage corridors, existing residential areas, and commercial areas to promote active lifestyles and enhance connectivity.
- **Public-Private Partnerships for Recreation Spaces:** Especially in underserved areas, evaluate opportunities to partner with other public agencies or private sector development and private businesses/property owners to create recreation spaces and opportunities.
- **Utilize Underdeveloped Spaces for Dog Runs:** Identify underdeveloped spaces, such as utility corridors for potential dog runs. Acquire and maintain one space (targeting the eastern and western portion of the city) at a basic level (dirt or low-maintenance groundcover, waste stations, fencing) to minimize costs while providing valuable recreation opportunities for pet owners.



Example: Bell Street Park (Seattle, Washington)



ADDITIONAL RECREATION FACILITIES

To enhance recreation opportunities across Lakewood's park system, the following list identifies potential new facilities that could be integrated into existing parks. Some of these facilities may already be addressed in facility recommendations, while others are additional ideas that have not yet been assigned specific sites. This list serves as a guide for considering potential enhancements that align with community needs and emerging recreation trends.

These facilities should be located in parks that provide appropriate support amenities such as parking, restrooms, seating, and shade, as well as measures to mitigate noise and other potential impacts on surrounding neighborhoods. Each addition should complement the park's existing uses and improve overall accessibility, functionality, and user experience.

While there may be potential to add new recreation facilities in existing parks, notably, new facilities may come at the expense of existing facilities. As existing facilities become worn out or outdated, the city should decide to repair, renovate, or replace them. Any new facility will incur capital build costs as well as lifetime maintenance costs.

- **Skate Park and Pump Track:** Install a new, small skate park and/or pump track in a Community Park or Special Use Park to provide a space for skateboarding, biking, and other recreation activities for youth and young adults.

- **Individual or Small-Group Exercise Space:** Develop a designated space for individual or small-group exercise, such as yoga, tai chi, meditation, etc. Integrate landscaping, seating, signage, and shading to create an inviting and functional area.
- **Multi-Use Gymnasium:** Consider adding a multi-use gymnasium as part of an existing building or in conjunction with a future recreation center. The facility should be designed for maximum functionality, accommodating youth and adult sports, fitness classes, and a variety of indoor activities, including volleyball and basketball.
- **Additional Multi-Use Courts:** Develop additional multi-use courts to meet the growing demand for a variety of court sports, including basketball, volleyball, pickleball, gaga ball, and handball. Expanding the number of courts will provide more opportunities for residents to engage in diverse recreation activities without overloading existing facilities.
- **Additional Rectangular Fields:** Install additional rectangular fields to meet the high demand for football and soccer, ensuring sufficient space for these popular team sports.
- **Table Tennis/Ping Pong:** Install table tennis/ping pong to offer a fun, low-cost recreation activity for all ages.
- **Enhanced Picnic Areas:** Install larger barbecue grills at existing group picnic sites to accommodate larger groups and enhance the outdoor cooking experience.



- **Educational/Interpretive Space:** Install an educational/interpretive space to provide learning opportunities and increase engagement with the natural environment.
- **Fully Accessible Inclusive Playground:** Install a fully accessible, inclusive playground that goes beyond traditional ADA standards. This site should address the needs of neurodivergent individuals, incorporating sensory-friendly elements, calming spaces, and equipment that supports cognitive and emotional development.
- **Community Gardens:** Establish more community gardens to promote sustainability, local food production, and community interaction, providing residents with a space to grow plants and engage with nature.
- **Dog Park or Dog Run:** Add an additional dedicated dog park or dog run to provide a safe and enjoyable space for pets and their owners. Include features such as waste stations, water fountains, and secure fencing to promote responsible pet ownership and enhance the park experience.



Example: Anna and Abby's Yard (Forest Grove, Oregon)



Example: Earvin Magic Johnson Park (Los Angeles, CA)



Example: Table tennis and foosball tables at Hidden Creek Park West (Hillsboro, Oregon)



SITE-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXISTING PARKS

Over the next 10 years, the City of Lakewood will enhance its park system through improvements, enhancements, and restorations of existing sites. Ensuring high-quality maintenance across all parks and facilities will be essential, and the required level of maintenance may evolve as sites are developed or improved. Additionally, the City must plan for the replacement or reinvestment in park amenities and facilities as they reach the end of their lifecycles.

The Park Master Plan outlines these recommendations to support a high-quality parks and recreation system for all residents. Appendix E: Capital and Programmatic Project List provides an overview of capital projects and maintenance needs. It also categorizes recommended capital projects to help identify potential funding sources for implementation.



Lakewood community members at Volunteer Day 2025



RECOMMENDED SITE INTERVENTIONS

There are many opportunities to improve, enhance, and develop City parks, parkways, and recreation facilities to achieve Lakewood's goals for the park and recreation system. As a companion document to systemwide goals and strategies, the information below presents specific recommendations for existing parks, organized alphabetically by classification.

For each site, recommendations are characterized as either:

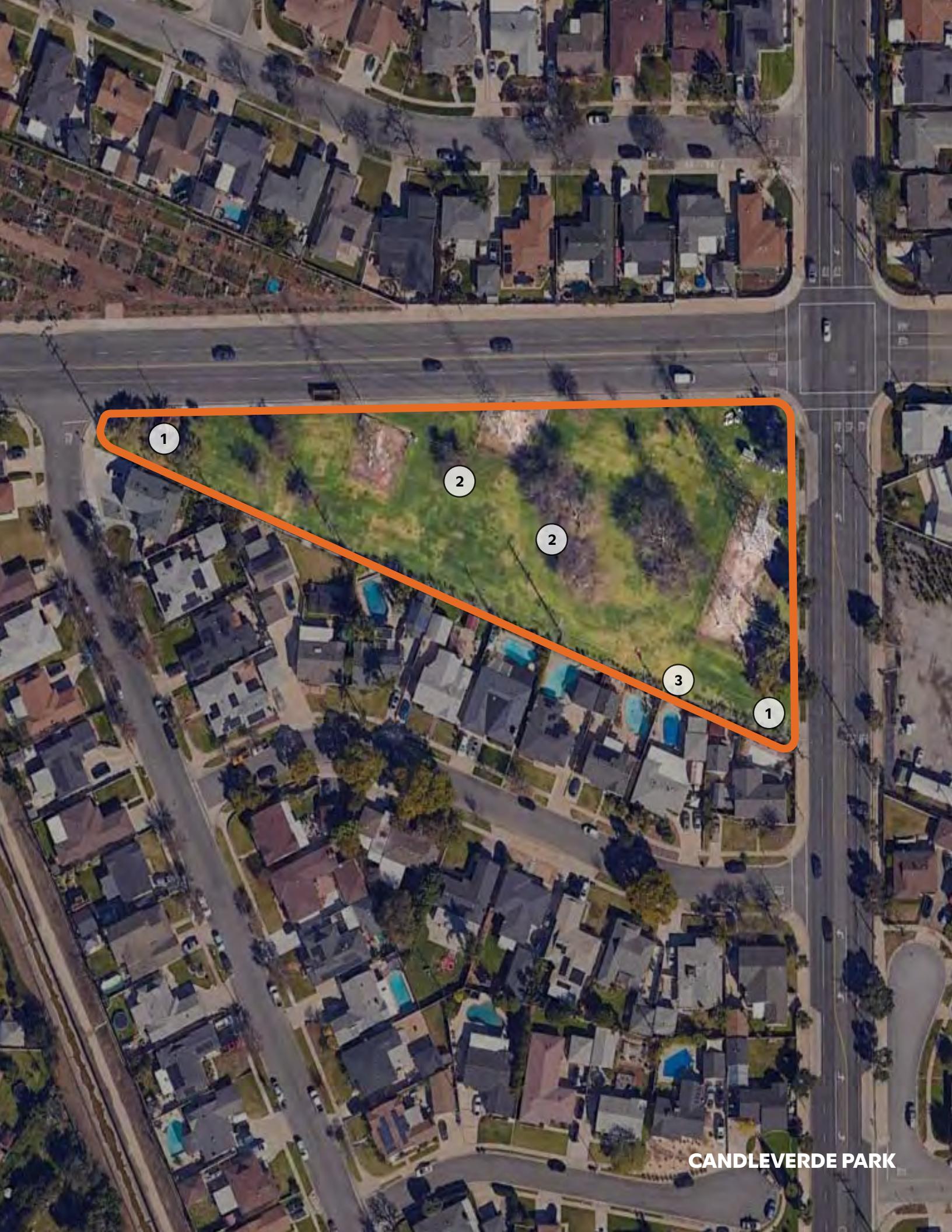
- **Capital Projects:** Recommended projects related to park improvements, renovations, or facility replacements; land acquisition/expansion and development; equipment or amenity additions or replacements; and/or park or facility master planning, contracted assessments, or construction.
- **Operations/Programs:** Recommended services related to routine or preventative maintenance, recreation programming and events, collaboration with other City departments, or facility operations that are specific to that site.

These categories recognize that funding sources may be different for projects versus programs and services. The recommendations presented here may include more projects than the City can fund and implement over the next 10 years. These recommendations would require a modification and reprioritization of the 2024 Council-adopted 7-year Capital Improvement Plan.

Recommendations for existing City parks and parkways are based on data from the 2023 Parks Condition Assessment, the 2024 Needs Assessment including public engagement findings, and portions of the City's 2024 Capital Improvement Plan. Recommendations are consistent with the intended uses for each site based on their park classifications.



A Rotary Club volunteer at Volunteer Day 2025



CANDLEVERDE PARK



CANDLEVERDE PARK

Park Classification: Passive Park

Park Size: 2.3 acres

Candleverde Park will be a tranquil, passive green space that enhances Lakewood's open space network, providing a serene retreat for relaxation, reflection, and neighborhood connection.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Incorporate Native Plantings and Pollinator Gardens.

Establish small, landscaped areas with native, drought-tolerant plants that support local pollinators such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Include interpretive signage to educate visitors about the ecological benefits and seasonal bloom cycles.

2. Add seating.

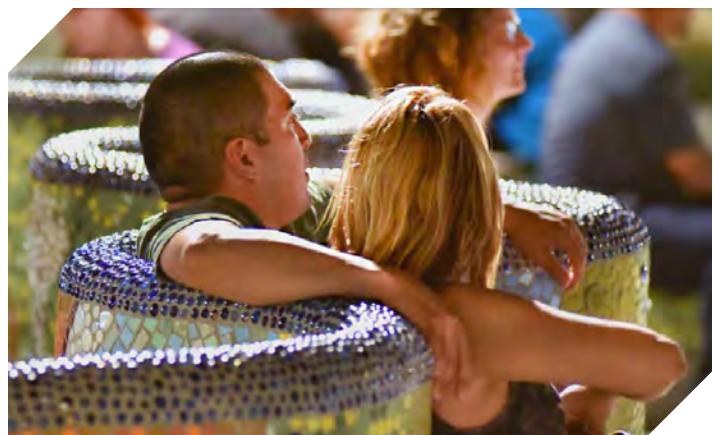
Add benches, seat walls, or other group seating options to encourage passive enjoyment of the space.

3. Install an Acupressure Pathway.

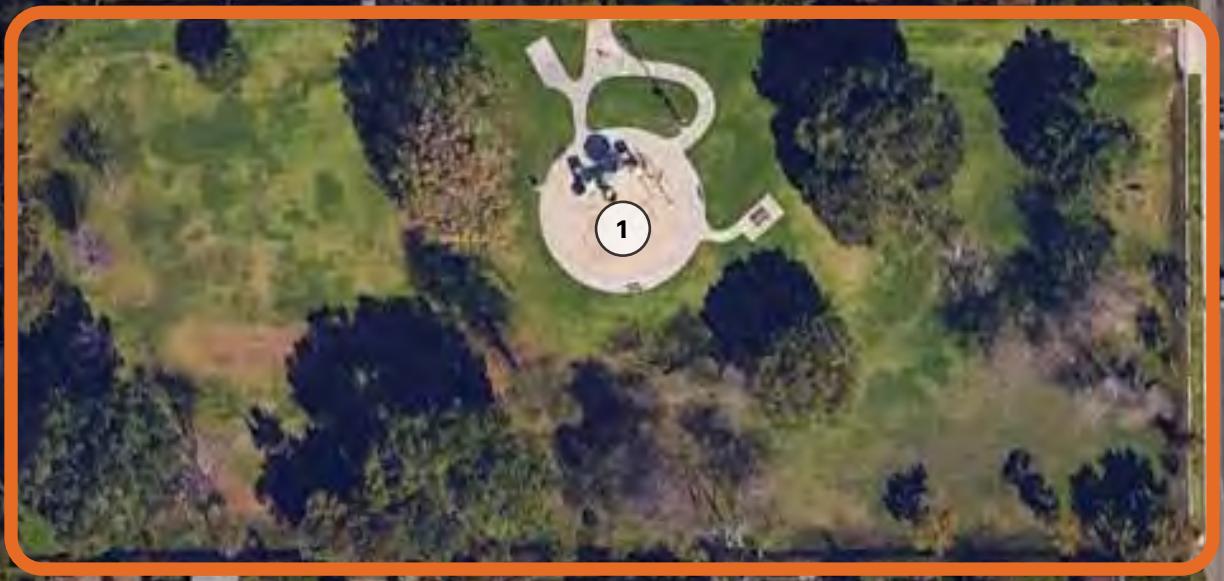
Create a sensory wellness pathway using smooth river stones, textured pavers, and other natural materials designed to stimulate pressure points in the feet. Ensure the pathway is accessible and includes instructional signage about the health benefits of acupressure walking. Consider placing the pathway near shaded seating for relaxation and reflection.



Example: Native Plantings at Dorris Ranch (Springfield, OR)



Example: Creative Seat Wall Design at Yanaguana Garden Play Area (San Antonio, TX)



1

CHERRY COVE PARK



CHERRY COVE PARK

Park Classification: Passive Park

Park Size: 3.0 acres

Cherry Cove Park will be a quiet neighborhood retreat, offering a small playground and passive green space where families and residents can relax, connect, and enjoy the outdoors, while also serving a dual function as a storm drainage area.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

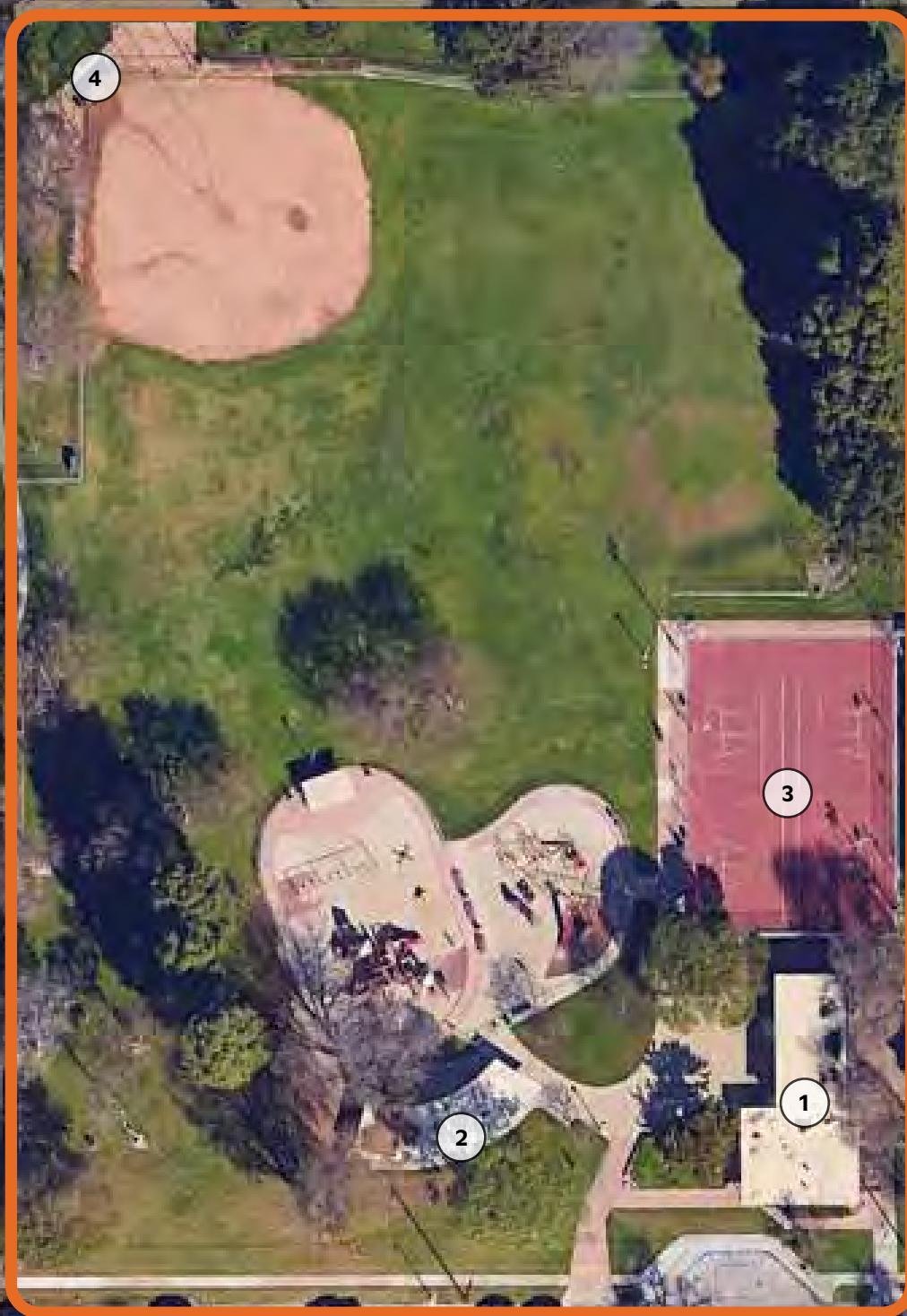
- Replace the Playground.** Install a new, modern playground with age-appropriate play structures for children 2-5 and 5-12 years old, incorporating inclusive elements such as sensory play panels, accessible swings, and rubberized safety surfacing. Add shade structures to enhance comfort and extend usability.
- Establish a Small Community Garden.** Designate a community garden with raised garden beds, accessible pathways, and irrigation to support local gardening efforts. The garden should be located in higher areas of the site, away from the drainage basin, to ensure accessibility and reduce flood risk. Provide seating and signage to encourage community involvement and educational opportunities.
- Establish a Pollinator or Nature Interpretive Garden.** Enhance a portion of the water detention basin with native plantings that attract pollinators, such as bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Incorporate rain garden and bioswale plantings that are resilient to occasional flooding, allowing the area to manage stormwater effectively while maintaining a functional and aesthetically pleasing environment. Additionally, add appropriate vegetation along the drainage perimeter, complementing the existing trees and enhancing the site's ecological diversity. Where appropriate, integrate educational signage to inform visitors about local ecosystems, native plant species, and the vital role pollinators play in sustaining biodiversity. These enhancements can support environmental awareness while improving the basin's ecological function and stormwater management.

- Develop a Community Gathering Space or Shaded Seating Area.**

Install a shade shelter or small group picnic shelter, picnic tables, and benches to create a welcoming space for social gatherings, small events, and passive recreation. Locate the facilities within the higher perimeter of the detention basin.



Example: Group Picnic Shelter at Hidden Creek Park West (Hillsboro OR)



BISCAILUZ PARK



BISCAILUZ PARK + CONTROL BUILDING

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Size: 3.9 acres

Biscailuz Park will be a dynamic and inclusive neighborhood space, featuring modern recreation facilities, safe and accessible play areas, and inviting gathering spaces that foster connection, active lifestyles, and a secure environment for all visitors.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Evaluate the Biscailuz Control Building.** Renovate the existing recreation building with interior and exterior upgrades, including roof repairs, energy-efficient mechanical systems, ADA-compliant entrances and restrooms, new flooring, and modernized lighting. Assess programming needs to determine potential space reconfigurations or expansions, incorporating technology upgrades such as Wi-Fi connectivity, audiovisual enhancements, and improved communication infrastructure.
- Replace the Picnic Shelter.** Assess the usability of the existing picnic shelter and consider replacing the structure with improved seating. Consider measures to prevent loitering including signage, lighting, and staff presence.
- Renovate the Basketball Courts (currently rated in poor condition).** Resurface and restripe courts to improve playability, repair cracks and uneven surfaces, replace outdated or nonfunctioning hoops and backboards, and upgrade court lighting. Consider adding seating areas and/or shade structures.
- Renovate the Backstops (currently rated in poor condition).** Replace rusted fencing and supports, reinforce structure with durable materials, improve safety padding behind home plate, and add protective netting or similar material to minimize stray balls along Park Drive. Consider re-grading the infield area and improving turf conditions.
- Make Safety Improvements.** Expand security measures by installing surveillance cameras in high-risk areas. Install regulatory signage (park rules and regulations) at site entrances to notify visitors of expected and prohibited park uses.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- Provide Safety Services.** Coordinate with neighborhood watch groups, contracted providers for homeless services, and local law enforcement to increase patrols at Biscailuz Park to deter illicit behaviors.



Example: Infield Improvements at Towncenter Community Park (Santee, CA)



BLOOMFIELD PARK



BLOOMFIELD PARK + BLOOMFIELD COMMUNITY CENTER

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Size: 14.9 acres

Bloomfield Park will be a vibrant community hub, offering enhanced amenities, upgraded facilities, and diverse recreational opportunities that cater to teens and residents while providing a safe and engaging environment for all. As the home base for Special Olympics programs and activities, the park will foster inclusivity, accessibility, and a strong sense of community for athletes and visitors alike.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Maintain Bloomfield Park Community Center &

Teen Resource Center. Modernize interior spaces with updated flooring, furniture, and flexible multi-use areas to accommodate diverse programming. Upgrade technology infrastructure with high-speed Wi-Fi, smartboards, and computer and/or gaming stations to support educational and recreational activities. As needed, improve lighting, roofing, ventilation, and energy efficiency through updated mechanical systems and LED fixtures. Consider reorganizing teen spaces and Special Olympic areas to better meet interests and engagement.

2. Wading Pool. See Wading Pool Recommendations. (pg. 6-8)

3. Add New Pickleball Courts. Construct dedicated, regulation-sized pickleball courts. Install LED lighting for limited evening play and incorporate sound-dampening materials such as acoustic fencing to minimize impact on nearby residential areas while maintaining security visibility from the parking lot or Pioneer Boulevard. Ensure ADA accessibility with proper pathways and seating areas. Provide shaded spectator seating, player seating, hydration stations, and similar amenities to enhance the user experience.

4. Renovate the Playground (currently rated in poor condition).

Replace outdated play structure for 5-12-year-olds with modern, inclusive, thematic play equipment. Install a shock-absorbing, ADA-compliant safety surface

such as rubberized flooring or engineered wood fiber. Add unique play features with climbing structures, slides and swings, interactive play features, thematic or imaginative play areas. Integrate accessible, universal play features to support side-by-side play of abled and disabled visitors. Add shade structures and seating. Improve accessibility with ramps, transfer platforms, and sensory-friendly elements.

5. Renovate the Basketball Courts (currently rated in poor condition).

Resurface and restripe the courts to improve traction and durability. Repair cracks and uneven areas to enhance player safety. Replace worn-out hoops, backboards, and nets with professional-grade equipment. Upgrade court lighting to energy-efficient LEDs for extended use, and consider adding seating, shade structures, and hydration stations. Improve site drainage to prevent water pooling and long-term surface damage.

6. Repurpose the Handball Courts (currently rated in poor condition).

Demolish the handball court and replace it with a challenge feature, such as a climbing wall or outdoor fitness equipment to serve teens, young adults, and others.

7. Replace Trash Receptacles.

Replace old and worn trash receptacles in targeted locations, especially when located near other use areas (picnic tables, ballfield dugouts, playground, etc.). Remove (or consolidate) additional trash receptacles, such as those on the outside perimeter of the parking lot.



BLOOMFIELD PARK (CONT.)

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Size: 14.9 acres

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- 1. Increase Teen Programs.** Provide after-school programs for teens and young adults, such as teen mixers, STEAM classes, skill-building courses, and activities for teens with disabilities and neurodivergence. Focused outreach could target high vulnerability “gap” areas that lack nearby parks.
- 2. Improve Pedestrian Safety.** Consult with other City departments to explore and implement pedestrian improvements that align with the recommendations and strategies outlined in the Lakewood Local Roadway Safety Plan. This collaboration should focus on enhancing pedestrian safety, accessibility, and connectivity, ensuring that improvements are consistent with the plan’s objectives and designed to meet the needs of all users.
- 3. Increase Maintenance.** Allocate additional maintenance resources (staffing, funding, time) to maintain this park after renovations.
- 4. Consider Programs on the Lawn.** Evaluate the suitability of offering outdoor programs on the north lawn to increase park visitation.



Programming on the lawn could draw more visitors to Bloomfield. Pictured: Family Movie Night at Mayfair Park.



SAN MARTIN PARK



SAN MARTIN PARK + CONTROL BUILDING

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Size: 10.0 acres

San Martin Park will be a vibrant neighborhood park that honors its historical theme as “Pumpkin Park,” with playful pumpkin carriage elements, while offering a welcoming space for recreation, diverse sports fields and courts, and community connection. The park will continue to evolve with improvements that enhance its facilities, promote safety, and provide more shaded, comfortable spaces for visitors.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Evaluate the San Martin Control Building.** Evaluate two approaches:
 - Renovate the existing building by upgrading electrical and mechanical systems, improving security features (modern locks, cameras, enhanced lighting), increasing storage capacity, and ensuring full ADA accessibility. Update interior spaces to optimize operational efficiency for staff and recreational users.
 - If ongoing staffing needs are not essential, consider replacing the building with a smaller, lower-maintenance facility focused on storage and essential amenities.
- Wading Pool.** See Wading Pool Recommendations. (pg. 6-8)
- Add Shaded Seating at Pumpkin Playground.** Install shade structures over seating areas to provide protection from the sun for park visitors.
- Renovate the Basketball Courts.** Resurface and restripe the courts to improve traction and durability. Repair cracks and uneven areas to enhance player safety. Replace worn-out hoops, backboards, and nets with professional-grade equipment. Upgrade court lighting to energy-efficient LEDs for extended use, and consider adding seating, shade structures, and hydration stations. Improve site drainage to prevent water pooling and long-term surface damage.
- Remove the Handball Courts.** Replace or repurpose the handball courts with another feature.
- Renovate the Backstop.** Replace or repair the backstop to ensure safety and proper functionality for baseball and softball games.



Example: Water Play at Beacon Mountain Playground (Seattle, WA)



Example: Shaded Play and Seating at Playhouse Village Park (Pasadena, CA)



BOYAR PARK



BOYAR PARK + ACTIVITY BUILDING

Park Classification: Neighborhood Park

Park Size: 13.1 acres

Boyar Park will be a dynamic neighborhood park that offers diverse sports fields and courts, providing spaces for active play and community engagement. With a focus on enhancing comfort and accessibility, the park will offer shaded play areas, improved pedestrian connections to the San Gabriel River Nature Trail, and seamless access between Boyar Park North and South. Future improvements will elevate the park's role as a recreational hub, featuring interactive water play areas and upgraded facilities, all while fostering a welcoming environment for visitors of all ages and abilities.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Maintain Boyar Activity Building.** The Boyar Activity Building should also remain a key facility for community programming. Ongoing maintenance and potential upgrades should prioritize preserving its modern features, enhancing functionality, and adapting spaces to meet evolving community needs.
- Increase Shade at the Playground and Seating Areas.** Install large shade structures over key play areas to reduce sun exposure, and add shade sails or tree plantings around seating areas to provide a cooler, more comfortable environment for caregivers and children.
- Wading Pool.** See Wading Pool Recommendations. (pg. 6-8)
- Enhance Pedestrian Connections to the San Gabriel River Nature Trail.** Improve access points with clearly marked trailheads and wayfinding signage.
- Enhance Accessibility and Wayfinding Between Boyar Park North and South.** Add clear wayfinding signage at key entry points and along pathways to guide visitors between the two park areas.



Example: Shaded Play at Earvin Magic Johnson Park (Los Angeles, CA)



Example: Alternative Water Play Option (Longmont, CO)



JOSE DEL VALLE PARK



JOSE DEL VALLE PARK + YOUTH CENTER + CONTROL BUILDING

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Size: 15.5 acres

Del Valle Park will be a dynamic, inclusive community hub that celebrates its historical theme as Airplane Park, featuring a themed playground and the Lakewood Veterans Memorial Plaza. The park will offer enhanced spaces for active play, a revitalized Youth Center supporting multi-generational programming, space for City events, and improved accessibility and safety, creating a vibrant and welcoming environment for residents to gather, play, and engage in meaningful activities.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. Rebuild and Replace Del Valle Recreation Buildings.

Reconstruct the existing Youth Center and adjoining shuffleboard court to create a multi-generational community center that meets diverse recreational needs. The new center should include an outdoor space designed for live City events, such as Concerts in the Park, providing a vibrant venue for community gatherings and entertainment. This redevelopment could also include a gymnasium. Additionally, demolish the current Control Building and the old concession/storage building, relocating their functions into the newly reconstructed Youth Center. This will optimize space for recreation programming, improve accessibility, and enhance operational efficiency.

2. Wading Pool. See Wading Pool Recommendations. (pg. 6-8)

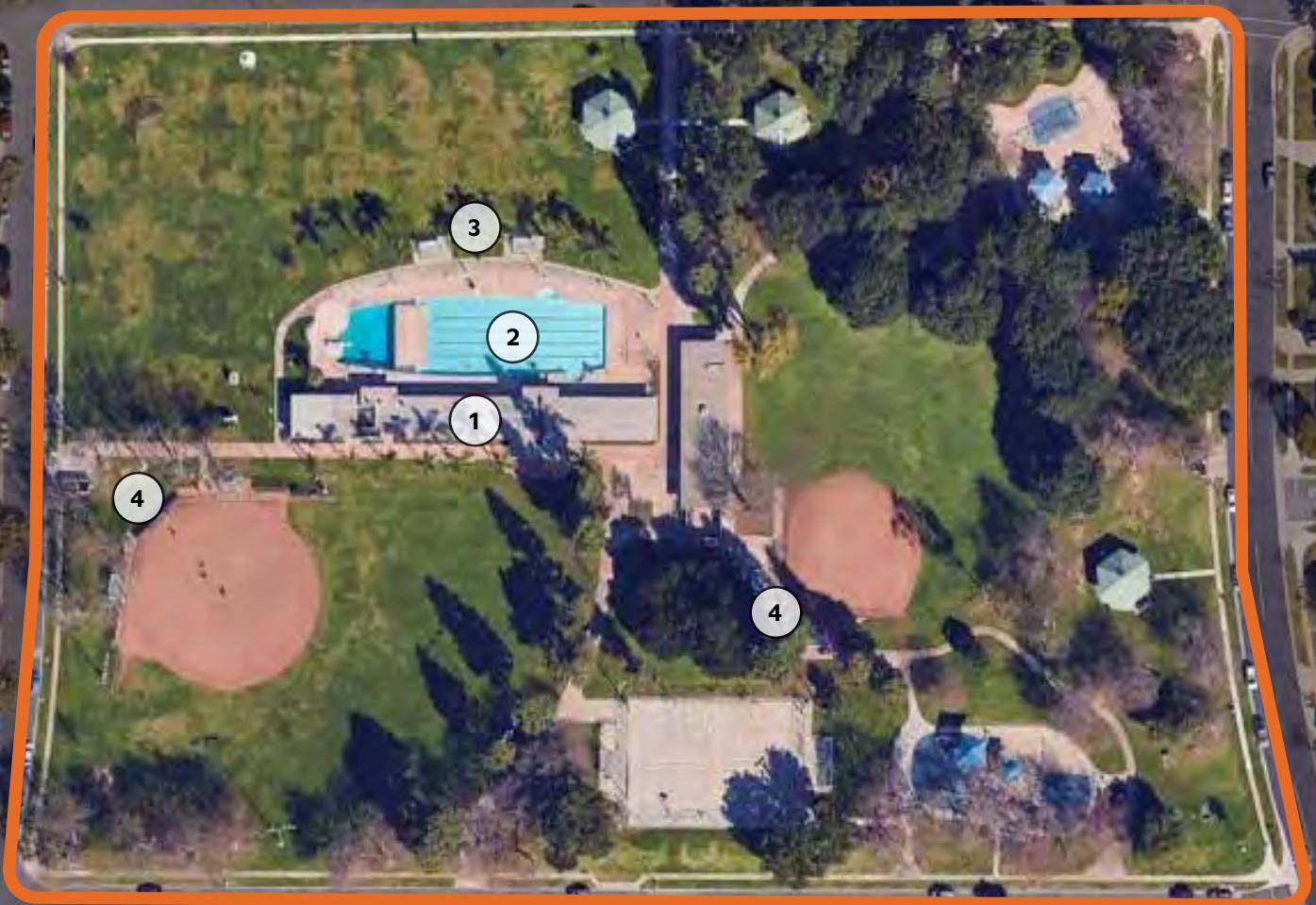
3. Renovate the Playground. Upgrade the tot lot (age 2-5) playground to address safety concerns and enhance play value, including resurfacing play areas, replacing outdated equipment, and adding shade structures to improve comfort and usability.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

4. Consider Concessions Operating Models. Identify options for youth groups or hired youth to operate a new snack shop, with oversight from City staff.
5. Add Community Center Programming. Re-establish programming for a new multi-generational community hub that fosters creativity, lifelong learning, and social connections. Offer diverse programs for children, teens, adults, families, and seniors, including hands-on workshops, skill-building classes, and recreational activities. Create flexible spaces for gatherings, events, and structured programs, while exploring revenue opportunities through rentals, class fees, and sponsorships to support long-term sustainability.



Example: Alternative Water Play Option at Las Positas Child Development Center (Livermore, CA)



SIMON BOLIVAR PARK

Note: Not all recommendations are pinned on the map. Pins show conceptual locations only; actual locations will require vetting and analysis.



SIMON BOLIVAR PARK + MCCORMICK POOL + CONTROL BUILDING

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Size: 10.0 acres

Bolivar Park will be a vibrant community space offering modern amenities and a safe, welcoming environment for all users, designed to accommodate high weekend visitation. The park will provide diverse recreational opportunities, including McCormick Pool for aquatic activities, upgraded sports fields, and enhanced safety features to ensure smooth operations and accessibility for everyone, even during peak use.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Rebuild Recreation Building.** Consider reconstructing the McCormick Pool Bath House and Bolivar Park Control Building into a single, integrated facility that serves both functional and community-oriented purposes. This new facility could include spaces for hosting parties and family events, enhancing the park's role as a community gathering place. By combining these functions, the facility would streamline operations and improve the overall visitor experience at Bolivar Park. Another option is to renovate both buildings.
- Swimming Pool.** See Swimming Pool Recommendations. (pg. 6-6)
- Evaluate Pool View Areas.** In conjunction with the pool assessment, evaluate the pool viewing area to determine whether temporary or permanent improvements are warranted. For either pool rebuild or renovation, install a permanent shade structure with seating and tables to provide a comfortable viewing area. Ensure the space is ADA-compliant, with accessible pathways, seating, and a clear sightline to the pool.
- Renovate the Diamond Backstops (currently rated in poor condition).** Replace rusted fencing and support structures, reinforce stability with durable materials, and repaint or powder-coat surfaces for longevity. Upgrade protective padding behind home plate, improve field drainage around backstops, and ensure proper sightlines for players and spectators.
- Install Safety Lighting.** Install energy-efficient LED lighting along pathways, parking areas, and key gathering spaces to improve visibility at night. Consider security cameras in high-traffic areas to deter illicit activities and improve park safety.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- Expand Pool Operations.** Based on renovation or rebuilding of the swimming pool, consider these pool operations:
 - Extend the Swimming Operations.** Consider adding pool covers for energy efficiency and extended seasons.
 - Earlier Operations.** Adjust pool hours to open at 6 a.m. during peak summer months, providing an early morning swim option for those who prefer a quieter, cooler time to swim.
 - Expand Swimming Fitness Programs.** Offer structured lap swimming sessions with designated lanes, water aerobics classes for all fitness levels, and specialized swim classes for teens, adults, and older adults, focusing on stroke technique, endurance, and aquatic fitness.
 - Host Adult-only Swim Hours.** Designate specific hours in the evening or on weekends where only adults (18+) can swim, providing a quieter and more relaxing experience for those who prefer an adult-only environment.
- Increase Safety.** Add expanded safety officer presence or patrols, particularly during peak hours, to ensure the safety of park activities. This should include patrols along side streets adjacent to the school and residential areas to enhance overall security during late hours.
- Improve Pedestrian Safety.** Consult with other City departments to explore and implement pedestrian improvements that align with the recommendations and strategies outlined in the Lakewood Local Roadway Safety Plan. This collaboration should focus on enhancing pedestrian safety, accessibility, and connectivity, ensuring that improvements are consistent with the plan's objectives and designed to meet the needs of all users.



MAYFAIR PARK



MAYFAIR PARK + MAYFAIR POOL + ACTIVITY BUILDING

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Size: 17.1 acres

Mayfair Park will be a vibrant community hub where residents of all ages come together to play, swim, and stay active. The park will feature Mayfair Pool as a dynamic aquatics hub, Lisa Fernandez Field as a baseball/softball center, and inviting spaces for fitness and wellness, with opportunities for shared amenities and programming in collaboration with the nearby Burns Community Center. With engaging youth play areas, picnic spaces, and a welcoming environment, Mayfair Park will foster recreation, relaxation, and community connection.

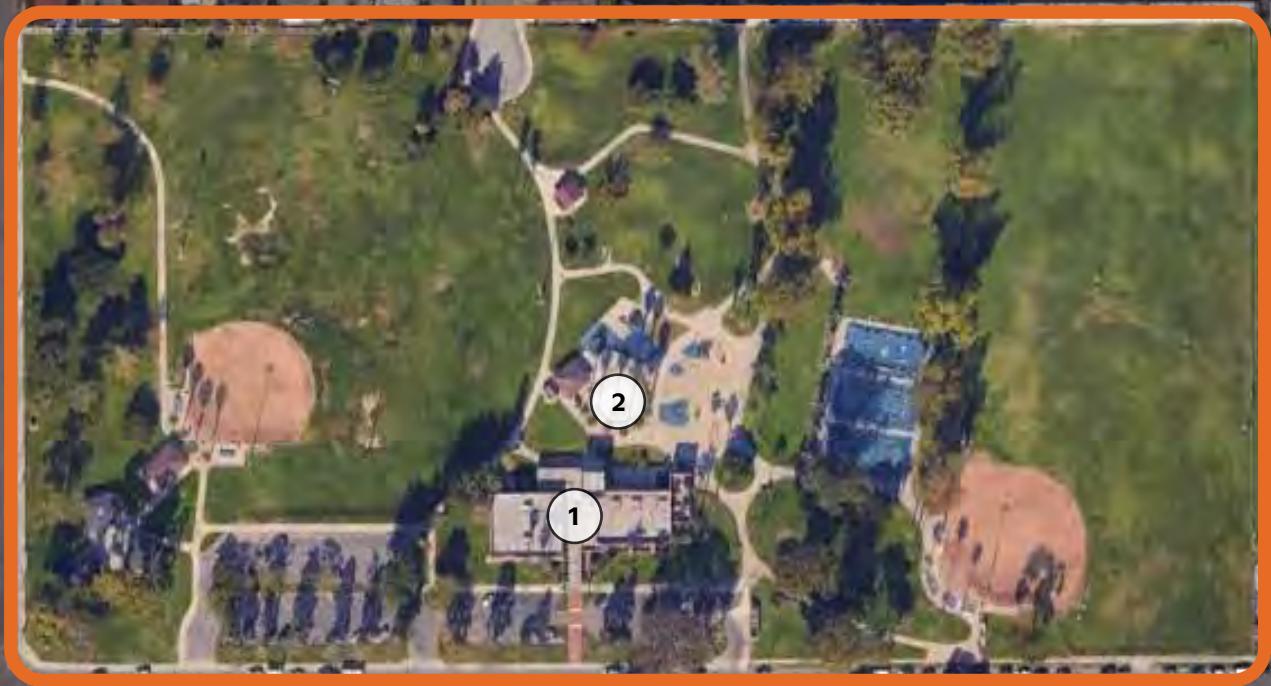
CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 1. Swimming Pool.** See Swimming Pool Recommendations. (pg. 6-6)
- 2. Wading Pool.** See Wading Pool Recommendations. (pg. 6-8)
- 3. Maintain Mayfair Park Swim Pavilion.** Regular maintenance of the building should be conducted to ensure continued safety and functionality.
- 4. Maintain Mayfair Activity (John S. Todd Community Center) Building.** As a newer facility, the Mayfair Activity Building should continue to serve as a hub for community programming. Future updates should focus on maintaining modern amenities, ensuring accessibility, and optimizing space utilization to support a variety of recreational activities.
- 5. Improve the Field Bleachers.** Enhance the bleachers by reinforcing structural integrity through welding repairs and applying a fresh coat of paint to improve durability and appearance.
- 6. Develop a Fitness Trail.** Design and install a looped fitness trail with a variety of exercise stations placed at intervals, catering to different fitness levels. Use durable materials for the trail surface and ensure accessibility for all users. Provide clear signage for fitness stations and trail distance markers.
- 7. Renovate the Picnic Shelter.** Refurbish the shelter by repairing or replacing damaged roofing, enhancing structural stability, and improving aesthetic appeal. Add comfortable seating, ensure the space is ADA-compliant, and provide electrical outlets for events. Consider adding shade structures around the shelter for greater comfort.

- 8. Renovate the Playground.** Replace outdated or damaged play structures with modern, safe equipment, such as climbing walls, slides, and swings, catering to children aged 2-12 years old. Incorporate ADA-accessible features and add soft, resilient surfacing to improve safety. Consider adding a sensory play zone to cater to diverse abilities.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- 9. Extend Swimming Season.** Expand the swimming season by opening the pool earlier in the summer months and exploring the possibility of offering year-round swimming opportunities.
- 10. Expand Swimming Fitness Programs.** Offer structured lap swimming sessions with designated lanes, water aerobics classes for all fitness levels, and specialized swim classes for teens, adults, and older adults, focusing on stroke technique, endurance, and aquatic fitness.
- 11. Host Adult-Only Swim Hours.** Designate specific hours in the evening or on weekends where only adults (18+) can swim, providing a quieter and more relaxing experience for those who prefer an adult-only environment.
- 12. Provide Collaborative Programming with Burns Community Center.** Mayfair Park and Burns Community Center will collaborate to offer joint fitness programs, seasonal sports leagues, and aquatics classes, maximizing the use of both facilities. Shared community events and workshops will enhance engagement and provide diverse recreational opportunities, fostering a stronger connection and promoting wellness for all residents.



PALMS PARK



PALMS PARK

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Size: 21.2 acres

Palms Park is a vibrant, inclusive community hub that fosters engagement and well-being for all. The updated Community Center features a dedicated teen room and supports gymnastics programs, providing spaces for youth and families to connect and grow. With a focus on usability, safety, and sustainability, Palm Park offers a welcoming environment for recreation, socializing, and community-building. The park also ensures ample outdoor space designed for community events and activities, serving as a cornerstone for the community's enjoyment and growth.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

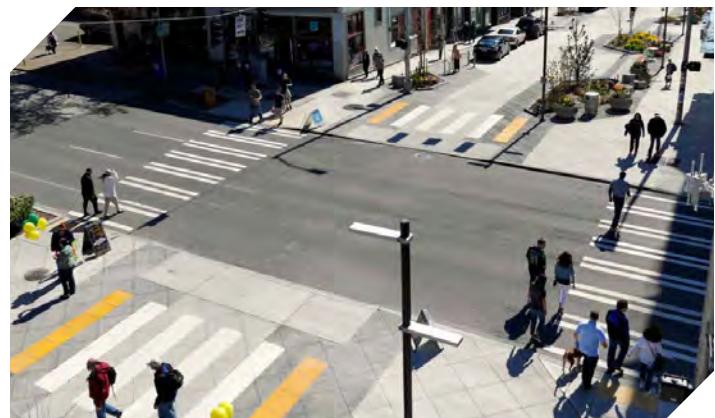
- Renovate Palms Community Center.** Improve the Palms Park Community Center by providing updates to its exterior siding, façade, electrical system, mechanical systems, and roof. Enhance the facility with a 1,200-square-foot expansion to accommodate a new teen room, an accessible restroom, and additional storage. Other planned improvements include upgraded flooring, new restroom fixtures, replacement doors, windows, and ceilings, as well as painting, finishes, and trim throughout.
- Wading Pool.** See Wading Pool Recommendations. (pg. 6-8)
- Improve Landscaping and Infrastructure.** Upgrade park lighting, irrigation systems, hardscape, and landscaping to enhance the park's aesthetic and functionality.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

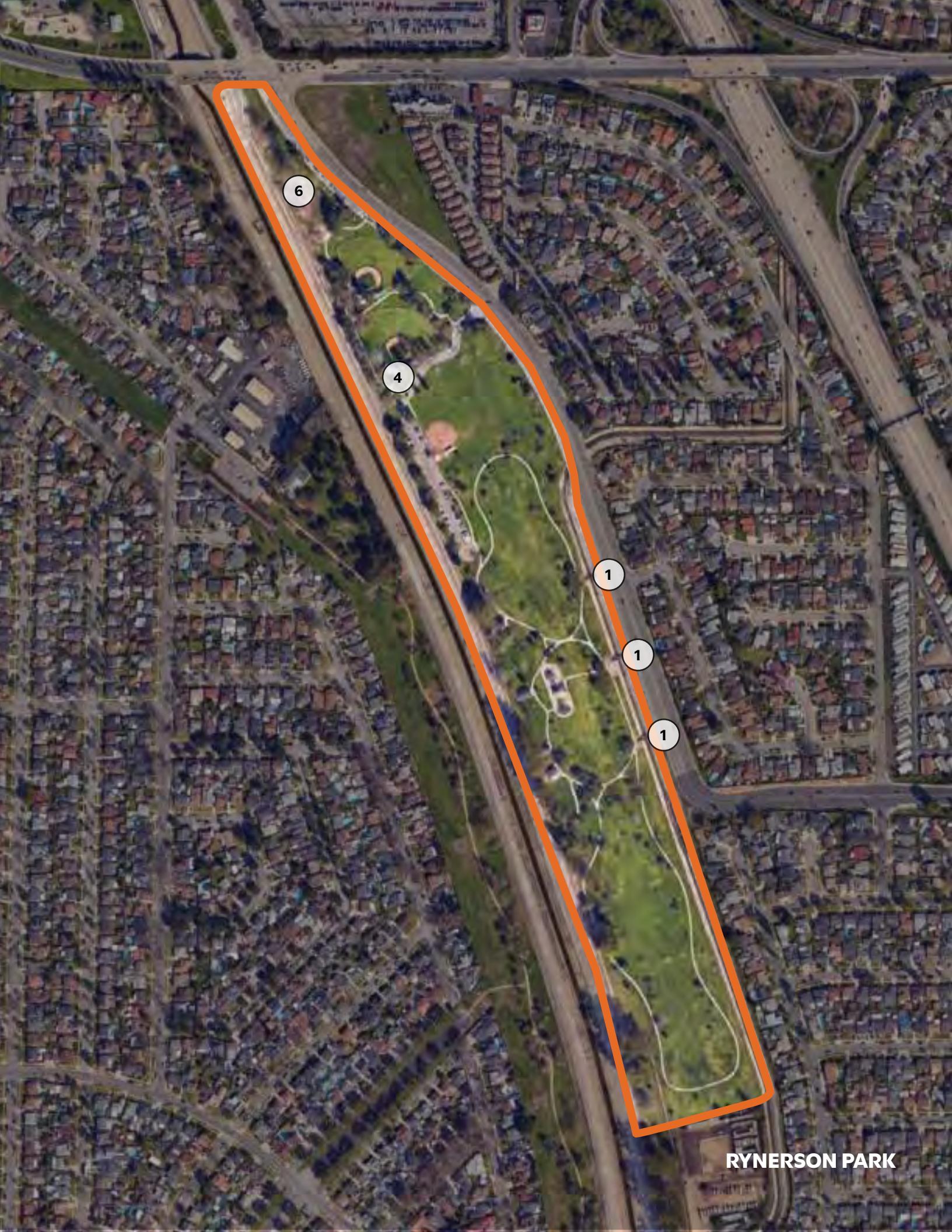
- Coordinate Crosswalk Improvements.** Continue to collaborate with relevant city departments to explore and implement safety enhancements along the streets adjacent to the park and adjoining schools.



Example: Hardscaping and Landscaping at Washington Park Arboretum Pacific Connections Garden (Seattle, WA)



Example: Safe Crosswalks at Bell Street Park (Seattle, WA)



RYNERSON PARK

6

4

1

1

1



RYNERSON PARK + HOME RUN DOG PARK

Park Classification: Community Park

Park Size: 38.9 acres

Rynerson Park serves as a community destination, blending recreation, relaxation, and environmental stewardship. Its well-maintained trails and bridges provide seamless connectivity, inviting visitors to explore both active and passive spaces. Shaded seating and thoughtfully designed gathering areas create welcoming spots for rest and social interaction. Enhanced athletic facilities support both casual play and organized sports, while the Dog Park hub, Home Run Dog Park, offers a dedicated space for dogs and their owners. The park will also focus on creating safer neighborhood connections, ensuring easy access for residents and enhancing the overall park experience for the community.

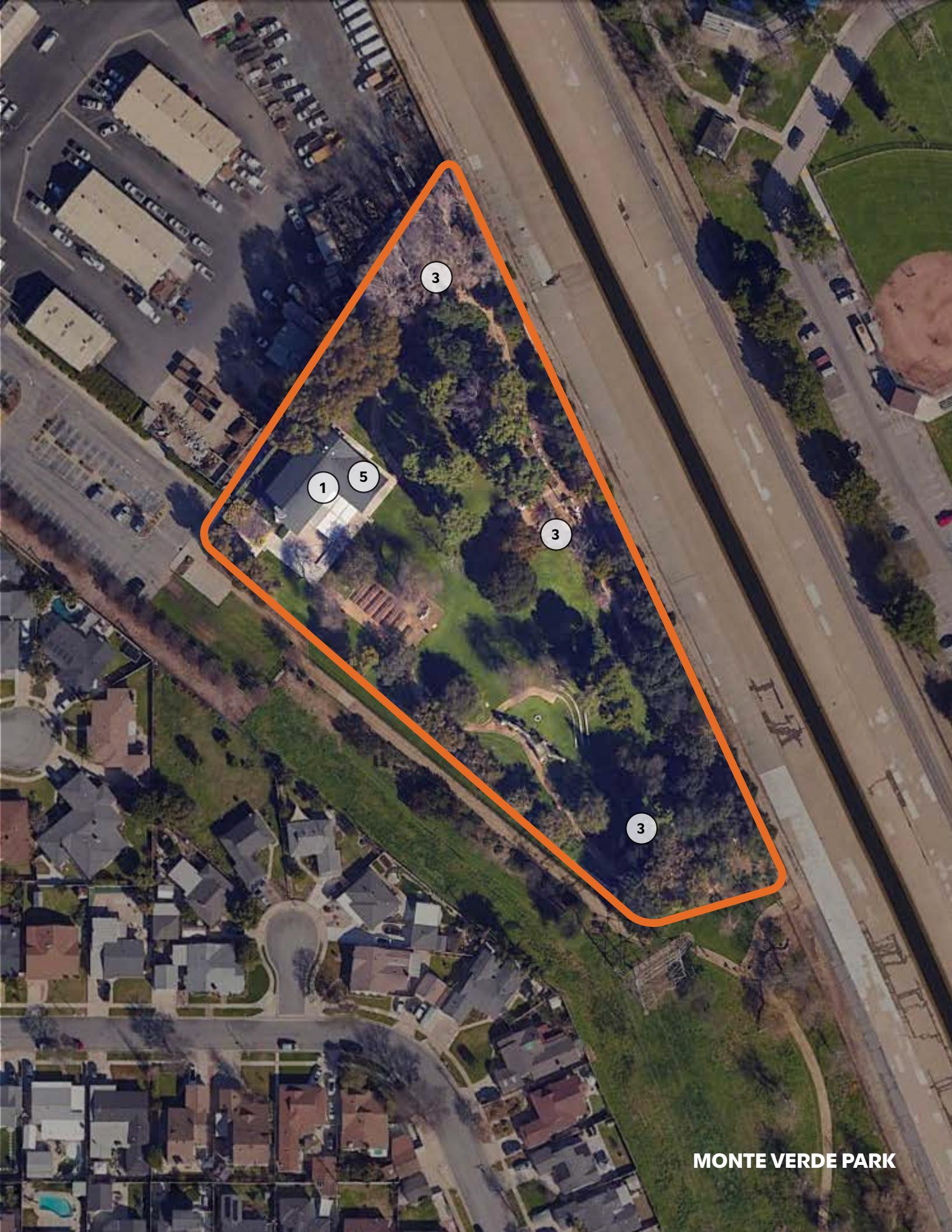
CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 1. Refurbish Rynerson Park Bridge.** Complete the refabrication of bridge steel girder and rail supports, replace natural wood decking with composite materials on multiple bridges, and adjust adjacent landscaping and irrigation to prevent future structural damage.
- 2. Add Benches and Shade Along the Paved Trail.** Incorporate additional benches and shade structures, such as pergolas or trees, at regular intervals along the paved trail to provide rest areas and protection from the sun, enhancing comfort for users.
- 3. Add a Soft-Surfaced Trail with Mile Markers.** Develop a soft-surfaced trail, suitable for walking, running, and jogging, that includes mile markers to track distance, offering a more natural experience for park users and promoting fitness activities.
- 4. Renovate Baseball Fields, Buildings, and Backstops.** Renovate and upgrade select baseball fields, including resurfacing the diamond, repairing or replacing buildings, and improving backstops to enhance safety and usability for both recreational and organized sports use. These improvements should be coordinated with the Lakewood Little League to ensure the facilities are upgraded in line with current standards for both community use and organized play.
- 5. Install Wildflower Garden.** Create a wildflower garden to attract pollinators, improve biodiversity, and provide a vibrant, low-maintenance landscape feature for park visitors.

- 6. Renovate the Dog Park.** Upgrade passive gathering amenities such as benches, tables, and play structures in the dog park to provide more comfortable seating options and recreational features for visitors and their pets. Continue to improve and maintain the grass areas within Home Run Dog Park to ensure a pleasant and functional environment. In addition, consider adding agility course amenities to provide engaging and active play opportunities for dogs.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- 7. Support Pedestrian Safety Improvements.** Consult with other City departments to explore and implement pedestrian improvements that align with the recommendations and strategies outlined in the Lakewood Local Roadway Safety Plan. This collaboration should focus on enhancing pedestrian safety, accessibility, and connectivity, ensuring that improvements are consistent with the plan's objectives and designed to meet the needs of all users.



MONTE VERDE PARK



MONTE VERDE PARK + S. MARK TAPER VISTA LODGE

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Size: 3.2 acres

Monte Verde Park is a nature-focused retreat, offering scenic trails, native landscaping, and a lodge-style gathering space. As a gateway to the San Gabriel River Parkway, it provides a peaceful setting for outdoor exploration, environmental education, and community events. With its large trees, dry creek, and amphitheater, the park fosters a deep connection to nature while serving as a hub for recreation and learning.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Maintain S. Mark Taper Vista Lodge.** Ensure the facility's continued safety, functionality, and welcoming atmosphere by conducting regular inspections, performing preventive maintenance, and making necessary repairs to address age-related deterioration.
- Improve Wayfinding for Monte Verde Park.** Update and install clear, consistent wayfinding signage to guide pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists to Monte Verde Park. Ensure signage is strategically placed at key intersections along Palo Verde Avenue and Del Amo Boulevard to enhance visibility and improve access to the park.
- Renovate Educational Signage.** Update and enhance educational signage with clear, engaging, and durable displays that highlight local ecology, watershed, wildlife, and conservation efforts.
- Add a Nature-Based Playground.** Install a small nature-inspired playground that integrates natural materials like wood, stone, and rope elements to blend with the park's landscape. The design will encourage imaginative play, sensory exploration, and physical activity while complementing Monte Verde Park's natural setting. Interpretive elements can highlight local ecology, fostering environmental awareness among young visitors. Another play option is to add a treehouse play element to enhance the park's recreational offerings and provide a unique, imaginative play experience for children and families. A treehouse-themed play structure can encourage outdoor exploration, fostering creativity and physical activity. Incorporating natural materials and design elements that blend with the park's surroundings will create an appealing destination.

- Enhance Restroom Accessibility.** Improve restroom facilities by increasing accessibility, ensuring they are ADA-compliant and easily reachable and accommodating for all park and San Gabriel River Nature Trail visitors.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- Expand Public Access.** Introduce designated public open days to allow broader community access to this reservation-only site, providing opportunities for visitors to experience and appreciate the park's natural setting.
- Maximize Site Revenue.** Explore and implement higher revenue-generating uses for the site, such as filming permits and hosting corporate events, to support park sustainability and enhancement.



Example: Nature-based Play at Nadaka Park (Gresham, OR)



LAKWOOD COMMUNITY GARDENS



LAKWOOD COMMUNITY GARDENS

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Size: 3.0 acres

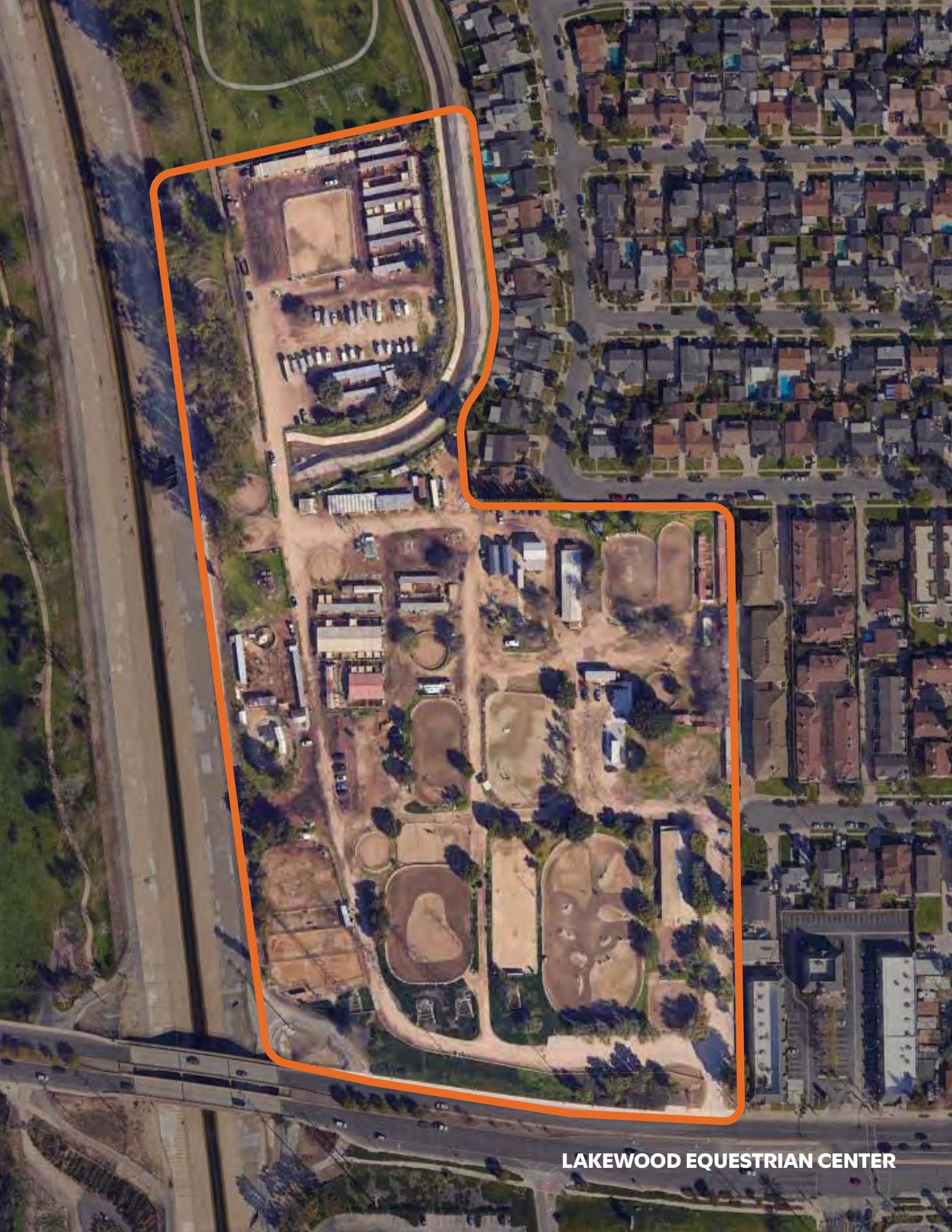
Lakewood Community Gardens is a vibrant hub for local food production, sustainability, and community gathering, where individuals come together to cultivate fresh, healthy food, engage in environmental stewardship, and learn about sustainable practices. It fosters a sense of well-being by promoting mental relaxation, offering educational opportunities, and enhancing the community's connection to nature.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 1. Establish a Composting Station.** Consider designating a managed composting area with clearly labeled bins for green yard waste and organic materials. Provide educational signage on proper composting techniques and environmental benefits, including separating organic material from other garbage.
- 2. Add a Communal Gather Spot.** In coordination with Southern California Edison (SCE), designate a small central gathering area within the garden that includes comfortable, durable seating and information-sharing boards, allowing visitors to connect, share gardening tips, and stay informed about community events and sustainability initiatives.
- 3. Add Interactive Signage and QR Codes.** Use digital technology like QR codes on garden signs to provide real-time information on plant care, garden events, or sustainability tips.
- 4. Replace the Fencing.** Replace chain-link fencing with durable, visually appealing fencing to enhance the garden's aesthetics and create a more inviting environment.
- 5. Install Art and Murals.** Add creative elements such as sculptures, murals, or community art projects to enhance the garden's visual appeal and create a sense of pride and ownership among gardeners.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- 6. Optimize the Community Garden Plot Usage.** In collaboration with the Lakewood Community Garden Steering Committee, regularly assess plot activity and identify underutilized spaces. Work together to implement a system for rotating inactive plots to improve equitable access, reduce waitlist times, and encourage broader community participation. Establish clear and transparent guidelines for plot maintenance, usage timelines, and reassignment procedures to ensure the garden remains active, inclusive, and well-maintained.
- 7. Host a Volunteer Clean-Up Day.** In collaboration with the Lakewood Community Garden Steering Committee, organize volunteer cleanup days to engage residents in maintaining and beautifying the space. Volunteers can assist with tasks such as amending garden plots, weeding, mulching, repairing garden infrastructure, and enhancing physical features like paths and seating areas, while contributing to the community and promoting environmental stewardship. Continue hosting these cleanup efforts as part of Lakewood Volunteer Day to broaden participation and highlight the garden's role in fostering civic pride and sustainability.



LAKWOOD EQUESTRIAN CENTER



LAKWOOD EQUESTRIAN CENTER

Park Classification: Special Use Park

Park Size: 19.8 acres

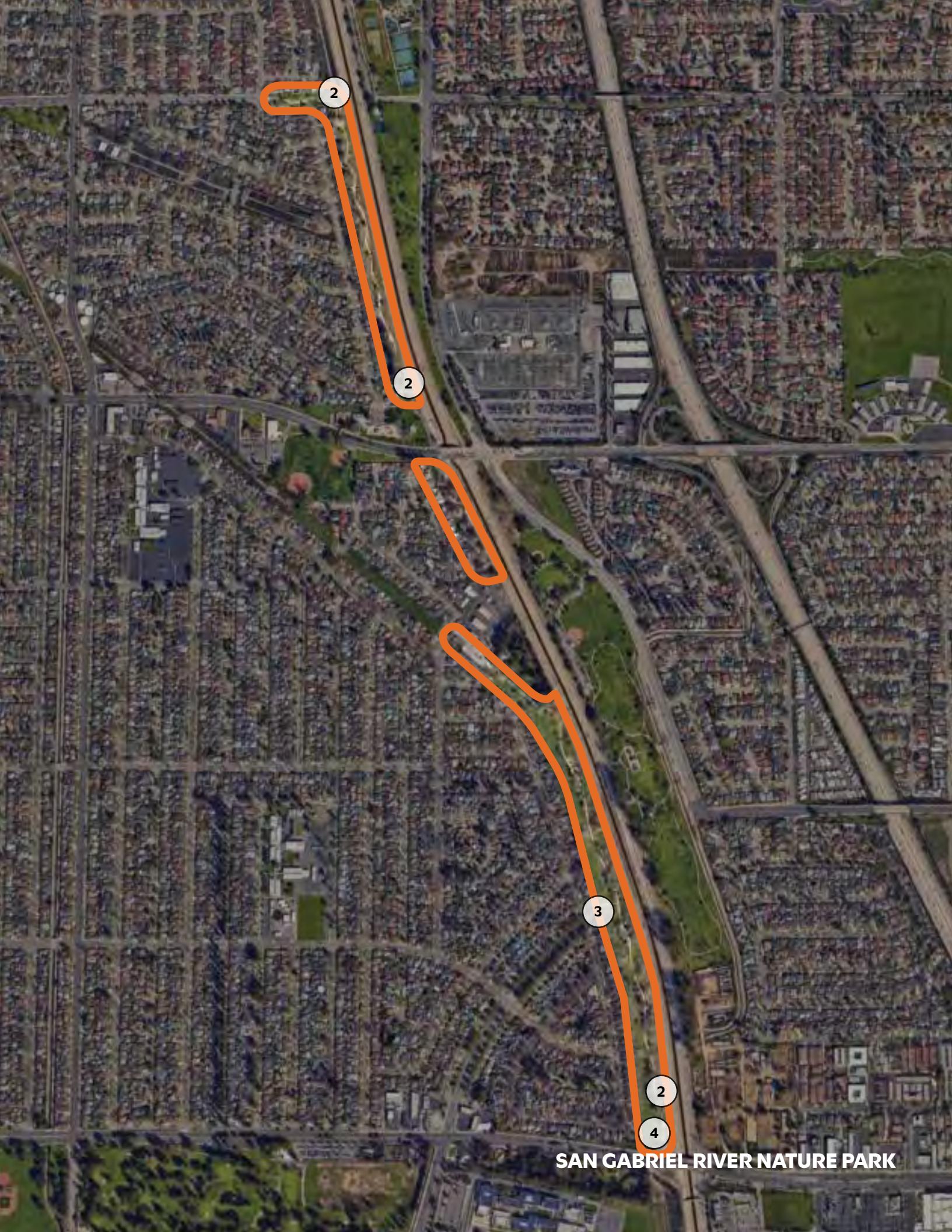
The Lakewood Equestrian Center is a destination for riders of all ages, offering top-quality horse boarding, training, and riding lessons in a welcoming environment. Families and young riders can enjoy hands-on youth programs and the beloved petting zoo. Committed to equestrian excellence, the center fosters a deep connection between people and horses while preserving the joy of riding.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 1. Make Safety Improvements.** Continue implementing a comprehensive maintenance program for equestrian facilities, including timely repairs to horse stalls, barns, and arenas to ensure rider and visitor safety. Align these efforts with the city's lease agreement with Pilmore Equestrian LLC, which includes significant investments in structural upgrades and safety improvements to support long-term sustainability of the Lakewood Equestrian Center.
- 2. Periodically Re-evaluate Potential Site Uses.** Given this site's importance and value in providing recreation space for the community, the city should continue to monitor use in conjunction with facility lifecycles, costs, and site maintenance needs to periodically consider additional or alternative uses. Revisit and refine the site master plan every five years. As part of this process, consider using a smaller footprint for the facility that retains the petting zoo and pony ride operations, excluding the Southern California Edison (SCE) licensed land, which accounts for approximately half of the Lakewood Equestrian Center property. Due to SCE's restrictive five-year land licensing provisions, which allow for the revocation of land use at any time during the period, long-term planning and capital improvements on this land are highly uncertain and risky. Focusing on a more stable area of the property will ensure safer, more sustainable development and operations.



The Lakewood Equestrian Center also contains a horse trail that runs northward alongside Rynerson Park and the concretized San Gabriel River channel.



SAN GABRIEL RIVER NATURE PARK



SAN GABRIEL RIVER NATURE TRAIL

Park Classification: Parkway and Nature Trail

Park Size: 26.4 acres

The San Gabriel River Nature Trail offers a peaceful, scenic pathway that connects the community to nature, providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, environmental education, and wildlife observation. Designed to enhance the area's natural beauty, the trail fosters physical activity and promotes sustainability, offering a tranquil retreat for visitors of all ages to enjoy and explore.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

1. **Add Shaded Benches.** Increase the number of shaded benches along the trail to provide rest areas for visitors and enhance comfort during outdoor activities.
2. **Add Interpretive Features or Signage.** Add interpretive information to foster environmental awareness and enrich the visitor experience. Consider the following:
 - a. **Add educational and interpretive signage** highlighting the natural flora and fauna of the area.
 - b. **Place a tree map at each end of the trail**, showcasing the location and names of various tree species.
 - c. **Install informative signage about local bird species** to encourage birdwatching and support the community of bird enthusiasts in the area.
3. **Install a Pedestrian Access Gate.** Install a pedestrian access gate and trailhead at the terminus of Los Coyotes Diagonal to provide easier neighborhood access to the trail, improving connectivity for local residents.
4. **Extend the Trail into Long Beach.** Collaborate with the City of Long Beach to explore opportunities for extending the trail southward along the San Gabriel River, enhancing recreational access for both communities. This collaboration should include coordinating signage to guide users to safe crossing points across Carson Street.
5. **Maintain a Bird and Butterfly Habitat.** Plant, preserve and enhance bird and butterfly habitats along the trail to support local wildlife and encourage biodiversity.
6. **Install Signage on Dog Policies and Provide Waste Disposal.** Add signage detailing dog regulations including on-leash and waste pick-up requirements. This is aimed at protecting wildlife, particularly birds, and ensuring the space is enjoyable and safe for all users.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

7. **Regulate Noise and Light Levels.** Establish regulations for noise and light levels along the trail to protect the natural habitat of animals and minimize disturbances to nearby residents.
8. **Partner with Environmental Organizations.** Collaborate with relevant environmental organizations to foster volunteerism and ensure effective management and conservation of the trail and surrounding ecosystem.
9. **Review Landscaping Management Practices.** Evaluate and adopt specialized landscaping management practices that align with the trail's natural setting, distinguishing it from standard City park maintenance approaches.



Example: Interpretive Sign at Washington Park Arboretum Pacific Connections Garden (Seattle, WA)



CIVIC CENTER + THE CENTRE



CIVIC CENTER + THE CENTRE

Park Classification: Standalone Recreation Facilities

Park Size: 5.4 acres

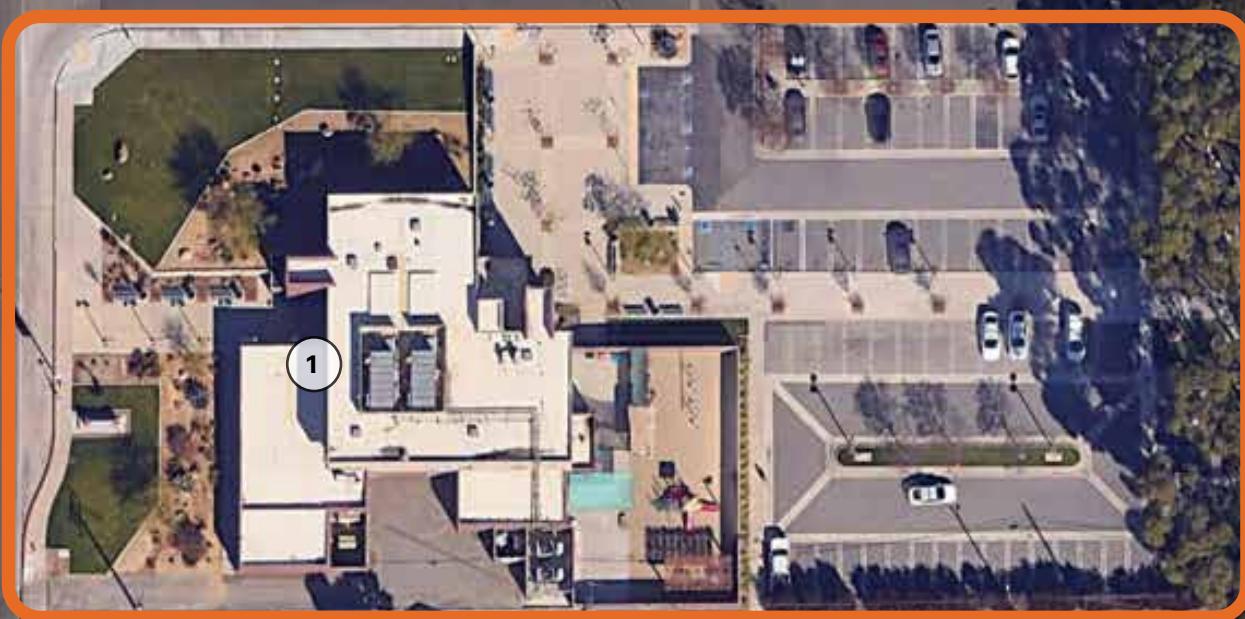
The Lakewood Civic Center, anchored by The Centre, serves as a dynamic hub for civic engagement and community events, offering premier meeting services and exceptional settings for receptions, banquets, meetings, and conferences, all supported by professional catering. The Civic Center also includes a vibrant town square, providing a public space for gatherings, cultural events, and community interaction, reinforcing Lakewood's identity as a city that blends tradition with modern progress.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Maintain The Centre.** As a recently renovated facility, The Centre should continue to serve as a dynamic hub for community programs, events, and banquets, offering versatile rental spaces with catering services for a variety of gatherings. Future enhancements should focus on maintaining its modern amenities and exterior façade, ensuring accessibility, and optimizing spaces to support a diverse range of recreational and social activities.
- Develop an Outdoor Community Amphitheater and Event Space.** Create a vibrant gathering space on the vacant lot within the Lakewood Civic Center adjacent to the Angelo M. Iacoboni Library. The public gathering space should feature integrated seating, landscaping, public art, and a designated entertainment area for performances and events. It should serve as a community hub for public events, concerts, and cultural programming while also being available for private rentals, including weddings and celebrations.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- Develop Programming/Staffing for Community Amphitheater and Event Space.** Establish a management and programming plan for the planned outdoor community amphitheater and event space to ensure its successful activation and maintenance. Develop a seasonal calendar of city-sponsored events such as concerts, cultural performances, movie nights, and community celebrations to create regular opportunities for public engagement. Establish rental policies, fee schedules, and usage guidelines for private events like weddings and gatherings. Implement a reservation and permitting system to manage bookings efficiently and ensure fair community access. Assign staff or contract event coordinators to oversee scheduling, setup, event logistics, and ongoing maintenance to protect the space's condition and ensure a high-quality visitor experience. Incorporate partnerships with local arts organizations, schools, and community groups to expand programming diversity and foster a strong sense of ownership and pride among residents.



BURNS COMMUNITY CENTER



BURNS COMMUNITY CENTER

Park Classification: Standalone Recreation Facilities

Park Size: 2.2 acres

The community center is a welcoming and versatile space that serves as a hub for active adults while supporting a variety of programs. As a provider of essential services, the facility fosters intergenerational connections and enhances community well-being. With a focus on active adult programming, it offers opportunities for lifelong learning, fitness, and social engagement while remaining adaptable to meet the evolving needs of the broader community.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- Maintain Burns Community Center.** Maintain the facility through regular inspections, preventative maintenance, and necessary repairs to ensure a safe, functional, and welcoming environment. Routine assessments should focus on safety systems and overall accessibility to support long-term usability. In addition, assessment and renovations may be required to the HVAC system.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- Maintain and Sustain Core Programming.** Continue to provide high-demand senior programs, such as fitness classes, social groups, educational workshops, and senior lunch services. Ensure these programs remain accessible, with a focus on quality and community engagement. Monitor participation to adjust class sizes or add new sessions as needed to accommodate growing demand.
- Expand Wellness and Fitness Opportunities.** Introduce innovative fitness options tailored for active adults (50+), including classes like dance-based cardio (e.g., Zumba Gold), low-impact aerobics, cycling, and "SilverSneakers" style workouts. Integrate holistic wellness programs such as yoga, tai chi, and pilates to promote flexibility, balance, and mental wellness. Additionally, implement fitness tracking or challenge programs using wearable devices to encourage friendly competition and help participants track their fitness goals. Collaborate with local trainers or health experts to offer specialized workshops on injury prevention, strength training for older adults, and healthy aging. Integrate these offerings with Mayfair Park's existing or potential new facilities to maximize accessibility and programming options, allowing for outdoor fitness and recreational opportunities as well.

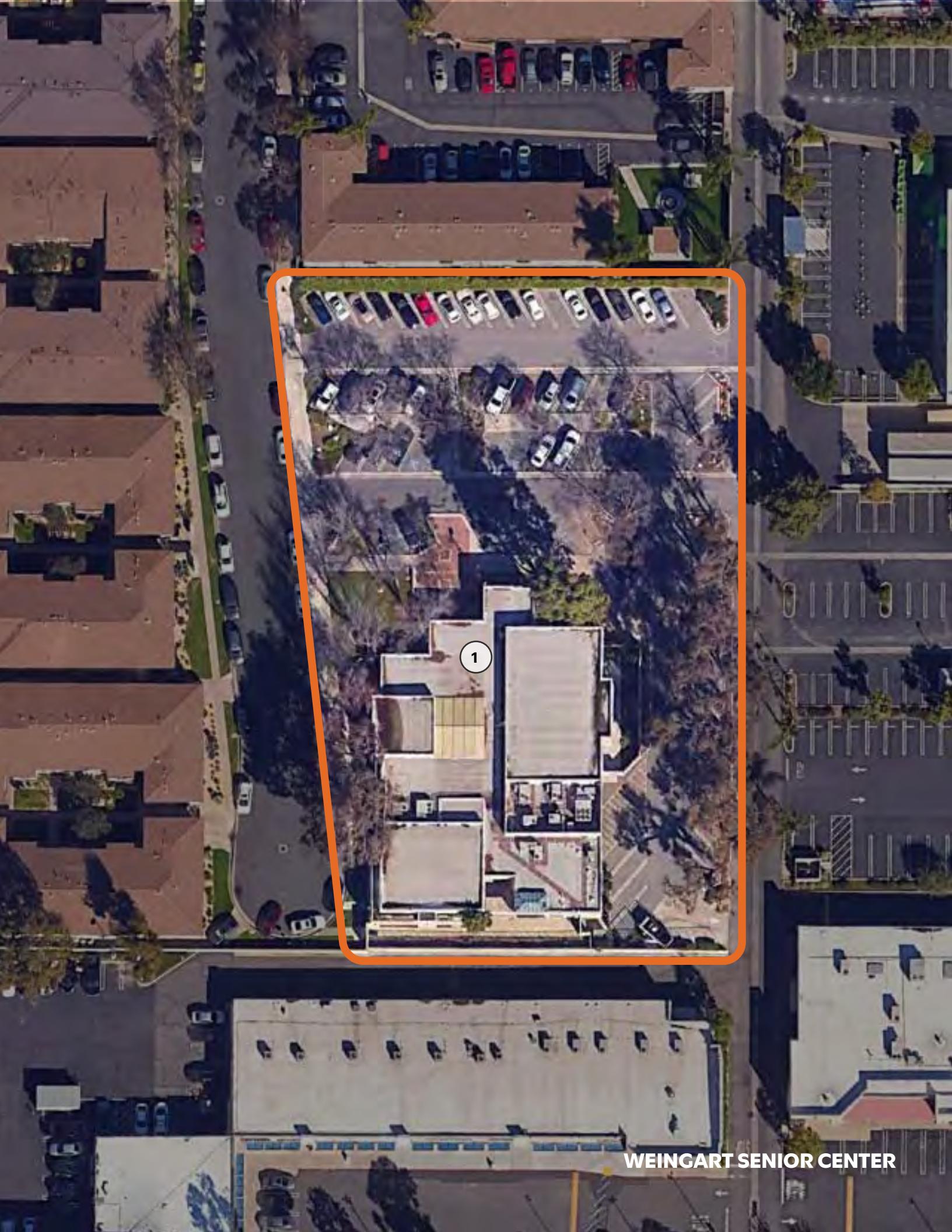


Example: Fitness opportunities at Ord and Yale Street Park (Los Angeles, CA)



Example: Early Education Programs for EduCare California (San Jose, CA)

Note: Not all recommendations are pinned on the map. Pins show conceptual locations only; actual locations will require vetting and analysis.



WEINGART SENIOR CENTER



WEINGART SENIOR CENTER

Park Classification: Standalone Recreation Facilities

Park Size: 1.4 acres

The Weingart Senior Center is a vibrant and accessible hub where seniors enjoy an active, healthy, and engaged lifestyle. Offering services such as case management, fitness facilities, low-cost lunches, and social programs, the center provides a supportive environment for seniors to connect with others and access the resources they need. Entertainment and recreational activities, along with a variety of social activities, foster a strong sense of community, while a range of social services help meet the diverse needs of senior residents.

CAPITAL PROJECTS

- 1. Renovate Weingart Senior Center.** Reinvest and renew aging infrastructure, including upgrades to mechanical systems, ADA-compliant restrooms, accessible parking and pathways, interior improvements such as flooring, paint, lighting, doors, window treatments, as well as the installation of hearing loops, updated signage, and modifications to private offices and interior spaces.

OPERATIONS / PROGRAMS

- 2. Improve Connectivity and Wayfinding.** Review strategies to improve connectivity between the Weingart Senior Center and the nearest Metro bus stop on Candlewood Street, located approximately 850 feet (280 meters) away. This distance may pose challenges for seniors with mobility issues, so consider pedestrian improvements, including enhanced ADA accessibility and improved wayfinding, to make the route safer and more navigable.
- 3. Enhance Programs.** Offer a comprehensive range of technology education classes for seniors, including basic digital literacy and advanced skills training. Provide access to digital tablets, computers, and internet services at the Weingart Senior Center, ensuring that seniors have the tools they need to engage with modern technology. Expand and enhance senior programs by incorporating wellness initiatives focused on emotional well-being, offering a variety of activities such as arts, fitness, and multi-generational events, and increasing travel opportunities through day trips and social outings.



Example: ADA accessible pathways at Microsoft Campus (Redmond, WA)



Example: Sharing Digital Literacy Skills (Regional Planning, Southern NV)



CHAPTER 7

TAKING ACTION



CHAPTER 7

TAKING ACTION

The City of Lakewood has built a strong legacy of sound fiscal management, emphasizing accountability, efficiency, and careful stewardship of public resources. This tradition is a key reason the city has been able to provide well-maintained parks, quality recreation facilities, and safe public spaces that serve a diverse and growing community. However, continuing to meet these expectations—particularly in a built-out city with finite resources—requires a realistic, strategic approach.

While this Plan outlines many ideas to enhance and expand Lakewood's parks and recreation offerings, it's important to recognize that not all recommendations will be feasible to implement. Limited available land and funding constraints mean that the city must make difficult choices about which investments to prioritize. As a result, some community expectations may need to be tempered, with a focus on doing the most good with the resources available.

This chapter provides tools to help the city navigate these challenges and make informed, balanced decisions. These include:

- The **Project Prioritization Tool** provides a method for ranking potential projects—such as land acquisition, facility improvements, or new developments—based on need, feasibility, cost, and alignment with city goals. This tool helps ensure that limited funds are directed to the most impactful projects as part of the 7-year Capital Improvement Plan.
- A **Funding Strategy Overview** describes existing and potential funding sources, including grants, tax revenues, and capital reserves. It also reflects Lakewood's "save-then-spend" fiscal philosophy, which positions the city to act when opportunities arise.
- A **Partnership Framework** offers guidance for forming and managing partnerships with public agencies, nonprofits, and others to expand services and share responsibilities. This helps leverage outside resources while maintaining service quality.



- **Land Acquisition Strategies** look at how the city might pursue park expansion despite limited undeveloped land, through strategies like easements, site reuse, or joint-use agreements.
- A **Facility Cost Menu** lists order-of-magnitude cost estimates for common park improvements, helping the city assess which projects can move forward and when, based on available funding.

Together, these tools support a realistic, long-term strategy to maintain and enhance Lakewood's parks and recreation system. While not every idea in this Plan may be achievable, the tools provided here help the city focus its investments where they will have the greatest impact—ensuring that Lakewood continues to offer safe, accessible, and enjoyable public spaces for years to come.

CAPITAL AND PROGRAMMATIC PROJECT LIST

The previous chapter outlined recommendations for developing and enhancing Lakewood's park system based on community input and needs assessments. Appendix E: Capital and Programmatic Project List summarizes those recommendations, and includes both capital improvement projects and operational enhancements.

Acknowledging that recommendations may outpace city resources, a series of tools and strategies are presented in this chapter to help the city prioritize and partner for best results.



The future of Lakewood is influenced by today's actions.



PARK PROJECT PRIORITIZATION TOOL

The City of Lakewood is committed to providing safe, high-quality parks and recreation facilities that meet the evolving needs of the community. To plan and manage capital investments, the City uses a 7-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which serves as the primary mechanism for identifying, evaluating, and funding infrastructure and facility projects. The CIP is reviewed and updated annually through a structured process that considers City Council direction, regulatory and legal obligations, community needs, requirements tied to dedicated funding sources, public safety, preservation of City assets, and established public works practices.

This Plan complements the City's CIP process by introducing a Park Project Prioritization Tool to help evaluate and elevate parks and recreation projects not currently included in the 7-year CIP. The tool enables City staff to assess proposed projects—such as land acquisition, new development, or rehabilitation of existing amenities—based on a consistent set of criteria aligned with the City's mission, vision, values, and community needs. Projects that receive higher scores are intended to be prioritized when new funding becomes available. Lower-scoring projects are identified as opportunity projects, which may advance as funding allows—such as when priority projects are completed or when grant opportunities emerge. This prioritization process ensures transparency and consistency in future CIP updates and annual budget planning.

This three-step prioritization tool clarifies how to rank projects.

Step 1: Alignment with the Lakewood Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan. The project must support plan goals, or the project does not advance further. Projects that adhere to multiple goals score higher.

Step 2: Special Catalysts. Specific catalysts can boost the project's priority, including safety or environmental mandates; unique funding opportunities; or if the project is aligned with the goals of another city planning document or assessment (e.g., Facility Condition Assessment, Local Road Safety Plan, Pavement Management Plan, or General Plan).

Step 3: Prioritization Criteria. A series of criteria based on realities and needs that evaluate a project to ensure alignment with community priorities and the feasibility of implementation.

Projects with high prioritization scores may move forward pending available grants or other funding.

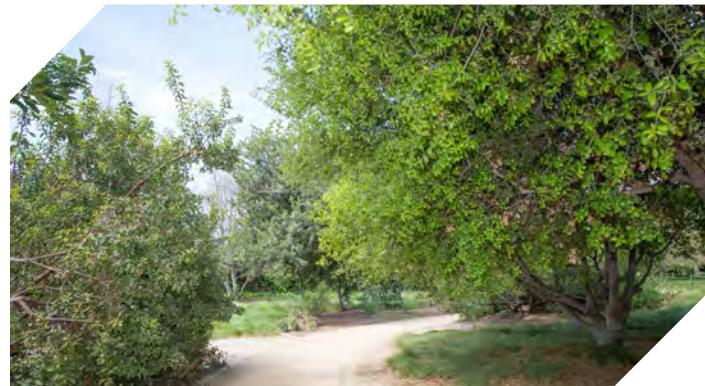




TABLE 7-1. PARK PROJECT PRIORITIZATION TOOL

STEP 1: ALIGNMENT WITH THE LAKWOOD PARKS, RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES LONG-RANGE PLAN	APPLICABLE POINTS	SCORE
The project increases parkland acreage or facility counts within the City of Lakewood.	1 point	
The project improves access to an existing park or recreation facility, where there is currently limited or challenging access.	1 point	
The project increases parkland or adds recreation facilities in a gap area (underserved area).	1 point	
The project supports optimization of existing parks and recreation spaces for extended use, increased capacity or diversified activities.	1 point	
The project supports safe, well-maintained parks and facilities for improved visitor comfort.	1 point	
The project addresses climate resiliency or supports local ecology.	1 point	

STOP – If no points are accrued above, the project may be disregarded.

STEP 2: SPECIAL CATALYSTS	APPLICABLE POINTS	SCORE
The project addresses a legal mandate, such as new laws, ADA requirements, water use restrictions, etc.	Automatic priority	
The project is fully funded by Quimby/park impact fees and is intended to serve new residential growth.	Automatic priority	
The project is fully funded via external dollars through grants, donations, partnerships, other agency funds, etc., and is aligned with the goals of this Plan.	Automatic priority	
The project aligns with the goals of another city planning document or assessment (e.g., Facility Condition Assessment, Local Road Safety Plan, Pavement Management Plan, or General Plan).	Automatic Priority	
TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE		



TABLE 7-1. PARK PROJECT PRIORITIZATION TOOL (CONT.)

STEP 3: PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA	APPLICABLE POINTS	SCORE
HEALTH, SAFETY, CONDITION, AND USE		
The project alleviates a minor (1), moderate (2) or serious (3) health or safety concern.	1-3 points	
The project restores use to a nonfunctional facility or a currently unused facility/space.	2 points	
The project replaces a facility at, or near, the end of its lifecycle.	1 point	
The project mitigates pollution or environmental hazards.	2 points	
The project supports a highly used site or facility.	1 point	
ENHANCED ACCESS		
The project is within, or directly serves, an area with identifiable vulnerable populations per data sources.	1 point	
The project supports inclusion efforts per the Race, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Community Dialogue Action Plan.	1 point	
The project improves connectivity or access to an existing site.	1 point	
CLIMATE RESILIENCY / ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		
The project addresses climate resiliency, such as through green infrastructure or urban cooling.	1 point	
The project protects or enhances a natural resource.	1 point	
COMMUNITY SUPPORT		
The project supports another city project or initiative.	2 points	
The project has stated neighborhood, stakeholder, and/or business interest and support.	1 point	
The project is popular/has substantial citywide interest.	2 points	
TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE		



TABLE 7-1. PARK PROJECT PRIORITIZATION TOOL (CONT.)

STEP 3: PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA (CONTINUED)	APPLICABLE POINTS	SCORE
RECREATION AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY		
The project offers a new recreation, cultural or educational opportunity that is not currently offered by the city.	3 points	
The project offers an expanded recreation, cultural, or educational opportunity that is currently insufficient for the community.	2 points	
The project serves a variety of user ages, cultures and abilities.	1 point	
The project protects or enhances an identified cultural or historic landmark.	2 points	
URGENCY AND EASE OF IMPLEMENTATION		
The project acquires land while the opportunity exists to do so.	2 points	
The project can be done quickly and efficiently. It is "shovel ready" (i.e., advanced planning, feasibility studies and permitting have been completed).	2 points	
The project uses existing resources (e.g., acquired land, facilities, equipment).	2 points	
CAPITAL, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATIONS COST OFFSETS		
The project is partially funded through outside (non-city) funding, such as grants, donations, partnerships, other agency funds, etc.	2 points	
The project will generate revenue to offset operation costs.	3 points	
There is outside funding available to cover ongoing maintenance costs.	2 points	
The project involves repair or rehabilitation that decreases long-term costs or increases maintenance and operational efficiencies.	1 point	
The project delivers high value for the cost of resources needed, relative to other projects.	1 point	
The project uses or leverages existing resources (e.g., staffing, funding), and/or unlocks other capital.	2 points	
TOTAL SCORE	50 POINTS POSSIBLE	



INVESTMENT IN PARKS AND RECREATION

Like many California cities, the City of Lakewood faces ongoing fiscal challenges in balancing present-day expenses with long-term capital needs. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, inflation, rising costs of goods and services, and persistent state budget deficits have tested the City's financial resilience. Despite these pressures, Lakewood's conservative "save-then-spend" capital financing strategy—paired with voter-supported revenue measures like Measure L—has enabled the City to remain fiscally stable and proactive in planning for community improvements. This financial approach underpins the City's commitment to high-quality parks and recreation services and facilities, supported by both its annual operating budget and a multi-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

CITYWIDE ADOPTED OPERATING BUDGET

In Fiscal Year 2023–24, the City of Lakewood adopted a total budget with estimated uses of funds totaling \$88.7 million.* Of this, the Department of Recreation & Community Services (RCS) accounted for \$16 million, with approximately 90% of that funding sourced from the City's General Fund—demonstrating strong local support and prioritization of recreation programs, facilities, and services (see Figure 7-1).

RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES (RCS) OPERATING BUDGET

In Fiscal Year 2023-24, the Department of Recreation & Community Services (RCS) had a proposed operating budget approximately \$2.5 million to administration; \$4.5 million to human, parks, sports, and social programs; \$6.5 million parks, facilities, turf, and medians maintenance; \$700k for Centre facility operations; and \$800k for DASH transit.** These distributions indicate strong emphasis on staffing, community programs, and park and facility maintenance (see Figure 7-1.)

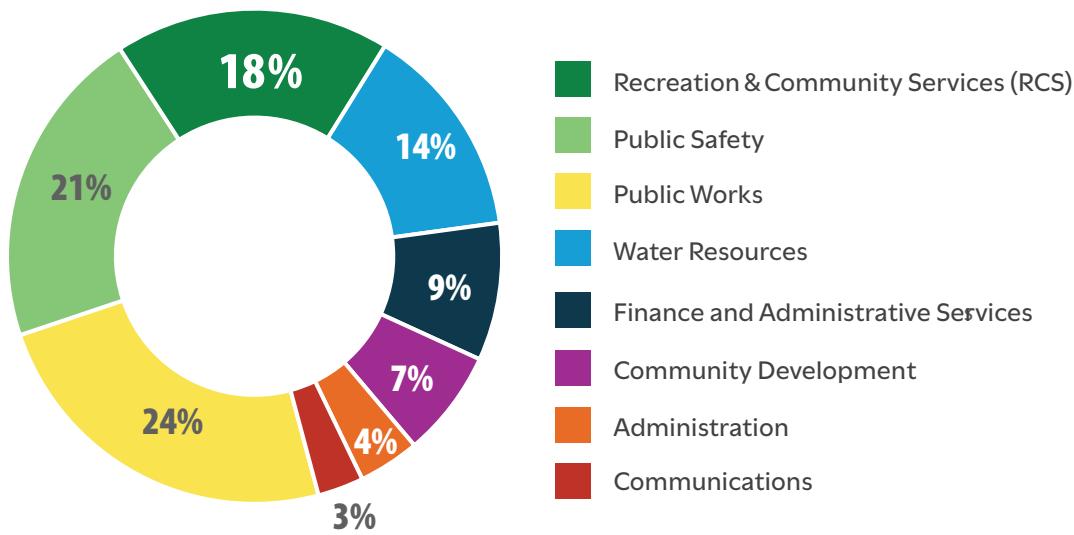
*City of Lakewood FY2023-24 Adopted Budget

**City of Lakewood FY2022-24 Proposed Budget

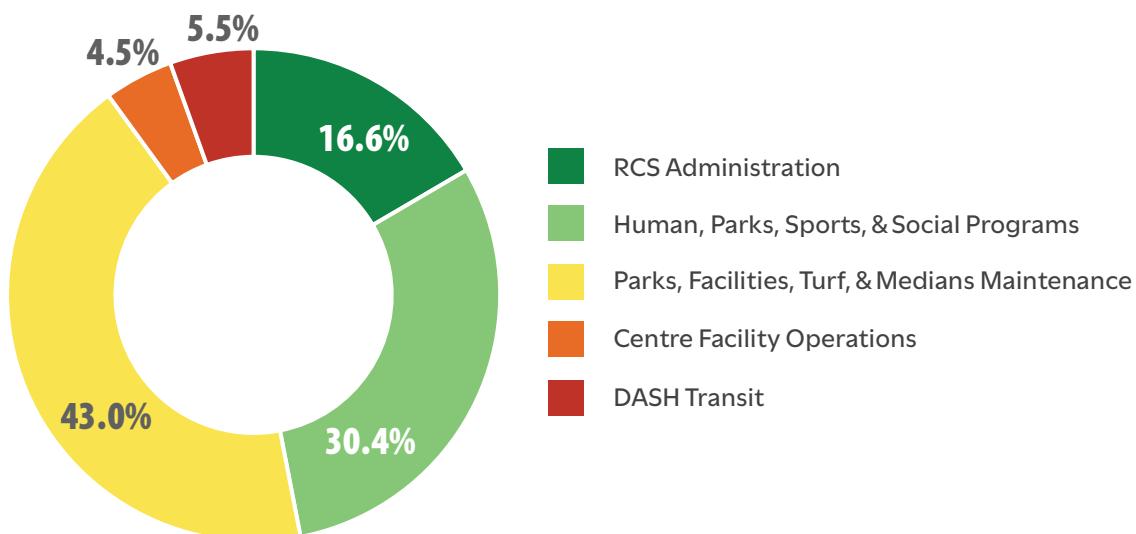


FIGURE 7-1. FY2023-24 REVISED BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

CITY DEPARTMENTS



RECREATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES (RCS)





CITYWIDE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET

Complementing the annual operating budget is Lakewood's 7-Year Capital Improvement Program (CIP), which outlines long-term infrastructure investments for FY 2023–24 through FY 2029–30. The CIP identifies approximately \$138.6 million in total investments, including \$36.7 million in projected funding from Measure L and over \$1.1 million in currently unallocated Measure A funds. The plan also notes \$22.5 million in underfunded or unfunded projects, which are pending the identification of additional sources such as grants

or other external funding. Beyond the seven-year horizon, an additional \$77.9 million in projected capital needs is anticipated between 2031 and 2040.

The 7-Year CIP captures a mix of annual, in-progress, committed, and planned projects—totaling 62 in all. These projects span multiple city service areas, with a significant concentration in Recreation & Community Services (RCS) facility and park improvements.

TABLE 7-2. CIP FUNDING SOURCES (FY 23/24 TO FY 29/30)

FUND SOURCE	Bal 6/30/23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2031-2040	TOTALS
1 General Fund	85,713	4,557,366								\$ 4,643,079
2 CDBG	589,822	230,935	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	75,000		\$ 1,270,757
3 Measure L City	10,963,602	3,100,000	3,500,000	3,605,000	3,713,150	3,824,545	3,939,281	4,057,459	47,909,647	\$ 84,612,683
4 Measure A	1,028,281	275,000	280,500	286,110	291,832	297,669	303,622	309,695		\$ 3,072,709
5 Measure M	5,181,591	1,647,993	1,589,515	1,621,305	1,653,731	1,686,806	1,720,542	1,754,953		\$ 16,856,437
5 Measure R	4,215,626	1,454,111	1,402,513	1,430,563	1,459,175	1,488,358	1,518,125	1,548,488		\$ 14,516,959
Measure W	275,206	531,000	770,000	770,000	770,000	770,000	770,000	770,000		\$ 5,426,206
Prop C		710,000	5,230,000							\$ 5,940,000
6 RMRA (SB1)	5,520,767	2,034,896	2,106,686	2,148,820	2,191,796	2,235,632	2,280,345	2,325,952		\$ 20,844,893
Sewer										\$ -
5 TDA	0	94,624	82,311	83,957	85,636	87,349	89,096	90,878		\$ 613,852
7 Water	1,913,775	4,801,434	4,300,207							\$ 11,015,416
8 Other - CFP	1,999,460	4,900,000	4,672,279							\$ 11,571,739
Prop 68	226,876									\$ 226,876
9 Other - CT Grant	911,920								30,000,000	\$ 30,911,920
10 Other - Covid-SB2	827,646									\$ 827,646
11 Other - HSIP/STPL	871,122	2,243,900								\$ 3,115,022
12 Measure R Grant	1,082,145									\$ 1,082,145
Unfunded										\$ -
Total Funding	\$ 35,693,552	\$ 26,581,259	\$ 24,009,011	\$ 10,020,756	\$ 10,240,321	\$ 10,465,359	\$ 10,696,011	\$ 10,932,424	\$ 77,909,647	\$ 216,548,339

FOOTNOTES: 1. ARPA Transfers. 2. CDBG for Weingart FY23-24 carryover \$589,822 plus FY24-25 allocation \$155,935. 3. Escalated at 3% after FY24-25. 4. LA County Regional Parks and Open Space District 2/9/22 estimate then escalated at 2% annually. 5. LA Metro estimate 3/1/23 then escalated at 2% annually. 6. CA City Finance estimate 1/23 then escalated at 2% annually. 7. Safe Clean Water Act estimated CIP annual contribution. 8. Community Funded Projects (CFP) by Legislative Act - Barragan \$1,122,279 for Weingart, Gonzalez \$2M for Weingart, Rendon \$2.7M for Weingart, Rendon \$1,999,460 for Palms, Garcia \$850,000 for Palms, Rendon LEC Reallocation \$2,900,000 for Palms. 9. Onetime Caltrans Grant for water quality carryover FY23-24. Future grant \$30M undetermined. 10. Onetime grants, SB2 = \$278,432 for PW Counter, CDBG-CV = \$549,214 for Weingart. 11. Onetime State/Fed grants. 12. LA County Transportation Improvement Funds grant.



RCS CAPITAL PROJECTS

Lakewood's CIP for recreation and community services outlines a broad scope of capital projects focused on maintaining and enhancing recreation buildings and park spaces. Over \$24 million is allocated to improvements to community centers and support facilities, including major renovations to the Palms Park Community Center and the Weingart Senior Center, as well as targeted upgrades such as lighting, ceilings, and carpet at The Centre; kitchen improvements at Burns Community Center; and refurbishments at Monte Verde Park and Nixon Yard.

Park-related investments include both recurring and large-scale projects. Recurring projects such as fencing, hardscape repairs, and playground replacements ensure upkeep and safety. Larger initiatives include infrastructure improvements at Bolivar, Del Valle, and Palms Parks; the development of the Civic Center corner lot; and playground replacements at Biscailuz, Bloomfield, Boyar, and Cherry Cove Parks. Together, these capital investments demonstrate Lakewood's ongoing commitment to high-quality recreational facilities through strategic planning, prudent financial management, and long-range vision.

TABLE 7-3. RCS CIP BUDGET FUNDING EXPENDITURES BY PROJECT TYPE (FY 23/24 TO FY 29/30)

EXPENDITURE	FUNDING
RECREATION BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES	
Building Repairs and Improvements	\$1,252,279
Nixon Yard Renovation/Relocation	\$7,500,000
Palms Park Community Center Improvements	\$8,875,000
Pool Equipment Replacements	\$1,013,089
Weingart Senior Center Improvements	\$5,530,000
PARK PROJECTS	
Annual Fencing, Hardscape, and Playground Improvements	\$875,000
Park Improvements, Repair and Replacement	\$1,434,982
Bolivar Park Infrastructure Improvements	\$4,000,000
Civic Center Corner Lot Development	\$6,000,000
Del Valle Park Infrastructure Improvements	\$5,000,000
Palms Park Infrastructure Improvements	\$1,250,000
Playground Replacement - Biscailuz, Bloomfield, Boyar	\$1,520,010



2016 renovations of Bolivar Park Playground



APPROPRIATIONS

Funding for the Department of Recreation & Community Services is mostly obtained from the city's General Fund, however there are a handful of other budgetary streams that contribute to operations and capital expenses. This section provides an overview of funding sources.*

General Fund

The City of Lakewood General Fund is the general operating fund of the city, accounting for all financial resources except those required to be tracked in separate funds. It receives revenues from property tax, sales tax, utility user's tax, other taxes, licenses and permits, fines and forfeitures, use of money and property, other agencies, and current service charges. The FY2023-24 General Fund revised budget totaled \$71.8 million. Of the total, the Department of Recreation & Community Services (RCS) appropriated \$14.3 million.

Special Olympics Fund

The Special Olympics Fund FY2023-24 revised budget for the city totaled \$7,000 in current service charges. In FY2023-24, a total of \$5,000 was appropriated for RCS.

Community Facility Fund

The Community Facility Fund is sourced from use of money and property, as well as current service charges. In FY2023-24, a total of \$892,104 was appropriated for RCS.

* All City budget totals sourced from the City of Lakewood Revised Budget FY2023-24. All RCS Department budget appropriations sourced from the Recreation & Community Services (RCS) Operating Budget FY2023-24. Additional funding sources and Capital Project Improvement (CIP) budgets sourced from the City of Lakewood Capital Improvement Program FY2023-24 to FY2029-30 Narrative.

City Funds

The Park and Recreation Dedication Fund (§2504) is a special revenue fund used to account for business taxes collected on the construction of dwelling units. These funds are used only for capital projects related to acquisition and development of new parkland. The Park Dedication Fund FY2023-24 budget totaled \$20,000 (revised budget).

Impact Fee for Parks and Recreation (§9226)

As a condition of approving a final tract or parcel map, the City of Lakewood requires subdivider to pay a fee to support the upgrade and maintenance of existing parks or the acquisition and development of new parkland, consistent with the City's Recreation and Community Services Element of the General Plan. The fee is calculated based on a standard of four acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The fee amount is tied to the fair market value of the land, determined through a recent appraisal provided by the developer. Fees must be paid at final inspection or occupancy, and are used specifically to serve the recreational needs of the new development.

City of Lakewood Measure L

Measure L, approved by voters in 2020, is a local $\frac{3}{4}$ -cent sales tax increase passed to address a backlog of \$30 million in deferred maintenance in essential repairs and renovations to city parks and facilities. All funds must remain within Lakewood for local improvement projects. This ensures that the State government cannot divert Measure L funds, providing a stable and dedicated revenue stream for addressing the city's infrastructure needs.



County of Los Angeles Measure A

Measure A, approved by voters in 2024, repealed the 0.25% countywide tax that was previously added by Measure H and added a new 0.5% countywide tax. Much of these funds are geared toward repairing or replacing playground equipment and playground safety surfacing.

County of Los Angeles Measure W

Measure W, approved by voters in 2018, authorized the LA County Flood Control District to enact a parcel tax of 2.5-cents per square foot of land impermeable to water, such as buildings, driveways and concrete. The tax is aimed at improving/protecting water quality; capturing rain/stormwater to increase safe drinking water supplies and prepare for future drought; and protect marine life and waterways in the area. Some of these funds are budgeted to be used for median renovations and water quality improvements at multiple locations.

County of Los Angeles Proposition C Transit Fund

Prop C Transit Fund is sourced from additional allocations of State Gas Tax funds from Los Angeles County. These funds must be used for street-related purposes such as construction, rehabilitation, maintenance or traffic safety. The projects must be transit-related improvements.

For RCS, Prop C covers the DASH transit system. Funding supports the planning, managing, and operating of a reservation-based paratransit system for elderly and disabled residents. It also funds a community excursion program. Funds also support workshops and training of DASH transit staff. Prop C revised budget for the Lakewood FY2023-24 totaled \$2 million. In FY2023-24, a total of \$772,377 was appropriated for RCS.

California State Proposition 68

Prop 68, approved by voters in 2018, funds projects that plan, develop and implement climate adaptation and resiliency projects, including those that create or rehabilitate state or local parks, provide flood protection, protect natural resources and water supply, and improve water quality.

U.S. HUD Community Funded Projects (CFP)

Community Funded Projects (CFP) are federal grants funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Grants are secured via state representatives, and sponsored by cities for respective projects in their jurisdictions. The following CFP grantees are budgeted for FY23-24: Weingart Senior Center renovations (Reps. Barragan, Gonzalez, and Rendon); Palms Park Community Center renovations (Reps. Rendon and Garcia).

U.S. HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) are federal funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for use in community development projects. CDBG funds can be used for various projects, including infrastructure improvements, public services and neighborhood revitalization. Lakewood's CDBG Grant Funds are sourced both from HUD. The CDBG Grant Funds FY2023-24 revised budget for the City totaled \$445,734. In FY2023-24, a total of \$29,685 was spent on Human and Senior Services to support programs such as meals for seniors and mental health programs for youth.



ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

Beyond current budget sources, the City of Lakewood can continue exploring external funding opportunities, including grants, sponsorships, user fees, and voter-approved tax initiatives. In some cases, the city is already engaged in these alternative funding mechanisms.

Notably, some funding sources support capital projects, while others support operations, and some do both. Some grants have limitations or restrictions as to how funds are spent. To advance specific projects, it is possible that multiple sources and creative combinations may be needed.

Federal and State Grants

A variety of federal grants can apply to the augmentation of city parkland. While national priorities and related funding are moving targets, efforts to improve public health, protect the environment, and increase access to parks and green spaces are frequent priorities. In many cases, federal grants are allocated via state agencies such as the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CA State Parks). Examples include:

- **Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP)** uses Land and Water Conservation Funds to aid economically disadvantaged urban communities with no, or limited, access to outdoor recreation through the acquisition and/or development of public parks and recreation spaces.
- **Out-of-School (OST) Youth Mentoring Program** by the Department of Justice grants funds to implement projects that support youth mentoring in parks and recreation.

In some circumstances, CA state and congressional legislators can earmark funding bills to support local projects, often drawn to tangible accomplishments such as parkland acquisitions and development opportunities.

- With the upcoming **2028 LA Olympics**, regional growth, and sports stadium developments, Southeast Los Angeles County is currently in the spotlight for outdoor access, community recreation opportunities, and river restoration projects. The City of Lakewood should consider where grant relationships might benefit their community.



Monte Verde Park summer camp



Grant Foundations

Grant foundations can be a significant resource for local initiatives that directly impact communities, especially under-resourced or vulnerable populations. In many cases, foundations yield relatively small grants targeting one-time programs or events. They are often not intended for large-scale infrastructure projects, programs that require tenured full-time employees, or long-term maintenance of parks or facilities.

- **National Organizations** such as the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) may either offer grants themselves or communicate related grants for ease of information access.
- **Expertise-Focused Organizations** have specific aims such as improving the environment, increasing urban canopies, aiding at-risk youth, assisting older adults, and more. Examples include the RRF Foundation for Aging, which supports quality of life programs for older adults through a Healthy Aging Framework, and the Fruit Tree Planting Foundation which supports municipal tree planting to combat climate issues and alleviate food insecurity.
- **Community Foundations** are valuable resources for receiving grants from individuals or organizations wanting to leave a lasting positive legacy. Example foundations that serve the Southern California region include the California Community Foundation, the Legacy Endowment Community Foundation, and the Long Beach Community Foundation.

- **Sports Foundations** such as the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Anaheim Ducks Foundation, LA84 Foundation, and MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation, amongst others, are often looking for suitable entities with whom to partner for capital and programmatic projects. Public-private partnerships such as sponsored projects have far-reaching benefits for all involved.

Other Types of Sponsorships

- **Naming Rights** and other forms of signage or dedication is another method by which cities can derive additional revenue. Signage and advertising space in key locations (e.g., gymnasium walls, ballfields) is attractive for local businesses. Sales of engraved bricks, benches, plaques, or dedicated trees can honor lost ones or loved ones by family members. Naming rights for larger facilities (e.g., community center, playgrounds, etc.) can yield high revenue for the city while commemorating an individual or business patron.

A Proud Partnership

In 2023, a new soccer mini-pitch opened in Lakewood's Palms Park, donated by the U.S. Soccer Foundation, the LA Galaxy soccer team, and their corporate partner Herbalife. The project was initiated by LA Galaxy player – and Lakewood native – Jalen Neal, who saw the value of uplifting youth in his hometown through sports.



Assessment District

Lakewood could consider establishing a new assessment district to help cover costs of ongoing maintenance services and improvements at park sites. Landscape and Lighting Assessment Districts (LLADs) and Landscape Maintenance Districts (LMDs) are legal mechanisms that allow cities to assess housing units or land parcels to contribute financially to street lighting, landscaping, and parks within the designated area. Assessment districts help each property owner pay a fair share of the costs over a period of years at reasonable interest rates, ensuring that costs are spread to all properties that receive a direct and special benefit. As a note, establishment of a new district or revision to an existing district requires a majority vote of the property owners, which is frequently difficult to obtain in older, lower income communities.

Concessions and Permitting Fees

Lakewood currently has multiple unused concession spaces within city parks. Some of these structures are in disrepair and require significant investment. However, if there is sufficient community demand, concessionaires serving food, beverage and merchandise (such as food vendors, coffee kiosks, equipment rentals, etc.) can generate revenue to support the park system. Additionally, permitting fees (such as for photographers, food trucks, sports instructors, etc.) can be charged to bring revenue to city parks.

General Obligation and Revenue Bonds

General obligation bonds are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The money can only be used for capital improvements, but not for maintenance or operations. This property tax is levied for a specific period of time (usually 15-20 years). Passage requires a two-thirds majority approval by the voters.

Revenue bonds are typically sold to fund specific projects (e.g. systemwide park lighting or the renovation of a community park) or to finance revenue-generating facilities (e.g. community centers). These may include new facilities or the renovation of an existing facility. The city must be able to guarantee repayment. For example, the interest and capital could be paid from the revenue produced from the operation of the new facility.



Lakewood Lemonade Day, 2024



OTHER IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Similar to grants and funds, mechanisms such as partnerships and land acquisition alternatives may support park projects and services, even though they incur use restrictions. The city should be strategic with their engagement in such alternatives to ensure wide benefit across the Lakewood community.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIC ENTITIES

The Lakewood Department of Recreation & Community Services already has several formal partnership agreements with local entities to help manage recreation sites, and provide parkland to the wider community. The city's existing partnerships include:

- The City of Lakewood maintains license agreements with **Southern California Edison Company (SCE)** for the use of designated parcels of land for public park and recreation purposes. The agreements establish specific terms and conditions governing the permitted uses of the property. These agreements ensure the continued operation and maintenance of these facilities in compliance with SCE's land use requirements. The licensed areas include the following public facilities:
 - » Rynerson Park, including the Lakewood Little League Fields and Home Run Dog Park
 - » The Lakewood Equestrian Center
 - » Phase III of the San Gabriel River Nature Trail
 - » The Lakewood Community Gardens
- An easement agreement with **Los Angeles County Flood Control** to utilize a parcel of land (referred to as "Lakewood Equestrian Center") for conditional uses.
- A recreation agreement with the **Lakewood Community Gardens Board**, to govern the Lakewood Community Gardens including volunteer supervision; provision of equipment and supplies; oversight, management, and operation of the gardens (with limited city services); and public communication.
- A recreation agreement with the **Del Valle Tot Lot**, a nonprofit organization, to offer inclusive play programs for preschool aged children with parental and volunteer supervision during specified hours.
- A recreation agreement with the **Mayfair Tot Lot**, a nonprofit organization, to offer inclusive play programs for preschool aged children with parental and volunteer supervision during specified hours.
- A recreation agreement with the **Lakewood Little League**, a nonprofit organization, to maintain a series of baseball diamonds and other related facilities within Rynerson Park and to manage a baseball league ("Little League") for the boys and girls of the Lakewood area.



LAND ACQUISITION MECHANISMS

Despite limited undeveloped land within Lakewood, there are still various land acquisition strategies to consider if opportunities arise.

- **A Fee Simple Acquisition** is a standard purchase of property, where full ownership and underlying title are transferred to the city through real estate transactions. This requires significant financial resources, as land is often offered at market rate pricing. The rate may be reduced in the case there are development restrictions due to topography, contamination, adjacencies, etc., however these restrictions may incur further costs.
- **A Real Property Donation** takes place when a property owner donates, or sells below market value, land to a public agency or a nonprofit organization. The property owner is paid for part of the value of the property and donates the remaining value, receiving tax benefits for the donation.
- **A Life Estate** occurs when a property owner donates or sells real property to a public agency but retains a life estate, through which they retain the right to use the property for the duration of their life.
- **An Easement** is a partial interest in real property. The property ownership does not change, but a portion of the land is dedicated for a specific purpose, in this case typically for park, recreation, conservation area or trail. The terms of an easement agreement are negotiated between the private landowner and the public agency to tailor the easement to the needs of each party. Easements may be acquired by direct purchase or by donation. In park systems, easements are most typically seen for trail connections or for conservation purposes. Easements may be suitable for planned trail corridors where outright property acquisition is not desirable or feasible. The City of Lakewood currently has one easement with Los Angeles County Flood Control on a portion of the Lakewood Equestrian Center. They may consider additional easements to improve access to certain sites like Rynerson Park and the Nature Trail.
- **A Long-Term Lease** allows use of a non-city property in exchange for payment for a specific length of time. For parks and recreation purposes, the payment may be nominal (e.g., \$1 per year) and the term is often long (such as 99 years). Leasing private commercial spaces for public recreation use may be an option for the city.
- **A Community Land Trust** represents an agreement through which one party (the trustee) agrees to hold ownership of a piece of property for the benefit of another party (the beneficiary). Community land trusts are a helpful partner for cities looking to acquire and develop new land for parks. Several land trust organizations operate in the Los Angeles Region, such as the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, the Trust for Public Land, Northeast Trees and The Nature Conservancy.
- The County of Los Angeles's Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office **Chapter 8 Tax Default Program** is designed for nonprofits and public agencies to acquire tax-defaulted land. The acquired land can be used for the creation of new parks and open space projects.



PARTNERSHIP PROTOCOLS

Maintaining current and developing new partnerships are key to growing Lakewood's parkland and recreation opportunities.

Partnerships can result in more funding or other resources, including park space, recreation facilities, staffing and operational cooperation and diverse programming. However, managing long-term partnerships is not a small task and requires ongoing resources and committed staff to ensure quality of site and service. When considering new partnerships, the City of Lakewood should

evaluate the benefits of the partnership, identifying how the partnership will enhance recreation opportunities within the city.

Applying the factors in the sidebar below can help the city determine if a partnership should be pursued. Without due diligence and an eye to long-term sustainability, partnerships can become a heavier burden than blessing. Yet, with committed staff and transparent decision-making approaches, partnerships can significantly augment the city's recreation offerings.

Factors to Consider When Evaluating New Partnerships

- **Does the partnership support the goals of this *Parks, Recreation & Community Services Long-Range Plan*?**
- **Does the partnership offer new recreation opportunities that do not currently exist in the city?**
- **Does the partnership enhance major recreation or city social events?**
- **Does the partnership provide recreation opportunities in areas that are currently underserved, or improve access to existing parks?**
- **Does the partnership support better access for specific target groups such as older adults, minority populations, vulnerable populations, or adaptive needs users?**
- **Does the partnership have a previous track record of success?**
- **Does the partnership facilitate RCS operations in a sustainable manner?**
- **Does the partnership address identified city goals?**
- **Does the partnership yield long-term benefits that outweigh short-term obstacles?**



FACILITY COST MENU

When planning for potential capital improvement projects, the city will need to weigh the value and benefits of proceeding with certain additions, replacements, and renovations of parks and facilities against costs. This facility cost menu is intended to help the city budget for updates to existing parks. It does not capture land value or costs related to parkland acquisition, design, development, maintenance, operations, or programming. Cost assumptions related to such actions are excluded due to significant variability in land values, acquisition strategies, and market fluctuations.

PLANNING-LEVEL COSTS

Costs reflect planning-level cost assumptions in 2025 dollars not accounting for inflation. Planning level costs reflect a high-level estimate of what the addition, replacement, or renovation of park or recreation facility may cost and are intended for planning purposes only. Actual costs will vary depending on site realities, the scale and quality of facilities, and changing market prices for materials and labor. Actual cost estimates should be determined through site master planning and design at the time of development.

Because actual prices fluctuate and will vary by site, the planning level costs are presented as a range of costs. The range is aimed at capturing differences based on site size, location, topography and setting, facility quality and detail, supply and demand for labor and materials, etc. The costs do not include environmental compliance documentation, community engagement, permitting, installation, or staff hours to manage site planning, design, construction, and implementation. Those elements could escalate park development costs by 20-25 percent.

Ranges are based on 2024 California costs and MIG experience. It is understood that these planning level costs will fluctuate over time.

CAPITAL COST ASSUMPTIONS

The following capital cost assumptions can be used to budget for the addition of recreation facilities and park amenities. Recognizing that not all facilities need a new facility added, the next section describes an approach to using these costs as a basis for approximating repair, renovation, replacement, improvement or expansion.



Planning for the future involves considering all of Lakewood park users



TABLE 7-4. NEW BUILD CAPITAL COST RANGE, BASED ON 2025 CONSTRUCTION COSTS

ACTION / FEATURES	UNIT	NEW BUILD COST RANGE PER UNIT	NOTES AND ASSUMPTIONS
ATHLETIC / SPORTS			
Diamond (Baseball/Softball) Field - Grass	Per Each	\$800,000 - \$1,500,000	Costs reflect a regulation-size field with turf, outfield fencing, backstop and foul-line fencing, and dugouts. The upper range includes bull-pens, scoreboard, bleachers, PA system, flagpole, and sports field lighting.
Diamond (Baseball/Softball) Field - Artificial Turf	Per Each	\$1,800,000 - \$2,500,000	Costs reflect a regulation-size field with artificial turf, outfield fencing, backstop and foul-line fencing. The upper range includes bull-pens, scoreboard, bleachers, PA system, flagpole, and sports field lighting.
Rectangular (Soccer) Field - Grass	Per Each	\$2,000,000 - \$3,800,000	Costs reflect a turf field with basic drainage/prep and features. The upper range includes bleachers, sports field lighting, multi-use field striping and goals.
Rectangular (Soccer) Field - Artificial Turf	Per Each	\$3,000,000 - \$4,700,000	Costs reflect a field with artificial turf and lights. The upper range includes bleachers, perimeter fencing, sports field lighting, multi-use field striping and goals.
Basketball Court - Outdoors, Full	Per Each	\$200,000 - \$250,000	Costs reflect one new full court. Court lighting and/or shade structures are additional costs not included in the estimate.
Basketball Court - Outdoors, Half	Per Each	\$150,000 - \$180,000	Costs reflect one new half court. Court lighting and/or shade structures are additional costs not included in the estimate.
Futsal Court	Per Each	\$200,000 - \$350,000	Costs include installation of a futsal court kit, does not include base course or subsurface material. Court lighting and/or shade structures are additional costs not included in the estimate.

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



TABLE 7-4 CONT. NEW BUILD CAPITAL COST RANGE, BASED ON 2025 CONSTRUCTION COSTS

ACTION / FEATURES	UNIT	NEW BUILD COST RANGE PER UNIT	NOTES AND ASSUMPTIONS
ATHLETIC / SPORTS (CONTINUED)			
Pickleball Court (4)	Per Set (4)	\$375,000 - \$625,000	Costs reflect 4 pickleball courts with surfacing, striping, netting, and fencing. Court lighting and/or shade structures are additional costs not included in the estimate.
Tennis Court (2)	Per Pair	\$375,000 - \$625,000	Costs reflect 2 tennis courts with surfacing, striping, netting, and fencing. The upper range includes court lighting.
Volleyball Court	Per Each	\$20,000 - \$60,000	Costs include lawn volleyball court, net, and posts. Court lighting and/or shade structures are additional costs not included in the estimate.
PLAY AREAS			
Playground – Neighborhood	Per Each	\$425,000 - \$800,000	Costs reflect one 5,000 sq. ft. play structure with areas for tots or school-age. The upper range reflects accessible safety surfacing (recommended).
Playground – Universal, All-Inclusive	Per Each	\$900,000 - \$2,100,000	Costs reflect a large-scale play area with universal/inclusive and thematic elements.
Playground – Nature-themed	Per Facility	\$300,000 - \$500,000	Small play area with climbable elements such as logs, stumps, boulders, and mounds; sand or wood chip surfacing; edging and accessible ramp, plants and trees. A water play element may be added but is not included in this estimate.

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



TABLE 7-4 CONT. NEW BUILD CAPITAL COST RANGE, BASED ON 2025 CONSTRUCTION COSTS

ACTION / FEATURES	UNIT	NEW BUILD COST RANGE PER UNIT	NOTES AND ASSUMPTIONS
OUTDOOR RECREATION			
Fitness Equipment (5 stations)	Per Set (5)	\$20,000 - \$200,000	Costs reflect five stations of high-quality fitness equipment, with signage, DG surfacing and curbing. Can be clustered for a fitness area, or distributed along a park or trail. Lighting and/or shade structures are additional costs not included in the estimate.
Challenge Feature	Per Each	\$100,000 - \$250,000	Costs reflect one medium size play feature, such as a climbing wall or zipline, added to an existing playground. Includes the containment area, safety surfacing, drainage, and irrigation system mods. Lighting and/or shade structures are additional costs not included in the estimate.
Community Garden	Per Each	\$500,000 - \$750,000	Costs reflect a combination of in-ground, raised beds, and accessible planting areas with fencing, water, composting, seating, shade, and basic signage.
Native Plant Garden / Demonstration Garden / Pollinator Garden	Per Each	\$180,000 - \$420,000	Designed, planted area featuring selected plants, shrubbery, and/or trees, perimeter boundary, access path, and plant markers or interpretive signage.
Bike Pump Track	Per Each	\$450,000 - \$3,000,000	Costs reflect grading, fill, limited ramps, jumps, or obstacles.
Picnic Shelter (Group Picnic Area)	Per Each	\$275,000 - \$600,000	Costs reflect a shelter with motion sensor light, holding six 8' tables with BBQ features, trash receptable, serving table, but no electrical outlet.

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



TABLE 7-4 CONT. NEW BUILD CAPITAL COST RANGE, BASED ON 2025 CONSTRUCTION COSTS

ACTION / FEATURES	UNIT	NEW BUILD COST RANGE PER UNIT	NOTES AND ASSUMPTIONS
OUTDOOR RECREATION (CONTINUED)			
Dog Park	Per Each	\$600,000 - \$1,500,000	Costs reflect a one-acre fenced area with turf, DG and/or bark mulch, with a dog drinking fountain, benches, trash receptacles and trees. Costs assume the dog park is within a larger park and uses existing utilities for water, parking, etc. Higher cost sites may include separate areas for large and small dogs, additional amenities: shade umbrellas, accessible walkway, and dog agility features.
Dedicated Event Space	Per Each	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Costs reflect a small outdoor event space such as a plaza, pavilion, outdoor classroom, etc. Includes, hardscape, seating, shade structure, accessible walk, electrical outlet, and signage.
Skate Park	Per Each	\$750,000 - \$2,200,000	Lower cost reflects at-grade skate park with prefabricated skate ramps. Higher costs reflect an inground bowl, ramps, and grinding amenities. Both include features to accommodate spectators, safety, and enhanced access.
Spray Park	Per Each	\$1,750,000 - \$2,500,000	Costs reflect a spray park with mechanical building/apparatus and recirculating water.
TRAILS			
Trails (Hard Surfaced)	Per mile	\$1,425,000 - \$2,500,000	Costs assume an 8 to 10 ft-wide asphalt paved trail with gravel shoulders, minor grading, mile markers and continuous buffer vegetation. Improvements may include curb and gutter, curb ramps, minor drainage infrastructure and installations.
Trails (Soft Surfaced)	Per mile	\$235,000 - \$500,000	Costs assume a 3ft-wide stabilized decomposed granite surfaced trail and mile markers.

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



TABLE 7-4 CONT. NEW BUILD CAPITAL COST RANGE BASED ON 2025 CONSTRUCTION COSTS

ACTION / FEATURES	UNIT	NEW BUILD COST RANGE PER UNIT	NOTES AND ASSUMPTIONS
AMENITIES / OTHER			
Bike Rack	Per Each	\$2,000 - \$4,000	Costs reflect a standard bike rack and base.
Drinking Fountain	Per Each	\$7,000 - \$15,000	Costs reflect one drinking fountain.
Parking (Off-Street)	Per Site	\$250,000 - \$400,000	Costs reflect the creation of 10 angle-in parking spaces including 2 accessible spaces.
Restroom (Permanent)	Per Each	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Costs reflect 2 single-occupancy units.
Shade Sail or Canopy	Per Each	\$45,000 - \$105,000	Medium UV blocking fabric covers and posts to shade seating, play areas, etc.
Signage	Per Each	\$10,000 - \$20,000	Costs include standard identification, regulatory and wayfinding signage, or a group of 4-6 mileage markers. Monument signs may cost more.
Picnic Table	Per Each	\$5,000 - \$8,000	Costs reflect one 8' table on concrete pad with ADA access.
Bench	Per each	\$1,500 - 2,500	Wood or metal seating for 2 people, typically with back, armrests, and concrete pad underneath. This may be used as an allowance for similar-scale seating of different styles.
Pet Waste Receptacles	Per each	\$1,000 - \$2,000	One dog waste station with sign, dispenser, and can.
Public Art	Per each	\$50,000 - \$100,000	Art piece (e.g., mural, sculpture, mosaic, etc.), base and foundation (if applicable). Costs for highly-customized or large-scale pieces may vary extensively.

TABLE CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



TABLE 7-4 CONT. NEW BUILD CAPITAL COST RANGE, BASED ON 2025 CONSTRUCTION COSTS

ACTION / FEATURES	UNIT	NEW BUILD COST RANGE PER UNIT	NOTES AND ASSUMPTIONS
AMENITIES / OTHER			
Element - Interpretive		\$3,000 - \$5,000	Signage, kiosk, display, or integrated element that highlights and/or explains local natural, historical, or cultural features.

1. These estimates reflect fully loaded, planning level cost assumptions in 2025 dollars not accounting for inflation. Cost ranges are intended for planning purposes only and include raw cost for facilities, infrastructure, and landscaping; mobilization, design fees, and contingency (not including taxes). Actual costs may vary depending on site realities, the scale and quality of facilities, and changing market prices for materials and labor. Actual cost estimates should be determined through site master planning and design at the time of development.



This beloved unique playground structure has San Martin Park colloquially termed "Pumpkin Park".



REPAIR, RENOVATE, REPLACE, IMPROVE, OR EXPAND

The planning-level cost to build a new facility is an important reference point, but does not capture the full range of capital projects for Lakewood's system. In addition to entirely new facilities, a particular park may need any of the following levels of effort:

- **Repair.** Small repairs to existing equipment that can be done by staff, can include fixes due to damage (such as graffiti or broken wood slats on a wood bench) or may include minor equipment replacement (such as replacing a broken or damaged bucket swing on an existing swing set).
- **Renovate.** Involves major repairs or replacing a portion of a facility in the same footprint.

- **Replace (1:1).** Replacing a facility (including any support features) with the same type and size of facility.
- **Improve or Expand.** Can vary in scale but is either replacing something and making it better and/or expanding on what is there (such as adding a shade canopy to an existing picnic area, expanding the size of a picnic area, etc.)

Each of these levels of effort have a range of cost that may actually be required. One approach to budgeting for those costs before the critical decisions and implications (such as related upgrade triggers) are known, is to set a percentage (of the cost to build a new facility) for each level that would adequately cover the described project. The following table proposes a set of percentages and the associated assumptions.

TABLE 7-5. MODIFICATIONS (%) TO NEW BUILD CONSTRUCTION COSTS

LEVEL OF EFFORT	PERCENT (OF NEW BUILD COST)	NOTES AND ASSUMPTIONS
Repair	10%	Fix one element that is broken, worn, or damaged. May only meet the thresholds for a capital project when applied to a large cost item. Otherwise repairs would be included in annual operations budget.
Renovate	50%	Restore a feature in the same footprint by replacing some features or elements to extend the facility's lifespan. Supporting features remain.
Replace (1:1)	85%	Remove an entire facility (often at the end of its lifecycle) and install a similar facility in the same space. Assumes updates to all items in this footprint, but does not require site grading, drainage, utilities, or similar work involved in new construction.
Improve or Expand	120-150%	Enhancing a facility in size, scale, modernization, or interest when replacing it. Additional budget allows for features beyond what is noted in the build new cost or upgrades to supporting features that may be required.



Memorial Day Celebration at Del Valle Park



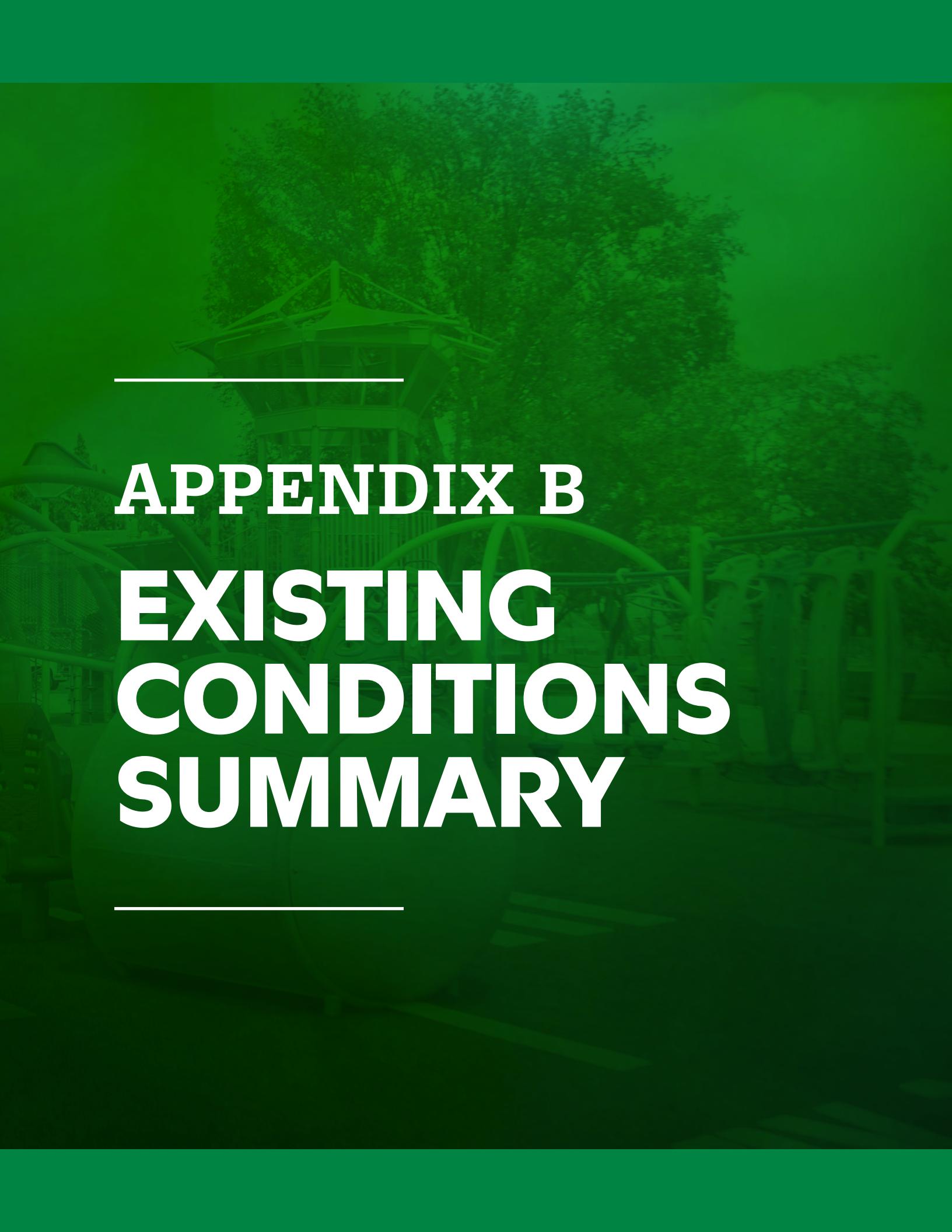
APPENDIX A

PARK AND

FACILITY

INVENTORY

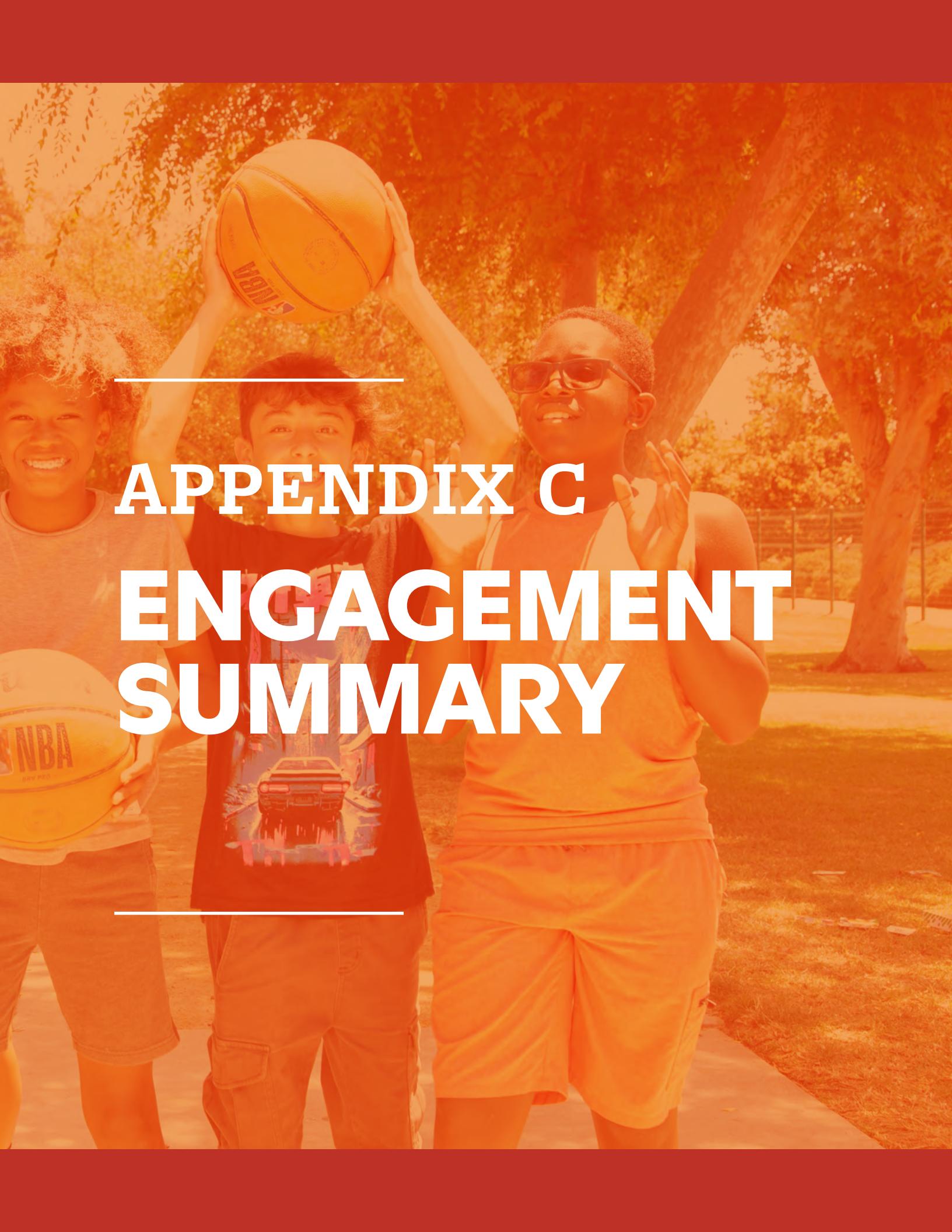




APPENDIX B

EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY



A group of children are playing basketball on an outdoor court. One child in the foreground is holding a basketball with the NBA logo. Another child is jumping behind him, also holding a basketball. A third child is smiling in the background. The scene is set against a backdrop of trees and a clear sky.

APPENDIX C

ENGAGEMENT

SUMMARY





APPENDIX D

EQUITY, ACCESS AND NEEDS ASSESSMENT





APPENDIX E

CAPITAL AND

PROGRAMMATIC

PROJECT LIST
