

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

CITY OF PARAMOUNT

Public Review Draft

May 2024





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Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere appreciation to all those who contributed to the development of the first Paramount Parks and Recreation Master Plan. This comprehensive endeavor would not have been possible without the dedication and collaborative efforts of numerous individuals, including City officials, community members, stakeholders, and the dedicated staff of the Community Services Department. Their valuable insights, feedback, and expertise have been instrumental in shaping this document, which will guide the future of parks and recreation in Paramount. Thank you to the City Council, City staff, residents, stakeholders, and commissioners for your continued support and participation in this process.

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May 2024

Dear Paramount Community:

We are proud to present the City of Paramount's first-ever Parks and Recreation Master Plan. First, I would like to congratulate the Community Services and Recreation Department for their hard work and also give special thanks to the hundreds of residents that provided valuable insight and support during this planning process. Without their dedication and commitment to collaboration, this Master Plan would not have been possible.

At its heart, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan establishes clear direction in the development and investment of City parks, facilities, and open spaces for the next ten years while supporting healthy lifestyles, community livability, park safety, and the overall quality of life.

To build on Paramount's existing features, the Master Plan inventoried all park amenities and identified ways to re-envision and adapt their purposes, big or small, to better serve the evolving needs of our community.

The Master Plan's development was a lengthy, yet thorough, process marked by extensive community engagement efforts involving residents, various stakeholders, community-based organizations, park user groups, and staff. Together we identified crucial park system needs and formulated a comprehensive set of goals and recommendations that will influence future park development projects while exploring potential funding sources to make our visions a reality.

Several park enhancement projects recommended within the Master Plan have already been completed or are in the design planning phases. While we recognize potential challenges may lie ahead, City staff see numerous opportunities to build a park system that best serves the interests and needs of the Paramount community while staying true to its vision, mission, and values.

As we embark on this journey, we look forward to facing any challenges head on while continuing to make Paramount parks "Safe, Healthy, and Attractive" for all to enjoy.

Sincerely,

David Johnson
Community Services Department Director

Dedicated to providing fiscally responsible services that maintain a vibrant community.




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Executive Summary

Located just southeast of the City of Los Angeles, the built-out city of Paramount is one of the smallest, yet most densely populated cities within Los Angeles County. What the city lacks in land, it makes up for with innovative and creative approaches for meeting the diverse needs of its community. Paramount's Community Services department, which is responsible for oversight of its parks and recreation facilities has worked diligently to provide residents with improved quality of life through its parks system. Through its open space partnerships and shared-use facilities, the city has been able to provide various recreational opportunities and programs while enhancing and expanding parks and recreation facilities with existing resources.

Purpose of the Plan

The City of Paramount has developed its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan) to further enhance the community's quality of life. This plan provides guidance for future improvements and expansion of the City's park system, reflecting the community's input regarding their needs and desires for changes over the next 10 years. Given the constraints of available parkland, the Master Plan provides innovative approaches to enhancing and leveraging existing assets while also addressing demographic changes, evolving demand for recreational facilities, and ensuring access to recreational opportunities for all community members.

Community Voices

The Paramount community—including residents, visitors, key stakeholders, and City leaders—provided essential and valuable insights that were used to develop this Master Plan. This community-driven process embraced diverse individual perspectives to ensure our park and recreation system caters to the needs and interests of everyone.

The outreach and engagement process included stakeholder interviews, focus groups, pop-up events, and a public survey to ensure we captured as many diverse voices as possible. During this process, the following community priorities and sentiments emerged. Participants want:

- More activities, amenities, and facilities to expand and diversify recreation options.
- Park and facility improvements and enhancements (e.g., lighting, shade, upgraded restrooms).
- More indoor and outdoor active recreation opportunities.
- The use of existing parks and reuse of existing facilities to leverage current assets for expanded recreation activities.
- A variety of programs and events that cater to both active/competitive and social/leisure needs.
- Improved access to parks and accessible facilities for individuals of all abilities.
- Parks that are safe, clean, and in good condition.
- Innovative solutions for expanding the park system to have more recreation opportunities and greenspace.

7 in-person and virtual stakeholder interviews and small group meetings at key points in the process

2 pop-up events to publicize the Master Plan process

270 submitted public surveys helped identify project priorities

Ongoing Project Leadership Team meetings



Project Timeline

The outreach and engagement process was conducted throughout a four-phased planning process to ensure that a wide variety of participants were involved. Community insights informed a technical analysis in each of the four phases. The following graphic outlines the four phases in this process.



Parks and Recreation Master Plan Goals and Strategies

The Master Plan's goals and comprehensive strategies were developed and supported by community input. The following five goals provide direction for enhancing the park system and offer a detailed framework for achieving optimal utilization and development of resources. These goals also informed site and systemwide recommendations.

 1	Equitable access to parks and greenspace
 2	Diversified recreation facilities and amenities
 3	Quality parks that are well-maintained and sustainable
 4	A park system that fosters health, wellness, and safety through programs
 5	Partnerships and investments that strengthen the parks and recreation system

Park and Facility Needs

During the development of this Master Plan, a technical analysis was conducted to determine the City's Level of Service Standards (LOS). These standards, noted as a ratio of parkland acres per 1,000 residents, help determine whether there is enough park acreage in Paramount. The current LOS of 1.2 acres per 1,000 residents is far lower than the average provided by other cities, which is 11.2 acres per 1,000 residents as noted in data tracked by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This deficiency in parkland is a common occurrence in landlocked California cities facing constraints such as minimal opportunities to acquire land, built-out urban density, and prohibitive purchase and development costs for private property.

Park access was also analyzed during the planning process. Using ESRI's Network Analyst, each park site's service area was calculated using logical routing to represent real-life travel to park sites from surrounding areas. Though the majority of Paramount is served by City parks, the analysis did uncover residential "gap areas" that are outside of the current service area. A key recommendation in this plan is to prioritize these areas for future development and land acquisition. See Figure ES-1.

Community Voices

Community outreach and engagement activities uncovered a desire for new and diverse types of developments that would enhance park amenities, expand recreational facilities, and diversify programming. Examples of these developments include:

- Challenge amenities for playgrounds
- Wayfinding in parks
- Mobile recreation
- Multigenerational features in facilities and parks
- Shade structures
- Cultural and art-focused community programming
- More ADA accessible features
- Urban greening and
- Outdoor fitness equipment



Participants enjoying new playground swing set at Paramount Park

PARAMOUNT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Recommendations

The Master Plan recommends both systemwide and site-specific enhancements for Paramount's park and recreation system. The systemwide recommendations provide policy-level guidance to acquire and develop new parks, particularly in underserved areas. Creative solutions are proposed for addressing limited park space, including partnerships with schools and public agencies, exploring lease options, and repurposing underutilized properties into recreational spaces. Additionally, there is a focus on creating safe and accessible parks, as well as improving sports facilities, multi-use fields, and amenities such as shade structures and seating.

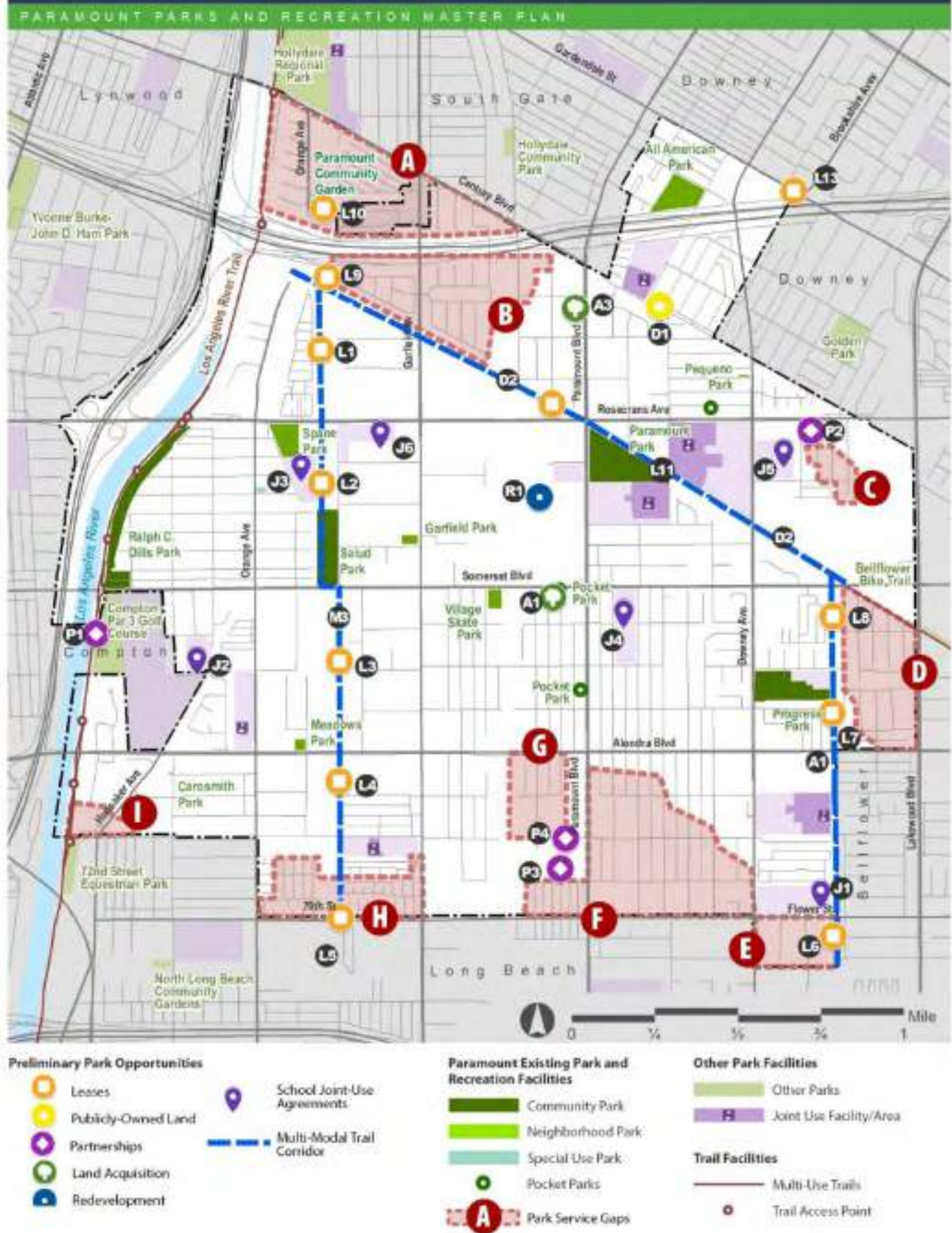
Furthermore, the Master Plan identifies specific recommendations for each park in the City. These recommendations provide guidance for general enhancements, playground improvements, sports and active recreation initiatives, and other recreational opportunities. For instance, general recommendations involve optimizing park functionality by converting non-recreational lawn spaces into drought-resistant plantings and exploring parking expansion options for safety and convenience. Playground upgrades prioritize accessibility and the use of natural features for enhanced play experiences. Recommendations for sports and active recreation focus on maximizing facility and field opportunities, while other recreational opportunities aim to enhance user experience and community cohesion by adding amenities such as mile markers and enhanced picnic areas.

To address the challenge of acquiring additional park land to expand recreational facilities and programs, an opportunity analysis was conducted which identified 30 potential park development opportunities spanning nearly 80 acres. Identified opportunities were categorized into five types:

- Development of publicly owned land
- Potential land purchase and redevelopment
- Utility corridor leases
- Partnerships with institutions
- School joint-use agreements

Each opportunity was rated in terms of its feasibility for implementation and desirability based on the amount of greenspace and recreation value it would add. . For example, three levels of feasibility were delineated based on factors such as lack of City ownership for land (low feasibility), sites requiring involvement of another agency (moderate feasibility), and the presence of City-owned land (high feasibility). Desirability ratings were impacted by factors such as size, the amount of greenspace or recreational value that would be added and return on investment. Added emphasis was placed on residential gap areas identified in the access analysis. Figure ES-2 provides a visual representation of the opportunities identified. The opportunities would be assessed further through conversations with potential partners to determine which ones are most viable and could move forward. Not all of these sites are attainable for City acquisition and development.

Figure ES-2. Opportunity Sites



Implementation

The successful implementation of Paramount's park system plan relies on long-term investment and funding for ongoing maintenance and development. The City utilizes various funding sources, including the General Fund and supplemental funds from initiatives like Proposition A and Measure A. Additionally, funding avenues such as grants, bonds, impact fees, and private philanthropy are identified. Given supply chain issues and inflation, planning-level cost assumptions are provided to accommodate fluctuating costs. To prioritize projects effectively amidst limited resources, a Capital Project Prioritization Criteria has been developed, considering factors such as ease of implementation, resource availability, and community priorities.

Funding Sources

The City of Paramount recognizes that the successful implementation of this Master Plan requires long-term investment and funding to support the Community Services department with the operation, enhancement, and development of the park and recreation system. The City will rely on existing and new funding sources to implement recommended projects and take advantage of opportunities for land acquisition and park development.

All smiles at the opening of the playground at Progress Park



The Community Services Department currently receives over half of its funding from the City's General Fund which supports capital projects and operations. Other potential funding sources that may be able to support capital projects include:

- General Obligation Bond
- Revenue Bond
- Impact Fees
- Federal and State Funding through Congressional Officials
- Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)
- Grant Opportunities
- Grant Technical Assistance Programs
- Private Philanthropic and Foundation Awards
- Donations

Cost Assumptions

A list of Capital improvement projects (CIP) is developed during the City's annual budgeting process and summarizes estimated costs, funding sources, and the funding amount for each project. Given the ongoing challenges with supply-chain issues, inflation, and increased material and labor costs, prices for park acquisition, development, and improvements have increased significantly in the last few years. This Master Plan includes planning-level cost assumptions for various facilities and the development of different classifications of parks. The Department can use this information in planning for future park development, site enhancement, or park maintenance.

Capital Project Prioritization Criteria

Recognizing the limited resources and number of projects that need funding, a Capital Project Prioritization Criteria was developed to guide decision-making for capital projects. This tool assists the City with balancing its needs and resources while aiding in long-term strategizing. Since capital projects are affected by a variety of external factors, they may not be selected for funding in the order that they are proposed. As such, the Capital Project Prioritization Criteria helps the City evaluate projects to move forward based on 11 criteria:

- Ease of implementation
- Resource availability
- Existing infrastructure
- Cost savings
- Value
- Key opportunity
- Underserved gap areas
- City priority
- Community priority
- Multiple benefits
- Urgency



Chapter 1: Introduction

To further improve our residents' quality of life through parks and recreation, the City of Paramount has prepared its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Master Plan). The Master Plan aims to provide guidance for enhancing and expanding the City's park system, reflecting, and responding to residents' needs and desires to make changes over the next 10 years. It aims to address the lack of parkland in Paramount, reflect demographic changes, respond to evolving demand for recreational facilities, and ensure access to all recreational opportunities. Specifically, the purpose of the Master Plan is to:

- Define a citywide vision for parks and recreation.
- Identify community priorities for park system enhancements.
- Identify community desires additional recreational opportunities, including more sport facilities.
- Improve and optimize existing park and recreation sites to meet community needs.
- Identify creative solutions for Paramount's lack of park space.
- Address park access and equity issues on a citywide scale, including increasing park access for all users.
- Provide recommendations for enhancing parks, recreation facilities, trails, and programs to support community livability, park safety, trail connectivity, health and wellness, and our quality of life.

This Master Plan used a community-driven process to assess the existing park system, identify key issues and opportunities, and to provide actionable recommendations to expand the overall park system, paying special attention to in-fill development opportunities, park financing and funding strategies, creative partnerships, access and equity, and key park design and recreation trends.

This chapter provides an overview of the Community Services Department; the Master Plan planning process; document organization; related planning efforts; and systemwide vision, goals, and strategies.



Attendees at the Live Well Fair engaging in the marathon

Community Services Department

The Community Services Department oversees park planning and development, maintenance and operations, recreational programs and classes, and community-wide events, amongst other things. Despite being one of the smallest cities in Los Angeles County in terms of land, Paramount manages and maintains 16 park sites and seven recreational facilities and provides an array of opportunities for residents and visitors to experience outdoor and indoor play, sports, fitness activities, skill development, and social gatherings. The Community Services Department also facilitates the Parks and Recreation Commission, an advisory body that makes recommendations to the City Council regarding parks, recreation facilities, and Community Service programs.

Planning Process

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan's development was heavily influenced by community members, stakeholders, and City leaders who provided feedback throughout the planning process.

More than 500 residents, the Parks and Recreation Commission, partners, stakeholders, and City staff members shared their insights and comments to help formulate the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The outreach process included diverse activities at different times during the four-phased planning process to ensure that a wide variety of participants were involved.

Figure 1. The Planning Process



Plan Organization

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan is organized into six chapters with supporting documentation in five appendices.

Chapter 1: Introduction describes the purpose of the plan; the planning process; the document organization; related planning efforts; and the systemwide vision, goals, and strategies of the parks and recreation master plan to address the future improvements and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities, program, and associated service.

Chapter 2: Our Community describes the planning area and includes relevant demographic information on the households and individuals whose lives are impacted by the park and recreation system. This includes current city residents and future city residents. It provides useful information on age, income levels, ethnicity, and more to help guide recreational decision making to best serve current and future users. This chapter also incorporates findings from community engagement efforts.

Chapter 3: State of the System describes the parks and facility inventory, existing conditions, and assets that contribute to the park and recreation system.

Chapter 4: Needs Assessment provides a technical analysis to evaluate the level of service and access to parks and facilities to cross-check the community's priorities.

Chapter 5: Recommendations and Opportunities offers a comprehensive set of recommendations for existing parks, as well as identifies opportunity sites for expanded recreation and parkland.

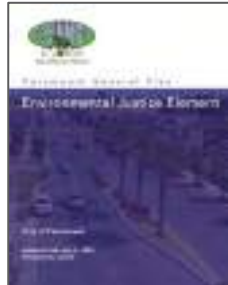
Chapter 6: Implementation presents various tools that help guide implementation and inform the decision-making process. Tools include a menu of costs for financial planning, a prioritization process, and a list of funding sources.

Appendices provide additional details on methodology, findings, feedback, and analysis.

- Appendix A. City of Paramount Parks and Facilities Inventory
- Appendix B. Recreation Program Summary
- Appendix C. Engagement Summary

Related Planning Efforts

The development of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is not intended to exist in isolation, but to coordinate and correspond to other ongoing and existing City plans and initiatives. Below are a sample of relevant documents that influence this Master Plan.



Paramount General Plan & Environmental Justice Element (March 2022): A General Plan includes a land-use plan and goals, policies, and implementation programs, which guide the development of the community. These goals, policies, and programs are then used by the City Council and Planning Commission when making land-use decisions. In 2022 the City of Paramount adopted an Environmental Justice Element to the General Plan. This element is supposed to guide the city's growth over the next few years and ensure that equitable development practices are adopted.¹



City of Paramount Climate Action Plan (July 2021): The purpose of the City of Paramount's Climate Action Plan is to ensure the City reduces its greenhouse gas emissions and improves infrastructure to adapt to the present challenges of climate change. One of the Climate Action Plan's implementation measures includes the development of green infrastructure, parks, urban forestry, and agriculture. Note: Measure W funding was outlined as a potential funding resource for climate adaptation projects in Paramount. In 2021 the City was awarded Measure W funding for improvements to Spane Park.



Bellflower-Paramount Active Transportation Plan (June 2019): The goals of the Bellflower-Paramount Active Transportation Plan are to improve transportation safety and improve infrastructure to encourage walking and bicycling and reduce vehicle miles traveled. Many relevant projects, including the West Santa Ana Branch Trail that will eventually go through Paramount are highlighted in this plan. The West Santa Ana Branch Trail would create a linear greenspace alongside the future metro light rail that will go through Paramount. Other relevant projects highlighted in this report include both the West and East Paramount Utility-Easement Multi-Use Paths, which would create linear walking paths on the utility corridors located in central and west Paramount.²



LA Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (May 2016): Adopted in 2016 after extensive community engagement, the LA County Parks Needs Assessment was created as an inventory of the conditions of parks across all communities in LA County, and as a tool to identify potential park improvements and construction of new park projects. The City of Paramount was surveyed through the County Needs Assessment, and a Study Area Profile was created specific to Paramount, outlining where parks are needed most and listing the priority projects identified by the City of Paramount and residents.³

¹ City of Paramount. Paramount General Plan: Environmental Justice Element, www.paramountcity.com/home/showpublisheddocument/8141/637847729164500000, Published Feb 8, 2022.

² Bellflower-Paramount Active Transportation Plan (2019). https://issuu.com/ktua/docs/bellflower-paramount_atp. Published Nov 4, 2019.

³ Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. City of Paramount: Study Area Profile, https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_140.pdf. Published 2016.

Systemwide Vision, Goals, and Strategies

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan vision framework is organized by one overarching vision, five goals, and subsequent strategies that provide community, stakeholder, and decisionmakers with a clear picture of the desired Paramount parks and recreation system. Each goal is accompanied by strategies which describe how the City will accomplish its goals. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan vision and strategic outcomes serve as the basis for the City's and will guide its decisions as the City of Paramount strives to enhance parks and recreation experiences over the next decade.

The following is the overarching Parks and Recreation Master Plan Vision:

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Vision

Paramount strives to provide inclusive, vibrant green spaces to enhance residents' quality of life. We'll achieve this through innovative park designs, expanded recreation in underserved areas, and equitable park access. Diversifying recreation facilities, prioritizing safety, and emphasizing cultural diversity in programming are key. Strategic partnerships and investments will ensure safe, healthy parks that support the needs and priorities of our community.



Paramount 1660 Adult Recreation Program: Softball League (1660 stands for ages 16 to 60)

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Goals and Strategies

The Master Plan's goals and comprehensive strategies provide direction for enhancing parks, recreation facilities, trails, programs, and associated services. It provides a detailed framework for achieving optimal utilization and development of these resources, ensuring they meet the evolving needs and preferences of the community. Below are the five Master Plan goals.

 1	Equitable access to parks and greenspace
 2	Diversified recreation facilities and amenities
 3	Quality parks that are well-maintained and sustainable
 4	A park system that fosters health, wellness, and safety through programs
 5	Partnerships and investments that strengthen the parks and recreation system

	Equitable access to parks and greenspace
Strategy 1.1	Develop innovative park spaces on unique and underutilized properties, sites, and corridors.
Strategy 1.2	Prioritize investments in underserved areas to provide more equitable access to parks and recreational opportunities.
Strategy 1.3	Improve and expand connectivity from parks and recreation facilities to neighborhoods, trails, and transit facilities.
Strategy 1.4	Implement temporary pop-up parks or mobile recreation programs to address park needs in underserved neighborhoods.
Strategy 1.5	Conduct accessibility audits to identify barriers and prioritize improvements for individuals with disabilities.

 2	Diversified recreation facilities and amenities
Strategy 2.1	<p>Ensure recreational facilities and amenities are inclusive, welcoming individuals of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds, promoting equity and diversity within the community through inclusive design.</p>
Strategy 2.2	<p>Identify new and/or expand upon existing opportunities to grow City park and recreation spaces to meet the community’s diversified needs.</p>
Strategy 2.3	<p>Optimize existing parks sites to broaden and diversify recreational facilities and amenities.</p>
Strategy 2.4	<p>Provide active, unique and challenging amenities to support fitness, play, health, sports, and active recreation.</p>

 3	Quality parks that are well-maintained and sustainable
Strategy 3.1	Support safe, high-quality parks by integrating design standards and maintenance practices to enhance the longevity and functionality of amenities.
Strategy 3.2	Ensure sufficient maintenance staffing and resources to take care of park assets and landscaping, plus address needs for routine and preventative maintenance, facility repair and replacement, and the stewardship of natural resources.
Strategy 3.3	Enhance existing parks by focusing on improved design and infrastructure, specifically addressing new innovative play features, gathering areas, drainage, wayfinding, safety, and landscaping.
Strategy 3.4	Integrate climate preparedness, and mitigation strategies into park planning and design, especially in vulnerable Areas.
Strategy 3.5	Expand urban greening, native landscaping, and urban tree canopy within parks.
Strategy 3.6	Ensure a sustainable park system by integrating water and energy conservation measures, reducing turf in non-recreational areas, and conserving resources through reuse and wise use.



4

A park system that fosters health, wellness, and safety through programs

Strategy 4.1

Implement cultural and arts-focused community programming linked to public spaces.

Strategy 4.2

Establish public gathering spaces where people can congregate and spend time together.

Strategy 4.3


Support recreational inclusivity and access through programmatic diversity and financial affordability.

Strategy 4.4

Activate parks by supporting sports, programs, events, and social gatherings to support active lifestyles, mental and physical health, lifelong learning, personal enrichment, and community cohesiveness.

Strategy 4.5

Expand and enhance indoor facilities to increase program opportunities for all ages, including youth and seniors.

 5	Partnerships and investments that strengthen the parks and recreation system
Strategy 5.1	Continue and expand joint-use agreements strategically with the School District, ensuring that sports facilities remain accessible for recreation.
Strategy 5.2	Develop partnerships with community-based organizations to expand recreational services and programming.
Strategy 5.3	Review costs of current recreational facilities and major facilities in consideration of strategic long-term changes.
Strategy 5.4	Collaborate with partners to develop new park opportunities that reflect community needs and priorities.
Strategy 5.5	Explore new and innovative funding sources and land acquisition mechanisms—in addition to traditional funding options—to expand park and recreation options in Paramount.
Strategy 5.5	Ensure that new parks and enhancements to existing parks are supported by capital and operations funding to support development and ongoing maintenance and asset management.



Chapter 2: Our Community

In Our Community Chapter, we look at where we live, how Paramount's parks are growing, and what people in our community think. Beginning with a community profile, we explore data such as population trends, age demographics, income distributions, and educational levels. Through our engagement program, we've connected with diverse voices through interviews, focus groups, and pop-up events, fostering a rich dialogue about our community's recreational needs and aspirations. By conducting a survey on parks and recreational activities, we gain insights into what matters most to everyone. These processes are instrumental in identifying the key concerns regarding park improvements, inspiring us to craft strategies for enhancing these special spaces.

Planning Area

The City of Paramount is one of the smallest cities in Los Angeles County in terms of land but one of the densest in terms of population. Paramount is located southeast of Los Angeles and is part of a group of communities known as the Gateway Cities. The City of Paramount encompasses 4.8 square miles and shares borders with the cities of Downey to the north, Bellflower to the east, Long Beach to the south, and Compton and the unincorporated community of East Rancho Dominguez to the west (Figure 2). Paramount lies in between three major thoroughfares: the 710 Freeway, the 105 Freeway, State Route 91, and State Route 19 (Lakewood Blvd).

The City's western border is the Los Angeles River, a 51-mile river that stretches from the San Fernando Valley in the north down to Long Beach and into the Pacific Ocean. The section of the river that passes by the City of Paramount consists of a concrete channel specialized in moving large amounts of water during major storms. Major thoroughfares going north-south include Orange Avenue, Garfield Avenue, Paramount Boulevard, and Downey Avenue. The major thoroughfares going west-east include Rosecrans Avenue, Somerset Boulevard, and Alondra Boulevard.⁴

**Figure 2.
Paramount
Location Map**



⁴ Paramount General Plan: Environmental Justice Element: Paramount City, 2022, www.paramountcity.com/home/showpublisheddocument/8141/637847729164500000, February 8, 2022.

There are seventeen park sites and eight major recreational facilities located in Paramount, coupled with an additional eight school joint-use sites with the Paramount Unified School District. The City is always searching for ways to acquire and develop new open space for park and recreation opportunities. Given the lack of available and affordable land, this pursuit has been challenging because the city is entirely built out. However, over the years, the City has been successful in acquiring, developing, and expanding new park land, as well as improving existing park land. The past 30 years has seen a 42% increase in public open space with investments of more than \$25 million (Figure 3), much of which has been from State and County grants.⁵ Since 1990, significant developments have shaped the landscape of our park system: the establishment of All American Park, the expansion of Dills Park, the development of Garfield and Meadows' Parks, and the incorporation of Salud Park's expansive nine acres in 2013. Together, these efforts have expanded our recreational park land by nearly 20 acres. As of 2024, the City is furthering their effort to improve quality of life through parks and recreation and has embarked on the process of developing their first Parks and Recreation Master Plan to this aim.

Paramount Park Growth and Development

The City of Paramount's park system has continued to grow and improve with the development and expansion of numerous parks, facilities, and amenities. Figure 3 presents a visual representation of the City's major parks projects and accomplishments since 1990.



Children enjoying the re-opening of the Paramount Pool at Paramount Park.

⁵ Paramount Community Services Dept (Aug 2019). *Progress in Paramount Community Mailer*. Vol. 1, No. 3.

Figure 3. Paramount Park Growth and Development





2013

Bike Trail

The walking/biking trail rejuvenates the Metro railroad right-of-way running from Lakewood Boulevard to Somerset Boulevard.



2016

Carosmith Park

A small neighborhood park in the southwest part of town, it receives a complete makeover that includes a futsal court, fitness equipment, and lighting.

Basketball Courts at All American Park

New basketball courts open in summer 2019, replacing an outdated, seldom used water feature. The courts are accompanied by other additions such as soccer field lights, picnic tables, and picnic shelters.



2019

Paramount Park Community Center

Paramount is awarded State funds to renovate and expand the community center at Paramount Park.



2024

Salud Park

Located on nine acres of Southern California Edison right-of-way, Salud Park is a first-class fitness resource. The cost of \$4.5 million is covered by a grant. The City pays a minimal amount yearly in rent.

2013



Orange Avenue Splash Pad

Located at the site of the old, underused swimming pool, the Orange Avenue Splash Pad is a zero-depth interactive water experience for the delight of Paramount's kids.

2015



Futsal Courts at Paramount Park

Two futsal courts open for use in Paramount Park near the back of the gymnasium.

2017



Paramount Pool Renovation

The public swimming pool at Paramount Park gets a renovation, and reopens just in time for the summer.

2024



Four Upgraded Playgrounds

Paramount Park, All-American Park, Progress Park, and Dills Park received funding to improve and expand playgrounds.

2024



Our Population

Parks and recreation play a pivotal role in fostering a high quality of life in Paramount. From leisurely strolls in local parks to invigorating hikes in Dills Park, from attending Folklorico classes at the Paramount Park, to engaging in soccer matches at All American Park, and from relishing other events and activities, residents cherish the daily opportunities Paramount offers for active living. This chapter provides a summary of local demographics and insights gathered through community engagement efforts, shedding light on the community's needs pertaining to parks, recreation facilities, and programs.

Population

In 2023, with a population of 52,178 residents, Paramount is the 35th most populous city in Los Angeles County. The City is projected to reach a population of approximately 56,633 people by 2033. This growth will increase demands on parks and facilities and will likely increase use and maintenance needs.

Age

Currently, the median age in Paramount is younger compared to that of Los Angeles County residents. The median age of a Paramount resident is 28 years compared to LA county's 37 years. The largest age group in Paramount is made up of residents between the ages of 35-54 years, followed by residents between the ages of 5-19 years and 20-34 years. Future park developments and improvements should consider the needs of children and youth, families, and intergenerational groups to support the recreational needs of a younger population while still sustaining recreational opportunities for all ages.



Paramount's diverse community attends concerts at the park at Progress Park.

Race and Ethnicity

Latino or Hispanic residents make up the largest group of residents in Paramount, at 82%. This number is significantly higher than LA County's percentage of Latino or Hispanic residents, which stands at 48% of the population. Other groups, including White and Asian residents, make up a higher percentage of LA County's population when compared to Paramount. These numbers show that LA County is more racially and ethnically diverse than the City of Paramount, but that Paramount has a greater percentage of people that identify as people of color. The City should invest in recreational features, amenities, and programs that celebrate both the Latino community culture and the unity between all racial and ethnic groups in Paramount.

Income

According to the U.S. Census, the 2020 median household income in Paramount was \$57,313, which is less than the LA County median household income of \$71,358. Paramount's lower median household income suggests a need to invest in lower-cost and free recreational opportunities for residents.

Education

In terms of education, the 2020 census estimates that 63% of Paramount residents aged 25 and older have a high school degree or less, compared to LA County's 40%. In LA County, 22% of residents 25 and older have a bachelor's degree, compared with Paramount residents at 8%. The number of Paramount residents with a graduate degree is far smaller, at 4%, compared with LA County's 13%. This is important because it affects community interest in lifelong learning programs and skill development programs commonly offered by recreation departments.



Adult recreation softball league team members pose for pictures at Progress Park.

Our Voices

In order to ensure that the Master Plan accurately reflects the distinctive priorities and preferences of our community, residents, visitors, key stakeholders, and City leaders were all invited to share their insights regarding parks and recreation needs. The development of the Master Plan was significantly influenced by the collective voices and knowledge of our community members. Furthermore, it acknowledges the importance of embracing diverse individual perspectives, ensuring that our park and recreation system caters to the needs and interests of everyone.

Engagement Activities

Public outreach included the following activities. Findings from all engagement activities can be found in more detail in Appendix C, as well as integrated into the community priorities.

Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups

Seven in-person and virtual stakeholder interviews and small focus groups were held to assess community needs. Interviews were loosely structured to allow interviewees to discuss the topics most relevant to them. Members of the community who were interviewed included residents, special need parents, business owners, volunteer youth sports coach, Public Works Commissioner, Paramount Youth Soccer Organization President, high school cheer coach, former Public Safety Commissioner, and former Paramount Education Partnership Scholarship recipient. Topics included youth sports leagues, special needs programming and accessibility, public volunteerism, public safety, adult recreation and engagement, sports scholarships, partnership opportunities, facility improvements, and more.

Pop-up Events

MIG, Inc. attended two City events with a pop-up booth to publicize the Master Plan process, to engage with community members, and to promote the Parks and Recreation survey. The first event, Paramount's Annual Easter Egg Hunt, welcomed over 50 families, with children and adults participating in Master Plan discussions, dot voting, drawing activities, and survey filling. The second event, Friday Night Paramount, is a popular monthly occurrence featuring a variety of arts and cultural activities. Attendees generally represent an older demographic compared to the Easter Event, with more teens, adults, and older adults. Attendees filled out paper surveys, voted on desired amenities/features with sticks, and participated in youth drawing activities.



A child helps prioritize future amenities at a Easter pop-up event at Progress Park.



Youth contribute ideas for Paramount parks through a drawing activity at a local pop-up event.



A poster board at the Easter pop-up event solicited input on additions to Paramount's park system.

Parks and Recreation Survey

A public survey was developed with the aim of capturing wide community input on questions around park usage, park valuation, activity preferences, recreational wishes, accessibility and convenience, park concerns, and city investment priorities. The survey was administered in English and Spanish and distributed via paper and digital versions at public events and online. The survey was promoted via the City's website, social media, pop-up events, and targeted outreach.

A total of 270 surveys were submitted, consisting of 228 online surveys and 42 paper surveys. Survey findings were analyzed across a variety of spectrums including:

- Common elements of community praise
- Common concerns, issues, and challenges
- Extreme outlier findings (e.g., major concerns, pinpoints to locations, strong vocalizations by community groups)
- Recreational trends
- Visioning and future possibilities
- Examples or parks, facilities, and programs in other cities
- Suggestions of creative spaces and “out of the box” ideas
- Findings particular to a certain demographic (age, race, ethnicity, geographic area)



PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



2023 SURVEY RESULTS

86% of respondents believe that Parks and Recreation are **"very important"** to the City's quality of life.



65% of respondents reported visiting a park or city community center daily, almost daily, or once per week.



Comfortability, natural landscaping, a variety of amenities, a serene setting, and active settings were rated highly as important park qualities.

Top reasons that limit people's use of parks include feeling unsafe, the lack of interesting facilities, and poor maintenance or condition of parks.

Prominent park users include families and children under 18 years.

Many of the city's major programs and activities – such as the PHIT program, swimming classes, major events, and basketball leagues - are seeing regular participation.

Priorities voiced by the public include renovating and improving existing parks and facilities. Secondly, additional recreation opportunities should be added to existing parks.



Over 60% of respondents (or their family members) participated in recreation activities or programs during the last year.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

<https://www.paramountcity.com/government/departments/recreation>

Community Priorities

The outcomes of the community engagement process have identified a series of key priorities reflecting on the community desires for future park needs. The community's valuable input and dialogue will continue to guide our efforts in enhancing Paramount's parks and recreational spaces. Through this collaborative effort, the following community priorities have emerged:



Participants generally expressed satisfaction with the park system but desire more recreational opportunities and amenities. Survey data indicates that while most visitors frequented parks for children's activities, there's a call for additional adult programming and amenities.



Paramount residents embrace active lifestyles and community involvement, valuing diverse sports programs and facilities catering to all ages and abilities. Facilities often host various groups, from youth teams to adaptive recreation programs. Demand for additional facilities centers more soccer fields and indoor spaces for year-round use.



Residents engage in various city-provided recreation programs, such as enrolling children in sports, attending family-oriented community events, and joining adult sports leagues. These programs cater to both competitive and socializing needs. Seasonal events draw large crowds and are very popular events among residents.



Suggested improvements to existing sites include enhanced lighting (e.g., LED), upgraded restrooms, more shade and structures, trail mile markers, renewed or new play structures, and enhancements to the Paramount Park Gym. Parking concerns were also noted, with overflow into residential areas and distant parking necessitating pedestrian crossings of busy streets.



Certain existing parks and recreational facilities have been identified as having untapped potential for improved utilization. This presents a compelling opportunity to enhance recreation offerings without the need for acquiring and developing new land.



Accessibility discussions centered on parking, Americans with Disabilities Act and all-ability access, and active transportation, including walking and biking.



Overall, participants in pop-up engagement activities reported feeling that city parks were safe, clean, and well-maintained. They, along with survey respondents, provided additional insights into their concerns when visiting Paramount parks.



Participants expressed deep gratitude for park sites, recreation facilities, and city staff for providing and upholding high-quality spaces and programs.



Participants recognize land constraints for new parks but hope the City can innovate. Despite desiring more park space, they're aware of the difficulty in creating new facilities due to land limitations. They stress the need for partnerships and creative solutions to expand recreational opportunities for residents.



Chapter 3: State of the System

This chapter summarizes the amenities, parks, recreation facilities, and programs in Paramount's park and recreation system.

Park System

Paramount's parks and recreation sites operate within three management categories, each with different ownership, management, and maintenance structures. These categories include:

- **City Parkland** refers to publicly owned land within the City that is designated and developed for recreational, leisure, and green space purposes. This land may include areas such as parks, playgrounds, community gardens, sports fields, and passive areas, which are typically accessible to the public for enjoyment and relaxation. A Major Facility could be located on the Parkland, such as community center and swimming pool.
- **School Joint-Use Sites** refer to locations where educational facilities, typically schools, share their facilities or grounds with other community entities or organizations. These sites are often utilized for various purposes beyond regular school hours, such as recreational activities, community events, adult education programs, or social services. Joint use agreements allow for the efficient use of public resources and provide additional benefits to both schools and the surrounding community.
- **Trail Corridors** refer to linear pathways or routes designated for recreational or transportation purposes, typically for activities such as walking and biking. These corridors often traverse natural landscapes, urban areas, or both, connecting various points of interest, parks, neighborhoods, or regions. The Los Angeles River Trail is a trail corridor that parallels the Los Angeles River and provides continuous bikeway starting south of Downtown Los Angeles to Long Beach.

City parkland is divided into four classifications which distinguish sites by their size, function, and service area. These classifications are defined in Table 1 and illustrated in Figure 4. Different classifications often vary in terms of types of facilities and amenities present. The classification of sites helps the City make decisions about acquisition, development, maintenance and management, and programming. A complete list of City parkland by site, classification, and acreage is available in Appendix A.

*New playground opening at
Paramount Park*



Table 1. Site Categories and Classifications

CITY PARKLAND There are 17 sites totaling 60.5 acres of city parkland.

These publicly accessible sites are managed by the City of Paramount to support recreation, social gathering, and greenspace. They include outdoor parks, landscaped green space, indoor recreation facilities, community centers and more. Some of these sites are owned by the City; others are leased by the City. City parkland includes:

Pocket Parks are the smallest of the park types, often less than one acre in size, with limited facilities and amenities such as picnic tables, lighting, landscaping, and walking paths. Existing pocket parks are privately-owned parcels leased by the City to provide public green space in neighborhood areas. There are three pocket parks totaling 1.1 acres:

- Paramount Boulevard & Howard Hall
- Somerset Boulevard & Colorado Avenue
- Wilbarn Pocket Park

Neighborhood Parks are small parks ranging in size from 1-7 acres. They provide greenspace or basic recreation opportunities such as playgrounds and sports courts for nearby neighbors within walking or biking distance. There are 6 neighborhood parks totaling 14.1 acres.

- Garfield Park
- Meadows Park
- Pequeño Park
- Village Skate Park
- Spane Park
- All American Park

Community Parks are mid-size parks that are generally 10+ acres. They are intended to provide larger green spaces and diverse recreation opportunities to serve a portion of the City or several neighborhoods within driving distance. Community Parks typically provide support amenities such as on-site parking, restrooms, ballfields, picnic areas, and shade to encourage longer visits. There are 4 community parks totaling 44.3 acres.

- Paramount Park
- Progress Park
- Ralph C. Dills Park
- Salud Park

Special Use Sites are single-purpose sites that vary in size and support specialized recreation uses such as a community garden, a splashpad, or a community center that is not located in a larger park. They may have minor supplemental facilities with support amenities such as on-site parking, restrooms, and shade. There are 4 special use parks totaling 1.1 acres.

- Carosmith Park
- Orange Splash Pad (Park)
- Paramount Community Garden
- Clearwater Building

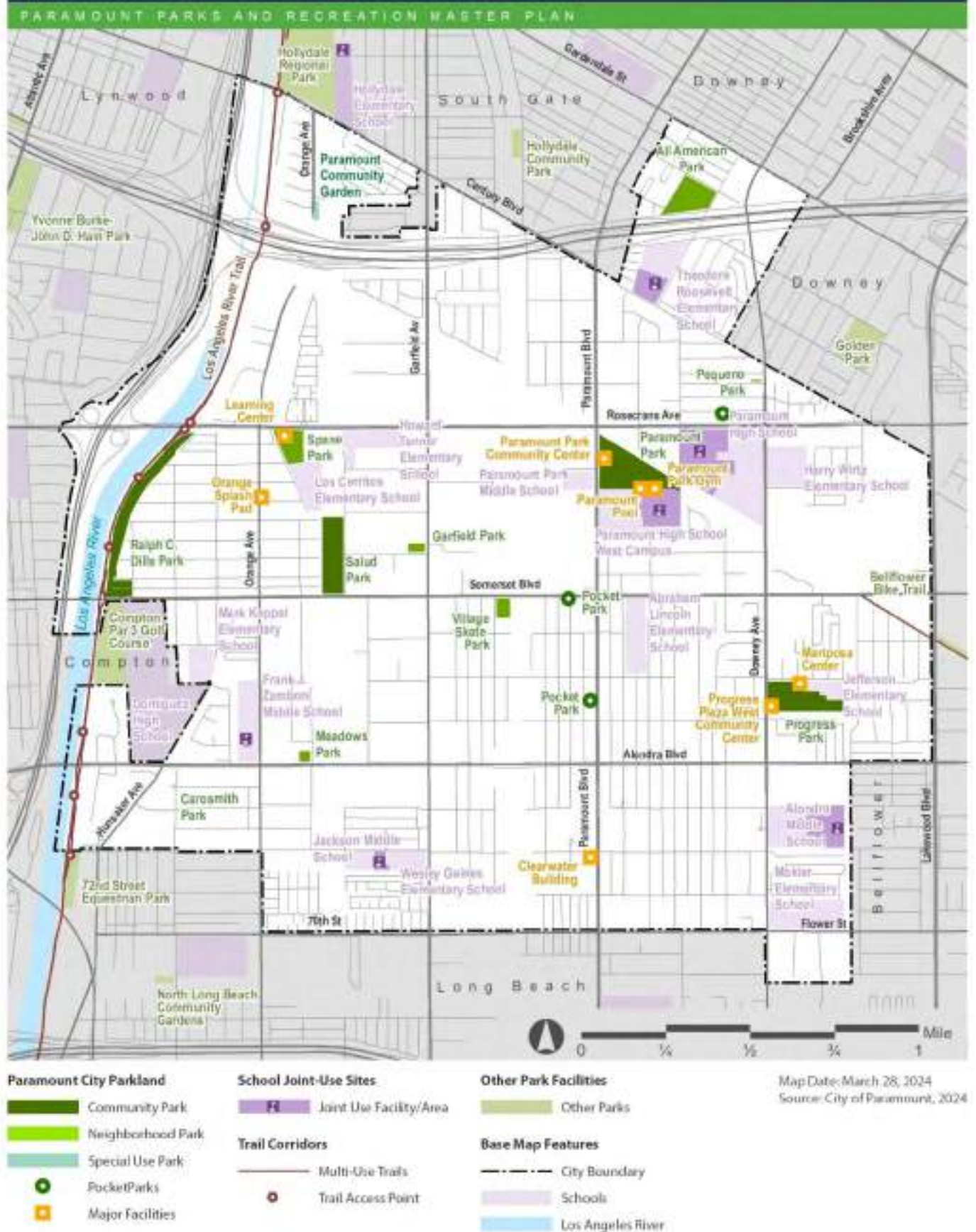
SCHOOL JOINT-USE SITES There are 7 school joint-use sites, plus 15 PUSD sites.

Portions of existing school sites are scheduled by the City of Paramount through memorandum-of-understandings (MOUs) between the School District and the City. Current joint-use sites provide restricted public access to school sports fields and gymnasiums. Depending on the nature of the agreements, these sites could support access to other types of indoor and outdoor recreational spaces and amenities.

TRAIL CORRIDORS There are 2 sites totaling 2.6 linear miles of trail corridors.

These linear corridors with off-street trails support non-motorized transportation, bicycling, and pedestrian recreation. Often, trails in Paramount are part of a larger trail network that extends into neighboring cities. This category does not include walking/jogging paths or facility access paths located within park sites.

Figure 4. Paramount Park System



Recreation System

The City of Paramount offers a variety of recreational amenities, features, programs, and events to keep residents and visitors of all ages and abilities engaged and active. A summary of features and amenities in City parks can be found in Appendix A.

Park Amenities, Features, and Facilities

Paramount's parks have a variety of recreational features and amenities that are categorized by use type, management and operation needs, and investment levels. Because amenities and facilities vary tremendously in size and scale, they typically are discussed using the following terms:

- **Amenities** are non-recreational features in parks that support site comfort and use. Examples include trash receptacles, bike racks, drinking fountains, restrooms, signage, parking, etc.
- **Features** refer to all buildings, equipment, and assets that support recreation, including but not limited to playgrounds, sports fields, sports courts, picnic areas, skate parks, community gardens, splash pads, community centers, swimming pools, etc. Figure 5 lists the number of recreational features at parks.
- **Major Facilities** are a type of recreation facility that typically require greater investment, maintenance, staffing and operations. These may be provided at a standalone site or located within a park with a variety of other uses. They vary in size and include facilities such as community centers. They are inventoried in Table A-2 to define the assets included within these buildings and spaces, such as multi-purpose rooms, meeting rooms, office space, locker rooms, stage, storage, and administrative space. Paramount has eight major facilities, seven of which are located within existing parks.



Mariposa Community Center at Progress Park is a Major Facility

To better understand what mix of amenities and facilities are provided in Paramount's parks, the park and facility inventory describes amenities and facilities in the following categories:

- **Athletic/Sports Features** are custom-purpose spaces for individual or group athletics and sports. Some of these features are lighted and/or available for rent.
- **Outdoor Recreation Features** are facilities that generally support outdoor recreation. Examples include fitness zones, playgrounds, and picnic areas.
- **Major Features** are buildings and facilities that require greater investment in maintenance, operations, staffing, and programming. Examples of major features include amphitheaters, community centers, gymnasiums, and swimming pools.
- **Nature Features** are outdoor elements designed to emphasize and showcase nature and its systems. They serve to facilitate interpretation and foster connections to nature, while also providing environmental, ecological, and aesthetic/design benefits. Examples include streams/ponds, water detention basins, and different types of trails.
- **Comfort Amenities** support the comfort, functionality, and use of parks. These include restrooms, parking lots, trash receptacles, benches, and more.
- **Other Features** are miscellaneous additional amenities that add to the park experience or operations. These include wi-fi, public art, little library structures, and storage buildings.



The futsal courts at Paramount Park are Athletic/Sports Features

Figure 5. Paramount's Park and Recreation Features and Facilities



Recreation Programs and Events

In addition to parks and physical amenities and features, Paramount offers a variety of recreation programs and events for the community that are occasionally supported or co-hosted by external community-based organizations or other City departments. Programs are offered within the following categories. See Appendix B for more details on recreation programs.

- Adaptive Recreation
- Aquatics
- Community Events
- Instruction and Enrichment
- Adult and Senior Services
- Sports & Fitness



Martial arts programs are Instruction and Enrichment programming.

Park System Observations

In December of 2022 a tour of Paramount's parks was conducted to capture park system photos and preliminary observations regarding park condition, facility/amenity counts, activity and use, park character, maintenance and operations, and access/connections. The tour found that:

- Parks are well-maintained and free of litter.
- Parks appear to be comfortable and used by people of all ages.
- Landscaping is in good condition.
- Some sites have aging facilities that do not meet the current interests of residents.
- Some parks cater to passive recreation space.
- Most sites have amenities most attractive to younger residents.
- Park locations near schools offer opportunities to expand recreation space through joint-use programs.
- There is limited parking at most park sites.
- The City does not have a dedicated dog park, but observations of residents with dogs in park suggests it may be a welcomed amenity.



Chapter 4: Needs Assessment

This chapter summarizes findings from the technical analysis of Needs & Opportunities, including level of service and adequacy of access. Findings from the Needs Assessment informed Recommendations & Prioritization.

Level of Service and Needs

Level of Service (LOS) is a calculation that helps assess whether the City is providing the right amount of parkland acreage and facility counts for its population. Unlike an access analysis, it does not evaluate geographic location, but instead compares existing parkland acreage and number of facilities to the current and future population. This comparison aids the City in determining if they should focus on increasing their provisions to adequately serve their populations, either through land acquisition, development of undeveloped parkland, partnerships, developer-built parks, land dedications and/or in-lieu fees.

2023 NRPA comparison

The NRPA (National Recreation and Park Association) is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing parks, recreation, and environmental conservation efforts to enhance the quality of life in communities across the United States.

The 2023 National Recreation and Parks Association metrics for jurisdictions with populations of 50,000-99,000 residents indicates the following:

Upper Quartile LOS:

17.3 acres per 1,000 residents

Median LOS:

11.2 acres per 1,000 residents

Lower Quartile LOS:

5.0 acres per 1,000 residents

Parkland LOS

The City of Paramount does not currently have any Level of Service (LOS) Standards for parkland. . Described as a ratio of acres per 1,000 residents, a higher parkland LOS means more parkland per resident; a lower parkland LOS means less parkland per resident. Table 2 shows the existing parkland LOS for the City of Paramount total and by classification.

Table 2. Parkland Level of Service

2023 Population ¹ : 52,178		Existing Parks		2023 Existing Level of Service (LOS)
Sites managed by Paramount Community Services Dept	Site Classification	Total Count of Sites	Total Acreage of Sites ³	
	Pocket Parks	3	1.1	0.0
	Neighborhood Parks	6	14.1	0.3
	Community Parks	4	44.3	0.8
	Special Use Sites	4	1.1	0.0
	Community Services Dept Subtotal	17	60.5	1.2
Sites owned / managed by others	School Joint-Use Site	8	38.2	0.7
	Trail Corridors ³	2	4.9	0.1
	Other Providers Subtotal	10	43.1	0.8
	Total	27	103.6	2.0

Notes:

*The City of Paramount does not have any current LOS Standards.

1. 2023 Population counts are from the Department of Finance (May 2023).

As seen in Table 2, Paramount is host to 17 City parks covering 60.5 acres of parkland. Considering the 2023 population, the existing City parkland level of service is 1.2 acres per 1,000 residents.

Relative to state averages, this is a low level of service. Most cities in California strive to provide a minimum of 3.0 acres per 1,000 residents, as advised in California's Quimby Act. The California Quimby Act gives cities or counties the right, by ordinance, to require land dedication or impose in-lieu fees (or a combination) to acquire land for neighborhood and community parks as a condition of approval for residential subdivision development. [Note: Joint-use sites and trail corridors are not counted toward Quimby requirements.]

Relative to national averages, Paramount is similarly underserving parkland to its residents. Data provided by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) shows that for jurisdictions of similar populations as Paramount (50,000-99,000 residents), the median level of service is 11.2 acres per 1,000 residents and the lower quartile level of service is 5 acres per 1,000 residents. Paramount's 1.2 acres per 1,000 residents is thus significantly lower than national averages.

In some cases, cities will include parkland that is owned by others to count towards their level of service. In the case of Paramount, there is 43.1 acres of non-City land that is used for recreation such as joint-use school sites and trail corridors (Bellflower Multi-Use Trail and LA River Multi-Use Trail) Including these non-

City sites' acreage augments Paramount's overall level of service to 2.0 acres per 1,000 people. This is an improvement, but still falls below state and national benchmarks.

As is common with landlocked Californian cities, Paramount faces common constraints such as minimal opportunity to acquire land, built-out urban density, prohibitive expenses associated with purchase and development of private property, and historic land uses that limit park and recreation activities. Paramount's low level of park services signifies a potential shortfall in accessible green spaces and recreational amenities for Paramount residents compared to the State's benchmark and national averages. The deficit in parkland acres per resident suggests a limited availability of outdoor recreational opportunities and may indicate challenges in meeting the diverse needs of the community for leisure, exercise, and socialization within green environments. Addressing this gap could be crucial for enhancing the quality of life and overall well-being of Paramount residents.

Parkland Needs

As the population of Paramount grows, the City will want to increase their amount of parkland and recreational opportunities to accommodate the growth. Not increasing the parkland or recreational offerings will result in higher crowding, more strain on facilities and amenities, and less access to programs and facilities for community members.

In light of Paramount's desire to increase the amount of parkland, it is easy to see how challenging it would be for the City to add more parkland. Using a projected 2033 population, the boxes below show how much parkland would be needed by 2033 to bring the City up to a base level of 3 acres per 1,000 residents, if counting parkland, school joint use sites, and trails.



When comparing the three levels of service proposals, it is useful to consider the feasibility of fulfillment. Since Paramount is already built out, and it currently has substantially less parkland, it would be very difficult and may be cost-prohibitive to increase its LOS standard over the next 10 years. With limited options for land, it may not be possible for Paramount to secure an additional 66.3 acres of parkland, thus making a level of service of 3 acres unattainable. However, the City should strive to increase parkland and recreational opportunities wherever feasible through land development, acquisition, joint-use agreements, partnerships, increased investment, grant funding, and other creative strategies.

Facility LOS and Needs

Besides parkland, the number and type of recreational facilities provided by a City is also important. As populations grow and change, recreational facilities need to evolve similarly to ensure adequate numbers. See Table 3 for Paramount's existing facility level of service, which is measured in terms of one facility per number of residents served.

Table 3. Paramount Facility LOS

2023 Population¹: 52,178

Paramount Site Classification		2023 Facility Counts	2023 Existing LOS
Athletics / Sports	Basketball Court (half)	4	13,045
	Basketball Court (full)	4	13,045
	Futsal Court/Pad	4	13,045
	Softball/Baseball Field	4	13,045
	Soccer & Multipurpose Field	5	10,436
	Volleyball Court	1	52,178
	Subtotal	22	
Outdoor Recreation	Fitness Zone	9	5,798
	Playground	13	4,014
	Skate Park	1	52,178
	Community Garden / Orchard	2	26,089
	Subtotal	24	
Major Features	Auditorium (indoors)	3	17,393
	Amphitheater (outdoors)	1	52,178
	Community Center	5	10,436
	Warming Kitchen	3	17,393
	Multipurpose Room	5	10,436
	Gymnasium	1	52,178
	Water Spray Park	1	52,178
	Swimming Pool	1	52,178
	Subtotal	27	
Nature Features	Stream / Pond	1	52,178
	Multi-Use Trail	0	-
	Nature Trail	1	52,178
	Walking / Jogging Path	8	6,522
	Subtotal	15	
Total		92	

Notes:

*The City of Paramount does not have any current LOS Standards.

1. 2023 Population (52,178) is from the Department of Finance (May 2023).

To compare with national averages, Table 4 shows benchmarks from the NRPA. The 2023 NRPA level of service data reflects cities with populations 50,000 to 99,999, and only includes city-owned facilities. Therefore, counts of Paramount facilities shown similarly only include city-owned facilities, and do not factor in joint-use sites or trails owned by other entities/jurisdictions.

Table 4. Paramount Facility LOS Comparison with NRPA

NRPA Site Classification ¹	2023 Paramount Facility Counts	2023 Paramount Existing LOS	NRPA Comparison ²
Basketball Courts	4	13,045	8,790
Diamond fields: softball field - youth	4	13,045	12,716
Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	5	10,436	13,244
Playgrounds	13	4,014	3,799
Skate parks	1	52,178	62,927
Community gardens	2	26,089	52,906
Performance amphitheaters	1	52,178	60,495
Community centers	5	10,436	53,331
Recreation centers (including gyms)	1	52,178	38,018
Aquatic centers	1	52,178	43,100

Notes:

1. NRPA Facility Classifications reflect the titles used by NRPA. These may differ slightly than the category titles of Paramount facilities and should use as a general benchmark for comparison.

2. NRPA benchmarks reflect the median number of residents per facility for jurisdictions with populations of 50,000 – 99,000 people.

As shown in Table 4, some types of facilities can be compared to the median service levels for all cities, counties, and park districts nationwide as noted in NRPA’s Park Metrics. Some key comparative takeaways:

- Paramount exceeds NRPA medians with rectangular fields (e.g., soccer, multi-purpose), skate parks, community gardens, amphitheaters, and community centers.
- Paramount meets or nearly meets the NRPA medians with diamond fields (e.g., softball, baseball) and playgrounds.
- Paramount falls below national NRPA medians with basketball courts, recreation centers (including gymnasiums), and aquatic centers (e.g., swimming pools).

Park Access

Everyone should have access to parks and recreation facilities, however depending on geography and neighborhood constraints that is not always the reality. Cities aim not only to provide sufficient parks and facilities, but also a system that is distributed across their jurisdiction.

To assess the distribution of parks across the jurisdiction, each park is assigned a service area that represents how much of the surrounding area is “served” by that park. Service areas are calculated as set distances and are based on park classification. Typically, small parks with few amenities have smaller service areas (i.e., are intended to serve a smaller geography and user population) and large park with more amenities have larger service areas (i.e., are intended to serve a larger geography and user population).

Using Esri’s Network Analyst, the service area of each park site is calculated. Calculations consider logical routing (i.e., distances are measured in consideration of the existing street and sidewalk network, barriers such as freeways and private property, etc.), therefore representing real-life travel to park sites from surrounding areas. This geospatial analysis provides an overarching map of which areas are “served” by parks, and which areas are “unserved” by parks.

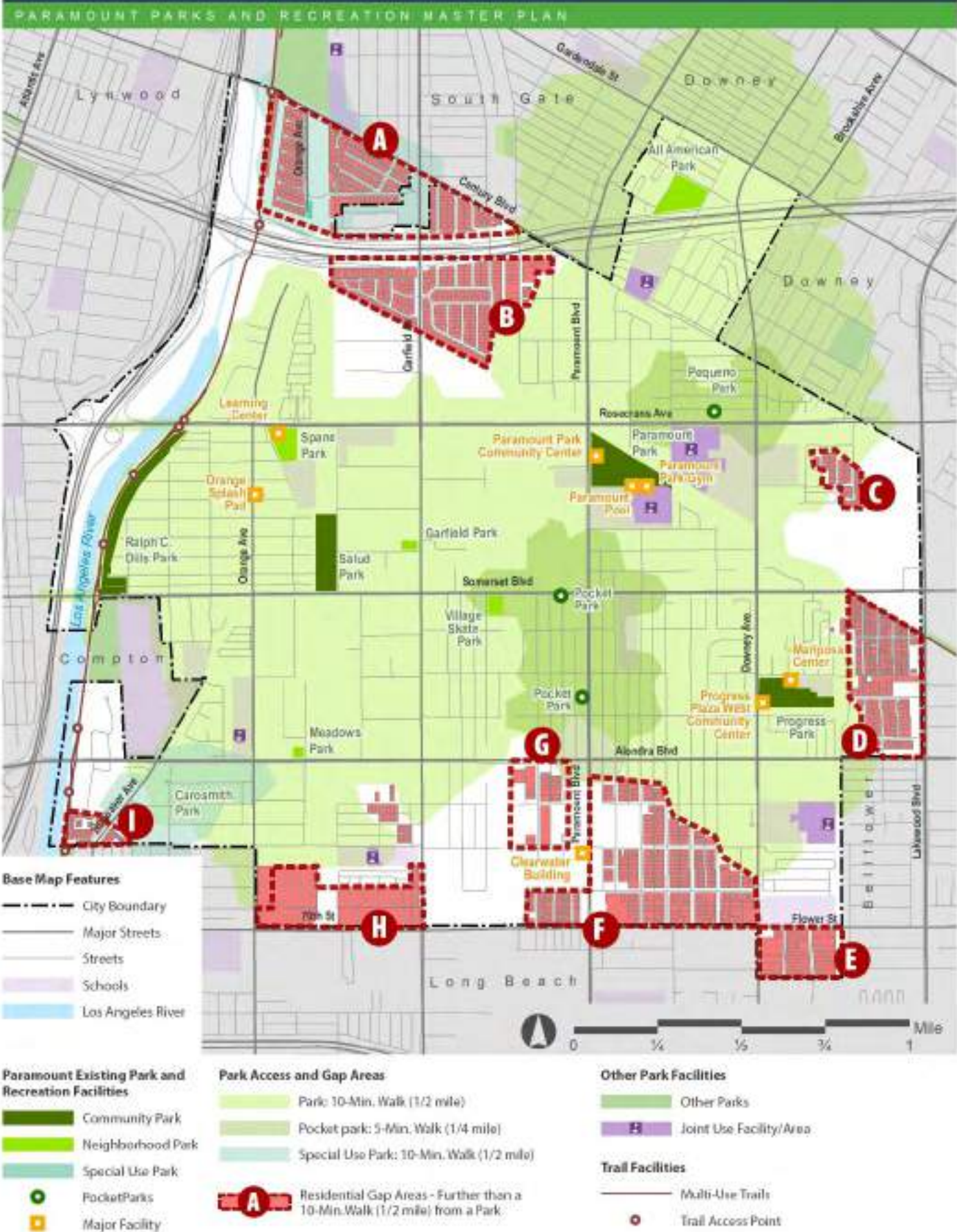
Table 5. Service Areas for Paramount Parks, by Classification

Park Classification	Service Area Distance
Pocket Parks	0.25 mile
Neighborhood Park	0.5 mile
Community Park	0.5 mile
Special Use Park	0.5 mile (Exception: Due to limited amenities Carosmith Park is given a service area distance of 0.25 mile)

As can be seen in Figure 5, most of Paramount is served by City parks. However, there are some areas that are beyond the service area of any park and are thus flagged as “gap areas”. For more accurate analysis, only the residential parcels within these gap areas are highlighted, illustrating areas of residential neighborhoods that lack access to city parks based on designated service area distances.

The access analysis results in nine residential gap areas, shown in red on Figure 5. These gap areas, coded “A” through “I”, should be prioritized in any future park acquisition and development. Alternatively, gap areas may be relieved by creating public access pathways or neighborhood cut throughs that improve access to nearby parks.

Figure 6. Park Access Analysis



Distribution of Recreation Facilities

Besides parks, cities also aim to have a well-distributed recreation facility system. A well-distributed system supports equity and opportunity across the entire jurisdiction. Not all parks can support large recreation facilities, therefore it is important for cities to be strategic about where and how they are operating facilities.

Figure 7 shows the locations of sports fields, including softball and baseball fields, soccer fields, and multi-purpose fields. It shows both city-owned fields, as well as joint-use fields which are located within school sites. As evidenced, there are ample fields located in the city center and at school joint-use sites, but there is a lack in the northern and southern portions of the city.

Figure 8 shows the locations of small-footprint active recreation facilities, including basketball courts (full and half), futsal courts, volleyball courts, fitness zones, and skate parks. There is a similar distribution pattern of small-footprint recreation facilities as sports fields, with concentrations in the central city and gaps in the northern and southern portions. Small footprint active recreation is an important facility type for diverse user groups to participate in their leisure. Unlike sports fields, these often are used for pick-up games, by solo participants, and at all times of the day. With their small footprint, there is more opportunity to add these types of facilities to existing parks, publicly owned lands, and partner sites.

Figure 9 shows the locations of major facilities, including auditoriums/amphitheaters, community centers, gymnasiums, swimming pools, and water spray parks. While still concentrated in the city center, there are two additional joint-use gymnasiums located in the southern portion of the city, at Frank Zamboni Middle School and Alondra Middle School. Given the lack of other recreational facilities in the southern portion, the City could consider augmenting and optimizing this existing partnership, as well as continue to create new partnerships and MOUs. It should also be noted that, with rising urban temperatures, heat mitigation and cooling facilities are increasingly important amongst California communities. While Paramount provides one swimming pool and one water spray park, it may want to explore options for expanding access to cooling facilities to better serve its wide population.



Adult sports leagues in Paramount provide opportunities for exercise and socialization.

Figure 7. Locations of Sports Fields

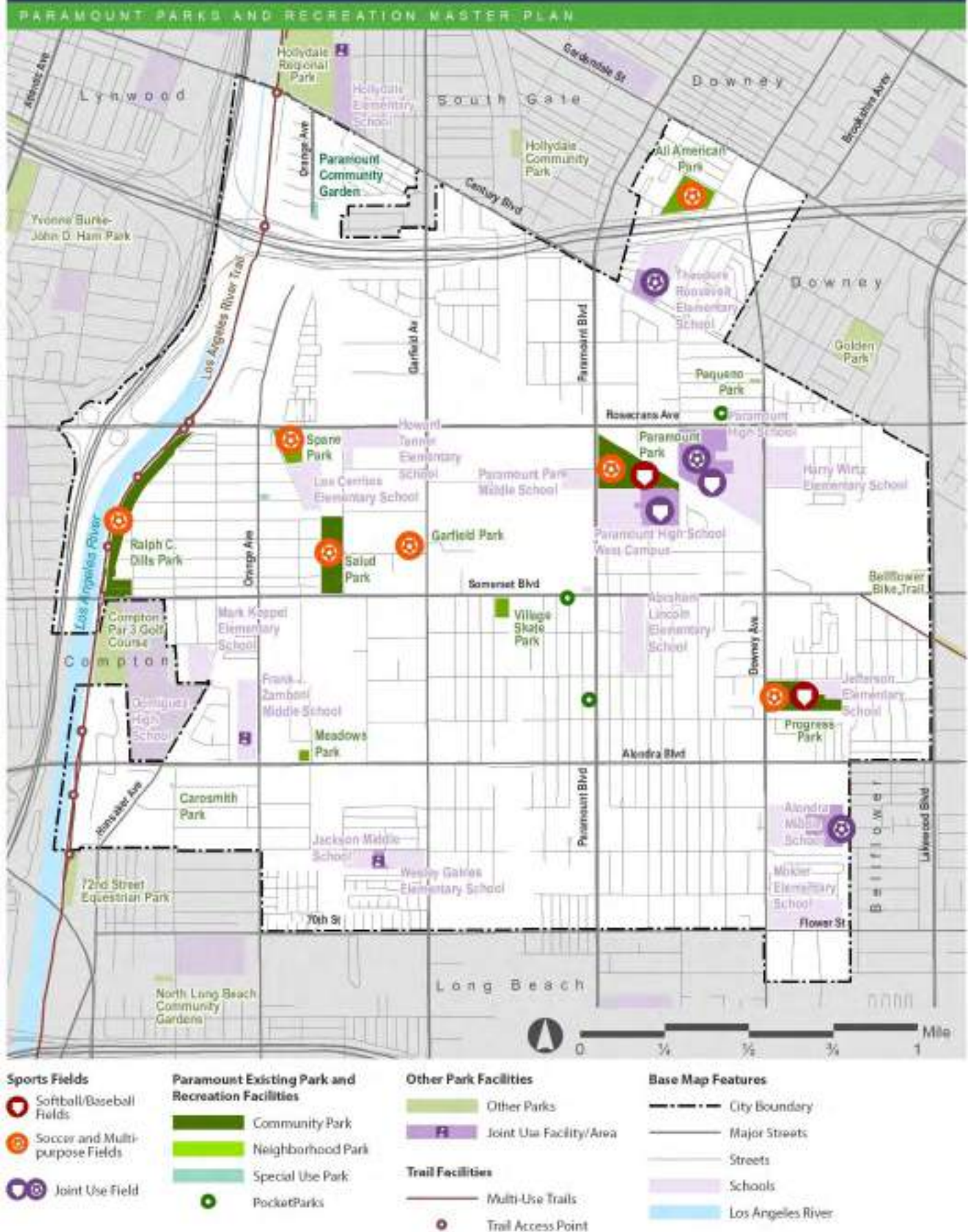


Figure 8. Locations of Small-Footprint Active Recreation Facilities

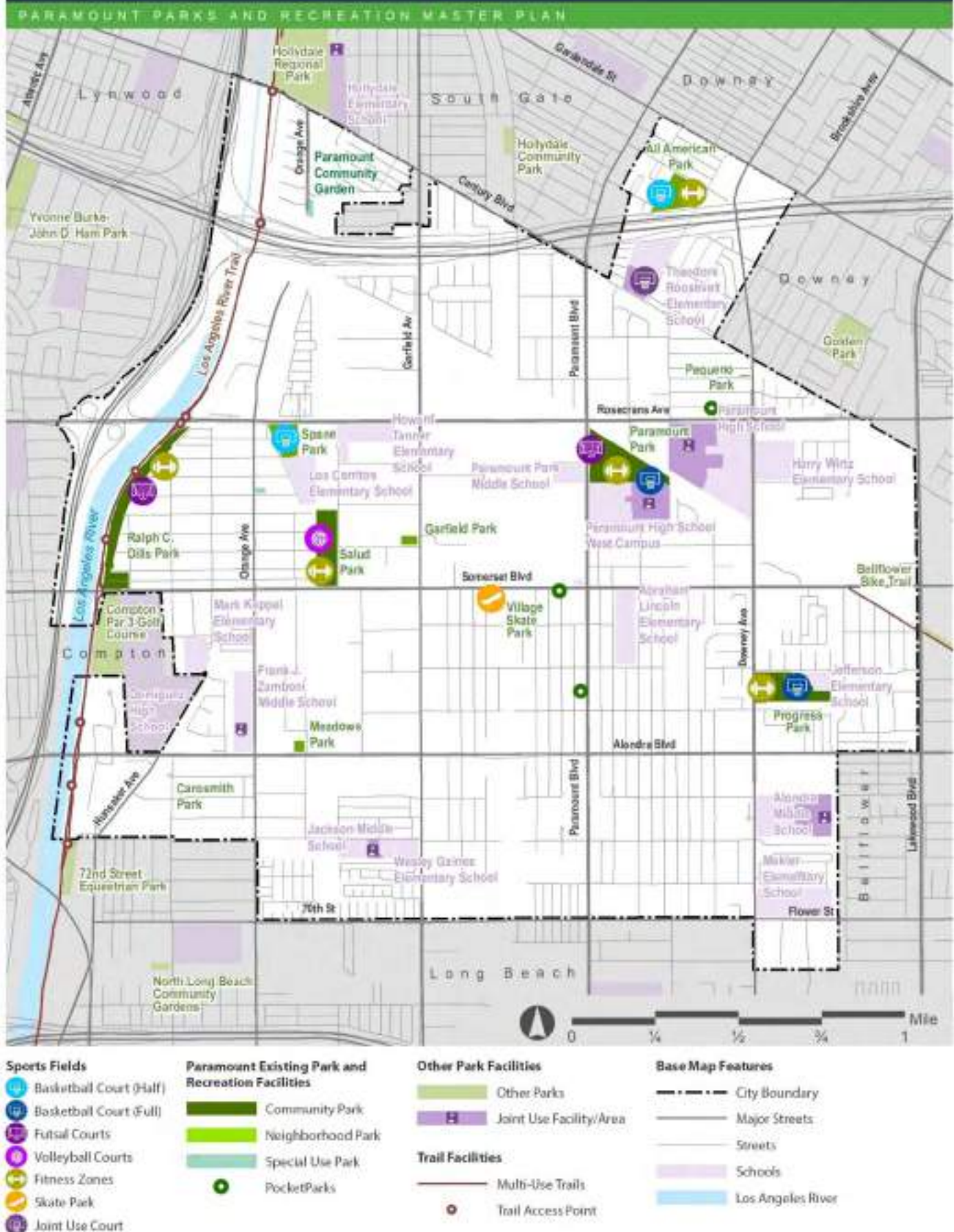
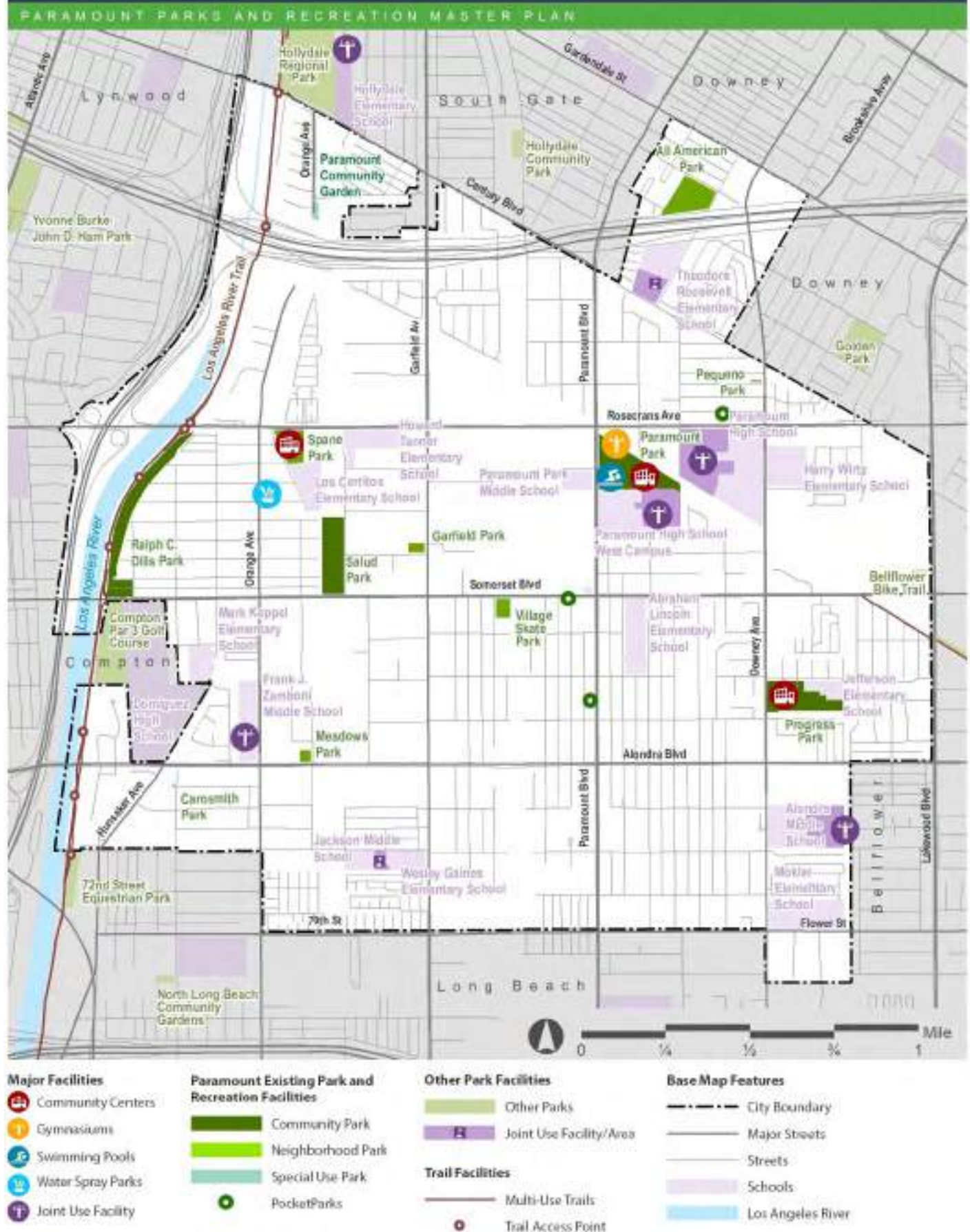


Figure 9. Locations of Major Facilities



Summary of Needs

The following presents the findings of the parks and recreation needs assessment, including the technical analysis and public engagement conducted in Phase 2 of the planning process. These findings provided a valuable resource for staff, policymakers, and stakeholders to help guide future planning and development efforts, ensuring that Paramount's parks and recreation facilities continue to enrich the lives of its residents and foster a vibrant and healthy community environment.

- **More Amenities and Recreational Opportunities.** There's a desire for enhanced amenities and recreational opportunities. Residents highly value city programs like fitness classes and swimming lessons, while suggestions for additional facilities like tennis and handball courts resonate strongly with the community. Community feedback underscores the demand for more exercise options for adults and natural landscapes for seniors, alongside calls for increased recreational events for families. Notably, there's unanimous support for the construction of a dog park across all demographics in Paramount.
- **More Sports Facilities.** Paramount residents are eager for more sports facilities and expanded sports opportunities. Suggestions include implementing a rental/check-out system for sports equipment, offering more open play time at Paramount Park Gymnasium, and providing facilities for soccer, volleyball, shuffleboard, and tennis. Additionally, there's a desire for new courts and fields catering to casual play, as well as small-scale fitness equipment. Survey feedback highlights the need for extended programming hours, more diverse recreational activities, and increased organized sports opportunities for adults and seniors, including competitive gaming.
- **More Programs for All Ages and Abilities.** Residents express a desire for increased access to affordable youth programs like soccer, emphasizing the importance of keeping kids active and engaged. Additionally, there's a call for more multi-generational features and programs catering to various age and ability groups, including adults, older adults, disabled residents, and those with different abilities, to foster inclusivity and community engagement.
- **Improvement of Existing Sites.** Desired physical improvements for existing sites include enhanced lighting with LED fixtures, expanded and improved restroom facilities, increased shade provision with structures, installation of trail mile markers, and renovation or replacement of outdated play structures. Upgrades to Paramount Park Gymnasium were also suggested. Parking concerns were raised, with overflow into residential areas at some sites and the necessity for distant parking coupled with crossing busy streets at others.
- **Improvement of Existing Sites.** Residents want improved park amenities to enhance safety and accessibility, including better nighttime lighting for extended usage hours and walking distance markers for added convenience. Community comments indicated a desire to extend open hours at Paramount Park Gymnasium and dedicate more space for teenagers, reminiscent of the past teen activity room. Additionally, there's a call for expanded tree shade canopies, upgraded children's play equipment, and increased pool access hours, reflecting strong community interest. Maintaining restroom cleanliness and upkeep is also emphasized by survey respondents as essential for park maintenance.
- **Accessibility for All Users.** Insufficient parking, particularly during sporting events, poses challenges at many park sites, leading residents to utilize neighborhood street parking where available. According to public comments, there is a need for more inclusive, accessible programs and facilities, including safe play structures and improved accessibility features such as wide sidewalks, curb cuts, and ADA accessible seating. Stakeholders advocate for active transportation support, including bike lanes, bike racks, and repair stations, along with connector multi-use trails. Difficulty accessing parks

was highlighted by survey respondents, particularly in the southwestern part of Paramount that lacks park space.

- **Safety and Maintenance.** Engagement participants across all age groups express concerns about park safety, particularly regarding infrastructure issues such as inadequate lighting and the absence of playground fences. Parents with children are notably worried about safety and hygiene in park restrooms, as well as the presence of tobacco and marijuana smoking. Concerns extend to issues like unhoused resident encampments, gang activity, and drug dealing in certain parks. Additionally, the presence of unleashed dogs poses risks, emphasizing the need for better training and control. Adjacent areas like the Los Angeles River site and Dills Park are also considered in safety evaluations, with suggestions for improved police presence focusing on community relations. Furthermore, destructive behavior like motorbike riding in park areas like Dills Park underscores the need for enhanced enforcement measures.
- **Creative Solutions to Lack of Parks.** Some residents suggested that innovative strategies to expand recreational opportunities in Paramount could consider repurposing utility corridors for passive uses like dog parks and trails, while acknowledging safety concerns posed by electrical lines. Suggestions to consider include constructing multi-story parking lots with integrated sports facilities, leveraging partnerships with schools, government agencies, and private entities, and implementing revenue-generating initiatives such as food truck events and rental programs. Additionally, underutilized spaces such as alleyways could be transformed into green areas or community gardens, while potential funding and operation models for converting a warehouse into an indoor sports facility include public-private partnerships, corporate sponsorships, and fee-based usage structures.
- **Park Access Gap Areas.** Although many residents are served by Paramount parks within a half-mile (10-minute) walking distance, nearly 11,000 residents must walk longer than 10 minutes to access a park. That is the equivalent to 20 percent of the community. These gap areas consist of nine specific areas.
- **Insufficient Parkland.** Paramount lacks sufficient parks and recreational amenities. The City's level of service for park acres is 1.2 acres per 1,000 residents, or 2.2 acres per 1,000 if joint use school sites and trail corridors are counted. Addressing this deficit is crucial for improving residents' quality of life. The City recognizes this shortfall and has launched this Master Plan to enhance park facilities and meet the needs of a growing population.
- **Insufficient Number of Facilities.** Compared to the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA), Paramount exceeds and falls short in some categories of recreation facilities. However, community feedback around recreation needs strongly highlight a desire for more active sports facilities such as soccer fields for youth and adult leagues.
- **Location of Sports Fields.** The Needs Assessment analysis noted that most City-owned and school joint-use sports fields are mostly located in the center of the city, but there is a deficiency in the northern and southern areas of the city.
- **Location of Small-Footprint Active Recreation Facilities.** Small-footprint active recreation facilities include basketball courts (half and full), futsal courts, volleyball courts, fitness zones, skate parks, and joint-use courts. Looking at Figure 7, it is evident that these facilities exhibit a distribution pattern that is predominantly clustered in the central city, with notable gaps in the northern and southern areas.
- **Location of Major Facilities.** At present, most recreational Major Facilities are mainly located in the center of the city, which means residents living on the outskirts may have to rely on vehicles to reach them.



Chapter 5: Recommendations and Opportunities

This chapter provides a comprehensive set of recommendations for Paramount, including systemwide directions for all sites, site recommendations for existing City parks, and potential opportunities for future acquisition and development.

These recommendations were developed based on findings from the site tour, community engagement activities, and needs assessment, as well as a technical evaluation of potential opportunities to add greenspace or enhance or expand recreation options. Many new site “opportunities” would require collaboration with other entities and partners and therefore will need further vetting and discussions to confirm their viability.

The City currently does not have the staffing, funding, or resources to be able to implement all recommendations described in this chapter, nor will it over the next 10 years. The recommendations are documented to support a long-term funding strategy (including potentially the use of grants and bonds) for future implementation. This approach ensures that no opportunities that may arise in the future are missed, and that the highest priority projects can be pursued when resources are available.



More sports fields, especially soccer fields, are desired.

Systemwide Recommendations

Guided by community priorities, the systemwide recommendations in this section are intended to support enhancements and investment across the City's park and recreation system.

Increased Parkland

- Acquire and develop new parks to expand the City's level of service and diversify recreation options.
- Prioritize new parkland or services in identified gap areas to make recreation options accessible to currently unserved residents. Add additional parkland in gap areas where feasible.
- Explore creative solutions for Paramount's lack of park space, considering the following:
 - Explore partnerships with schools, libraries, and other public agencies to add small footprint recreation facilities that would expand recreation options on existing lands.
 - Seek opportunities for long-term leases with private and public sector agencies to expand greenspace or recreation options.
 - Develop passive parks and recreational facilities in utility corridors, suitable to the length of lease allowable.
 - Explore shared parking options with nearby schools and facilities or consider constructing vertical parking structures in high-use parks to optimize land use and increase available parking.
 - Explore options for land conversions to add additional green space (e.g., converting alleyways into community gardens).
 - Consider purchasing vacant facilities or buildings and converting them into spaces for indoor recreation. Prior to acquisition, develop a financial feasibility and market study that considers the usable recreation space that would be obtained, the cost to renovate the facility, and the return on the potential investment in terms of recreation value and program revenues.

More Sports and Active Recreation Facilities

- Add more sports facilities to support organized play and drop-in activities for adults and youth.
- Continue to strengthen and develop partnerships with the School District and other agencies that have recreational facilities and spaces that could be used to expand sports programming.
- Increase multi-use sports fields and courts throughout the park system.
- Install additional sports courts (e.g., tennis, pickleball, futsal, handball, etc.).
- Consider opportunities to increase access and use of existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities, such as adding lighting, converting fields to artificial turf, and increasing access to the Paramount Gymnasium by expanding service hours and days.
- Add outdoor fitness equipment and active recreation facilities to existing parks and trails, as well as new sites when developed.

Other Expanded Amenities and Facilities

- Increase shade throughout the park system to support community health and cooling. Integrate tree planting, shade shelters, shade sails and canopies over playgrounds, and other shade features.
- Add additional support amenities that support community gatherings and park use (e.g., varied tables and seating, shelters, benches, expanded parking where needed, etc.).

- Diversify play equipment, adding thematic and nature play areas, as well as challenge features and accessible, universal play elements in larger parks where appropriate.
- Add off-leash areas for dogs, dog waste stations, and dog-friendly drinking fountains in appropriate sites.
- Add facilities that appeal to diverse age groups, including teens.

Improvement of Existing Sites

- Invest in facility maintenance and repair to prolong the useful life of current park assets.
- Replace aging and worn playground equipment throughout the system.
- Consider new trends and evolving community priorities when replacing facilities at the end of their lifecycles. Avoid automatically replacing a facility with the same thing.
- When improving existing sites, consider low maintenance amenities and landscaping to reduce maintenance costs.

Accessibility for All Users

- Improve access to play by adding one universal, all-inclusive play area to the park system and smaller accessible play features at existing or new playgrounds in community parks.
- Ensure that parks meet or exceed the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), including wide/level/even access paths, curb cuts, seating, parking spaces, etc.).
- Develop and share accessibility information regarding terrain, support features, and amenities at facilities and parks for more inclusive opportunities.

Safety and Maintenance

- Install or enhance lighting in parks and parking lots.
- Install decorative barriers along park perimeters to deter unauthorized vehicle access in parks.
- Increase efforts for maintaining restrooms across applicable parks.
- Install fencing around current and future playgrounds for children ages 2-5 years, where these are near roadways or other active, busy, or unsafe areas.
- Activate parks and coordinate with homeless services to deter encampments by unhoused individuals.
- Strengthen the relationship between the Community Services Department and the Police Department to improve park safety.



Exercise equipment and stations



Native and natural landscaping



Dog park



Safety lighting



Trail distance markers



Prevent vehicle access into parks



Accessible playground equipment



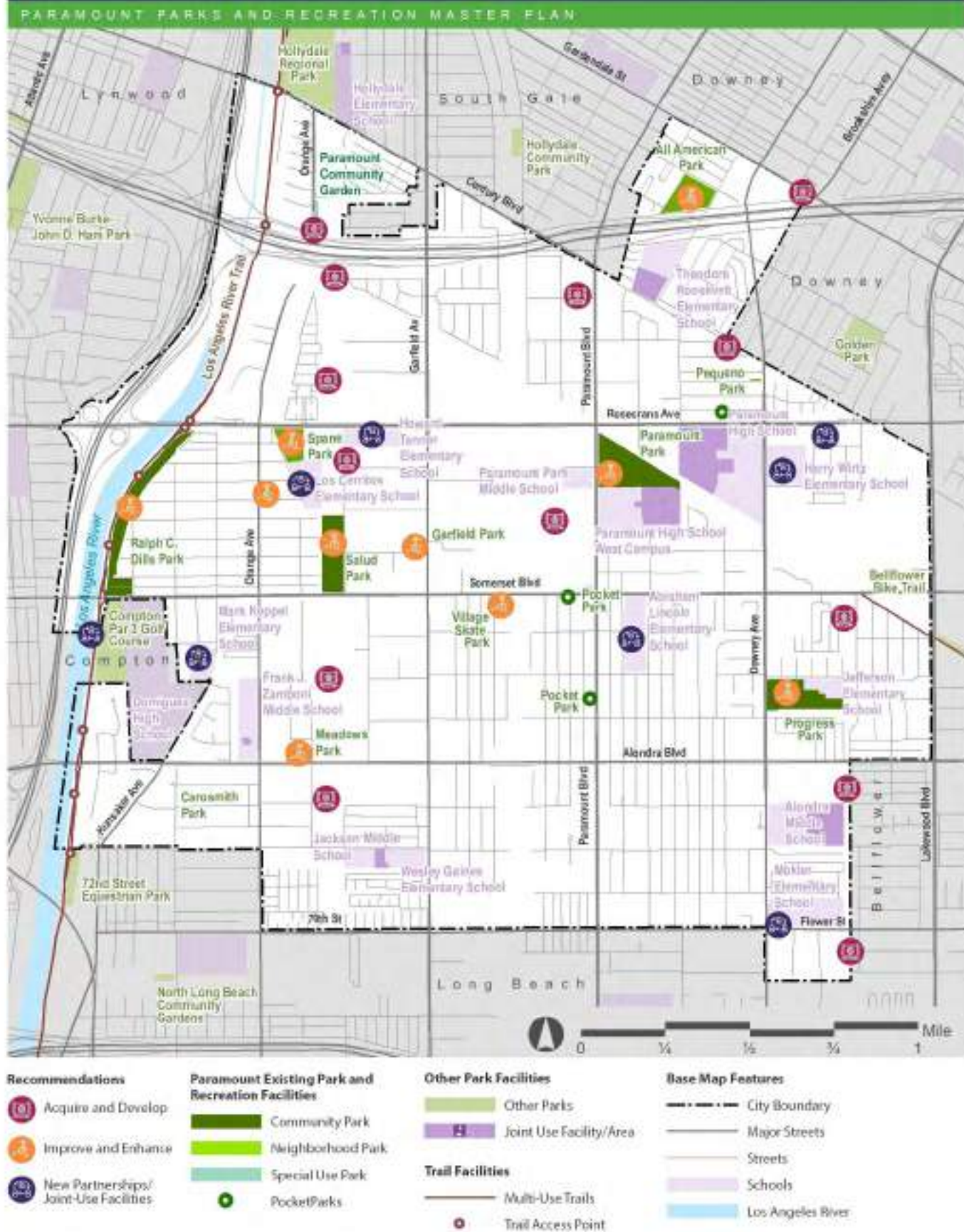
Gathering spaces

Existing Site Recommendations and Park Opportunities

A series of site-specific recommendations and new park opportunities have been identified. The following recommendations pertain to current, planned, and proposed sites, encompassing both existing and proposed parks and recreational facilities. Figure 10 shows the general location of the recommendations.

- **Acquire and Develop:** Includes land acquisition, site master planning, design concepts/feasibility studies, and construction for new sites. It also includes negotiating new leases and developing park sites on those lands.
- **Improve and Enhance:** Improve and enhance existing park features, landscaping, and site amenities that are damaged, worn or at the end of their lifecycles. These represent larger repairs or a 'one for one' replacement in the same developed footprint. It also includes providing enhancements at existing parks with the addition of new, expanded or upgraded park features to expand park capacity and use. This also includes adding new or expanding the building footprint of community centers.
- **Partnerships:** Enhance park facilities and recreational programming by initiating collaborative efforts with local businesses, churches, and other agencies and organizations to expand park facilities. By forging partnerships, the City can leverage local resources and expertise to develop recreational spaces that cater to diverse recreational needs of the community. Additionally, the expansion of joint-use facilities within the Paramount Unified School continues to expand and foster synergistic relationships between school sites and the community, creating spaces for recreation and social interaction.

Figure 10. Park Recommendations



Existing Site Recommendations

The subsequent pages identify recommendations for Paramount's existing parks. For each site, the amount of park acreage, park classification, and existing park features are described for context. Because the City separately tracks facility repair and replacement opportunities, these site recommendations focus on site improvements and enhancements that will add or expand recreation value, access to amenities, and/or the comfort and safety of park users. They are organized in the following categories:

- General Recommendations (including lighting, landscaping, parking, access, etc.)
- Playground Recommendations
- Sports and Active Recreation Recommendations
- Other Recreation Opportunities (additional options to consider for expanding recreation uses)

For each park site, a map suggests locations for these improvements. Precedent images are used to illustrate potential site enhancements and uses. Note: Where other recreation opportunities have been identified, these may require a site design to determine site suitability, size, scale, access, and configuration relative to other site amenities. Many would require access paths, and some may require potential support amenities.



The Orange Splash Pad is open during the summer and is rentable.



1

2

11

10

3

6

8

4

7

5

9

ORIZABA AVENUE

NORTH SOMERSET RANCH ROAD

ALHAMBRA AVENUE

MERKEL AVENUE



All American Park

Acres: 6.8 Classification: Neighborhood Park

Existing Park Features

- Basketball Courts (half)
- Soccer & Multi-Purpose Field
- Fitness Zone
- Playground
- Walking / Jogging Path
- Picnic Tables (individual)
- Picnic Areas (sheltered)
- Benches
- Drinking Fountain
- Parking Lot
- Restrooms
- Little Library
- Storage / Equipment Building

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Convert lawn areas that do not support recreation activities to drought tolerant plantings. Such areas might be located along the perimeter of the park and/or near the parking lot entrance.
2. Assess options to expand parking. Provide a gate to the parking lot that can be closed at dusk to prevent park use after dark.*
3. Renovate or install lighting along paths and in sports court and field.**
4. Drainage Improvements TBD.
5. Transform existing dry creek into a bioswale for stormwater capture.

Playground Recommendations

6. Provide accessible benches around the playground.
7. Leverage the existing slope to add a hill slide to this site.

Sports and Active Recreation

8. Continue to explore opportunities to maximize soccer and rectangular field sports at this site, which are dependent on the site’s stormwater function.

Other Recreation Opportunities

9. Install mile markers along the looped walking path around the park.
10. Provide picnic opportunities with more defined spaces with shelters.
11. Continue to explore options to expand or replace the existing building with a community center and expanded parking.*

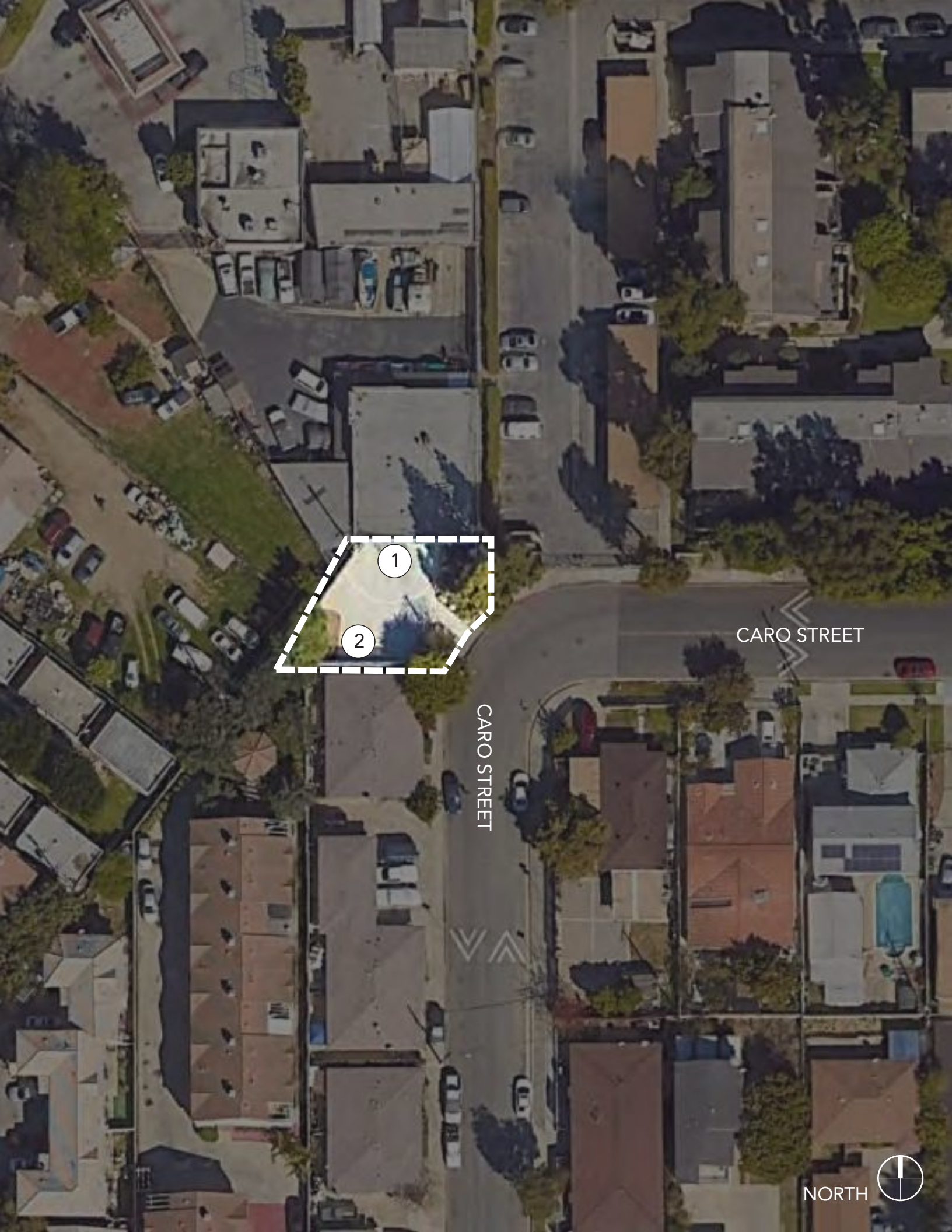
*Project is in the planning phase.
**Project has been recently completed, as of 2024.

All American Park - Example Features



All American Park - Example Features





1

2

CARO STREET

CARO STREET



NORTH

Carosmith Park

Acres: .01 Classification: Special Use Site

Existing Park Features

- Futsal Court / Pad
- Public Art - Wall Mural

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

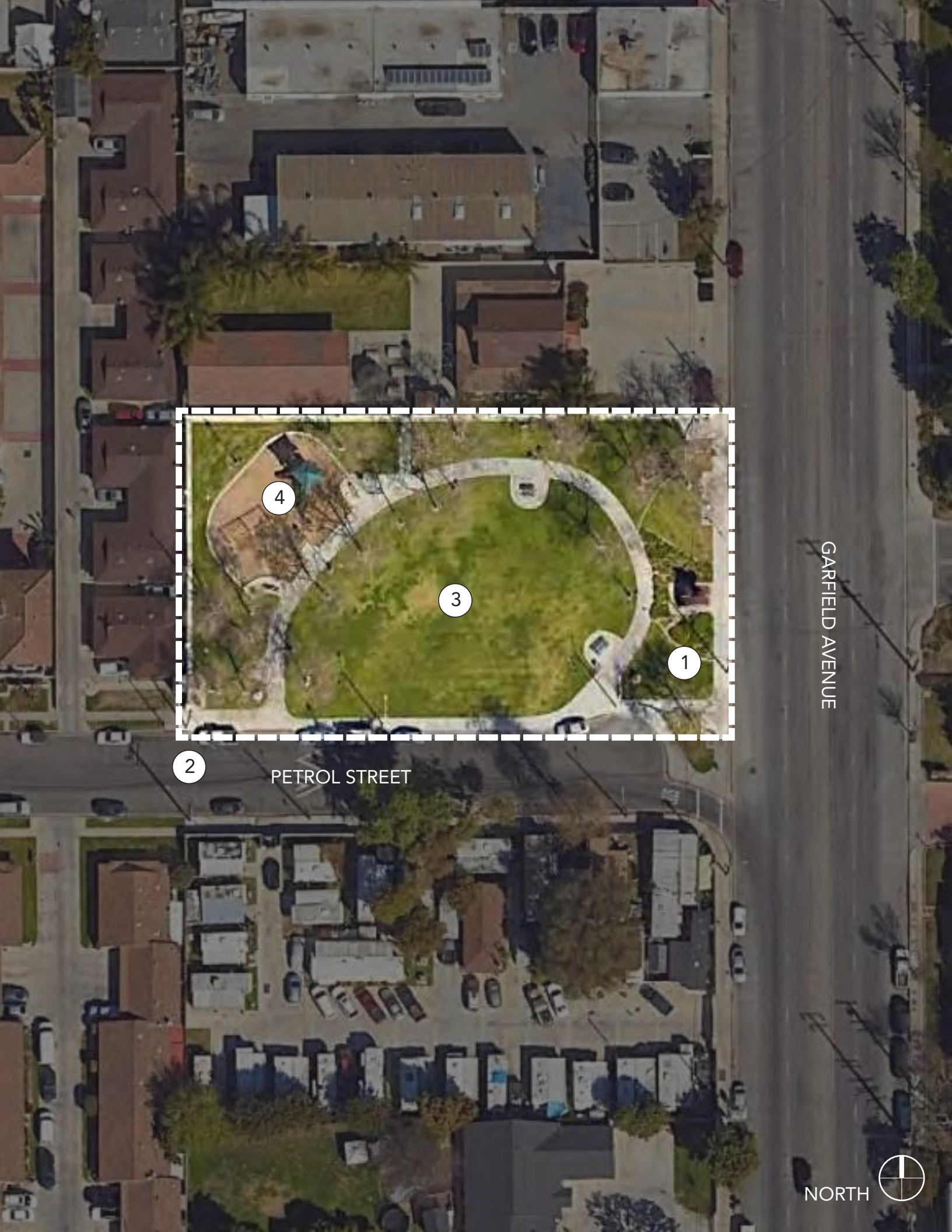
General Recommendations

1. Consider adding a second mural to the back wall and/or paint futsal court features on surfacing.

Sports and Active Recreation

2. Explore options to replace the worn outdoor fitness equipment with a single basketball hoop and partial court. If that is not feasible, replace outdoor fitness equipment.





GARFIELD AVENUE



4

3

1

2

PETROL STREET



NORTH

Garfield Park

Acres: .08 Classification: Neighborhood Park

Existing Park Features

- Playground
- Tables (individual)
- Benches
- Drinking Fountains
- Signage
- Trash Receptacles
- Public Art - Sculpture
- Little Library

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. In areas that do not support recreation activities, such as outside the pathway, reduce lawn areas and replace with drought tolerant landscaping.
2. Create a visible connection between Garfield and Salud Parks by providing directional signage that identifies the distance from Garfield to Salud Park.
3. Plant more trees to support shade and urban cooling.

Playground Recommendations

4. At the end of its life cycle, replace the current play structure with one that better serves children of different ages.

Garfield Park - Example Features





GUNDRY AVENUE

ALONDRA BOULEVARD



NORTH

Meadows Park

Acres: .65 Classification: Neighborhood Park

Existing Park Features

- Playground
- Walking / Jogging Path
- Picnic Area (sheltered)
- Benches
- Tables (individual)
- Trash Receptacles
- Signage
- Little Library

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Reduce the square footage of lawn areas. Replace lawn and existing plants with drought tolerant landscaping.
2. Replace sign on the street corner with a park identification sign.
3. Reduce the number of trash receptacles to three, given the small size of the park.

Playground Recommendations

4. Given the play area drainage issues and the natural character of the park, consider replacing the play equipment at the end of its life cycle with nature play features, such as stepping stones, climbing boulders, a raised berm and small hill slide, and a slightly raised sand play area with a digger.

Sports and Active Recreation

5. In the back corner, assess options to add a small shuffleboard court (or bocce) to support low impactive recreation.

Other Recreation Opportunities

6. When replacing benches as they age, consider providing semicircular benches or facing seating where appropriate to create an additional space for socializing.





SAN MIGUEL STREET

ORANGE AVENUE

NORTH



Orange Splash Pad

Acres: 0.27 Classification: Special Use Site

Existing Park Features

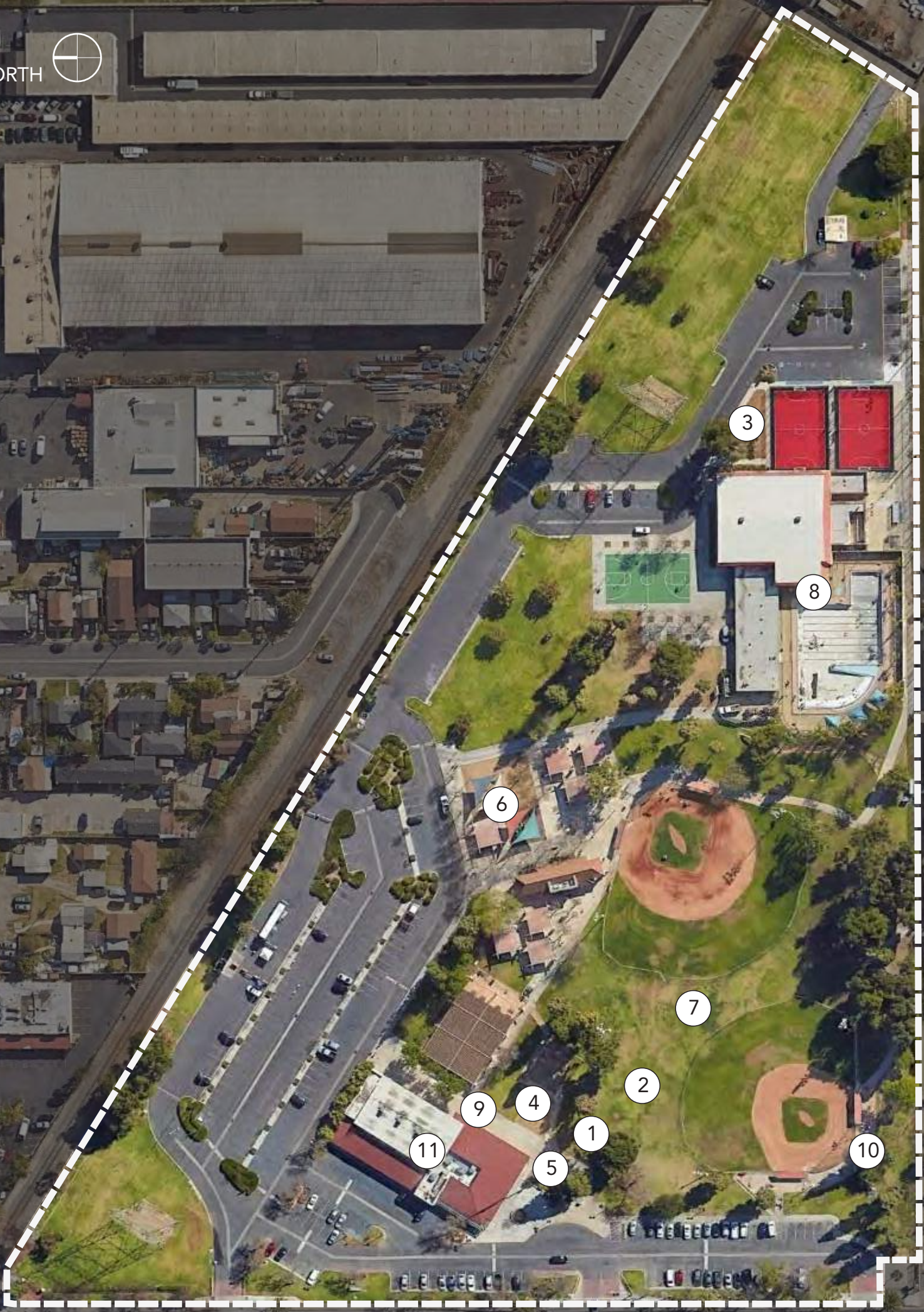
- Water Spray Park
- Drinking Fountains
- Tables (individual)
- Picnic Area (sheltered)
- Restrooms
- Safety Features
- Signage
- Trash Receptacles
- Storage / Equipment Buildings
- Little Library

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Provide additional and varied seating opportunities for park guests, including movable, shaded picnic benches, and chairs of different configurations.
2. Renovate restrooms.
3. Replace water features as they age.





Paramount Park

Acres: 13.70 Classification: Community Park

Existing Park Features

- Basketball Court (full)
- Futsal Court / Pad
- Softball / Baseball Field
- Fitness Zone
- Playgrounds
- Walking / Jogging Path
- Barbecue Grills
- Picnic Area (sheltered)
- Parking Lot
- Restrooms
- Little Library
- Public Art
- Storage / Equipment Buildings
- Pool
- Gymnasium

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Consult with an arborist to develop a plan for improving tree health.
2. Address drainage issues across the entire park.
3. Provide attractive, drought tolerant landscaping in any planting beds and near the futsal courts.

Playground Recommendations

4. Remove the existing play area adjacent to community center, which may be displaced by the Community Center expansion.**
5. Remove the existing musical play features near the entrance of the park** and renovate adjacent area.*
6. Expand the footprint of the existing play area to provide a shaded, accessible, universal, all-inclusive play area.* This may require moving the access path from the parking lot to the gym and reconfiguring and replacing some of the shaded picnic tables. Music features could be included in this play area.

Sports and Active Recreation

7. Explore options to determine if existing sports fields are regulation sized to support adult sports.
8. Provide year-round access to the pool and park gym. Consider an inflatable or other type of domed pool cover for winter use. Expand the pool deck area (push back the fencing) to provide more shaded picnic areas or rental cabanas.

Other Recreation Opportunities

9. Provide an outdoor social and “play” space outside of the community center for adults and seniors. Add chess/card game tables, and a shaded pavilion for outdoor classes such as yoga, Pilates, Zumba, etc. The pavilion should include storage for movable tables and chairs so that it can also be reservable for outdoor parties.
10. Install mile markers to establish a walking loop trail around the park.
11. Continue to move forward with the community center expansion project.*

*Project is in the planning phase or is currently in development.

**Project has been recently completed, as of 2024.

Paramount Park - Example Features



Paramount Park - Example Features





QUIMBY STREET

DOWNEY AVENUE

ACKLEY STREET

1

3

2



Pequeño Park

Acres: 0.11 Classification: Neighborhood Park

Existing Park Features

- Playground
- Benches
- Signage
- Trash Receptacles
- Little Library

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Relocate signage to improve visibility.
2. Replace plantings around the buildings with drought tolerant landscaping.

Playground Recommendations

3. At the end of its life cycle, replace play equipment.



MANZANA AVENUE

PERILLA AVENUE

AVOCADO AVENUE

NARANJA AVENUE

VERDURA AVENUE

DOWNEY AVENUE

JEFFERSON STREET

MADISON STREET

NORTH



Progress Park

Acres: 9.63 Classification: Community Park

Existing Park Features

- Basketball Courts (full)
- Softball / Baseball Field
- Fitness Zone
- Playground
- Community Garden
- Auditorium
- Community Center
- Walking / Jogging Path
- Barbecue Grills
- Picnic Area
- Picnic Area (sheltered)
- Benches
- Parking Lot
- Restrooms
- Signage
- Trash Receptacles
- Public Art - Sculptures

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Replace plants around the buildings with drought tolerant landscaping.
2. Add a medium shade pavilion (for 3-4 picnic tables) in the existing picnic area. Install a permanent coal pit to serve existing barbecue grills.
3. Remove the existing concession stand and replace it with a shade shelter with patio-style tables and seating.
4. Extend the accessible pathway around the outfield of the eastern ballfield to provide access to the basketball courts, existing play area, and back (southeast) activity areas. Create a unified walking path around the park with mile markers.
- decline and rectangular field sport participation increases, continue to explore grant funding to replace existing softball fields with a multi-use rectangular field with a backstop on one end.
7. At the end of the life cycle of the existing fitness equipment, move the fitness station nearer the parking lot to provide more easily accessible, shaded fitness equipment.

Other Recreation Opportunities

8. Continue to ensure that this park provides event space to support activities such as concerts and movies in the park.
9. Once the fitness area is relocated, coordinate with the adjacent school on options to expand the community garden (or maintain this space for recess and P.E.) Provide a pollinator patch or butterfly garden** with interpretive signage.
10. Consider additional interactive or playable art sculptures near the front of the Progress Plaza West Community Center to enhance the identity of the park. (Note that the existing horse is not intended for climbing.)

Playground Recommendations

5. Expand the far play area for ages 5-12, adding challenge play features and replacing the missing swings with saucer swings. Coordinate with the School District, who currently maintains the far play equipment (for ages 5-12).

Sports and Active Recreation

6. As softball and ballfield sports

*Project is in the planning phase or is currently in development.

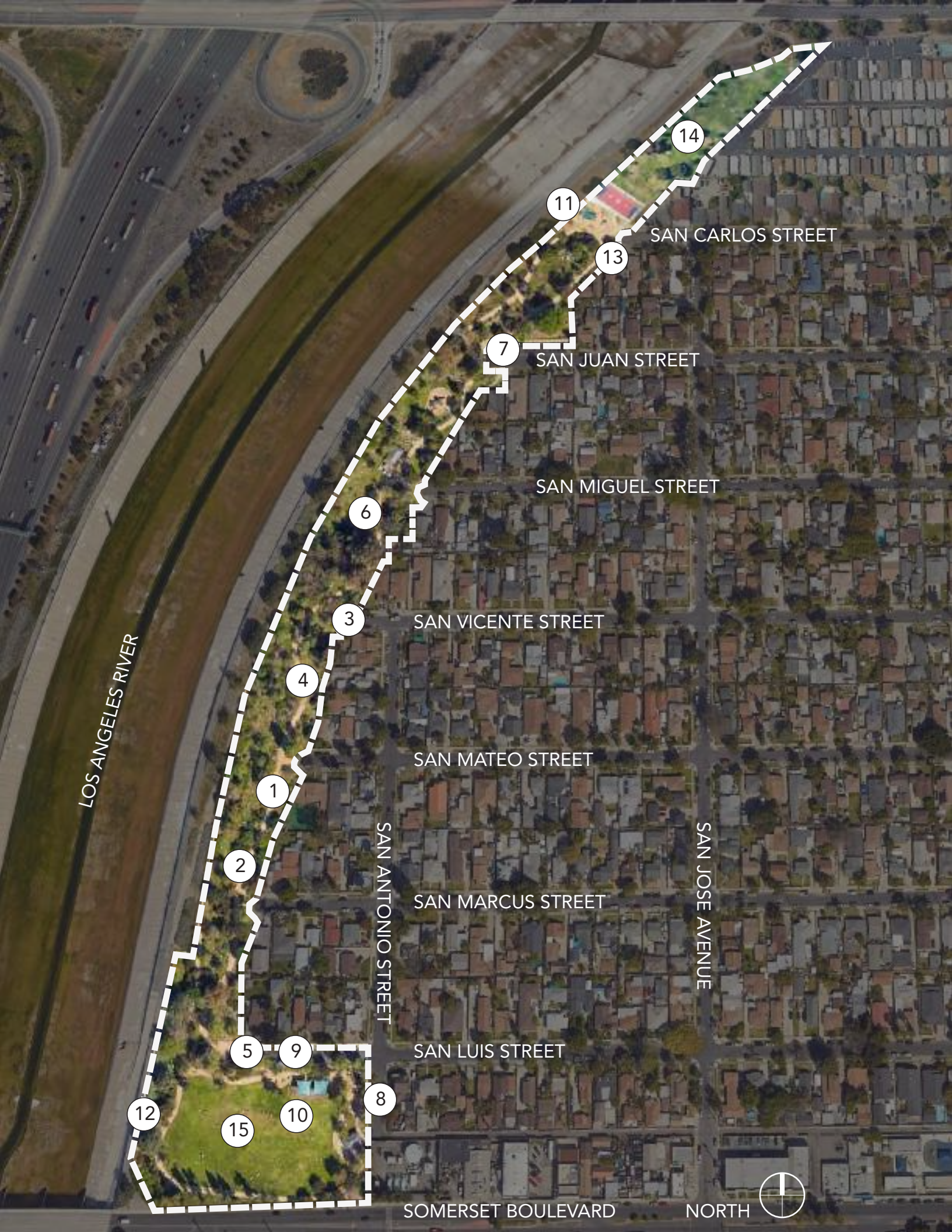
**Project has been recently completed, as of 2024.

Progress Park - Example Features



Progress Park - Example Features





LOS ANGELES RIVER

SAN CARLOS STREET

SAN JUAN STREET

SAN MIGUEL STREET

SAN VICENTE STREET

SAN MATEO STREET

SAN MARCUS STREET

SAN LUIS STREET

SAN ANTONIO STREET

SAN JOSE AVENUE

SOMERSET BOULEVARD

NORTH



Ralph C. Dills Park

Acres: 11.76 Classification: Community Park

Existing Park Features

- Futsal Court / Pad
- Fitness Zones
- Playgrounds
- Access Paths
- Walking / Jogging Path
- Picnic Area (unsheltered)
- Picnic Area (sheltered)
- Parking Lot
- Restrooms
- Safety Features
- Signage
- Trash Receptacles
- Little Library

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Install mile markers to establish a designated walking fitness trail in the park.
2. Provide and improve lighting along all walking paths.
3. Ensure all park entries have park identification signage. Install additional chained bollards at all entry points to discourage 4-wheel bike access.
4. Improve drainage along the decomposed granite paths to reduce ponding and address erosion.
5. Replace existing interpretive signage and utilize graffiti-proof materials.
6. When refreshing landscaping, provide native and drought-tolerant plants across the park.
7. Improve river-to-road bike path connection through park
8. Provide a shade shelter, sails, or canopy over the group picnic area between the restroom and the play area.
9. Explore any opportunities that arise to acquire property adjacent to a park entry to expand parking.* In the short term, ensure that schools parking across Somerset Boulevard is available during non-school hours to support park use.

Playground Recommendations

10. Remove existing playground obstacle course and replace it with an accessible playground with challenge elements.

Sports and Active Recreation

11. Provide shade over the fitness equipment and offer outdoor fitness programs (e.g., yoga, Zumba) under the existing shade structure.
12. Upgrade fitness equipment along the path.
13. Upgrade fitness equipment at the exercise pod.

Other Recreation Opportunities

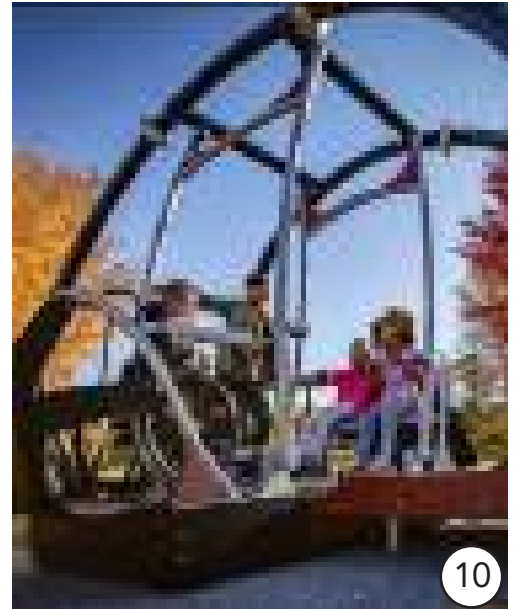
14. Move forward with developing the garden orchard funded by a grant to enhance access to fresh food choices and expand tree coverage. During the planning process, consider entry points, vehicle access, orientation, and transition to mobile home park.*
15. Continue with plans to redevelop the large lawn area at the south side of the park. Redevelopment plans include removing the scattered boulders and redesigning the space with connecting pathways and smaller segmented lawn spaces for informal unstructured play.*

*Project is in the planning phase or is currently in development.

Ralph C. Dills Park - Example Features



Ralph C. Dills Park - Example Features



SAN VICENTE STREET

SAN MATEO STREET

SAN MARCUS STREET

SAN LUIS STREET

SOMERSET BOULEVARD

PETROL STREET

TEXACO AVENUE



NORTH



Salud Park

Acres: 9.17 Classification: Community Park

Existing Park Features

- Multi-Purpose Fields
- Sand Volleyball Court
- Fitness Zone
- Walking / Jogging Path
- Benches
- Parking Lot
- Signage
- Trash Receptacles
- Little Library

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Complete Phase 2 of park development, providing light improvements given the temporary lease allowed for the site. Consider leveling and planting the site in playable turf for informal sports practices and play.

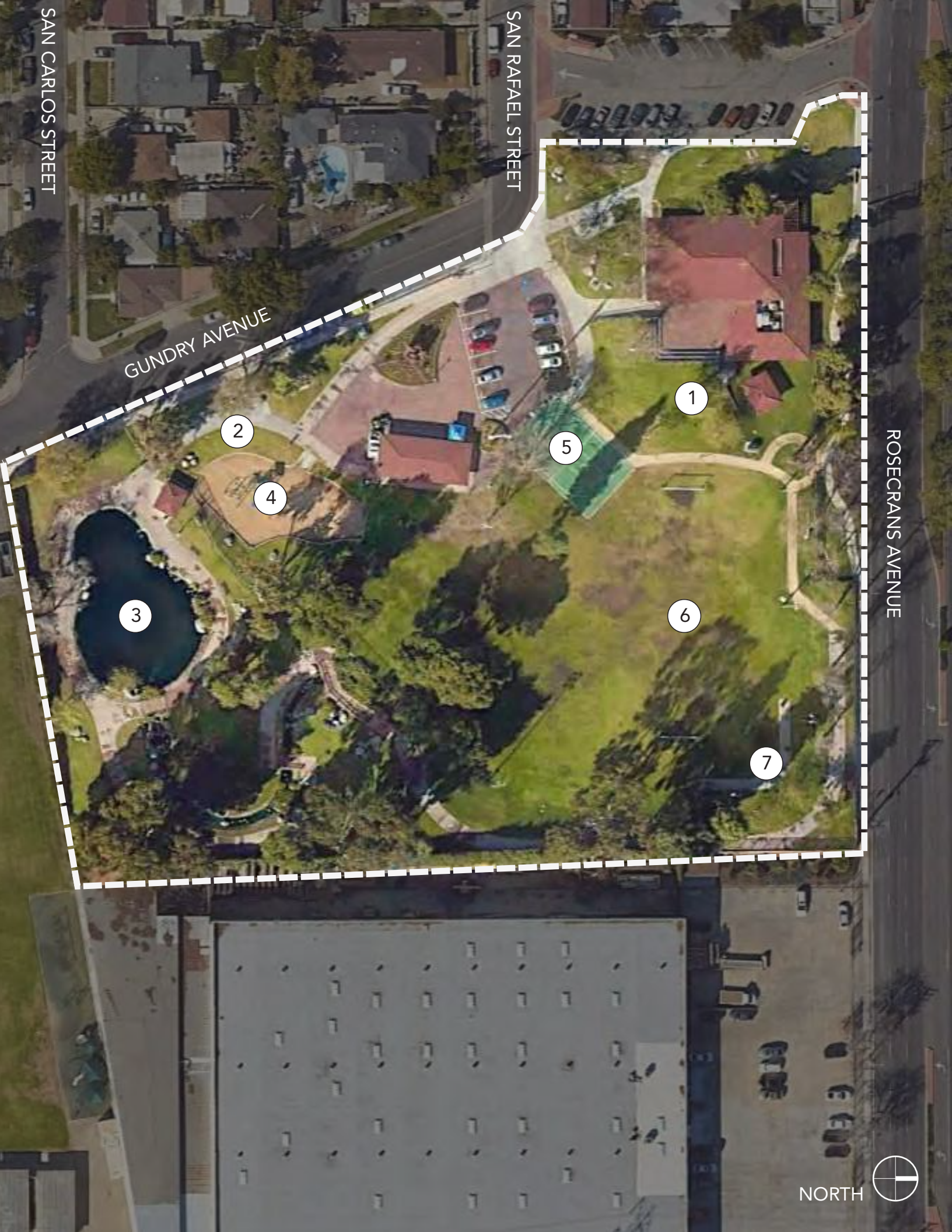
Sports and Active Recreation

3. Upgrade fitness equipment.
4. Replace existing sand volleyball court with a multi-purpose court for tennis, pickleball, or volleyball.

Playground Recommendations

2. Add nature play area.





SAN CARLOS STREET

SAN RAFAEL STREET

GUNDRY AVENUE

ROSECRANS AVENUE

3

2

4

5

1

6

7

NORTH



Spane Park

Acres: 4.20 Classification: Neighborhood Park

Existing Park Features

- Basketball Court (half)
- Soccer & Multi-Purpose Field
- Playground
- Community Center
- Stream / Pond
- Walking / Jogging Path
- Picnic Area
- Parking Lot
- Restrooms
- Safety Features
- Signage
- Trash Receptacles
- Little Library
- Public Art - Sculpture

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Reduce the square footage of lawn areas and replace with drought tolerant landscaping.
2. Provide group and individual picnic tables.
3. Redesign the pond to allow for native riparian planting along the edges.

Playground Recommendations

4. Upgrade the playground to include challenge elements and shade features.

Sports and Active Recreation

5. At the end of their life cycle, move the basketball courts to provide more space between these and the parking lot; replace the two back-to-back half basketball courts with a regulation court.
6. Explore regulation size soccer field options to allow for formal competitive play.
7. Remove existing concrete backstop footprint.

Spane Park - Example Features



SOMERSET BOULEVARD

ILLINOIS AVENUE



Village Skate Park

Acres: 1.51 Classification: Neighborhood Park

Existing Park Features

- Basketball Court (full)
- Playground
- Skate Park
- Picnic Area
- Benches
- Trash Receptacles
- Restrooms
- Safety Features
- Signage

Site Recommendations *(See callouts on the opposite map.)*

General Recommendations

1. Add sustainable landscaping, berms, wall, and/or vertical greening along the boundary with the railroad to reduce noise and pollution.
2. Integrate drought tolerant landscaping along Somerset Boulevard.
3. Install materials such as decorative boulders on the perimeter to prevent cars from entering the park. (Use bollards to allow maintenance vehicles to enter.)
4. Ensure at least one picnic table is on a cement pad and can be reached by an accessible path.
5. Ensure drinking fountain is functional given the site's emphasis on active recreation.
6. Determine the purpose of having lighted facilities at this park. If the intent is for park use after dark, replace and improve the lighting. If not, provide park security lighting only and do not provide lighted facilities.

Playground Recommendations

7. Consider replacing the play equipment with a climbing wall or outdoor fitness equipment instead of play features to complement this park's emphasis on active recreation and sports.

Sports and Active Recreation

8. Renovate skate park to address drainage concerns and concrete damage.

Other Recreation Opportunities

9. Consider adding a little library.

New Park Opportunities

A need for additional park and recreational facilities has been highlighted through City and public engagement and identified through the LOS and access analysis conducted in the Needs Assessment. The City faces challenges in expanding its park and recreation system due to being built-out and bounded by other jurisdictions, resulting in limited options for the City of Paramount to acquire more parkland.

However, there are some potential infill opportunities, partnerships, and creative solutions that could be explored further to see if these are feasible options for the City to expand its recreation offerings and greenspace.



Transforming the parking areas surrounding the Paramount Swap Meet into a mixed-use environment has the potential to create public gathering spaces for the community. These spaces could serve as versatile venues for various events, including community gatherings, farmers' markets, or food truck events. An exemplary model of such open space is Farmers Park in the Anaheim Packing District.

Opportunity Types

A total of 30 opportunities spanning nearly 80 acres have been identified through an opportunity analysis. Not all of these will be feasible or desirable, however, strategic planning and creative approaches may prove successful in expanding recreational offerings. As noted in Table 7 and Figure 11, opportunity types include the following:

- **Development of Publicly Owned Land.** Publicly owned land – especially City-owned sites — provide opportunities for recreational development that are both cost effective and easy to implement.
- **Potential Land Purchase and Redevelopment.** Purchasing new land for park and facility development is the costliest option, and redevelopment of an existing site is a slightly more cost-effective alternative to repurpose existing land or buildings. This approach, however, would give the City decision-making and management authority to determine how best to develop the property to maintain it to City standards. It typically supports new parks that have the highest recreation value.
- **Utility Corridor Leases.** The City of Paramount currently leases land within a utility corridor to provide a park. While additional utility corridors present a great opportunity to add park land, newer lease restrictions limit the length of the lease and constrain the types, height, and permanence of investment that would be made at these sites.
- **Partnerships with Institutions.** Partnerships, in the form of Memorandum-of-Understandings (MOUs) or Joint-Use Agreements (JUAs), could be explored where private or public property owners are amenable to additional public use and development of these sites. Potential partnerships to consider and vet further include coordination with churches, hospitals, and even nearby green spaces owned by adjacent jurisdictions.
- **School Joint-Use Agreements.** Paramount already successfully uses school joint-use agreements to ensure access to school sports fields and gymnasiums. These agreements could be expanded to additional schools, and through partnership, additional facilities could be added to expand recreation value for the community.

Opportunities for expanded parks and recreational offerings were identified citywide. Table 4 compiles all identified opportunities, categorized by opportunity type. Additionally, the table offers descriptions of each opportunity, approximate acreage, recreational potential, as well as the advantages and disadvantages of developing the site into a park and recreation facility, along ratings of feasibility and desirability.

Three levels of feasibility potential have been delineated:

- **Low Feasibility:** Sites lack City ownership or control, and uncertainty surrounds the owner's willingness to engage in sales, leasing, partnerships, or joint-use agreements. Additionally, high development costs may contribute to this classification.
- **Moderate Feasibility:** Sites require the involvement of another agency or organization open to partnering with Paramount for park construction, aligning with the mutual interests of both parties.
- **High Feasibility:** The City owns the land, or a property owner may be willing to sell, enhancing the likelihood of successful park development initiatives.

The desirability of each site is also evaluated based on factors such as size, the amount of greenspace or recreation value that would be added, and the return on investment.

- **Low Desirability:** The site does not expand the City's amount of greenspace or recreation value significantly to warrant much investment.
- **Moderate Desirability:** The site moderately expands the City's amount of greenspace or recreation value, or it could potentially serve a gap area, making it slightly more desirable.

- **High Desirability:** The site has the potential to expand the City’s amount of greenspace or recreation value significantly, has few barriers to implementation, may have had advanced planning or design already completed, and is a good return on the City’s investment.

Added emphasis was placed on residential gap areas that were identified in the access analysis. Opportunities were found across the city, as well as in or adjacent to gap areas. Table 6 shows identified opportunities that would serve gap areas. As a note, the opportunity does not need to be located within the gap area but must be within walking distance to serve that identified gap.

Table 6. Park and Recreation Opportunities within Residential Gap Areas

Residential Gap Area Id	Identified Opportunity Types
Residential Gap Area A	Land Acquisition
Residential Gap Area B	Land Acquisition, Lease, City-Owned Land
Residential Gap Area C	Partnership, Lease
Residential Gap Area D	Lease, Land Acquisition
Residential Gap Area E	Lease
Residential Gap Area F	Partnership, Lease
Residential Gap Area G	Partnership
Residential Gap Area H	Lease
Residential Gap Area I	Partnership

Figure 12. Opportunity Sites

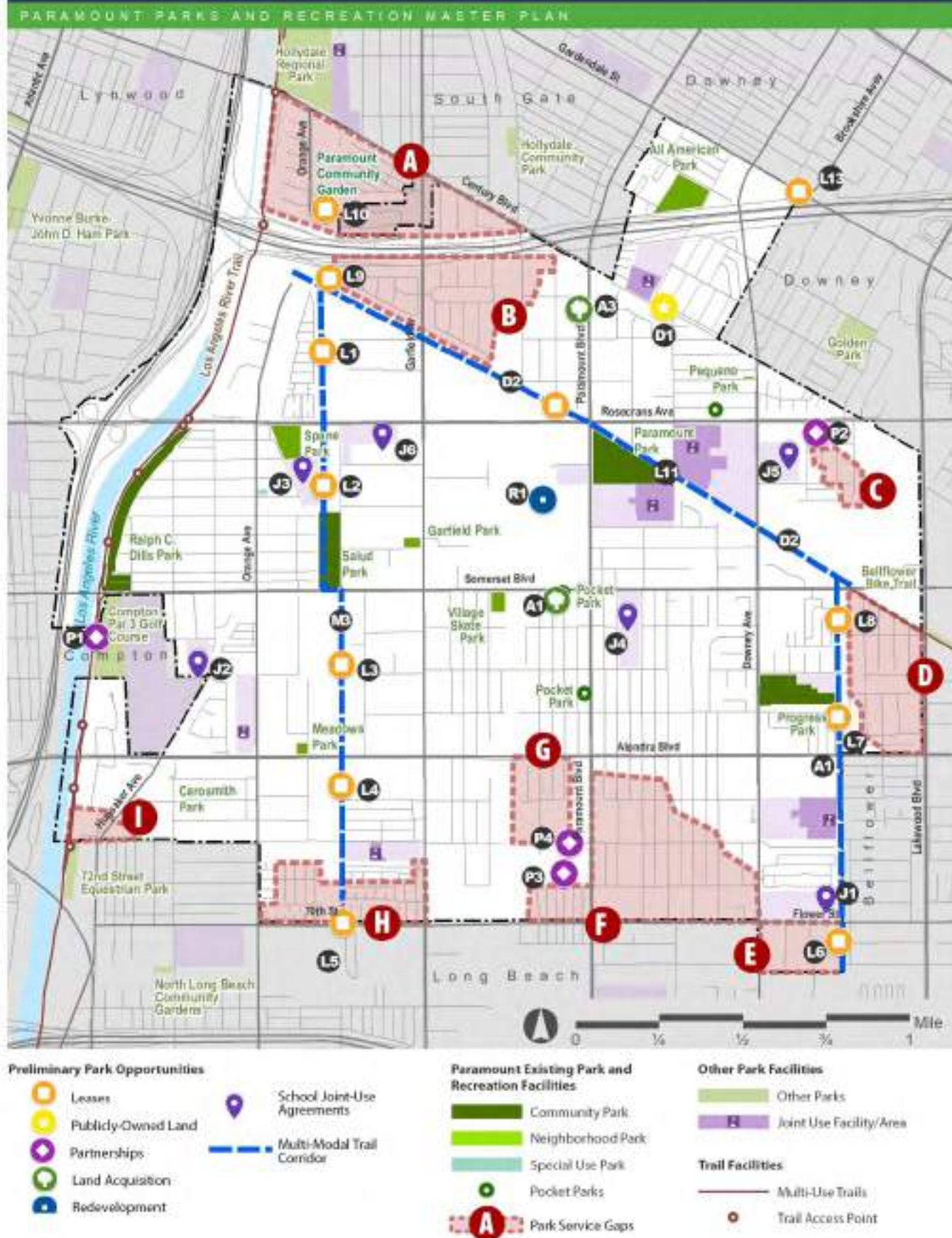


Table 7. Potential Park and Recreation Opportunities

ID	Potential Site Description	Acres ¹	Recreation Opportunity	Advantages	Disadvantages	Feasibility Potential	Desirability /Recreation Value
Development of Publicly Owned Land							
D-1	City-owned street median	0.8	Existing lawn and walking path; opportunity to add social space, fitness equipment, play features	City owned; design in process. Located on quiet residential street.	Limited space for recreation facilities; access requires crossing roadway	High	High
D-1	Planned West Santa Ana Branch Bikeway Trail Extension (Additional Phases – see Figure 13)	1.0	Extension of existing bicycle and walking paths (Phase 1 was completed in 2013). Addition of par course features, play features, and interpretive signage along trails.	Publicly owned; design completed for trail development. Easy to place additional features along the trail. Good access (along planned light-rail line).	None; challenge is to find connections to Los Angeles River	High	High
Sub Total		1.8					
Potential Land Purchase (Acquisition) and Redevelopment							
A-1	Privately-owned parcels with existing pocket park and small industrial building	0.7	Building redevelopment as small community center; walking path, fitness equipment, dog park, playground, or sports facility	Takes advantage of existing pocket park, building, and parking.	Cost to purchase land and redevelop building; building assessment needed. Land is not currently available.	High	Moderate
A-2	Vacant land	0.7	Development as pocket park with small play features, fitness equipment, picnic tables, and small sports court or dog park	Located near Gap Area D	Cost to purchase and develop land. Land is not currently available.	Low	High

ID	Potential Site Description	Acres ¹	Recreation Opportunity	Advantages	Disadvantages	Feasibility Potential	Desirability /Recreation Value
A-3	Self-Serve Car Wash		Small pocket park or dog park	Located near Gap Area B	Costs of private land	Moderate	High
A-4	Repurpose and Redevelopment of Existing Building		Community center with space for meetings, social gatherings, programming, and ideally active recreation. Large industrial warehouse building could provide space for indoor soccer fields or other indoor recreation opportunities.	Potential reuse or redevelopment of existing building.	Building was not intended for recreation which will affect reuse. Industrial buildings may have contaminants; older buildings may need code upgrades that may be cost prohibitive.	Unknown	Unknown
R-1	Paramount Swap Meet site – partial redevelopment as A small public park (2-3 acres desired if feasible)	3.0	Opportunity TBD based on amount of acreage available. Desired for development as neighborhood park for sports, playground, picnic area, and parking. Greenway pedestrian connection to future transit station.	Proximity to future transit; centrally located; large site. Additional swap meet acreage may be converted to event space.	Site is not currently available (owners want swap meet to remain); redevelopment costs.	High	High
Sub Total		4.4					
Utility Corridor Leases or Land Leases							
L-1	Utility Corridor (Southern California Edison)	7.0	Low-impact open playfield, landscaping, decomposed granite walking path, seating and social space, picnic tables, temporary recreation uses.	Large parcels, vacant corridor	Existing electric transmission corridor owned by Southern California Edison. Active sports are not allowed. Lease is	Low-Moderate	Low
L-2		10.1				Low-Moderate	Low
L-3		9.4				Low-Moderate	Low

ID	Potential Site Description	Acres ¹	Recreation Opportunity	Advantages	Disadvantages	Feasibility Potential	Desirability /Recreation Value
L-4		9.3			limited to 5 years. Most granting agencies will not fund this type of project.	Low-Moderate	Low
L-5		0.5		Small vacant linear piece of land with no electricity lines		Low-Moderate	Low
L-6	Utility Corridor (Los Angeles Water and Power)	1.7	Low-impact open playfield, landscaping, decomposed granite walking path, seating and social space, picnic tables, temporary recreation uses.	Located near Gap Area E	Existing electric transmission corridor owned by Los Angeles Water and Power. Unsure of lease restrictions.	Low-Moderate	Moderate
L-7		2.3		Located near Gap Area D		Low-Moderate	Moderate
L-8		2.9				Low-Moderate	Moderate
L-9	Utility Corridor (Southern California Edison)	0.9	Low-impact open playfield, landscaping, decomposed granite walking path, seating and social space, picnic tables, temporary recreation uses.	Vacant land located near Gap Area B; future connection to multi-modal trail and transit line	Small parcels in existing electric transmission corridor owned by Southern California Edison. Active sports are not allowed. Lease is limited to 5 years. Most granting agencies will not fund this type of project.	Low-Moderate	Moderate
L-10	Utility Corridor (Southern California Edison)	1.3	Low-impact open playfield, landscaping, decomposed granite walking path, seating and social space, picnic tables, temporary recreation uses.	Adjacent to existing Paramount Community Gardens; located near Gap Area A		Low-Moderate	Moderate
L-11	Planned East Paramount Utility Easement Multi-Use Path	1.0 ²	New multi-use path with landscaping	Available right-of-way for multi-use path; adjacent to schools and Paramount Park	Existing nursery can impede path; unsure of LADWP lease requirements	Moderate	Low
L-12	Planned West Paramount Utility Easement Multi-Use Path	1.6 ²	New multi-use path with landscaping		Edison lease requirements are very strict	Moderate	Low

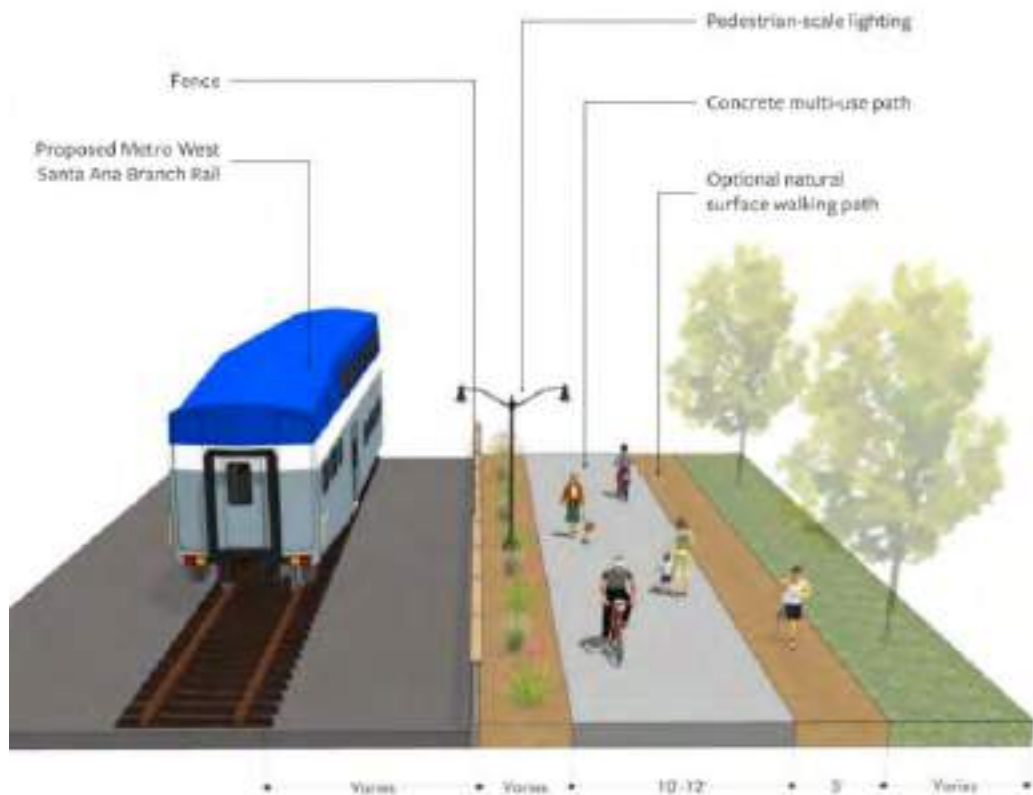
ID	Potential Site Description	Acres ¹	Recreation Opportunity	Advantages	Disadvantages	Feasibility Potential	Desirability /Recreation Value
L-13	Small triangular vacant lot owned by apartment building owner	0.2	Small passive pocket park with lawn and benches.	Owner is willing to enter into agreement with City for pocket park use	Very small property.	High	Moderate
Sub Total		48.2					
Partnership with Institution							
P-1	City of Compton (to Redevelop Compton Golf Course)	12.1	Joint redevelopment of golf course as community park with sports fields and other uses to serve both cities.	Large greenspace and recreation site adjacent to Paramount	Compton has limited budget and open space resources; may not consider joint use agreement or redevelopment	Unknown	High
P-2	Clearwater Christian Center (for Gym Access)	0.2	Shared use of existing gymnasium	Existing gym in church with large parking lot; located near Downtown; close to Gap Area F	Church may not consider partnership; small site insufficient for outdoor uses.	Unknown	Low
P-3	Kindred Hospital Paramount (for use of existing landscaped gardens and fountains)	1.3	Extensive existing landscaped paths and fountains; potential to add fitness equipment or healing garden	Located next to Paramount City Hall; Potential connections to historic landmark Hay Tree and City Hall War Memorial; Close to Gap Area G & F	Already in use as respite area, limited space reserved for parking; landscaping recently renewed	Moderate	TBD
P-4	Los Angeles County Library Paramount Branch (for Additional Outdoor Uses)	0.1	Small outdoor plaza or greenspace with “thinkscape” features, art, potential musical instruments, play features, and landscaping. The site is currently undergoing renovations.	Across the street from City Hall and adjacent to street festival (Friday Night Paramount); Close to Gap Area G & F; opportunity to leverage library as	Limited space around library building	High	High

ID	Potential Site Description	Acres ¹	Recreation Opportunity	Advantages	Disadvantages	Feasibility Potential	Desirability /Recreation Value
				indoor/outdoor learning and gathering space.			
Sub Total		13.7					
School Joint-Use Agreement ³							
J-1	Mockler Elementary School	1.3	Use of sports field	Near Gap Area E	Limited parking space; School may not be open to additional joint-use facilities; sports field is unlighted.	Moderate	Moderate
J-2	Mark Keppel Elementary School	1.5		Some parking available	School may not be open to additional joint-use facilities; sports field is unlighted	Moderate	Low
J-3	Los Cerritos Elementary School	1.5	Use of sports field	Adjacent to Spane Park		Moderate	Low
J-4	Lincoln Elementary School	2.5	Use of sports field	Some parking available		Moderate	Low
J-5	Harry Wirtz Elementary School	2.6	Use of sports field	Near Gap Area C	Smaller field: School may not be open to additional joint-use facilities; sports field is unlighted.	Moderate	Moderate
J-6	Howard Tanner Elementary School	1.4	Use of sports field	Some parking available		Moderate	Low
Sub Total		10.8					

Notes:

- 1) Acreage is based on Los Angeles County Assessor data and are approximate estimations.
- 2) Trail and bike paths are linear length in miles.
- 3) These schools already have joint use agreements to use the gymnasiums.

Figure 13. Trail Improvements at the West Santa Ana Branch Bikeway Trail





Chapter 6: Implementation

The City of Paramount recognizes the importance of a quality park and recreation system to serve its present and future community members. The Department of Community Services is tasked with the challenge of expanding, improving, and maintaining their system, within constraints of limited resources, competitive funding, sparse land acquisition opportunities, shifting demographics and recreation trends, and more. In this context, it is vital that the City strategizes how best to approach the recommendations and opportunities identified in this plan.

This chapter introduces several tools to support Master Plan implementation. These include:

- Capital cost assumptions
- Prioritization criteria
- Potential capital funding sources
- Potential operations and maintenance funding
- Land acquisition mechanisms
- Partnership protocols

Each of these tools will help the Community Services Department create and regularly update a five-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) as well as annual work plans to implement the projects that support the community's highest priorities.

Capital Cost Assumptions

As part of its annual budgeting process, the City of Paramount creates a list of Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) that summarizes estimated costs, funding sources, and the funding amount for each project. However, costs have been volatile over the last several years, with supply chain issues, inflation, and increased material and labor costs affecting prices for park acquisition, development, and improvements. To assist the City in identifying cost estimates going forward, the Master Plan includes planning-level cost assumptions that the Department of Community Services may use in planning for future park development, site enhancement, or park maintenance. These costs can also help facilitate decision-making for proposed capital projects, including the maintenance funding needed for sustained upkeep. They also will help in grant applications to request appropriate funds for various projects.

Cost assumptions are presented below for new parkland acquisition and development (Table 8), the addition of facilities to existing sites (Table 9), and for annual maintenance (Table 10).

Because actual prices fluctuate and will vary by site, the cost estimates are presented as a range of costs. The range is aimed at capturing differences based on site location, size, setting, facility quality and detail, supply and demand for labor and materials, and more. Costs are presented in 2024 dollars and do not account for inflation. The costs do not include environmental compliance documentation, permitting, or staff hours to manage site planning, design, construction, and implementation. These elements could escalate park development costs by 20-25 percent.

Cost ranges are based on 2024 California construction estimates, information in Paramount's Adopted Budget FY 2023-2024, Paramount land values, and project costs from comparable cities. It is understood that these planning level costs will fluctuate over time.

Table 8. Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions for Park Acquisition, Design, and Development

Action	Unit	Cost Range Per Unit ¹	Notes and Assumptions
Land Acquisition	Per Site	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis	Land costs vary depending on the level of development and quality of the facility. The City would determine whether existing infrastructure can be repurposed or demolished.
Parkland Lease	Per Site	Negotiated on a case-by-case basis	N/A
Site Amenities Planning	Per Site	\$50,000 - \$250,000	Includes conceptual designs for park and facility development. Does not include construction documents or California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/ Environmental Impact Report (EIR) documentation.
Park Development ²			Costs account for site grading, circulation, utilities, outdoor facilities, amenities, and landscaping. Cost does not include the development of major facilities such as community centers and pools. Small parks may have higher costs than shown to provide a higher level of development in a more consolidated space.
Pocket Park	Per Acre	\$300,000 - \$850,000	
Neighborhood Park		\$500,000 - \$1,500,000	
Community Park		\$1,000,000 - \$2,000,000	
Special Use Site ³		Varies	
Trails		Costs identified through transportation planning	

1. These estimates reflect fully loaded, planning level cost assumptions in 2024 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.

2. Parkland development cost estimates may vary tremendously depending on the size of the site and level of development. In some cases, extremely small sites have higher costs per acre, since a basic level development is compressed into a smaller area. Typically, community parks require more funding because of their specialized facilities.

3. Costs for special use sites will need to be determined based on the site use.

Table 9. Planning-Level Capital Cost Assumptions by Facility

Feature	Unit	Approximate Cost Range	Notes and Assumptions
Athletics / Sports Facilities			
Basketball Court (Half)	Per Each	\$100,000 - \$150,000	Costs reflect one outdoor half court.
Basketball Court (Full)	Per Each	\$150,000 - \$250,000	Costs reflect one outdoor full court.
Futsal Court	Per Each	\$180,000 - \$400,000	Costs include installation of a futsal court kit, does not include base course or subsurface material.
Softball / Baseball Field	Per Each	\$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000	Costs reflect a regulation-size field with grass turf, outfield fencing, backstop and outfield fencing, and dugouts. Higher costs include Bull pens, scoreboard, bleachers, PA system, flagpole, and sports field lighting.
Soccer / Multi-Purpose Field	Per Each	\$850,000 - \$1,250,000	Costs reflect a grass turf field with basic drainage/prep and features. Higher cost reflects bleachers, sports field lighting, and field striping for multiple sports.
Volleyball Court	Per Each	\$50,000 - \$75,000	Costs include lawn or sand volleyball court, net, and posts.
Tennis Court (2) / Pickleball Court (4)	Per Pair	\$450,000 - \$600,000	Costs reflect a 2 tennis courts or 4 pickleball courts with surfacing, striping, netting, and fencing. Higher costs included court lighting.
Sports Court Variety	Per Each	\$50,000 - \$300,000	Costs reflect a general estimate for a pair of badminton, shuffleboard, horseshoes, or bocce ball courts.
Outdoor Recreation			
Fitness Zone (5 stations)	Per Site	\$100,000 - \$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.
Challenge Feature	Per Each	\$75,000 - \$300,000	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.
Playground – Neighborhood	Per Each	\$425,000 - \$800,000	Costs reflect one 5,000 s.f. play structure with areas for tots or school-age. Higher-end costs reflect accessible safety surfacing (recommended).

Feature	Unit	Approximate Cost Range	Notes and Assumptions
Playground – Destination Attraction	Per Each	\$1,000,000 - \$1,750,000	Costs reflect one 10,0000 s.f. play structure with universal/inclusive and thematic elements.
Community Garden / Orchard	Per Each	\$750,000 - \$1,000,000	Cost is based on Dills Park Community Orchard estimates.
Trail (Hard Surfaced)	Per Mile	\$1,250,000 - \$2,500,000	Costs assume an 8- to 10 ft-wide asphalt trail with gravel shoulders, minor grading, mile markers and continuous buffer vegetation. Improvements may include curb and gutter, curb ramps, minor drainage.
Trail (Soft Surfaced)	Per Mile	\$175,000 - \$500,000	Costs assume a 3ft-wide stabilized decomposed granite surfaced trail and mile markers.
Major Features			
Dedicated Event Space	Per Each	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Costs reflect a small outdoor event space such as a plaza, pavilion, or outdoor classroom, etc. Includes, hardscape, seating, shade structure, and accessible walk, electrical outlet, and signage.
Stage / Amphitheater	Per Each	\$800,000 - \$5,000,000	Costs reflect outdoor amphitheater, stage with covering, lawn seating, utilities, lighting, and stage. Additional infrastructure with permanent seating, storage, changing and restrooms would be an additional cost.
Community Recreation Center	Per Sq. Ft.	\$600 - \$900	Cost for multigenerational community and recreation center with social gathering space, meeting space, gymnasium and similar uses.
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.
Water Mister / Spray Park	Per Each	\$1,750,000 - \$2,500,000	Costs reflect a spray park with mechanical building/apparatus and recirculating water.
Swimming Pool	Per Facility	\$12,000,000 - \$20,000,000	General cost for outdoor pool with deck and support amenities.
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. Sites may include

Feature	Unit	Approximate Cost Range	Notes and Assumptions
			separate areas for large and small dogs, shade, and dog agility features.
Mobile Recreation Unit	Per Each	\$150,000 - \$400,000	Costs reflect van and equipment. The higher costs reflect a trailer and portable small footprint amenities such as a stage, climbing feature, play equipment, etc.
Other Park Amenities			
Picnic Shelter (Group Picnic Area)	Per Each	\$75,000 - \$500,000	Costs reflect a small or midsize shelter with 8' tables. BBQ features, trash receptacle, serving table, but no electrical outlet.
Picnic Table ADA	Per Each	\$5,000 - \$8,500	Costs reflect one 8' table on concrete pad with ADA access.
Shade Sail or Canopy	Per Each	\$40,000 - \$150,000	Costs reflect fabric-roofed elements that shade play areas/spray parks/etc.
Wayfinding / Signage	Per Site	\$10,000 - \$20,000	Costs include identification, regulatory and wayfinding signage. Cost for extensive trail corridors may be greater.
Restroom (Permanent)	Per Each	\$500,000 - \$1,000,000	Costs reflect 2 single-occupancy units.
Restroom (Portable)	Per Each	\$100,000 - \$150,000	
Parking (Off-Street)	Per Site	\$250,000 - \$400,000	Costs reflect the creation of 10 spaces including 2 accessible spaces.
Bicycle Rack	Per Each	\$2,000 - \$4,000	Costs reflect a standard bicycle rack.
Safety Fencing	Per Site	\$10,000 - \$50,000	Costs reflect safety fencing around playgrounds for protection of young children or other safety fencing.

1. These estimates reflect fully loaded, planning level cost assumptions in 2024 dollars not accounting for inflation. Cost ranges are intended for planning purposes only and include raw cost for facilities and installation. Actual costs may vary depending on site realities, the scale and quality of facilities, changing market prices for materials and labor, and needs for permitting, design/construction and environmental compliance documentation. Actual cost estimates should be determined through site master planning and design at the time of development.

In addition to new parks and facilities, the City of Paramount will also ensure sufficient funding to effectively maintain assets and landscaping to sustain its park investments and provide a safe, clean, well-functioning, and attractive park and recreation system. Prior to adding new parks and facilities, the City may use the following cost assumptions to budget for future park maintenance. A tiered maintenance approach will help ensure that resources are applied where needed most.

Table 10. Planning-Level Maintenance Cost Estimates by Maintenance Level

Maintenance Action	Unit	Cost Range Per Unit ¹	Notes and Assumptions
Standard Maintenance	Per Developed Acre	\$15,000 - \$20,000	Basic level of maintenance that includes routine monitoring, inspection and care of infrastructure, recreation facilities and landscaping. It applies to sites that do not provide organized activities, and events, or specialized and major facilities.
Enhanced Maintenance	Per Developed Acre	\$20,000 - \$30,000	A higher level of maintenance for highly visible, heavily used sites that include specialized assets. It includes a greater maintenance frequency and specialized tasks. All major recreation facilities required enhanced maintenance.

Capital Project Prioritization Criteria

As the City of Paramount looks to expand, renew, and improve their parks and recreation system, they are constantly balancing needs and resources for long-term strategizing. As in other cities, the list of capital project proposals may far exceed what is feasible to implement in the near future. When funding does become available, capital projects also respond to political will, opportunity and timing, desired outcomes, and alignment with other City initiatives. Projects therefore are not implemented in the order of when they are proposed, but instead are selected based on a variety of external factors.

In order to help facilitate the decision-making process, a set of prioritization criteria are noted below. These criteria can be used to rate capital project proposals based on consistent criteria that ensure alignment across City initiatives. Projects can be scored by counting the number of items addressed in Figure 13.

Figure 14. Capital Project Prioritization Criteria

How well does the proposed capital project address the following criteria?

- ☐ **Ease of Implementation:** Can the project be done quickly and easily? Is the project “shovel ready” (e.g., advanced planning, feasibility studies, and permitting have been completed)?
- ☐ **Resource Availability:** Does the project use or leverage available resources (e.g., staffing, funding, grants, partnerships, equipment)?
- ☐ **Existing Infrastructure:** Does the project use existing infrastructure (e.g., land, facilities, equipment) for improvement, repurposing, renovation, etc.?
- ☐ **Cost Savings:** Does the project reduce costs, increase revenues, increase sustainability, or improve maintenance and operational efficiencies?
- ☐ **Value:** Does the project deliver high value for the cost of resources needed, relative to other projects?
- ☐ **Key Opportunity:** Does the project increase access, bring value, or expand use of other sites within the system (i.e., will it yield benefits beyond its own improvement)?
- ☐ **Underserved Gap Areas:** Does the project serve identified gap areas, either by adding new parkland or recreational opportunities within a gap area or by facilitating access to an existing site?
- ☐ **City Priority:** Does the project coincide with, or support, another City project or initiative?
- ☐ **Community Priority:** Does the project reflect a vocalized community priority and/or repair or renovate a high-use, popular park or facility?
- ☐ **Multiple Benefits:** Does the project benefit many people and/or support multiple or flexible uses?
- ☐ **Urgency:** Is there an urgency to the project (e.g., issues around public safety, acquisition deadline, grant funding opportunity window)?

Funding Sources

The City of Paramount will rely on both existing and new funding sources to implement recommended projects and take advantage of opportunities for park acquisition and development. As noted in Paramount's Adopted Budget FY 2023-2024, the Community Services Department receives most of its funding from the City's General Fund, which supports both capital projects and operations. For FY 2023-2024, the Department will receive supplemental funding from Measure A for park improvement projects, competitive Prop 68 per capita funds, and specified state grant funds.

Table 11 shows that the General Fund supports 51% of Community Services expenditures. Most of the other funds that support the Department are restricted in use, meaning that several of them cannot be used to make park improvements or add new parkland. These funds are described below.

Table 11. Community Services Expenditures by Fund, FY 23-24

Fund	Amount
General Fund	\$3,910,950
Afterschool Education and Safety Fund	\$2,425,700
Proposition A	\$640,850
Measure A (Safe, Clean Parks)	\$150,200
Other Grants	\$0
Community Benefit Agreement	\$200,000
Equipment Replacement Fund	\$285,750
Total	\$7,613,450

- **General Fund:** The General Fund is the City's primary operating fund and accounts for the City's discretionary funding sources (e.g., property tax, sales tax, utility tax, franchise fees, business tax, recreation and facility user fees, etc.). Recently, the inclusion of Measure Y funds and ARPA funds has significantly affected the General Fund expenditures. With these monies, the City has increased its commitment to capital projects throughout town—including several park improvements. The Community Services Department receives 6.8% of the City's General Fund dollars in FY 23-24.
- **Afterschool Education and Safety Fund:** This fund accounts for restricted revenues to be used in the establishment of local after-school education enrichment programs.
- **Proposition A Transit Tax Fund:** This fund accounts for restricted revenues received through the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority to be used to support transportation services.
- **Measure A (Safe Clean Parks):** In November 2016, voters approved the Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure. This parcel tax provides funds through a grant program administered by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD). The amount of funding that the City of Paramount receives is variable.

- **Community Benefit Agreement:** This fund accounts for the annual contribution from World Energy, which will be used for projects related to the City's Climate Action Plan, children and youth programs, civic programs, tree maintenance and other programs administered by the City.
- **Equipment Replacement Fund:** This fund accounts for the timely replacement of vehicles and major equipment used by general government departments on a regular basis.

To implement this Master Plan, the City will need additional sources of funding for capital projects as well ongoing maintenance, operations, and programs. As noted above, some funding sources are restricted and may only be spent on specific uses, such as either capital or operations, and some sources are more flexible. Therefore this plan distinguishes between capital and operations funding:

- **Capital:** Funding for acquiring, designing, building, and renovating parks, facilities, and trails.
- **Operations:** Resources to fund staffing, management, and ongoing programming and maintenance activities.

Potential Capital Funding Sources

In addition to existing funds, the City should explore the following funding sources to support land purchases, park development, renovations, facility replacement or expansion, and the addition of new facilities.

General Obligation Bond

The City has the authority to request voter approval for general obligation bonds to finance the construction of improvements to the park system with a time-limited property tax increase. Requirements for a high threshold of approval (two-thirds of voters) makes general obligation bond tax measures challenging to pass, but the time-limited nature of these measures (the tax expires when the bonds are paid off) improves public perception in many cases. General Obligation bonds can only be used for capital improvements, not maintenance and operations.

Revenue Bond

Unlike a bond that requires voter approval, revenue bonds are typically smaller bonds approved by the City Council. These bonds require repayment from the general operating funds of the City, typically using income from existing taxes and fees.

Paramount's Quimby Ordinance

The Quimby Act allows cities and counties to establish ordinances requiring residential developers to provide land or pay in lieu fees for neighborhood and community parks. The fee is imposed on developers when land is subdivided as a condition of public agency approval of a tentative map or parcel map. Depending on the density of a development, the Quimby Act allows cities and counties to require minimum 3 acres of land for every 1,000 new residents. [Note: for jurisdictions that have a higher level of service, Quimby land dedications requirement may include up to 5 acres per 1,000 residents, based on the park inventory and City population at the time of the last U.S. Census.] Because Paramount is built-out, Quimby requirements may not be as useful as other funding mechanisms. If the City expects significant development and may subdivide parcels in the future, it should review the Quimby ordinance and its requirements for in-lieu fees to determine whether fees should be updated.

Impact Fees

Park Impact Fees fund capacity-enhancement projects, such as park acquisition and development, to offset the impacts caused by new residential or commercial growth. Authorized through 1987's Assembly Bill (AB)

1600, "Mitigation Fee Act"), the City could assess impact fees on residential, commercial or industrial development, if each has a measurable connection (or nexus) to increased park use. A formal nexus study would be required to establish impact fees for parks.

Federal and State Funding through Congressional Officials

Southeast Los Angeles County is currently in the spotlight when it comes to expanding access to open space, river restoration, and outdoor access. Park land acquisitions and development opportunities are an attractive, tangible accomplishment opportunity for elected officials, several of whom are invested in developing more parks in Southeast Los Angeles. The City of Paramount should foster relationships with state and congressional legislators who under some circumstances can earmark funding bills to support local park projects.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)

These grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development are available for a wide variety of projects. Most are used for projects in lower income areas because of funding rules. Grants can cover up to 100 percent of project costs.

Grant Opportunities

Typically, grants are competitive processes that fund only capital projects and require a City to commit to the maintenance and operation of the resulting facilities—sometimes into perpetuity. Many grants require cities to provide matching funds. To be effective at competing for a variety of grants, the City may need staff time focused on completing grant applications.

Grant opportunities may be offered by state and county agencies, conservancies, philanthropic organizations, federal offices, and other sources. Grants supporting urban greening and equity are more prevalent in recent years, and a variety of grant opportunities may be available (Table 12). For example, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) provides local grants. The Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District (RPOSD) offers competitive grants for the acquisition and development of new parks, along with funds to enhance existing parks. Through partnership with non-profits or the Paramount Unified School District, the City may be eligible to apply for state and federal grant opportunities for green schoolyard development, such as the California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) School Greening Program.

Table 12. Potential Grant Programs

Grant Opportunity	Description	Information Source
Granting Agency: CALTRANS		
Clean California Local Grants Program	Funds local communities to beautify and improve local streets and roads, tribal lands, parks, pathways, and transit centers. Through the combination of adding beautification measures and art in public spaces along with the removal of litter and debris, this effort will enhance communities and improve spaces for walking and recreation. A 3rd funding cycle could potentially open.	California Department of Transportation. "Local Grant Program." Caltrans.Gov, https://cleancalifornia.dot.ca.gov/local-grant-program .
Granting Agency: LA County Regional Park and Open Space District - Measure A Grants		
Acquisitions Only	Supports acquisition of land for open space.	Los Angeles County Regional Open Space District. "Acquisition-Only Measure A Competitive Grant Program: Guidelines" RPOSD.Gov, April 2021, https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dpr/1121555_Acquisition_Competitive_Guidelines_2021.pdf .
Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection	Supports planning, acquisition, restoration, development, of multi-benefit parks.	Los Angeles County Regional Open Space District. "Natural Lands, Local Beaches, Water Conservation and Protection Measure A Competitive Grant Program : Guidelines." RPOSD.Gov, April, 2021, https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dpr/1121553_Natural_Competitive_Guidelines_2021.pdf .
Regional Recreation Facilities, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility	For acquisition, development, improvement, restoration, or rehabilitation projects that improve, connect, and protect regional recreational facilities, trails, and accessibility.	Los Angeles County Regional Open Space District. "Regional Recreation Facilities, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility Measure A Competitive Grant Program: Guidelines." RPOSD.Gov, April 2021, https://file.lacounty.gov/SDSInter/dpr/1121554_Regional_Competitive_Guidelines_2021.pdf .

Grant Opportunity	Description	Information Source
Granting Agency: California Natural Resource Agency		
Youth Community Access Grant (Next Cycle Summer 2024)	Funds programs and education for increasing access to outdoors for underserved communities. Can also fund green workforce, outdoor education trips for youth, and habitat restoration projects.	California Natural Resources Agency. "Youth Community Access Program" California Natural Resources Agency, https://resources.ca.gov/grants/youth/ .
Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program	Funds urban forestry grant.	California Natural Resources Agency. "Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Grant Program." California Natural Resources Agency, https://resources.ca.gov/grants/environmental-enhancement-and-mitigation-eem
Urban Greening Program	Funds creation of parks and open spaces, green schoolyards in disadvantaged communities.	California Natural Resources Agency. "Urban Greening Program." California Natural Resources Agency, https://resources.ca.gov/grants/urban-greening .
Granting Agency: CAL-FIRE		
Green Schoolyards Program	Funds schoolyard greening projects.	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection "Green Schoolyard Grants." Urban and Community Forestry Grant, https://www.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/grants/urban-and-community-forestry-grants .
Granting Agency: San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy		
Climate Resilience Grant	\$11,100,000 for projects that build community resilience and capacity where resources are most needed. Investments will support multi-benefit and nature-based solutions, which includes funding to support climate change impacts on fish and wildlife, habitat restoration, and activities that accelerate climate smart management of California's natural and working lands and help meet the State's 2030 GHG reduction goals.	San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, "Climate Resilience Grant Program." RMC Grants, https://rmc.ca.gov/grants/ .

Grant Opportunity	Description	Information Source
Proposition 1	\$50,000,000 for projects to protect and enhance the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries.	San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, "River Parkways and Urban Streams for LLAR Program." RMC Grants, https://rmc.ca.gov/grants/ .
Proposition 68	\$37,500,000 for projects that protect or enhance the Lower Los Angeles River watershed and its tributaries.	San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, "Proposition 68 River Parkways and Urban Streams for Lower Los Angeles River (LLAR)." RMC Grants, https://rmc.ca.gov/grants/ .
Proposition 68 Small Grants Program	Priorities include jump-start projects and small design-build projects, project planning, technical assistance such as application assistance to disadvantaged communities, and securing matching funds.	San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, "Proposition 1 and 68 (Regionwide and LLAR) Small Grants Program." RMC Grants, https://rmc.ca.gov/grants/ .
Granting Agency: The California Endowment		
Single year grants, program support grants, general operating support grants, Direct charitable activity contracts, program related investments, specific project grants	Nonprofits and government entities are eligible for funding. Supports social justice and health equity projects along with general operating.	The California Endowment "Grants." The California Endowment, https://www.calendow.org/grants/
Granting Agency: The California Wellness Foundation		
Community Wellbeing Grants	Supports civic engagement efforts that focus on the creation and improvement of parks. Letters of Intent are currently not accepted due to the number of submissions, though the city should follow this grant opportunity in the next few years.	The California Wellness Foundation. "Community Wellbeing Grants." Community Wellbeing, https://www.calwellness.org/money/what-we-fund/community-well-being/

Grant Technical Assistance Programs

Smaller cities and departments sometimes struggle with applying and securing new grants for park development. Grant writers and development specialists can be expensive. RPOSD has a technical assistance program specifically developed for nonprofit organizations and cities looking to develop open spaces in low-income areas and areas of high need in terms of parks. Technical support could include developing successful grant applications, partnership building support, and organizational capacity

building. The RMC has a similar technical assistance program that is meant to support agencies in vulnerable communities as they apply for an RMC park development grant.

Private Philanthropic and Foundation Awards

In the past, the City of Paramount has demonstrated success in networking to obtain funding from private foundations and philanthropic groups (i.e., The Target Futsal court at Ralph C. Dills Park). Los Angeles County is home to numerous private philanthropic foundations that fund projects that support park and health equity outcomes in vulnerable communities. Several foundations allow application submissions by invitation only, which would require the City of Paramount to devote initial research and resources into fostering relationships with potential funders. Creating a nonprofit park foundation in Paramount could support the city in developing these partnerships to increase funding for capital projects.

Donations

Soliciting the donation of labor, land, or cash by local businesses, service agencies, private groups, or individuals is a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific projects.

Potential Operations and Maintenance Funding

The City will also need to increase funding for operations and maintenance. Frankly, the best options for Paramount may involve increasing the percentage of dollars that come primarily from the General Fund, such as through the City Utility Tax and Sales Tax. A few other options are noted below.

Assessment District

An assessment district is a mechanism that allows cities to assess housing units or land parcels to maintain and improve street lighting, landscaping, and parks that provide a special benefit to designated areas. Assessment districts help each property owner pay a fair share of the costs of such maintenance services and improvements over a period of years at reasonable interest rates. This ensures that the cost will be spread to all properties that receive direct and special benefit. 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. Landscape and Lighting Assessment Districts (LLADs) and Landscape Maintenance Districts (LMDs) are used by California cities to fund park capital improvements and operations.

Expanded Program and Facility User Fees

Paramount's budget reveals that the COVID-19 Pandemic severely impacted recreational user fee revenue. Since the pandemic began recreational user fees have remained the same. The City should review its program and reservation user fees and consider whether increasing them is an option.

Increased or Extended Voter-Approved Taxing Mechanism (Operational Levies)

The City relies on several taxing mechanisms to support its General Fund. It's critical to ensure the City has voter approval to renew these resources when they expire. Cities can levy additional taxes (primarily sales taxes) to fund operations and can choose to target these requests to specific areas or programs. As with other special taxes in California, a supermajority (2/3rds of voters) is required to pass the measure. The high standard of approval has limited this method to only the most popular of purposes.

Partnerships

A variety of partnerships can be explored as effective ways to leverage resources. A few are noted here.

- **Public–Private Partnerships.** Some partnerships have strong potential for operating parks and recreation facilities and services. Many cities have partnered with non-profit organizations, such as the YMCA or Boys and Girls Clubs, to operate facilities on city-owned land.
- **Public-Nonprofit Partnerships.** Several local nonprofits have programs that focus on bringing outdoor education and experiential opportunities to communities of color, whose children often do not have access to hiking, camping, and beachgoing opportunities. Partnerships with organizations like Community Nature Connection and Nature for All could assist Paramount in providing experiential outdoor recreational opportunities for youth and bring new programming to Paramount.
- **Local Conservation Corps:** The Conservation Corps of Long Beach and the Los Angeles Conservation Corps operate near the City of Paramount. These agencies often provide additional support to cities by operating and maintaining open spaces and trails while also providing workforce development opportunities to youth. The city could serve as a partner with the conservation corps by developing grant opportunities to support the maintenance and operations of Paramount parks.

Sponsorships

The City may solicit sponsors who are willing to pay for advertising, signage, facility naming rights, etc., generating funds to support operations. In addition, sponsors are often sought to support a particular event or program, such as a concert or movie series.

Concessions or Permitting Fees

Food, beverage and merchandise vendors or concessionaires that operate food trucks, coffee kiosks, equipment rentals (such as bicycles or games) or provide other revenue-generating facilities or services in parks can also generate excess revenues to support the park system. The City can establish contracts with vendors and concessionaires for these services. In some cases, cities may charge fees to obtain permits for photographers, food trucks, sports instructors, etc. to operate in parks.

Grants, Foundations, Donations

Several organizations offer grants, funding, or donations for general operations and programs. In recent years, many have shifted their attention towards providing funding for programs and agencies looking to advancing learning outcomes in youth, health equity in vulnerable communities, and achieving racial justice. Some funding opportunities are tailored specifically for programs that serve demographic groups, such as AARP grants for seniors. The city should familiarize themselves with these funding trends and strategize on how to adapt park and recreation operations and programming around them. Similar to capital project grants, expect that some agencies will require matching funds.

Land Acquisition Mechanisms

While funding sources are needed for land purchase, the City of Paramount may consider a variety of land acquisition mechanisms to add parkland. A few are noted below.

Fee Simple Acquisition

A fee simple purchase transfers full ownership of the property, including the underlying title, to another party.

Easement

An easement is a partial interest in real property. Easements are especially applicable in situations where the landowner is not interested in selling their land but is willing to place an easement on the property to

dedicate the land 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.

Long Term Leases

A lease is a legal agreement granting the use of a property in exchange for payment for a specified 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). The city could partner with existing landowners to lease property and provide public open space opportunities. New opportunities for leasing property should be researched, while existing leasing opportunities such as Salud Park should be reviewed and renegotiated if possible.

Real Property Donations

A willing property owner may give real property or grant an easement as a donation to a public agency or a non-profit organization. In some cases, a property owner may agree to sell the property at less than fair market value. The property owner is paid for part of the value of the property and donates the remaining value, receiving tax benefits for the donation.

Life Estate

In some cases, a property owner may donate or sell real property to a public agency but retain a life estate, through which they retain the right to use the property for the duration of their life.

Land Trusts or Open Space Conservancies

A land trust is 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. These agencies can assist in navigating the acquisition negotiations, support design, and provide project management support during construction. These agencies will hold the land for the city to eventually acquire the property. Several land trusts 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.

LA County's Chapter 8 Tax Default Program

The County of Los Angeles's Treasurer and Tax Collector's Office Chapter 8 Agreement Sale program is designed for nonprofits and public agencies to acquire tax-defaulted land. The acquired land can then be used for the creation of new parks and open space projects. At the start of each year the Treasurer and Tax Collector's office send public agencies a list of updated properties. Following this process could serve as an affordable strategy for acquiring land and meeting the park development goals of the master plan.

Partnership Protocols

Existing and new partnerships are going to be a critical part of expanding Paramount's recreation opportunities. However, the City does not have the staff or other resources to pursue every possible partnership idea, many of which do not include the sustainable operational funding that is needed for long-term success. Developing an evaluation process can provide clarity about the value of a project to achieving Master Plan goals. Before entering a partnership agreement, the City should evaluate prospective partners or project advocates on whether a collaboration:

- Enhances existing parks and facilities through new play opportunities.
- Enhances access to parks and facilities by implementing universal design, ADA improvements, or other park features that increase access.
- Sustains park assets through routine maintenance or replacement/renovation of existing amenities, facilities, and landscaping.
- Provides inclusive or equitable events and activities.
- Enhances key recreational events.
- Provides year-round recreation opportunities.
- Enhances pedestrian and bike connectivity.

Demonstrating the ways in which projects help achieve desired outcomes for the city will give city staff the basic information to evaluate projects moving forward. It also makes the rationale for pursuing a project (or not) clear to community members proposing an idea.

Appendices

Appendix A. City of Paramount Parks and Facilities Inventory

Appendix B. Recreation Program Summary

Appendix C. Engagement Summary



PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Appendix A. City of Paramount Parks and Facilities Inventory

This appendix includes the City of Paramount parkland inventory and major facility inventory, including details on features and amenities contained within the sites.

Parkland Inventory

The parkland inventory contains information on city parkland, school joint-use sites, and trail corridors within Paramount. As shown in Table A-1, there are 17 park sites totaling 60.5 acres of city-owned parkland. These sites have been classified into groupings based on size, function, and use, as follows:

- Pocket Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Parks
- Special Use Sites

More detailed information on parkland categories and classifications can be found in Chapter 3: State of the System. As shown in Table A-1, each site has a variety of documented features and amenities, grouped as:

- Athletics / Sports Features
- Outdoor Recreation Features
- Major Features
- Trails and Natural Features
- Comfort Amenities
- Other

Total feature counts influence level of service calculations and future development planning for city facilities/features.

Major Facilities Inventory

Table A-2 depicts major facilities, which are a type of recreation facility that typically requires greater investment, maintenance, staffing and operations. Paramount has 8 major facilities ranging from community centers to aquatic sites to a gymnasium. One of these facilities is a standalone community center; the rest are housed within park sites. Table A-2 also documents the major (interior) features of these facilities.

TABLE A-1. CITY OF PARAMOUNT PARKLAND INVENTORY

			FEATURES & AMENITIES																																	
			ATHLETICS / SPORTS						OUTDOOR RECREATION				MAJOR FEATURES					TRAILS AND NATURAL FEATURES				COMFORT AMENITIES										OTHER				
			Basketball Court (Half)	Basketball Court (Full)	Futsal Court/Pad	Softball/Baseball Field	Soccer & Multi-Purpose Field	Volleyball Court	Fitness Zone	Playground	Skate Park	Community Garden / Orchard	Amphitheatre (outdoors)	Community Center	Gymnasium	Water Spray Park	Swimming Pool	Stream / Pond	Multi-Use Trail	Nature Trail	Walking / Jogging Path	Barbecue Grills	Picnic Area	Picnic Area - Sheltered	Benches	Drinking Fountains	Parking Lot - adequate	Parking Lot - inadequate	Restrooms	Safety Features	Signage	Trash Receptacles	Little Library	Public Art	Storage / Equipment Buildings	
CITY PARKLAND																																				
Site Name	PRMP Classification	Acreage																																Notes		
Paramount Boulevard / Howard Hall	Pocket Park	0.67																						x						x	x			City-leased space from private owner.		
Somerset Blvd / Colorado Ave	Pocket Park	0.34																						x						x		x		City-leased space from private owner.		
Wilbarn	Pocket Park	0.04																						x							x			City-leased space from private owner.		
Garfield Park	Neighborhood Park	0.80								1														x	x				x	x	x					
Meadows Park	Neighborhood Park	0.65								1														x®	x					x	x	x				
Pequeno Park	Neighborhood Park	0.11								1*														x						x	x					
Village Skate Park	Neighborhood Park	1.51		1*						1*	1*											x					x		x	x						
Spane Park	Neighborhood Park	4.20	2*				1*®			1			1*	1*				1							x		x		x	x		x	x		Acreage includes Spane Park Learning Center.	
All-American Park	Neighborhood Park	6.80	2				1*®		1	1										1*	x	x	x®	x	x		x	x		x	x	x		x		
Paramount Park	Community Park	13.70		1*	2*®	2*®	2		1	3			1*	1*®		1*				1*	x		x®			x		x		x	x	x	x	x	Acreage includes the Community Center, Gym, and Pool.	
Progress Park	Community Park	9.63		2*		2*®			1	2		1		2*						1*	x	x	x®			x		x		x	x	x	x	x	Acreage includes Mariposa Center and Progress Plaza West Community Center.	
Ralph C. Dills Park	Community Park	11.76			1*				2	2									1*	1*		x					x		x	x			x		LA River Trail access. Site has development limitations due to grant requirements.	
Salud Park	Community Park	9.17					1	1	2											2*				x		x			x	x	x			City-leased space from Southern CA Edison (30 yrs.).		
Carosmith Park	Special Use Site	0.01			1																											x				
Orange Splash Pad (Park)	Special Use Site	0.27													1*®											x*		x			x	x			x	
Paramount Community Garden	Special Use Site	0.63										1®																								
Clearwater Building	Special Use Site	0.18												1*																					Indoor standalone community center with rentable space.	
Subtotals		60.46	4	4	4	4	5	1	9	13	1	2	1	5	1	1	1	1	0	1	8															

FEATURES & AMENITIES																																
ATHLETICS / SPORTS						OUTDOOR RECREATION				MAJOR FEATURES					TRAILS AND NATURAL FEATURES				COMFORT AMENITIES									OTHER				
Basketball Court (Half)	Basketball Court (Full)	Futsal Court/Pad	Softball/Baseball Field	Soccer & Multi-Purpose Field	Volleyball Court	Fitness Zone	Playground	Skate Park	Community Garden / Orchard	Amphitheatre (outdoors)	Community Center	Gymnasium	Water Spray Park	Swimming Pool	Stream / Pond	Multi-Use Trail	Nature Trail	Walking / Jogging Path	Barbecue Grills	Picnic Area	Picnic Area - Sheltered	Benches	Drinking Fountains	Parking Lot - adequate	Parking Lot - inadequate	Restrooms	Safety Features	Signage	Trash Receptacles	Little Library	Public Art	Storage / Equipment Buildings

SCHOOL JOINT-USE SITES																																			
Site Name	PRMP Classification	Acreage ¹																																	Notes
Alondra Middle School	School Joint-Use Site	8.60					1*							1				1							x		x				After school access to track and field, gym, and field.				
Hollydale Elementary School	School Joint-Use Site	0.60												1											x		x				School is not located within City limits, but Paramount has a joint-use agreement.				
Leona Jackson Middle School	School Joint-Use Site	1.20																1							x		x				After school access to to track and field.				
Paramount High School	School Joint-Use Site	15.00												1				1							x		x				After school access to track and field, gym, field, ballfields, and Delores Stephens Library.				
Paramount High School West	School Joint-Use Site	8.30												1											x		x				After school access to ballfield, gym, and auditorium.				
Theodore Roosevelt Elementary School	School Joint-Use Site	4.20					2*																		x		x				After school access to field area.				
Zamboni Middle School	School Joint-Use Site	0.30												1											x		x				After school access to gym.				
Subtotals			0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	3																	

TRAIL CORRIDORS																													
Site Name	Proposed Classification	Acreage ²																											Notes
Bellflower Multi-Use Trail	Trail Corridor	0.64														1*													0.22 linear miles within Paramount.

			FEATURES & AMENITIES																															
			ATHLETICS / SPORTS						OUTDOOR RECREATION				MAJOR FEATURES					TRAILS AND NATURAL FEATURES				COMFORT AMENITIES										OTHER		
			Basketball Court (Half)	Basketball Court (Full)	Futsal Court/Pad	Softball/Baseball Field	Soccer & Multi-Purpose Field	Volleyball Court	Fitness Zone	Playground	Skate Park	Community Garden / Orchard	Amphitheatre (outdoors)	Community Center	Gymnasium	Water Spray Park	Swimming Pool	Stream / Pond	Multi-Use Trail	Nature Trail	Walking / Jogging Path	Barbecue Grills	Picnic Area	Picnic Area - Sheltered	Benches	Drinking Fountains	Parking Lot - adequate	Parking Lot - inadequate	Restrooms	Safety Features	Signage	Trash Receptacles	Little Library	Public Art
LA River Multi-Use Trail	Trail Corridor	4.26															1																	2.40 linear miles within Paramount.
Subtotals			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0															

Totals		65.36	4	6	4	4	7	1	9	13	1	2	1	5	21	1	1	1	2	1	11	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	
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Legend
*: Amenity is lighted
®: Amenity is reservable

Notes
1. Acreage of school joint-use sites only pertains to the joint-use areas (not the entire school site).
2. Acreage of trails is based on a 18 foot width.

TABLE A-2. CITY OF PARAMOUNT MAJOR FACILITIES INVENTORY

		MAJOR FEATURES			
		Auditorium (indoors)	Warming Kitchen	Multipurpose Room	
MAJOR FACILITIES					
Site Name	PRMP Classification				Notes
Clearwater Building	Major Facility	1*®	1*®	1*®	Indoor standalone community center with rentable space.
Mariposa Center	Major Facility			1*®	Indoor community center with rentable space and daycare program. Located in Progress Park.
Paramount Park Community Center	Major Facility	1*®	1*®	1*®	
Paramount Park Gym	Major Facility				
Paramount Park Outdoor Pool	Major Facility				Outdoor pool attached to Paramount Park Gym. Limited seating/tables. Open summer only.
Progress Plaza West Community Center	Major Facility	1*®	1*®	1*®	Indoor community center with rentable space. Located within Progress Park.
Orange Splash Pad	Major Facility				
Spane Park Learning Center	Major Facility			1*	Located within Spane Park.
Totals		3	3	5	

Legend

*: Amenity is lighted

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PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



Appendix B. Recreation Programs Summary

This appendix provides a summary of programmatic offerings by the Paramount Community Services Department. In addition to providing parks, facilities, and administrative functions, the City of Paramount offers several types of events and recreation programs for the community. These are sometimes co-hosted or supported by external community-based organizations or in conjunction with other City departments. It is important that parks and facilities are well designed, maintained, and managed to continue to support community events and programs.

The below program categories are operated or managed by the Paramount Community Services Department. Programs may evolve over time, pending interest, staffing, partners, and funding/resources.

- **Adaptive Recreation** covers a range of recreational opportunities for individuals of all abilities, including excursions, arts and crafts, and social events throughout the year. Examples of programs include the Lego Build Night, Magician Night, Summer Luau, Reptile Show Night, Excursion to Knotts Berry Farm, Loteria & Board Game Night, and many more.
- **Paramount Arts in the Community** provides creative and expressive art activities to support the intellectual, emotional, and creative life of the Paramount Community.; Latina Art Foundation Art Show; Comedy at the Plaza; ArtWalk art showcase; a Rotating Art Program; Paramount Paints public mural program; Outdoor Art Museum public art tour; and many more.
- **Instructional Classes** offer recreation activities ranging from the Arts Scholarship; to the Paramount Education Partnership (PEP) Learning Center that hosts homework help, adult aerobics, adult English-as-a-second language (ESL) classes, and parenting workshops.
- **Senior Services** include classes such as chair exercise, sewing, movies, and more; services such as the Veteran Peer Access Network, the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, home-delivered meals, on-site daily meals transportation, and excursions; and exercise groups such as the Paramount Road Runners.
- **Sports** including Youth Sports leagues for basketball, volleyball, t-ball, soccer, cheer, and ball hockey.

- **Star Program** is an afterschool program operated by the City of Paramount at all PUSD elementary and middle school sites. The Success Through Academics and Recreation (STAR) program aims to provide additional support and engagement for young people outside of school hours.
- **Aquatics** are operated by Premier Aquatics and provide classes/programming for all ages.
- **Paramount Teen Leadership Alliance (PTLA)** is a volunteer program that connects local teens to community events and programming. The program is open to all PUSD students or Paramount residents in grades 6th through 12th.
- **1660 Adult Recreation Program** focuses on Paramount residents aged 16 to 60 to engage with their community, have fun, and stay active. Programs include yoga in the park, high-intensity training classes, adult sports, excursions, and other activities. This also includes classes such as Folklorico for various ages.
- **Community Events** target the wider Paramount community with large-scale events such as Friday Night Paramount featuring musical entertainment, a variety of food items, artisans, and art exhibits; seasonal events and special events, such as the Summer Concerts series.



Appendix C. Engagement Summary

This appendix chronicles the engagement findings from a series of outreach activities conducted for the Paramount Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Starting in February 2023, the project team initiated a variety of public engagement activities including stakeholder interviews and focus groups to hear from key active community members about their experience with Paramount Parks. The team also joined community events to solicit feedback from residents on how they use parks and what types of potential features they would like to see. Finally, the project team distributed physical and online surveys – in English and in Spanish - to provide residents an easily accessible opportunity to share their thoughts and gather resident feedback for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Stakeholder Interviews and Focus Groups

In the early stage of the master planning process, a series of in-person and virtual stakeholder interviews and small focus groups were conducted with targeted individuals and groups for input on specific topics, such as special needs programming, youth sports, public safety, adult recreation, and partnership opportunities. Findings from these interviews and focus groups have been captured in this summary.

Pop-Up Events

Pop-ups are short term events that are held at locations or events where people already gather. Because pop-ups meet people where they are on their regular schedule, they usually will draw a good cross-section of typical users. They also provide short interactions with participants where they can receive information, provide comments, and sign-up for project updates. Pop-ups can be timed and located to reach specific communities and target audiences. These activities are designed to be interactive and provide various ways to share input and learn more about the master plan update process.

The Paramount Parks and Recreation Master Plan Project Team hosted a pop-up event at the **Paramount's Annual Easter Egg Hunt** on Saturday, April 1st, 2023, from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. The second pop-up event took place at the **Friday Night Paramount** event on Friday, May 5, 2023, from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Friday Night Paramount featured musical entertainment, a variety of food items, artisans, local crafters, and art exhibits. The goal of the pop-up events was

to promote the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and solicit feedback from participants on potential park and recreation elements. These pop-ups also provided an important opportunity to bring awareness and visibility of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan to the broader community.

As part of the pop-up events, participants were handed informational fact sheets and stickers to use on dot-voting posters. Participants were also encouraged to scan a QR code on the informational sheet and board, which would direct them to the digital survey for the project. Printed surveys were also distributed and filled out by participants.

FIGURE C-1. THE CROWD AT THE CITY'S ANNUAL EASTER EGG HUNT ON SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023.



FIGURE C-2. FRIDAY NIGHT PARAMOUNT ATTENDEES VIEW THE DISPLAY BOARDS ON FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023.



Coloring Station

A coloring station was provided at both pop-up events. Children were asked to color or write about what their favorite park would look like in the future. This provided the project team with insight from youth, as well as encouraged more families to submit their thoughts and perspectives on the park system.

FIGURE C-3. CHILDREN ILLUSTRATE THEIR IDEAL PARK



Interactive Display Boards

Four posters were displayed at the pop-up events: (1) a general context poster for the Master Plan; (2) a voting exercise poster where residents select their favorite Paramount Park; (3) a board that allowed residents to vote on their three favorite options for potential park and recreation elements; and (4) a board to include additional ideas or comments on how to improve parks and recreation in Paramount. Participants who visited the pop-up event were provided four dot stickers and instructed to place one sticker on the board asking for their preferred Paramount Park, and three stickers on the board that displayed potential park and recreation features.

FIGURE C-4. DOT-VOTING ON THE DISPLAY BOARDS INVOLVED ALL AGES



FIGURE C-5. PROJECT INTRODUCTORY BOARD

PARAMOUNT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Paramount is developing a Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide our investment in parks, facilities, and recreational programming. This is a long-range plan that will help prioritize park projects for the next 10 years.

The Master Plan will:

- Assess the park and recreation system
- Engage the community
- Identify gaps in park access and amenities
- Explore ways to expand the park and recreation system

The plan will provide recommendations to enhance parks, facilities, and programs to support community livability, park safety, access and connectivity, health and wellness, and quality of life.

DESCRIPCIÓN DEL PROYECTO

La Ciudad de Paramount está desarrollando un Plan Maestro de Parques y Recreación para guiar nuestra inversión en parques, instalaciones y programación recreativa. Este es un plan a largo plazo que ayudará a priorizar proyectos de parques para los próximos 10 años.

El Plan Maestro:

- Evaluar el sistema de parques y recreación
- Conectar a la comunidad
- Identificar brechas en el acceso y las amenities por parque
- Explorar formas de expandir el sistema de parques y recreación

El plan proporcionará recomendaciones para mejorar los parques, las instalaciones y las programas para apoyar la habitabilidad de la comunidad, la seguridad de los parques, el acceso y la conectividad al salud y al bienestar a la calidad de vida.

PROJECT TIMELINE

PHASE 1: Fielding Conditions Winter 2022	PHASE 2: Community Needs Spring 2023	PHASE 3: Recommendations Summer/Fall 2023	PHASE 4: Plan Adoption Fall/Winter 2023
Collecting feedback from the community	Engaging the community to share their ideas	Developing recommendations and prioritizing projects	Adopting the Master Plan

PROVIDE FEEDBACK PROPORCIONAR COMENTARIOS

We are reaching out to the community to get input on how parks and recreation in Paramount can change, grow, and improve in the years to come. Join any of the below efforts to make sure your voice is heard.

Nos estamos comunicando con la comunidad para obtener información sobre cómo los parques y la recreación en Paramount pueden cambiar, crecer y mejorar en los años venideros. ¿Hay alguna manera de que los comentarios influyan sobre nuestros proyectos de parques y recreación?

1. Contribute your ideas today! Apporta tus ideas hoy!

The project team is here today to gather public feedback. Share your ideas and comments on the boards provided, chat with project staff, and spread the word!

El equipo del proyecto está aquí hoy para recibir comentarios del público. Comparte tus ideas y comentarios en los tableros provistos, charla con el personal del proyecto y comparte la información.

2. Take the Parks and Recreation Survey! Toma la Encuesta de Parques y Recreación!

Complete a short questionnaire on the future of Paramount parks and recreation. Complete un breve cuestionario sobre el futuro de los parques y recreación de Paramount.

Stay updated! Manténgase informado!

The project website will have updates and event notifications.

El sitio web del proyecto tendrá actualizaciones y notificaciones de eventos.

<https://www.paramountcity.com/government/department/recreation/masterplan>

Visit us if you have any questions or comments: recreation@cityofparamount.com

Visítanos si tienes alguna pregunta o comentario: recreation@ciudadparamount.com

FIGURE C-6. BOARD 1: WHICH IS YOUR FAVORITE PARAMOUNT PARK?



Participants were given one dot sticker and were asked to place it in their favorite park in Paramount, with a map provided for reference. The results are shown in Table C-1.

TABLE C-1. FAVORITE PARKS IN PARAMOUNT (COMPILED FROM BOTH POP-UP EVENTS)

Favorite Parks	Easter Egg Hunt	Friday Night Paramount	Total
Progress Park	47 Dots	30 Dots	77 Dots
Paramount Park	23 Dots	31 Dots	54 Dots
Orange Splash Pad	33 Dots	11 Dots	44 Dots
Spane Park	14 Dots	29 Dots	43 Dots
Salud Park	6 Dots	18 Dots	24 Dots
All American Park	10 Dots	6 Dots	16 Dots
Village Skate Park	3 Dots	7 Dots	10 Dots
Dills Park	3 Dots	5 Dots	8 Dots
Carosmith Park	0 Dots	2 Dots	2 Dots
Meadows Park	0 Dots	2 Dots	2 Dots
Garfield Park	0 Dots	1 Dot	1 Dot
Pequeño Park	0 Dots	0 Dots	0 Dots

FIGURE C-7. BOARD 2: FAVORITE PARK ELEMENTS

Participants were given three dot stickers and asked to place them on their top favorite park elements so that they could envision being a part of Paramount Park’s system, as shown on Table C-2. Participants added notes to the board, expressing their interest in specific facilities.

TABLE C-2. FAVORITE PARK ELEMENTS (COMPILED FROM BOTH POP-UP EVENTS)

Favorite Potential Park Elements	Easter Egg Hunt	Friday Night Paramount	Total
Challenge Elements	69 Dots	71 Dots	140 Dots
Dog Parks	70 Dots	57 Dots	127 Dots
Sports Field Varieties	51 Dots	60 Dots	111 Dots
Indoor Recreation Space	37 Dots	49 Dots	86 Dots
Large Group Gathering Spaces	42 Dots	44 Dots	86 Dots
Public Art	43 Dots	31 Dots	74 Dots
Community Gardens	34 Dots	33 Dots	67 Dots
Natural Areas	34 Dots	30 Dots	64 Dots
Sports Court Variety	14 Dots	34 Dots	48 Dots
"I Don't Think Anything Is Missing"	0 Dots	0 Dots	0 Dots

FIGURE C-8. BOARD 3: ADDITIONAL PARK FEATURES, AMENITIES, AND PROGRAMS

PARAMOUNT PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

WHAT RECREATIONAL FEATURES, AMENITIES, OR PROGRAMS WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IMPROVED OR ADDED IN PARAMOUNT'S PARKS?

¿QUÉ CARACTERÍSTICAS, AMENIDADES O PROGRAMAS RECREATIVOS LE GUSTARÍA VER MEJORADAS O AGREGADAS EN LOS PARQUES DE PARAMOUNT?

PARAMOUNT
TO 1987
Safe, Healthy and Amenable

Share your ideas!
Comments on this board

Participants were asked to write down any additional ideas and thoughts for how to improve parks and recreation in Paramount and add them to the board via post-it notes. Table C-3 lists summarizes the participant's comments.

TABLE C-3. ADDITIONAL FEATURES, AMENITIES, OR PROGRAMS (COMPILED FROM BOTH PO-UP EVENTS)

Comments	Park Facilities	Programs	Events	Safety/Maintenance
Paramount Park playground not kid-friendly	○			
Use/rent field but can't because no more than 75%	○			
Futsal courts not open	○			
No girls soccer/limited playing fields	○			
A lot of weed smoking				○
Expand Salud Park down south	○			
More police patrol to address fights				○
Lagoon	○			

Salud Park – keep lights on later				●
Dog park at Paramount Park	●			
Benches and seating at Salud Park	●			
Use dead zones/eye sore properties, underutilized sites for new parks	●			
Do not knock out existing parks for new facilities	●			
More supplies in bathrooms				●
Add/extend Salud Park further South	●			
Zumba/aerobics/water aerobics classes		●		
Dog Park	●			
Remove rocks at Dills Park	●			
Dog feces on street (Passage Avenue)				●
Dog owner education				●
More parking for schools	●			
Vacant land near Ice Land – put dog park	●			
Dills Park add turf field	●			
Use dead zones/eye sore properties, underutilized sites for new parks	●			
Add new parks in Southern end of City	●			
Art elements for kids		●		
Movie nights			●	
Basketball court in Salud Park	●			
Water activities/elements, streams	●			
Rocks removed at Dills Park. No room to play	●			
Provide recreation opportunities for special needs families. Events/Play Time				
Food festival			●	
Special needs facilities	●			
More afterschool programs		●		
More recreational programs		●		
Parks remain as clean as they are today				●
Basketball courts where exercise stations are at Paramount Park	●			
Updated play areas for toddlers	●			
More play areas	●			
More play equipment	●			
Power wash the slides				●
Hand wash areas outside bathrooms				●
Solar powered lights in playgrounds during days it get dark early				●
More soccer fields				
Three-foot wading pool	●			
Interactive science-themed park areas	●			

Upgrade Dills playgrounds	●			
Safe and secure areas				●
Open green space	●			
Concert areas	●		●	
More outdoor activities	●			
Cars drive fast through Georgia – do not stop				●
More security presence at Progress Park				●
Gathering space Oklahoma – rock climbing	●			
More safety in parks due to homeless presence				●
Robot		●		
Salud Park is popular with adults, but needs restroom	●			●
Provide special needs activities and facilities	●	●		
Playgrounds for toddlers or more activities	●			
Food vendors at parks	●		●	
Greater security presence at all parks				●
	Park Facilities	Programs	Events	Safety/ Maintenance
Total Comments per Topic Area	37	6	4	16

Parks and Recreation Survey

Process

The project team began by creating a survey that could be easily accessed online and in person, in English and in Spanish. The survey, hosted on online platform Alchemer, was available from April 01 to August 25, 2023. All questions were optional.

To best understand park users' priorities, the survey covered the following main topics:

- Park Qualities/Features
- Access Constraints
- Programming and Sports
- Prioritization of Projects/Improvements
- Park User Demographics

To promote the survey, social media graphics were prepared and shared by the City of Paramount through their various online and social media channels. The graphics included a link as well as a QR code for residents to easily access the Alchemer survey. To engage more residents in-person, paper surveys were provided to the public during pop-up activities at key City events. These events – the Easter Egg Hunt and Friday Night Paramount – are some of the City's most popular, well-attended events, and received a significant number of visitors, residents, and families. To allow for engagement of all age groups, the team also provided youth drawing activities. This activity not only provided useful information from the youth perspective but allowed parents and caregivers to simultaneously fill surveys.

Outcomes

A total of 270 surveys were submitted, consisting of 42 paper surveys and 228 online surveys. All online questions were optional, resulting in 163 complete surveys and 65 partially complete surveys. This summary reflects all 270 surveys, regardless of completeness. The results of the survey are from a self-selecting (non-random) sample. Therefore, responses reflect the population of Paramount who voluntarily chose to contribute their input.

FIGURE C-9. CITY OF PARAMOUNT DIGITAL SURVEY IN ENGLISH AND SPANISH

City of Paramount Parks and Recreation Survey

The City of Paramount is preparing its biennial Parks and Recreation Master Plan to guide improvements and resource allocation over the next 15 years. Parks and recreational opportunities are vital to Paramount's environmental health, community well-being, and the economic development. In order to best understand your needs and priorities for parks and recreation, we are seeking out your input.

If you live, work, or play within Paramount, please answer a few questions about our City's park and recreational system. Answering this survey is vital to take the survey online only takes approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. The information will be incorporated into a new Master Plan to help us prioritize our park investment as resources become available. Your input will shape the future of our parks and recreation system!

Encuesta de Parques y Recreación de la Ciudad de Paramount

La ciudad de Paramount está preparando su plan bienal de parques y recreación para guiar las mejoras y asignaciones de recursos por los próximos 15 años. Los parques y las oportunidades de recreación de vital importancia para el salud ambiental, el bienestar de la comunidad y el desarrollo económico. Para comprender mejor las necesidades y prioridades para el parques y la recreación, estamos solicitando su opinión.

Si vive, trabaja o juega dentro de la ciudad de Paramount, por favor responda algunas preguntas sobre el parque y el sistema de recreación de la ciudad. Responder esta encuesta es vital para tomar la encuesta en línea solo toma aproximadamente 10-15 minutos para completar. Esta información se incorporará a un nuevo plan para priorizar nuestra inversión en parques y recreación cuando los recursos estén disponibles. Su opinión ayudará a dar forma al futuro de nuestro sistema de parques y recreación.

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

2023 SURVEY RESULTS

2023 SURVEY RESULTS

86% of respondents believe that Parks and Recreation are "very important" to the City's quality of life.



65% of respondents reported visiting a park or city community center daily, almost daily, or once per week.



Comfortability, natural landscaping, a variety of amenities, a serene setting, and active settings were rated highly as important park qualities.

Top reasons that limit people's use of parks include feeling unsafe, the lack of interesting facilities, and poor maintenance or condition of parks.

Prominent park users include families and children under 18 years.

Many of the city's major programs and activities – such as the PHIT program, swimming classes, major events, and basketball leagues - are seeing regular participation.

Priorities voiced by the public include renovating and improving



**Over 60% of respondents
(or their family members)**

Community Priorities

Survey responses provided insight into some of the community's priorities for Lakewood parks and recreation. This section analyzes demographic data with survey responses to understand how different park visitors use the park and what they find important for improving Paramount's park system.

Safety: Many respondents said safety is the main reason they do not visit Paramount Parks. Concerns around safety are not limited to one age group but appear across all age ranges. Of those who mentioned safety concerns, forty respondents indicated having children under the age of 18 in their household, which may also contribute to a heightened awareness of safety concerns. Issues of safety vary among respondents. Some issues are infrastructure-related, such as a need for improved or new lighting at parks, or a desire for fencing around the playgrounds. Other issues are socially focused, such as the presence of marijuana smokers, unhoused people, and gang members. These were identified as top deterrents for visiting Paramount parks.

Transportation: Transportation was mentioned as a main barrier to accessing parks. A few respondents mentioned that parks are too far away from where they live. Those who mentioned transportation as an issue are mostly in Area 4, in the southwest section of Paramount. Survey results show that adults ages 25-34, the largest group of respondents, find transportation an issue to access.

Adult Recreation: Although most adults listed taking their children to play as the main reason for visiting Paramount parks, the survey reveals that respondents also prioritized adult needs, such as individual exercise opportunities and group sports. A large percentage of respondents prioritized a dog park as one of the main priorities for the city to develop. Older adults and seniors (age 55-65+) indicated the need for more natural areas, such as native plantings, pollinator patches, and nature walks. More recreational programs also stood out as something older adults and seniors prioritize.

Family Priorities: Families with children under 18 shared a mix of priorities. Routine maintenance of existing parks was top of mind, though some expressed interest in the development of new parks. Area 1, in the northwest portion of the city, was the most referenced when respondents were asked if the city should prioritize the purchase of land for new parks. Families who responded to the survey also expressed interest in more recreational events, activities, and programs. Adults also expressed equal interest in more adult sports and for children and youth.

Key Survey Topics

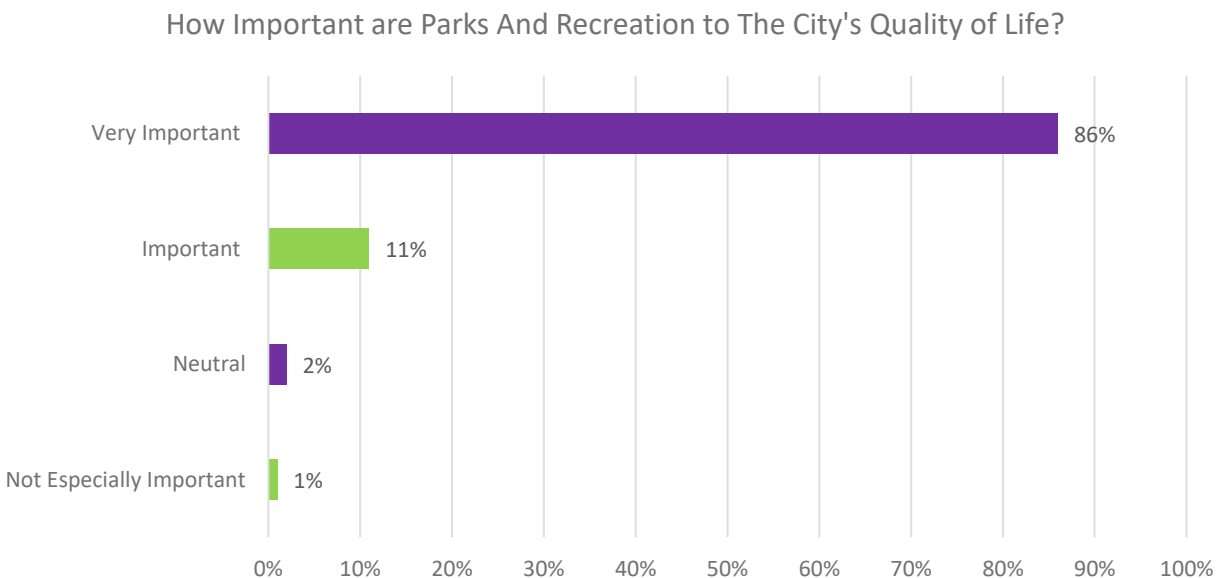
Below are key findings based on the main topics of the survey. The responses for survey topics reflect findings and observations that are supported by graphs and tables. When reviewing the results, note that some questions allowed participants to select two or more answer choices, resulting in total counts greater than the number of respondents and total percentages greater than 100%.

Park Qualities/Features:

Overall visitors to Paramount Parks highly value parks and recreation. Respondents find parks clean, maintained, and enjoyable spaces for recreation. Parks are regularly used, and families with children make up a large portion of park visitors. Daily or regular use of park amenities means that the city should develop a plan to inspect and replace worn amenities on a regular basis. Various respondents mentioned that the playgrounds are outdated and in need of replacement. There is also a desire among respondents for more recreational features and programming for adults.

When asked about how important parks and recreation area to Paramount's quality of life, (86%) of respondents believe parks and recreation are very important to the city's quality of life, (11%) said important, (2%) were neutral, (1%) responded not especially important. The data shows that most respondents agreed that parks are very important to the City's quality of life.

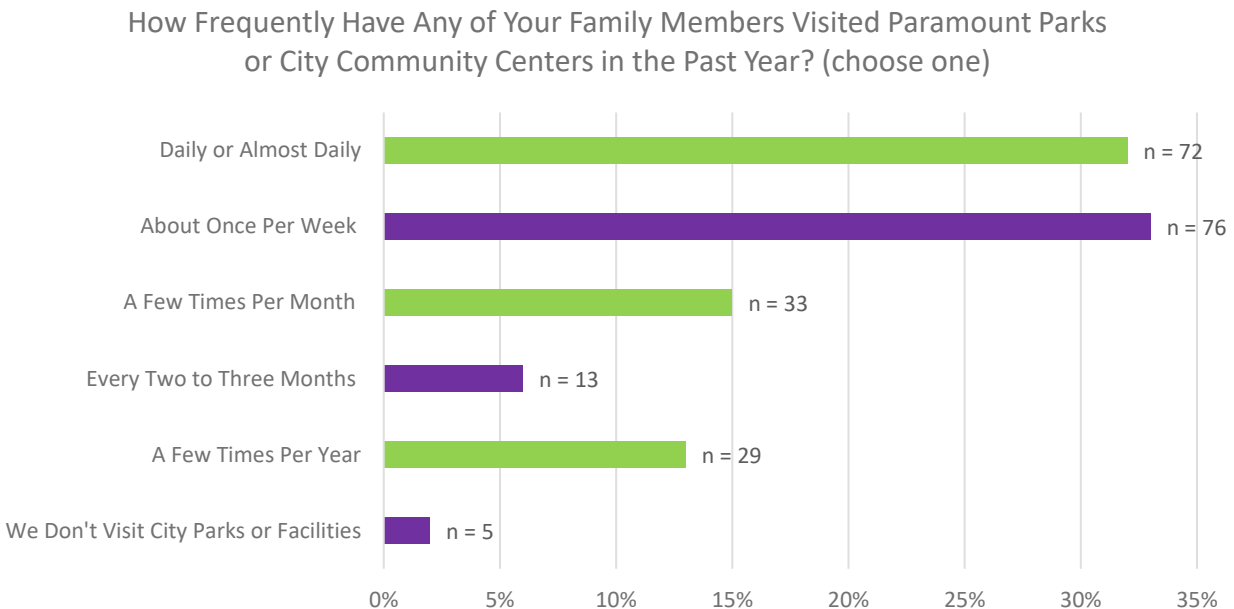
FIGURE C-10. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS



Respondents also shared how frequently have any of their family members visited Paramount Parks or City Community Centers (Rental Spaces or instructional classes) In the past year.

(32%) said daily or almost daily, (33%) answered at least once per week, (15%) said a few times per month, (6%) every two or three months, (13%) said a few times per year, and (2%) percent said they don't visit city parks or facilities.

FIGURE C-11. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING FREQUENCY OF PARK VISITS



When asked, "Select the top two reasons your family members visit a park," the top options included taking their children to play (41%), individual exercise (33%), organized community events, music shows, cultural events (27%). (23%) of respondents attend parks for group sports, (18%) to get exposure to nature, (16%) to take pets to play, (11%) go for the swimming pool and play at the spray ground, (10%) percent go to gather with friends and family, and (4%) to visit community centers for indoor programs and activities. (.1%) said they go to Paramount Parks to cool off.

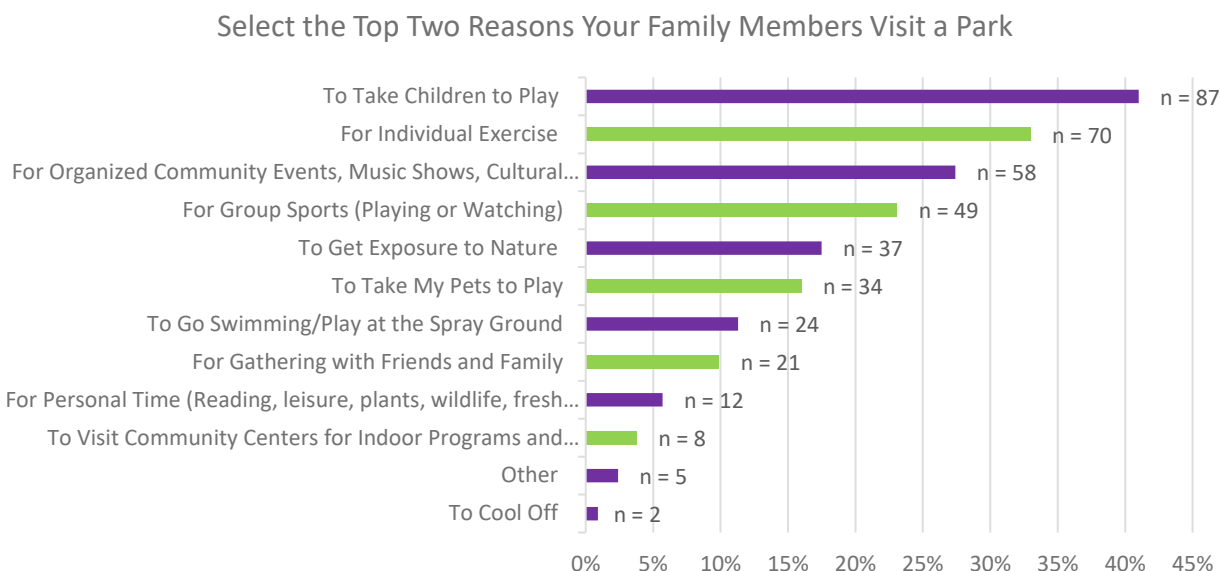
Five respondents said they attend Paramount Parks for "other" reasons. These other reasons included:

- Using the handball courts to play handball (2 respondent)
- PHIT Classes (1 respondent)
- One "other" respondent mentioned they avoid parks if gangs are present.

Some takeaways from responses include:

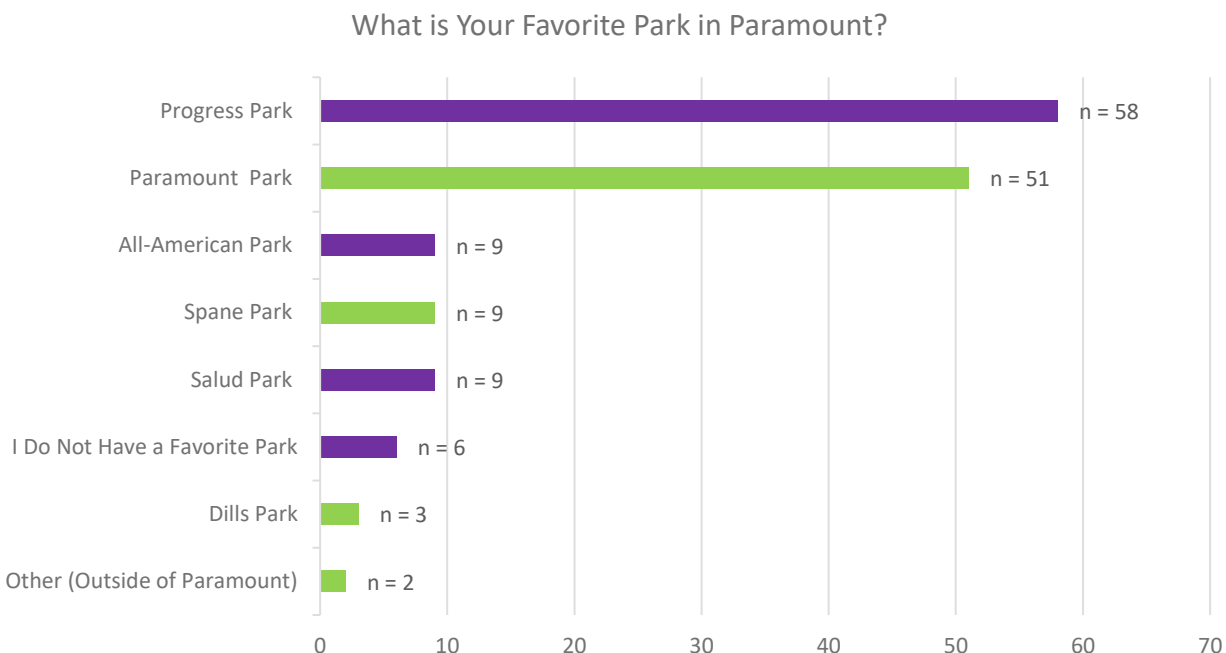
- Children and families are prominent users of Paramount Park. (70%) of respondents stated that they had children under 18 in their households.
- Exercise activities and options are also important to Paramount residents.
- Events organized at parks are well loved and attended by Paramount residents.

FIGURE C-12. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING REASONS TO VISIT A PARK



Respondents were also asked to select their favorite park in Paramount. Survey results showed that Progress and Paramount Parks were favorites among respondents. These two are likely favorites due to the opportunities offered for children to play and adults to exercise, the community events and organized sports they host.

FIGURE C-13. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING FAVORITE PARKS IN PARAMOUNT

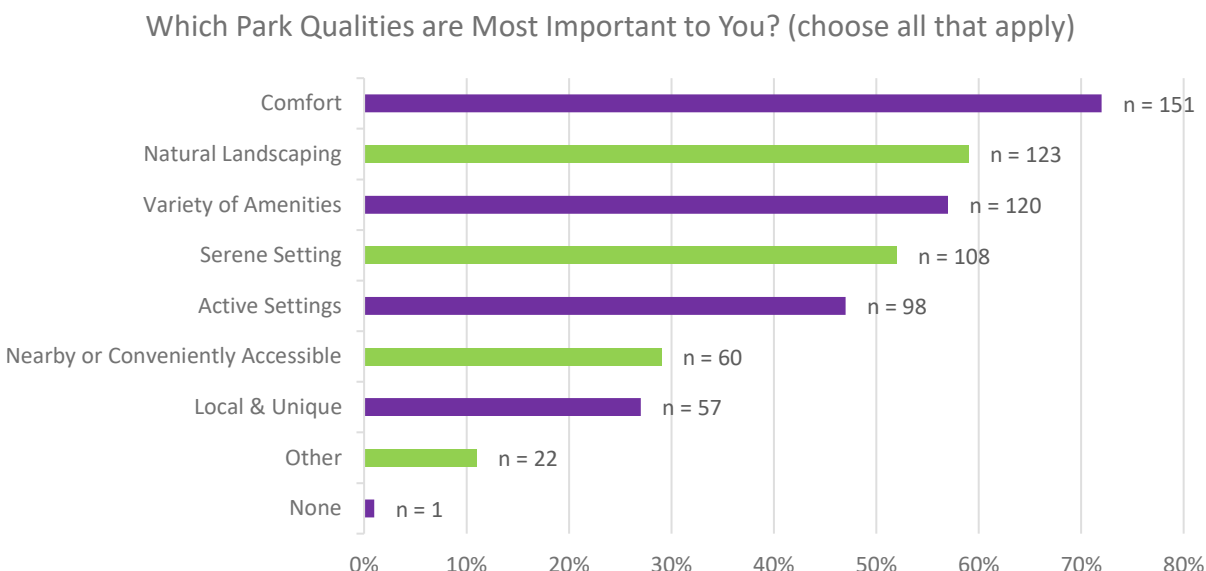


Participants responses provided some insight into what features they prioritize. These included:

- Many participants visit parks to give their children an opportunity to play outside.
- Exercise opportunities are a major reason why participants visit parks.

In terms of park qualities most important to park users, four answers stood out. Comfortability was ranked the highest park quality, followed by natural landscaping, the variety of amenities offered, and the sports opportunities. These findings offer a glimpse into what park visitors look for when attending Paramount parks. In a built-out city Paramount parks offer a natural respite for Paramount residents and visitors. Many appreciate the sports programs, and the existing amenities at Paramount parks.

FIGURE C-14. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING IMPORTANT PARK QUALITIES



Access/Constraints:

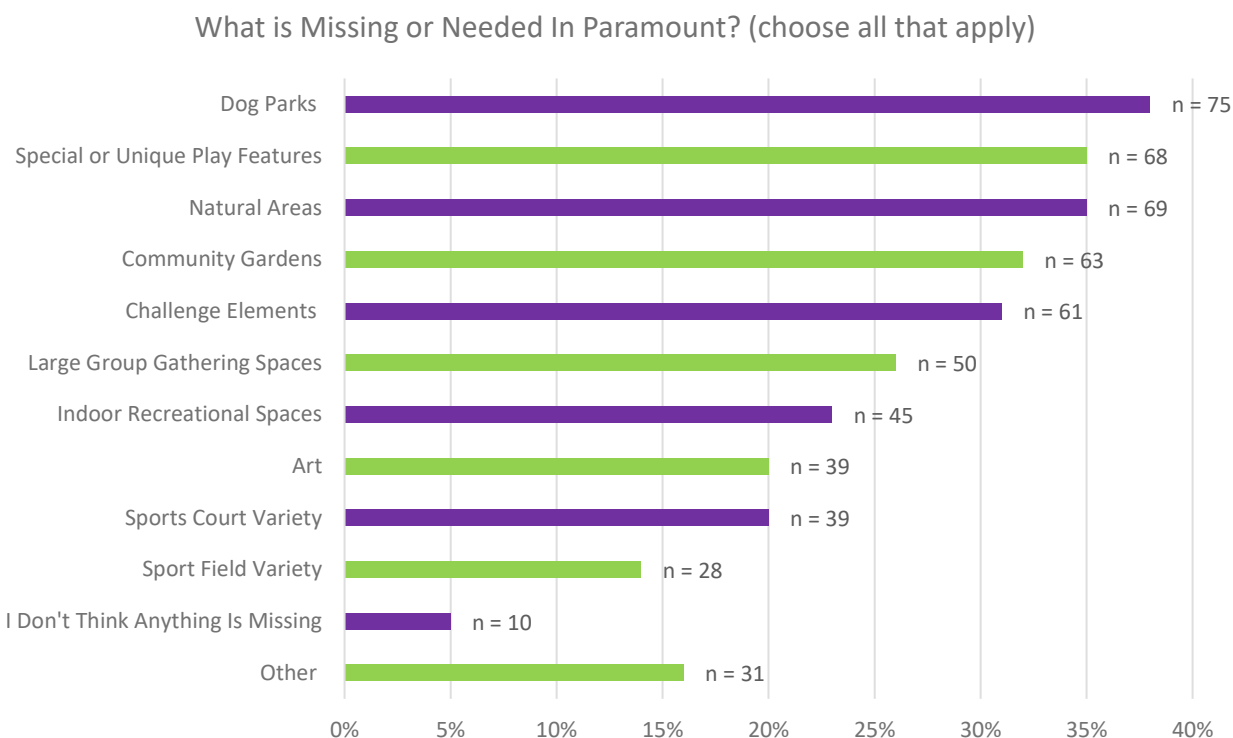
Safety at Paramount parks was top of mind for respondents. Although many respondents feel comfortable at parks, certain respondents do not feel safe at parks. Reasons for this include the presence of homeless encampments at certain parks, the presence of youth who are drinking and smoking, and the lack of illuminated paths at parks. Many see these issues as the main deterrent for visiting parks and attending programming opportunities.

Other constraints include the absence of certain amenities that are highly desired by respondents. These include dog parks, natural areas, and special or unique play features for their children. Oftentimes, respondents will visit parks in other cities to utilize features or attend programming not offered by the City of Paramount. Although there are various constraints that impede the ability for respondents to visit Paramount Parks, many said that their neighborhoods do have access to quality parks and recreation opportunities.

Survey respondents were asked what features or programs are missing from Paramount Parks. Participants were asked to check all topics that applied. Results found that dog parks scored the highest (38%), followed by natural areas (35%), special or unique play features (35%), Some takeaways include:

- Participants are interested in the construction of a dog park at Paramount parks.
- There is a high interest in the development of natural areas. This statement is reinforced by the high number of participants who consider natural landscaping an important park quality.
- Unique play features attract families to Paramount Parks. Discussion with respondents found that participants are looking for refurbishment of existing play features or the inclusion of new and interesting play areas.

FIGURE C-15. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING DESIRED FACILITIES AND FEATURES IN PARAMOUNT PARKS

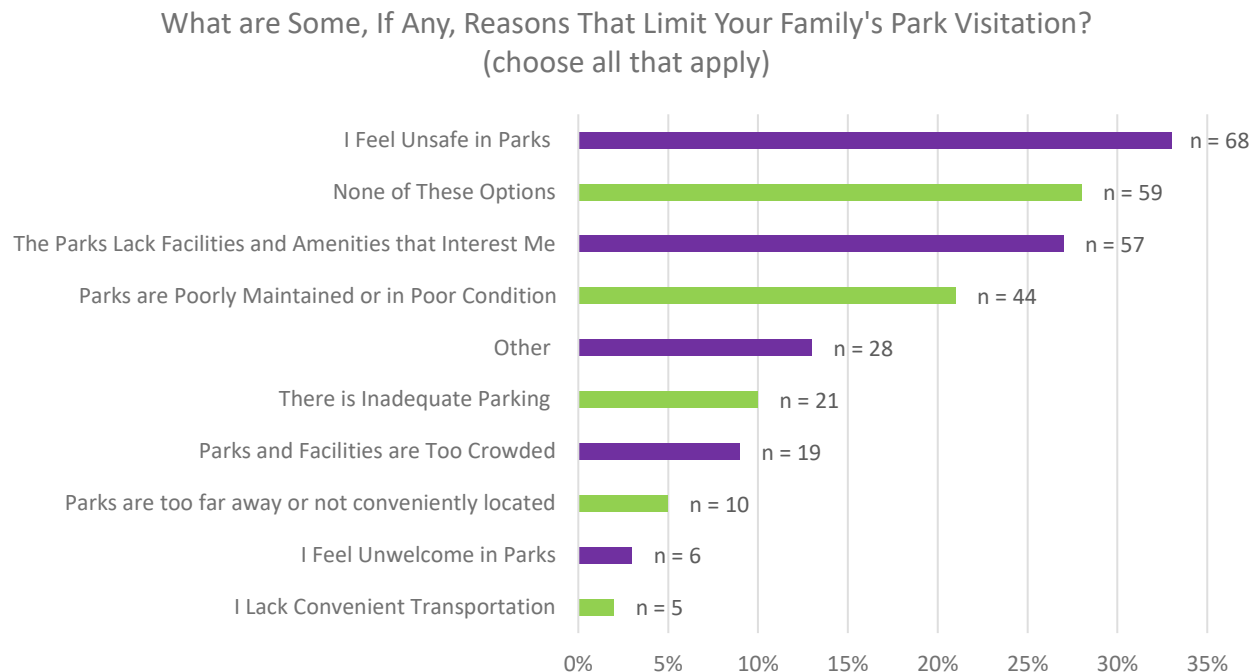


Respondents also shared reasons that limit their family's ability to visit Paramount Parks. Some key takeaways included:

- While a portion of respondents said there are no barriers to access, many shared they feel unsafe at parks.
- Many responded that Paramount parks lack interesting activities that would encourage participation.

These responses suggest the need to address the issues of safety brought up by participants and the need to expand programming and activities offered at Paramount Parks.

FIGURE C-16. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING LIMITATIONS TO VISITING PARAMOUNT PARKS

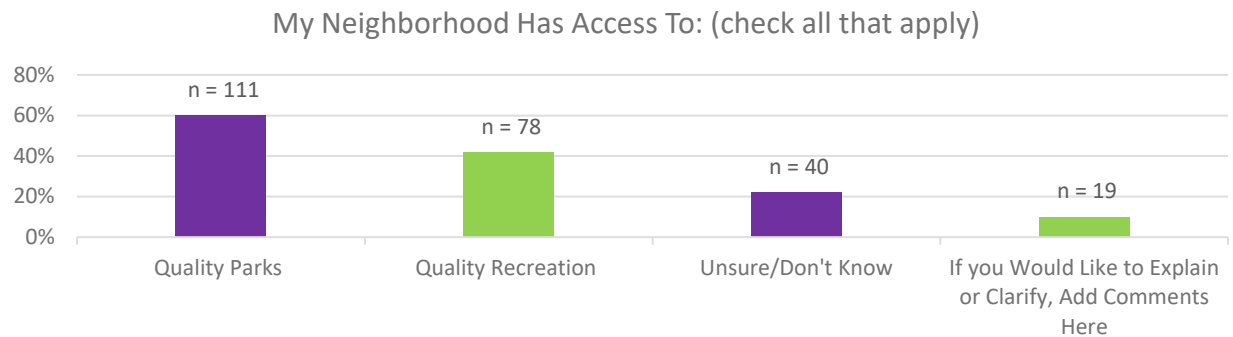


Responses from this question confirm that safety is a top concern for Paramount residents and visitors. Some responded they are discouraged from attending Paramount parks due to a perceived lack of safety. Transportation also limits Paramount residents and visitors' ability to visit city parks.

Survey participants also shared their thoughts on what their neighborhood had access to in terms of parks and recreation. Some takeaways included:

- Overall participants believe they have access to quality parks.
- Similarly, many participants responded they have access to quality recreation.
- (22%) of responses indicated unawareness about their level of access.

FIGURE C-17. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING PERCEPTIONS OF ACCESS



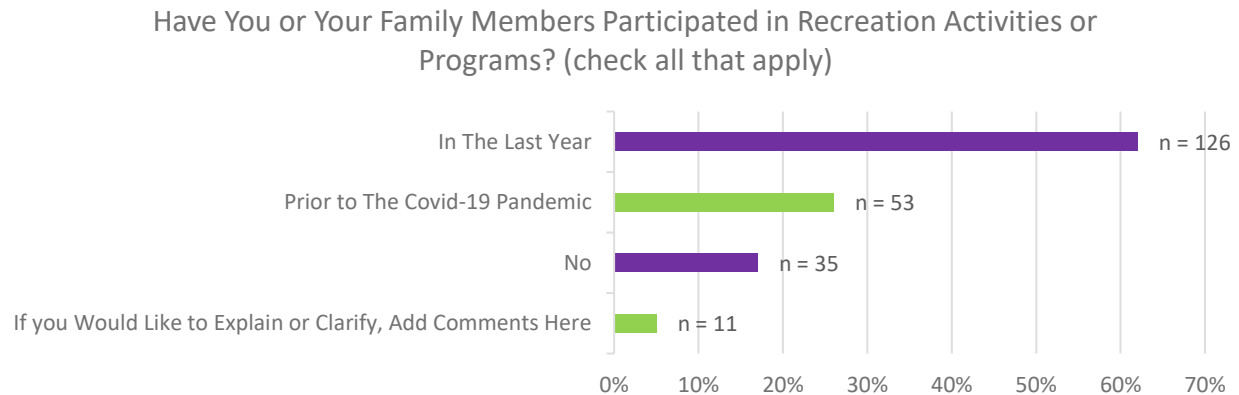
Programming and Sports:

Programming and sports offered by Paramount are very valuable to respondents. Many respondents mentioned that within the last year they had participated in programming activities offered by the city. Some Respondents said that the COVID-19 pandemic resulted participation drop in programming and sports facilities, but the survey suggests that participation is increasing again. There is especially an interest in programming and sports for children, intergenerational programming, and for the city to invest in sports courts and fields that allow for casual play.

Survey participants were asked about their participation in recreation activities or programs to better understand participation in programs offered by the City of Paramount. A detailed list of responses will be provided in the appendices, though some key themes from the responses are summarized below:

- Many of the city's major programs and activities are seeing regular participation from residents. These include the PHIT Program, Swimming Courses, major events, and basketball.
- Limited hours of activity in spaces such as the pool have caused residents to lose interest in participating in events. Some residents do not attend events or programs because the activity they are looking for is missing.
- The COVID-19 pandemic severely limited residents and visitors' ability to participate in programmed activities. As the effects of the pandemic wean, there is a surge in interest for Paramount programs. Paramount should expand program options and refine existing programming opportunities offered.

FIGURE C-18. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING PARTICIPATION IN RECREATION ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS

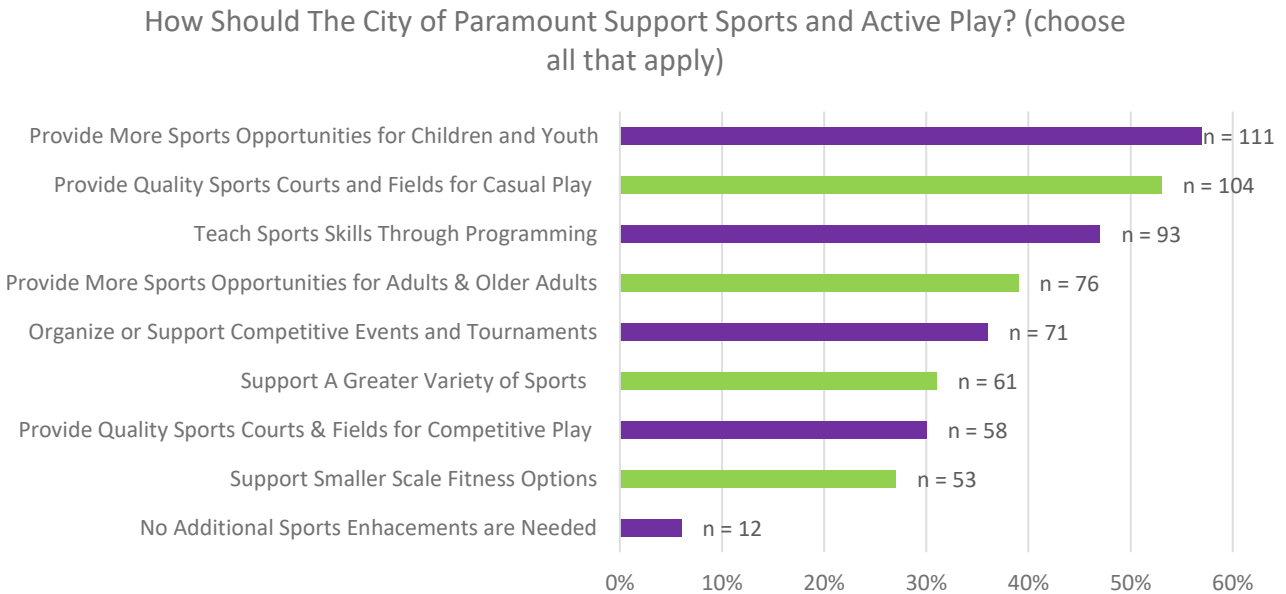


The survey also asked participants how the city should support sports and active play. (57%) of responses indicate that the city should provide more sports opportunities for children and youth. This was followed by (53%) of responses showing that the city should provide more sports courts and fields for casual play and recreation. (47%) indicated that programming that teaches sports skills is necessary. (39%) of responses showed that more sports programming for adults and seniors is necessary. (36%) of responses shared that the City should provide more competitive play by leagues and clubs, while (30%) said that more fields and courts need to be provided for competitive play. (27%) said that the City should support more small-scale fitness options, such as outdoor fitness equipment. (6%) said that no additional sports enhancements are necessary.

The survey also asked participants how the city should support sports and active play. Takeaways from the responses include the following:

- Paramount should provide more organized sport opportunities for children and youth.
- Spaces to casually play sports should be created and retained.
- Adult organized sports opportunities should also be included in the list of programs offered by the City of Paramount.

FIGURE C-19. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING DESIRE FOR SPORTS AND ACTIVE PLAY



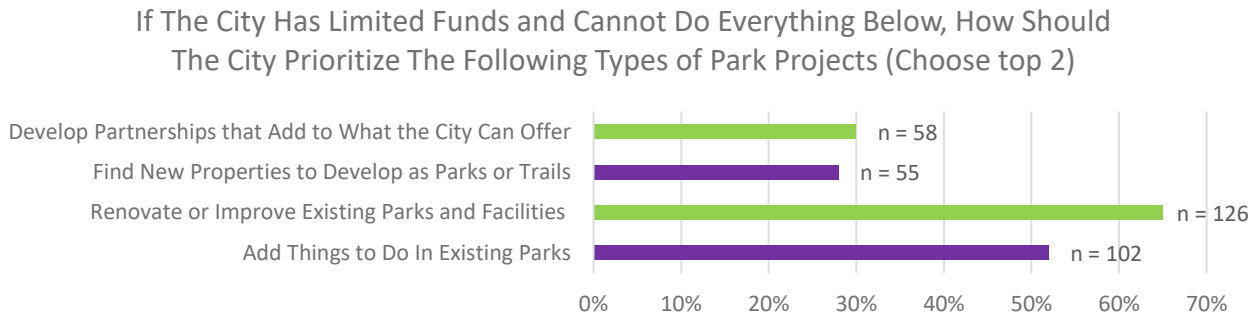
Prioritization of Projects/Improvements:

Survey participants treasure existing parks. Respondents expressed interest in renovating existing parks in Paramount, and for the city to provide more programming and activities. Surprisingly, the survey results demonstrate a low interest among respondents in the city to acquire land and convert the lots into parks. Respondents expressed strong interest in the city prioritizing the maintenance of existing parks, and the inclusion of active recreation opportunities to improve health and fitness.

To understand resident priorities in terms of Park and Recreation, the survey asked participants to prioritize the types of park and recreation projects most important to them by choosing 2 of 4 options. Renovating and improving existing parks and facilities received the highest score (65%), followed by “Add things to do” (52%).

- Paramount residents and visitors appreciate existing Paramount Parks. The city should prioritize renovation and improvement of existing park features.
- Many respondents shared that amenities and activities are missing in Paramount Parks, providing a glimpse into the features park visitors search for. The Parks and Recreation Master Plan will provide an expanded list of priority projects based on resident feedback and analysis.

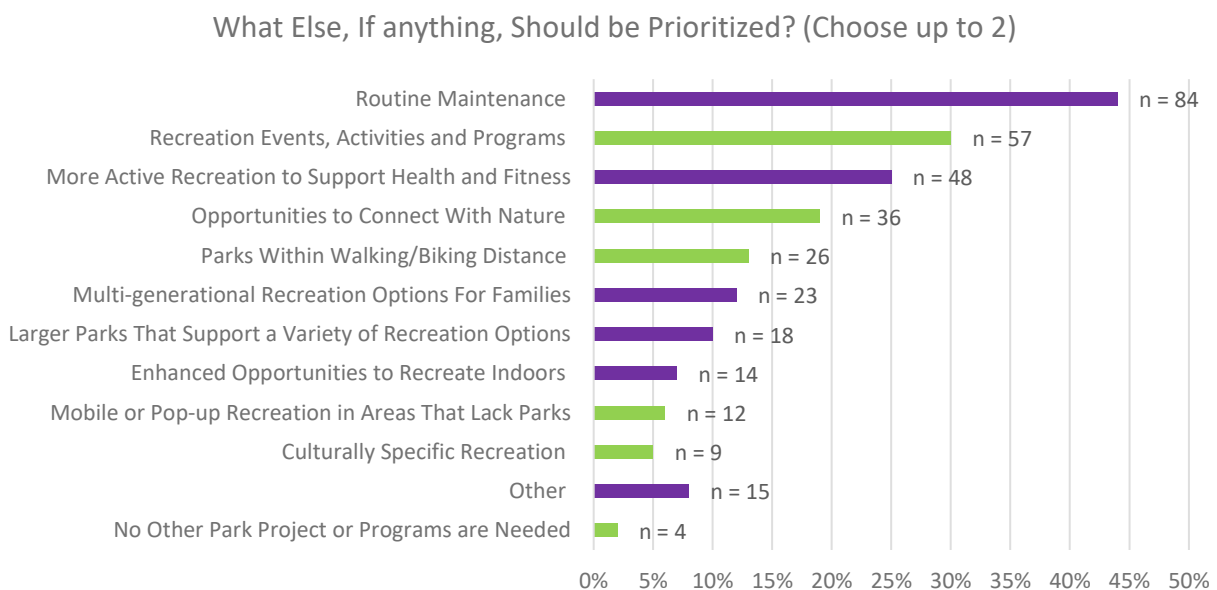
FIGURE C-20. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING PRIORITIZATION OF PARK PROJECTS



Following the question above, participants were asked “what else, if anything, should be prioritized?” Some takeaways include:

- Overall respondents expressed an appreciation for Paramount Parks, along with the level of maintenance provided. Respondents are looking to the city to continue the high standard of maintenance provided to existing parks.
- Respondents appreciate the event and activities offered by the city. Paramount should retain and enhance existing events programming while offering new and exciting ones as well.
- Health and fitness are important to residents. Paramount should prioritize retaining existing health and fitness events and programming, while also finding new and existing ones to offer.

FIGURE C-21. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING PRIORITIZATION OF OTHER PROJECTS

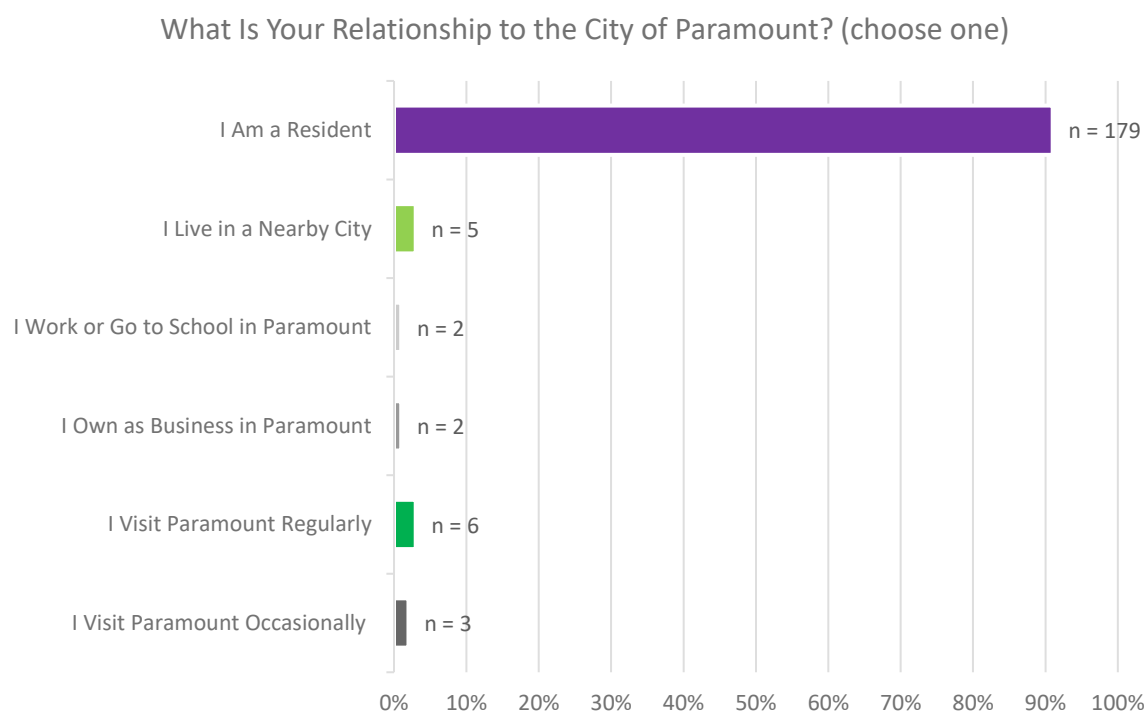


Demographics:

Overall, survey participants overwhelmingly responded that they live in Paramount, particularly the Northwestern and Southeastern parts of Paramount. Most respondents identify as Latino/Hispanic, and participants tended to be younger, in the 25-34 age category. 70% percent of respondents said they have children under 18 in their household. These findings suggest the need for features and activities geared toward children and younger adults.

Most respondents (91%) shared that they are Paramount residents, followed by (3%) of respondents who say they visit the city regularly and (3%) who said they live in a nearby city. A smaller percentage of respondents said they visit Paramount Occasionally (2%), while other mentioned they work or go to school in Paramount (1%) and that they own a business in Paramount (1%).

FIGURE C-22. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING RESPONDENTS' RELATIONSHIP TO THE CITY



The following figure illustrates where in Paramount survey respondents live. The map provided divided the city into quadrants. (36%) said they live in quadrant 1, followed by 24% in quadrant 3, (18%) in quadrant 4, (15%) in quadrant 2. (5%) of respondents said they do not live in the city, while (3%) preferred not to say.

FIGURE C-23. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING GEOGRAPHY OF RESPONDENTS’ RESIDENCES

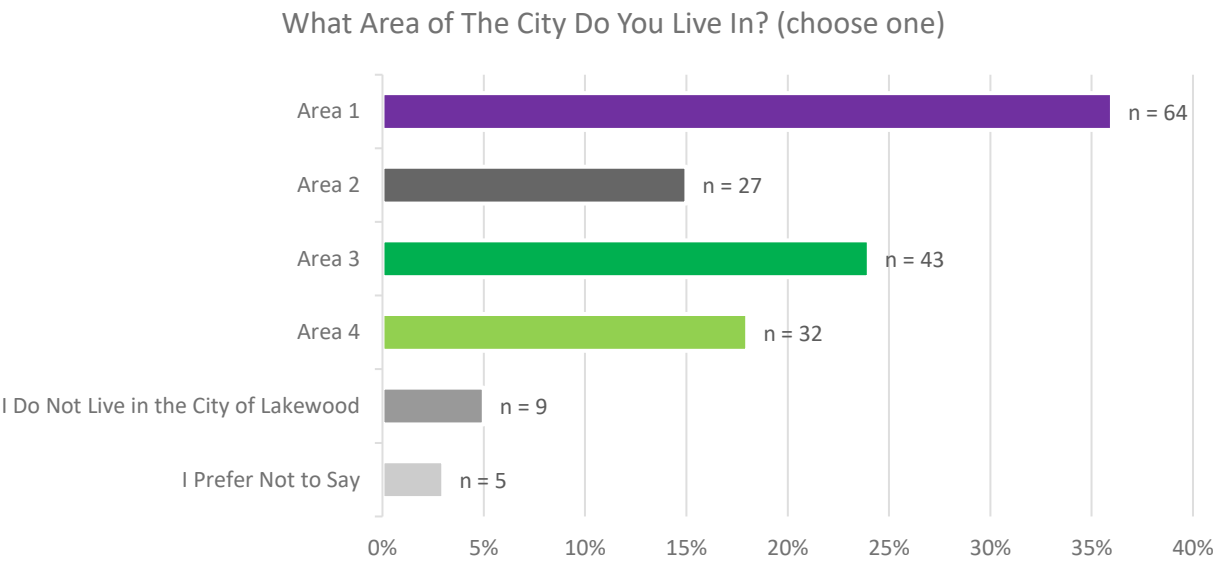
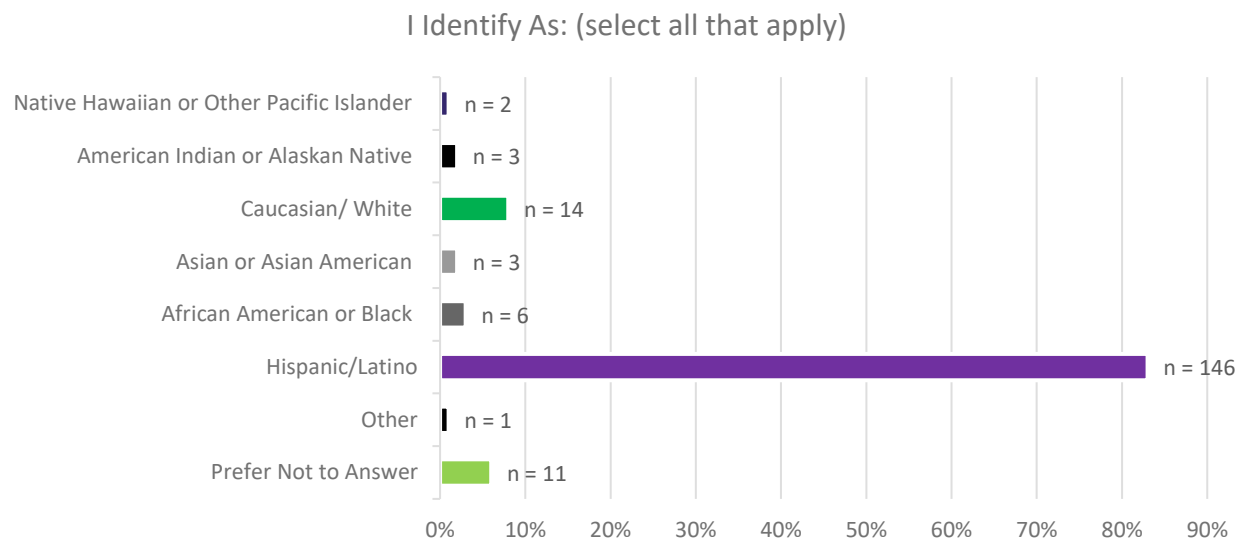


FIGURE C-24. SURVEY AREA MAP, FOR REFERENCE



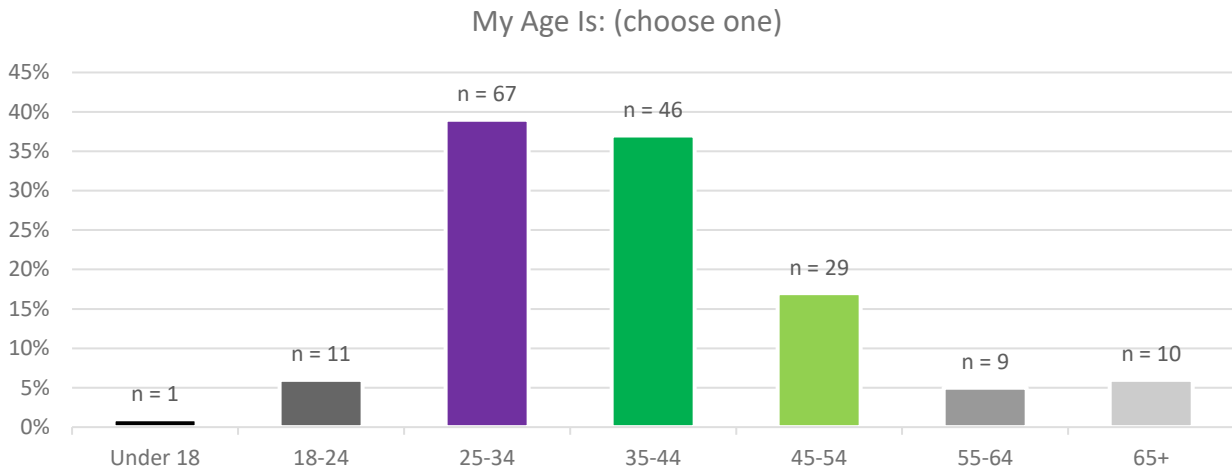
In terms of ethnic and racial demographics, survey participants who identified as Hispanic or Latino made up (83%) of the respondents, followed by Caucasian (8%), African American (3%), American Indian or Alaskan and Asian or Asian-American both made up (2%) of respondents, followed by Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander (1%). (6%) of respondents preferred not to answer. As a note, the category of Hispanic/Latino is an ethnic category that typically accompanies an additional racial category.

FIGURE C-25. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING ETHNICITY OF RESPONDENTS



In terms of age, (39%) of respondents are in the 25-34 range, followed by 35-44 (27%), (17%) 45-54. (5%) of respondents were 55-64, while (6%) were 65 and older. Youth ages 18-24 made up (6%) of respondents.

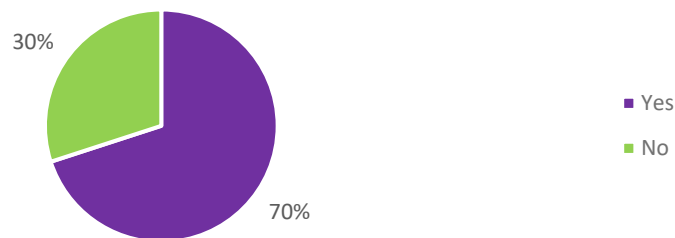
FIGURE C-26. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING AGE GROUP OF RESPONDENTS



Many respondents shared that they had children under the age of 18 in their household (70%).

FIGURE C-27. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING PRESENCE OF YOUTH IN THE HOUSEHOLD

Are There Any Children Under 18 Living in Your Household?



The survey asked from which source(s) respondents receive information about Paramount's parks, programs, and events to better understand how respondents receive recreation information. More than half (58%) said they receive information from Paramount's Instagram, followed by the city's newsletter (42%), Paramount Community Services Department (31%), and Paramount's Facebook (28%). (5%) said they receive information from City Council meetings (5%), followed by the City's Youtube channel (2%). (7%) said they receive information from other means, such as email; mail notification and City website; mail; word of mouth (neighbors, their kid's school, through friends).

FIGURE C-28. SURVEY RESPONSES INDICATING SOURCE OF INFORMATION

