

CITY OF **BELLFLOWER**



PARKS AND RECREATION **MASTER PLAN**

November 12, 2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A special thank you to all of the amazing Bellflower staff, stakeholders, and especially the Bellflower community for attending many events, workshops, and meetings throughout this planning process.



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INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The City of Bellflower recognizes the importance of an accessible, diverse, and well-maintained park and recreation system. They understand that parks and recreation are an essential component for creating healthy communities, promoting physical health, and bringing people together to build positive memories, experiences, and relationships. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan (Plan) will serve as a comprehensive guide to help staff and elected officials make informed decisions about the development, investment, and management of parks and recreation facilities over the next decade.

1.2 WHAT IS A PARKS MASTER PLAN?

This Plan is the culmination of a year-long planning process that consisted of park field visits; data analyses; community workshops; neighborhood and stakeholder meetings; a review of current industry trends and best practices; and more. An extensive analysis of the current state of Bellflower's park and recreation system was performed to determine opportunities for improvement, expansion, and new development. Comprehensive and inclusive community engagement were conducted to collect input from a diverse range of community members and stakeholders. The findings from community feedback were used alongside the results of the existing conditions analysis to develop recommendations that reflect the needs and desires of community members. The Plan's recommendations are meant to help City staff, elected officials, and other stakeholders make informed decisions to enhance and maintain parks, facilities, programs, and special events over the next decade.



1.2.1 PLAN OVERVIEW

- 1 INVENTORY OF CITY-OWNED PARKS:**
A thorough physical assessment of the quantity and condition of park facilities and amenities.
- 2 PARK “LEVEL OF SERVICE” ANALYSIS:**
An analysis of geographic and demographic data to better understand gaps and underserved populations throughout the city.
- 3 ASSESSMENT OF RECREATION PROGRAMMING AND STAFF RESOURCES:**
A review of recreation and staffing data from the last five years to assess future opportunities.
- 4 COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:**
A comprehensive community and stakeholder outreach program comprised of meetings, workshops, surveys, online tools, and more.

- 5 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMMING:**
Recommendations based on feedback collected from data analyses, residents, stakeholders, staff, and elected officials.
- 6 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES:**
A set of implementable short, mid, and long-term projects that will inform the City’s annual Capital Improvement Program over the next ten years.
- 7 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUNDING:**
A table of federal, state, and regional funding sources for parks and recreation projects and programming.



1.2.2 PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Parks & Recreation Department of Bellflower oversees the maintenance and management of parks, recreational facilities, programs, and special events throughout the city. Offering a diverse array of recreational and educational opportunities, the Department caters to community members of all ages. A primary focus of the department is planning and executing special events for the City throughout the year. It oversees all special events for the City, activating public spaces with engaging events, including movie nights, Summer Street-fest, themed holiday celebrations, and more. The department also oversees the Information Technology Division for the entire City, as well as transportation services like the local Dial-A-Ride and fixed route transportation services. The Department is also focused on future planning, ensuring that parks and recreation in Bellflower evolve to meet community needs. This Plan will serve as a vital roadmap for the Department to effectively manage, maintain, enhance, and expand Bellflower's parks and recreation system for years to come.



1.3 RELEVANT PLANS AND POLICIES

Several existing City-adopted planning documents and programs govern the present and future of parks and recreation in Bellflower. A review of these documents was conducted to ensure the Plan is consistent and helps to advance City policies and programs in parks and recreation.

1.3.1 CITY OF BELLFLOWER GENERAL PLAN (1994)

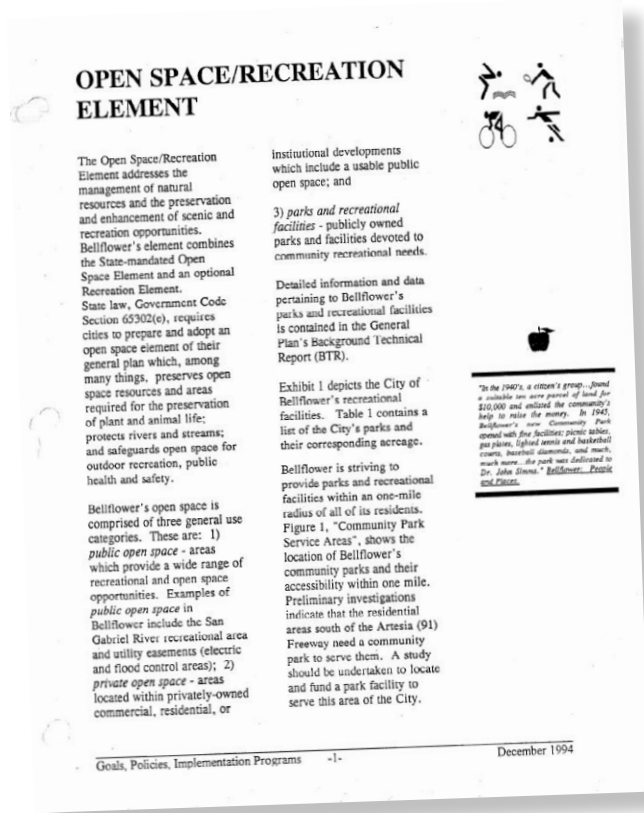
The City of Bellflower's General Plan (1994) is a long-range planning document created to guide the growth, development, and management of Bellflower from 1995 through 2010. Although the document is outdated, there are great takeaways and relevant information related to parks and recreation that still apply today. The General Plan, adopted in 1994, consists of seven elements: Land Use, Circulation, Housing, Conservation, Open Space/Recreation, Noise, and Safety. Each element addresses respective issue areas through a series of City-adopted goals, policies, and implementation programs. The Safety Element was updated in 2017 and the Housing Element was updated in 2022. However, the remaining elements have surpassed their intended planning time horizon and are due for an update.

CITY OF BELLFLOWER GENERAL PLAN: OPEN SPACE/RECREATION ELEMENT (1994)

While all elements were reviewed during the planning process, the Open Space/Recreation Element is most relevant to this Plan. The Open Space/Recreation Element of the General Plan (1994) guides the management of natural resources and the preservation and enhancement of scenic and recreation opportunities in Bellflower. The Element establishes five goals to address citywide open space and recreation issues:

1. Improve public safety at City parks and recreational facilities.
2. Utilize effective management strategies to ensure the City's parks and recreation programs are managed efficiently.
3. Maintain and expand the City's existing open spaces, parks, and recreational facilities.
4. Acquire and improve more parkland in the southern area of the city.
5. Provide recreation programs and services that meet the needs of Bellflower's diverse population.

Although the element is 30 years old, many of the goals and the supporting policies and programs, have been implemented by the City. Relevant components of the Open Space/Recreation Element have been updated, modified, and integrated into this Plan, where applicable.



1.3.2 LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT (2016)

In 2016, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation released the Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment, documenting existing parks and recreation facilities in Los Angeles County, including Bellflower's park system. Data collected included acreage available for parks, areas where park needs are the highest, and study area profiles to aid local officials in planning future parks.

The assessment of Bellflower categorized the city as having a "Very High" park need compared to other cities in Los Angeles County. The assessment also identified four priority projects for Bellflower at an estimated cost of \$169 million;

1. Construct a new sports complex with multi-purpose grass fields.
2. Construct a new park with artificial turf soccer fields.
3. Construct a new public Senior Center.
4. Replace the current activity building at Ruth R. Caruthers Park with a new Community/Recreation Center.

1.3.3 THE DOWNTOWN BELLFLOWER TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT SPECIFIC PLAN (2019)

The Downtown Bellflower Transit Oriented Development Specific Plan was created to facilitate transit-oriented development in the downtown area along the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (Metrolink) West Santa Ana Branch Transit Corridor. The specific plan established a vision and guide to leverage the benefits of the light-rail line, such as attracting new development, encouraging multimodal transportation, improving access to employment centers, and revitalizing Downtown Bellflower. Three parks currently exist within the specific plan boundary: Library Garden, Pirate Park, and John S. Simms Park. Additionally, the plan aims to encourage unique design features into the specific plan area, including linear parks, courtyards, and other outdoor open spaces.

1.3.4 BELLFLOWER-PARAMOUNT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN (2019)

The Bellflower-Paramount Active Transportation Plan (2019) was a joint planning effort between the cities of Bellflower and Paramount. The plan was developed to support both cities in the development of active transportation infrastructure and programs to enable safe and enjoyable multi-modal transportation. The plan recommended several infrastructure projects to increase bicycle and pedestrian facilities on key corridors, with a focus on providing safe connections to key community destinations, such as parks and schools.

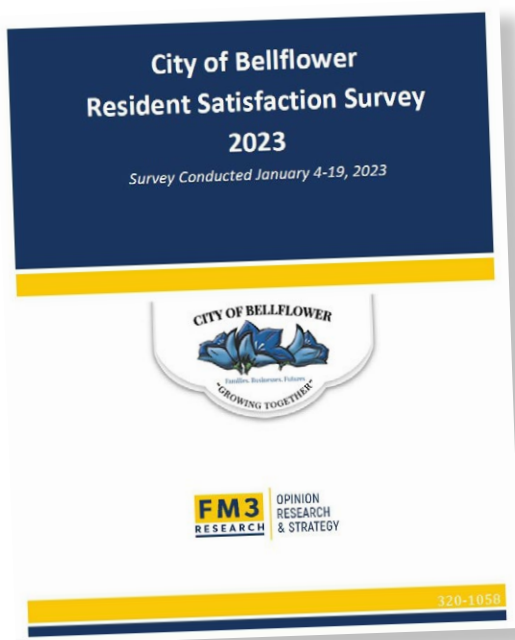


1.3.5 CITY OF BELLFLOWER CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (2012)

The City of Bellflower Climate Action Plan (2012) was developed to guide community-wide energy and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions and to facilitate sustainable growth and development. Reduction strategies were organized into four categories: (1) Buildings, (2) Urban Form and Mobility, (3) Government Operations, and (4) Preparing for Climate Change. Many strategies are relevant to Bellflower's parks and recreation facilities, such as using recycled water for landscaping, installing low-flow water fixtures, providing electric vehicle charging stations at City-owned parking lots, increasing open space, and planting trees. These strategies, among others, are integrated into the Plan's recommendations to advance sustainability and resilience at Bellflower parks and recreation facilities.

1.3.6 CITY OF BELLFLOWER RESIDENT SATISFACTION SURVEY REPORT (2023)

The City of Bellflower completed a resident satisfaction survey in 2023 to gather information about resident opinions and attitudes toward issues and services affecting residents. Some common issues reflected in this survey include issues regarding homelessness, public safety, a rise in the cost of living and lack of affordable housing, and the revitalization of outdated city facilities and public areas.





84°

Average summer
high temperature



68°

Average winter
high temperature

79,070

RESIDENTS IN 2022

35.5

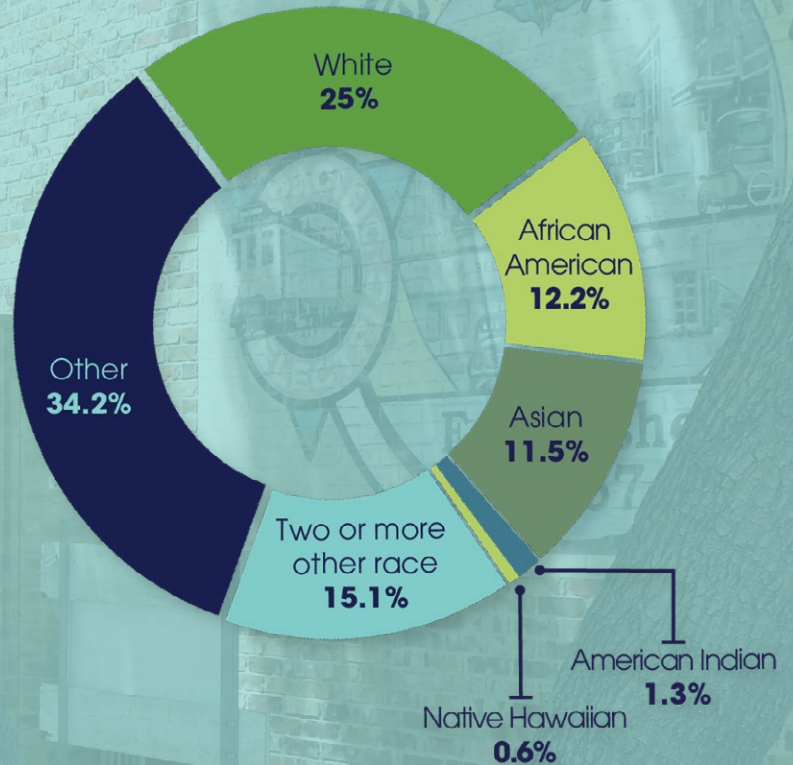
MEDIAN AGE

\$75,379

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

25,070

HOUSING UNITS



13 Parks

3 Indoor Community Facilities

1 Multi-use Trail

1.4 BELLFLOWER AT A GLANCE

Gaining a clear understanding of the existing and projected demographic composition of the city is an important component of the planning process. Bellflower's population data can be paired with emerging parks and recreation trends to enable community-specific decision-making and resource allocation strategies for the provision of public parks, recreation amenities, and open spaces. Various datasets were analyzed and summarized to identify current demographic statistics and trends that can impact the planning of public parks and recreation services in Bellflower.

1.4.1 COMMUNITY PROFILE

This demographic profile was completed using the most current data available from the 2022 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. Bellflower has a total population of 79,070 residents and 25,070 housing units within its 6-square-mile boundary.

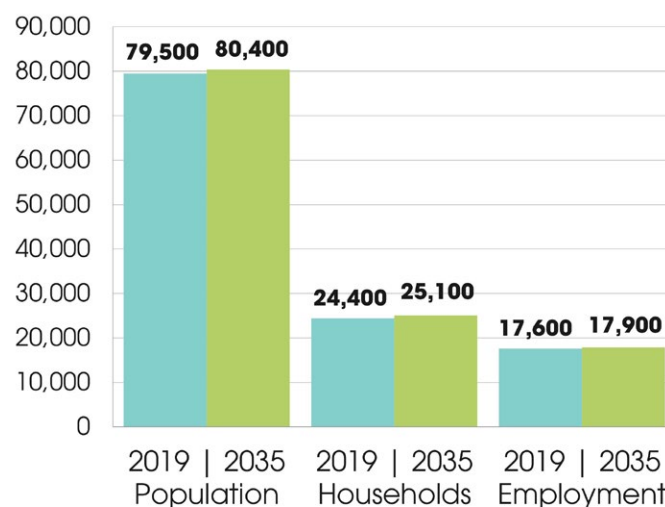
Key demographics and comparisons with Los Angeles County and California statistics include:

- » **Race & Ethnicity:** The racial and ethnic makeup in Bellflower is 25 percent white, 12.2 percent Black, 11.5 percent Asian, 1.3 percent American Indian, 0.6 percent Native Hawaiian, 15.1 percent two or more races, and 34.2 percent are other race. Approximately 60.1 percent of the population is Hispanic or Latino.
- » **Age:** The median age of Bellflower residents is 35.5, which is slightly lower than the median age of Los Angeles County (37.4) and California (37.3).
 - » 23.6 percent of the population is under the age of 18, which is slightly higher than the county (21.2 percent) and the state (22.3 percent).
 - » 12.2 percent of the population is over the age of 65, which is slightly lower than the county (14.2 percent) and the state (12.9 percent).
- » **Sex:** Similar to Los Angeles County and California, the population of Bellflower is fairly evenly split between the sexes with 48.4 percent of the population identifying as male and 51.6 percent identifying as female.
- » **Income & Poverty:** The median household income in Bellflower (\$75,379) is lower than the median of \$83,411 for Los Angeles County and \$91,905 for California. The reported percentage of people in poverty is 14.2 percent.

POPULATION GROWTH TRENDS

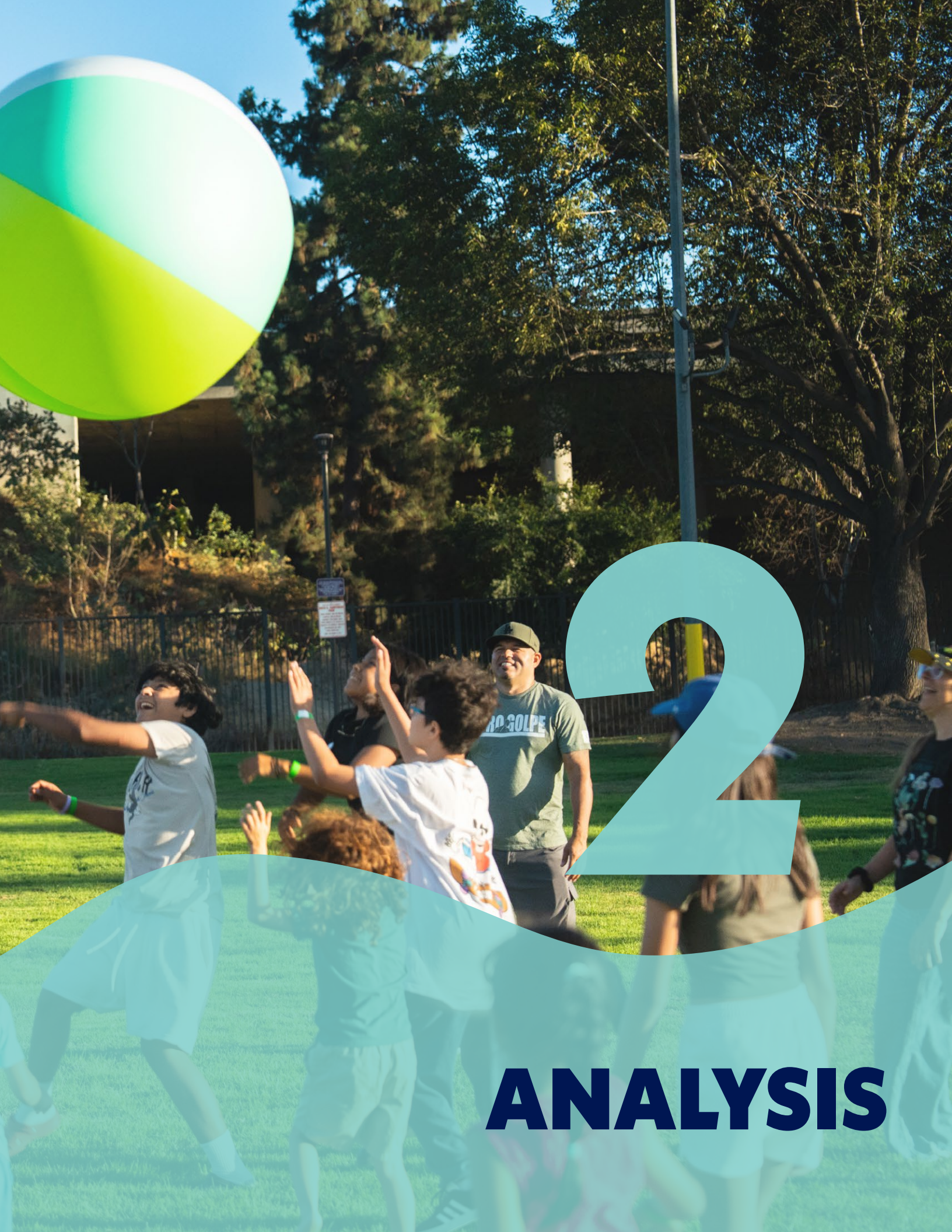
Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) projects that the population of Bellflower will increase by 1.1 percent to a total of 80,400 residents by the year 2035. The number of households is projected to increase by 2.8 percent to 25,100 and the total employment will increase by 1.7 percent to a total of 17,900 by the year 2035. The projected growth estimates are displayed in Figure 1-1. The data used in this analysis is based on 2019 population data.

FIGURE 1-1: Bellflower Population Growth



Data source: SCAG





ANALYSIS

2.1 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The Plan classifies the City's parks into four categories: Mini/Pocket Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, and Special Use Parks, as shown in Table 2-1. Each park type provides standard and unique recreation opportunities. The park types were analyzed both independently and collectively to determine existing conditions.



Pirate Park - Mini/Pocket Park



Constitution Park - Neighborhood Park



Caruthers Park - Community Park



Flora Vista Dog Park - Special Use Space

2.1.1 MINI/POCKET PARKS AND PLAZAS

Mini/Pocket Parks are generally smaller parks that provide passive recreation opportunities and access to nature. Although they are smaller in size and focus on passive recreation, they play an important role in providing outdoor access for neighborhoods. These parks are typically less than two acres and serve residents within a half-mile walk. Open grassy areas, picnic tables, walking paths, and playgrounds are typical park amenities.

2.1.2 NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood Parks are mid-sized parks that provide both passive and some active recreation opportunities. They are usually between two and eight acres in size and contain amenities like walking paths, playgrounds, picnic areas, and sometimes court sports. They are important for both providing neighborhoods within a half-mile walk with access to nature and some active recreation opportunities.

2.1.3 COMMUNITY PARKS

Community Parks serve the daily recreational needs of the local neighborhood they are located in as well as the community at large. They are generally between eight and 30 acres in size. They typically contain larger park facilities such as sports fields, swimming pools, and multiple-court sports. Community Parks also may contain indoor recreation facilities like community centers, senior centers, and recreation centers.

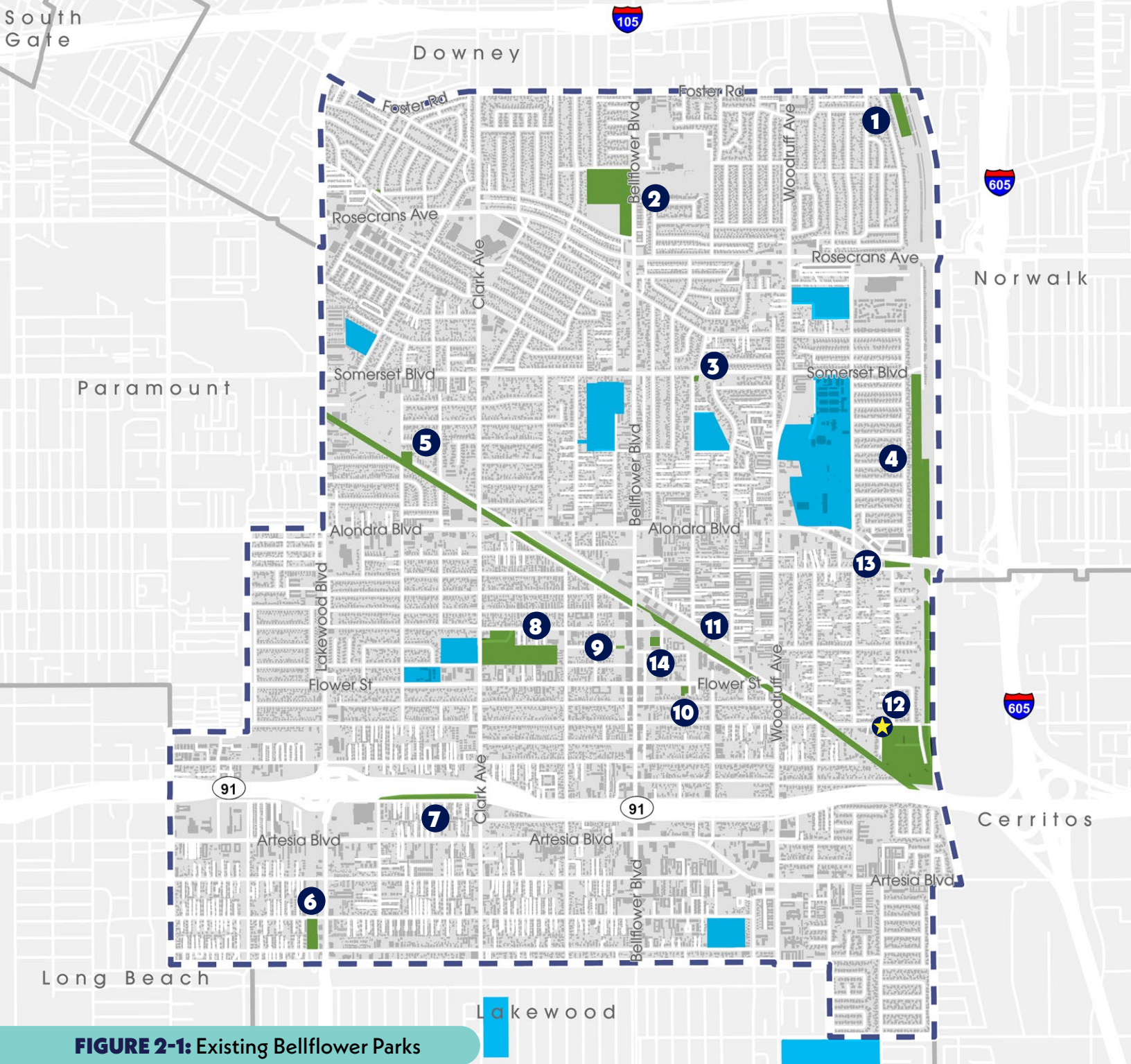
2.1.4 SPECIAL USE SPACES

Special-use spaces are park areas that provide unique and specific recreation opportunities such as indoor recreation buildings like senior centers or community centers, standalone community gardens, trail corridors, dog parks, and equestrian centers.

TABLE 2-1: Park Acreage by Type

PARK TYPE	ACRES	SIZE
Mini/Pocket Park/Plaza	2.5	Typically less than 2 acres
Neighborhood Park	8.30	Typically between 2 and 8 acres
Community Park	64.30	Typically greater than 8 acres
Special Use Facility	25.7	Varies
Total	100.80	





- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  Park | 1 H. Bryum Zinn Community Park and Trail | 9 Pirate Park |
|  School | 2 T. Mayne Thompson Park and Aquatic Center | 10 Library Gardens |
|  City Boundary | 3 Chevron Pocket Park | 11 Bellflower Bike Trail & Plaza |
| | 4 Riverview Park | 12 Caruthers Park, Caruthers Skate Park, & Caruthers Park North |
| | 5 Flora Vista Dog Park |  Carpenter House Museum |
| | 6 Constitution Park | 13 Butterfly Garden Park |
| | 7 Palm Park | 14 Town Center Plaza |
| | 8 John S. Simms Park | |

0 0.5 1 Mile

2.2 A QUICK LOOK AT BELLFLOWER'S PARKS

14

Parks



2

Recreation
Centers



1

Community
Center



3

Picnic Areas



4

Playgrounds



3

Tot Lots



1

Dog Park



5

Walking
Paths



5

Basketball
Courts



2

Volleyball
Courts



2

Tennis
Courts



2

Pickleball
Courts



1

Multi-purpose
Field



7

Diamond
fields



1

Splashpad



2

Swimming
Pools



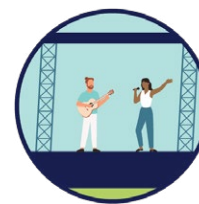
1

Equestrian
Trail



3

Restroom
Facilities



1

Outdoor Am-
phitheater



5

Outdoor
Fitness Areas



1

Skate Park

100.8

Park Acres

2.2.1 QUALITATIVE AMENITY ASSESSMENT

A qualitative assessment of existing park amenities was conducted using data collected by the planning team during field surveys of each park. Each amenity falls into one of four categories: Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor.

The condition of each amenity at each park was averaged to determine the overall condition of the park, as shown in Table 2-2. Table 2-2 is a useful tool to determine which parks will require additional resource allocation to replace amenities in the future. Bellflower's parks have amenities that are in good overall condition, indicating that most parks are functioning

as intended and are providing a quality park experience for park users. This does not mean that all of the park's amenities are in good condition, there are several instances where parks had a mix of fair, good, and excellent conditions, leading to an overall grade of good. This table also identifies the overall amenity condition for specific amenity types. For example, park restrooms received an overall rating of fair, meaning the City may want to look at replacing each restroom within the next few years. Other amenities with "Fair" scores should be monitored and replaced as needed. The findings of this qualitative assessment of park amenities were used alongside other metrics to develop into the "Park Grades" displayed in the following section.

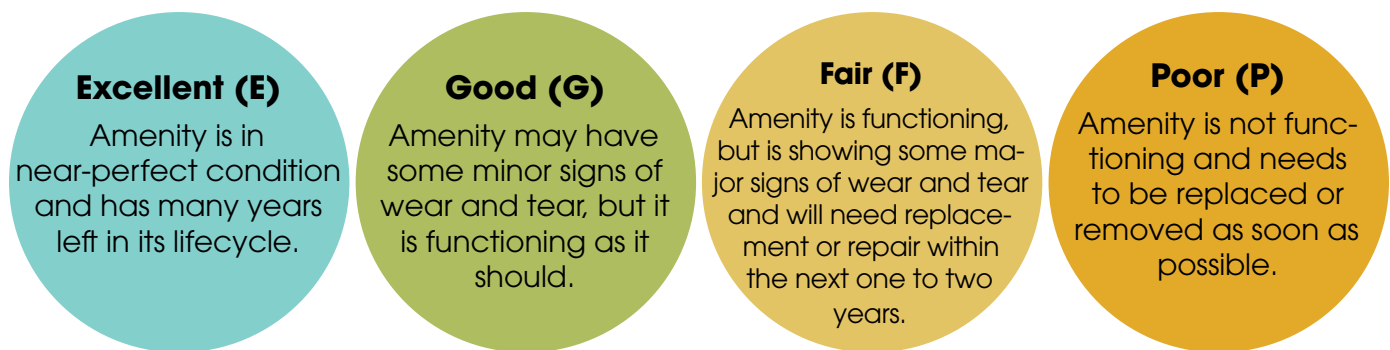


TABLE 2-2: Amenity Condition Assessment

Qualitative Analysis of Existing Park Amenities	Picnic Areas	Walking Path	Playgrounds	Splashpad	Basketball Court	Volleyball Court	Tennis Court	Ballfields	Skate Park	Dog Park	Equestrian Trail	Outdoor Fitness	Restrooms	Swimming Pool	Outdoor Amphitheater	Park Average
H. Bryum Zinn Park		G										F				Good
Thompson Park	G		E		G			G					F	F		Good
Flora Vista Dog Park										G						Good
Constitution Park		G														Good
Palm Park	F		E													Good
John S. Simms Park	F	G	G		E			G				G	F			Good
Pirate Park			G													Good
Caruthers Park			G	G	G	G	G	E	F		F	E	F			Good
Town Center Plaza															G	Good
Overall Amenity Conditions	F	G	G	G	G	G	G	G	F	G	F	G	F	F	F	



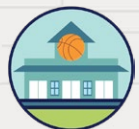
2.3 PARK PROFILES

Each park in Bellflower was visited during the site inventory process. Figure 2-2 below shows the parks visited in the site visit and parks were inventoried for existing amenities and condition of amenities.

FIGURE 2-2: Bellflower Parks Site Visits



Site Amenities inventory of items:



Recreation Center



Community Center



Group Picnic Area



Playground (ages 6-12)



Tot Lot (ages 2-5)



Basketball Court



Volleyball Court



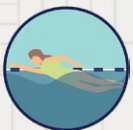
Tennis Court



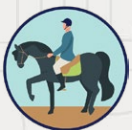
Ballfield



Splashpad



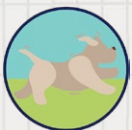
Swimming Pool



Equestrian Trail



Skatepark



Dog Park



Walking Path



Outdoor Fitness



Soccer Field



Outdoor Amphitheater

2.3.1 PARK GRADING RUBRIC

Each park in Bellflower was evaluated based on five different categories and received a grade for each category. This grading system allowed the project team to assign an overall grade to each park based on the established metrics. Park grades can be used by the City to determine priority parks to direct resources when making decisions about future park improvements to existing parks. These park grades were also utilized for recommendations.

A

Excellent

Satisfies 4 or all 5 of the metrics for the category

B

Satisfactory

Satisfies 3 of the metrics for the category

C

Needs Improvement

Satisfies 2 of the metrics for the category

D

Unsatisfactory

Satisfies 1 or 0 of the metric for the category

Amenities

Based on the condition of the amenity observed during park visits.

A: Park amenities are in excellent condition overall

B: Park amenities are in good condition overall

C: Amenities are in fair condition overall

D: Amenities are in poor condition overall

Connectivity

Metrics:

- ☐ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☐ ADA ramps
- ☐ Nearby transit stop
- ☐ Full walking loop/circulation

Activation

Metrics:

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☐ Park is frequently-used by the community
- ☐ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☐ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ At least one community event takes place at the park throughout the year

Safety and Comfort

Metrics:

- ☐ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☐ Sense of place
- ☐ Controlled access (has a clear access and egress points)
- ☐ Territorial Reinforcement (Uses design elements to distinguish different areas of the park)

Park Identity

Metrics:

- ☐ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☐ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.2

H. BYRUM ZINN PARK

Park Size: 3.1 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood Park



AMENITIES:



Walking Path



Outdoor
Fitness



Description: H. Byrum Zinn Park, also referred to as Zinn Park, is a neighborhood park located on the north east corner of the City. The park contains a passive walking trail around the perimeter of the park and several outdoor fitness stations along the trail. The park is located underneath powerlines which limits the types of amenities allowed for public use.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

B

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☐ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

C

Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☐ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

C

Safety & Comfort

- ☐ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☐ Sense of place
- ☒ Controlled access
- ☒ Territorial reinforcement

C

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☒ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.3

T. MAYNE THOMPSON PARK & BELLFLOWER AQUATIC CENTER

Park Size: 12.87 acres

Park Type: Community Park



AMENITIES:



Recreation
Center



Swimming
Pool



Ballfield



Group
Picnic Area



Playground
(ages 6-12)



Tot Lot
(ages 2-5)



Basketball
Court



Description: T. Mayne Thompson Park, also referred to as Thompson Park is located in the central-north area of Bellflower. The park contains a playground that was renovated in 2023, picnic areas, two softball fields, a baseball field, basketball half-courts, and restrooms. The indoor facility at Thompson Park contains a gymnasium with indoor pickleball, and a multipurpose room for recreational programming. The Bellflower Aquatic Center is also located at this Park. The Aquatic Center contains both indoor and outdoor pool facilities and a weight room.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

B

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☐ Full walking loop/circulation

A

Recreational Programming

- ☒ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☒ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

B

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☒ Sense of place
- ☐ Controlled access
- ☒ Territorial reinforcement

B

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☒ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☒ Diversity of park amenities
- ☐ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.4

CHEVRON POCKET PARK

Park Size: 0.18 acres

Park Type: Mini/Pocket Park



AMENITIES:





Description: Chevron Pocket Park is located on the corner of Somerset Boulevard and Eucalyptus Avenue. It is a very small park with no amenities. This park is located on leased land with a utility pipeline underneath. Recommendations of how to activate this space will be included in chapter 4 of this report.

REPORT CARD

NA Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

D Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☐ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☐ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☐ Full walking loop/circulation

D Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☐ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☐ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☐ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

D Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☐ Sense of place
- ☐ Controlled access
- ☐ Territorial reinforcement

D Park Identity

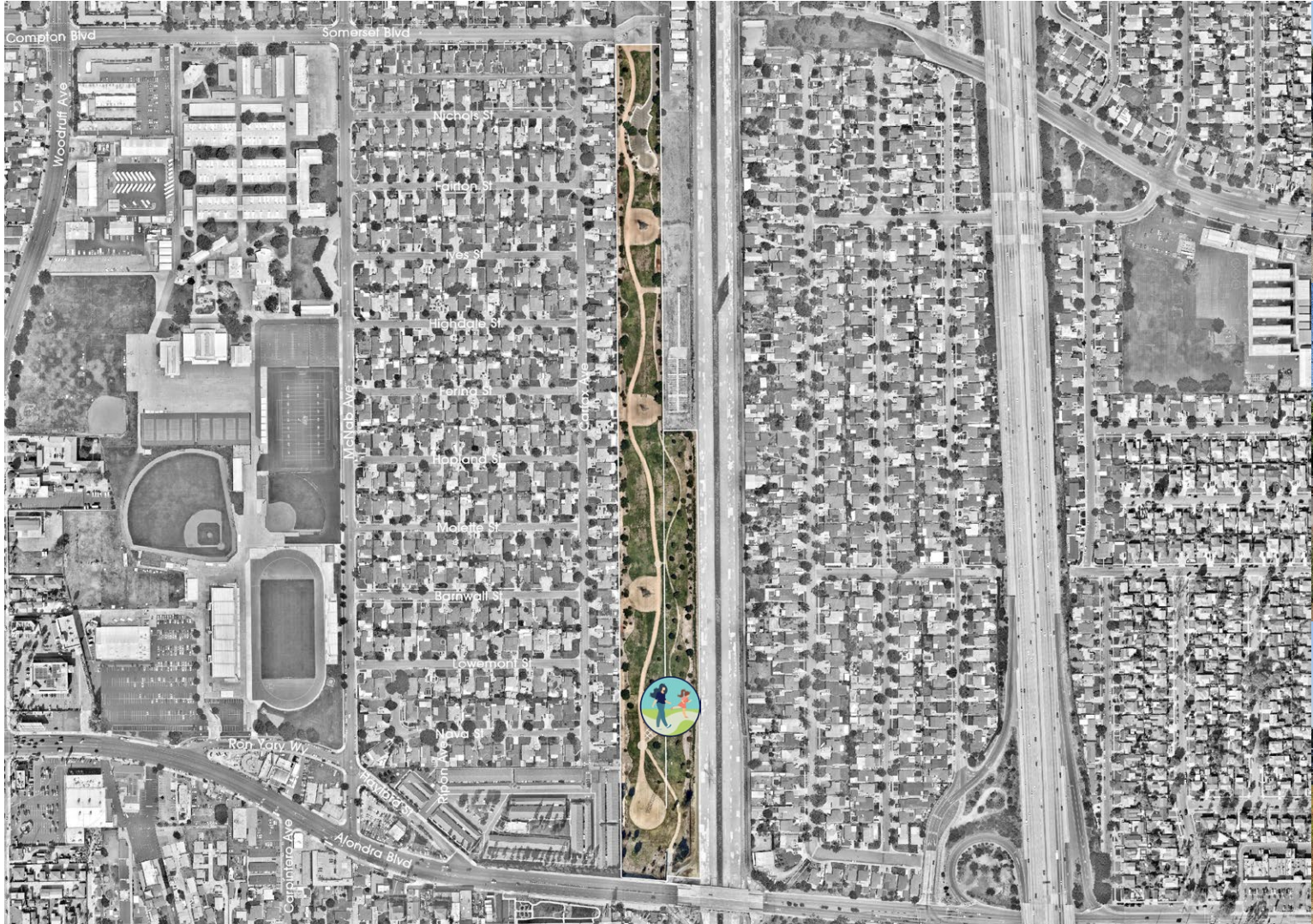
- ☒ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☐ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.5

RIVERVIEW PARK

Park Size: 16.94 acres

Park Type: Community Park



AMENITIES:



Walking Path



Description: Riverview Park is located on the east side of the City adjacent to the San Gabriel River. This park contains a long walking loop along the perimeter of the park and a Class 1 multi-use path. The park is located underneath powerlines which limits the types of amenities allowed for public use.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

A

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☒ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

B

Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

C

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☐ Sense of place
- ☒ Controlled access
- ☐ Territorial reinforcement

D

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☐ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.6

FLORA VISTA DOG PARK

Park Size: 0.72 acres

Park Type: Mini/pocket Park



AMENITIES:



Dog Park



Description: The Flora Vista Dog Park is located in the north west area of the City, adjacent to the Bellflower Bike Trail. This dog park offers two separate fenced areas; one for small dogs and one for larger dogs. The park contains benches, seating, and ADA accessible parking.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

B

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☐ Multiple access points
- ☒ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☐ Nearby transit stop
- ☐ Full walking loop/circulation

B

Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

B

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☒ Sense of place
- ☒ Controlled access
- ☐ Territorial reinforcement

B

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☒ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☐ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.7

CONSTITUTION PARK

Park Size: 2.15 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood Park



AMENITIES:



Walking Path



Description: Constitution Park is a neighborhood park located in the south area of the City. Currently, the only existing amenity is a small walking path, but the City plans to add a play area and fitness equipment in 2025. The park is located underneath powerlines which limits the types of amenities allowed for public use.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

B

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☐ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

B

Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☐ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

D

Safety & Comfort

- ☐ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☐ Sense of place
- ☒ Controlled access
- ☐ Territorial reinforcement

D

Park Identity

- ☐ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☐ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.8

PALM PARK

Park Size: 2.98 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood Park



AMENITIES:



Group
Picnic Area



Playground
(ages 6-12)



Tot Lot
(ages 2-5)



Walking Path



Description: Palm Park is a linear neighborhood park located in the south area of the City adjacent to the Artesia Freeway. This park contains a picnic area, a playground, tot lot, a plaza space for Bellflower Recreation in Motion (BRIM), and a walking path.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

A

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

C

Recreational Programming

- ☒ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☐ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☐ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

C

Safety & Comfort

- ☐ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☒ Sense of place
- ☐ Controlled access
- ☒ Territorial reinforcement

B

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☒ Public art
- ☒ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☐ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.9

JOHN S. SIMMS PARK

Park Size: 12.56 acres

Park Type: Community Park



AMENITIES:



Recreation
Center



Group
Picnic Area



Playground
(ages 6-12)



Tot Lot
(ages 2-5)



Basketball
Court



Ballfield



Walking Path



Outdoor
Fitness



Description: John S. Simms Park, also referred to as Simms Park, is located in the central area of Bellflower. This park offers a large outdoor fitness area, a playground, a tot lot, picnic areas, basketball courts, and two softball fields. The City plans to convert the two softball fields into a multipurpose field in 2025. The recreation center located at this park contains an auditorium and multipurpose rooms used for programming activities. The City plans to construct a new Senior and Teen Center in 2025 that will expand program offerings for residents.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

A

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

A

Recreational Programming

- ☒ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☐ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☒ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

B

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☒ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☐ Sense of place
- ☐ Controlled access
- ☒ Territorial reinforcement

A

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☒ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☒ Diversity of park amenities
- ☒ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.10

PIRATE PARK

Park Size: 0.18 acres

Park Type: Mini/Pocket Park



AMENITIES:



Playground
(ages 6-12)



Tot Lot
(ages 2-5)



Description: Pirate Park is located in the downtown area of Bellflower. This pirate-themed play area includes a pirate ship, fort, skull cave, climbing bridge, and a treasure chest. This is a completely gated park with seasonal park hours posted at the park entry and on the City's website.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

C

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☐ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☐ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

B

Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

A

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☒ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☒ Sense of place
- ☒ Controlled access
- ☐ Territorial reinforcement

C

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☒ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☐ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.11

LIBRARY GARDEN AND VETERANS MEMORIAL

Park Size: 0.43 acres

Park Type: Mini/Pocket Park



AMENITIES:





Description: The Library Garden and Veterans Memorial is located in the heart of Bellflower. It is a mini/pocket park commemorating the Veterans of the City and serves as a small passive space for community members. This themed park has unique art sculptures with seating areas.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

B

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☐ Full walking loop/circulation

B

Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

B

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☒ Sense of place
- ☒ Controlled access
- ☐ Territorial reinforcement

A

Park Identity

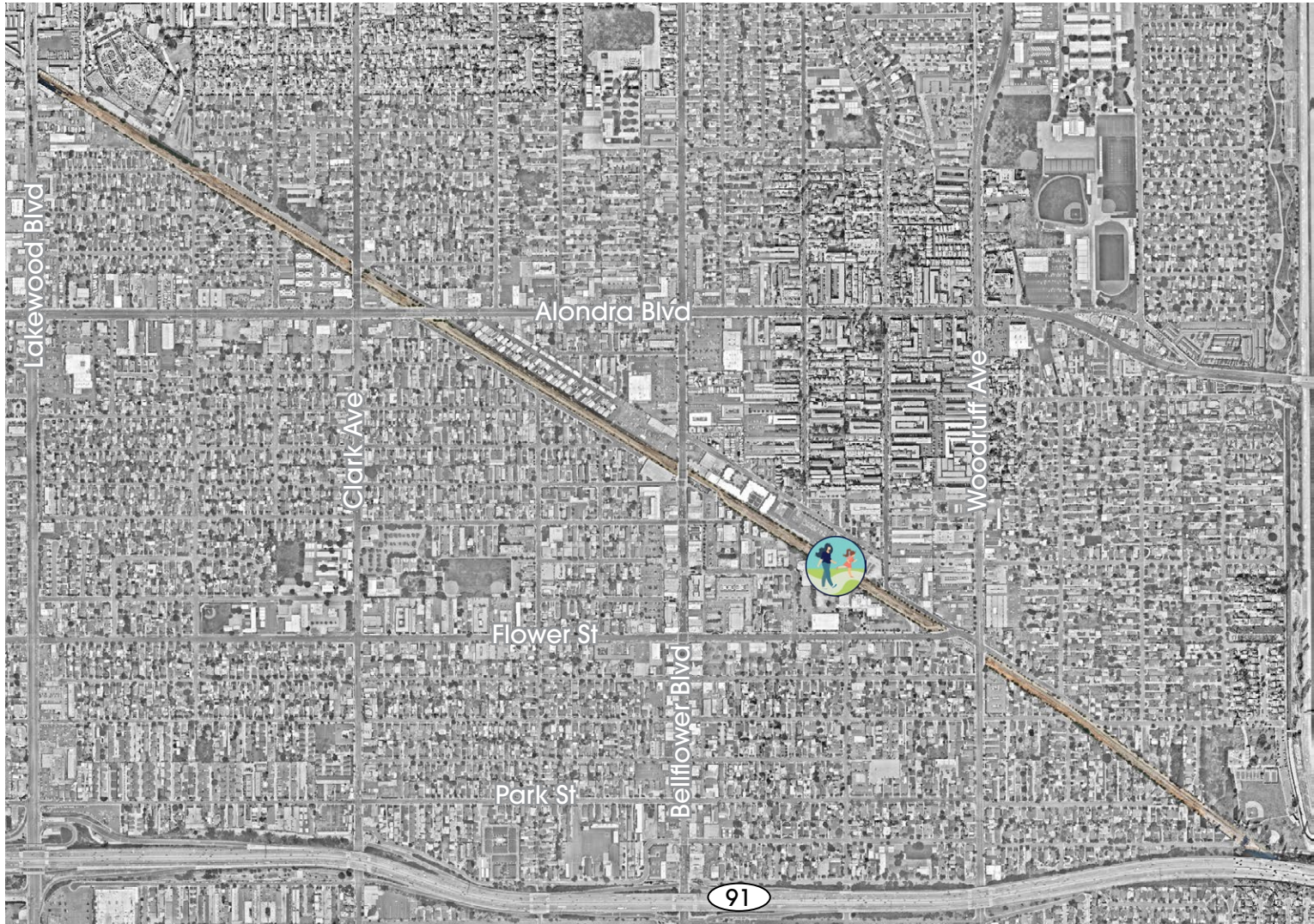
- ☒ Entry signage
- ☒ Public art
- ☒ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☒ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.12

BELLFLOWER BIKE TRAIL & PLAZA

Park Size: 25.35 acres

Park Type: Special Use Facility



AMENITIES:



Walking Path



Description: The Bellflower Bike Trail is a 2.3-mile Class 1 multi-use path located along the right-of-way of the old Pacific Electric transit system. In the 1920's, it was the largest electric railway system running through all of Los Angeles. The Bike Trail includes lighting, signage, a plaza, and planting areas.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

A

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☒ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

A

Recreational Programming

- ☒ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

B

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☒ Sense of place
- ☒ Controlled access
- ☐ Territorial reinforcement

B

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☒ Public art
- ☒ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☒ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.13

RUTH R. CARUTHERS PARK

Park Size: 14.1 acres

Park Type: Community Park

CARUTHERS PARK

CARUTHERS PARK NORTH



AMENITIES:



Community Center



Group Picnic Area



Playground (ages 6-12)



Tot Lot (ages 2-5)



Basketball Court



Volleyball Court



Tennis Court



Ballfield



Splashpad



Equestrian Trail



Skatepark



Walking Path



Outdoor Fitness



Description: Ruth R. Caruthers Park (Caruthers Park) and Bellflower Skatepark is a community park located in the southern area of the City. This park offers a variety of amenities including lighted basketball, handball, volleyball and tennis courts, picnic areas, playground, outdoor fitness area, game room, skatepark, and a splashpad. The northern portion of this park also contains an equestrian and walking trail.

REPORT CARD

B

Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

B

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☒ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☐ Nearby transit stop
- ☐ Full walking loop/circulation

A

Recreational Programming

- ☒ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☒ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

D

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☐ Sense of place
- ☐ Controlled access
- ☐ Territorial reinforcement

B

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☒ Diversity of park amenities
- ☒ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.14

BUTTERFLY GARDEN PARK

Park Size: 3.89 acres

Park Type: Neighborhood Park



AMENITIES:



Walking Path



Description: Butterfly Garden Park opened in December 2023. It is a small park with planted gardens, bench seating, and a small walking path. This space provides a passive recreational area for nearby residents.

REPORT CARD

NA Amenities

- ☒ Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

A Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☒ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

D Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☐ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☐ Park has informal programming uses
- ☐ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

B Safety & Comfort

- ☐ Well-maintained
- ☐ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☒ Sense of place
- ☒ Controlled access
- ☒ Territorial reinforcement

D Park Identity

- ☐ Entry signage
- ☐ Public art
- ☐ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☒ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.3.15

TOWN CENTER PLAZA

Park Size: 0.5 acres

Park Type: Plaza



AMENITIES:



Amphitheater



Description: Town Center Plaza is a small plaza and park space located in Downtown Bellflower. It contains a small stage, plaza spaces, and some grassy areas. Recommendations for how to better activate this space can be found in Appendix A.

REPORT CARD

Amenities

B Based on the overall amenity condition assessment score in Table 2-2

A

Connectivity & Accessibility

- ☒ Multiple access points
- ☐ Multi-use trail connections
- ☒ ADA ramps
- ☒ Nearby transit stop
- ☒ Full walking loop/circulation

A

Recreational Programming

- ☐ Park has organized programming activities
- ☒ Park is frequently used by the community
- ☒ Park amenities are not over-utilized by park users and programming activities
- ☒ Park has informal programming uses
- ☒ Community events occur at the park throughout the year

B

Safety & Comfort

- ☒ Well-maintained
- ☒ Properly lighted and/or good visibility
- ☐ Sense of place
- ☐ Controlled access
- ☒ Territorial reinforcement

A

Park Identity

- ☒ Entry signage
- ☒ Public art
- ☒ Features that facilitate social gatherings and events
- ☐ Diversity of park amenities
- ☒ Park design elements that reflect the surrounding context of the neighborhood

2.4 COMMUNITY FACILITIES

2.4.1 THOMPSON PARK RECREATION CENTER & THE BELLFLOWER AQUATIC CENTER

Located at Thompson Park is the Bellflower Aquatic Center. The Aquatic Center contains an indoor and outdoor swimming pools used for programming activities and community events such as swim lessons and family dive-in movies. The Aquatic Center may also be rented out for private parties. The remainder of the indoor facilities include a gymnasium with pickleball courts, basketball courts, and indoor volleyball courts, a multi-purpose room, a kitchen facility, a game room, and a weight room.



Bellflower Aquatic Center at Thompson Park

2.4.2 SIMMS PARK RECREATION CENTER

John S. Simms Park Recreation Center contains spaces for recreational programs, senior activities, and special events. It has multipurpose rooms for programs, a gymnasium, and a 300-seat auditorium and kitchen facility. It also contains offices for park and recreation staff. Facilities may be rented out to community members for private events.



Simms Park Recreation Center

2.4.3 CARUTHERS PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

Caruthers Park also contains a small community center which contains a game room used for recreational activities. The facility also contains City offices for park and recreation staff.

2.4.4 BRISTOL CIVIC AUDITORIUM

The Bristol Civic Auditorium is a fully staffed community theater located inside the Bellflower City Hall. This 340-seat community theater showcases plays, musicals, school events, and community events. This facility is also available to the public to rent for private events.



Caruthers Park Community Center

2.5 NEARBY PARKS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2.5.1 HOLLYWOOD SPORTS PARK

Hollywood Sport Park is a privately operated facility on City-owned property that is leased from the City. A variety of different activities are offered at this facility including paintball, airsoft, and BMX.



Hollywood Sports Park

2.5.2 LIBERTY PARK AND FITNESS CENTER

Liberty Park and Fitness Center is a community park located in Cerritos, about one mile south of the city boundary. This park consists of an indoor fitness center, ballfields, tennis courts, sand volleyball, a track, playgrounds, a water play area, an outdoor fitness area, picnic areas, a disc golf course, and pickleball courts.



Mayfair Park

2.5.3 MAYFAIR PARK

Mayfair Park is located in Lakewood about a half mile from the southern city boundary. It is a community park with amenities such as a recreation center, swimming pool, ballfields, basketball courts, tennis courts, playgrounds, and picnic areas.

2.5.4 RAMONA PARK

Ramona Park is located in Long Beach about two blocks from the western city boundary. It is a neighborhood park with a multi-purpose ballfield and soccer field, a basketball court, tennis courts, pickleball courts, a playground, and a picnic area.



Paramount Park

2.5.5 PROGRESS PARK

Progress Park is located in Paramount, about four blocks from the western city boundary. It contains a community center, two ballfields, basketball courts, playgrounds, an outdoor fitness area, and picnic areas.

2.5.6 GOLDEN PARK

Golden Park is a neighborhood park located in Downey, about one block from the western city boundary. It consists of a community center, a ballfield, picnic areas, a basketball court, and playgrounds.



Golden Park

2.6 TRAILS

2.6.1 BELLFLOWER BIKE TRAIL

The Bellflower Bike Trail is a 2.3-mile pedestrian and bike trail that traverses the city from east to west, beginning at Caruthers Park and ending at Lakewood Boulevard at Paseo Street, bordering the City of Paramount. It follows the right of way of the old Pacific Electric Railway.

The trail has two five-foot striped bike lanes and a four-foot pedestrian lane, with a natural surface buffer in between. The trail has decorative lights and signage.

The Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), in coordination with the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), is conducting a transit Alternatives Analysis (AA) for the PE ROW / West Santa Ana Branch. The AA will examine potential transit services along the corridor that can provide additional travel options between Los Angeles and Orange Counties, reduce congestion on nearby streets and free-ways, and provide adjacent communities with access to the regional transit network.

These potential future rail lines may impact the Bellflower Bike Trail. It is integral to ensure cohesive planning efforts between involved agencies in order to maintain and enhance the Bike Trail for residents and visitors alike.

2.6.2 RIVERVIEW PARK TRAIL

The primary amenity at Riverview Park is the Class 1 Multi-use Path, the Path is over half a mile long and connects to the San Gabriel River Trail. The trail is made up of compacted Decomposed Granite (DG), making it suitable for wheelchair use. It is critical to continue maintaining this trail as a Class 1 Multi-use Path.

2.6.3 SAN GABRIEL RIVER TRAIL

This multi-use trail runs north-south, stretching from the Cities of Azusa to Seal Beach. The trail passes along the eastern city boundary on the east side of the San Gabriel River channel. The trail is a popular bicycle route for traveling to neighboring cities and destinations.



2.7 LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) ANALYSIS

A park Level of Service (LOS) analysis is a method of measurement used in park planning to evaluate how parks, open spaces, and facilities serve a given community. The analysis in this Plan uses three types of park LOS analyses to determine the overall park LOS for Bellflower.

- 1. Population-based LOS analysis uses population and park acres to determine LOS.
- 2. Amenity LOS analysis uses population and park amenity counts and compares them to national averages to determine park LOS.
- 3. Accessibility analysis LOS uses residential population density and park locations to determine the accessible distance to travel to get to a park.

These three LOS analysis methods enable the planning team to determine how well the existing park system serves the community, from an analytical perspective, which will be complemented by qualitative input gathered from the community members, stakeholders, and City staff. In addition to illustrating current park needs, the LOS analysis can be used with population growth projections and planned park facilities to help guide park planning efforts long into the future. A LOS analysis for Bellflower’s future parks and recreation system is provided in Chapter 4.

2.7.1 POPULATION LOS

A population-based park acreage level of service analysis demonstrates the extent to which the City is meeting its established goal of providing four acres of parkland for every 1,000 residents. Table 2-3 shows the existing LOS is 1.27 park acres per 1,000 residents. The City is currently in a 2.73 park acre deficit per 1,000 people. In other words, to reach the goal of four park acres per 1,000 residents, the City will need to add 215.48 acres to the existing park system to meet the needs of current residents.

TABLE 2-3: Population LOS

POPULATION LOS	ALL CITY PARKS
Existing Park Acreage	100.80
Recommended Adopted Standard per 1,000 Population	4.00
Acres per 1000 Population (2022)	1.27
Total Surplus/Deficit Acres per 1,000 Population (2022)	-2.73
Acres in Deficit	215.48

COMPARING NEARBY CITIES

Comparing Bellflower to other Cities in Los Angeles County can shed a unique light on this analysis. Table 2-4 shows park acreages derived from each city’s Park and Recreation Master Plan or data available on each City’s official website. At a glance, Bellflower ranks in the middle compared to nearby cities. It is important to note that each city has varying access to parks and open space and some may or may not count regional parks or nature reserves. The average LOS of these cities also fall below the typical three to five acres for every 1,000 residents goal most cities in Southern California aim for.

TABLE 2-4: Population LOS of Nearby Cities

COMPARING NEARBY CITIES	CITY POP	TOTAL PARK ACREAGE	ACRES PER 1,000 GOAL	ACRES PER 1,000
Gardena	61,543	49	3	0.80
Norwalk	106,629	113	N/A	1.10
Bellflower	79,070	100	4	1.27
Montebello	62,742	125	4	1.30
Lakewood	79,919	150	4	1.88
Whittier	85,306	260	5	3.05
Cerritos	51,488	187	3	3.64
Average	74,605	147	4	2

The four acres per 1,000 residents standard is recommended based on LOS standards of nearby cities and throughout southern California. LOS standard averages nationally are typically much higher due to better access to large parks and open spaces.

2.7.2 AMENITY LOS

A population-based amenity LOS analysis for Bellflower’s park system was performed using National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) park metric averages from Agency Performance Reviews of similar-sized cities from 2008 to 2023 in combination with an inventory of existing park amenities. The NRPA metrics are based on the results of a comprehensive nationwide survey of park and recreation agencies. These NRPA metrics are used by the planning team as guidelines for best practices. The planning team surveyed the City’s existing recreation facilities to collect an inventory of amenities located within each park.

Bellflower’s existing park amenities were totaled to understand the number of amenities available to residents city-wide. The amenity totals are displayed in Table 2-5 alongside the NRPA guidelines for service level and recommended benchmarks for Bellflower’s population of 79,070. Table 2-5 displays the existing amenity LOS based on the NRPA guidelines for

cities of Bellflower’s population size. Amenities shaded in green meet the needs of the population with a strong margin, amenities in yellow are on the cusp of meeting the needs of the population, and amenities in orange do not meet the needs of the population.

While the amenity LOS analysis serves as a valuable indicator for identifying deficits, it should not be the sole measure used to evaluate park facilities. It is important to consider regional trends specific to southern California, such as futsal, handball, pelota mixteca, and adventure-oriented sports like obstacle courses, climbing walls, rope courses, bouldering, pump tracks, and adventure playgrounds. These activities are not adequately reflected in the NRPA’s National Agency Performance Review. Therefore, it is necessary to gather additional perspectives that capture the community’s park priorities and needs through a comprehensive community engagement process. A summary of community input is provided in Chapter 3.

TOP 5 MOST AMENITIES NEEDED BASED ON LOS DEFICITS

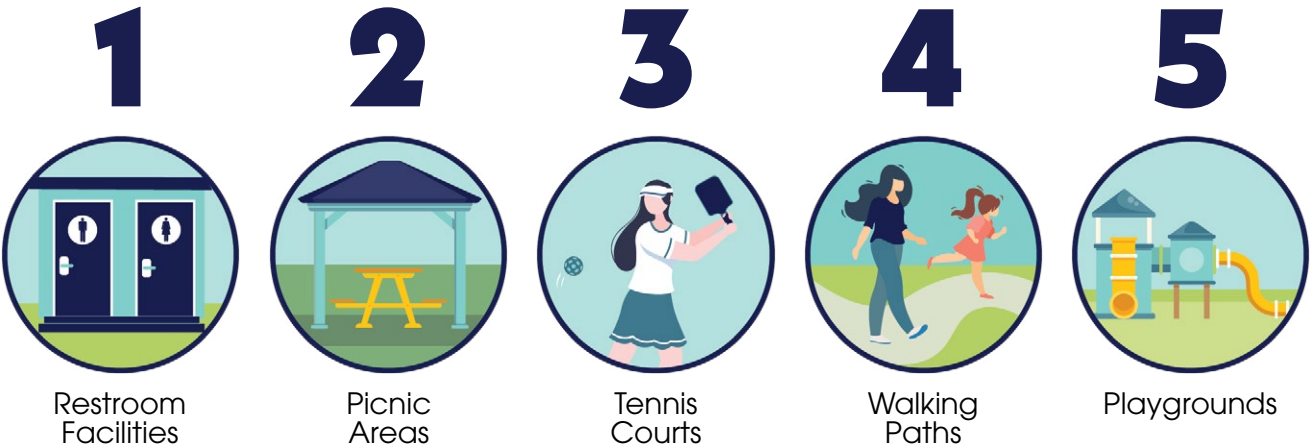


TABLE 2-5: Amenity Level of Service

AMENITY LEVEL OF SERVICE (79,070 EST. POP. CENSUS 2022)		EXISTING CITY FACILITIES	TOTAL EXISTING INVENTORY	NATIONAL GUIDELINE SERVICE LEVEL (1/# POP)	RECOMMENDED CITY STANDARD (1/# POP)	TOTAL FACILITIES NEEDED	TOTAL SURPLUS / DEFICIT
Indoor Rec. Facilities	Recreation Center	2	2.0	40,338	40,300	2.0	0.0
	Community Center	1	1.0	45,909	45,900	1.7	-0.7
	Senior Center	1	1.0	67,836	67,800	1.2	-0.2
	Teen Center	1	1.0	64,386	64,400	1.2	-0.2
Outdoor Park & Rec Facilities	Picnic Area (12+ People)	3	3.0	-	5,000	15.8	-12.8
	Playground (ages 6-12)	5	5.0	5,616	5,600	14.1	-9.1
	Playground/Tot Lot (ages 2-5)	3	3.0	17,562	17,600	4.5	-1.5
	Restroom Facility	3	3.0	-	4,600	17.2	-14.2
	Basketball	5	5.0	7,803	7,800	10.1	-5.1
	Volleyball	2	2.0	-	10,000	7.9	-5.9
	Tennis	2	2.0	5,448	5,400	14.6	-12.6
	Pickleball	0	0.0	11,150	11,200	7.1	-7.1
	Multi-purpose (Tennis & Pickleball)	1	1.0	22,100	22,100	3.6	-2.6
	Youth Baseball*	6	6.0	9,874	9,900	8.0	-2.0
	Adult Baseball	1	1.0	27,031	27,000	2.9	-1.9
	Youth Softball*	5	5.0	12,395	12,400	6.4	-1.4
	Adult Softball*	4	4.0	14,519	14,500	5.5	-1.5
	Rectangular Soccer Fields*	0	0.0	11,671	11,700	6.8	-6.8
	Football	0	0.0	38,516	38,500	2.1	-2.1
	Multi-purpose Fields*	1	1.0	23,738	23,800	3.3	-2.3
	Splashpad/Sprayground	1	1.0	-	35,000	2.3	-1.3
	Swimming Pool	2	2.0	61,784	61,800	1.3	0.7
	Equestrian Trail	1	1.0	-	26,000	3.0	-2.0
	Equestrian Staging Area	0	0.0	-	32,000	2.5	-2.5
	Skate Park	1	1.0	62,318	62,300	1.3	-0.3
	Stage (no built-in seating)	1	1.0	-	42,000	1.9	-0.9
	Community Garden	0	0.0	41,804	41,800	1.9	-1.9
	Dog Park	2	2.0	51,417	51,400	1.5	0.5
Linear Recreation	Walking Path	5	5.0	-	5,300	14.9	-9.9
	Outdoor Exercise Area/Exercise Path	7	7.0	-	28,000	2.8	4.2

* Indicates a shared facility type

Meets or exceeds amenity benchmark
 Within one facility of meeting the benchmark
 Does not meet amenity benchmark

2.7.3 ACCESSIBILITY LOS

A geographic distribution analysis was performed to evaluate the spatial distribution and accessibility of park and recreational facilities. The analysis visualizes which areas within the community currently have easy walking access to a park facility and which do not by displaying areas within a 10-minute walk (or half-mile) of each park or recreational facility.

Instead of showing a simple half-mile radius of the area surrounding each park facility, the analysis generates a “walkable service area” around each park by using viable routes based on the actual road network and park access points. By using Bellflower’s road network as the basis of the analysis, the analysis draws attention to opportunities to improve sidewalks, trails, and roads to increase access to park facilities. Most importantly, the analysis highlights residential areas in Bellflower that do not live within an easy 10-minute walk of a park, which can be used to determine where new park facilities should be prioritized.

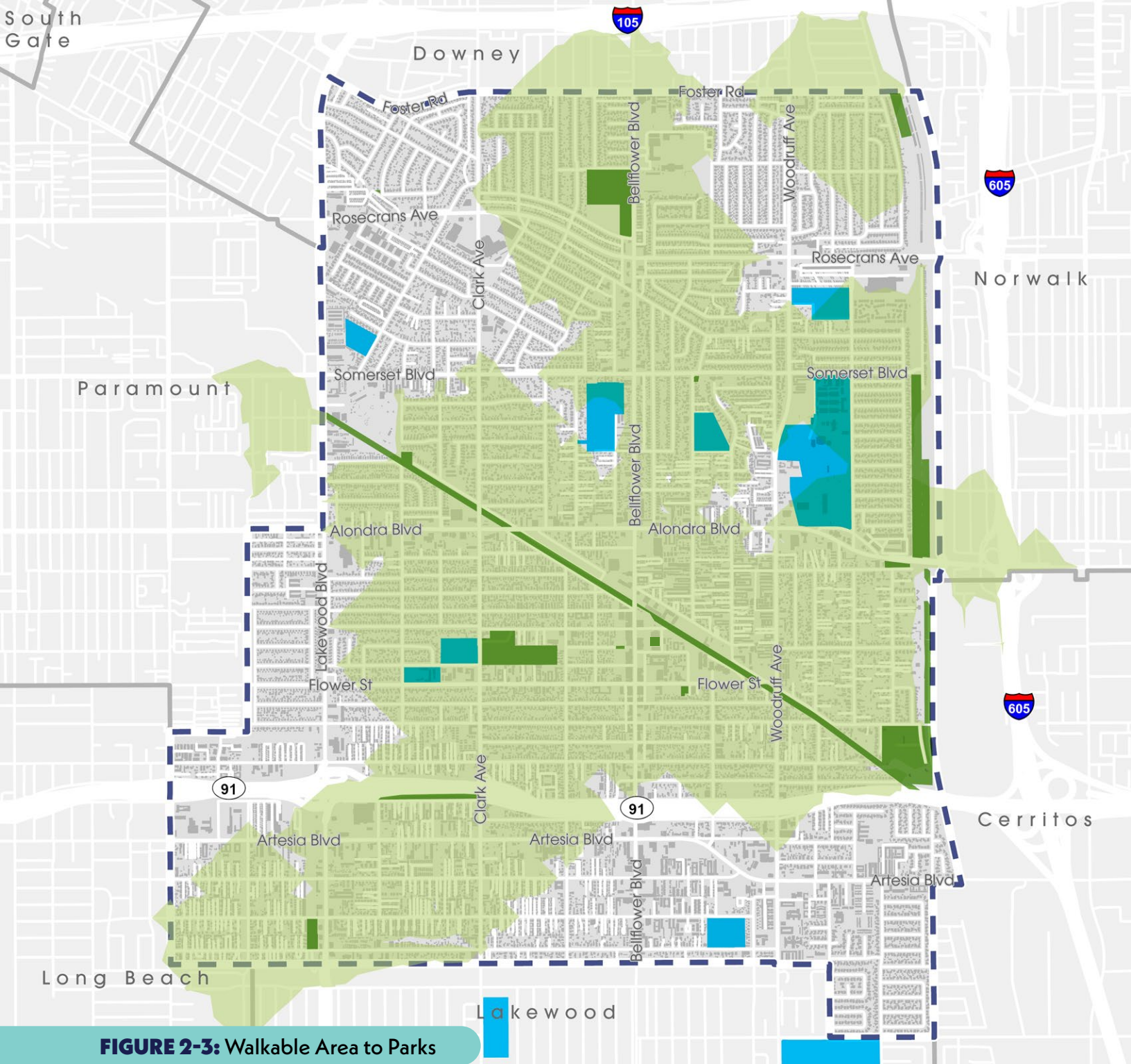
10-MINUTE WALK PROGRAM

This analysis is part of a national initiative led by The Trust for Public Land (TPL), in partnership with NRPA and the Urban Land Institute. This movement, known as the 10-Minute Walk, aims to ensure that by 2050, everyone in the United States has safe and easy access to a park within a 10-minute walk of their home. The 10-minute walk benchmark is recognized nationally as a best practice and standard for creating equitable and accessible parks and recreation systems.



EXISTING PARK ACCESSIBILITY

Figure 2-3 displays the walkable service area of Bellflower’s park and recreation system. The areas within the green shade depict the 10-minute walk areas, and the areas without a green shade depict the areas outside the walkable service area. It is evident that gaps in park accessibility exist throughout the city but significantly in south Bellflower, south of the Artesia freeway. Gaps also exist in west Bellflower along the western boundary and in northeastern Bellflower along Rosecrans Avenue and Woodruff Avenue. New park development should be prioritized in these areas to address park access gaps.



AMENITY-SPECIFIC ACCESSIBILITY

Amenity-specific geographic analyses were also completed for each park to illustrate the spatial distribution of key recreational amenities across Bellflower. Figure 2-4 to Figure 2-7 display the areas within a 10-minute walk of indoor recreation facilities, playgrounds, sport courts, and sports fields.

Indoor Recreation Facilities: Figure 2-4 displays the walkable service area of indoor recreation facilities in Bellflower in the green shade and the blue shade depicts the two-mile drive service area, as indoor facilities also serve the greater community. There are three indoor recreation facilities in Bellflower distributed in the north, central, and east areas of the City, but service gaps are still evident throughout Bellflower.



Playgrounds: Figure 2-5 displays the walkable service area to parks containing playgrounds with the green shaded area. Not all parks in Bellflower contain a playground. There are gaps evident throughout the community.

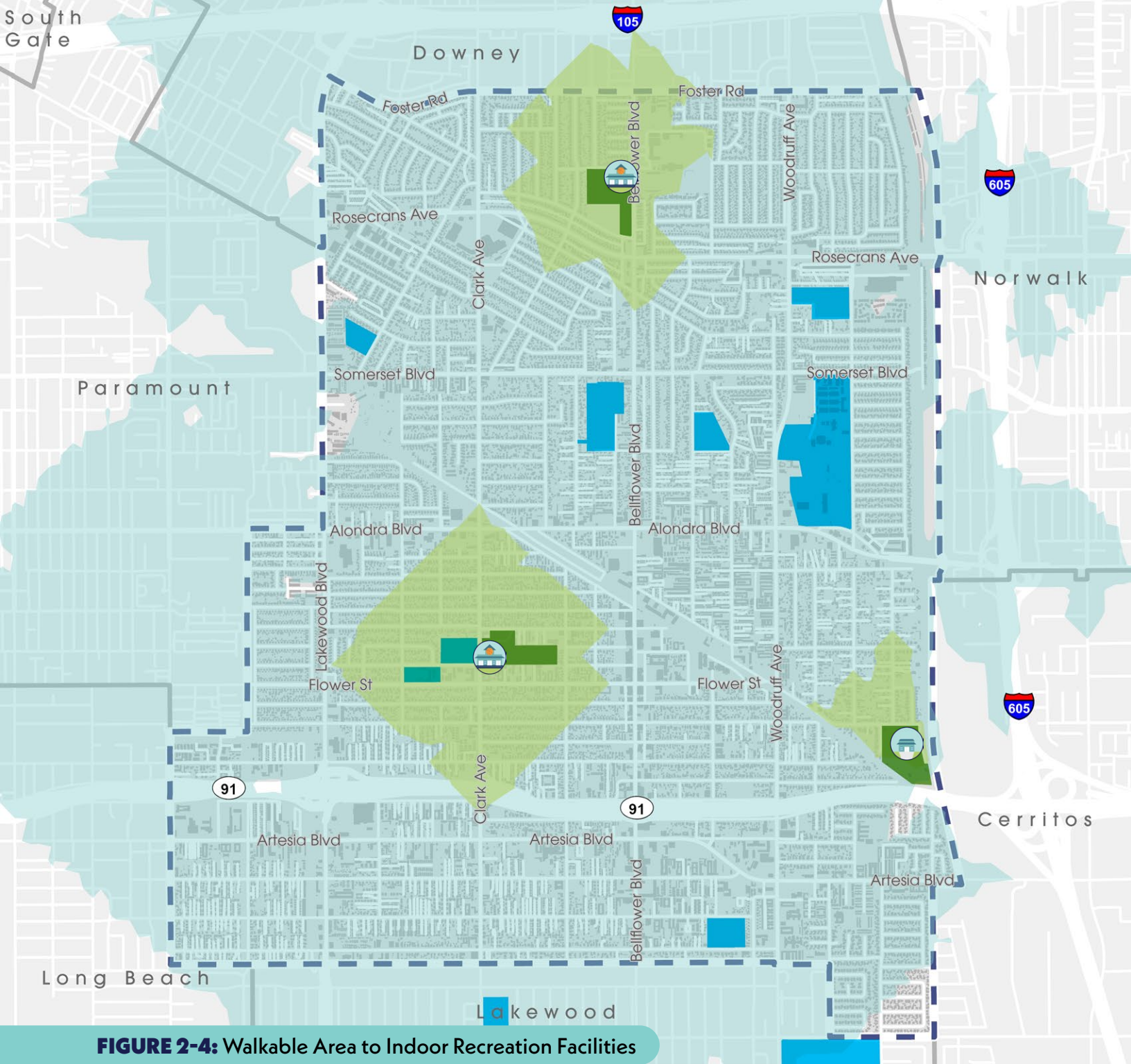


Courts: Figure 2-6 displays the walkable service area to parks with sport courts with the green shaded area. Only three parks in Bellflower contain sport courts, which means there are gaps all throughout the community.

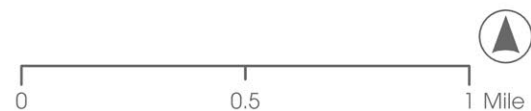


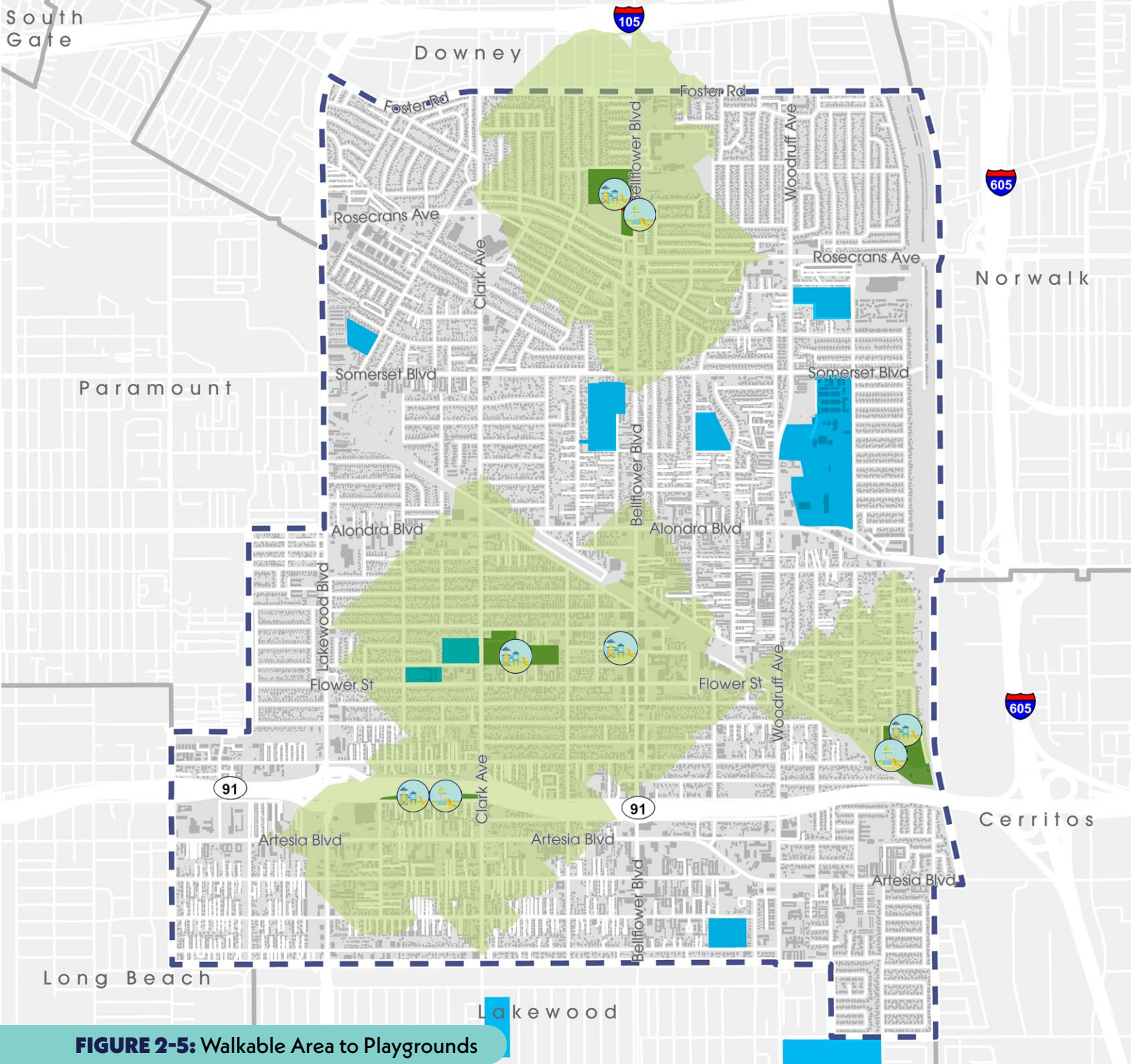
Fields: Figure 2-7 displays the walkable service area to parks with sport fields with the green shaded area. Only three parks in Bellflower contain sports fields, which leads to gaps throughout the community. Sports fields are large facilities that require careful planning and large flat areas but are in high demand for recreational activities like soccer, lacrosse, softball, and baseball.



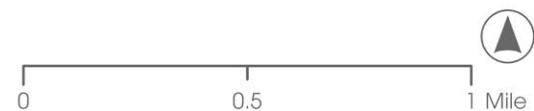


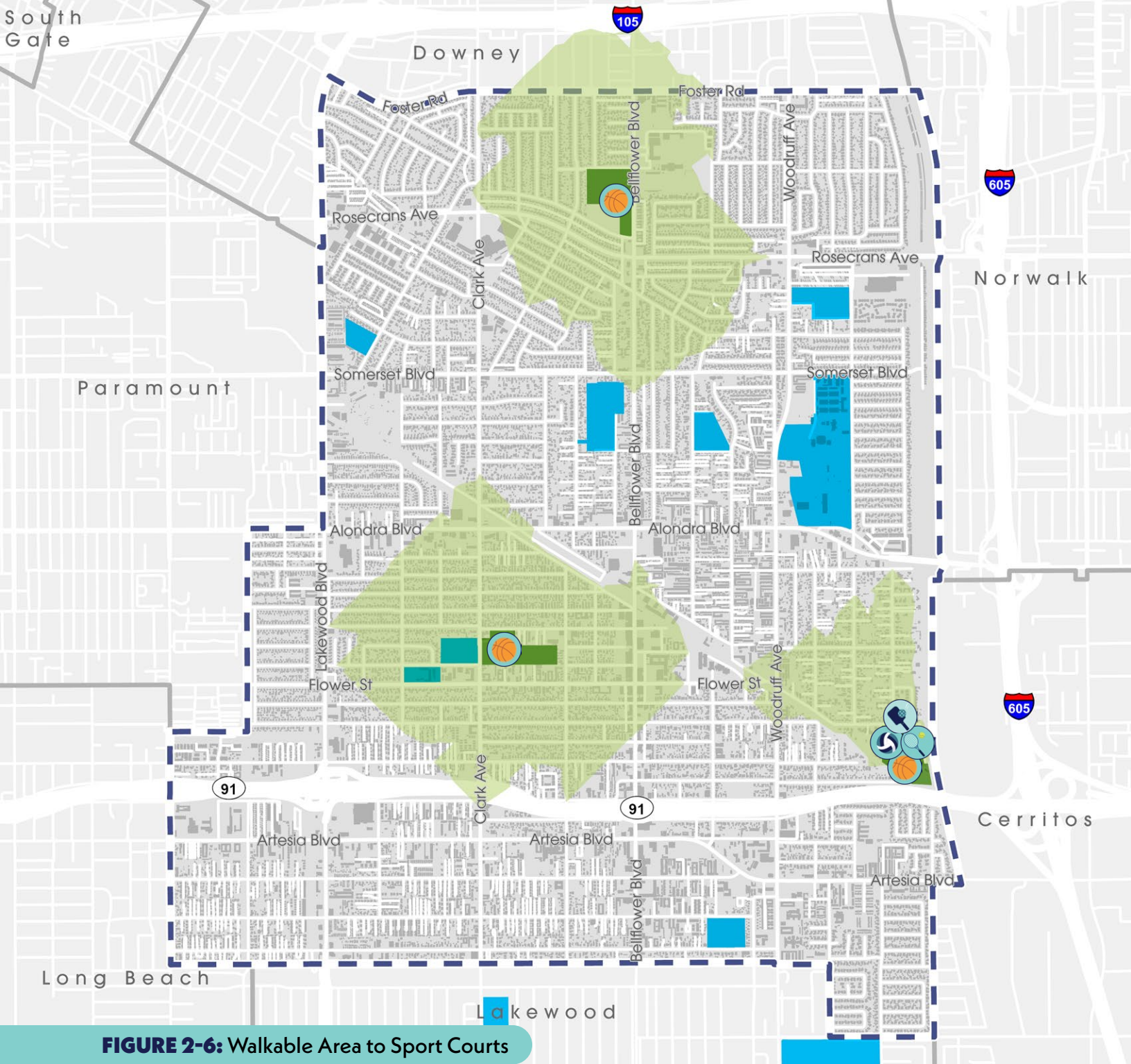
- Walkable Area to an Indoor Recreation Facility
- Driveable Area to an Indoor Recreation Facility
- Parks with an Indoor Recreation Facility
- School
- City Boundary
-  Recreation Center
-  Community Center





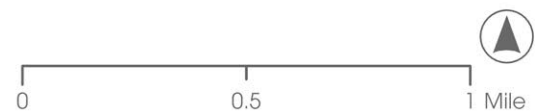
- Walkable area to a park with a playground
- Parks With a Play Structure
- School
- City Boundary
- P
 Playground

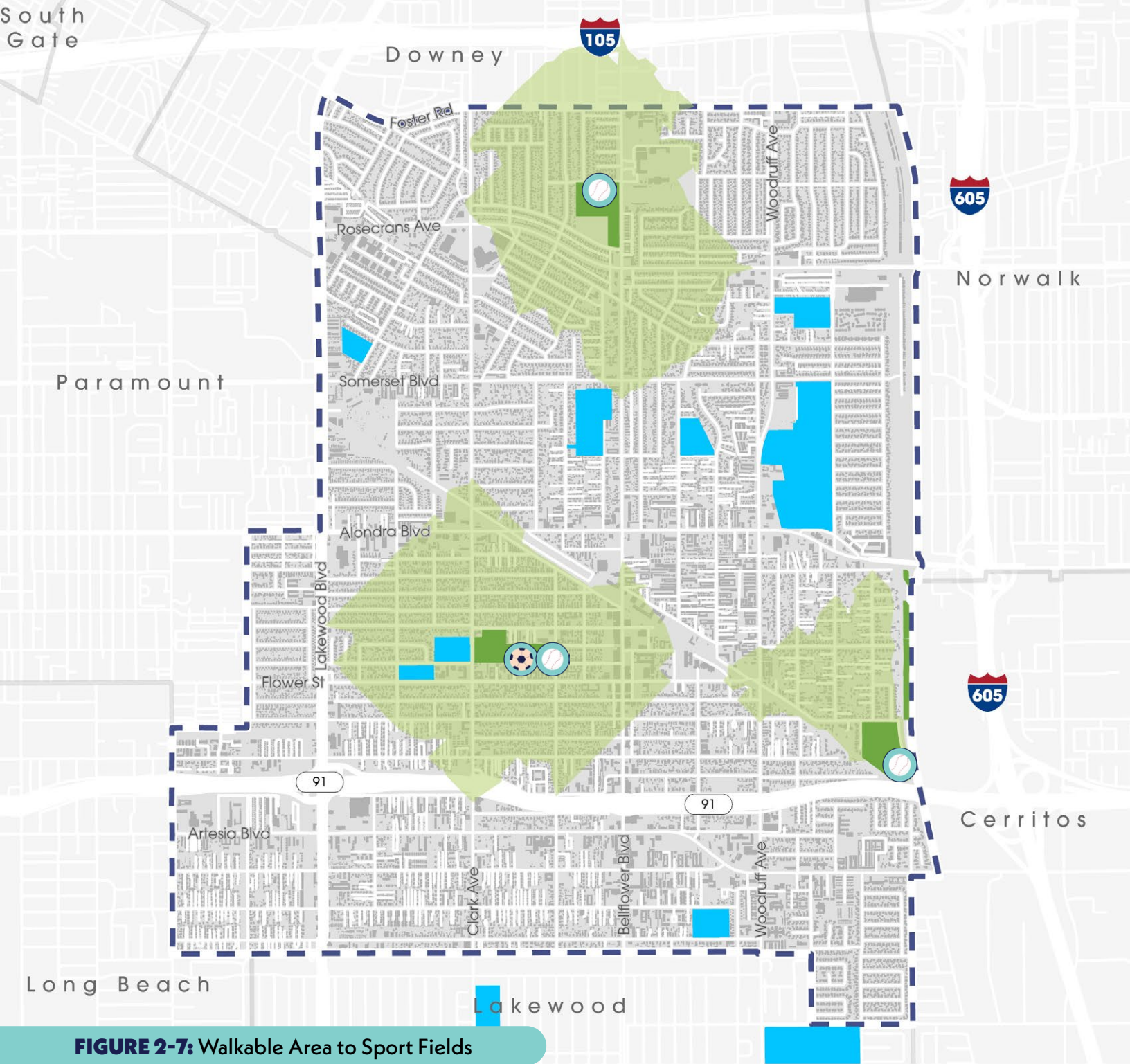




- Walkable area to a park with sport courts
- Parks With a sport court
- School
- City Boundary

- Basketball Court
- Tennis/Pickleball Court
- Tennis Court
- Volleyball Court





- Walkable area to a park with a sport field
- Parks with a sport field
- School
- City Boundary
- Baseball/Softball Field
- Multipurpose Field

0 0.5 1 Mile



2.8 PARK EQUITY

The numerous benefits of parks and open spaces to health and well-being are well-documented. However, in many cities across the United States, these benefits are not distributed equitably. Research shows that racial and socio-economic factors play a role in the provision, distribution, and quality of parks in many cities across the nation. In 2021, The Trust for Public Land reported that neighborhoods where residents predominantly identify as people of color have access to an average of 44 percent less park acreage than predominantly white neighborhoods, and low-income neighborhoods average 42 percent less park acreage per person than high-income neighborhoods. The Trust for Public Land also revealed that parks in communities of color are, on average, five times more likely to be crowded and half the size of parks that serve white populations. Similarly, parks that primarily serve low-income households are, on average, four times smaller than parks that serve a majority of high-income households. Studies have also shown that in addition to having access to less park acreage, low-income communities and communities of color tend to have access to poorer-quality park spaces with less recreational programming.

2.8.1 CALENVIROSCREEN

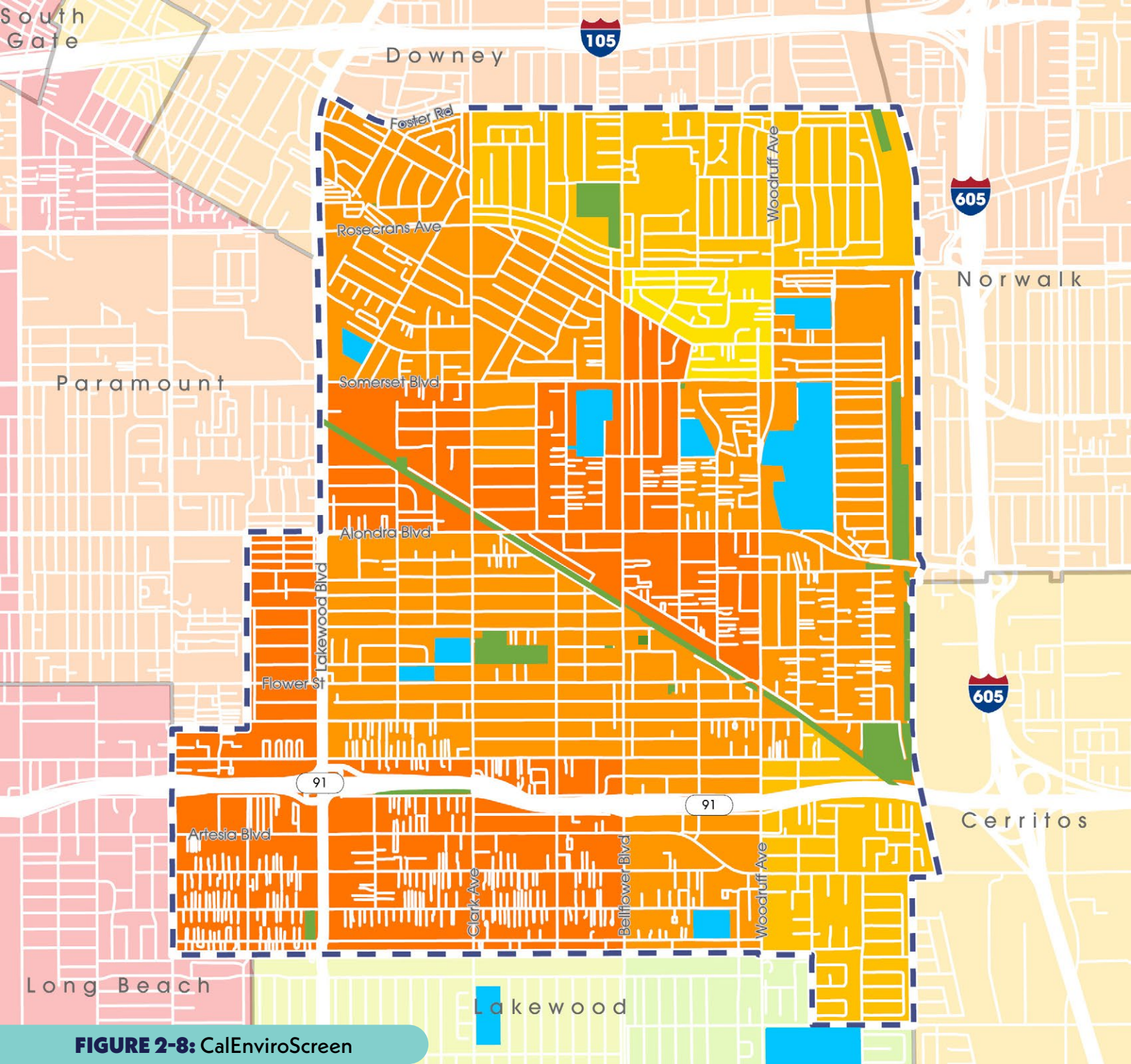
Recognizing systemic inequities in park access and quality is integral to creating an equitable park and recreation system in Bellflower. The intentional prioritization of community resources, such as new parks or recreation programs, in disadvantaged communities is one way that cities can advance social and environmental justice in their community. Disadvantaged communities refer to State-identified census tracts that experience combined high levels of economic, health, and environmental burdens. Figure 2-8 displays the Census Tracts in Bellflower and their CalEnviroScreen Score. Based on CalEPA's SB 535 CalEnviroScreen data, most census tracts in Bellflower scored at 60 or higher, indicating that most residents face disproportionate economic, health, and environmental burdens throughout the community, but especially true in the central-west, and south areas of the city.

2.8.2 HEALTHY PLACES INDEX

Figure 2-9 shows the Healthy Places Index (HPI) scores in Bellflower. The data shows that most census tracts in bellflower fall below the 50 percent threshold of Healthy Places, meaning that these areas may face inequities including education, job opportunities, clean air and water, and access to nature in comparison to other census tracts across California. These areas in Bellflower include the central and south-west areas of the City.

Potential priority areas for future park and recreation opportunities based on CalEnviroScreen, HPI, and areas with limited park access include south of the Artesia Freeway, west of Lakewood Boulevard, and central Bellflower, north of the Bellflower Bike Trail. By improving existing parks, access to parks, and additional programming opportunities in these areas, it will improve the community's quality of life and set them up for improved health benefits. To address systemic injustices and invest in Bellflower's Disadvantaged Communities, the "higher burdened" areas featured in Figure 2-8 and Figure 2-9 should be prioritized for any park improvement, enhancement, or development projects.





- Park
- School
- City Boundary

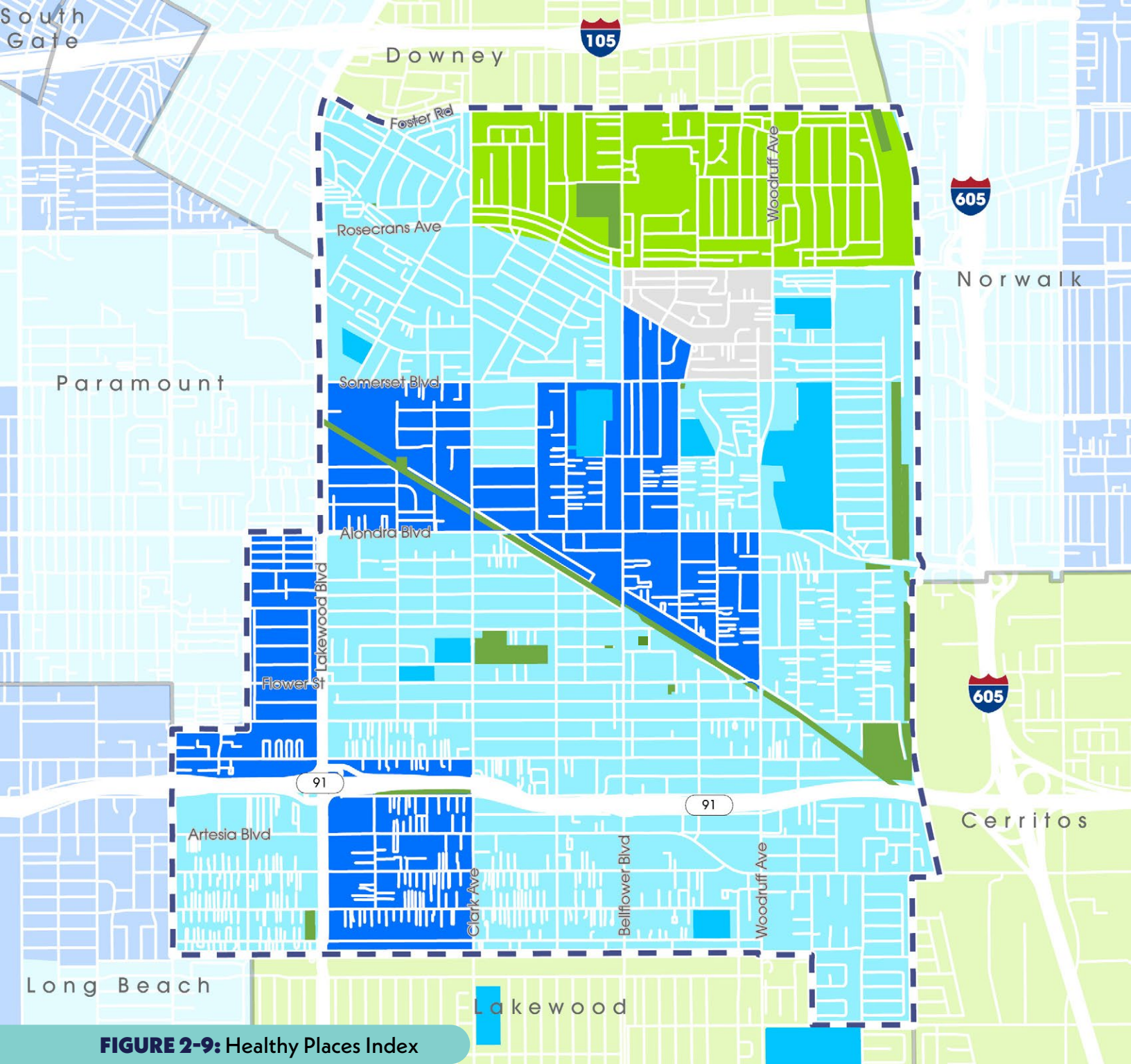
- CalEnviroScreen
Higher Score = Higher Burden
- 0-10
 - 10-20
 - 20-30
 - 30-40

- 40-50
- 50-60
- 60-70
- 70-80
- 80-90
- 90-100

Source: OEHHA

0 0.5 1 Mile





- Park
- School
- City Boundary

Healthy Places Index
Higher Score = Healthier Place

- 0 - 25
- 25 - 50
- 50 - 75
- 75 - 100
- No Data

Source: California Healthy Places Index

0 0.5 1 Mile



2.9 FUTURE POPULATION

Analyzing how the existing park system is serving the current population is important because it can help determine priority areas for new parks or park renovations in the future. It is assumed that these areas of high deficit will continue to worsen in the future as additional development and population growth occurs and no new parks are added to the park system. Park pressure and park priority area maps are only one aspect of the existing conditions analysis, all of the analysis completed in this report was taken into account for future recommendations.

2.9.1 PARK PRESSURE

Park pressure is a modeled analysis of park size and accessibility to demonstrate how park usage or “pressure” varies in different parts of the city. Park pressure is based on the residential population density within the walkable service area of each park. This process assumes that residents use the park that is closest to their home.

Each park serves a unique amount of acres per residents within the walkable service area. The estimated number of park users within each service area is based on population data. Park acreage was used to calculate the number of park acres available per 1,000 residents within the service area. The City’s established goal of four park acres per 1,000 residents was used as the basis of the park pressure model, shown in Figure 2-10. Areas may have a surplus of acres per 1,000 residents or a deficit based on the residential density around each park.

EXISTING PARK PRESSURE

Figure 2-10 shows that many parks walkable service area in the city fall within the deficit categories because they have a large number of residents with fewer park acres available to them, making the demand for the nearby parks high. These are shown in red, orange, and yellow colors. The areas surrounding Palm Park, Constitution Park, Thompson Park, Zinn Park, and Downtown Bellflower have a greater park pressure due to the higher density of residents living nearby and the limited number of park acres nearby. These parks are likely to experience heavier demand and use due to the lack of park acres relative to the number of residents living nearby.

2.9.2 PARK PRIORITY AREAS

Identifying areas of high park need within the City is essential when prioritizing future projects such as choosing vacant or underutilized sites for potential future parks. Like many communities in southern California, Bellflower is built out and vacant land is scarce. The results of the following analysis help identify priority areas the City can focus on for improving park access. The City can use this to consider next-steps such as purchasing private land or entering into creative partnerships with other entities to improve park access.

Figure 2-11 identifies locations within areas of high park pressure of existing parks and categorizes them into either “Very High”, “High”, or “Moderate” priority based on the socio-economic and environmental factors of those areas.

Four different layers were used for this analysis:

1. Healthy Places Index
2. CalEnviroScreen
3. Population Density
4. 2022 Census Variables
 - » Households with children
 - » Households in poverty
 - » Households without vehicle access
 - » Persons over 65
 - » Persons who take public transportation, walk, or bicycle to work).

These factors were then combined and normalized into four equally distributing areas and summarized. The results in Figure 2-11 depict several areas of “Very High” and “High” park need, most of which fall in central Bellflower and south of the Artesia Freeway.

The results of this analysis can help the City make informed decisions about acquiring land in these priority needs areas to help address park equity needs and level of service gaps.

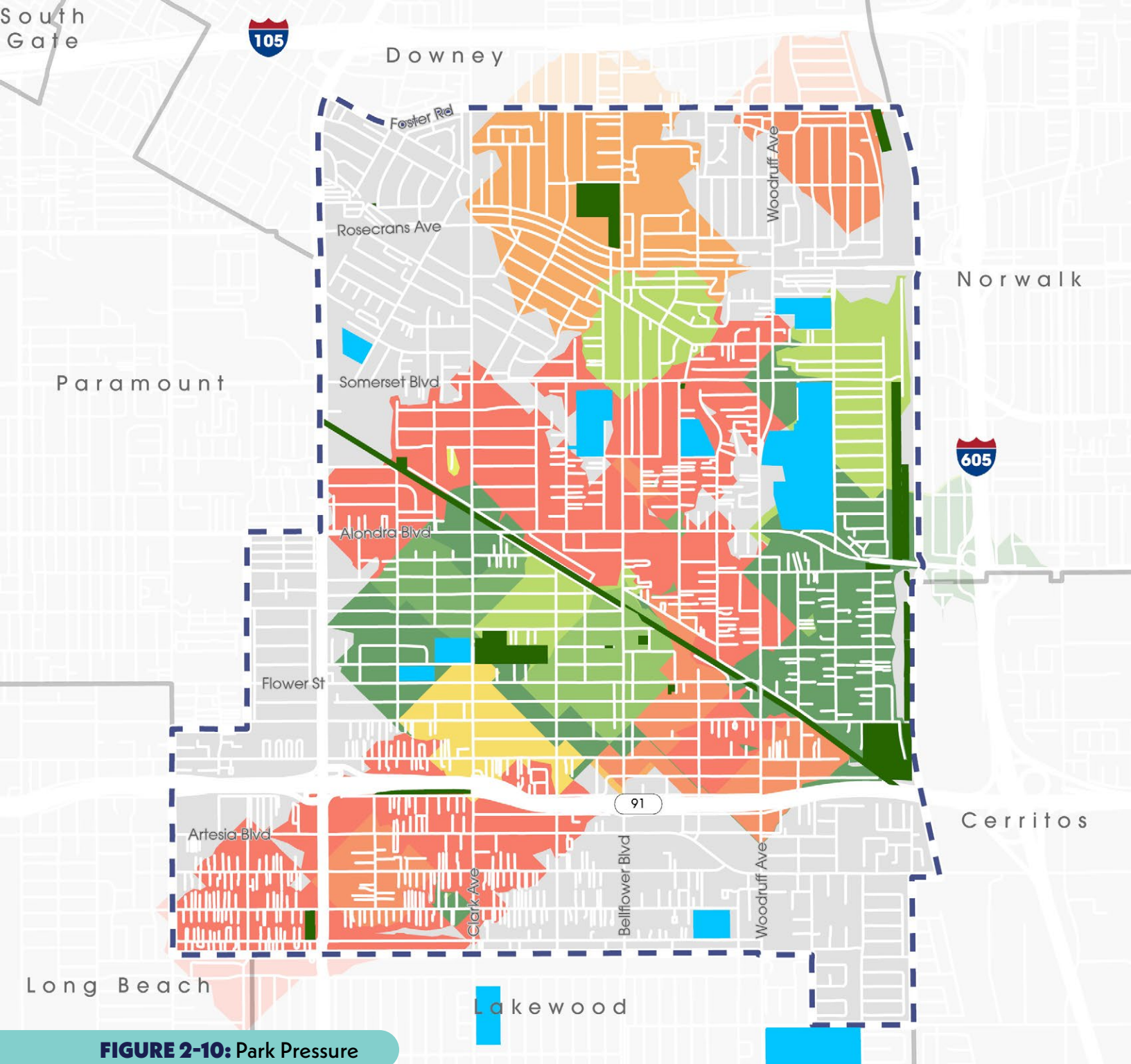


FIGURE 2-10: Park Pressure

- Park
- School
- City Boundary

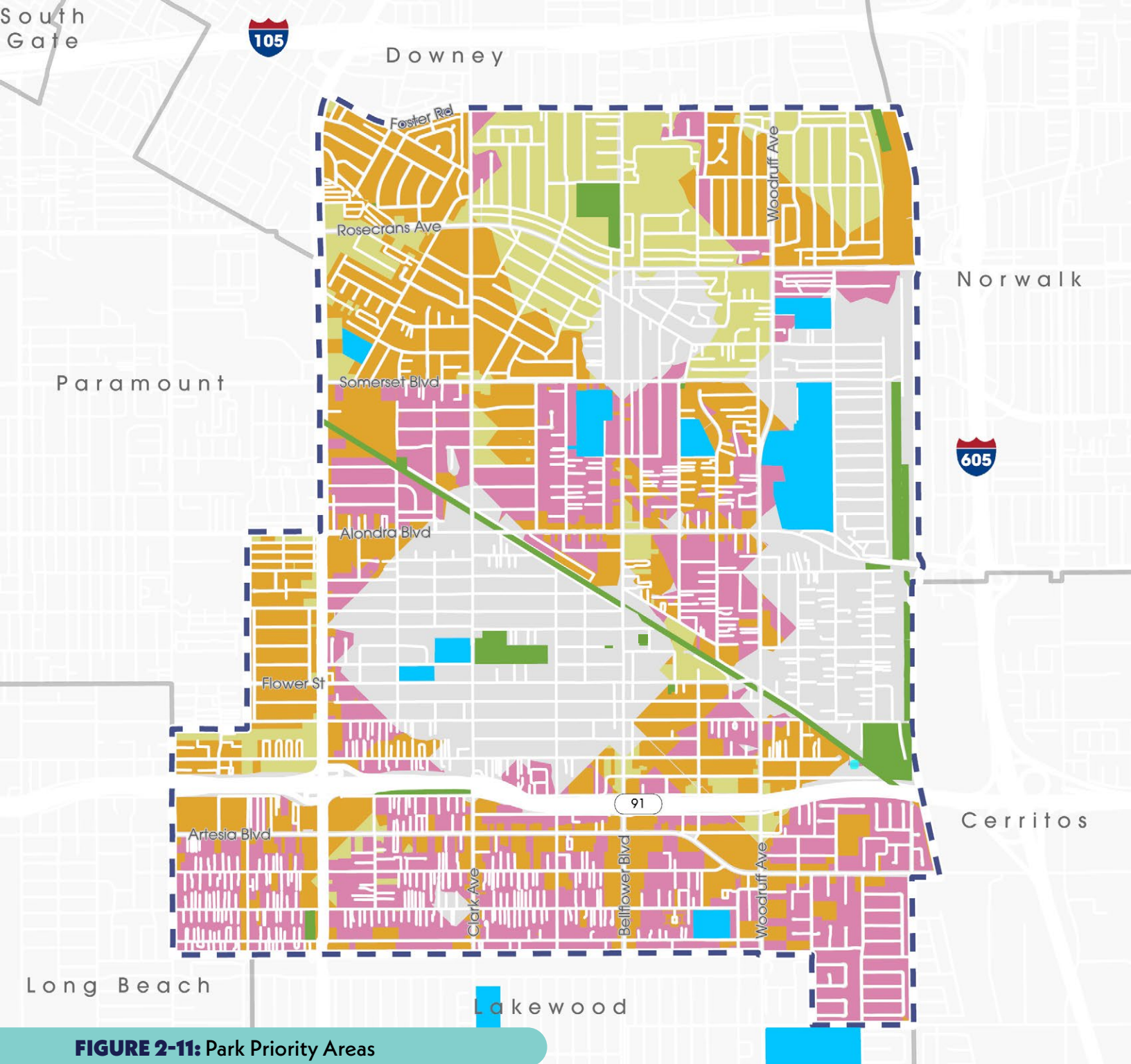
Park Pressure

Lower number = higher park pressure

	-99 to -75		5 to 25
	-75 to -50		25 to 50
	-50 to -25		50 to 75
	-25 to -5		75 to 100
			100+

0 0.5 1 Mile





- | | |
|--|---|
|  Park | Park Priority Areas |
|  School |  Very High |
|  City Boundary |  High |
| |  Moderate |

0 0.5 1 Mile



2.10 RECREATION PROGRAMS

2.10.1 RECREATIONAL AND PARK PROGRAMMING

The City of Bellflower Parks and Recreation Department provides recreational programming through indoor facilities, parks, and the City's Civic Auditorium. The Department aims to meet the demands of residents by providing a wider variety of programming and updated amenities for them to enjoy. The Department is organized so that programming is managed through the Department's Director and Recreation Manager. Location-specific Supervisors manage and plan programming focused on the amenities and options provided at those locations. These same personnel also manage and implement city-wide special events.

Existing programs primarily concentrate on athletics, aquatics, diverse adult classes, and youth-oriented options. The Department is actively enhancing its offerings, striving to create a comprehensive selection of programs catering to residents and non-residents. The following parks and recreation facilities are owned and staffed by the City:

- » John S. Simms Park
- » Ruth R. Caruthers Park
- » T. Mayne Thompson Park
- » Bellflower Aquatic Center at Thompson Park
- » Bristol Civic Auditorium at Simms Park



2.10.2 EXISTING BELLFLOWER RECREATION PROGRAMMING

The City currently offers various services and programs for youth, adults, and seniors. From June 2022 to June 2023, the City offered just over three hundred separate program registration options, primarily focused on amenities available at primary staffed facilities. The following table represents the activities offered in that period.

TABLE 2-6: Programs offered for the 2022-2023 Program Year

PROGRAM	TYPE	YOUTH	ADULTS	SENIORS
Adaptive Recreation	Adaptive / Therapeutic	X	X	X
Aquatics: YMCA Swim Lessons	Aquatics	X	X	X
Aquatic Lap Swimming	Aquatics	X	X	X
Aquatic Aerobics	Aquatics		X	X
Aqua Fit	Aquatics	X	X	X
Aquatics: Lifeguard Class - Adults	Aquatics		X	
Aquatics: Junior Lifeguard Class - Youth	Aquatics	X		
Drawing and Painting	Visual/Graphic Arts	X	X	X
Ballet	Performance Arts	X		
Basketball Training	Sports	X		
Before/After School Programs	Educational	X		
Basic Life Safety Classes	Virtual	X	X	X
Bellflower Symphony Assoc.	Performance Arts			X
B.R.I.M.	Other	X		
Dance (Hula, Square Dance, Hip-Hop, Cheer & more)	Performance Arts	X	X	X
Discovery Club	Educational	X		
Cartoon Drawing Class	Visual/Graphic Arts	X		
Civic Chorus	Performance Arts			X
Crazy-4-Sports (Instructional)	Sports	X		
Driver's Education (Online)	Other	X	X	X
Full Body Fitness	Sports		X	X
Golf Lessons	Sports	X	X	
Hatha Yoga for Joy and Connection	Sports		X	X
Hawaiian Hula Dance	Other	X		
Karate	Sports	X		X
Kids Love Soccer	Sports	X		
Meals on Wheels	Other			X
Nutrition Programs	Other			X
Oil Painting Club	Visual/Graphic Arts			X
Open Gym Basketball	Sports		X	X
Parent & Me Painting	Visual/Graphic Arts	X	X	
Pickleball (drop-in)	Sports		X	X
RECESS Summer Program	Other	X		
Summer Day Camp (YMCA)	Other	X		
Tennis Lessons	Sports	X	X	X
Volleyball Fundamentals	Sports	X		
Weight Room (drop-in)	Sports		X	X
Weird Science	Other	X		



YOUTH

Youth are considered elementary school aged and below and teens are considered middle and high school aged kids. A significant number of current program offerings are focused on patrons that are middle-school aged or below. This includes aquatic programs for swim lessons, before and after school programs, sports instructional programs, open-gym programs, and educational programs.

Bellflower Recreation in Motion (BRIM) is a mobile recreation program where staff bring pop-up activities such as ping pong tables, connect-4, and sports equipment to closed-off streets, at parks, or at special events. This free program allows youth patrons to participate in recreational activities close to home and in areas lacking access to parks.

The City currently lacks offerings in league athletics and organized sport options for young patrons to participate in. This could include recreation-managed basketball leagues, volleyball leagues, and others. Sports leagues are essential for continued growth of recreation programming.



ADULTS

Adult programs vary in type and popularity, however most of these focus on contract class options such as arts, basketball, drivers education, golf and tennis lessons, pickleball, fitness activities, life safety courses, and aquatic offerings. These programs are site-specific and are based on the availability of facilities at those sites to provide class times.

While the adult community has contracted class and fitness-related options for participation, athletic options such as organized sports leagues such as softball, basketball, kickball, and tennis are lacking. Since the COVID pandemic, adult sports programming has been difficult for the Department to implement and program it but recognizes the need and interest from the community.



SENIORS

Senior activities are programmed primarily at Simms Park and Thompson Park. Programs focus on nutrition or meal service, arts, and fitness. The Thompson Park Seniors Club provides basic programming and socialization programs for Seniors.

As the City constructs the new senior and teen center, additional programming will be necessary to meet the needs of Seniors in the community, including card games, educational classes, support groups, senior-focused fitness programs, and other programs desired from the community engagement process.

2.10.3 PROGRAM UTILIZATION

The City utilizes a web-based program called Active Network (or ActiveNet) to manage the registration and enrollments for classes. The project team reviewed the data and found most program enrollments are concentrated in specific program areas. The collected data indicates that aquatic programming surpasses other facilities by a significant margin in terms of enrollment. While there are identified areas for improvement in enrollments across various program offerings, the aquatic center remains a robust and consistently high-performing asset. Throughout the various classes that were offered, the data indicates that over three hundred total classes were offered during this period. The number of enrollments within these classes ranged anywhere from five to thirty. The cost of each class varies throughout, but the City aims to make programming affordable to participants.

Table 2-7 outlines the top classes and their enrollments for the 2022-2023 program year. The top three programs are a compilation of the multiple offerings that are provided throughout the year. The top three programs are extremely popular and typically have the highest volume of offerings. These have found success due to their popularity, however offering a higher number of enrollment spaces than other classes, participants do not find the ability to enroll to be cumbersome. The ease of use of the parks and recreation programming and staff's ability to assist, allow for participants to easily access all the activities and register with limited issues. The top programs also offer these classes amongst all age ranges, which boost the potential enrollments over various demographic groups.

TABLE 2-7: 2022-2023 Top 15 Programs

CLASS	DAYS OFFERED	TOTAL ENROLLMENTS
Aqua Fit	MWF	848
Aqua Zumba	MW	332
Youth Volleyball (Beginner-intermediate)	Su	252
Karate	MW	232
Resident Lap Swim	M-Sa	193
Youth Volleyball (Intermediate-Advanced)	Su	189
Full Body Fitness	MW	142
Youth Soccer Clinic	F	127
Non-Resident Lap Swim	M-Sa	123
Volleyball Clinics	M-Th	112
Youth Volleyball Extension	Su	103
Youth Tennis Clinics	Sa	97
Little Dragons Karate	MW	90
Youth Basketball Training	Th	77
Youth Painting Classes	Tu	70

TOP 3 PROGRAM TYPES



AQUATICS

VOLLEYBALL

KARATE



EXAMPLES OF PROGRAMMING BY FACILITY:



Bellflower Aquatic Center

- » Aqua Fit
- » Aqua Zumba
- » Dive-in (Boo-vie)
- » Lap Swimming
- » Aquatics/Swim Lessons provided through YMCA.



Simms Park

- » Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED
- » All in One Dance
- » Ballet and Tap
- » Butterfly Ballerinas
- » Full Body Fitness
- » Hatha Yoga for Joy and Connection
- » Hip Hop Dance
- » Karate
- » Pump It Up Cheer and Dance
- » Rhythm Fit
- » Youth Basketball Training



Caruthers Park

- » Adaptive Recreation
- » Cartoon Drawing
- » Elementary Drawing Classes
- » Mommy/Daddy & Me Soccer
- » Soccer
- » Tennis
- » Weird Science



Thompson Park

- » Monday Volleyball Game Night
- » Volleyball Clinics
- » Youth Painting Class Session
- » Pickleball



2.10.4 SPECIAL EVENTS

The Parks and Recreation Department oversees a variety of special events aimed at fostering community engagement and providing recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. These events are a major function of time and resources the Departments invest in throughout the year. The Department meticulously plans each event, collaborating with local businesses, sponsors, and volunteers to enhance the overall experience and promote community involvement. This process includes the management of the City's calendar of events which usually averages 30-40 events per year, ranging from city events, co-hosted events, and events from other organizations that request permits. Some examples of events coordinated by the Parks and Recreation Department include:

- » Artsfest
- » BRAVO Awards
- » Family Campout Event
- » Father Daughter Dance "Glow Up the Night"
- » Here We Glow Again- Family Dance Party
- » Mom Prom "Lets Glow Crazy"
- » Penny Carnival
- » State of the City

2023 FREE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Free community events organized by the City provide opportunities for people to connect, learn, and enjoy shared experiences without financial barriers. Activities such as cultural festivals and family-friendly movie nights offer entertainment and social experiences. By bringing together people from various backgrounds and age groups, free community events enhance social cohesion, civic pride, promote local culture, and stimulate economic activity in the area.

- » Bellflower's Day of the Shred
- » Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony
- » City of Bellflower Car Show
- » Remember and Honor - Veterans Event
- » Job Fair
- » National Night Out
- » Summer Movie Nights
- » Summer Street Fest

2.10.5 PROGRAMMING COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

To provide context to the City's current program offerings and staffing, an analysis was conducted to compare the City of Bellflower to the data available in the NRPA Annual Agency Performance Review. The NRPA Agency Performance Review is an annual data based developed by NRPA utilizing data provided by hundreds of member parks and recreation agencies. This data is aggregated and provided for public use on the NRPA website and can be analyzed based upon qualifying variables, but not by specific responses. This review included the following assessments:

- » Programming nationwide was compared to programming in Bellflower to assess if major programming areas that are the most common across the nation are offered in the City.
- » The general programming analysis compares general programming areas, such as team sports, special events, and aquatics, based on a set of variables, designed through NRPA's research, to compare communities of similar size. These variables are park acres, number of parks, population, and region. This assessment allows an 'apples to apples' comparison between Bellflower and similarly sized communities.
- » A staffing analysis was performed to determine if City staffing for programming is adequate compared to agencies of similar size and geographic location.



NATIONAL PROGRAMMING COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT

The 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review was used as the baseline data for comparing Bellflower to peer agencies. Within the NRPA southwest pacific region, peer agencies were determined based on the following criteria set by the NRPA measured for each park district's jurisdiction: population, number of parks, and park acreage. Bellflower meets the following threshold levels for each category:

- » Population: 50,000 to 99,999 people (Bellflower population: 79,070)
- » Number of parks: 10 – 19 Parks (11 park facilities in Bellflower)
- » Park acreage: 250 acres or less (100.8 total park acres in Bellflower)

Table 2-8 outlines general programming, on average, and is broken down by major variables as well as a focus on programming types and is broken down by those same major variables. Most items are provided directly by the City and Parks and Recreation Department, however, some specific items (such as Aquatic Swim Lessons) are provided through a contracted vendor. Items with a "Yes" designates programs offered through either source in the City.

TABLE 2-8: Programming Comparison to Peer Agencies

NRPA PROGRAMMING COMPARISON		BELLFLOWER PROGRAMS	AVERAGE % OF PEER AGENCIES ACROSS ALL CRITERIA PROVIDING PROGRAM TYPE	PEER AGENCY CATEGORY: PARK ACRES (250 ACRES OR LESS)	PEER AGENCY CATEGORY: POPULATION (20,000 - 50,000 PEOPLE)	PEER AGENCY CATEGORY: # OF PARKS (FEWER THAN 10 PARKS)	% OF AGENCIES IN PACIFIC SW REGION OF U.S. PROVIDING PROGRAM TYPE
General Programming Types	Themed Special Events	Yes	91%	87%	94%	89%	94%
	Social Recreation Events	Yes	89%	88%	90%	86%	92%
	Team Sports	Yes	90%	89%	92%	88%	90%
	Fitness Enhancement Classes	Yes	85%	79%	90%	80%	92%
	Health and wellness education	Yes	83%	76%	85%	79%	90%
	Individual Sports	Yes	77%	72%	83%	75%	78%
	Safety Training	Yes	76%	69%	84%	67%	83%
	Racquet Sports	Yes	72%	65%	82%	66%	75%
	Aquatics	Yes	72%	61%	80%	65%	80%
	Performing Arts	Yes	65%	51%	78%	62%	69%
	Visual Arts	Yes	63%	52%	75%	56%	69%
	Natural and cultural history activities	No	56%	43%	63%	56%	60%
	Cultural Crafts	Yes	61%	53%	67%	57%	67%
	Trips and Tours	No	60%	54%	67%	55%	64%
	Martial Arts	Yes	63%	57%	73%	52%	71%
	Running/cycling races	No	47%	39%	54%	43%	52%
	Golf	No	42%	28%	54%	39%	47%
	eSports/eGaming	No	10%	7%	15%	8%	8%
Specific Programming Types	Summer Camp	No	84%	74%	93%	81%	86%
	Specific Senior Programs	Yes	79%	72%	88%	79%	78%
	Specific Teen Programs	No	68%	56%	77%	64%	75%
	Programs for people with disabilities	Yes	61%	45%	75%	58%	64%
	STEM Programs	No	56%	47%	66%	52%	60%
	After School Programs	Yes	53%	50%	52%	43%	66%
	Preschool	No	38%	32%	43%	32%	46%
	Before school programs	No	19%	17%	22%	15%	21%
	Full daycare	No	8%	6%	12%	4%	10%

>75% of peer agencies offer program type
 between 74% and 50% of peer agencies offer program type
 <49% of peer agencies offer program type

BELLFLOWER PROGRAMMING STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, AND UNIQUENESS

Programming strengths are identified as programs offered in Bellflower that are also offered by 75 percent or greater of peer agencies in one or more categories used in the NRPA Agency Performance Review. These categories apply to the City of Bellflower and provide data cross-tabulation over similar agencies nationwide.

Table 2-8 shows that Bellflower provides several programs when compared to peers across more than two categories. These programs should be maintained by the Department to continue matching offerings provided by peers. These programs are:

- » Themed special events
- » Social recreation events
- » Team sports (Little League)
- » Fitness enhancement classes
- » Health and wellness education
- » Individual sports
- » Safety training
- » Specific senior programs

The following programs are provided by peer programs in one or two categories. These programs should also be maintained by the Department to continue matching offerings provided by peers. These programs are:

- » Racquet sports
- » Aquatics
- » Performance arts
- » Visual arts
- » Cultural crafts
- » Martial arts

Programming weaknesses are identified as programs offered by 50 percent or greater of peer agencies in one or more criteria, but not offered in Bellflower. These programs may be considered by the Department to match offerings provided by peer agencies. These programs are:

- » Natural and cultural history activities
- » Trips and tours
- » Summer camp
- » Specific teen programs
- » STEM programs

Unique programs are identified as programs that are offered in Bellflower but are not offered by 75 percent or greater of peer agencies in one or more categories. Programs in this category may be considered strengths if they are well-utilized, or weaknesses if they are not. Consideration must be given to the community's awareness of these programs if they are not well-utilized; marketing campaigns may be needed to boost utilization before decisions are made on program continuation. Unique programs in Bellflower are:

- » After school programs
- » Cultural crafts
- » Martial arts
- » Programs for people with disabilities



REGIONAL COMPARATIVE PROGRAMMING ASSESSMENT

Table 2-9 shows a summary of the types of classes or programs provided by nearby recreational program providers and programs provided by Bellflower. These categories are broad based on program types typically advertised in program guides. The results in this list stems from current program guides from comparable cities. This list stems from current program guides from nearby cities.

TABLE 2-9: Comparative Programming to Nearby Cities

PROGRAM AREA	BELLFLOWER	NATIONAL CITY	DOWNEY	NORWALK	CERRITOS
Population	79,190	56,173	114,355	102,773	49,578
Early Childhood (Tiny Tots and Toddlers)	X		X	X	X
Youth	X	X	X	X	
Teen	X			X	X
Adult	X	X	X	X	X
Fitness	X	X	X	X	X
Senior /Active	X	X	X	X	X
Aquatics	X		X	X	X
Camps	X	X	X	X	X
Youth Sports	X	X	X	X	X
Adult Sports			X	X	X
Cultural Arts	X	X	X	X	X
Adaptive/ Inclusive	X			X	X
Virtual	X		X		

This analysis shows that the City provides at least the same amount of programming options as other neighboring communities and is a leader in providing different types of programming for different age groups in the area. The primary areas of potential growth are in youth and adult sports and additional virtual or online classes and programming.

2.10.6 STAFFING

RECREATION AND PROGRAMMING STAFF

The Parks and Recreation Department of the City currently employs ten full-time staff including two assigned as administrative staff, one in an information technology (IT) role, and seven providing programming-related services. Each of the program positions also have additional responsibilities, including the supervision and coordination of recreational activities. For the fiscal year 2024-2025 budget, parks and recreation has an approved total staffing allocation of 31.1 FTE (Full-Time Equivalents) including part-time and full-time employees.

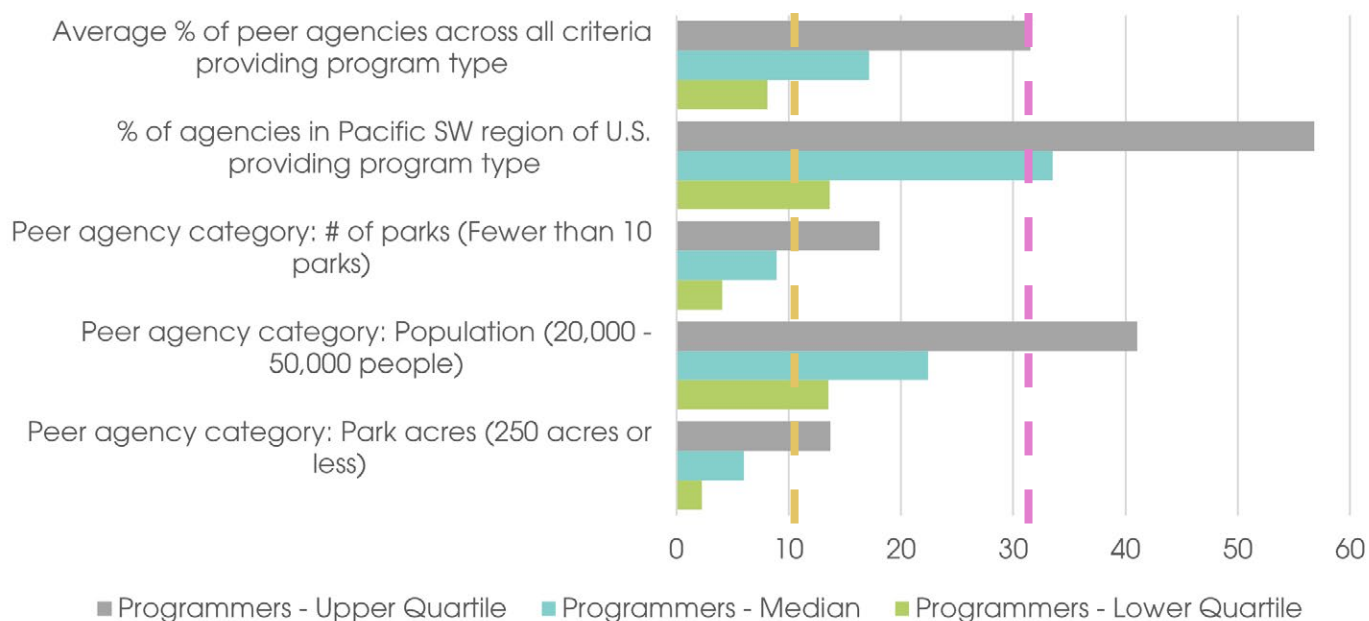
An analysis was conducted on the City's parks and recreation staffing. Staffing levels were compared to NRPA industry standards, using the NRPA's Agency Performance Review as the benchmark. This review incorporates national data sets, considering factors such as population and park acreage. The analysis, based on percentages of staffing and total staffing in parks and recreation departments within the southwest pacific region, revealed that comparable cities maintain staffing levels ranging from 2.3 FTEs (lowest quartile of agencies with similar park acreage) to 56.8 FTEs (highest quartile of agencies in southwest pacific Region) dedicated to programming activities. The pink line in Figure 2-12 represents the current total FTEs for Bellflower (31.1), the yellow line represents the current full-time employees for Bellflower (10) and the bars represent the lower quartile, median, and upper quartiles of agencies in each category.

The City's ten full-time staff is near the lower end of this range, with the remaining services being performed by part-time staff. Staffing is also organized based on location and coverage for customer service purposes, not to focus on programming or services directly.

Anticipating growth in programming, it is essential to hire additional full-time staff to adequately support and expand its operations, with a particular emphasis on enhancing programming. Full-time staff for programming provides additional coverage and reliability in scheduling to manage types of programs and is recommended for supervisors and coordinators. This type of staffing in recreation is best used for administrative personnel to schedule programming overall and to hire and coordinate program providers. Part-time staff is best utilized for coordination of particular programs and specifically management of leagues and services provided mainly after hours and on weekends. This provides for easier scheduling of coverage for these times and more flexibility in the assignment of time over the course of each time period.

In line with practices observed in comparable southwest pacific agencies, there should be a shift in organizational structure from a location-focused approach to a program-type focused management model. More information about this recommendation can be found in Appendix A.

FIGURE 2-12: Staffing Comparison to NRPA Data



PARK PATROL PROGRAM

The Park Patrol program supplements staffing at city-managed parks by assisting staff at supervised locations and overseeing satellite, unsupervised, and pocket parks. A team of two Recreation Leaders patrols all parks, assisting with opening, closing, and cleaning outdoor restrooms, litter abatement, and enforcement of municipal codes and ordinances governing park use, including restrictions on dogs, alcohol/drug use, and loud or amplified music. The Park Patrol team engages with park visitors, offering assistance, addressing public relations needs, and providing reminders of municipal codes related to park use. For severe illegal activity, the team contacts Southwest Patrol or the Sheriff's Department as appropriate. Before proceeding to the next location, the team ensures parks are safe, clean, and free of litter and debris. The program currently operates on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

FACILITIES, PARKS, AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE STAFF

The City of Bellflower’s parks and landscaped areas are maintained by the Public Works Department, as well as their occupied facilities. This group is responsible for any preventive or routine maintenance as well as repairs and rehabilitations due to damage or age. This includes activities such as mowing, weeding, flowering and planting, playground inspection and maintenance, irrigation inspection and repair, and tree pruning and management.

There is about 1 FTE per 5.81 acres of parks. The bulleted lists below outline the Public Works Department organization among parks maintenance activities. Each of these crews also manage the landscaping and maintenance of other city properties such as City buildings, parking lots, and along rights of way.

Park maintenance crews and parks maintained

Simms Park Crew:	Thompson Park Crew:	Caruthers Park Crew:	Downtown Crew
» Simms Park	» Thompson Park	» Caruthers Park	» Butterfly Garden
» Library Gardens	» Aquatic Center	» Riverview Park	» Bellflower Bike Trail
» Town Center Plaza	» Zinn Park	» Palm St. Park	» The Mayne Events Center
» Pirate Park and Friendship Square	» Palm St. Park (South)	» Constitution Park	» Pacific Electric Train Depot
			» Flora Vista Dog Park
			» City Hall/Bristol Auditorium

Crews for maintenance are each established with a Crew Leader that reports to the Parks and Facilities Division Manager and a team of Maintenance Workers. The crews established (as of October 2024) include the staffing as follows:

Simms Park Crew

- » Crew Leader
- » Maintenance Worker I
- » Maintenance Worker II
- » Maintenance Worker (PT)

Thompson Park Crew

- » Crew Leader
- » Maintenance Worker II (2)
- » Maintenance Worker (PT)

Caruthers Park Crew

- » Crew Leader
- » Maintenance Worker II
- » Maintenance Worker I
- » Maintenance Worker (PT)

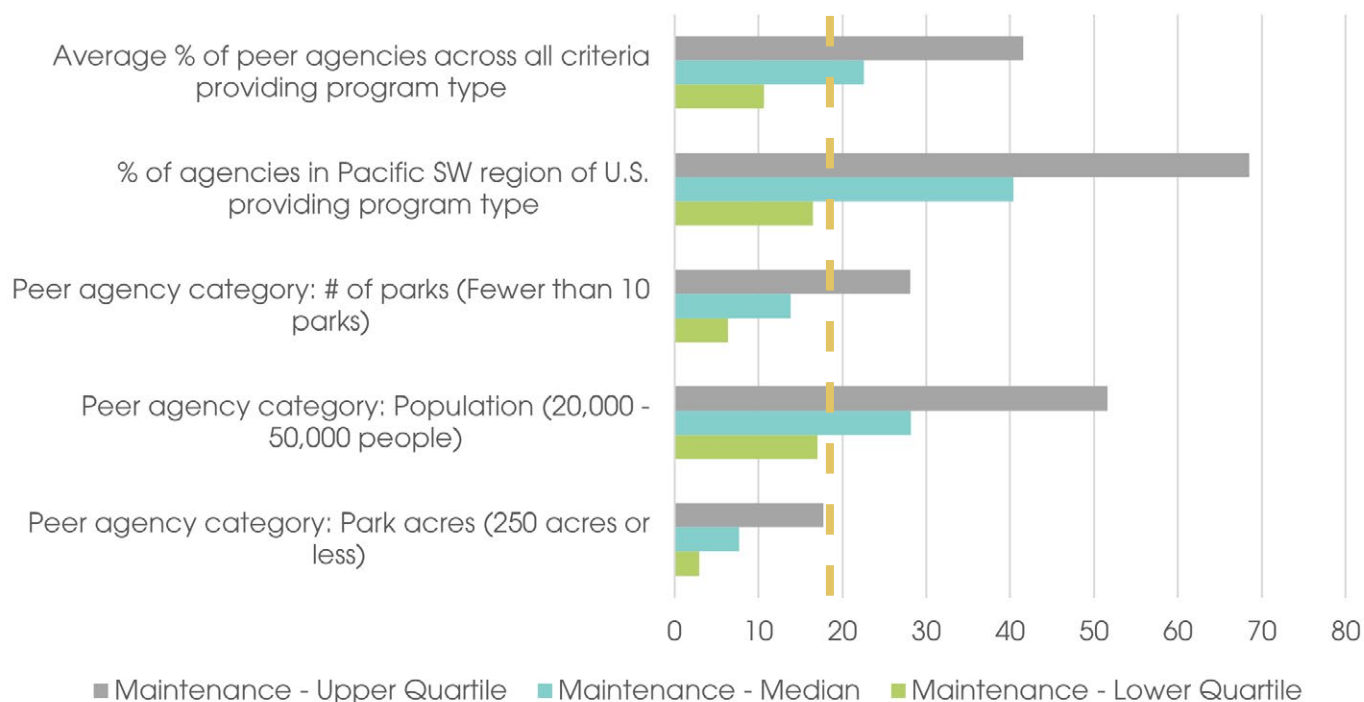
Downtown Crew

- » Crew Leader
- » Maintenance Worker II (3)
- » Maintenance Worker (PT) (5)

Total FTE equals 18.8 based upon part-time staff working 29 hours per week. The Department noted that finding qualified personnel to fill part-time positions is sometimes difficult due to the reduced hours. Using NRPA Agency Performance Data agencies of this population size, parks acreage, number of parks and region of the United States have typically between 2.92 (lower quartile of agencies with similar park acreage) and 68.47 FTEs (upper quartile of agencies in the southwest pacific region) designated for operations and maintenance activities. The following graph represents estimated FTEs by category broken down into the lower quartile, median, and upper quartile ranges. The yellow line represents the FTEs in Bellflower (18.8).

This analysis indicated that staffing for maintenance is adequate, but processes for work order management are not up to modern standards that work for both Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments and are in need of improvement.

FIGURE 2-13: Maintenance Staffing Comparison to NRPA Data



2.10.7 RECREATION TRENDS

In recent years, according to NRPA, national trends in recreation programs have evolved significantly, reflecting broader societal shifts and the growing emphasis on wellness and community engagement. These programs have increasingly prioritized inclusivity, ensuring that diverse populations can access recreational opportunities. Technological advancements have also played a pivotal role, with digital platforms enhancing program accessibility and participation. As Bellflower recognizes the myriad benefits of recreational activities, from improved physical health to enhanced social engagement, recreation programs should adapt to meet these needs, fostering healthier and more connected communities nationwide.

Pickleball remains the fastest-growing sport in America, with over four million people participating annually, as reported by the NRPA. While Bellflower offers programming for various age groups, there is an ongoing demand from the community for additional courts and more pickleball programs. In 2023, the SFIA reported a 51.8 percent increase in participation in this sport, with a 223.5 percent increase in total over three years.

The National Recreation and Park Association have found that youth sports have shown a decline in participation nationally over the past decade, with a significant reduction due to the COVID pandemic. However, in the state of California, most parks and recreation agencies are seeing increases in youth athletic program participation and the need to provide staffing support to ensure the success of youth sports programming.

The NPRA has found that pop-up activities in neighborhood parks are gaining popularity, introducing kids to activities like mini-golf and family game nights. Cities with limited resources are leveraging these opportunities.

In 2023, NRPA issued a report on Supporting Older Adults Through Parks and Recreation that highlighted the following key metrics:

- » 92 percent of park and recreation agencies offer older adult-related resources and programs.
- » 95 percent of agencies say that promoting social connection and addressing social isolation are top benefits of their older adult programming.
- » 30 percent of agencies offer intergenerational programming such as arts and crafts, reading programs, and mentoring opportunities
- » 30 percent of park and recreation agencies dedicate 10 percent or more of their annual operating budget to older adult programming and outreach.

This highlights the need for more adult and older adult programming as a focus to create a more well-rounded recreational programming system. This also provides guidance that intergenerational programming, like the programming being planned for the new senior and teen center in Bellflower, is growing in popularity, but is a new and innovative approach to providing these services.

The Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) participation data provides valuable insights into the trends and patterns shaping the sports and fitness landscape. This data, collected from various industry segments, highlights the activities gaining popularity, the demographic shifts in participation, and the evolving preferences of participants. The following table details data involving the various trends for participation in different types of athletic events:

FIGURE 2-14: Topline Participation

EVENT	PERCENT (%) PARTICIPATION
Athletic events (general)	77.6%
Fitness related activities	67.4%
Outdoor sports	55.0%
Individual sports	41.3%
Team sports	23.2%
Racquet sports	16.4%
Water sports	14.4%
Winter sports	8.0%







Kids Table
• Grab an Activity Booklet •
• Read a Book •
• Design a Park •
HAVE FUN!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

Ensuring that an inclusive community engagement process was carried out was a critical step in the planning process. The process allowed the team to make informed recommendations about the future of the City's parks and recreation system. The team participated in a series of events and collected feedback to help prioritize areas of improvement. These events included neighborhood-specific meetings, workshops, pop-ups at existing community events, stakeholder group meetings, a statistically-valid survey, and a project website. Everyone who lives, works, or plays within Bellflower was considered an essential collaborator in the planning process and in the development of the recommendations for this Plan.

3.1.1 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

The outreach methods used to engage Bellflower community members were:

- » Project branding
- » Project website
- » Social media
- » Statistically-valid survey
- » Two community workshops
- » Three pop-up events
- » Six focus group meetings with key stakeholders
- » Five neighborhood meetings
- » City meetings with Parks and Recreation Commissioners and City Council Members



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TIMELINE



3.2 PROJECT PUBLICITY

Several tools were used to encourage community members to participate in the community engagement process. Tools used to promote community outreach events included social media announcements, posted flyers, distinct project branding, and a project website. These tools were provided both in English and Spanish.

3.2.1 PROJECT BRANDING

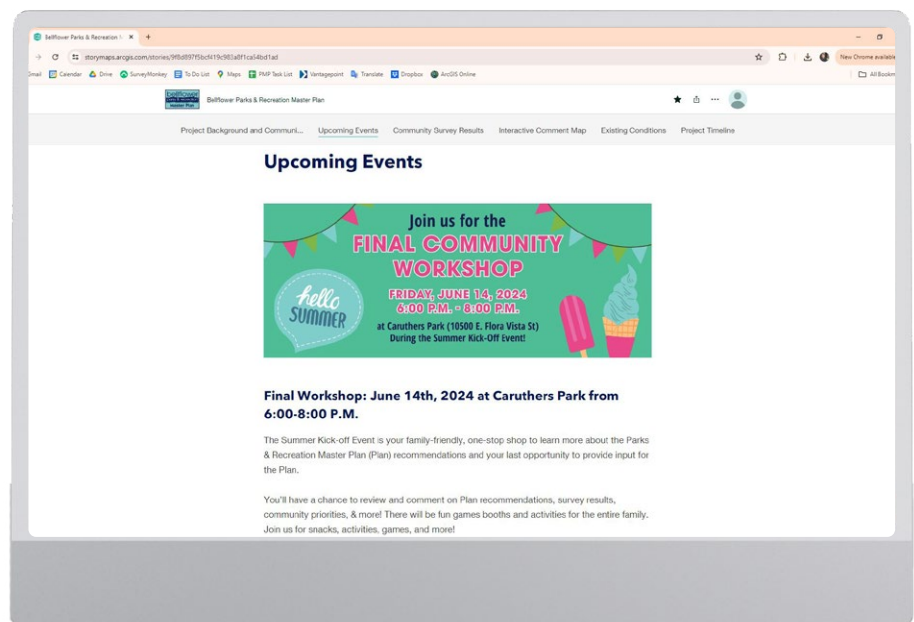
Bellflower's Parks and Recreation Master Plan project branding was inspired by the Parks and Recreation Department's branding. Pulling inspiration from the City's color palette and logo. Project branding was used throughout the project, from announcement flyers to the creation of the Plan document. Branding was used in outreach materials, the project website, and presentations.

3.2.2 PROJECT WEBSITE

The website created an opportunity for community members to access information about the project and to learn about upcoming community engagement opportunities. The project website also contained an interactive online comment map that allowed community members to comment on specific parks or problem areas.

3.2.3 SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media was used as a tool to invite and disseminate information regarding community engagement opportunities, to publicize the Plan, and share project updates.



3.3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PUBLIC EVENTS

Two public workshops, three pop-up events, and five neighborhood meetings were conducted through the community engagement process. These events allowed the team to have genuine conversations with residents, yielding valuable and effective feedback about parks and recreation in Bellflower. The team included a variety of activities at each event, varying from table maps, amenity voting exercises, and a “Build-a-Park” activity.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS AND POP-UPS

Community workshops and pop-up events were an integral part of the engagement process. These events gave the project team a chance to directly engage with the public at various milestones of Plan. Each workshop contained a presentation that was followed by an open-house with various interactive activities.

Top priorities identified by community workshops and pop-ups:



1. Public safety concerns

Residents expressed how many parks in Bellflower have safety issues, leading to them feeling uncomfortable at parks.



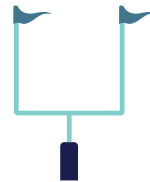
6. Add more dog parks

Residents have expressed a desire to add dog parks at existing parks and facilities.



2. Improved maintenance

Play surfacing repairs, ongoing restroom cleanliness, trash, are all ongoing concerns residents have expressed at parks.



7. Additional and improved sports fields

Residents expressed a need for soccer fields and a sports complex in Bellflower to accommodate sports programs like soccer and flag football.



3. Upgraded playground amenities

Residents would like to see more unique and exciting playgrounds and play equipment at parks.



8. Additional and upgraded sport courts

Tennis pickleball, volleyball, and basketball courts are all desired by residents.



9. Walking paths and loops

Additional areas for walking at parks and new trails are desired by residents.



10. Additional parks

Residents expressed the need for creating new park spaces in Bellflower and not currently having enough places to recreate in the City.



4. Additional recreational programming

More programming options are wanted by residents such as indoor and outdoor sports programs, mommy and me classes, free or reduced fee classes, and teen-specific programs.



5. Better park beautification

Additional trees, shrubs, and plants, and better maintained planted areas are wanted at parks.

NEIGHBORHOOD WORKSHOPS

Neighborhood workshops provided an opportunity for residents of different geographical areas of Bellflower to give specific feedback on their nearby parks. Five neighborhood workshops were conducted at different locations throughout the City and they included Simms Park, Thompson Park, City Hall, the WoodSpring Suites Hotel, and Caruthers Park. Each workshop was designed as an open-house style workshop with informational exhibits and interactive activities. The activities allowed participants to give feedback on desired amenities at parks, existing park improvements, recreational programming, and future programming needs. The “Build-a-Park” activity was available to provide attendees with an opportunity to design their dream park.

The top priorities identified by all of the neighborhood workshops include:

1. Public safety concerns

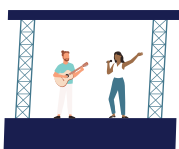


Public safety is a major concern for all districts in Bellflower, especially in District 4. Residents are concerned with speeding cars, unsafe areas along the Artesia (91) Freeway, limited safe spaces for children to play, and not enough safety patrols.



2. Better park maintenance

Residents expressed that parks have trash and facilities needing upkeep and repair.



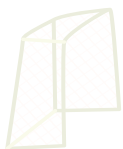
3. Additional arts and performance arts programs

Adding more programs such as arts and crafts, instrument classes, and dance classes was expressed as a desire.



4. Improved park beautification

Many residents expressed the need to add additional plants, trees, shrubs and other features such as public art to create a more welcoming environment at parks.



5. Additional and enhanced sports fields

Residents expressed the need for improved ballfields and to add soccer fields to parks.



6. Additional youth and teen programs

New and modern youth and teen programs were expressed as a need.



7. Additional fitness programs

Residents expressed a need to expand options and days/times of fitness classes.



8. Aquatic programs and amenities

Residents expressed how the existing aquatic center is outdated and needs to be replaced with a modern facility to have the capacity for new aquatic programs.



9. Additional educational programs

Educational programs for seniors, adults, and teens were expressed as a need such as computer literacy, home economics, and cooking classes.



10. Walking paths and loops

Residents would like to see additional walking paths, trails, and connections at parks, and between parks, especially in southern Bellflower.

3.3.1 TIMELINE OF COMMUNITY EVENTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)



POP UP #1 - SUMMER STREETFEST

The Summer Streetfest Pop-up marked the kick-off to the project's community engagement efforts. It took place at the Summer Streetfest event in Downtown Bellflower on August 17th, 2023. The feedback from this event focused on issues concerning the safety of parks, upgrading playground structures as well as the need for passive park amenities.



Top priorities:

- » Increase park safety by adding lighting to parks, fencing certain areas, and addressing issues with people experiencing homelessness.
- » Adding additional park amenities such as exercise areas and walking trails.
- » Updating outdated park facilities and amenities such as playgrounds and indoor recreation facilities.



Pop Up #1 - Summer Streetfest



POP-UP #2 - BELLFLOWER CAR SHOW

The Bellflower Car Show event was the second pop-up the project team attended. The team set up a booth with several maps, activity boards, giveaways, and also promoted the first workshop and the community survey.



Top priorities:

- » Updating or renovating Pirate Park.
- » Better walking and bike connections between the Bellflower Bike Trail and the San Gabriel River Trail and to neighboring cities.
- » Additional programs for seniors and the need for youth sports programs such as soccer.
- » Better communication of recreational programs and park information.



Pop Up #2 - Bellflower Car Show



PUBLIC WORKSHOP #1

The first public workshop was held at Simms Park on Tuesday, October 24, 2023. This workshop included a short presentation and open-house activities that allowed participants to review and provide feedback on informative exhibits and interactive activities.



Top priorities:

- » Upgrades to park amenities like adding shade, either with trees or shade structures, over playgrounds and exercise areas. Replacing wood-chip playground surfacing with rubber surfacing. Modernize the Bellflower Aquatics Center.
- » Adding additional parks to the overall system. The City should explore converting utility corridors land to park spaces with walking paths, exercise equipment, and play elements.
- » Add new park amenities such as soccer fields, group picnic areas, multi-purpose fields, and an amphitheater.
- » Adding programs for youth, adults, and seniors such as senior excursions, arts and crafts, fitness classes, adult swim, and free youth classes.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING #1 AT SIMMS PARK & #2 AT THOMPSON PARK

The first neighborhood meeting was conducted at Simms Park on Tuesday, November 28th and the second neighborhood meeting was conducted on Thursday, November 30th in the multi-purpose room at Thompson Park.



Top priorities:

- » Need to renovate the Bellflower Aquatic Center to a more modern facility.
- » Additional park amenities such as volleyball courts, an outdoor amphitheater, adventure playgrounds, and walking trails.
- » Need for additional programs such as adult softball, Ultimate Frisbee, senior cooking classes, bingo, youth music classes, youth arts programs, teen field trips, youth and teen ceramics classes, and volleyball leagues.



Public Workshop #1 at Simms Park



Neighborhood Meeting #2 - Thompson Park



POP-UP #3 - BELLFLOWER HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

The project team hosted a booth at the annual Holiday Tree Lighting event in Downtown Bellflower on Friday, December 1st, 2023. The purpose was to inform attendees about the Plan and collect community input. Community input was collected using amenity voting boards, maps, written comments, and a “Build-a-Park” activity. The “Build-a-Park” activity was popular among kids which allowed the project team to gain insight into potential new amenities and features in parks most desired by the community at future and existing parks.



Top priorities:

- » Need to renovate the Bellflower Aquatic Center to a more modern facility.
- » Need for new park amenities including an adventure playground, walking trails, community garden, and skate park.



Pop Up #3 - Bellflower Tree Lighting



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING #3 AT CITY HALL

The third neighborhood meeting was held at Bellflower City Hall on January 18th, 2024.



Top priorities:

- » Improve public safety at parks and facilities by improving lighting and having better safety patrol and enforcement of discouraging unwanted activities.
- » Additional amenities at parks including outdoor exercise areas and more modern playgrounds.



Neighborhood Meeting #3 - City Hall



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING #4 AT WOODSPRING SUITES

The fourth neighborhood meeting was held at the WoodSpring Suites lobby on January 24th, 2024. This was the most attended neighborhood meeting with 25 attendees.



Top priorities:

- » Improve public safety and maintenance at parks and other public areas in the City including along Palm Street and at Constitution Park. Participants expressed feeling uncomfortable walking to parks and in parks at times during the day and at night. They say parks are not designed to feel welcoming to users and welcome unwanted behaviors.
- » Attendees also expressed the need for more and better-designed parks; most areas south of the Artesia (91) Freeway contain multi-family housing that lacks outdoor spaces, they depend on public parks to meet their recreational needs.
- » Participants shared ideas for potential programming including youth soccer, singing programs, art and fashion classes for teens, and home economics programs.



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETING #5 AT CARUTHERS PARK

The final neighborhood meeting took place at Caruthers Park on January 25th, 2024. There was 17 participants in attendance.



Top priorities:

- » Public safety concerns.
- » Update and improve park beautification such as improving park landscaping, adding public art to parks, and updating park amenities.
- » Add amenities such as an adventure playground, a pump track/bike park, and nature play areas.
- » Programming desires include providing a wider variety of class times for seniors, arts and craft classes, toddler programs, folklorico classes, youth football, paint parties, aqua zumba, and group bike rides.



Neighborhood Meeting #4 - WoodSpring Suites



Neighborhood Meeting #4 - WoodSpring Suites



Neighborhood Meeting #5 - Caruthers Park



PUBLIC WORKSHOP #2

The second and final public workshop was an open event that took place at Caruthers Park on Friday, June 14, 2024, as part of the City of Bellflower's Park and Recreation Summer Kick-off Event. The event included fun activities such as games, music, food trucks, and face painting. Participants walked through informative boards where all comments and input from workshops, pop-ups, neighborhood meetings, and surveys were summarized to highlight key themes. Participants were also given the opportunity to add comments to the recommended amenities for infill of identified existing park opportunity areas and the drafted initiatives, objectives, and actions to be included in the final Plan Report. Additionally, a kids station provided the opportunity for children to participate in a "Build-a-Park" activity.



Feedback for the Draft Plan Initiatives, Objectives, and Action boards included:

- » The desire for more specific safety measures such as cameras and lighting to be included in the Safety and Comfort Initiative.
- » The desire for more aquatic amenities as a part of the Parks and Facilities Initiative.



Public Workshop #2: Summer Kickoff Event at Caruthers Park



Public Workshop #2: Summer Kickoff Event at Caruthers Park

3.4 STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

Stakeholder focus group meetings were an integral part of the planning process. They allowed the project team to have direct conversations with specific interest group members in the community. Each meeting contained a project overview presentation that was followed by a group discussion and interactive activities.

THE TOP PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED BY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:



1. Enhanced social and accessible programming

Many stakeholders expressed the need for additional social programming options among various age groups as well as accessible programming options in terms of financial accessibility as well as programs for those living with a disability.



6. Public safety concerns

Stakeholders have expressed concerns for public safety at parks and near parks. Homelessness, lack of lighting, poor visibility, and speeding vehicles are common issues mentioned and stakeholders believe these safety issues lead to visitors feeling unsafe and unwelcome.



2. Better maintenance of parks

This was a theme among all project engagement but many expressed the need to improve park cleanliness and general upkeep of facilities.



7. Need for additional courts

The need for additional outdoor and indoor sports courts like volleyball and pickleball was expressed.



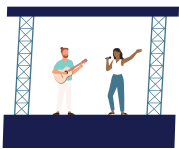
3. Additional educational programming

Educational programming for various age groups including older adults and teens was expressed as a need.



8. Updated aquatic facilities and aquatic programming

The Bellflower Aquatic Center at Thompson Park needs renovation and updated programming options to better serve Bellflower residents.



4. Additional arts and performance arts programs

The need for additional arts programs and classes was expressed including painting, choir, fashion design, crochet, and salsa.



9. Additional fitness programs

Fitness programs for adults and older adults are needed. Desired programs include yoga, senior chair exercises, aquafit, and Tai Chi. Additional daytime programming was also desired.



5. Additional sports programs

There is a desire to bring back youth, adult, and older adult sports. Stakeholders also expressed the need for better coordination between leagues for field time.



10. Exercise equipment

Exercise equipment was also desired along the Bellflower Bike Trail and updated indoor exercise equipment at Thompson Park. Better marketing of existing park facilities may also be necessary for better awareness.

3.4.1 BELLFLOWER CITY COUNCIL AND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The first stakeholder focus group meeting was held at Bellflower City Hall on Monday, October 23, 2023. The Bellflower City Council and the Parks & Recreation Commission provided valuable feedback on the City's existing parks and recreation system. This stakeholder meeting was held as an interactive workshop with many exhibits and boards for council members and commissioners to comment and provide feedback.

Top priorities:

- » Renovate existing playgrounds to more modern standards such as adventure playgrounds and more climbing equipment.
- » Increase youth and senior programs by adding additional program types such as senior dances, cooking classes, social development programs, technology classes, gardening programs, field trips, and arts and crafts.
- » Adding outdoor court sports such as pickleball and volleyball.
- » Renovating the Bellflower Aquatic Center to a more modern facility.
- » Developing a sports complex to include additional field sports fields that the City is lacking like soccer fields.
- » Acquire additional space to expand parks and develop new parks.



City Council and Parks and Recreation Commission

3.4.2 YOUTH FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The youth focus group meeting was held on Monday, October 23, 2023, at Simms Park. This meeting began with a presentation followed by interactive activities. The participants that attended this focus group meeting identified many opportunities that can help improve the City's existing parks and recreation system. They were eager to provide feedback specific to their age group while also keeping in mind other age groups. Many teenagers focused on sports-related issues and opportunities.

Top priorities:

- » Sports court improvements to basketball courts, creating additional basketball courts, and volleyball courts.
- » Adding additional programs such as youth educational programs, summer camps, tennis, singing, arts and crafts, yoga, knitting, and game nights.
- » Need for better park maintenance including improvements to ballfields, as well as adding multi-purpose sports fields to the park system.
- » Need to add additional amenities to the overall park system including adventure playgrounds, pump tracks/bike parks, and an updated aquatic center.
- » Adding playgrounds to parks without play areas like Zinn Park and Riverview Park.



Youth Focus Group

3.4.3 SENIOR FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The senior focus group meeting was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at Simms Park. This meeting began with a presentation followed by gallery-style activities with interactive maps and exhibits. Participants were excited to provide feedback to help improve the City's parks and recreation system. Although the group primarily focused on recreation and social programming opportunities, they did provide a handful of park infrastructure comments.

Top priorities:

- » More senior program options such as art and craft classes, book clubs, field trips, educational classes, fitness classes, senior dances, and mentorship programs with teens.
- » Update the Bellflower Aquatic Center to a more modern facility and expanding the gymnasium at Thompson Park.
- » Adding shade over play areas and exercise areas and removing fencing around picnic areas.
- » Additional park amenities such as pickleball courts, a community garden, outdoor amphitheater, restrooms, and walking trails.
- » Improve park and recreation communications to seniors by improving awareness of programs offered and better distribution of the park and recreation brochure.
- » Opening the Carpenter House Museum to the public.



Senior Focus Group Meeting

3.4.4 PARKS AND RECREATION ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The Parks and Recreation Administrative Staff meeting was conducted virtually in February 2024. Staff from Thompson Park, Simms Park, and Caruthers Park were in attendance and provided input on current and future priorities. The main topics discussed at this meeting include public safety, maintenance issues, park infrastructure, and recreational programming.

Top priorities:

- » Relocation of Caruthers Park Skate Park to a more highly-visible location.
- » Better coordination with parks maintenance staff to help address public safety and maintenance concerns.
- » Desire to update the Bellflower Aquatic Center to a more modern facility.
- » Review and updated park use policies to be more inviting for park users.
- » Updating field permitting to allow better use of Little League's field time and to allow more drop-in field time for park users.



Senior Focus Group Meeting

3.4.5 STAFF FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The part-time staff focus group meeting was conducted on February 23rd at Simms Park. A diverse group of 23 part-time staff participated and provided their input on current and future priorities for the parks and recreation system. It is very apparent from both staff meetings that the Bellflower Parks and Recreation Department is very passionate and invested in the parks and the community they serve. They all would like to see changes to improve the quality of life for residents.

Top priorities:

- » Need to address public safety concerns from staff and community members. They expressed how their concerns lead to park users feeling unwelcome and uncomfortable at parks. Improvements they suggested include adding better lighting and security patrol at parks.
- » Updating outdated equipment such as the gymnasium floors, kitchen, and swimming pools, and weight room equipment at Thompson Park. They also suggest updating Thompson Park's, Simms Park's, and Caruthers Park's indoor facilities around the same time so the distribution of resources and upgrades are equitable.
- » Future programming needs include additional senior classes, specifically computer literacy and scam prevention, senior and teen mentorship programs, teen tutoring programs, toddler drop-in programs for stay-at-home parents, free programs, social programs for seniors, and basketball programs for different age groups.
- » Improvements to some administrative processes such as increasing part-time staff hours, allowing staff to teach/instruct classes and programs, and having designated staff vehicles for the parks and recreation department.



Staff Focus Group Meeting



Staff Focus Group Meeting

3.5 COMMUNITY SURVEY

Surveys were used to collect input from residents and other park users on city parks and recreation facilities, amenities, programming, and more. The survey was designed to yield results that could help the City develop recommendations that accurately reflect the needs, wants, and desires of the entire Bellflower community. The surveys were available in English and Spanish from October 2023 through January 2024.

Two samples were collected in the survey effort:



Statistically-Valid Sample: Surveys were mailed to a random sample of 5,000 residential households in Bellflower. Of the 5,000 paper surveys mailed to Bellflower households, 412 surveys were completed, resulting in a margin of error of +/- 4.8 percent.

Open-Link Sample: Later, the same survey was made available to all Bellflower community members through an online survey. The online survey was shared widely through social media, City newsletters, and other promotional activities to reach as many Bellflower parks and recreation users as possible. A total of 311 online surveys were completed online.

In total, 723 surveys were completed by Bellflower community members. Together, the two samples provide a useful source of community input on Bellflower's existing parks and recreation facilities and programming and the need for future improvements. A summary of the survey results is included in this chapter. Complete survey results can be found in Appendix A.

3.5.1 SURVEY RESULTS SNAPSHOT

Figure 3-1 to Figure 3-8 represents a snapshot of survey results as a comparison of responses from the invite and online samples.

Which area do you live in?

Respondents came from all areas of the City of Bellflower, with the most being from Areas 1, 2, and 3 for the Invite sample, and scattered around the map for the online sample.

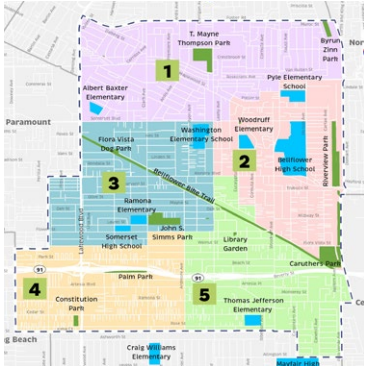
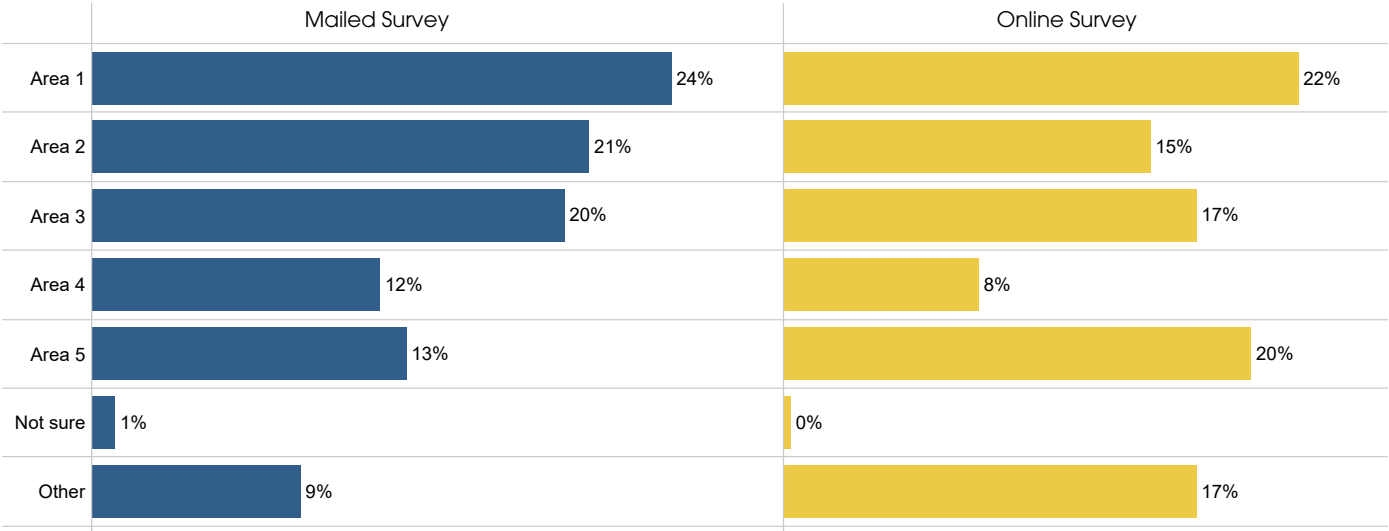


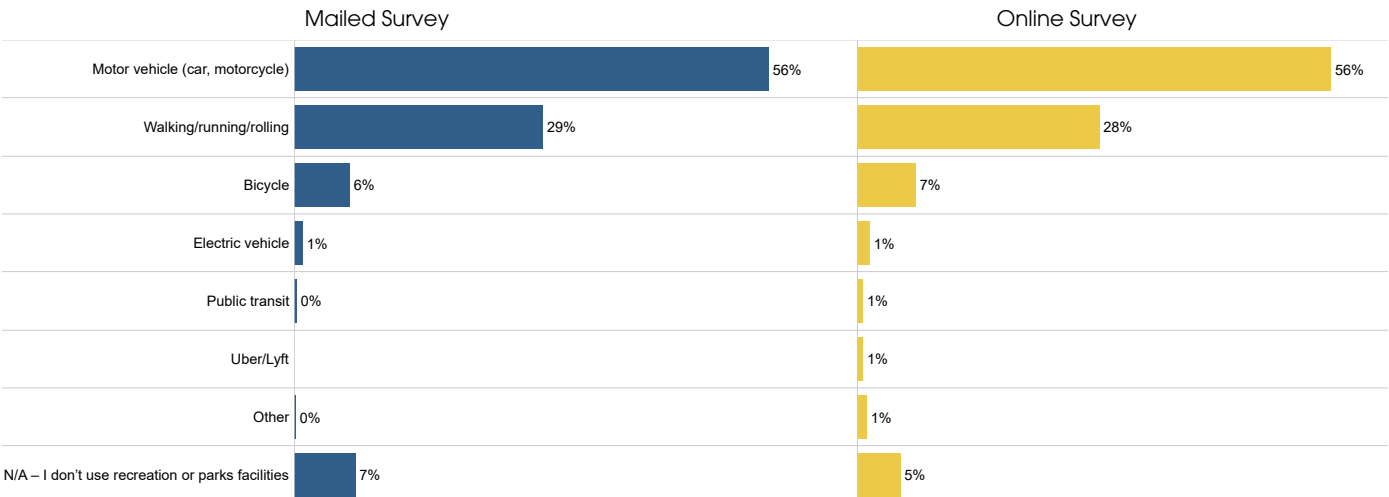
FIGURE 3-1: Response Distribution



Which mode of transportation do you most typically use to get to the park you most frequently visit?

Most respondents use motor vehicles travel to parks (56 percent). However, a large share report walking/running/rolling indicating they live close to a park. A smaller percentage of respondents opt for bicycling. Notably, only seven percent of the invite sample and five percent of the online sample report not utilizing recreational or park facilities.

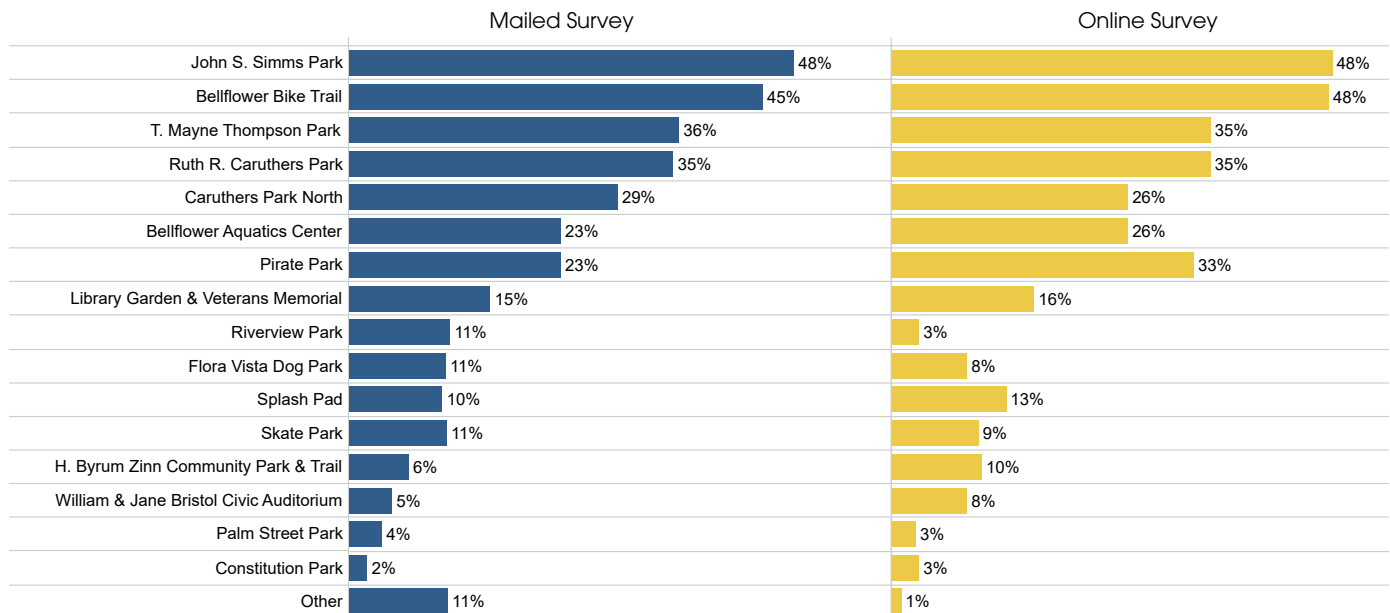
FIGURE 3-2: Transportation



Which Bellflower parks/recreation facilities have been used by your household in the past 12 months?

Simms Park is the most frequented park, with 48 percent of respondents from both samples indicating they have visited it in the past year. Followed by the Bellflower Bike Trail, Thompson Park, and Caruthers Park, respectively. Respondents who took the online survey also visited Pirate Park.

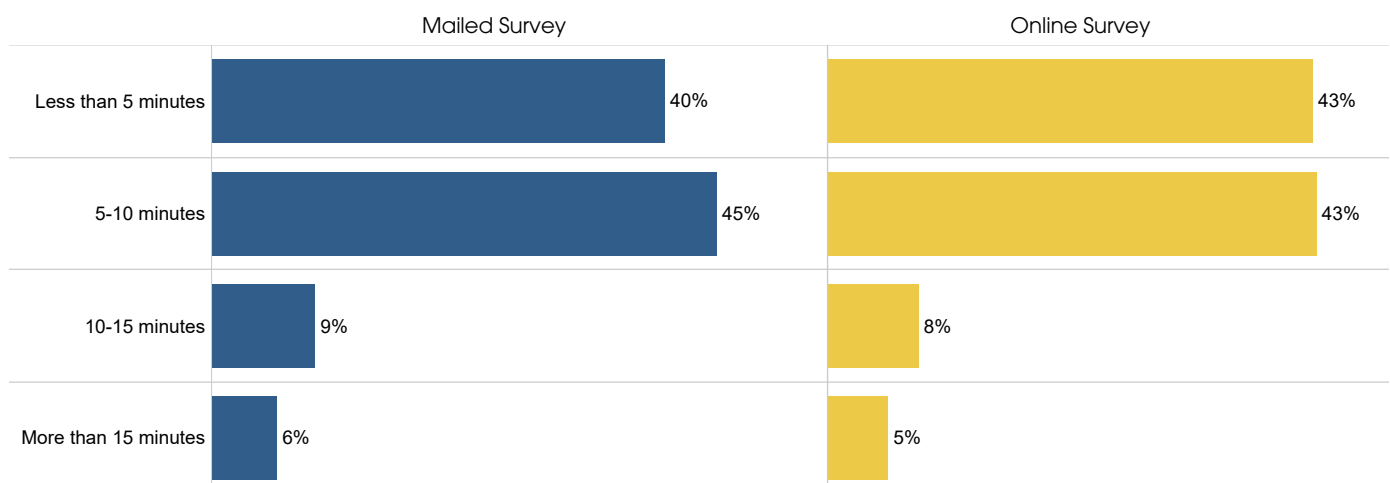
FIGURE 3-3: Frequency



How long does it take you to get to your most visited park?

Most respondents have to travel 10 minutes or less to their most visited parks (85 percent).

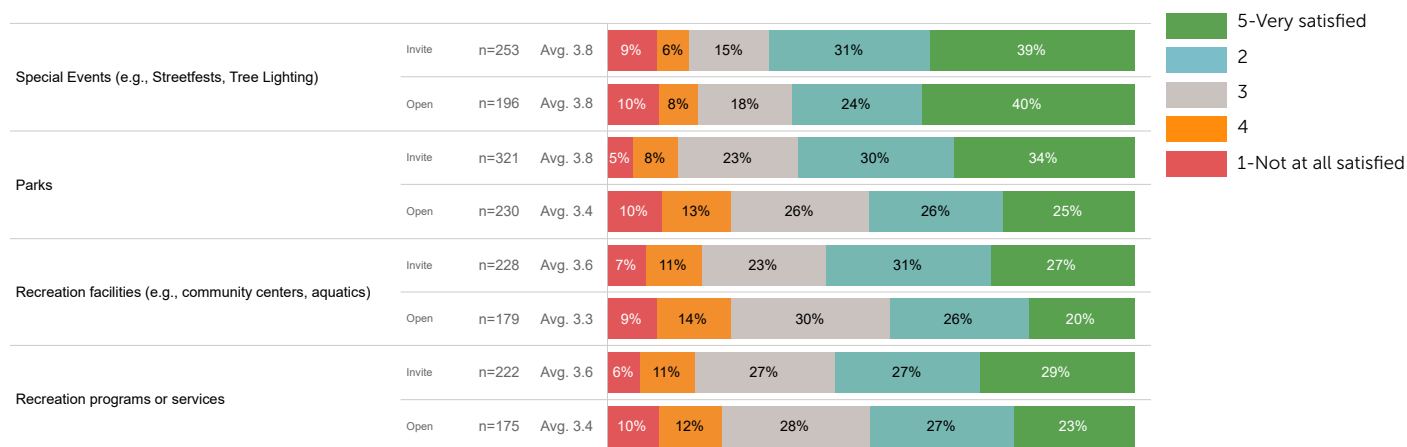
FIGURE 3-4: Time of Transportation



How satisfied has your household been with the overall quality of Bellflower parks, facilities, recreation programs, and services you've used in the past 12 months?

Respondent satisfaction with the overall quality of Bellflower's parks, facilities, recreation programs, special events, and services in the past year is relatively high. Special events and parks receive the highest satisfaction ratings, averaging 3.8 out of 5. Satisfaction ratings for recreation facilities and programs or services are lower in comparison. Online respondents report lower satisfaction levels.

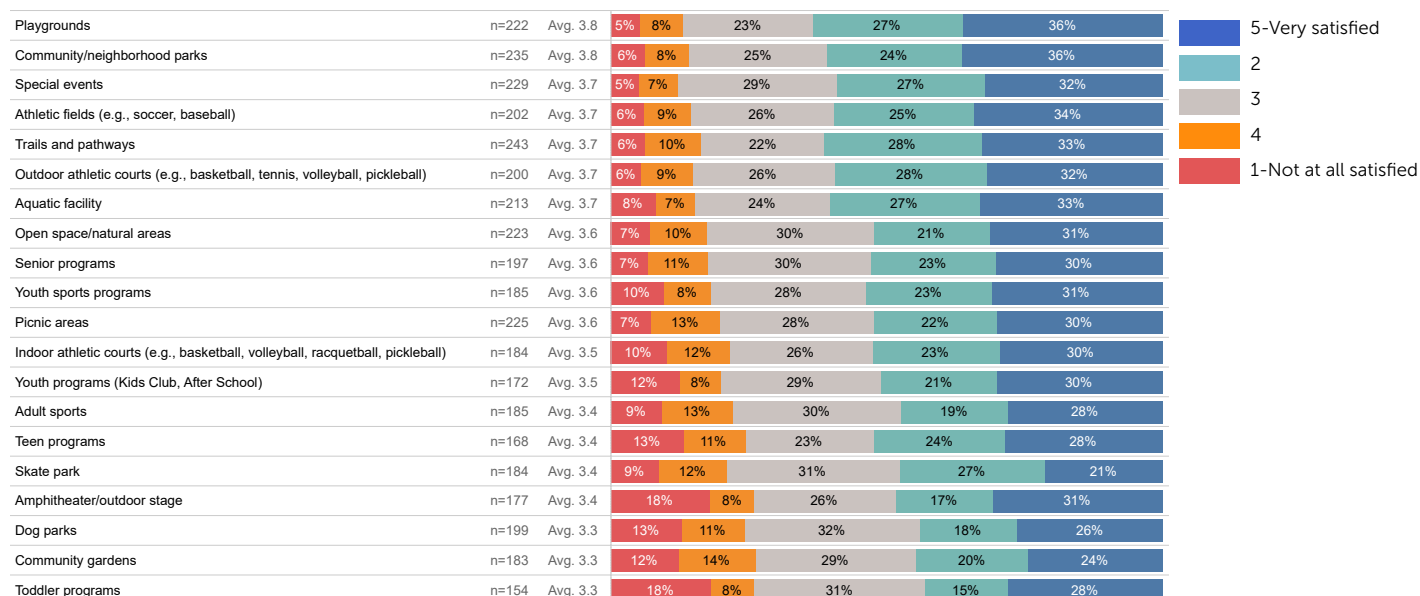
FIGURE 3-5: Level of Satisfaction



Please rate how well you think the recreation facilities and services currently meet the needs of the community.

In terms of how well each program is meeting the needs of the community, playgrounds, community/neighborhood parks and special events are the top-rated programs/services according to the invite sample. While all categories were rated closely on average, programs with the lowest ratings included toddler programs, community gardens, and dog parks.

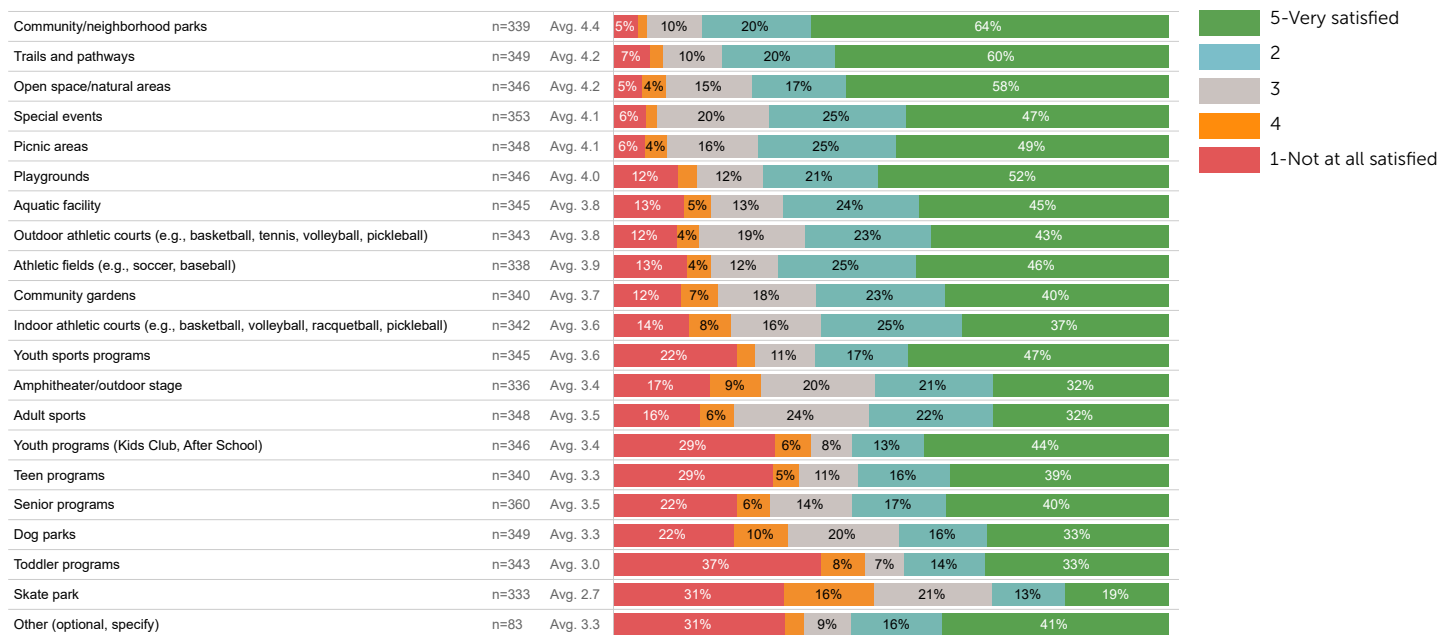
FIGURE 3-6: Needs



Please rate how important the following recreation facilities and services are to your household. Please provide an answer whether or not you have used a facility or participated in the activity.

Among invite respondents, the most important facilities and services include community/neighborhood parks, trails and pathways and open space/natural areas. These categories were followed closely by special events, picnic areas, and playgrounds. Amenities rated the least important were primarily special interest areas such as dog parks, toddler programs, and a skate park.

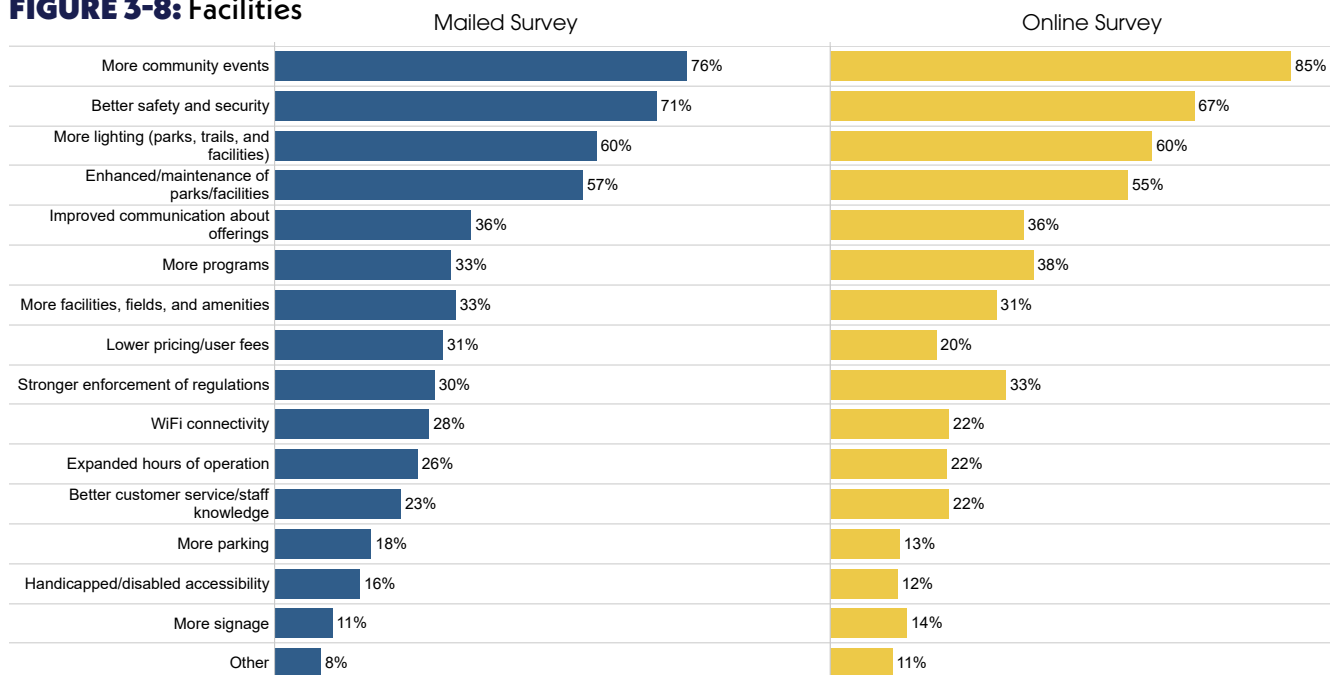
FIGURE 3-7: Importance



What are the most important items that, if addressed by the City of Bellflower, would increase your use of parks and recreation facilities?

Both samples feel that more community events would help increase their use of parks and recreation facilities followed by better safety and security and more lighting and enhanced maintenance of parks/facilities.

FIGURE 3-8: Facilities



3.5.2 KEY FINDINGS

Some of the key themes gathered from the community survey are:



Mid Level of Satisfaction

Satisfaction with Bellflower parks, facilities, programs and events is high among both the invite and online samples. Special Events and Parks each received an average rating of 3.8 out of 5, followed by Recreation Facilities and programs/services each at 3.6.



Most Important Focus

Respondents feel that it is most important for the City to focus on community and neighborhood parks, as well as trails, pathways and open spaces. In terms of meeting the community's needs, the current offerings in these categories received moderate ratings, indicating a desire for future improvements.



Familiarity with Bellflower Parks

A high majority of respondents have lived in the Bellflower area for 10 or more years, which reflects a high level of familiarity with the parks and recreation services and amenities offered. On a scale from 1 to 5, where 5 is very familiar, 46 percent respond a 4 or 5, and 27 percent respond a 1 or 2.



Effective Communication

Communications regarding parks and recreation are rated positively by respondents in both samples. This is supported by an alignment between communication methods used by the City and the preferences of respondents. Most respondents receive communication via City brochures and email newsletters, which were also the most preferred communication methods.



Most Important Facilities

Neighborhood parks are important to residents. 85 percent of respondents from both the invite and online samples report their most visited park is less than 10 minutes away, regardless of the area of town they report living in.



Top Three Priorities

Improved amenities (e.g., restrooms and picnic areas), additional community events, and safety and security were each highlighted as very important future priorities for respondents of both online and invite samples.



Highest Level of Importance

Comparing importance to needs met can help prioritize future needs. The list below describes the top ten features or services most desired by the respondents

1. Open space & natural areas
2. Trails and pathways
3. Community/neighborhood parks
4. Community gardens
5. Picnic areas
6. Outdoor athletic courts
7. Amphitheater/outdoor stage
8. Playgrounds
9. Aquatic facility
10. Special events



A photograph of a park playground. In the foreground, there is a large, light blue number '4' overlaid on the right side. The playground features a complex climbing structure with ropes and a swing set. The ground is covered in brown mulch. In the background, there are several large green trees, a grassy field, and a fence. The sky is blue with some clouds.

4

RECOMMENDATIONS

HOW TO NAVIGATE THIS CHAPTER

The recommendations in this Chapter are based on the findings from the existing conditions analysis, community engagement, and the comparative analyses described in the previous chapters of this Plan. These recommendations are intended to be consistent with the General Plan and other recently completed planning documents.

This page describes each of the sections included in this Chapter. The goal of each section is to help the City achieve all actions needed to improve and maintain a healthy, sustainable, fun, equitable, and diverse parks and recreation system over the next ten years.

4.1

PLAN INITIATIVES

- » Establishes eight initiatives
- » Each initiative is followed by a series of objectives to help guide the City's future park and recreation planning efforts
- » Full list of actions can be found in Appendix A

4.2

ENHANCING BELLFLOWER'S PARKS

- » Planned park improvements
- » Identified improvement to existing parks through infill amenities, specific recommendations, and park-wide improvements
- » Project highlights for park improvements

4.3

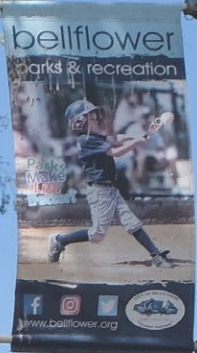
POTENTIAL PARK OPPORTUNITIES

- » Potential areas of focus for future parks
- » Potential sites for future parks and concept plans
- » Potential park opportunities and their impact on the overall park system

4.4

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

- » Pocket parks, parklets, plazas, and public art
- » Other creative solutions



4.1

PLAN INITIATIVES

Eight initiatives were developed to guide the future of Bellflower's Park and Recreation System. The initiatives in this section are intentionally overarching. They encompass everything from programming recommendations to administrative policies. A list of specific actions associate with each objective can be found in Appendix A.





Initiative One:
**Parks and
Facilities**



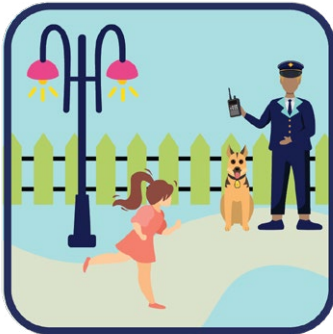
Initiative Six:
**Public Art and
Placemaking**



Initiative Two:
**Programs and
Services**



Initiative Seven:
**Sustainability
and
Stewardship**



Initiative Three:
**Safety and
Comfort**



Initiative Eight:
Administrative



Initiative Four:
**Equity and
Access**



Initiative Five:
Connectivity

**HOW TO INTERPRET THE
INITIATIVES AND OBJECTIVES:**

Initiatives:

Initiatives represent an overarching topic related to parks and recreation.

Objectives:

Objectives provide direction to help create the positive change the City envisions.

*Actions are well-defined steps needed to achieve objectives. These can be found in Appendix A.



4.1.1 INITIATIVE ONE:

PARKS AND FACILITIES

Parks and Facilities are the foundation for the Bellflower parks and recreation system. They provide essential services to enhance community health, well-being, and camaraderie. Parks that contain a variety of experiences for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities provide a balanced and well-rounded experience that ultimately better serves its community. The Parks and Facilities Initiative seeks to improve Bellflower's park system by evolving the types of amenities offered at parks, incorporating modern park design practices, and exploring opportunities for new parks.

OBJECTIVES

- **Improve and expand the City's existing parks, and recreational facilities.**
- **Establish new parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of the community.**
- **Promote a well-designed, continuous system of parks and recreation facilities.**
- **Establish non-traditional park spaces throughout Bellflower.**





4.1.2 INITIATIVE TWO:

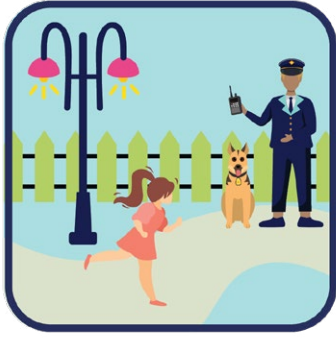
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Programs and Services bring Bellflower's parks and facilities to life. Programs allow community members to partake in a broad spectrum of physical and cognitive activities, learn new skills, socialize, and become involved community members. The Programs and Services initiative seeks to introduce innovative new programs at existing facilities at the new community center and improve existing programs and services to better meet the needs of the ever-evolving community.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Expand recreational programming to meet the needs and interests of the community and provide a comprehensive recreation program.**
- **Implement new programming at the New Senior and Teen Center.**
- **Expand aquatic programming offering with enhanced amenities provided by a new aquatic center.**
- **Expand current programming hours.**





4.1.3 INITIATIVE THREE:

SAFETY AND COMFORT

Being comfortable in public spaces is a major factor for many residents' desire to visit these places. Throughout this planning process, many community members, City Staff, and stakeholders frequently expressed the need to improve safety and security at parks and near parks. Ensuring safety and comfort is at the forefront of fostering better park experiences and may be achieved through a combination of intentional design practices, crime prevention measures, improved maintenance, and other strategies. The Safety and Comfort Initiative uses a multi-faceted approach to create comfortable park experiences for the community.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Continue providing awareness of resources for people experiencing homelessness to lessen their impact in public spaces.**
- **Create a park and recreation system where all residents and visitors feel safe, comfortable, and secure at all facilities.**
- **Implement the concepts of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) at parks and recreation facilities when Renovating or developing new parks.**





4.1.4 INITIATIVE FOUR:

EQUITY AND ACCESS

Access to nature and park spaces is vital to a person's physical health, mental health, and overall well-being. Parks have many physical and mental health benefits including reduced risk of diseases, stress reduction, improved mood, and increased opportunities for social interaction. The Equity and Access Initiative paves a pathway to creating an equitable park and recreation system for all community members.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Distribute parks and/or recreation facilities so that residents live within a 15-minute walking distance to Parks and/or facilities.**
- **Create an accessible, inclusive, and enjoyable atmosphere at parks and recreation facilities.**
- **Provide residents with an accessible range of recreation services to meet multi-generational, recreational, and educational interests and needs.**





4.1.5 INITIATIVE FIVE:

CONNECTIVITY

Providing safe pedestrian and bicycling connections between Bellflower's neighborhoods, Downtown Bellflower, parks, and schools is a primary ingredient to making such places more accessible to the community. Residents are more inclined to walk, roll, or bike to these places if there is a safe and pleasant route to do so. The Connectivity Initiative aims to enhance non-vehicular links between parks and key destinations for residents, fostering a safer and more appealing environment for everyone.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Provide safe pedestrian and bicycle connections to parks and recreation facilities.**
- **Ensure equitable access to the bikeway network for all residents, and support bicycling as an attractive, convenient transportation choice for all demographic groups.**





4.1.6 INITIATIVE SIX:

PUBLIC ART AND PLACEMAKING

Placemaking is a term used to describe the act of enhancing public spaces through community-driven design practices and incorporating significant cultural, historical, physical geography, and social identities into a public place that defines the community. Placemaking can be expressed through murals, sculptures, landscaping, architecture, signage, and many more. The Placemaking initiative aims to encourage the City to explore incorporating placemaking elements that celebrate Bellflower's diversity, history, and culture at parks and recreation facilities.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Create a distinct sense of place at Bellflower parks and recreation facilities consistent with citywide branding.**
- **Showcase community diversity, culture, and history at parks and recreation facilities.**





4.1.7 INITIATIVE SEVEN:

SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP

Parks and recreational facilities are key players in fostering environmental resiliency in the City. In a built-out City like Bellflower, parks may be the only access to natural resources within City limits that residents experience. Bellflower should aim to create a City where environmental needs are met without compromising future generations' capabilities to do the same. The Sustainability and Stewardship Initiative aims to incorporate better sustainable design elements and maintenance practices into parks and recreational facilities and sets the tone of leadership and responsibility for the City.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Ensure parks are designed with sustainable design elements and include features that minimize the impacts of sun, heat, and wind.**
- **Foster environmental awareness and stewardship.**





4.1.8 INITIATIVE EIGHT:

ADMINISTRATIVE

Passionate, creative, and efficient City staff are responsible for the success of a park and recreation system and Bellflower Staff are nothing short of that. They perform essential duties that determine the effectiveness of programs, special events, parks, and recreational facilities. The Administrative Initiative is intended to build on the effectiveness of the Parks and Recreation Department to better serve the evolving community.

OBJECTIVES:

- **Reorganize Staffing to better meet service needs.**
- **Enhance marketing and communications methods to promote parks and recreation programs and services.**
- **Establish an improved process with Public Works to increase the quality of park maintenance.**



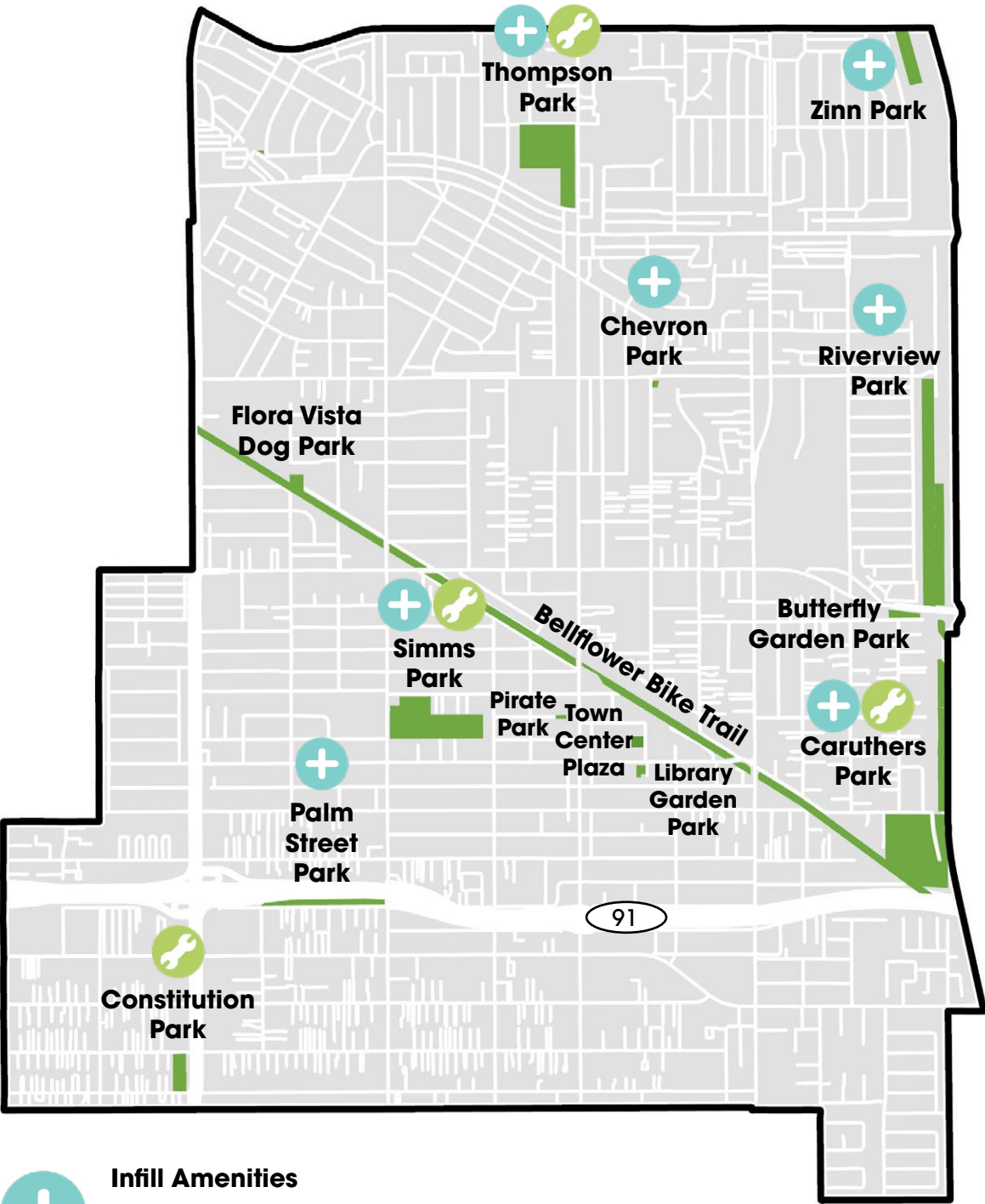
4.2

ENHANCING BELLFLOWER PARKS

Much of this master planning process involved extensive analysis of existing park conditions and developing the park report cards shown in Chapter 2. The public engagement process highlighted the need to improve the existing parks. This section describes potential park improvements to help address deficits previously-identified.



RECOMMENDATIONS OVERVIEW



Infill Amenities

Infill amenities are recommendations that add new amenities to the identified infill sites based on an identified need.



Planned Improvements

Park-wide improvement may include better connectivity and beautification.

4.2.1 OPPORTUNITY AREA ANALYSIS AND SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The opportunity area analysis determines underutilized areas within a park and suggests new park amenities that can potentially be suitable based on the allocation of space required. Each park with an opportunity area is shown with a key map alongside a table of recommended potential amenities.

The table identifies what kinds of amenities will fit in the opportunity areas based on square footage and dimensions. The amenities with an “x” indicate a need based on park amenity deficits, geographic distribution of park amenities identified in Chapter 2, community engagement feedback, and general best practices.

Several parks also include specific recommendations such as upgrading, renovating, or replacing existing amenities and park-wide recommendations such as beautification and connectivity improvements.





bellflower
DOTS & MATHS
Master Plan

1 2 3 4

4.2.2 H. BYRUM ZINN PARK OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS



EXISTING AMENITIES:



RECOMMENDED AMENITIES:



NOTES:

» Park is located on Southern California Edison (SCE) right-of-way, park improvements would require coordination with SCE.

EXISTING CONDITIONS:

Zinn Park is a Neighborhood Park with a walking path and exercise equipment. The park is located underneath SCE powerlines which limits the uses and amenities permitted at this park.

TABLE 4-1: Zinn Park Opportunity Areas

COMMON RECREATION FACILITIES	TYPICAL SF	1	2	3
Group Picnic Areas (12+ people)	500-1,500	x	x	x
Park Games (Ping-pong, cornhole, etc.)	300-600	x	x	x
Playground (ages 6-12)	4,000-8,000			x
Pickleball	1,800*	x	x	x
Tot-lot Playground (ages 2-5)	1,500-4,000			x
Dog Park / Dog Run	8,000-50,000	x	x	x
Community Garden	3,000-12,000		x	x

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Explore the feasibility of installing recommended amenities (picnic area, park games, playground, and pickleball).
2. Enhance visibility into the park by trimming low trees and maintaining landscaping around the park's perimeter.
3. Update and replace amenities on a cycle as they age.



Example of a picnic table along pathway



Example of a park game

4.2.3 T. MAYNE THOMPSON PARK & BELLFLOWER AQUATIC CENTER OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS



EXISTING AMENITIES:



RECOMMENDED AMENITIES:



EXISTING CONDITIONS:

Thompson Park is a Community Park with a Aquatic Center, Recreation Center, baseball/ softball fields, picnic areas, play areas, and half-basketball courts. The Bellflower Aquatic Center is over 50 years old and is in need of complete replacement.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS:

Thompson Park is planned to receive a new X-Treme Ninja Course. This will be a new and unique amenity and will help serve the needs of residents of many different age groups. The ballfields at this park will also receive upgraded field lighting.

TABLE 4-2: Thompson Park Opportunity Area Analysis

COMMON RECREATION FACILITIES	TYPICAL SF	1	2	3
Group Picnic Areas (12+ people)	500-1,500	x	x	x
Park Games (Ping-pong, cornhole, etc.)	300-600	x		x
Walking Loop	varies*	x		
Swimming Pool	10,000-60,000*	Replace existing facilities		
Splashpad / Water Play Feature	800-4,000	Incorporate into existing aquatic center or renovation		
Multi-purpose Youth Field	30,000-95,000		x	
Pickleball	1,800*		x	x
Tennis	7,200		x	x
Outdoor Exercise Area	500-2,000	x		
Dog Park / Dog Run	8,000-50,000	x	x	x
Basketball	6,300*		x	x
Skate Park	12,000-18,000		x	
Volleyball	4,000		x	x

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Explore the feasibility of installing recommended amenities (picnic area, park games, walking loop, splashpad, multi-purpose field, pickleball, and tennis courts).
2. Explore the feasibility of constructing a new Bellflower Aquatic Center on the existing aquatic center site and include modern facilities such as a lap pool, recreational pool, therapy/rentable pool, and splashpad.
3. Consider relocation of the existing skate park at Caruthers Park to Thompson Park.
4. Renovate the existing picnic shelter to include a modern shade structure with more attractive and inviting fencing.
5. Update and replace amenities on a cycle as they age.



Example of an aquatic center

4.2.4 CHEVRON POCKET PARK OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS



NO EXISTING AMENITIES.

RECOMMENDED AMENITIES:



EXISTING CONDITIONS:

Chevron Pocket Park is a small park with no existing amenities or features. The land is leased and contains a pipeline underneath the ground. It is located on the corner of Somerset Boulevard and Eucalyptus Avenue adjacent to a church.

TABLE 4-3: Chevron Park Opportunity Area Analysis

COMMON RECREATION FACILITIES	TYPICAL SF	1	2
Park Games (Ping-pong, cornhole, etc.)	300-600	x	

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. Explore the feasibility of installing several amenities to this park (park games, small play amenities, picnic tables, etc) that do not involve adding concrete footings into the ground.



Example of a park games and picnic tables

4.2.5 RIVERVIEW PARK OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS



EXISTING AMENITIES:



NOTES:

- » Park is located on SCE right-of-way, park improvements would require coordination with SCE.

RECOMMENDED AMENITIES:



EXISTING CONDITIONS:

Riverview Park is a Neighborhood Park also located on SCE right-of-way. Existing amenities include a walking path.

TABLE 4-4: Riverview Park Opportunity Area Analysis

COMMON RECREATION FACILITIES	TYPICAL SF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Group Picnic Areas (12+ people)	500-1,500	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Park Games (Ping-pong, cornhole, etc.)	300-600	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
Playground	4,000-8,000			x		x		x	
Adventure Playground	4,000-8,000			x				x	
Community Garden	3,000-12,000	x		x		x		x	x
Pickleball	1,800*			x					
Tennis	7,200			x					
Tot-lot Playground (ages 2-5)	1,500-4,000			x		x		x	x
Outdoor Exercise Area	500-2,000	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Dog Park / Dog Run	8,000-50,000	x		x	x			x	
Basketball	6,300*			x					
Volleyball	4,000			x					

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Explore the feasibility of installing new amenities to this park (picnic areas, park games, playgrounds, adventure playground/equipment, community garden, pickleball courts, and tennis courts).
2. Enhance visibility into the park by trimming low trees and maintaining landscaping around the park's perimeter.
3. Maintain the existing trail as a Class 1 multi-use path.



Example of play amenities

4.2.6 PALM PARK OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS



EXISTING AMENITIES:



NOTES:

- » Park is located on Caltrans Right-of-Way and may require additional coordination for improvements or renovations.

RECOMMENDED AMENITIES:



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Palm Park is a Neighborhood Park. It contains a play area, picnic area, and a plaza space for B.R.I.M equipment.

TABLE 4-5: Palm Park Opportunity Area Analysis

COMMON RECREATION FACILITIES	TYPICAL SF	1	2
Park Games (Ping-pong, cornhole, etc.)	300-600	x	x
Adventure Playground	4,000-8,000	x	x
Outdoor Exercise Area	500-2,000	x	x
Half Court Basketball	6,300*	x	x

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Explore the feasibility of installing new active amenities to this park (park games, adventure playground/equipment, outdoor exercise equipment, and half-basketball courts).
2. Enhance visibility into the park by trimming low trees and maintaining landscaping near the northern park boundary near the Artesia Freeway.
3. Consider streetscape improvements along Palm Street for traffic calming.
4. Update and replace amenities on a cycle as they age.



Example of a half-basketball court

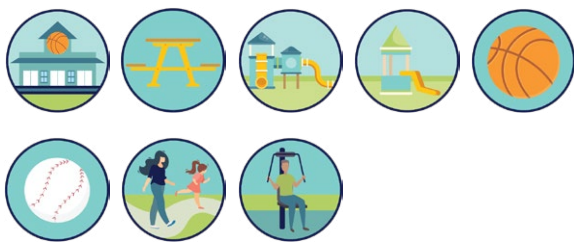


Example of a curb bioswale as a streetscape improvement

4.2.7 JOHN S. SIMMS PARK OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS



EXISTING AMENITIES:



RECOMMENDED AMENITIES:



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Simms Park is a Community Park with a recreation center, baseball/softball fields, play area, basketball courts, outdoor exercise area, picnic areas, and a walking path.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

A new multi-generational community center serving youth and seniors is coming to Simms Park. A stormwater capture project is also in the works for Simms Park, which will involve replacing the current ballfield turf with multi-purpose synthetic turf, adding new trees and landscaping, and upgrading the existing parking lot to a permeable pavement design featuring bioswales between the parking rows. The field will also received upgraded field lighting.

TABLE 4-6: Simms Park Opportunity Area Analysis

COMMON RECREATION FACILITIES	TYPICAL SF	1	2	3
Group Picnic Areas (12+ people)	500-1,500	x	x	x
Park Games (Ping-pong, cornhole, etc.)	300-600	x	x	x
Community Garden	3,000-12,000	x	x	
Dog Park / Dog Run	8,000-50,000	x	x	

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Explore the feasibility of installing new amenities to this park (picnic areas, park games, community garden, and dog run).
2. Renovate the existing picnic shelter to include a modern shade structure with more attractive and inviting fencing.
3. Update and replace amenities on a cycle as they age.
4. Explore future renovation opportunities to the recreation center building.

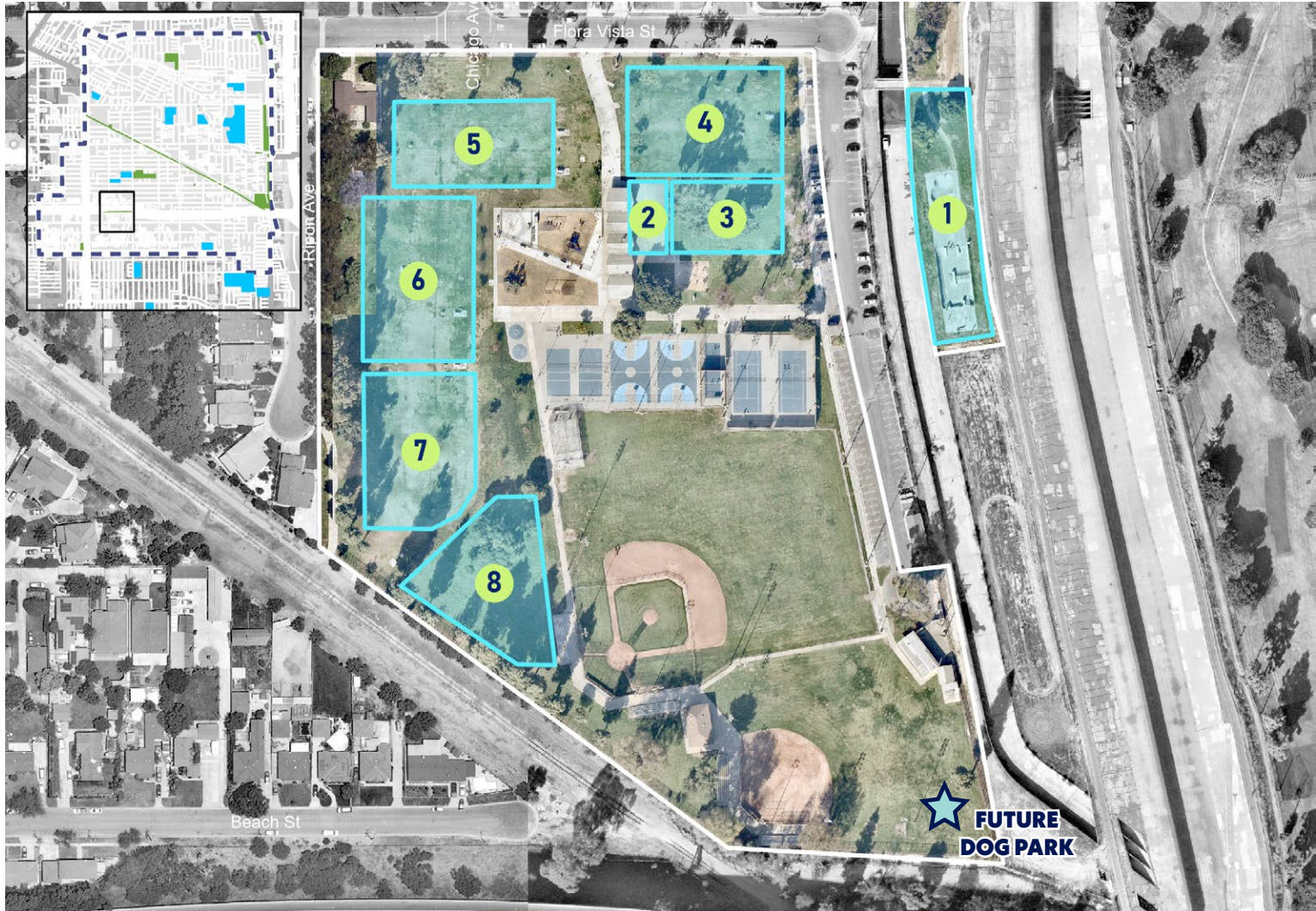


Example of park game



Example of picnic shelter

4.2.8 RUTH R. CARUTHERS PARK OPPORTUNITY ANALYSIS & RECOMMENDATIONS



EXISTING AMENITIES:



RECOMMENDED AMENITIES:



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Caruthers Park is a Community Park with a community center, picnic areas, play area, splashpad, basketball, volleyball, and tennis/pickleball courts, baseball/softball fields, equestrian trail, skatepark, walking path, and outdoor exercise equipment.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

A new dog park is planned at Caruthers Park, south of the softball field. The ballfields are also receiving upgraded field lighting.

TABLE 4-7: Caruthers Park Opportunity Area Analysis

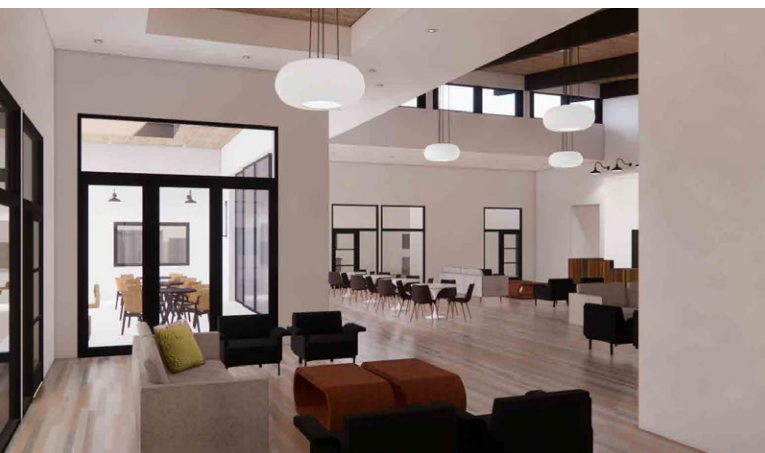
COMMON RECREATION FACILITIES	TYPICAL SF	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Group Picnic Areas (12+ people)	500-1,500	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
Park Games (Ping-pong, cornhole, etc.)	300-600		x	x					
Expand Playground	4,000-8,000	Already existing							
Adventure Playground	4,000-8,000	Add to existing play area							
Walking Loop	varies*	x							
Community Garden	3,000-12,000	x		x	x	x			
Skate Park Relocation	12,000-18,000			x	x				
Youth Rectangular Soccer Field	4,500-28,350				x	x	x	x	x
*Adult Rectangular Soccer Field	65,000-85,000							x	
Multi-purpose Field	30,000-95,000							x	
Pickleball	1,800*	x	x	x					
Tennis	7,200	x		x					
Basketball	6,300*	x							
Volleyball	4,000			x	x	x	x	x	
Youth Baseball	50,000-77,000							x	
Youth Softball	35,000-50,000							x	
Equestrian Amenities	varies*	x							

PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Explore the feasibility of relocating existing skatepark to a more highly-visible location within the park. It is not recommended to remove the existing skate park without plans to construct a new facility.
2. Update and replace amenities on a cycle as they age.
3. Expand outdoor area at the Carpenter House Museum to be used for programming, events, and rentals.



Example of skate park adjacent to street

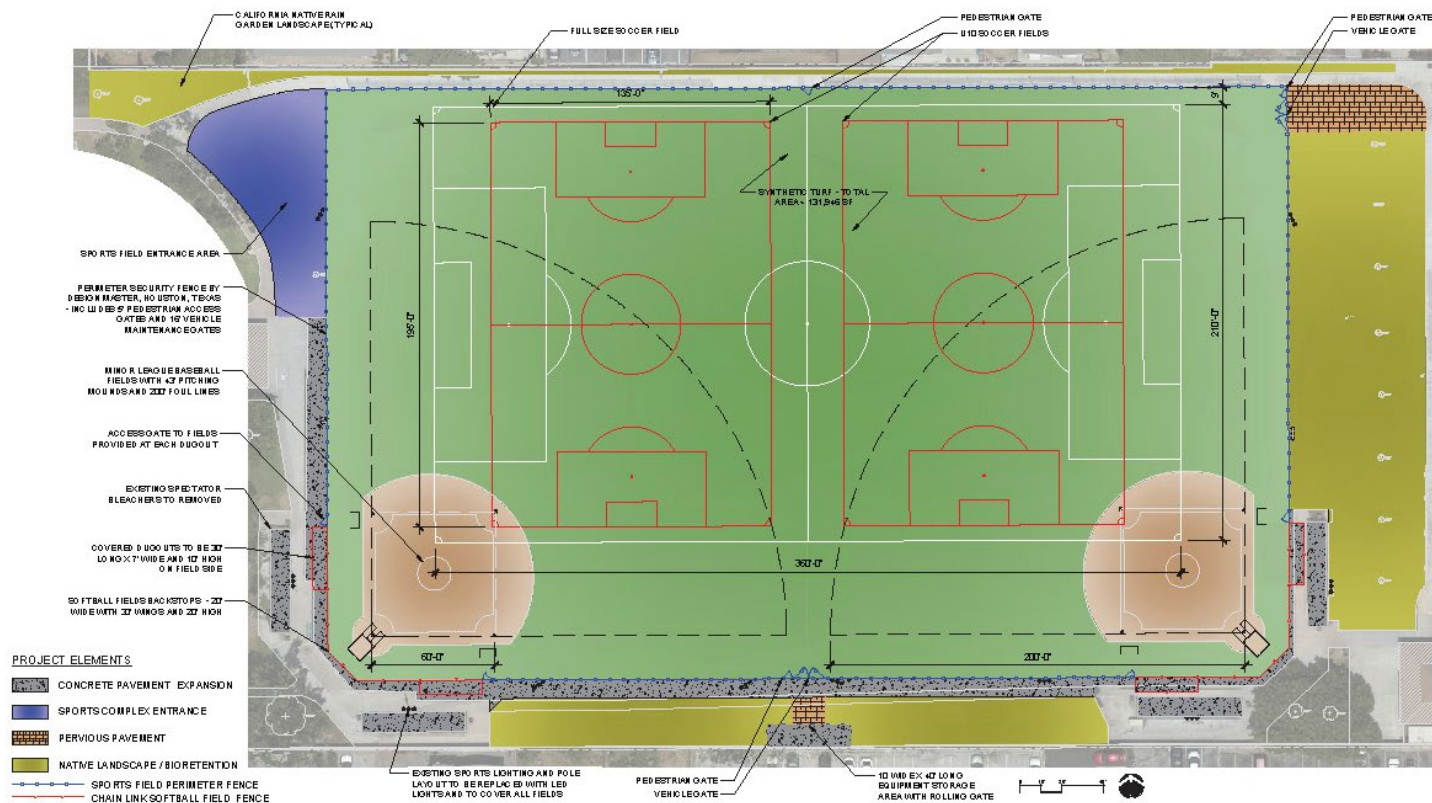


4.2.9 PARK PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

SIMMS PARK

Several new projects are underway at Simms Park. A new 11,834 square foot multi-generational community center serving youth and seniors will be developed on City property adjacent to Simms Park, located at 16600 S. Clark Avenue. This project is being funded by a combination of Measure A funds, local matching funds, and other grant funds.

A stormwater capture project is also planned for Simms Park, which will feature a diversion system, a filtration and infiltration facility, treatment and release of the captured water, replacement of the existing ballfield turf with multi-purpose synthetic turf, new trees and landscaping, and the renovation of the current parking lot into a permeable pavement design with bioswales between the parking rows. This project is being funded by a combination of Regional Measure W funds, and local matching funds.



THOMPSON PARK

A new Greenfields Outdoor Fitness X-Treme Ninja Course is coming to Thompson Park. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2024

CARUTHERS PARK DOG PARK

A new dog park is coming to Caruthers Park. This will add a second dog park and gives residents living in the southeast area of the City access to a dog park. Currently, there is only one dog park in the City, located in the northwest area of the City.

CONSTITUTION PARK

Improvements are planned at Constitution Park and include the installation of security cameras, extended fencing, a new playground, a walking path, and fitness stations throughout the park. This project is anticipated to be completed in 2025. This project is being funded by a combination of Housing and Urban Development Community Planning and Development grant funds and local matching funds.



Conceptual rendering of the planned play area at Constitution Park

4.3

FUTURE PARK OPPORTUNITIES

Bellflower is a built out city and vacant land is hard to come by. This section of the Plan identifies six different types of park concept designs that could potentially be utilized for future development. The City is encouraged to actively identify vacant or underutilized land to help improve their park level of service.



Future park opportunities in Bellflower include several different types of parks. The list below defines the six types of park concept designs and key elements included in each design. Each design was carefully planned to include park elements that were identified as a need from the level-of-service analysis and/or the from community engagement process.

Planning level cost estimates consider hard and soft costs. To be used for planning purposes only. Cost estimate totals did not include property acquisition costs.

Sports Field Complex



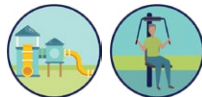
- » 5 acres
- » Multi-purpose soccer field
- » Sports-themed tot-lot
- » Grass lawn and plaza

Aquatics Center



- » 5 acres
- » Lap pool, rec pool, and therapeutic pool area
- » Aquatic Center building with reception, staff office, restrooms, showers, lockers, weight room, and storage
- » Walking trail with outdoor exercise stations

Pocket Park



- » 0.25 acres
- » Play area
- » Outdoor exercise area
- » Grass lawn

Mini Park



- » 0.56 acres
- » Play area and outdoor exercise area
- » BRIM activity plaza
- » Dog park

Court Sports Complex



- » 1.9 acres
- » Multi-purpose courts for basketball, futsal, and volleyball, four pickleball courts, and a half-basketball court
- » Staff office, restrooms, parking, and lighting
- » Activity plaza and lawn

Linear Park



- » 1.42 acres
- » Adventure play features
- » Dog run
- » Outdoor exercise area
- » Picnic area
- » Staff building and restrooms

4.3.1 SPORTS FIELD COMPLEX CONCEPT

Park Size: 5 acres

Planning-level Estimated Total: \$26,255,825.00



FIGURE 4-1: Sports Field Complex Concept

According to the amenity level-of-service analysis completed in Chapter 2, the City falls short on meeting rectangular field and multi-purpose field needs. Many community members expressed the need for additional sports fields during community workshops, pop-up events, and neighborhood workshops. There is also a need for additional youth sports such as flag football and soccer. To accommodate new sports programs, the City will need to design and develop additional facilities.

The sports field complex concept design is intended to provide the City a lighted multi-purpose rectangular field that can be used for a variety of sports such as soccer, flag football, and lacrosse. The concept also includes space adjacent to the field for people to set up chairs, tents, etc., to watch a game. Also included in the design is a sports-themed tot-lot, entry plaza, benches, parking, field lighting, walking paths, bio-retention basins, and equipment storage building.

FIGURE 4-2: Sports Field Complex Concept Rendering



Multi-purpose field example.



Sport play area example, Source: Big T Recreation

4.3.2 AQUATICS CENTER CONCEPT

Park Size: 5 acres

Planning-level Estimated Total: \$41,740,125.00

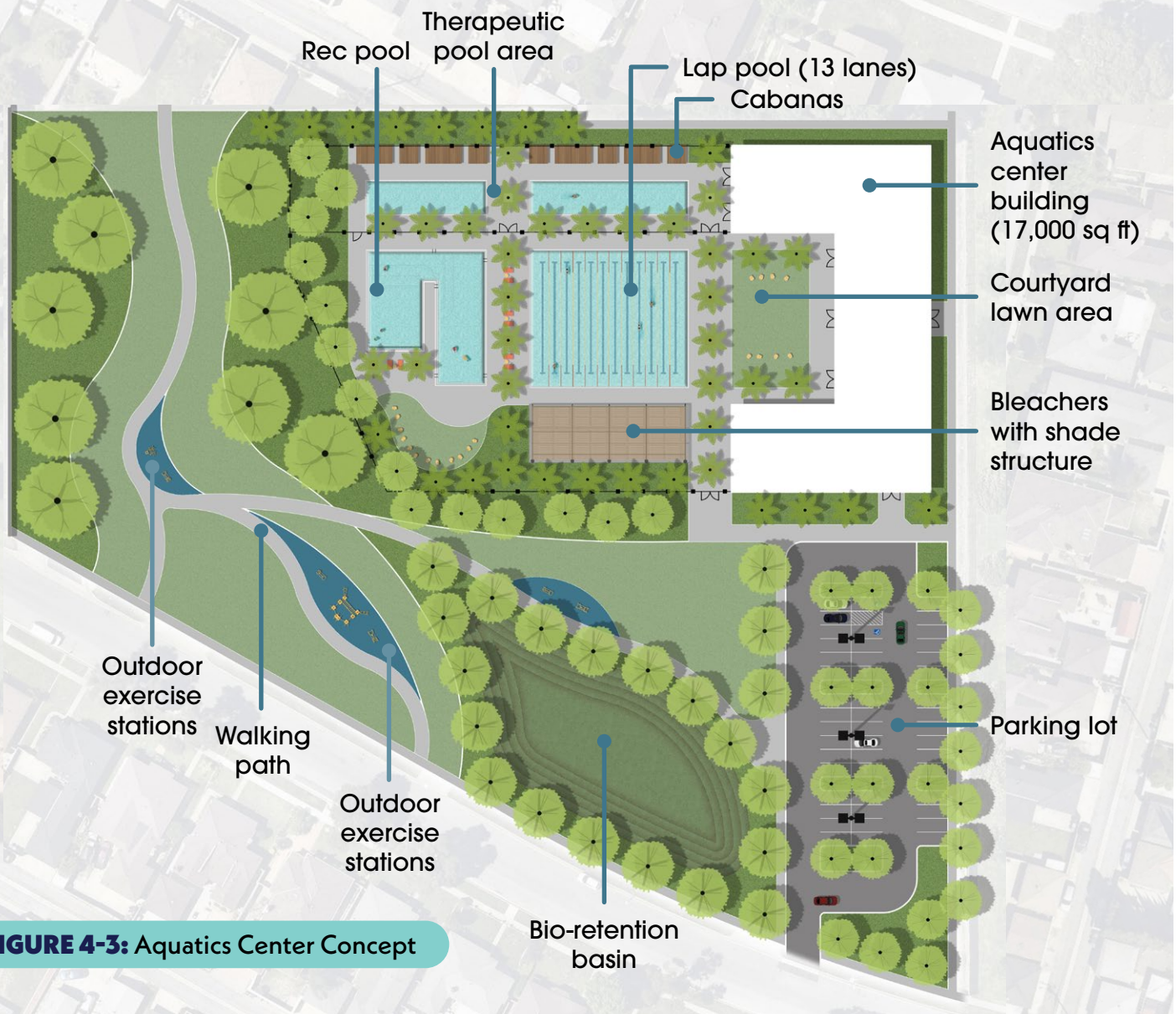


FIGURE 4-3: Aquatics Center Concept

As previously mentioned in this Plan, the existing aquatics center is in need of replacement. This concept design showcases how a modern facility can better serve the needs of the evolving community. The aquatics center concept design includes several pools that are supported by plenty of seating areas, open lawn areas, and more.

The three pool areas include a lap pool, recreational pool, and a therapeutic pool. The lap pool includes shaded bleachers that can be used by spectators for open swim, programmed activities, or competition swimming events. The recreational pool includes a zero-entry design that is family-friendly and can

be used for open swim, toddler swim lessons, and other programmed activities. The therapeutic pool is separated by the rest of the aquatic center by a fence. It can be used for adaptive/therapeutic swim programming as well as for rentals for private events.

An aquatics center building that is approximately 17,000 square feet is also included. The building would include a lobby, locker rooms, multi-purpose rooms, a weight room, mirrored rooms, and staff offices.

The site surrounding the aquatics center includes a parking lot, walking paths, outdoor exercise stations, planted areas, and a bio-retention basin.

FIGURE 4-4: Aquatics Center Concept Rendering



Bleachers example Source: shade-n-net.com/commercial/bleacher-shade-structures/



Rec pool example. Source: ifoothills.org/pools/

4.3.3 POCKET PARK CONCEPT

Park Size: 0.25 acres

Planning-level Estimated Total: \$892,245.00

The pocket park concept is designed for small parcels. These types of sites are intended to improve park access in residential areas currently lacking easy and comfortable access to parks.

The pocket park concept includes active amenities for multiple age groups such as a play area and outdoor exercise areas as well as passive spaces such as open grass lawns and benches.

This design concept considers safety concerns by including elements such as bollards to protect park visitors from busy streets, low groundcover, high branching trees to enhance visibility into the back of the park, and pedestrian safety lighting.

FIGURE 4-5: Pocket Park Concept

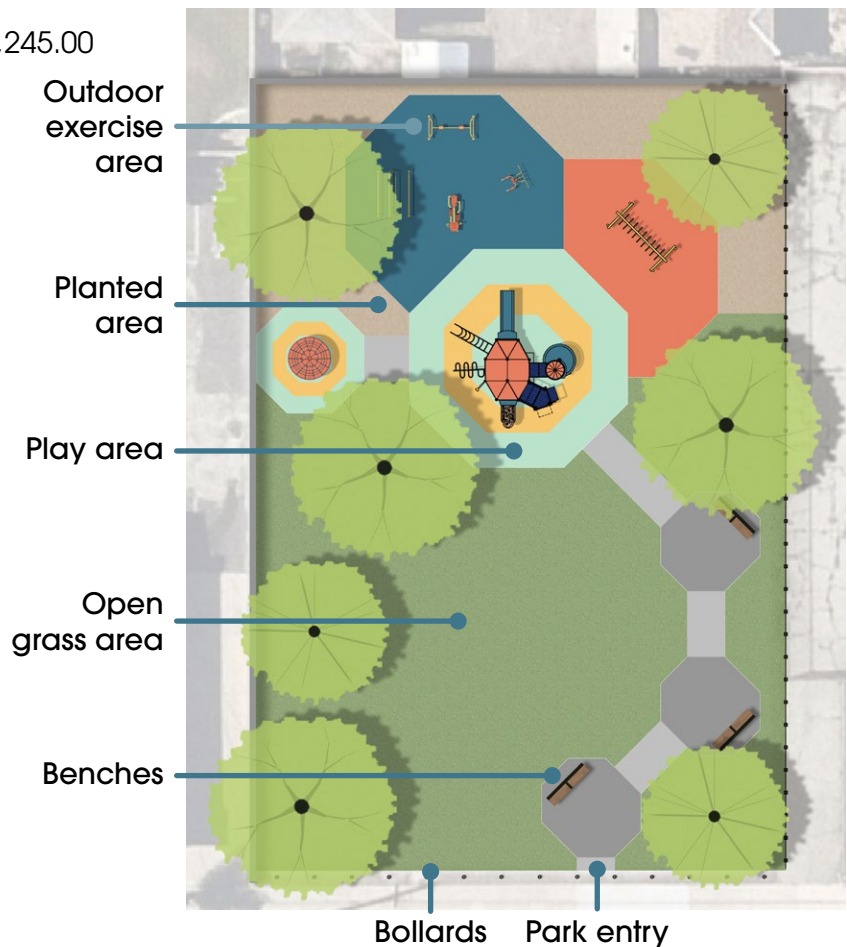


FIGURE 4-6: Pocket Park Concept Rendering



4.3.4 MINI PARK CONCEPT

Park Size: 0.56 acres

Planning-level Estimated Total: \$1,721,972.00

Similar to the pocket park concept, the mini park concept is designed for small parcels intended to improve park access in residential areas. The mini park concept design includes active and passive amenities such as outdoor exercise areas, a larger play area, a small dog park, picnic shelter, and a walking loop. This concept also contains a driveway and plaza for the City’s BRIM program.

The design includes safety features such as bollard along the street, low groundcover, high branching trees to enhance visibility into the back of the park, and pedestrian lighting. The dog park is strategically placed in the back of the park since dog parks are considered a high-use amenity. By placing it in the back, it ensures there will often be “eyes on the park” and encourage positive interactions.



FIGURE 4-7: Mini Park Concept Rendering

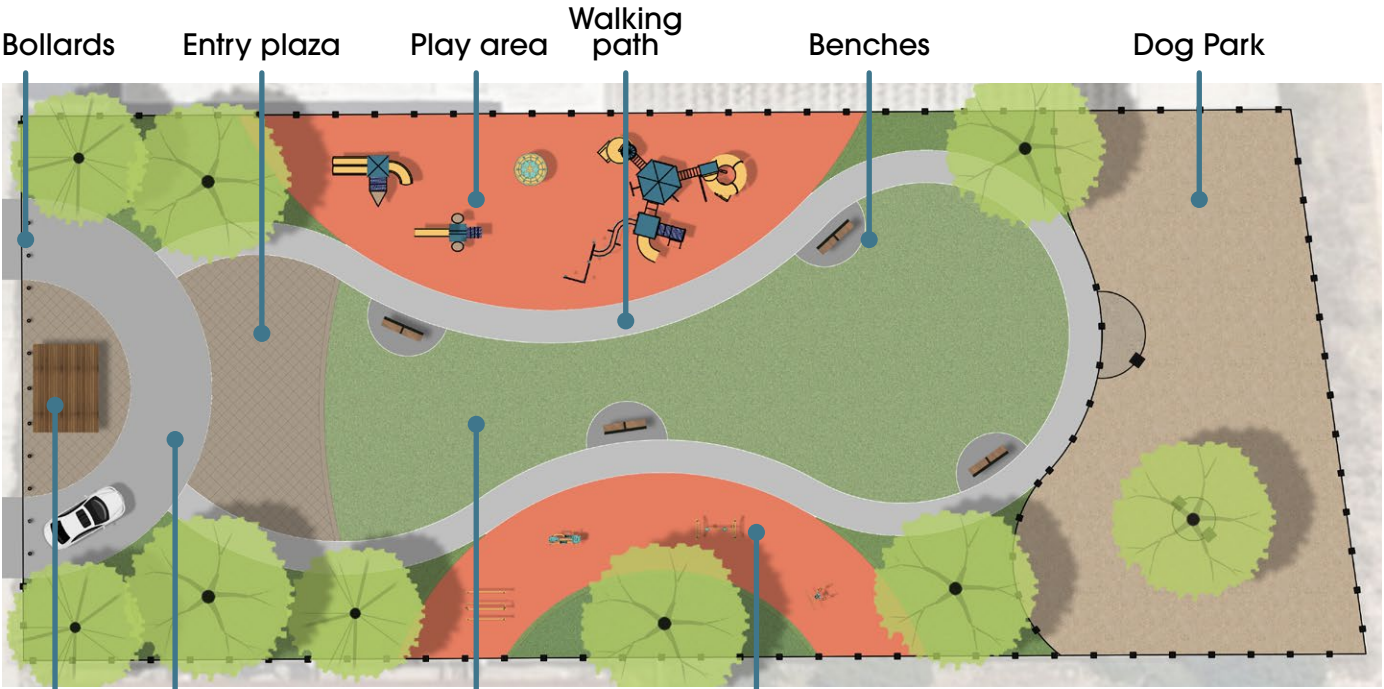


FIGURE 4-8: Mini Park Concept

4.3.5 COURT SPORTS COMPLEX CONCEPT

Park Size: 2 acres

Planning-level Estimated Total: \$9,901,316.00

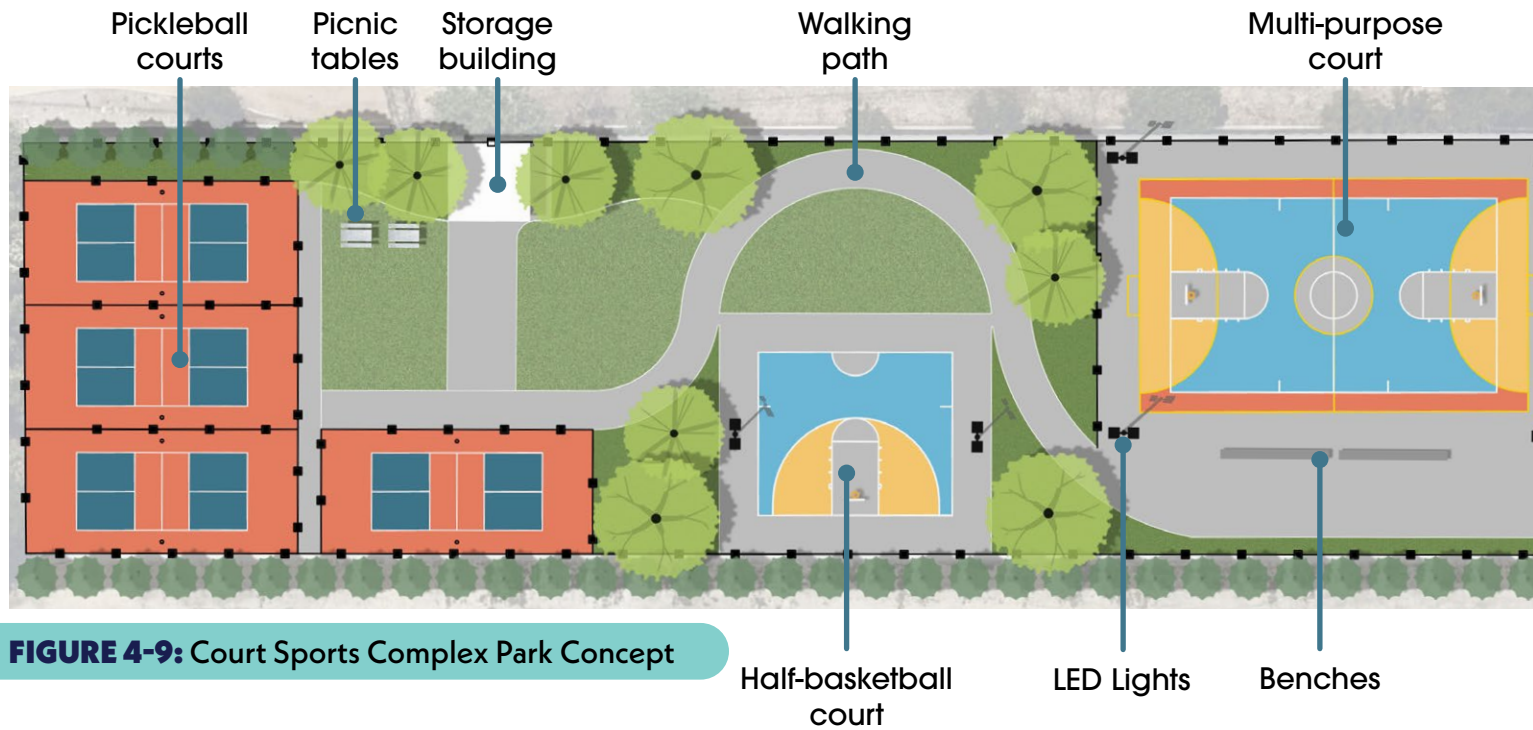
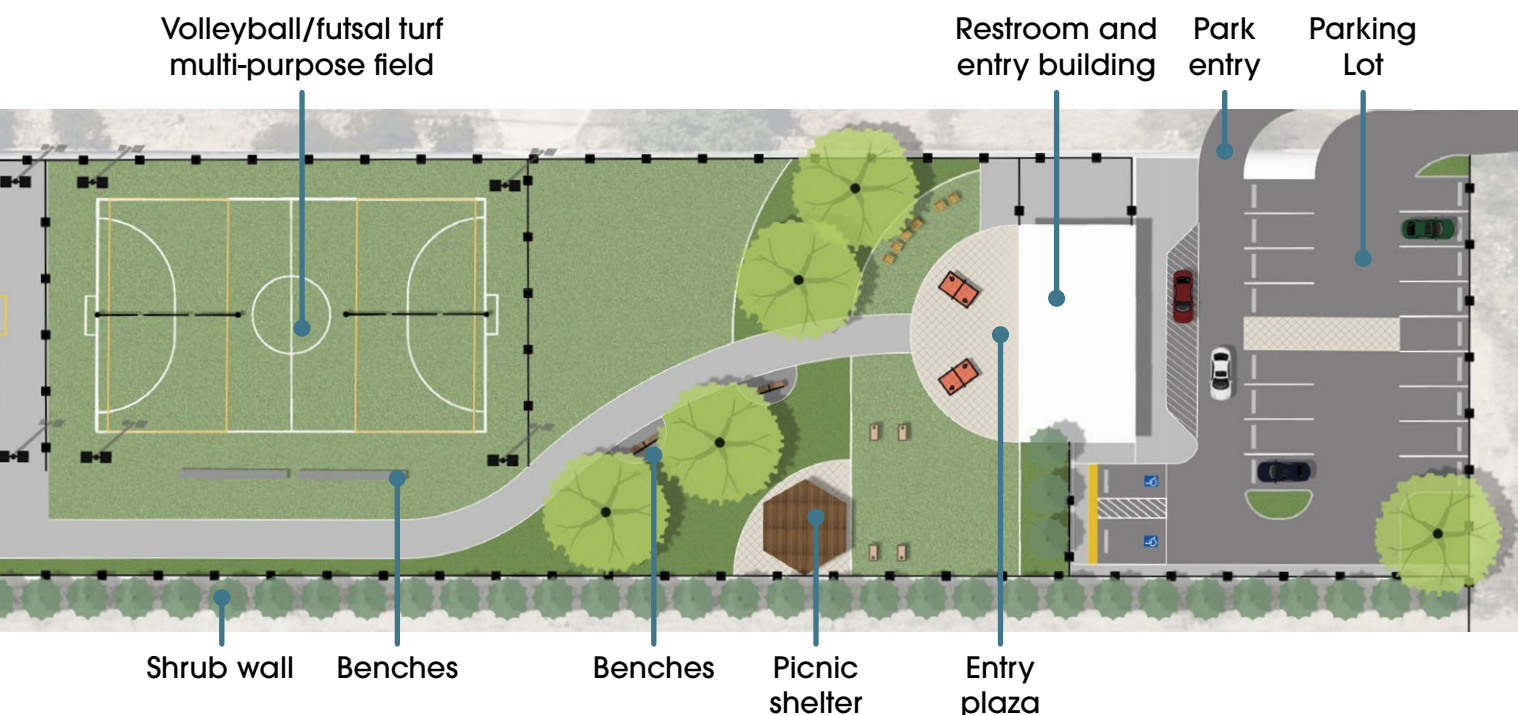


FIGURE 4-10: Court Sports Complex Park Concept Rendering





The court sports complex park concept was designed to be a highly-active park. This concept includes different active amenities such as pickleball, basketball, futsal, volleyball, and park games thoughtfully designed within a linear compact space.

The concept includes a fence on all sides and has controlled access via an entry building. Visitors would be asked to sign in to gain access to the park and sports equipment. The entry building would contain restrooms and a staff office. An entry plaza and a small artificial turf area

for park games, picnicking, and programed activities such as yoga classes would provide additional recreational opportunities.

An artificial turf multi-purpose field for activities such as volleyball, futsal, and youth soccer as well as a multi-purpose court designed for futsal, basketball, and other activities are included. Other sport courts include one half-basketball court and four pickleball courts. All courts are designed with LED lighting for them to be utilized at night, as well as adequate pathway lighting and in other areas. The concept also includes a small parking lot with a drop-off zone.

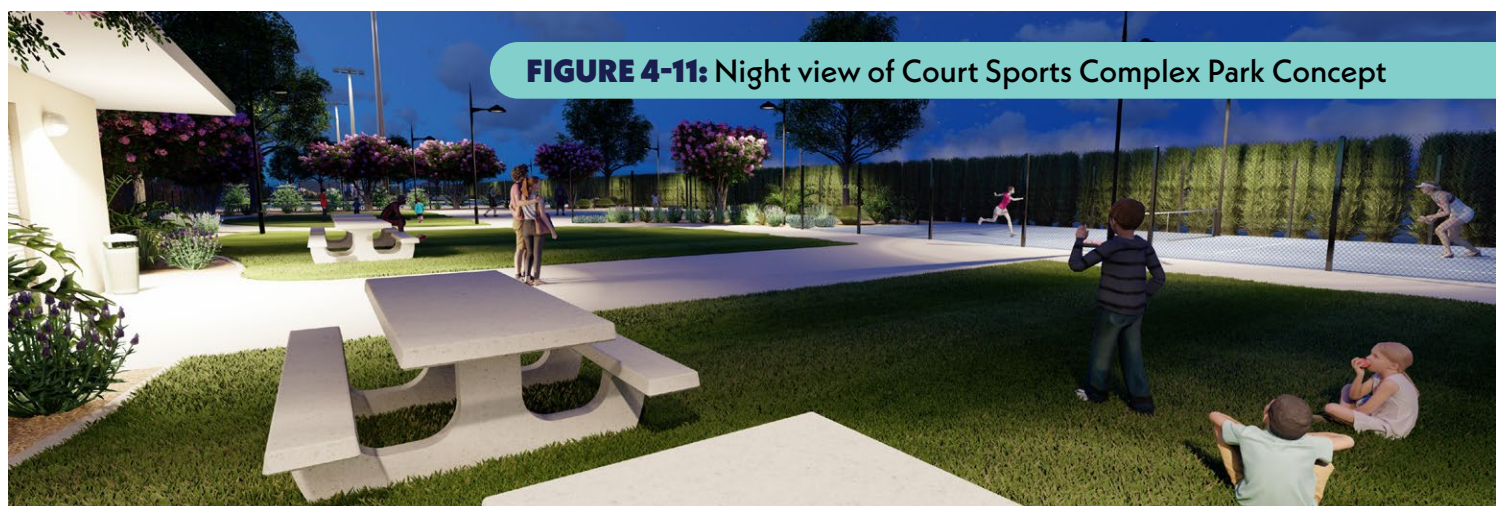


FIGURE 4-11: Night view of Court Sports Complex Park Concept

4.3.6 LINEAR PARK CONCEPT

Park Size: 1.42 acres

Planning-level Estimated Total: \$3,357,851.00

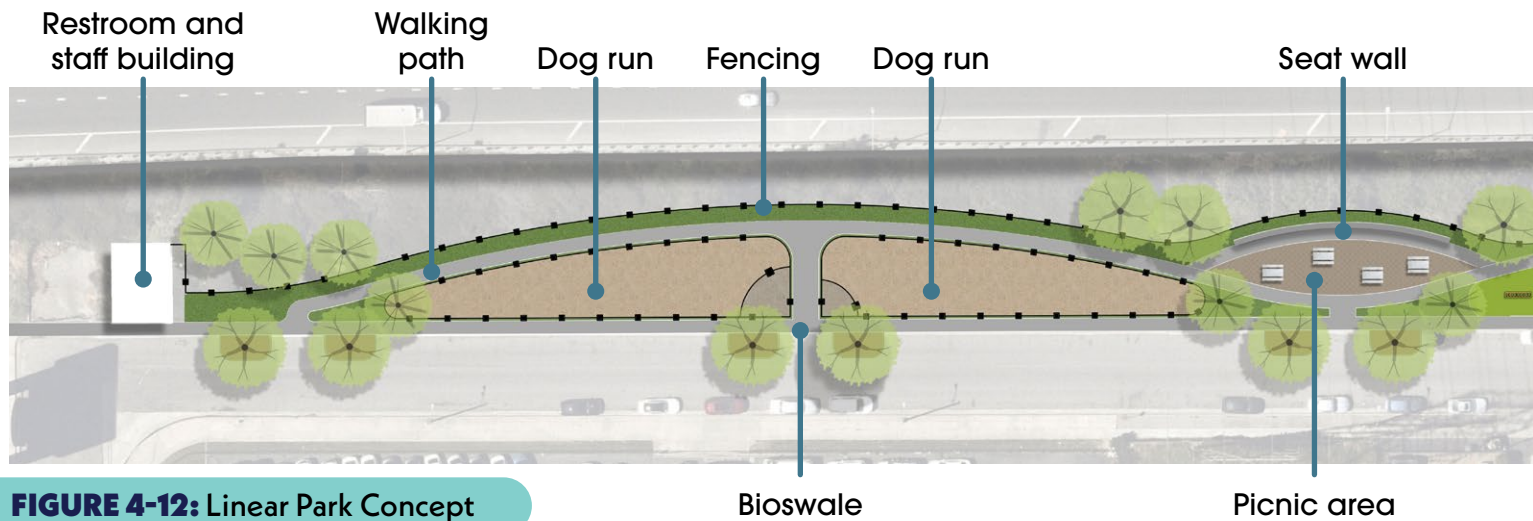


FIGURE 4-12: Linear Park Concept

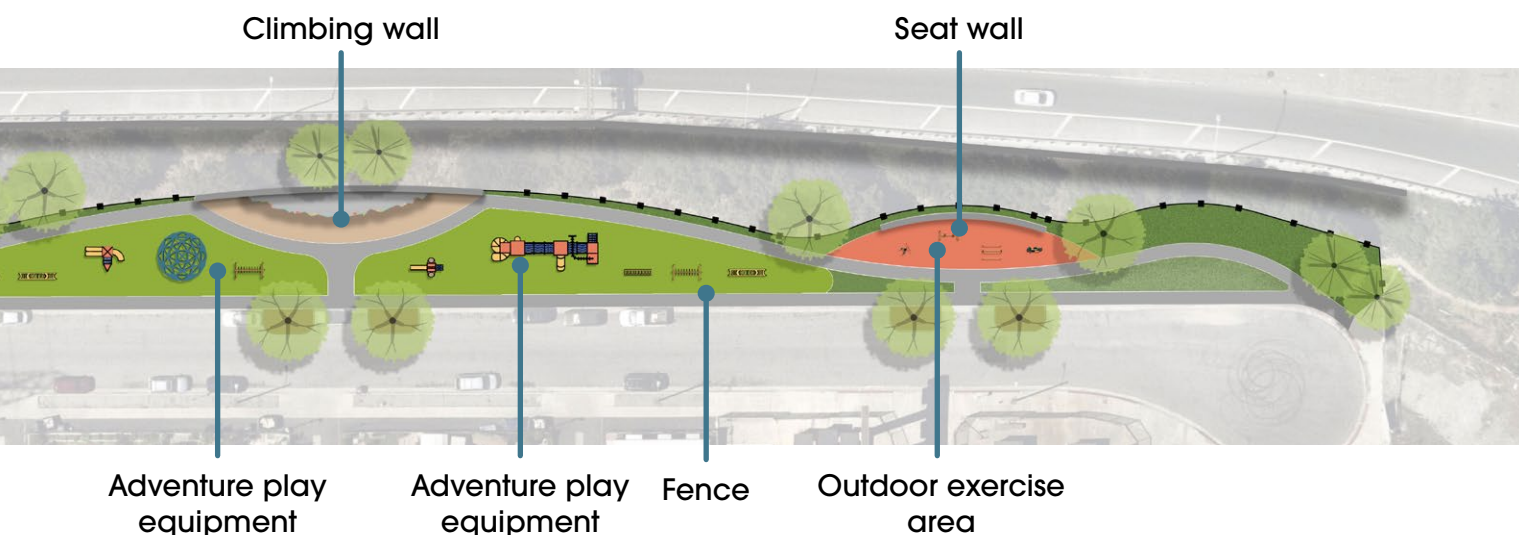
The linear park concept design is intended to activate narrow unused spaces such as between major highways and local roads. The design includes elements such as active play areas, dog runs, and walking paths to attract park users of multiple age groups.

These types of spaces often contain design challenges due to narrow widths and varying terrain. Creative design solutions can be implemented

to take advantage of these conditions such as small climbing walls and seat walls. The design also considers potential safety issues. A small staff building to help oversee park activities, pedestrian lighting, low ground cover, and high-branching trees are recommended to keep the entire park visible from the street and from all areas of the park. Streetscape improvements along the adjacent street to enhance safety and overall beautification are also recommended.

FIGURE 4-13: Linear Park Concept Rendering





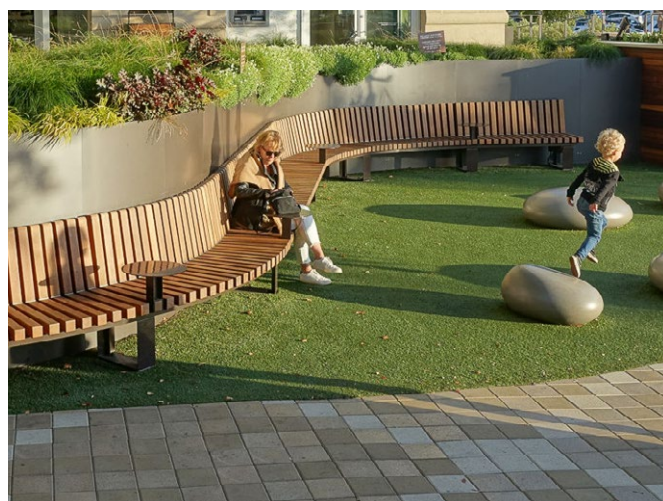
Climbing wall example. Source: ucpreschool.org



Adventure play equipment example. Source: myadventurepark.com



Dog run example. Source: greenbenefit.org/dog-run-park



Seat wall example. Source: externalworksindex.co.uk

4.4

CREATIVE SOLUTIONS

Like many other cities in urban areas of Southern California, Bellflower is built-out with a limited supply of vacant land and open spaces. This section identifies potential solutions that can help add additional recreational opportunities for Bellflower residents in unconventional ways.



Although this Plan does not identify an abundance of new park acres to help bring the City out of its park acreage deficit, prioritizing the construction of new park amenities within existing park footprints can create a more robust parks and recreation system. These recommendations will positively impact current and future residents by bringing more diverse park experiences closer to home.

The goals and objectives described at the beginning of this Chapter will help the City enhance the parks and recreation system, but the City is also encouraged to think about other creative elements that can help chip away at their park level of service goals. The City should consider both typical and creative ways to improve access to safe and comfortable outdoor spaces. It is easy to forget that not everything has to be a traditional definition of a park (grass, playgrounds, courts, etc.).

The following sections suggest several creative ideas and strategies to help improve both the traditional and nontraditional approaches to parks and recreation.

4.4.1 POCKET PARKS

Small-scale parks are a great way to bring park access to neighborhoods that lack access to a park within a 15-minute walk. Pocket parks generally cannot host amenities like sports courts or large play areas but they could provide small-scale amenities like picnic tables, tot-lots, small play equipment, permanent games, dog runs, and more. Meaningful play spaces can fit into surprisingly tight spaces. There are several vacant small tracts of land in Bellflower that may not be large enough for a playground, yet still offer play possibilities. A climbing sculpture, mural or hopscotch trail can bring a new purpose to a neglected or unassuming space. Some examples include:

- » Reclaiming large expanses of sidewalk curb extensions, or road rights-of-way as new pocket parks
- » Establishing new pocket parks in underutilized spaces by transforming a vacant lot into a playful oasis
- » Activating existing parks or trails without many amenities by using one or more play installations along an existing trail or pathway

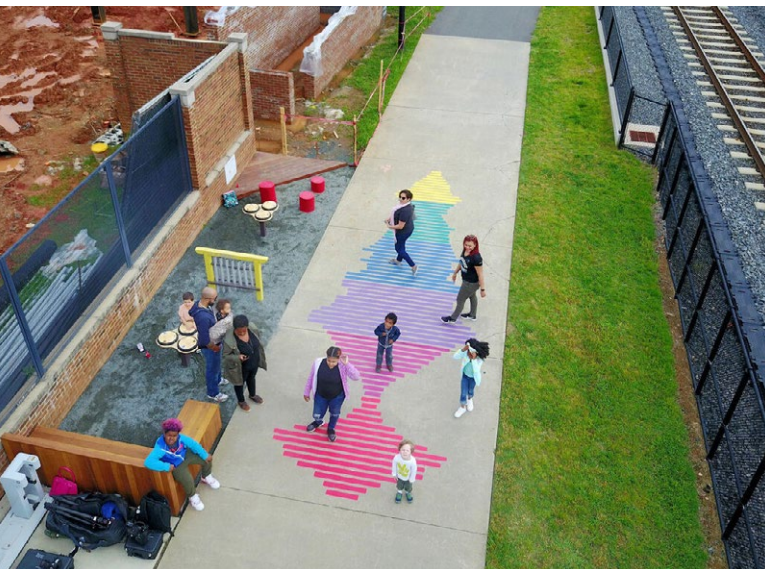
The City is encouraged to continue identifying vacant or underutilized parcels that can be converted to pocket parks in areas lacking park access.



Pocket park example with a small play features



Pocket park example with a small play structure



Musical play features along a rail line and trail



Art installation climbing structure in a shopping center



Activity striping in asphalt lot

4.4.2 PUBLIC ART

Incorporating public art into existing parks or other public spaces enhances their appeal and community identity. Interactive public art installations, strategically placed in small areas like pocket parks and plazas, encourage engagement and social interaction. These installations promote inclusivity, making the spaces more vibrant and enjoyable for all.

4.4.3 TEMPORARY PARKS

Temporary parks can be a great way to improve equity and access to parks and facilities in areas lacking access to parks. Examples of temporary parks include parks built in parking spaces, adding court striping and picnic tables at underutilized parking lots, and collaborating with schools or churches for use during summer months.

4.4.4 UTILITY EASEMENT PARKS

While there are several parks located on utility easements in Bellflower including Riverview Park, Constitution Park, Zinn Park, Chevron Park, and Caruthers Park North, there are still many opportunities to continue enhancing these existing parks and creating new parks or trails on utility easements.

Where possible, it is recommended the City continue to purchase land for new parks to have better oversight of choice of amenities to include.

4.4.5 OTHER SOLUTIONS

- » Partner with local hospitals or medical facilities to offer health and fitness classes.
- » Design curb extension parklets in Downtown Bellflower.
- » Purchase of private land to convert an existing underutilized building into a new park
- » Public/private partnerships with community organizations (non-profits, churches, etc.) to leverage space on non-City-owned lots (i.e. church that hosts a community garden with raised beds in an underutilized space of their property).
- » Adding public paseos or plazas in between buildings that can accommodate public art and active play spaces.
- » Consider adding rooftop parks, gardens, dog parks, etc., at new City buildings.
- » Shared schoolyards and Joint-use Agreements with schools for sports field uses.



Shared schoolyard in San Francisco.



Curb extension parklet



Mini-pitch soccer field



Small climbing structure





IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 FUTURE LEVEL OF SERVICE

Continued residential and economic growth in the overall Los Angeles area is expected to contribute to Bellflower’s future population growth, but only slightly when compared to other cities in Los Angeles County. Bellflower is expected to grow by about 1,300 residents by 2035, according to SCAG. While this may not appear to be a significant change in overall population figures, the aging of the current population, the emergence of new families with young children, and the transition of kids into teenagers and adults create new challenges for future parks and recreation facilities. Bellflower may see an increased demand for active senior amenities, programs for young children, and more adventurous play elements for youth and teens. This section of the Plan analyzes how the projected growth will impact the City’s parks and recreation system and help identify even larger park acreage and amenity deficits.

5.1.1 FUTURE PARK ACRES LEVEL OF SERVICE

If zero new parks are developed by 2035 and the population continues to grow, the park acres level of service will drop slightly from -2.73 to -2.75, as shown in Table 5-1. The City will require additional parkland to match the 2024 deficit and to address the growing park acre deficiencies.

5.1.2 FUTURE PARK AMENITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

Table 5-2 uses the existing park amenities with the future projected population to determine surpluses and deficits of park amenities in the future. Using the future population, the park amenity deficits increase very slightly because the population only slightly grows. This table assumes that the City does not add any additional park amenities by the year 2035.

The following amenities would be in a deficit (in no particular order):

- » Picnic area
 - » Playground (ages 6-12)
 - » Playground (ages 2-5)
 - » Restroom facility
 - » Basketball
 - » Volleyball
 - » Tennis
 - » Pickleball
- » Multi-purpose court
 - » Baseball and softball fields
 - » Rectangular soccer fields
 - » Splashpad/sprayground
 - » Equestrian trail and staging area
 - » Community garden
 - » Walking path

TABLE 5-1: 2035 Level of Service with Existing Park Acres

FUTURE POPULATION LOS	ALL CITY PARKS
Existing Park Acreage	100.80
Recommended Adopted Standard per 1,000 Population	4.00
Acres per 1000 Population (2035)	1.25
Total Surplus/Deficit Acres per 1,000 Population (2035)	-2.75
Acres in Deficit	220.80



TABLE 5-2: Future Level of Service with Existing Park and Planned Park Amenities

FUTURE AMENITY LEVEL OF SERVICE (80,400 FUTURE POP. SCAG 2035)		EXISTING CITY FACILITIES	TOTAL EXISTING INVENTORY	NATIONAL GUIDELINE SERVICE LEVEL (1/# POP)	RECOMMENDED CITY STANDARD (1/# POP)	TOTAL FACILITIES NEEDED	TOTAL SURPLUS / DEFICIT	TOTAL FUTURE FACILITIES NEEDED	TOTAL FUTURE SURPLUS/DEFICIT
Indoor Rec. Facilities	Recreation Center	2	2.0	40,338	40,300	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
	Community Center	1	1.0	45,909	45,900	1.7	-0.7	1.8	-0.8
	Senior Center	1	1.0	67,836	67,800	1.2	-0.2	1.2	-0.2
	Teen Center	1	1.0	64,386	64,400	1.2	-0.2	1.2	-0.2
Outdoor Park & Rec Facilities	Picnic Area (12+ People)	3	3.0	-	5,000	15.8	-12.8	16.1	-13.1
	Playground (ages 6-12)	5	5.0	5,616	5,600	14.1	-9.1	14.4	-9.4
	Playground/Tot Lot (ages 2-5)	3	3.0	17,562	17,600	4.5	-1.5	4.6	-1.6
	Restroom Facility	3	3.0	-	4,600	17.2	-14.2	17.5	-14.5
	Basketball	5	5.0	7,803	7,800	10.1	-5.1	10.3	-5.3
	Volleyball	2	2.0	-	10,000	7.9	-5.9	8.0	-6.0
	Tennis	2	2.0	5,448	5,400	14.6	-12.6	14.9	-12.9
	Pickleball	0	0.0	11,150	11,200	7.1	-7.1	7.2	-7.2
	Multi-purpose (Tennis & Pickleball)	1	1.0	22,100	22,100	3.6	-2.6	3.6	-2.6
	Youth Baseball*	6	6.0	9,874	9,900	8.0	-2.0	8.1	-2.1
	Adult Baseball	1	1.0	27,031	27,000	2.9	-1.9	3.0	-2.0
	Youth Softball*	5	5.0	12,395	12,400	6.4	-1.4	6.5	-1.5
	Adult Softball*	4	4.0	14,519	14,500	5.5	-1.5	5.5	-1.5
	Rectangular Soccer Fields*	0	0.0	11,671	11,700	6.8	-6.8	6.9	-6.9
	Football	0	0.0	38,516	38,500	2.1	-2.1	2.1	-2.1
	Multi-purpose Fields*	1	1.0	23,738	23,800	3.3	-2.3	3.4	-2.4
	Splashpad/Sprayground	1	1.0	-	35,000	2.3	-1.3	2.3	-1.3
	Swimming Pool	2	2.0	61,784	61,800	1.3	0.7	1.3	0.7
	Equestrian Trail	1	1.0	-	26,000	3.0	-2.0	3.1	-2.1
	Equestrian Staging Area	0	0.0	-	32,000	2.5	-2.5	2.5	-2.5
	Skate Park	1	1.0	62,318	62,300	1.3	-0.3	1.3	-0.3
	Stage (no built-in seating)	1	1.0	-	42,000	1.9	-0.9	1.9	-0.9
	Community Garden	0	0.0	41,804	41,800	1.9	-1.9	1.9	-1.9
	Dog Park	2	2.0	51,417	51,400	1.5	0.5	1.6	0.4
Linear Recreation	Walking Path	5	5.0	-	5,300	14.9	-9.9	15.2	-10.2
	Outdoor Exercise Area/Exercise Path	7	7.0	-	28,000	2.8	4.2	2.9	4.1

* Indicates a shared facility type

	Meets or exceeds amenity benchmark		Within one facility of meeting the benchmark		Does not meet amenity benchmark
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5.2 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION



5.2.1 SHORT-TERM

Short-term project goals are those that can typically be implemented within a five-year time frame.

- » Replace play equipment that has been identified in poor condition.
- » Improve park safety by removing graffiti, trash, debris, and weeds immediately from public areas and ensure parks have adequate lighting.
- » Monitor and enforce park regulations.
- » Continue the use of the Park Patrol program and third-party contractor, Southwest Patrol at parks.
- » Identify funding sources on Table 5-3 to help fund park projects.
- » Develop pocket parks within residential neighborhoods lacking walking access to park facilities.
- » Determine the feasibility of relocating the skate park at Caruthers Park to a more visible and more accessible location.
- » Establish part-time staffing at the Carpenter House Museum to support monthly public tours in collaboration with the Bellflower Heritage Society.
- » Implement in-house youth, teen, adult, and senior sports leagues.
- » Implement new programs at the future senior and teen center.
- » Prioritize park improvements to parks south of the Artesia (91) freeway.
- » Reorganize staffing to better meet service needs.
- » Establish improved processes with Public Works to increase the quality of park maintenance.
- » Complete concept designs, construction documents, and begin renovations of the recreation center at Simms Park



5.2.2 MID-TERM

Mid-term project goals are those that can typically be implemented within a five to ten-year time frame.

- » Design a new Bellflower Aquatic Center to replace the current facility with community involvement.
- » Partner with local artists to design and install more public art at parks and facilities.
- » Acquire new city-owned land to develop new parks.
- » Prioritize developing new parks south of the Artesia (91) Freeway.
- » Add active amenities to parks currently lacking amenities such as Chevron Park.
- » Install ADA-accessible walking loops within existing parks that do not already have walking loops.
- » Install new all-inclusive and accessible play equipment and other amenities for people of all ages.
- » Continue restructuring staffing organization as programming grows.
- » Collaborate with LA Metro to add improvements to the Bellflower Bike Trail during the development of the Southeast Gateway light rail line.
- » Begin the development of a long-term plan for future uses of the Carpenter Museum.
- » Explore partnerships with organizations and local businesses to sponsor new park features and amenities.



5.2.3 LONG-TERM

Long-term project goals are those that can typically be implemented ten years or longer.

- » Replace the Bellflower Aquatic Center with a new aquatic facility.
- » Use design concepts of CPTED when renovating existing or developing new parks and recreation facilities.
- » Develop an all-inclusive, all-abilities play area at an existing park or future park.
- » Install ADA-accessible walking loops within existing parks that do not already have walking loops.
- » Continue expanding the City's comprehensive active transportation network to connect parks and open spaces to schools and neighborhoods.
- » Create new gathering areas for community members to host parties, meetings, and events at parks
- » Identify potential public-private partnership opportunities in park priority areas to improve public park access to residents in disadvantaged areas.
- » Strengthen partnerships with local school districts and begin discussions of adding JUAs.

5.3 POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

The following table identifies potential funding sources to pursue when applicable for specific park projects. Many of these opportunities are grants from the state.

TABLE 5-3: Potential Funding Sources

FUNDING PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION	FUNDING CYCLE	PROJECT TYPE				PROJECT EXAM- PLES
				INF	PLN	PGM	TRL	
FEDERAL PROGRAMS								
Highway Safety Im- provement Program	Federal Highway Ad- ministration / Caltrans	The Highway Safety Improve- ment Program funds work on any public road or publicly owned bicycle or pedestrian pathway or trail, or on tribal lands for gen- eral use of tribal members, that improves the safety for its users.	Every 1 to 2 years	X			X	• Install hybrid pedestrian signals at trail crossings • Install RRFBs at locations adjacent to parks, trails, and schools
Reconnecting Communities and Neigh- borhoods Grant Pro- gram	U.S. Depart- ment of Transpor- tation	The Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program provides grant opportunities to redress the legacy of harm from transportation infrastructure including: construction-related displacement, environmental degradation, limited access to goods and services, degraded public health due to air and noise pollution, limited opportu- nities for physical activity, and hampered economic vitality of the surrounding community.	Annual (through 2026)	X	X		X	• Study for the removal, retrofit or mitigation of a trans- portation facility that acts as a barrier to community con- nectivity • Replacement or mitigation of a trans- portation barrier with a linear park and trail

FUNDING PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION	FUNDING CYCLE	PROJECT TYPE				PROJECT EXAM- PLES
				INF	PLN	PGM	TRL	
STATE AND LOS ANGELES COUNTY PROGRAMS								
Los Ange- les County Safe, Clean Neighbor- hood Parks and Beaches (Measure A)	Los Angeles County	Measure A funds are derived from an annual special tax on property within Los Angeles County. Measure A funds are distributed into seven funding categories. Each funding cate- gory supports a specific funding program(s).	Annual	X	X			• Park infrastructure projects •Park planning and design projects
Arts in California Parks: Local Parks Grant Program	California Department of Parks and Recreation / Parks California	The Local Parks Grant Program intends to create local commu- nity connections to California’s rich and diverse cultural history and natural areas outside of Cal- ifornia’s state park boundaries. The grants designed to support the early stages of a relationship to bring an artistic and/or cultur- al project to a local park.	Annual	X	X	X	X	Eligible projects will enhance connec- tions to local cultural history, local parks, open space or natu- ral areas through: • Community events • Art programming (e.g., experiential, performance, etc.) • Temporary and permanent art installations • Partnership build- ing, artist selection, and plan devel- opment to support future art projects
Habitat Conservation Fund Program	California Department of Parks and Recreation	The Habitat Conservation Fund provides funding to protect fish, wildlife, and native plant resourc- es; to acquire or develop wildlife corridors and trails; and to provide for nature interpretation programs and other programs which bring urban residents into park and wildlife areas.	Annual	X		X	X	• Build new trails • Rehabilitate exist- ing trails • Install interpretive trail elements • Install seating or lighting along trails • Develop educa- tional or interpretive activities or trips
Land and Water Conservation Fund	National Park Service/ California Department of Parks and Recreation	The Land and Water Conserva- tion is a federal National Park Service grant program adminis- tered by the California Depart- ment of Parks and Recreation. The program provides funding for the acquisition or development of land to conserve irreplace- able lands and to create new outdoor recreation opportunities for the health and wellness of Californians.	Annual	X			X	• Land acquisition for a new park, an existing park ex- pansion, a wildlife corridor with public viewing and out- door recreational use, and/or a recre- ational/active trans- portation corridor • Development of recreation features and amenities for outdoor recreation

FUNDING PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION	FUNDING CYCLE	PROJECT TYPE				PROJECT EXAMPLES
				INF	PLN	PGM	TRL	
Outdoor Equity Grants Program	California Department of Parks and Recreation	The Outdoor Equity Grants Program provides funding to improve the health and wellness of Californians through new educational and recreational activities, service learning, career pathways, and leadership opportunities that strengthen a connection to the natural world. The program funds the creation, operation, and transportation costs of outdoor programs in underserved communities.	Annual			X		- Programs must include both community activities AND trips to natural areas. - Community activities can include environmental education, nature discovery walks, and more. - Natural area trips can include traveling to a regional, state, national park, tribal land, river or lake, beach, forest, mountain, or desert area for day or overnight trips within California.
Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program	National Park Service/ California Department of Parks and Recreation	The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program is a federal National Park Service grant program administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The program focuses on communities with little to no access to publicly available, close-by, outdoor recreation opportunities in urban areas. The program funds the acquisition or development of new parks, or substantial renovations to parks in economically disadvantaged cities or towns of at least 30,000 people.	Annual	X		X		- Land acquisition for outdoor recreation - Development of recreation features and amenities for outdoor recreation
Recreational Trails Program	U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration /California Department of Parks and Recreation	The Recreational Trails Program is a federal U.S. Department of Transportation grant program administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The program provides funding to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses.	Annual	X			X	- Land acquisition - Development/rehabilitation of trails, trailheads, and trail amenities - Construction of new trails - Maintenance of existing trails

FUNDING PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION	FUNDING CYCLE	PROJECT TYPE				PROJECT EXAMPLES
				INF	PLN	PGM	TRL	
Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program	California Department of Parks and Recreation	The Statewide Park Program provides funding to create new parks and recreation opportunities in critically underserved communities across California. Project selection is based on several criteria, including need-based criteria, such as critical lack of park space, significant poverty, community challenges, and more.	Annual	X			X	• Land acquisition • Rehabilitation of existing or development of new recreation features, such as, an aquatic center, athletic fields, amphitheater, community gardens, dog parks, open space, trails, skate parks, public art, picnic areas, etc.
Wildlife Conservation Board Grants	Wildlife Conservation Board	The Wildlife Conservation Board provides funding for habitat acquisition, conservation, and restoration, as well as development of compatible public access facilities. Project benefits should include one or more of the following: protected biodiversity, increased climate resilience, enhanced public access, conserved/enhanced working landscapes, conserved/enhanced water-related projects, and/or support of the State Wildlife Action Plan.	Ongoing	X	X		X	• Open-space corridors or trail linkages • Publicly accessible hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities • Climate adaptation and resilience projects • Habitat restoration
PHILANTHROPIC PROGRAMS								
Energize the Environment Grant Program	Quadratic	Quadratic offers small one-time grants for projects that promote environmental connection, responsibility, and/or stewardship.	Annual			X		• Trail building or restoration projects • Park beautification events • Environmental education projects • Youth educational engagement events
Fruit Trees For Your Community	The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation	The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation donates fruit orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, and other high impact areas.	Ongoing	X				• Planting of high-quality fruit-trees and shrubs at a local park

FUNDING PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION	FUNDING CYCLE	PROJECT TYPE				PROJECT EXAMPLES
				INF	PLN	PGM	TRL	
Humanities Projects Grants	National Endowment for Humanities	The National Endowment for Humanities offers a range of different grant programs on an ongoing basis. Different grant programs provide funding for a variety of outputs, including but not limited to infrastructure, equipment, programming, curriculum, research, media, and more.	Ongoing	X	X	X		• Art or science exhibitions • Community discussions • Films and documentaries • Climate adaptation planning • Cultural preservation and resilience • Trainings and workshops
PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program	PeopleForBikes	The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride.	Annual	X			X	• Bike paths, lanes, trails and bridges • Mountain bike facilities • Bike parks and pump tracks • BMX facilities • End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, bike repair stations and bike storage
Rails to Trails Grant Program	Rails to Trails	Rails to Trails provides funding to organizations and local agencies that are working to develop and connect equitable trail networks.	Annual	X	X		X	• Rail-trail • Greenway • Multi-use trail • Shared-use path
The Skatepark Project Grants	The Skatepark Project	The Skatepark Project offers grants to help underserved communities create safe and inclusive public skateparks for youth.	Annual	X				• New Skatepark Construction • New Skate Spot Construction • Skateable Art Sculptures • Active City Space Conversion (legalizing skateboarding in shared spaces) • Accessibility Improvements/Repairs
The Soccer Fund	U.S. Soccer Foundation	The Soccer Fund provides funding for mini-pitch and sports lighting projects. Mini-pitches are ideal for urban areas and other communities where finding a safe place to play can be difficult. These small, customized, hard-court surfaces are perfectly suited for organized soccer programs and pick-up games.	Ongoing	X				• Mini-pitch project • Soccer lighting project

FUNDING PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION	FUNDING CYCLE	PROJECT TYPE				PROJECT EXAMPLES
				INF	PLN	PGM	TRL	
USTA Facility Funding Grant Program	United States Tennis Association	The United States Tennis Association offers grants to upgrade existing and build new tennis facilities.	Ongoing	X				• Construction of new tennis facility • Resurfacing of existing tennis court • Tennis court amenity improvements
Youth Development Foundation	MLB/MLBPA	MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation (YDF) is a joint initiative by MLB and MLBPA to support efforts that focus on improving the caliber, effectiveness and availability of amateur baseball and softball programs across the United States and internationally.	Ongoing	X		X		• Field lighting, renovations, and construction • Equipment and/or fees for baseball and softball programs • Programs to promote baseball and softball

5.4 FUNDING TOOLS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

In addition to the funding programs provided in the previous tables, there are also many traditional funding and financing tools available to local governments that may be used to advance parks and recreation projects.

These funding and financing tools include, but are not limited to:

- » Community Facilities District
- » Easement Agreements/Rules
- » Equipment Rental Fees
- » Facilities Benefit Assessment District
- » Facility Use Permit Fees
- » Recreation Service Fees
- » Food and Beverage Tax
- » General Fund
- » General Obligation Bonds
- » Infrastructure Financing District
- » In-Lieu Fees
- » Intergovernmental Agreements
- » Lease Revenues
- » Mello Roos District
- » Park Impact Fees
- » Pouring Rights Agreements
- » Private Development Agreements
- » Residential Park Improvement Fees
- » Revenue Bond Revenues
- » Sales Tax Revenues
- » Surplus Real Estate Sale Revenues
- » Traffic Impact Fees
- » Transient Occupancy Tax Revenues
- » Utility Taxes
- » Wastewater Fund Reserves
- » Business Improvement District
- » Maintenance Assessment District
- » Property-Based Improvement District
- » Landscape Maintenance District
- » Targeted Fundraising Activities
- » Special Habitat Conservation Programs
- » Special Parks and Recreation Bond Revenues

APPENDIX

A

PLAN INITIATIVES, OBJECTIVES, AND ACTIONS

Plan initiatives, objectives, and actions are
not in order of priority or importance.

INITIATIVE ONE: PARKS AND FACILITIES

OBJECTIVE 1: IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE CITY'S EXISTING PARKS, AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES.

ACTION 1.1: Pursue a park provision standard of 4 acres per 1,000 residents.

ACTION 1.2: Add recommended amenities to identified park opportunity areas.

ACTION 1.3: Replace the Bellflower Aquatic Center at Thompson Park to include modern facilities and amenities. Recommended facilities include a splash park, recreational pool, lap pool, and therapy pool.

ACTION 1.4: Explore the feasibility of developing additional multi-purpose and rectangular soccer fields at existing parks to accommodate growing sports such as lacrosse, football, flag football, and Ultimate Frisbee.

ACTION 1.5: Explore the feasibility of developing additional sport courts at existing parks such as sand volleyball, pickleball, basketball, and tennis.

ACTION 1.6: Collaborate with the Bellflower Heritage Society to re-establish use of the Carpenter House Museum as a Museum intended to educate the public about Bellflower's History. An additional staff member may be added to oversee public tours at the facility.

ACTION 1.7: Further enrich the Carpenter House Museum by adding an outdoor event space for community activities, educational events, and private functions.

ACTION 1.8: The City is encouraged to continue activating the Town Center Plaza with special events and performances and adding a few small play elements.

ACTION 1.9: Prioritize park improvements south of Artesia (91) freeway.

ACTION 1.10: Continue plans to renovate the recreation center building at Simms Park to better meet the needs of the community.

ACTION 1.11: Add additional passive park amenities along the Bellflower Bike Trail such as fitness stations, benches, and more public art installations.

ACTION 1.12: Delegate areas in existing park open areas to allow other uses such as passive and self-directive recreational activities.

ACTION 1.13: Consider adding small amenities to the Library Garden Park.

OBJECTIVE 2: ESTABLISH NEW PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES TO MEET THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.

ACTION 2.1: Locate parcels south of the Artesia (91) Freeway that can accommodate future parks or park uses.

ACTION 2.2: Identify and acquire vacant land in park priority areas.

ACTION 2.3: Consider relocating the skate park at Caruthers Park to a more visible and more accessible location to improve maintenance and comfort for all users.

ACTION 2.4: Plan and construct a community or recreation center south of the Artesia (91) Freeway to provide residents in this area access to an indoor recreational facility.

OBJECTIVE 3: PROMOTE A WELL-DESIGNED, CONTINUOUS SYSTEM OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

ACTION 3.1: Establish citywide park beautification and design standards. Beautification includes improvements to landscaping, shade trees, pathways, public art, etc.

ACTION 3.2: Improve recreational uses along the San Gabriel River such as bike paths and walking trails, small-scale amenities like fitness stations, play structures, and additional public art.

OBJECTIVE 4: ESTABLISH NON-TRADITIONAL PARK SPACES THROUGHOUT BELLFLOWER

ACTION 4.1: Establish non-traditional park spaces through the Town Center (Downtown Bellflower), including linear parks, plazas, courtyards, and other outdoor open spaces and connect them with pedestrian pathways.

ACTION 4.2: Enhance pedestrian activities and accommodate positive social uses in the Town Center by providing street furniture, landscaping, and hardscape amenities.

ACTION 4.3: Investigate the expanded use of joint use agreements with schools and churches.

ACTION 4.4: Ensure new multi-family residential developments in the Town Center include publicly-accessible park spaces.

INITIATIVE TWO: PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

OBJECTIVE 1: EXPAND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING TO MEET THE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF THE COMMUNITY AND PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE RECREATION PROGRAM.

ACTION 1.1: Implement additional small educational, adaptive, fitness, and recreational programs through the use of contracted instructors. Examples include yoga sessions, art classes, adaptive and inclusive movie nights or game sessions, senior bingo, teen game tournaments, intergenerational programs for the new Senior and Teen Center, and in-house team or league sports.

ACTION 1.2: Implement in-house youth sports programming to include sports such as football, Ultimate Frisbee, soccer, kickball, volleyball, and gymnastics. These programs may also be provided through contracts or partnerships with third party providers.

ACTION 1.3: Implement in-house adult sports leagues, such as softball, flag football, Ultimate Frisbee, basketball, volleyball, and pickleball. These programs may also be provided through contracts or partnerships with third party providers.

ACTION 1.4: Expand adaptive recreation options to better serve the special-needs residents and families. Examples of programs that have proven successful in similar municipalities include community movie nights, adaptive dance and meal programs, and play and sports options that are specialized to this group.

ACTION 1.5: Continue to seek input from the community on the need for therapeutic programming.

OBJECTIVE 2: IMPLEMENT NEW PROGRAMMING AT THE NEW SENIOR AND TEEN CENTER.

ACTION 2.1: Implement inclusive Teen and Student programming offerings that serve the City's middle and high school patrons offering a variety that target after-school periods and during the summer. This can include volunteer tutoring programs, free game play, pick-up sports, arts or skills courses, excursions, job training, and e-gaming.

ACTION 2.2: Implement inclusive senior programming offerings that may include senior dances, senior art activities, and excursions.

ACTION 2.3: Implement multi-generational and alternative programming options, such as chess matches, gaming, mentoring, and community social events such as dances and coffee houses.

OBJECTIVE 3: EXPAND AQUATIC PROGRAMMING OFFERING WITH ENHANCED AMENITIES PROVIDED BY A NEW AQUATIC CENTER.

ACTION 3.1: Develop new pool design based on current aquatic center trends to replace current indoor and outdoor lap pools that incorporates lap swimming, play structures, and therapeutic amenities.

ACTION 3.2: Expand current program options to incorporate swim lessons and lap swimming with fitness programs such as water polo, snorkeling lessons, synchronized swimming through contract program providers.

ACTION 3.3: Integrate play structure programming into a new splash pad, to include water slide use and beginner swimmer level water structures that do not require swim training for use.

ACTION 3.4: Provide therapeutic or adaptive programs in a specialized area of the aquatic center for patrons with special needs, including assisted swimming exercises and family aquatic programs.

ACTION 3.5: Maintain a lifeguard staffing level of at minimum two lifeguards on duty at all times the center is being used and a target of one lifeguard per 25 swimmers or one lifeguard per 1,500 square feet of aquatic space.

OBJECTIVE 4: EXPAND CURRENT PROGRAMMING HOURS.

ACTION 4.1: Provide more programming at after school and evening periods, especially for those who attend school and go to work during the day.

ACTION 4.2: Provide additional toddler programs during daytime hours for parents or guardians with programming needs during the day (example: mommy and me classes)

ACTION 4.3: Provide additional daytime programs for senior and those who do not attend work or school during daytime periods.

OBJECTIVE 5: CONTINUE AND EXPAND CITY SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS.

ACTION 5.1: Continue City Dial-a-Ride and Fixed Route transportation services to provide increased access to city facilities and services for seniors and those with mobility challenges.

ACTION 5.2: Host citywide special events at different areas throughout the City and including areas south of the Artesia (91) Freeway.

INITIATIVE THREE: SAFETY AND COMFORT

OBJECTIVE 1: CONTINUE PROVIDING AWARENESS OF RESOURCES FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS TO LESSEN THEIR IMPACT IN PUBLIC SPACES.

ACTION 1.1: Re-establish efforts with third-party agencies to prevent homelessness and continue seeking out new organizations to coordinate this effort.

ACTION 1.2: Establish designated personnel responsible for educating the unhoused people about resources available to them.

ACTION 1.3: Continue operation of Temporary Shelter, New Hope.

OBJECTIVE 2: CREATE A PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM WHERE ALL RESIDENTS AND VISITORS FEEL SAFE, COMFORTABLE, AND SECURE AT ALL FACILITIES.

ACTION 2.1: Continue and expand the use of the Park Patrol program and third-party contractor, Southwest Patrol to enhance park security and safety.

ACTION 2.2: Continue to monitor and enforce park regulations.

ACTION 2.3: Ensure parks have adequate lighting to maintain comfort and safety at night.

ACTION 2.4: Continue community-based public safety programs.

ACTION 2.5: Collaborate with volunteer and community watch groups to reduce criminal activities at City park facilities.

ACTION 2.6: Evaluate crime data to determine if there are areas that need additional law enforcement and/or the use of security cameras for crime prevention.

ACTION 2.7: Add prominent signage at parks and facilities encouraging users to call and report suspicious activity to the Police Department.

ACTION 2.8: Coordinate with Sheriff Department to improve safety of park and maintenance staff.

ACTION 2.9: Consider hiring a designated park ranger in addition to the Park Patrol Program responsible for responding to public safety concerns at non-staffed parks.

OBJECTIVE 3: IMPLEMENT THE CONCEPTS OF CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED) AT PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES WHEN RENOVATING OR DEVELOPING NEW PARKS.

ACTION 3.1: Provide a visual connection between all areas of the park to allow for good visibility by park users and keep unwanted behavior under observation. (Natural Surveillance)

ACTION 3.2: Use design elements such as sidewalks, hardscapes, lighting, and low fencing to help distinguish different areas of the park to discourage unwanted use. (Territorial Reinforcement)

ACTION 3.3: Use landscape elements to physically limit access and egress points and guide users to a specific direction within the park.

INITIATIVE FOUR: EQUITY AND ACCESS

OBJECTIVE 1: DISTRIBUTE PARKS AND/OR RECREATION FACILITIES SO THAT RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN A 15-MINUTE WALKING DISTANCE TO PARKS AND/OR FACILITIES.

ACTION 1.1: Prioritize the addition of new parks and recreation facilities in underserved areas and in higher-density areas that tend to have limited access to private outdoor spaces.

ACTION 1.2: Acquire new city-owned land to develop new parks in priority areas.

ACTION 1.3: Evaluate opportunities to construct temporary parks and recreation facilities in underserved areas such as parklets, adding court striping and picnic tables at underutilized parking lots, collaborating with schools or churches for use during summer months, etc.

OBJECTIVE 2: CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE, AND ENJOYABLE ATMOSPHERE AT PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

ACTION 2.1: Ensure all parks are fully accessible in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

ACTION 2.2: Continue to use both English and Spanish languages and easy-to-understand graphics on parks and recreation signage.

ACTION 2.3: Ensure park entrances are clearly visible with walkways, signage, and lighting.

ACTION 2.4: Collaborate with neighboring Parks and Recreation departments and non-profit organizations to explore opportunities for sharing resources and developing regional programs for individuals with special needs (e.g. wheelchair basketball league).

ACTION 2.5: Explore the feasibility of expanding park restrooms to include wheelchair-accessible and ADA-compliant, family-style restrooms to make it easier for caregivers to tend to individuals with special needs.

ACTION 2.6: Conduct research and develop accessible recreation pilot programs or events for individuals with disabilities. Adjust and expand programs as necessary.

ACTION 2.7: Evaluate existing special events with an inclusivity and accessibility lens and make adjustments to enable individuals with special needs to attend with ease and comfort.

ACTION 2.8: Explore the development of a formal inclusion policy to ensure that everyone has access to the benefits of parks and recreation. See the NRPA's Guidelines for Developing an Inclusion Policy for reference.

ACTION 2.9: Consider the development of an all-inclusive, all-abilities play area at an existing park or future park.

OBJECTIVE 3: PROVIDE RESIDENTS WITH AN ACCESSIBLE RANGE OF RECREATION SERVICES TO MEET MULTIGENERATIONAL, RECREATIONAL, AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS AND NEEDS.

ACTION 3.1: Evaluate the demographics of participants in Bellflower programming, events, and services to determine if participation is representative of community demographics.

ACTION 3.2: Conduct targeted outreach to neighborhoods and demographics with low participation in Bellflower programs and services.

ACTION 3.3: Continue the use of Bellflower Recreation in Motion (B.R.I.M) in park deficient areas with limited access to standard recreational programming.

ACTION 3.4: Ensure new sport programs offered through Parks and Recreation are available for all genders.

ACTION 3.5: Consider offering financial assistance for special-interest classes for community members that experience financial barriers to participation.

ACTION 3.6: Consider the development of a park and recreation foundation.

ACTION 3.7: Ensure each district in the City provides equal recreational opportunities and access to a broad range of recreational facilities.

INITIATIVE FIVE: CONNECTIVITY

OBJECTIVE 1: PROVIDE SAFE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONNECTIONS TO PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

ACTION 1.1: Improve bike and pedestrian connections along the San Gabriel River.

ACTION 1.2: Continue to maintain trail at Riverview Park as a Class 1 multi-use path.

ACTION 1.3: Implement projects and programs from the Active Transportation Plan to increase access to City parks.

ACTION 1.4: Improve pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure within 1/2 travelsheds from City parks.

ACTION 1.5: Host guided bicycle rides or walks to encourage active transportation to the Bellflower Bike Trail and City parks.

OBJECTIVE 2: ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO THE BICYCLE NETWORK FOR ALL RESIDENTS, AND SUPPORT BICYCLING AS AN ATTRACTIVE, CONVENIENT TRANSPORTATION CHOICE FOR ALL DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS.

ACTION 2.1: Conduct public outreach to promote walking and bicycling as viable transportation modes to parks and recreation facilities. Public outreach may include, but is not limited to educational materials, signage, special events, interactive contests, or social media campaigns.

ACTION 2.2: Establish pedestrian-scale wayfinding signage along the Bellflower Bike Trail and popular routes to parks and recreation facilities to increase use of the bike trail.

ACTION 2.3: Establish additional and cohesive wayfinding signage at City parks and facilities.

ACTION 2.4: Establish new and updated pedestrian-scale wayfinding signage along the Bellflower Bike Trail and at nearby City facilities pointing users to the Bike Trail for increased use.

ACTION 2.5: Explore the feasibility of installing new trails and multi-use paths to connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces and install, where appropriate.

ACTION 2.6: Install ADA-accessible walking loops within existing parks.

INITIATIVE SIX: PUBLIC ART AND PLACEMAKING

OBJECTIVE 1: CREATE A DISTINCT SENSE OF PLACE AT BELLFLOWER PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES CONSISTENT WITH CITYWIDE BRANDING.

ACTION 1.1: City should continue to use consistent branding for wayfinding signage for parks, bike paths, and key destinations.

ACTION 1.2: Design and implement different themes to distinguish one park from another, i.e. themed playgrounds, landscaping, or lighting.

ACTION 1.3: Incorporate passive open space and natural areas into the design of parks to provide a balanced range of open space values for the use and enjoyment of residents.

ACTION 1.4: Incorporate placemaking design elements into future parks to ensure park features complement the context of the surrounding neighborhood.

ACTION 1.5: Coordinate with other city departments and developers on streetscape changes to ensure that future streetscape and development projects include pathways, wayfinding signage, and pedestrian amenities that enhance the City's identity.

OBJECTIVE 2: SHOWCASE COMMUNITY DIVERSITY, CULTURE, AND HISTORY AT PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES.

ACTION 2.1: Partner with local artists to design and install additional public art that celebrates community diversity, culture, and history at parks and recreation facilities.

ACTION 2.2: Introduce new and enhance established community events that highlight the Bellflower's unique history, diverse culture, and art.

ACTION 2.3: Create new gathering areas for community members to host parties, meetings, and events at parks.

ACTION 2.4: Consider adding additional public art to the Town Center Plaza.

INITIATIVE SEVEN: SUSTAINABILITY AND STEWARDSHIP

OBJECTIVE 1: ENSURE PARKS ARE DESIGNED WITH SUSTAINABLE DESIGN ELEMENTS AND INCLUDE FEATURES THAT MINIMIZE THE IMPACTS OF SUN, HEAT, AND WIND.

ACTION 1.1: Continue and increase the use of recycled water for landscaping at parks and recreation facilities.

ACTION 1.2: Consider Installing low-flow water fixtures at parks and recreation facilities.

ACTION 1.3: Identify parks and recreation facilities in greatest need of additional shade and develop a plan to increase shade, where needed.

ACTION 1.4: Continue providing and promoting cooling centers in Bellflower and consider adding an additional cooling center south of the Artesia (91) Freeway.

ACTION 1.5: Require the use of drought-resistant vegetation at new parks and park renovation projects.

ACTION 1.6: Consider providing electric vehicle charging stations at parks and other City-owned parking lots.

ACTION 1.7: Consider design components at new parks and park renovation projects to include stormwater infiltration planters at impervious surfaces to treat stormwater runoff.

OBJECTIVE 2: FOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP.

ACTION 2.1: Install interpretive signage at parks and pathways to draw attention to and highlight the importance of natural habitats and resources in Bellflower.

ACTION 2.2: Launch a volunteer stewardship program for community members to actively participate in the care and enhancement of parks and trails in Bellflower.

ACTION 2.3: Host environmental education programs and events to give community members the knowledge and tools to become environmental stewards. Program topics may include, but are not limited to water conservation, energy conservation, waste reduction, clean air choices, etc.

ACTION 2.4: Promote riding transit, biking, walking, and dial-a-ride to parks and recreational facilities.

ACTION 2.5: Collaborate with LA Metro to assist in creating safety and beautification improvements to the Bellflower Bike Trail during the development of the Southeast Gateway light rail line to increase use of the bike trail.

INITIATIVE EIGHT: ADMINISTRATIVE

OBJECTIVE 1: REORGANIZE STAFFING TO BETTER MEET SERVICE NEEDS.

ACTION 1.1: Transition and restructure current staffing based on industry standards, designating Supervisors to manage major program types City-wide rather than by individual site. Supervisors should focus on high-priority strategic initiatives and program types to better align with community expectations. This approach also creates efficiencies by coordinating contractors and partners within specific program areas. As programming expands, consider adding full-time Coordinator-level positions to manage day-to-day technical and customer-facing tasks related to programs, facility operations, and staff oversight at key locations such as Simms and Thompson Parks. Additionally, consider adding administrative support, such as a Management Analyst position, to enhance operational efficiency, grant administration, and strategic planning initiatives.

ACTION 1.2: Hire additional full-time staff with anticipating growth and expansion of programs and services. Full-time staff will support and expand operations with particular emphasis on enhancing programming.

ACTION 1.3: Develop a part-time programming staff schedule that supports full-time programming staff to cover specialty programs such as sports leagues, after-hours fitness and educational programming.

OBJECTIVE 2: ENHANCE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS METHODS TO PROMOTE PARKS AND RECREATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.

ACTION 2.1: Continue use of the Parks and Recreation Brochure for primary marketing efforts related to parks and programming.

ACTION 2.2: Continue and increase social media presence and following to better connect teens and young adults to programs and special events.

ACTION 2.3: Develop a method to collect and address participant feedback upon completion of programming.

ACTION 2.4: Periodically survey residents about their needs and comments concerning the City's parks and recreation programs and specifically, programming needs at the new Senior and Teen Center.

OBJECTIVE 3: COLLABORATE WITH PUBLIC WORKS TO STRENGTHEN PROCESSES THAT ENHANCE PARK MAINTENANCE QUALITY.

ACTION 3.1: Develop a documented Park Maintenance Plan for the regular repair and proactive up-keep of City Parks and facilities. This should include service level expectations (frequency and time period) for use in scheduling routine maintenance activities.

ACTION 3.2: Conduct regular monthly meetings with Public Works staff to coordinate park maintenance needs and maintain communication for the proactive up-keep of parks and recreation facilities.

ACTION 3.3: Implement work order and service request management system technology to improve systems and communications between Public Works crew leaders and Parks and Recreation Staff as well as appropriately track and manage needed maintenance.

ACTION 3.4: Continue to promptly remove graffiti, trash, and weeds from City facilities.

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