

OPEN SPACE/RECREATION ELEMENT

The Open Space/Recreation Element addresses the management of natural resources and the preservation and enhancement of scenic and recreation opportunities. Bellflower's element combines the State-mandated Open Space Element and an optional Recreation Element. State law, Government Code Section 65302(e), requires cities to prepare and adopt an open space element of their general plan which, among many things, preserves open space resources and areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life; protects rivers and streams; and safeguards open space for outdoor recreation, public health and safety.

Bellflower's open space is comprised of three general use categories. These are: 1) *public open space* - areas which provide a wide range of recreational and open space opportunities. Examples of *public open space* in Bellflower include the San Gabriel River recreational area and utility easements (electric and flood control areas); 2) *private open space* - areas located within privately-owned commercial, residential, or

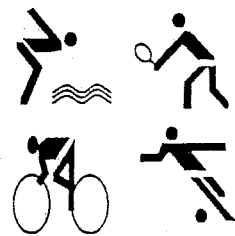
institutional developments which include a usable public open space; and

3) *parks and recreational facilities* - publicly owned parks and facilities devoted to community recreational needs.

Detailed information and data pertaining to Bellflower's parks and recreational facilities is contained in the General Plan's Background Technical Report (BTR).

Exhibit 1 depicts the City of Bellflower's recreational facilities. Table 1 contains a list of the City's parks and their corresponding acreage.

Bellflower is striving to provide parks and recreational facilities within an one-mile radius of all of its residents. Figure 1, "Community Park Service Areas", shows the location of Bellflower's community parks and their accessibility within one mile. Preliminary investigations indicate that the residential areas south of the Artesia (91) Freeway need a community park to serve them. A study should be undertaken to locate and fund a park facility to serve this area of the City.



"In the 1940's, a citizen's group...found a suitable ten acre parcel of land for \$10,000 and enlisted the community's help to raise the money. In 1945, Bellflower's new Community Park opened with fine facilities; picnic tables, gas plates, lighted tennis and basketball courts, baseball diamonds, and much, much more...the park was dedicated to Dr. John Simms." Bellflower: People and Places.

Demographic trends:

Between 1980 and 1990, certain population trends occurred in Bellflower that will affect the City's future open space, parks, and recreational needs. These trends are as follows:

- Between 1980 and 1990, Bellflower's population increased by 8,374 persons or 15.7 percent. Bellflower's population growth, during the past decade, has resulted in an increased need for open space and recreational facilities. The City's population is expected to continue to grow during the next fifteen years.
- Between 1980 and 1990, the number of family-type households in Bellflower increased by 1,127 or 7.8 percent. This trend indicates an increased need for recreational facilities for families.
- During the past decade, Bellflower's population became younger with a majority of its new and existing residents being under 14 years old and of child bearing/rearing age (age 25 to 44 years old.)

As Bellflower's population continues to become younger, the City should plan for additional youth oriented recreational activities.

- During 1990, 57.9 percent of females citywide, with children under six years old, were in the labor force. Countywide, this figure was 54.5 percent. As the number of working mothers increase in Bellflower, there will be an increased need for summer day camps and after school programs at City parks.

Issues and Needs: Bellflower's "1994 Urban Parks & Recreation Recovery Update" document contains a detailed list and analysis of Bellflower's parks, recreation, and open space issues. This information is summarized as follows:

1994 Recreation

Management Needs and

Issues: 1) More police protection; 2) Increased coordination between the Department and park facilities and programs; 3) More outreach publicity; and, 4) More park personnel.



"In 1960, the [Bellflower] Department of Parks and Recreation was created . . . In 1961, a Parks and Recreation Commission was appointed." Bellflower: A Pictorial Essay

1994 Physical Facilities Needs and Issues: 1) More parks; 2) Maintenance of existing parks and recreational facilities; 3) Expansion of existing park facilities (picnic areas, equestrian trails, bikeways, and parking areas).

1994 Recreation Program Needs and Issues: 1) Additional teen diversion programs and facilities; 2) Additional programs for the disabled; 3) Maintenance and expansion of the City's transportation services for seniors; 4) More adult and youth recreation programs.

Future Open Space and Recreation Needs: Bellflower Parks and Recreation Department's 1994 "Urban Parks & Recreation Recovery Update" document identified a need for additional park land in the City. To ensure City residents are provided with sufficient park land to meet their recreational needs, the City follows the National Parks and Recreation Association standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Using this standard, Bellflower's estimated 1993 population of 63,400 (according to the California Department of Finance) would require 159 acres. As Table 1 indicates, the City currently provides 64.69

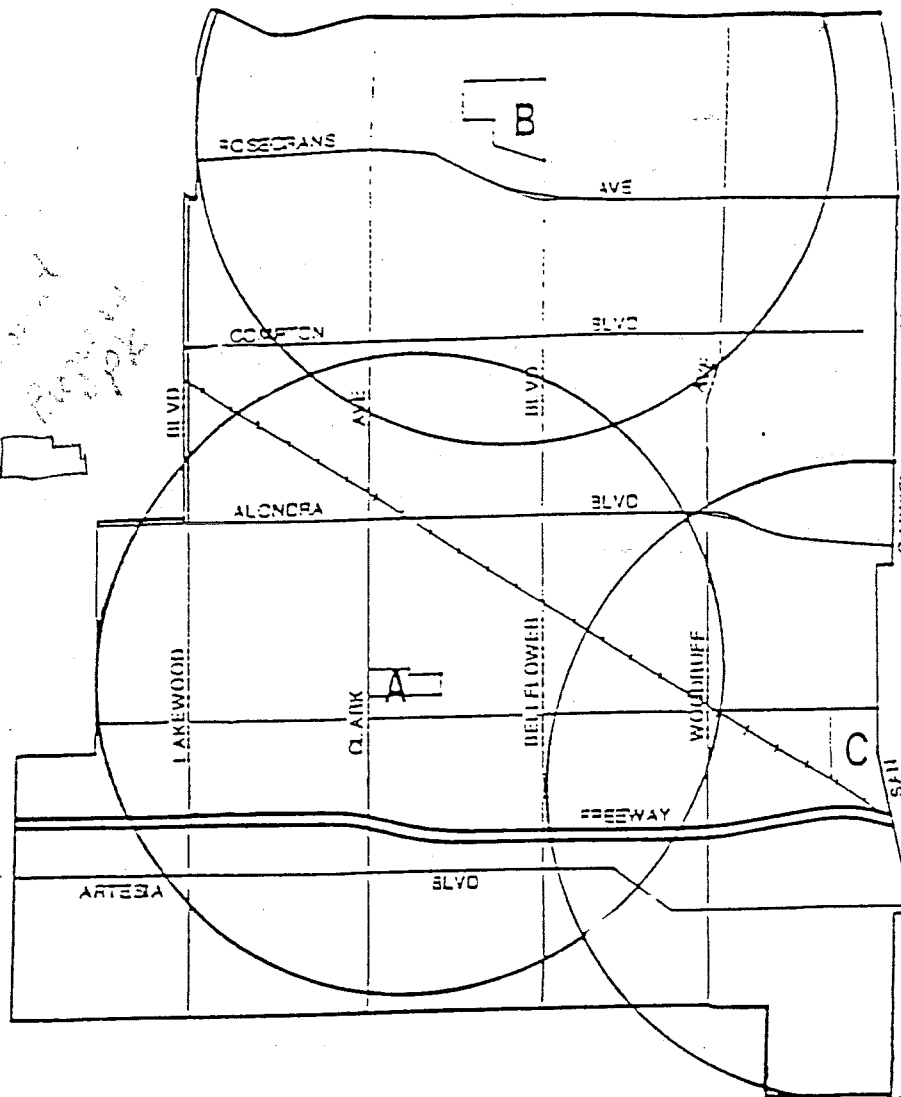
acres. The Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) population projection for Bellflower for the year 2010 is 67,488 residents. This 2010 population level would require future open space resources within the City of Bellflower of 169 acres.

Existing open space within Bellflower incorporates both public and private school lots, and public and semi-public park and open land area. The total acreage of public park land within Bellflower is 64.69 acres. Some land located at public and private schools, and within flood control and utility right-of-ways also provide recreational and open space opportunities.

Overall, Bellflower's current open space resources do not meet the needs of the City's current population, and fall short of meeting future needs.



"In 1962, Ruth Caruthers was appointed by her fellow council members to be Bellflower's first woman mayor. Just a few months into her mayorship, she succumbed to a heart attack. As a memorial to this beloved lady, the City renamed Flora Vista Park to Ruth R. Caruthers Park. "Bellflower: People and Places."



COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS

- A - JOHN S. SIMMS PARK
- B - T. MAYNE THOMPSON PARK
- C - RUTH R. CARUTHERS PARK

FIGURE 1
ONE MILE RADIUS
COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS

Source: City of Bellflower, Department of Parks and Recreation, "Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Update" document, September 1994.

TABLE 1
CITY OF BELLFLOWER
CITY PARKS AND ACREAGE

NAME OF PARK	ACREAGE
Ruth R. Caruthers	12.3
Constitution Park	2.16
John S. Simms Park	12.53
T. Mayne Thompson Park	12.76
H. Byrum Zinn Park	2.75
Gene List Golf Course	22.19
TOTAL	64.69

Source: December 1994, City of Bellflower, County of Los Angeles Tax Assessor's Records

Due to its built out status, sites for larger community and neighborhood parks are limited in Bellflower.

Therefore, the City should strive to locate and purchase under utilized parcels in the southern part of the City. Where feasible, smaller parcels can be assembled into larger usable parcels. The Under Utilized Parcel Study (UUPS) completed in April 1994 would be a valuable tool for this task. In addition, lands owned by Southern California Edison (SCE) and Los Angeles County Flood Control District along the San Gabriel River are valuable open space and recreational resources for Bellflower.

GOALS AND POLICIES:

The following goals and policies address citywide open space/recreation issues.

ISSUE: Residents need to feel safe at City parks.

GOAL 1: Improve public safety at City parks and recreational facilities.

POLICIES:

- 1.1 Continue community-based public safety programs such as the Sheriff's Department Sub-station at Simms Park.
- 1.2 Work with Neighborhood Watch groups to develop Park Watch programs to reduce crime and vandalism at City parks.
- 1.3 Work with volunteer and community groups, such as "Bellflower Against Gangs" (BAG), Bellflower Unified School District's "Healthy Start Program" and other sectors of the community to reduce



"Be a joiner. Become well known as a good worker at the organizational level. No matter how good your ideas, how well suited you must be for civic office, you can't get in unless you're elected and you can't get elected unless you're known." Ruth Caruthers, 1962, First Woman Mayor of Bellflower; Bellflower: People and Places

criminal activities at City park facilities.

- 1.4 Continue to promptly remove graffiti from City facilities.

ISSUE: Parks and Recreation management should utilize strategies for increased coordination between the Department and park facilities and programs, more effective publicity of programs, and the regular recruitment of qualified personnel.

GOAL 2: Utilize effective management strategies to ensure the City's parks and recreation programs are managed efficiently.

POLICIES:

- 2.1 Utilize innovative mechanisms, such as cable TV, video presentations and flyers, to actively promote City Parks and programs.
- 2.2 Utilize community organizations and business sponsors to support recreational programs and operations.

- 2.3 Periodically survey residents about their needs and comments concerning the City's parks and recreation programs.

- 2.4 Involve residents in parks and recreation planning and programming efforts.

- 2.5 Actively pursue the recruitment of qualified recreation personnel as positions become available.

- 2.6 Continue to monitor recreation and human service programs in Bellflower and surrounding cities to minimize program duplication.

- 2.7 Promote efforts to reduce energy consumption.

- 2.8 Ensure park regulations are enforced.

ISSUE: Maintenance and expansion of existing parks and recreational facilities is needed.

GOAL 3: Maintain and expand the City's existing open spaces, parks, and recreational facilities.



"Cedar-Rose Park was first developed in 1961 . . . renamed in 1987 to commemorate the bicentennial of our Nation's Constitution to Constitution Park, it is still the only Bellflower park not named for a prominent citizen."
Bellflower: People and Places

POLICIES:

- 3.1 Maintain Bellflower's system of parks, recreation facilities, equestrian trails, and bikeways.
- 3.2 Continue utilizing joint use agreements with Bellflower Unified School District and Bellflower churches for the use of school and church facilities for recreational purposes. Investigate the expanded use of these joint use agreements.
- 3.3 Maintain existing and provide additional picnic areas and "hard" recreation facilities.
- 3.4 Make use of volunteers to maximize the efficiency of recreation programs.
- 3.5 Continue to apply for and secure grants and funds for the maintenance and upgrading of the City's parks and recreation facilities.
- 3.6 Work with the Metropolitan Transit Agency (MTA) and local agencies to complete the "West Santa Ana Branch Bikeway-Greenway" project.
- 3.7 Require adequate private open space and recreational facilities in multiple family residential development.
- 3.8 Continue to work with Los Angeles County Proposition A "Open Space District 20-year Maintenance and Servicing Grant" funding.

ISSUE: More parks are needed, especially in the southern part of the City. The City is built-out, which makes this goal difficult to achieve.

GOAL 4: Acquire and improve more park land in the southern part of the city.

- 4.1 Work with the Los Angeles Flood Control District and Southern California Edison (SCE) to lease land along the San Gabriel River for park purposes, bikeways, and equestrian trails.



"In 1956, Bellflower threw a huge birthday party for the whole region to celebrate its first half-century. Thousands came to the free barbecue and the street dance on Flower Street."
Bellflower: A Pictorial Essay

4.2 Locate parcels for park purposes south of the Artesia (91) Freeway.

4.3 Research and secure funding for the acquisition and purchase of a park south of the Artesia (91) Freeway.

4.4 Work with adjacent communities to development joint use recreational opportunities, facilities, and parks.

ISSUE: Additional and diverse recreational programs are needed in the City.

GOAL 5: Provide recreation and human service programs which meet the needs of Bellflower's diverse population.

5.1 Provide a variety of programs in the area of the arts, self improvement, fitness, and crafts for youths and adults.

5.2 Provide a variety of youth and teen recreational programs, such as day camps, after school activities,

teen dances, and athletic programs.

5.3 Continue to provide residents with cultural opportunities such as the concerts, theater, holiday programs, and summer concerts in the park.

5.4 Continue to provide health, recreation, and socialization programs that meet the changing needs of Bellflower's elderly residents.

5.5 Continue to coordinate and conduct human service programs for the developmentally disabled and other special needs persons.

5.6 Continue to provide para-transit services for Bellflower's disabled and senior residents.

5.7 Provide programs that meet the needs of residents who work during the day.

5.8 Continue to provide adult and youth recreational sports leagues and instructional clinics.



"In 1968, the Bellflower City Council moved to rename Caughran Park after the [City's] popular first mayor. Today, T. Mayne Thompson Park and Pool is one of the City's most important recreational facilities." Bellflower: People and Places.

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS

1. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**
Organize and fund "Neighborhood Park Watch" groups.
2. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**
Continue Bellflower's aggressive crime prevention and gang diversion programs.
3. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**
Continue to promptly remove graffiti from parks and recreation facilities.
4. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:** Apply for grants to fund the rehabilitation and expansion of existing parks and recreation facilities.
5. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**
Continue using California State Proposition 5, "Gas Tax Revenue Funds" to fund transit needs for the disabled.
6. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:** Develop a Maintenance Plan for the regular repair and up-keep of City parks and facilities.
7. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**
Continue working with the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) and the cities of Paramount, Artesia, and Cerritos to construct the "West Santa Ana Branch Bikeway-Greenway" project along the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way.
8. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:** Locate desirable parcels to lease land along the San Gabriel River for park purposes, bikeways, and equestrian trails. Work with the Los Angeles Flood Control District and Southern California Edison (SCE).
9. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:** Locate parcels for park purposes south of the Artesia (91) Freeway.



In 1974, the City Council created the Bellflower Cultural Study Committee and named William Bristol as chairman. The group surveyed all phases of local culture, sampling opinions of organizations, schools and churches and found an overwhelming need in the community for an auditorium which could be the center of Bellflower's cultural activities. An auditorium was built . . . and, on February 3, 1985 William I. Bristol died. Upon hearing of his passing, the City Council moved to name the Auditorium the William Bristol Civic Auditorium as a fitting memorial to a most treasured citizen."
Bellflower: People and Places."

10. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**

Research and secure funding for the acquisition and purchase of a park south of the Artesia (91) Freeway.

11. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**

Use the zoning ordinance and other mechanisms to ensure adequate open space and recreation facilities are provided in new multiple family residential projects.

12. **IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM:**

To facilitate locating and purchasing future park parcels, keep the City's "Vacant Land List" and "Under Utilized Parcel Survey" (UUPS) current.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Open Space/Recreation Element addresses the management of natural resources and the preservation and enhancement of scenic and recreation opportunities. This element combines the State-mandated Open Space Element and an optional Recreation Element.

State law, Government Code Section 65302(e), requires cities to prepare and adopt an open space element of their general plan which complies with the following statute:

(1) Open space for the preservation of natural resources including, but not limited to, areas required for the preservation of plant and animal life, including habitat for fish and wildlife species; areas required for ecologic and other scientific study purposes; rivers, streams, bays and estuaries; and coastal beaches, lake shores, banks of rivers and streams, and watershed lands.

(2) Open space used for the managed production of resources, including but not limited to, forest lands, rangeland, agricultural lands and areas of economic importance for the production of food or fiber; areas required for recharge of ground water basins; bays, estuaries, marshes, rivers and streams which are important for the management of commercial fisheries; and areas containing major mineral deposits, including those in short supply.

(3) Open space for outdoor recreation, including but not limited to, areas of outstanding scenic, historic and cultural value; areas particularly suited for park and recreation purposes, including access to lake shores, beaches, and rivers and streams; and areas which serve as links between major recreation and open-space reservations, including utility easements, banks of rivers and streams, trails, and scenic highway corridors.

(4) Open space for public health and safety, including, but not limited to, areas which require special management or regulation because of hazardous or special conditions such as earthquake fault zones, unstable soil areas, flood plains, watersheds, areas presenting high fire risks, areas required for the protection of water quality and water reservoirs and areas required for the protection and enhancement of air quality.

Open space and recreation issues are closely related. Therefore, it makes sense to address these topics in a comprehensive manner. The city's open space resources include both public and private open space. Public open space generally includes public areas related to open space and recreational facilities. Examples of Bellflower's public open space are parks and recreational facilities (tennis courts, park centers, ball fields, and picnic areas); the San Gabriel riverbed; the golf course; landscaped medians; open areas occupied by utilities (flood control channels, railroad lines, and electric easement areas); and, the downtown Heritage Square.

Private open space is owned privately. Examples include residential side and rear yards; balconies and common areas in multiple family housing developments; and, private recreational facilities such as batting cages, outdoor amusement areas, church sites, and YMCA facilities.

1.1 Purpose of the Element

Recreation and open space resources are an important part of everyday life. These resources provide relief from urban congestion and the monotony of man-made structures. More importantly, open-space and recreational resources create a more enjoyable community environment.

1.2 Demographic Trends

Between 1980 and 1990, certain population trends occurred in Bellflower which are expected to continue through 2010. These changing demographics will affect the City's future open space, parks, and recreation needs. These trends are as follows:

- Between 1980 and 1990, Bellflower's population increased by 8,374 persons or 15.7 percent. Bellflower's population growth, during the past decade, has resulted in an increased need for open space and recreational facilities. Bellflower's population is expected to grow during the next fifteen years..
- Between 1980 and 1990, the number of family-type households in Bellflower increased by 7.8 percent or 1,127. This trend indicates an increased need for recreational facilities for families.
- During the past decade, Bellflower's population became younger with a majority of its new and existing residents being under 14 years old and of child bearing/rearing age (age 25 to 44 years old.) As Bellflower's population continues to become younger, the City should plan for additional youth oriented recreational activities.
- During 1990, 57.9 percent of females citywide, with children under six years old, were in the labor force. Countywide, this figure was 54.5 percent. As the number of working mothers increase in Bellflower, there will be an increased need for summer day camps and after school programs at City parks.

1.3 Relation of Open Space/Recreation Element to the Land Use and Circulation Elements

The Open Space Element addresses existing land uses and identifies those areas within the City where additional open space and recreation demands will be needed during the next fifteen years. Although the City was 98 percent built out in 1994, an Under Utilized Parcel Study (UUPS) completed in April 1994 identified a potential of 3,338 additional residents from in-fill residential development. As build out occurs, existing facilities will be intensively utilized and additional open space and recreation facilities will be needed in certain neighborhoods, particularly in the

southern part of the City located south of the Artesia (91) Freeway.

Whenever possible, new plazas, tot lots, mini parks and other open space opportunities should be explored and developed. Particular attention should be given to meeting the growing and changing needs of Bellflower's diverse population. This population includes working parents, the youth, the elderly, the disabled, and the average citizen who is seeking relief from the stresses of our urban environment.

1.4 Open Space/Recreation Issues

The City's "1994 Urban Parks & Recreation Recovery Update" document contains a detailed list and analysis of Bellflower's parks, recreation, and open space issues. This information is summarized as follows:

Recreation Management Needs and Issues: 1) More police protection; 2) Increased coordination between the Parks and Recreation Department and park facilities and programs; 3) More public outreach publicity; 4) More parks personnel.

Physical Facilities Needs and Issues: 1) More parks; 2) Maintenance of existing parks and recreational facilities; 3) Expansion of existing park facilities (picnic areas, equestrian trails, bikeways, and parking areas).

Recreation Program Needs and Issues: 1) Additional teen diversion programs and facilities; 2) Additional programs for the disabled; 3) Maintenance and expansion of the special transportation services for seniors; 4) More adult, senior, and youth recreation programs.

2.0 OPEN SPACE OVERVIEW

It is the intent of the Open Space/Recreation Element to encourage the preservation of existing open spaces and recreational facilities and the development of new resources.

Bellflower's open space is comprised of three general use categories. These are: 1) *public open space* - areas which provide a wide range of recreational and open space opportunities; and 2) *private open space* - areas located within privately-owned commercial, residential, or institutional developments which include a usable public open space; and 3) *parks and recreational facilities* - publicly owned parks and facilities devoted to community recreational needs.

2.1 Public Open Space

Public open space includes a range of primary land uses and a variety of recreational opportunities. They include land uses such as public facilities, institutions, and flood control channels. Semi-public uses include land uses such as power, water, and gas transmission facilities, utility and railroad right-of-ways. Both of these categories have non-recreational

primary uses but also include open space characteristics. Some of the uses permit a variety of recreational opportunities within that open space. These opportunities include equestrian and bicycle paths, landscape buffers, and parks and play fields. Because of the corridor nature of many of these land uses, they provide an opportunity for pedestrian linkages throughout Bellflower.

The use of recreational and open space opportunities of utility corridors have already been demonstrated with the recent expansion of Ruth R. Caruthers Park in eastern Bellflower. Southern California Edison (SCE) and Los Angeles County Flood Control easements have been utilized for play fields, picnic areas, pedestrian and equestrian trails, and natural habitat along the San Gabriel River. This General Plan encourages the continued development of utility easements for alternative open space and recreational uses. The Open Space Plan Map identifies easements which have the potential to be developed for a variety of recreational uses.

The Circulation Element contains goals and objectives for expanding existing bicycle routes and for promoting bicycling as an alternate mode of travel. Included in the Open Space/Recreation Element is a recommendation to provide bike trail linkages to the future greenbelt/bikeway planned for development along the Southern Pacific Railroad (S.P.R.R.) right-of-way ("West Santa Ana Branch Greenbelt and Bikeway"). This right-of-way is currently owned by the Metropolitan Transit Authority and is planned for a fixed rail transit line.

The Land Use and Circulation Elements focus on utility corridors and other easements that provide multi-use recreational potential. These areas provide, where feasible, linkages to existing bicycle routes, equestrian trails, and regional trails. Completion of a comprehensive trail system will expand recreation opportunities in the City and reduce dependence on the automobile.

The locations of major public open space areas, parks, and bike trails are depicted in Exhibit 1.

2.2 Private Open Space

Bellflower's private open spaces comprise land uses (privately-owned or institutional) in which open space or recreational space is provided. An example of private open space is accessible interior or exterior open space within commercial shopping centers, outdoor recreational amenities in residential developments, and open space areas at churches, church schools, or other private educational institutions. There are numerous private open space resources in Bellflower.

Additionally, private open space and recreational opportunities have been developed through joint use agreements with Bellflower area schools and churches, and co-partnerships with the YMCA.

2.3 Parks, Recreational Facilities, and Programs

2.3.1 Parks

The City of Bellflower's park facilities are located throughout the City (Exhibit 1). Table 1 indicates the names of the major parks in Bellflower and their sizes.

**TABLE 1
CITY OF BELLFLOWER
CITY PARKS AND ACREAGE**

NAME OF PARK	ACREAGE
Ruth R. Caruthers	12.3
Constitution Park	2.16
John S. Simms Park	17.0
T. Mayne Thompson Park	12.53
H. Byrum Zinn Park	2.75
Gene List Golf Course	22.19
TOTAL	64.69

Source: December 1994, City of Bellflower, County of Los Angeles Tax Assessor's Records

In addition to offering day use opportunities, Bellflower's three (3) supervised park facilities are available for family picnics, social gatherings, and community organizations. Park buildings and fields are available to residents on a minimal fee basis. Non-residents are able to rent the same facilities at an increased fee.

All supervised Bellflower parks have a variety of facilities and many have barbecue grills and sinks, as well as activity rooms with tables, chairs, and other special event resources.

Typical permitted uses of recreation facilities include wedding receptions, anniversary parties, birthday parties, reunions, seminars, fund-raisers, and public forums. Athletic fields are widely used by youth and adult sports programs in Bellflower.

In addition to City parks, other Bellflower recreational facilities include:

Bellflower Golf and Tennis Center - This 9-hole 3-par golf course is operated on a concessionaire/lease agreement. Included in the on-site facilities is a club house, pro-shop, deli, night-lighted driving range and three (3) night-lighted tennis courts. The Bellflower Golf and Tennis Center is located at 9030 East Compton Boulevard.

Batting Cages - Ruth R. Caruthers Park is home to two (2) batting cages. Batting cage #1 is set for baseball and batting cage #2 is set for softball. Rental information can be obtained by calling Ruth R. Caruthers Park. The batting cages are located at 10500 Flora Vista Street.

Equestrian/Bike Path Multi-Use Facility (Caruthers Park North) - This area is equipped with equestrian entrances at Trabuco Street and Flora Vista Street and offers a scenic bridle path along the San Gabriel River Channel. Highlighting the equestrian area is a gymkhana exercise arena equipped with horse drinking troughs. Additionally, the area features a meandering bike path and fitness course with convenient picnic bench rest stops and bike racks.

William Bristol Civic Auditorium - The William Bristol Civic Auditorium is home to civic programming, public seminars, and facility rentals. The facility is a 378 seat auditorium located at the Bellflower City Hall complex, 16600 Civic Center drive.

2.3.2 Recreational Facilities and Programs

On an annual basis, the City of Bellflower offers approximately 150 specialized recreation classes, including adult dance and fitness; adult special interest, arts and crafts; travel programs; teen and youth sports, dance and fitness programs; and preschool educational programs. Additional programs include seasonal youth day camps, sports clinics, and field trip excursions for various age groups. The following is a partial listing of the recreation and leisure activities available through the City of Bellflower:

Recreation Activities - The City's Recreation Program Brochure contains a complete listing of special interest workshops, craft classes, exercise/fitness classes, dance classes, pre-school and youth programs, and much more. These programs are offered during the spring, summer, and fall/winter seasons. Registration for these programs is typically conducted in February, June, and September.

Bellflower Youth Sports - The Bellflower Youth Sports Program has been a fundamental component of life in the Bellflower community for many years. The program has evolved over the years, reacting to changes in the community and in society in general. Recent trends show participation has been growing steadily, increasing each year. Boys and girls are afforded the opportunity to participate in basketball, softball, and soccer programs on a seasonal basis. Approximately 15% of the program participants have been non-residents.

During summer months, specialized camps and clinics offer an intensive, skill-building experience for young players.

Preschool Programs - Preschool education classes and parent-cooperative tot-lots are the focus of Bellflower's programs for the youngest members of the community.

Tot Lot is a parent-sponsored preschool program held at Ruth R. Caruthers Park. Tot Lot offers morning play and basic learning programs for preschool-aged children. In the year 1993, there were 115 children enrolled in this program, all Bellflower residents.

Preschool is a City-sponsored program held at T. Mayne Thompson Park under the direction of the City Preschool Coordinator. Preschool offers a basic learning/classroom experience for preschool-aged children along with a variety of additional activities, including motor development, excursions, music, and play. In the year 1993, 327 children were enrolled in the preschool/day camp program with 272 being Bellflower residents.

Aquatic Programs - Bellflower has two (2) swimming pools at the newly renovated Bellflower Aquatic Center. The facility offers recreational swimming, exercise programming, and specialized swimming instruction through a co-partnership with the YMCA throughout the year. There are modest fees for recreation swimming and swimming instruction. Ruth R. Caruthers Park also has a wading pool open during the summer months for younger children.

Community Events - The department has a long-standing tradition of offering community-wide special events. Thousands of visitors annually enjoy the Easter/spring vacation holiday program, Flag Day program, City Birthday Celebration, Halloween program and activities, and Christmas vacation/North Pole calling program.

Bellflower Recreation in Motion (B.R.I.M)- A innovative, pro-active diversion program which delivers recreation services directly to Bellflower neighborhoods. A roving recreation team of three staff reaches out to the Bellflower community to provide wholesome leisure time activities to our children without requiring the children to leave the neighborhood. Activities include games, tournaments, sports, crafts, and special events.

Other City of Bellflower Recreational Programs Include:

- After School Recreation Program (school and church sites)
- Programs for the Developmentally Disabled
- Farmers Market
- Special Family Fun Days
- Summer Day Camp
- Cultural Programs
- Adult/Senior/Youth Excursions

2.3.3 Parks and Recreation User Trends

Table 2 displays Bellflower's parks and recreation user trends for all its facilities (Simms Park, Thompson Park, Caruthers Park, Bellflower Aquatic Center, Bellflower Aquatic Center Weight Room, William Bristol Civic Auditorium and Bellflower After School Program). As Table 2 indicates, attendance and use of Bellflower's parks and recreational facilities has increased on a yearly basis.

Since 1992, usage of the City's facilities increased by about 8.8 percent yearly. This trend is probably due to the following expansion projects and program changes:

- Bellflower Aquatic Center pool expansion, rehabilitation, and swim program increases.
- Increased park facility room and field area rental uses.
- Increased adult sports program participation.
- Revived weekday After School Recreation programs.
- New special interest personal safety and health exercise programs.
- Increased resident and non-resident facility picnic area usage.

**TABLE 2
CITY OF BELLFLOWER
PARKS AND RECREATION USER TRENDS**

YEAR	ATTENDANCE/USE FIGURE *	# AND % CHG
1989	895,074	-
1990	895,912	+ 838 +.1%
1991	921,217	+25,305 +2.8%
1992	1,015,099	+93,882 +10.2%
1993	1,089,823	+74,724 +7.4%

* Includes attendance and use figures for Simms Park, Thompson Park, Caruthers Park, Bellflower Aquatic Center, Bellflower Aquatic Center Weight Room, William Bristol Civic Auditorium and Bellflower After School Program.

Source: City of Bellflower Parks and Recreation Department, September 1994.

2.3.4 Parks and Recreation Facilities Service Areas

Bellflower is striving to provide parks and recreation facilities within a two-mile radius of all its residents. Figure 1, "Community Park Service Areas", shows the location of Bellflower's community parks and their accessibility within one mile. As previously noted, the residential areas south of the Artesia (91) Freeway need a community park to serve them. A study should be undertaken to locate and fund a park facility to serve this area.

Figure 2 shows the location of Bellflower's four unsupervised parks: Byrum Zinn Park, Constitution Park, Friendship Square, and Bicentennial (Heritage) Square.

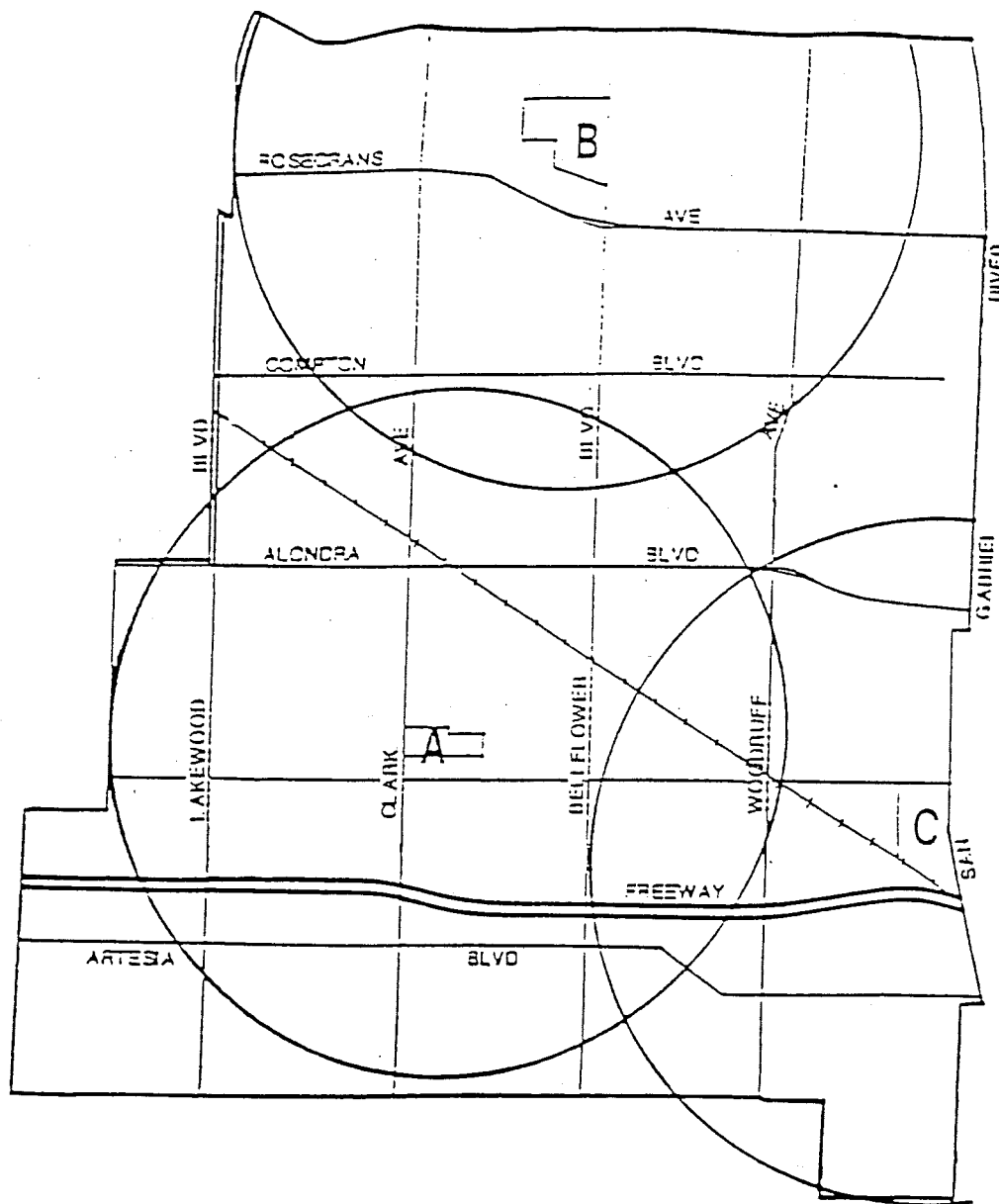
Figure 3 shows the six locations of Bellflower's Elementary School After School Recreation Programs.

Figure 4 shows the location of the nine public schools in Bellflower. Currently, the City has joint use agreements for recreational and open space use with four of these schools. The City intends to extend this program.

Figure 5 shows the location of private schools in Bellflower. These are a source of private open space in the community.

2.3.5 Human Services

In addition to parks, recreational facilities and programs, the City of Bellflower provides a series of human service programs to meet the needs of its citizens. The majority of Bellflower's human services are provided from the City's main Recreation and Community Center, John S. Simms Park. The Simms Park facility serves as the City's "hub" for human service programming. In addition, this facility often serves as the City's information and referral station for citizens seeking human service programs.

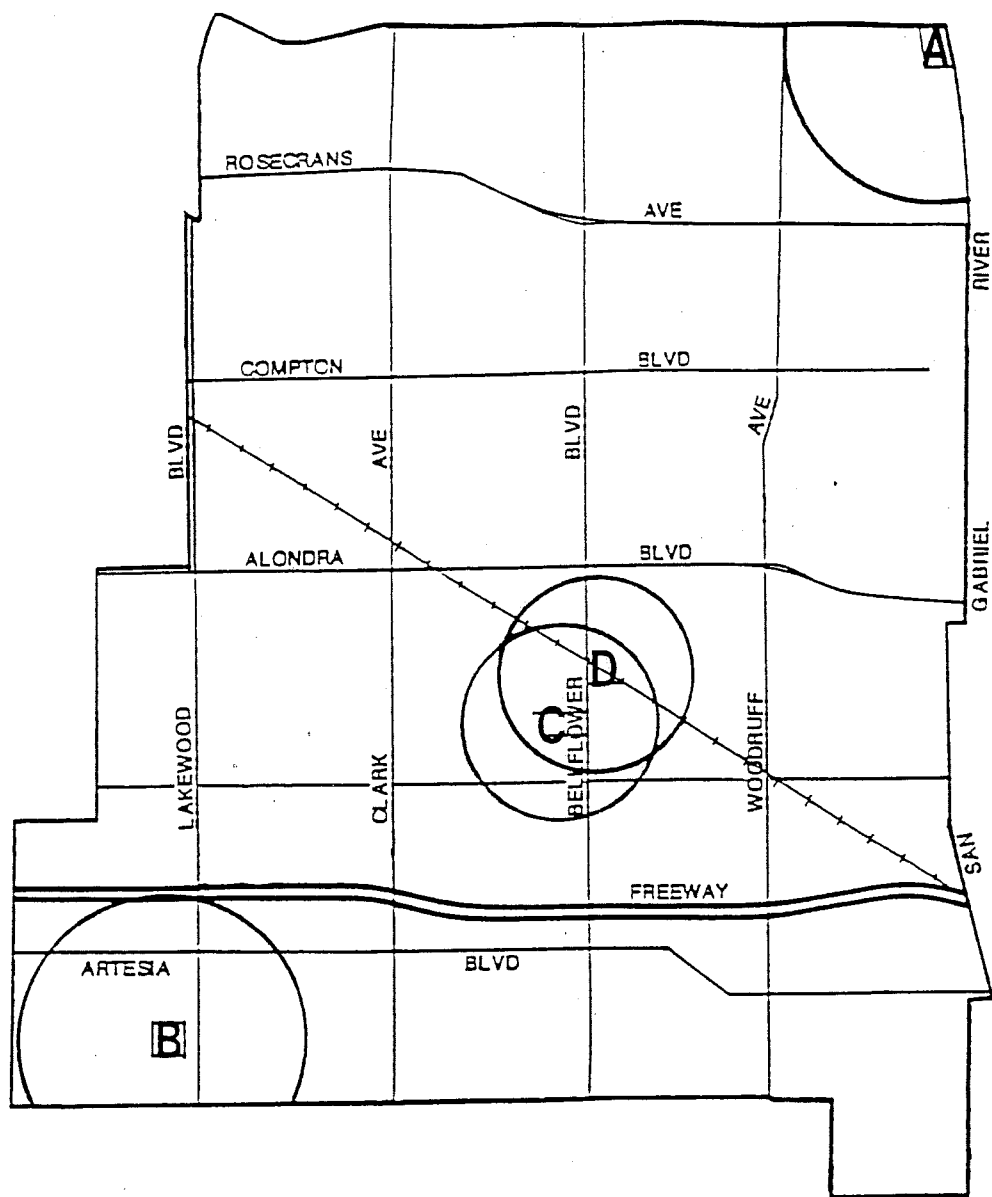


COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREAS
A - JOHN S. SIMMS PARK
B - T. MAYNE THOMPSON PARK
C - RUTH R. CARUTHERS PARK

(SERVICE AREAS HAVE A ONE MILE RADIUS)

Source: City of Bellflower, Department of Parks and Recreation "Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Update" document, September 1994

FIGURE 1



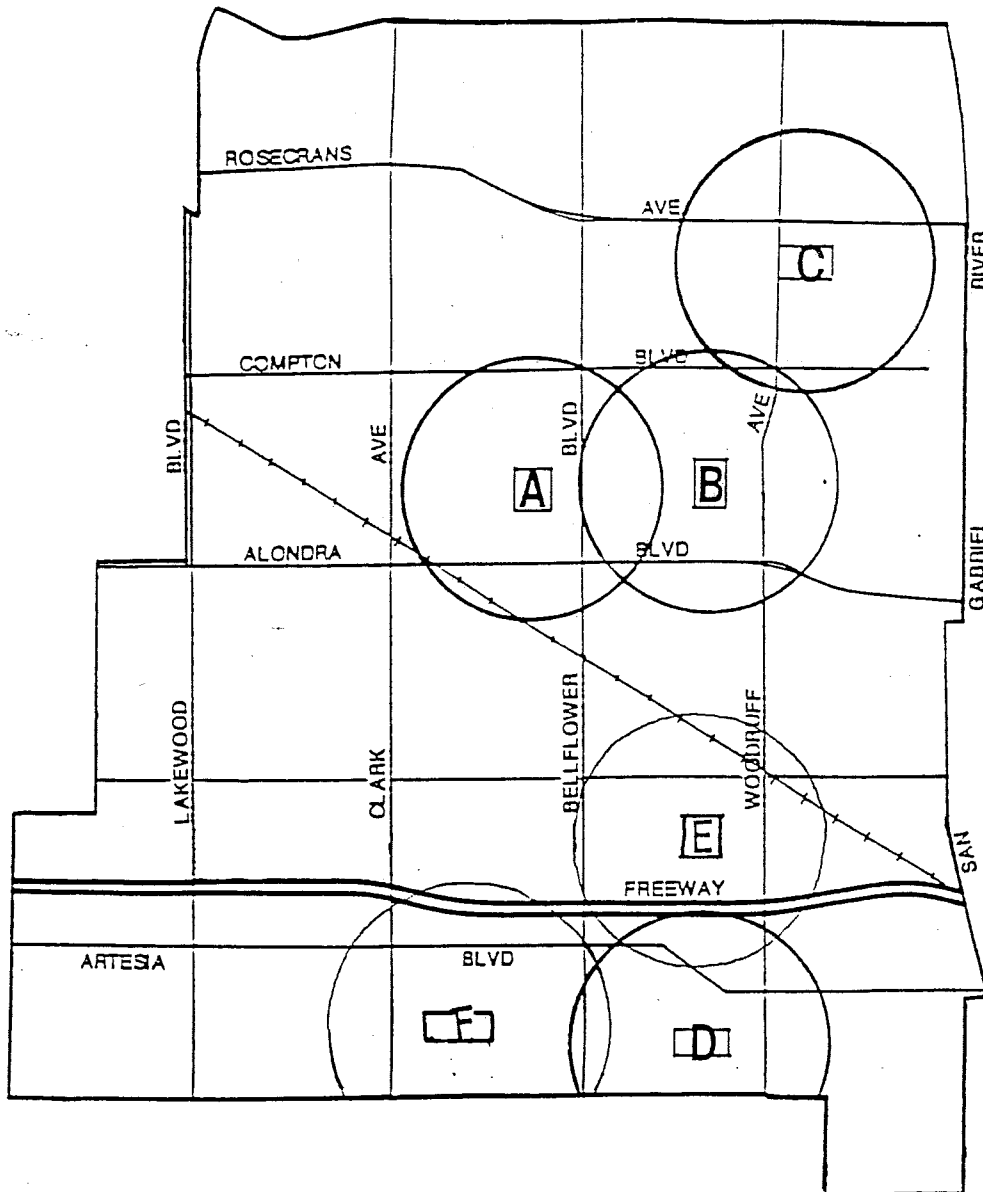
**UNSUPERVISED PARKS SERVICE AREAS
(NEIGHBORHOOD GREEN SPACE)**



- A - BYRUM ZINN PARK
- B - CONSTITUTION PARK
- C - FRIENDSHIP SQUARE
- D - BICENTENNIAL SQUARE

Source: City of Bellflower, Department of Parks and Recreation "Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Update" document, September 1994

FIGURE 2

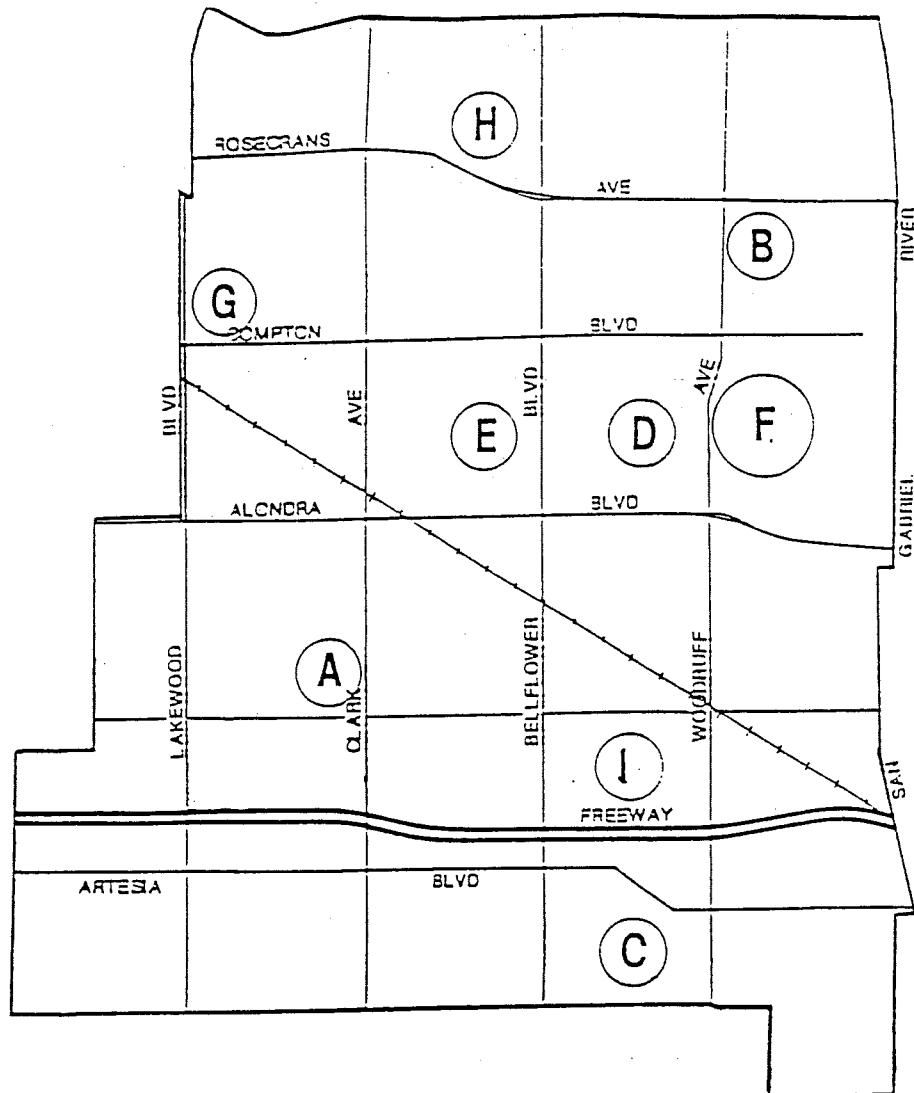


**BELLFLOWER PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
ELEMENTARY AFTER SCHOOL RECREATION PROGRAM
SERVICE AREAS**

- A - GEORGE WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- B - FRANK E. WOODRUFF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- C - ERNIE PYLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- D - BETHEL REFORMED CHURCH
- E - LAS FLORES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- F - FIRST CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Source: City of Bellflower, Department of Parks and Recreation "Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Update" document, September 1994

FIGURE 3

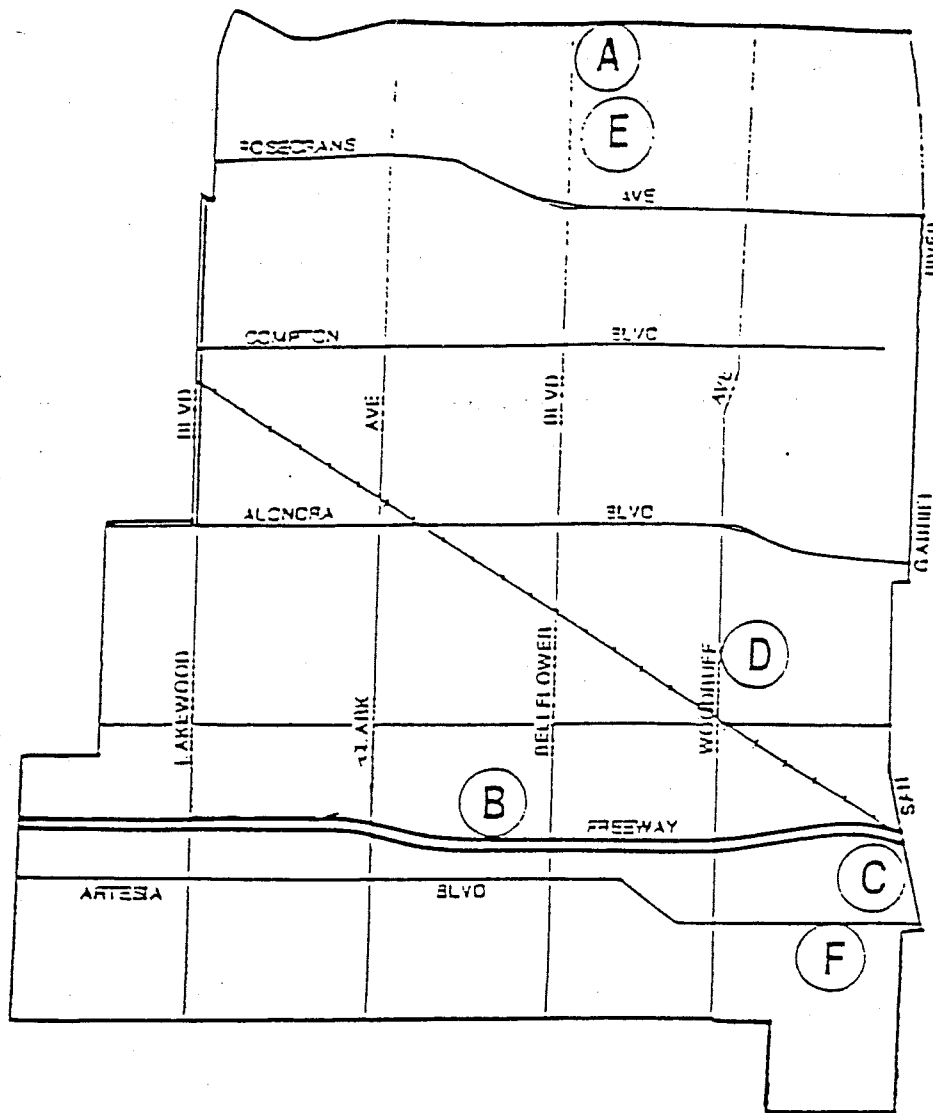


Source: City of Bellflower, Department of Parks and Recreation "Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Update" document, September 1994

BELLFLOWER PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- A - RAMONA
- B - ERNIE PYLE
- C - THOMAS JEFFERSON
- D - FRANK E. WOODRUFF
- E. GEORGE WASHINGTON
- F - BELLFLOWER MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL
- G - ALBERT BAXTER ADULT SCHOOL
- H - PACE SCHOOL (Special Education) Downey Unified
- I - LAS FLORES SCHOOL

FIGURE 4



PRIVATE SCHOOLS

- A - ST. DOMINIC SAVIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
B - ST. BERNARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
C - BELLFLOWER CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
D - WOODRUFF CHRISTIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
E - ST JOHN BOSCO HIGH SCHOOL
F - WONDERLAND PRE-SCHOOL

FIGURE 5

3.0 FUTURE OPEN SPACE/RECREATION NEEDS

Bellflower's Parks and Recreation Department's 1994 "Urban Parks & Recreation Recovery Update" document identified a need for additional park land in the City. To ensure City residents are provided with sufficient park land to meet their recreational needs, the City has adopted the National Parks and Recreation Association standard of 2.5 acres per 1,000 residents. Using this standard, Bellflower's estimated 1993 population of 63,400 (according to the California Department of Finance) would require 159 acres. The Southern California Association of Government's (SCAG) population projection for Bellflower for the year 2010 is 67,488 residents. This 2010 population level would require future open space resources within the City of Bellflower of 169 acres.

Existing open space within Bellflower incorporates both public and private school lots, and public and semi-public park and open land area. The total acreage of public park land within Bellflower is 64.69 acres.

Due to its built out status, sites for larger community and neighborhood parks are limited in Bellflower. Therefore, the City should strive to locate and purchase under utilized parcels in the southern part of the City. Where feasible, smaller parcels can be assembled into larger usable parcels. The Under Utilized Parcel Study (UUPS) completed in April 1994 would be a valuable tool for this task. In addition, lands owned by SCE and Los Angeles County Flood Control District along the San Gabriel River are valuable open space and recreational resources for Bellflower.

osr.brt/revised 9-7-95

BELLFLOWER GENERAL PLAN

OPEN SPACE PLAN MAP

 PARKS, OPEN SPACE

BICYCLE ROUTES

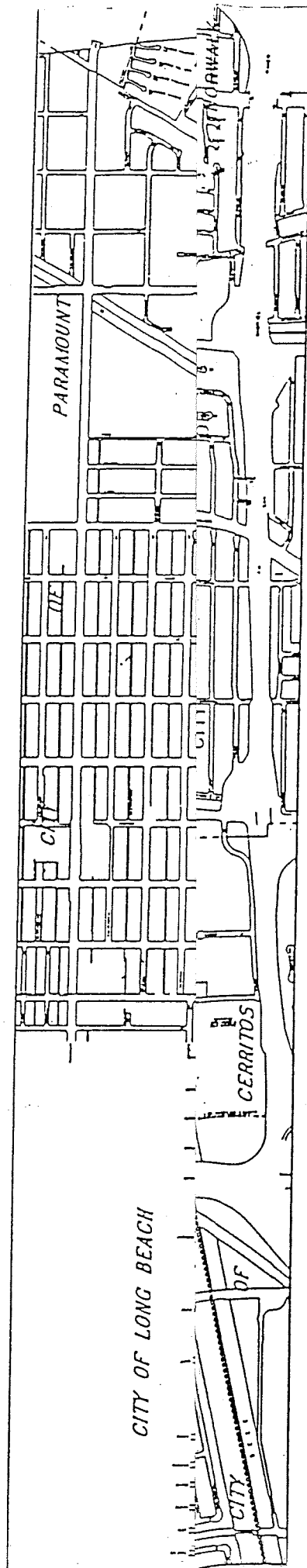
CITY OF BELLFLOWER

———— Existing Route

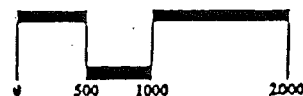
..... Proposed Route

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

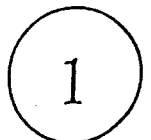
----- Bicycle Trail System



NORTH



SCALE



EXHIBIT

LOCKMAN &
ASSOCIATES