



EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

From creating new land features in the Bay to reusing abandoned rail right-of-way, the City of Emeryville has a history of creativity in creating its park system from a limited supply of land. The park system consists of compact urban spaces such as 61st Street Mini Park, as well as open spaces that provide access to the bay such as Point Emery. Emeryville also has a number of privately managed and nearby recreation resources such as Hollis Green Park and Eastshore State Park.

PARKS AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

Emeryville faces a set of distinct challenges in determining the type of facilities that should be included in new and existing park land. With limited space, the community is forced to make difficult choices about what will be included and which needs will have to be fulfilled elsewhere or in other ways. In addition, much of the population that will enjoy this park system has not yet arrived as the city is still pursuing its residential development strategy.

The approach of this planning effort was to identify the types of activities most important to Emeryville's desired quality of life, then to identify the types and location of facilities needed in the parks and recreation system. From the analysis of the existing parks and recreation system, the planning team developed a comprehensive list of activities supported within the existing park system. Through the public involvement process, community members generated additional ideas, and the planning team analyzed the list to identify those activities that are feasible given Emeryville's land constraints and that provide opportunities for residents, employees and visitors.



This effort led to the list of the activities Emeryville will support within the park system, which are discussed below. Some of these activities require specific facilities to make the use possible, while others rely more on setting and overall design of the site. By focusing the analysis of the community's needs on the activities desired, Emeryville will have greater flexibility in meeting those needs and providing creative parks offering a wide range of experiences within limited park land. To clarify the connection between the facilities and the activities, park sites that currently support each activity are summarized in Table 1 following the description of each activity.

For each activity discussed below, there is a definition and general description of what types of facilities can be used for the activities. This is followed by a summary of the relevant facilities and amenities that currently exist in Emeryville.

PLAY FOR CHILDREN

Places and facilities in which children play vary as widely as the imaginations of the children using them. Play areas at most parks focus on manufactured playground equipment. These structures, swings, slides and other elements come in many shapes and sizes, and may contain multiple design components. Playgrounds can also be designed to incorporate thematic areas with interpretive and educational elements. Playgrounds can be constructed using a variety of materials, but must include safety surfacing and a separation between preschool and school age areas and keep children safe from traffic and conflicting uses. Playgrounds should also be designed to be accessible for all users.

All parks offer places for children to play. Most of Emeryville's parks have open turf areas. Additionally, four parks include formal playgrounds: 61st Street Mini Park, Stanford Avenue Park, Temescal Creek Park and Doyle Hollis Park. The play equipment at Doyle Hollis Park is new and the City installed the equipment at Stanford Avenue Park within the past few years. The facilities at 61st Street Mini Park and Temescal Creek Park are older and show signs of wear.

While playgrounds offer many activities within a smaller area, all of Emeryville's parks offer opportunities for unstructured play. Open turf areas are popular for playing catch, informal games of soccer, Frisbee and other unstructured activities.

There are water features included in the play features in three Emeryville Parks (Doyle Hollis Park, Stanford Avenue Park and Temescal Creek Park) and a decorative water feature at the Civic Center. Beaches or water access also provide opportunities to play in the water.

SOCIALIZING AND RELAXING

Parks and recreation facilities provide an important place for Emeryville residents to interact with their friends and neighbors or to simply relax in a comfortable setting. Many different features can and do support these informal activities including seating, open lawn areas, picnic tables and venues for events and programs. Nearly all of Emeryville's parks and facilities support socializing and relaxing with seating areas and casual or drop-in activities that encourage residents to interact on their own schedules.



PICNICKING/LUNCH

Whether with small or large groups, alone or with co-workers, picnicking and eating lunch are common activities in parks. While most picnic areas require amenities such as tables and trash and recycling containers, spaces to eat lunch are often more informal.



Picnic areas are groupings of one or more picnic tables within a park setting. Often, barbecue pits or grills are provided. Drinking water and restrooms should be located within easy walking distance. Picnic areas may be situated under shade structures or in permanent pavilions. In large groupings with the appropriate

support facilities, picnic areas can be referred to as group picnic areas. Usually, group picnic areas can be reserved for a fee by groups for family or business events, weddings and other gatherings.

Lunch areas vary in the type of seating arrangements provided and can include benches, low seating walls and planters and picnic tables. Lunch areas should be provided in a number of different settings including places that provide views, observation of street activity and sheltered natural areas.

All of Emeryville's City Parks and Waterfront Parks provide seating and all but three (Christie Avenue Park, Point Emery Park and Shorebird Park) have picnic tables.

RESPIRE AND SOLITUDE

Living in relatively compact communities without private yard space or extensive traditional parks requires spaces that support being alone or engaging in solitary pursuits as a way of "getting away from it all". A variety of facilities can support respite and solitude, from a bench in any park where a resident can sit alone with their thoughts to a trail or the end of a pier with the city sitting far in the distance.

Very small parks can provide for this type of activity but the smallest parks with playgrounds are not designed specifically for respite or solitude, and may not support this activity.

SPORTS

High-energy team or individual sports activities can require specialized facilities such as fields and courts. This activity includes the playing of games (competitive or casual), team practice and classes or programs that develop skills.

Places to play sports are an important resource for both organized and informal play. In order to support these high-energy activities an appropriate amount of space must be provided. Popular sport facilities include diamond and rectangular fields for baseball, football, soccer and more; as well as courts for basketball or racquet sports such as tennis.



While most parks have open turf areas, there are no formal sport fields in Emeryville parks, nor are there tennis courts. Stanford Avenue Park, Doyle Hollis Park and Temescal Creek Park each have one half-court basketball court. The developed sport fields available for use by the community are at the Tom Bates complex in Berkeley and at the Emery Secondary School site. Nearby San Pablo Park also has several sport fields.

GAMES

Games can be played on table-top boards, special purpose tables and small courts. Most game tables and courts are specialized for particular games, although some allow for variations and alternate games.

One of the most popular table top games in a park setting is chess. Game boards for chess and checkers can be included as part of the surface of a table requiring only pieces for play. There are a wide variety of games that require only the proper equipment: playing cards, dominoes or other table top games, as well as a suitable surface for players to gather around. Other games use courts that are drawn/painted on or built into a park surface. Hopscotch requires very little space and is a game that generations of children have enjoyed. Playground games such as foursquare are seeing a revival amongst young adults in many cities. Other court games include bocce, shuffleboard and horseshoes, all of which can be fit into relatively small areas. Indoor games include pool or billiards, as well as any of the games that can be played outdoors.

Emeryville has a bocce court on the Greenway and a pool table at the Senior Center. The 62st Street Mini-Park also has a hopscotch and 4-square markings.

RECREATION WITH DOGS

Dog owners enjoy the opportunity to run, play, relax and socialize with their dogs and other dog owners in park settings. Because of Emeryville's compact and dense housing, space for dog owners to exercise their pets is in high demand. Due to the need to regularly exercise dogs, dog owners often become one of the most regular users of parks and trail corridors. However, in a constrained space, dogs can create significant additional wear and tear and routine maintenance needs. In addition, there can be conflicts between dog owners and other park users who



may not wish to encounter dogs. Also, domestic and wild animals are not always compatible on one site. For some activities, particularly where dogs are off-leash, enclosed areas may be necessary.

Officially, walking dogs on a leash is permitted only in Temescal Creek Park and Marina Park. However, people bring dogs to all of the parks. There are often people with dogs walking and playing off-leash in Marina Park and Point Emery Park, walking on the Bay Trail and the Emeryville Greenway, and playing in Christie Avenue Park. There are no off-leash dog parks in Emeryville.

GARDENING

Gardening in public spaces includes raising plants for food, decoration or simply for the joy of watching something grow. Gardening provides the opportunity to have a direct connection to having food on the table and can help users to reduce their food costs.

The most common form of this activity within a park system is the self-directed gardening of a small plot rented at a community garden. Other ways that this activity can be integrated into the parks and recreation system is through programs teaching everything from the basics of balcony herb gardens to master gardener courses. There is also an opportunity to harness residents' desire to garden to assist in the ongoing upkeep of the City's parks, greenways and green streets. Gardening sites can be integrated into the design of parks, potentially using edible landscaping to replace decorative plantings. Volunteer opportunities to plant annuals or maintain an element of a local park landscape can also be facilitated.

There are two community gardens in Emeryville (Big Daddy's Community Garden and the Community Organic Garden), that provide space for gardening to those who do not have adequate space at home or who prefer the community setting.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITIES

This group of activities is focused on individuals challenging themselves, although many choose to participate in informal groups. These activities can require a specific type of facility but also often take advantage of the built and natural environment.



Growing areas of interest in park systems across the country are the personal challenge, training and extreme sport activities such as skateboarding and climbing. At the smallest, simplest level, many challenge activities are included in Play for Children. Climbing, in particular, can happen on play structures and natural features such as rocks or built park features, including sculpture or even retaining walls. As difficulty and technicality increase, specialized facilities may be required or in some cases opportunities may simply need to be indicated.

While Emeryville's industrial past has left a legacy of surfaces that are suitable for skateboarding, the only facility developed with a Challenge Activity in mind was the plaza at Doyle Hollis Park. Features there were designed to accommodate skaters as well as other users.

WATER/SHORE RECREATION

This set of activities covers shoreline or water-based recreation. In Emeryville, the opportunity for these activities is created by the proximity of San Francisco Bay and the location of parks and facilities along its shore.

These activities share a common element in their connection to the waterfront and include fishing, paddling, sailing, wind and kite surfing and simply enjoying the water's edge. Several of these require some type of direct access to the water such as a beach or boat ramp, while others can use an overlook, rocky shore or pier.

Access to water for boating, fishing and other water activities is an important amenity to this San Francisco Bay community. These activities bring users into direct contact with the Bay in a variety of ways.

There are four Emeryville parks that offer access to the bay for fishing: Point Emery Park, Shorebird Park, Marina Park and Davenport Park.

AQUATICS

Aquatics is the programmed use of swimming pools. This includes structured activities such as aquatic fitness classes and learn-to-swim programs as well as competitive events such as swim meets and aquatic sports such as water polo. Aquatics also includes unstructured activity programmed for pools such as recreational or open swim.



This activity is driven by the availability of pool space, which is a large investment for a community. The renovated pool envisioned for the Joint School District/City Community Services Facility will continue to be the focus of aquatics in the city.

FAMILY/GROUP CELEBRATIONS

This activity includes medium and large-sized gatherings, both indoors and out, that are pre-arranged. Parks with large open lawns and group picnic areas are great places to hold group events such as a family reunion or group celebration. Indoor facilities can also be provided to create space for such events. Facilities to support these kinds of celebrations can be provided at several scales, and should be reservable to allow pre-planning and prevent scheduling and use conflicts.

Marina Park and Doyle Hollis Park can adequately accommodate family or group celebrations. Because these parks each have a large open lawn, parking and a restroom, they are well-equipped to handle large group events. Three of the City's indoor facilities (the Senior Center, Recreation Center and Bridgecourt Room) also support gatherings to a greater or lesser scale.



SPECIAL EVENTS

This activity includes the attendance at and participation in events that are not part of regularly programmed uses of a site or facility but are put on by the City or an affiliated organization. These events typically use the entire park site and may require the closure of the park or adjacent streets.

A wide range of potential special events could be hosted at park sites and indoor facilities, including fairs or festivals, concerts, art events and more. The type of event determines the scale and amount of supporting park amenities required. While some events are directed for certain groups or a neighborhood, others can have a community-wide or even regional draw. Access, parking and restrooms should all be proportional to the type of events held at the park facility.

There are several parks that can accommodate different scales of special events. Marina Park is the city's largest park and includes open lawns, vehicle and boat parking, as well as a restroom. Doyle Hollis Park has potential for more locally focused events, although on-street parking is limited and shared with other land



uses. In addition, the nearest public parking garage is ¼-mile away, the outside distance considered comfortable for convenient walking access. Christie Avenue Park is smaller and features a stage, open lawn, good access and parking. While the park lacks restrooms, temporary facilities can be added for smaller-scale events. The Civic Center, especially the plaza space, and the Senior Center also create opportunities for special events.

PROGRAMS/CLASSES

Programs and classes are a set of activities organized for educational or recreational purposes and led by an instructor or coach. These are arranged in advance and advertised in the activity guide or through other means; or may be offered as part of an ongoing educational program. A wide variety of classes can be offered utilizing both indoor and outdoor facilities. These classes include learning a new skill, continuing education or participating in structured play and learning opportunities. These programs can support a wide variety of other activities including Exercise and Fitness, Education and Learning and Viewing and Participatory Arts by providing basic instruction and skill building.

The current range of recreation programming is described later in this chapter. While recreation programming is currently focused on the indoor facilities, most of Emeryville's parks could also support formal classes or programs outdoors.

EDUCATION/LEARNING

This activity includes the wide range of learning and teaching that goes on outside of a program, event or classroom. This differs from Programs or Classes because of the informal nature of the activity.

In addition to being a venue for organized classes or programs, parks and recreation facilities can be a destination for self-guided learning about the natural environment, local history and more. The existence of parks in Emeryville is part of a local story that could be interpreted through signage and other materials to allow visitors to understand their community better. The urban habitats and natural features in parks can also be a tool for the education of children and adults. Parents, teachers and enthusiasts can all use parks as a place to help inform the community about the importance of its history and natural systems.



Each of Emeryville's parks provides the opportunity for learning by creating a unique space shared by people, animals and plantings. However, no facilities exist that are specifically targeted at this activity.

EXERCISE AND FITNESS

This activity includes supporting the health routines of residents and employees by creating opportunities to practice or train in their own ways. Both parks and indoor facilities can be a key part of residents' and employees' regular fitness routines. Practicing yoga or tai chi, using cardiovascular fitness equipment or working out on outdoor fitness equipment are all possible activities that the parks and recreation system can support.

Currently, physical spaces, such as the turf area in Doyle Hollis Park or multi-use indoor spaces such as in the Senior Center, exist in the park system that can support these activities. Expanding on this might include public information or programming that explains how to exercise outdoors (beyond running or cycling) or features in parks that can be used to augment workouts.



VIEWING ART

This activity involves interacting with art through viewing, listening, feeling and potentially learning about the artist and the media through supporting signage or materials.

Emeryville has already earned a reputation for public art installations on private buildings and in public spaces such as parks and sidewalks. There is further opportunity to integrate art into the parks and recreation system by creating interactive installations that add to the artistic interest and promote play throughout the city. Indoor and outdoor venues can also be used for enjoying performance arts such as theater, music and dance.

Art can be integrated into many park experiences and as the variety of art installations reaches a critical mass, viewing art can become a reason for visiting a park or touring several sites. No special amenities are required for this activity.

Emeryville has included permanent art installations in many of the public spaces in the city. Currently, Big Daddy's Community Garden, Doyle Hollis Park, 61st



Street Mini-Park, the Emeryville Greenway, the Community Organic Garden, the Civic Center and Anna Yates Elementary have integrated art installations. The City has also encouraged art on private property. In addition to permanent or long-term installations, community facilities such as the Senior Center, Recreation Center, Bridgecourt Room and Civic Center have spaces that can host art events.

PARTICIPATORY ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Rather than the enjoying or viewing of art, this activity focuses on the creation or performance of music, drama, photography or any other art. Acting in a play or creating a painting or drawing is addressed as a separate activity from the enjoyment or appreciation of art. This activity could include any performance or cultural art form, some of which require a formal stage and others that can use a classroom, studio or an outdoor space. The wide variety of arts that could be included makes this a broad category of potential facilities and spaces. In some cases, a unique space that is not specifically designed for performance is just the inspiration needed. This activity can take place both indoors and outdoors.

Emeryville has three outdoor stages, in Christie Avenue Park, Doyle Hollis Park and Temescal Creek Park, and one indoor stage in the main hall in the Senior Center. Virtually any other indoor or outdoor space has the potential to support some participatory arts and cultural activities.

ENJOYING NATURE, VIEWS AND SCENERY

Parks provide users with direct and indirect connections with nature and the beauty of their natural and urban environment. In some cases, users are enjoying nature or a view from afar, such as viewing the skyline over the Bay shore from Point Emery. In others, users are hands-on with nature planting trees at a park.

The Emeryville parks that most directly support the enjoyment of nature, views and scenery are the waterfront parks and the community gardens. Other parks provide green space and plantings that add to the city's scenery and nature, but are not known for these features.



WALKING, JOGGING, OR BICYCLING

This activity includes all of the ways residents, visitors and employees get around Emeryville via their own power. Combining active transportation and one of the most popular ways to maintain fitness and enjoy the park system, the category of Walking, Jogging and Bicycling is a key activity in Emeryville. The range of facilities that support this activity includes perimeter pathways around a park, sidewalks, greenways, the street network and regional trail routes.

Nationally and regionally, walking, jogging, or bicycling are popular activities in parks and greenways, a trend confirmed by the park use data collected in Emeryville. While these activities can take place on streets, sidewalks and trails, pathways and trails that are separated from the street are more inviting and can be safer for users. Within parks and greenways, trail design requires consideration of users, adjacent properties and land uses, as well as environmental considerations. As with greenways, trails often follow existing rights-of-way, including railways, utility corridors and waterways, and can be hard or soft-surfaced. Trail amenities can include seating and may have associated trailheads, parking and interpretive signage.

The major trail corridors in the city are the Emeryville Greenway and the San Francisco Bay Trail, which includes a loop to the end of Marina Park. Both of these corridors link multiple Emeryville parks with on and off-street connections.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Residents and visitors in Emeryville are creative about making the most of existing parks. Other activities, beyond those identified here, are possible within the parks and indoor spaces in the city. Further, new activities emerge over time as populations and interests change. An important part of the development of the park system will be the flexibility to respond to changing needs and conditions.





The park system is broken down into four park types:

City Parks

Waterfront Parks

Greenways/Linear Parks

Special Use Facilities

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AT EXISTING PARKS

A summary chart matching existing City of Emeryville, private, nearby and school facilities to the activities they support is provided on the next page. These activities will also form the basis of the needs analysis to assist the community in identifying and prioritizing the activities that should be included in the parks and recreation system and within individual park sites. The activities will also help to determine the appropriate division of roles in providing facilities for these activities between various providers. Four activities were specifically called out during the needs analysis process (results of which are available under separate cover) that represent the basic elements of a park in Emeryville. These include Play for Children, Socializing and Relaxing, Picnicking/Lunch and seeking Respite and Solitude. This mix of activities is similar to the basic elements provided in most of the City's existing parks. The almost endless variability in ways to provide this set of activities provides the opportunity to balance the needs of residents, employees and visitors as appropriate for a given site. Play features can range from manufactured play equipment to interactive sculpture to a fountain.

EMERYVILLE'S PARK SYSTEM

Emeryville's General Plan classifies existing park land into two simple categories. The "City Parks" category includes mini-parks as small as 0.14 acre to the City's signature Marina Park which is over 7.5 acres. "Other Open Spaces and Recreation Facilities" captures the linear Emeryville Greenway sites, City indoor facilities and land and facilities owned by other public agencies such as the Emeryville Unified School District.

In order to accommodate the new additions to the park system, and recognize the different activities supported by parks and recreation sites in Emeryville, this Strategic Plan includes a classification system that organizes City-owned facilities by their function. This classification will assist in the detailed site programming necessary to translate the goals of the General Plan into a diverse set of recreation opportunities for Emeryville residents, employees and visitors.

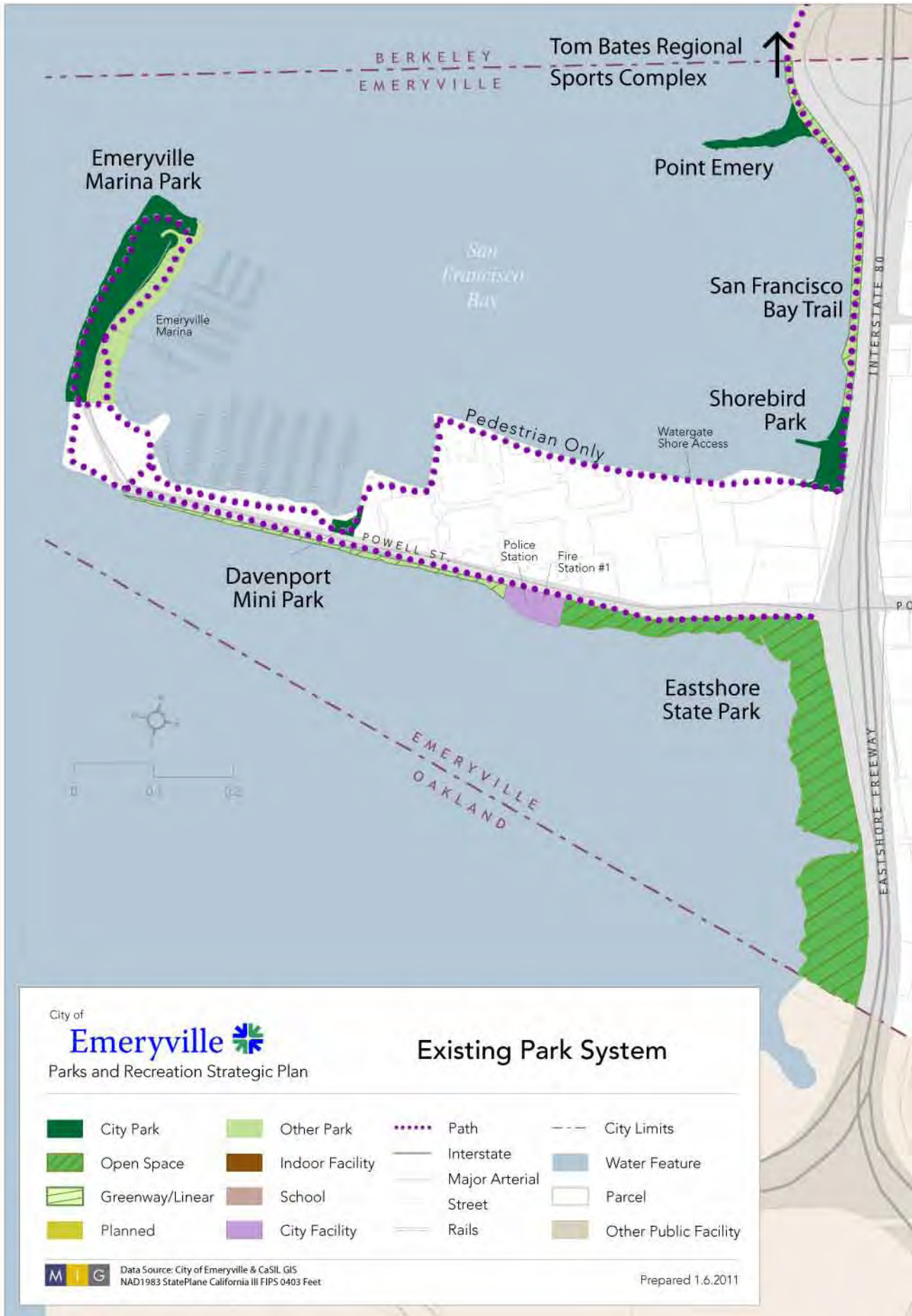
	CITY PARKS				WATERFRONT PARKS				GREENWAYS/LINEAR			SPECIAL USE						
	61st St. Mini-Park	Christie Avenue Park	Doyle Hollis Park	Stanford Avenue Park	Davenport Mini-Park	Emeryville Marina Park	Point Emery	Shorebird Park	Emeryville Greenway	Temescal Creek Park	San Francisco Bay Trail	Bridgescourt Room	Child Development Center	Civic Center	Big Daddy's Community Garden	Organic Community Garden	Recreation Center	Senior Center/Veteran's Memorial
Play for Children	●																	
Socializing, Relaxing	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●							●	
Picnicking/Lunch	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●								
Respite and Solitude	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●								
Sports		●																
Games	●							●										●
Recreation with Dogs		●			●		●	●	●	●								
Gardening															●			
Challenge Activities			●											●				
Water/Shore Recreation																		
Aquatics																		
Family/Group Celebrations		●			●													●
Special Events		●			●									●				●
Programs/Classes																		●
Education/Learning																		●
Exercise and Fitness		●			●													●
Viewing Art		●																●
Participatory Arts and Cultural Activities		●																●
Enjoying Nature, Views and Scenery																		
Walking, Jogging, Bicycling																		

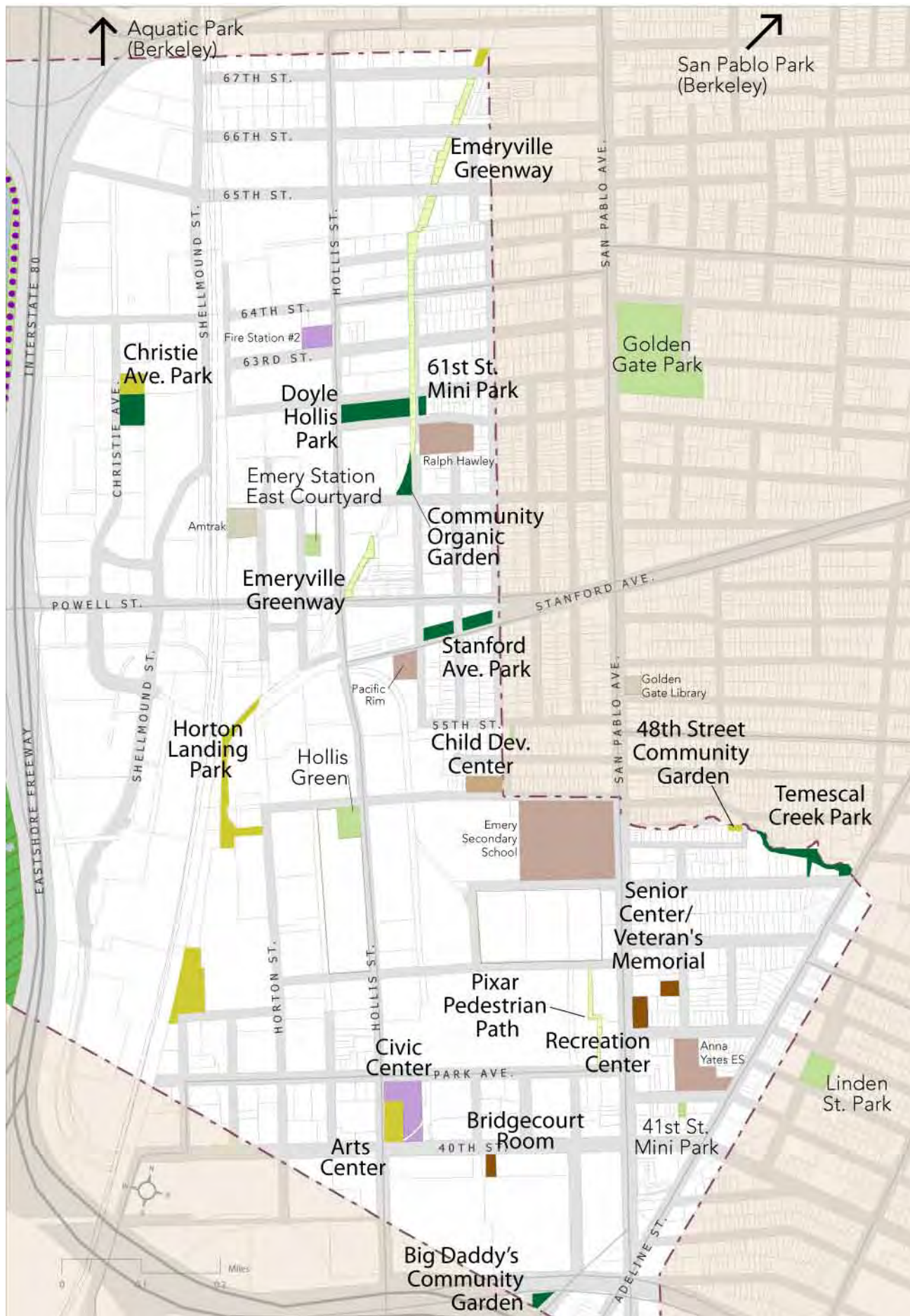
	PRIVATELY OWNED	NEARBY	SCHOOLS
Play for Children	●		●
Socializing, Relaxing	●	●	
Picnicking/Lunch	●	●	
Respite and Solitude	●	●	
Sports		●	●
Games			
Recreation with Dogs			
Gardening			
Challenge Activities			
Water/Shore Recreation	●	●	
Aquatics			●
Family/Group Celebrations		●	
Special Events		●	
Programs/Classes		●	●
Education/Learning		●	●
Exercise and Fitness	●	●	●
Viewing Art			●
Participatory Arts and Cultural Activities			●
Enjoying Nature, Views and Scenery	●	●	
Walking, Jogging, Bicycling	●	●	

According to current data, Emeryville has 26.27 acres of City-owned open spaces and developed (or under development) park land, comprising eight park sites, four greenway/linear park corridors and nine special use facilities. Most of the parks are less than two acres in size. In addition to these developed parks and facilities, Emeryville also owns one undeveloped site, a 1.95-acre area between the former Sherwin Williams site and the railroad. Based on the 2009 population estimate, this equates to 2.6 acres of open space land per 1,000 residents. Table 1 lists all City-owned parks categorized by type. This table is followed by Map 1: Existing Park System and a description of each park type.

TABLE 1: PARK/RECREATION SITES	ACREAGE
CITY PARKS	
61ST STREET MINI-PARK	0.14
CHRISTIE AVENUE PARK	0.79
DOYLE HOLLIS PARK	1.25
STANFORD AVENUE PARK	1.74
SUBTOTAL	3.92
WATERFRONT PARKS	
DAVENPORT MINI-PARK	0.44
EMERYVILLE MARINA PARK	7.56
POINT EMERY	1.37
SHOREBIRD PARK	1.97
SUBTOTAL	11.34
GREENWAYS/LINEAR PARKS	
EMERYVILLE GREENWAY	1.50
HORTON LANDING PARK	1.40
PIXAR PEDESTRIAN PATH	0.65
SAN FRANCISCO BAY TRAIL	3.31
TEMESCAL CREEK PARK	0.70
SUBTOTAL	7.56
SPECIAL USE FACILITIES	
48TH STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN	0.09
BRIDGECOURT ROOM	0.0
BIG DADDY'S COMMUNITY GARDEN*	0.20
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER	0.6
CIVIC CENTER	1.44
COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDEN	0.29
PARK AVENUE PLAZA	0.30
RECREATION CENTER	0.24
SENIOR CENTER/VETERAN'S MEMORIAL	0.29
SUBTOTAL	3.45
TOTAL ACREAGE	26.27

*Used as a short form for Big Daddy's Complete Rejuvenating Community Garden







CITY PARKS

City parks are the primary unit of the Emeryville park system, spread across the city to provide local access to the outdoors and activities. City parks vary in size based on the land opportunities and activities they are intended to support. As such, an individual city park has a role in the system that is determined by its size and location. The facilities developed in city parks vary based on the specific role assigned to the site, and the specific activities the site will support. In addition, the site will include supporting amenities as appropriate for the desired level of use.



WATERFRONT PARKS

Waterfront parks are defined by their relationship to water features such as the San Francisco Bay waterfront parks which may provide water access for activities such as wind surfing and boating. These sites also provide for on-shore recreation including fishing, trail-related activities, bird and wildlife viewing, interpretation and education and photography. Waterfront parks can also include city park roles such as children’s play, community gathering or playing sports.



GREENWAYS/LINEAR PARKS

Greenways and linear parks provide recreation opportunities along natural or built corridors that link parks and neighborhoods together and provide green buffers between neighborhoods or around the city. Linear parks support trail-oriented activities, including walking, jogging, biking and skating. These parks may also incorporate play and picnic areas or connect to parks of other types. Emeryville’s existing greenways and linear parks are aligned along abandoned railroad lines, over culverted streams and at the edge of the San Francisco Bay.

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Special use facilities include stand-alone recreation facilities not located within larger parks, and sites that serve unique purposes. These include single-purpose sites, such as community gardens, senior centers, aquatic centers and urban plazas. Special use areas promote a variety of personal, social, recreational and economic benefits, depending on the facility type and location. These sites include the existing indoor recreation facilities in Emeryville. The Senior Center, Recreation Center and schools can also provide classroom space for instruction, as well as spaces that can be reserved for special events or group meetings.



OTHER RECREATION ASSETS

In addition to the park sites and facilities owned by the City of Emeryville, other facilities contribute to the activities available for residents, employees and visitors to the city. While the City has a greater or lesser ability to influence the design and use of these sites, as compared to City-owned sites, it plays a role in serving the Emeryville community and was an important consideration in the planning process.

SCHOOLS

Public schools are a key resource for recreation facilities such as sports fields, playgrounds, classrooms and gymnasiums. The Emery Unified School District currently operates two schools and has one additional property in the city. Emeryville schools provide the only developed sport fields in the city limits, a running track, open turf areas, playgrounds and a pool. In total, there are 11.77 acres of play areas open to the public on Emeryville school property. The City has a 40-year agreement with the District that includes operation of the seasonal pool, as well as access to gym and field space when school is not in session.



The school district is also working with the City toward redeveloping the Emery Secondary School site as the future Joint School District/City Community Services Facility. The proposed facility will replace the Secondary School and Anna Yates Elementary School as one consolidated K-12 school. The future facility will be a combined community center and multi-grade-level school that supports life-



41st Street Park



Emeryville Marina



Emery Station East Courtyard



Hollis Green

long learning and healthy lifestyles. When complete, the facility will feature sport and recreation fields, a playground, a pool and a gym, in addition to classrooms.

PRIVATELY OWNED PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

Emeryville has three privately managed sites that provide park-like services. Most of these sites are open to the public, but others have limited access. The total area of the identified facilities is approximately 5.55 acres. In addition, there are a number of plaza spaces, green features and art installations at private sites that add character and available activity space in the city.

41st St. Park

This small private play area is available for public use.

Emeryville Marina

Emeryville Marina is a privately managed facility located on public property that offers moorage and boat launch along with supporting facilities. The private Marina is separated from the City's Marina Park by Powell Street. The waterfront pathway that connects Davenport Park to Emeryville Marina Park passes through Emery Cove Yacht Harbor and the Emeryville Marina, but is accessible by the public. Separate restrooms, with shower facilities, are provided for marina customers. The picnic and turf areas are open to the public but are not managed or rented out by the City.

Emery Station East Courtyard

The second-level courtyard in Emery Station East, on Hollis Street at 59th Street, is open to the public. It provides a place for contemplation, eating lunch and relaxing.

Hollis Green Park (Novartis)

Located at the intersection of Hollis and 53rd Streets, Hollis Green Park is owned and maintained by Novartis, a large medical corporation with an adjacent research facility. The park has a landscaped lawn with young trees, a paved courtyard that fronts the street corner, lighting and several benches and seat walls.

Watergate Shore Access

A small shore turf area with several picnic tables and trash receptacles is located on the north side of the Watergate office towers. This site also provides very basic shore access.



Watergate Shore Access

NEARBY RECREATION SITES

There are five parks and recreation sites located near Emeryville that are owned and/or operated by other jurisdictions.

Aquatic Park

Located less than ¼-mile north of Emeryville on the east side of the freeway, Aquatic Park is a Berkeley park that also serves Emeryville residents. Built in the mid-1930s by the Works Progress Administration, Aquatic Park is built around a tidal lake. The water level is controlled by tide gates, and the lake also provides wildlife habitat. The site features a play area, multi-use field, picnic and barbeque facilities, Frisbee golf, a fitness course and hiking and biking trails around the lake.



Aquatic Park

Eastshore State Park

Eastshore State Park extends 8.5 miles along the East Bay shoreline from the Bay Bridge to Richmond. It includes 1,854 acres of uplands and tidelands along the waterfronts of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany and Richmond. The East Bay Regional Park District operates the park. The shoreline reflects the influences of both natural systems and human intervention, with natural features such as tidal marshes and beaches intermingled with man-made elements such as former municipal landfills. The San Francisco Bay Trail runs almost the entire length of the park, providing a panoramic view of the Bay. The Emeryville segment of Eastshore State Park makes up the southern bay frontage and includes a portion of the Bay Trail running along the south side of Powell Street from the freeway to Marina Park.



Eastshore State Park

Golden Gate Park

Located at the intersection of 63rd Street and San Pablo Avenue, three blocks east of the Emeryville city limit, Golden Gate Park is made up of two softball



Golden Gate Park



Linden Street Park



San Pablo Park



Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex

fields, two basketball courts, play equipment and community center adjacent to Golden Gate Elementary School.

Linden Street Park

Linden Street Park is located south of Temescal Creek Park on 42nd Street in Oakland, one block from the Emeryville city limit. The park is adjacent to the North Oakland Community Charter School and has an informal field and a children's play area with lighting.

San Pablo Park

San Pablo Park, owned by the City of Berkeley, provides several sport field and court facilities ½-mile north of Emeryville. The park has two ball fields, a multi-use field, three basketball courts, six lighted tennis courts and a children's play area. The site also has picnic areas and a recreation building used for programs.

Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex

Located at the intersection of I-80 and Gilman Street in northwest Berkeley, two miles north of Emeryville along I-80 or the Bay Trail, this regional sports complex includes two synthetic turf fields and three natural turf fields built to accommodate soccer, rugby, lacrosse and other field sports. Five East Bay cities (Albany, Berkeley, El Cerrito, Emeryville and Richmond) entered into a joint powers agreement to develop the regional sports complex. The facility is managed and operated by a non-profit organization, through a fee-based, reservation-only system. The fields are located in, and leased by, the City of Berkeley, but are available for use by all partner agencies. Future plans call for development of two softball fields, one baseball field and additional site amenities. The site also incorporates landscaped stormwater features.

Non-Profit Indoor Recreation Facilities

YMCA East Bay and YMCA of Berkeley-Albany each operate facilities within ½-mile of Emeryville. In addition, the Boys and Girls Club of Oakland operates a facility approximately a mile south of Emeryville.

Membership Facilities

There are also several private gyms in and around Emeryville offering fitness activities and facilities available on a membership basis.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING IN EMERYVILLE

The programs offered by the City's Department of Community Services are an important service. Recreation programming provides residents with interesting and engaging pursuits, promoting community health, education and social interaction. In addition to programming provided by the City, private gyms add to recreational activities and programming.

PROGRAM AREAS

The Emeryville Department of Community Services provides city-wide recreation programming, as well as specialty programs for infants, youth and seniors. The department is also responsible for overseeing rentals and use of city parks and facilities. The basic division of programming below reflects the categories of programs defined in the Emeryville News and Activity Guide. The guide provides details on all classes, programs and services and is published three times per year and available on the City's website. The recreation activities (defined above) Programs/Classes, Sports, Aquatics and Special Events are directly connected to the program areas currently offered by Community Services. Offering instruction and managing these programs completes the opportunity for these activities that is partially created by the physical facilities. Aquatics and Sports are a major focus of Community Services Programming, along with programs that support individuals pursuing Exercise and Fitness.

Aquatics

The Community Services Department provides programming for the Emeryville Pool, located at Emery Secondary School. Classes and activities include open lap swim, senior and adult aerobics, competitive swim programs and swim lessons. Community Services is the primary provider of Aquatics in the City of Emeryville.

Pre-School

The Emeryville Child Development Center provides educational day care for infants and toddlers for residents and families that work in Emeryville.

The Kinder Gym, located at the Emery Secondary School gym, offers kickball, basketball and soccer for ages 3-5.

Youth

Youth programming includes lessons, educational workshops, team sports and camps. The City offers soccer camps for ages 3 to 16, youth basketball for ages 8-12 and a youth basketball league for ages 10-12. Children ages 5-7 can participate in Pee Wee Flag Football or T-Ball.

The Anna Yates Adventure Works and Kids In Motion before and after school programs are coordinated by the City of Emeryville and offered in conjunction with the Emery Unified School District. The Adventure Works summer camps provide three different camps for different age groups: ages 5-6, 7-9 and 10-12.



Adult Health, Wellness and Skill Building

Emeryville has several course offerings for adults. Courses are held at the Senior Center and the Bridgecourt Room. Courses include health and nutrition, Pilates, fitness classes, Qigong, dance and retirement planning. There are classes on singing, jewelry making, environmental landscape and design and basic dog obedience. The City also offers training for emergency response with the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and CPR/AED and Basic First Aid.

Seniors

Emeryville offers a range of classes and programs for its seniors. Almost all classes are free for community members over 50. Classes are held at the Senior Center and include computer training, physical fitness, art, dance and health services. In addition to classes, there are also a variety of special events oriented towards seniors, ranging from fishing trips to fashion shows. The Bay Area Travel Club provides trips throughout the region for casual day and overnight trips. Travel programs require participants to cover additional costs. Other social events geared for seniors include eating out at the monthly “dine around”, as well as fun and games with the Friday Club.



Family Activities and Special Events

The annual Summer Sounds Concert Series is held at various park sites in Emeryville during the summer. Emeryville also has family friendly special events throughout the year. Community Services’ special events programs are one of several providers of Special Events as an activity in Emeryville.

Volunteer Programs

The Community Services Department offers volunteer opportunities through the Senior Center including Meals-on-Wheels delivery. In the summer, additional volunteer activities are also available for youth 14-17 years old.

PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

The City of Emeryville has taken on an increasing responsibility to provide recreation programming and to maintain the expanding inventory of sites and facilities that make up the parks and recreation system.

OPERATIONS

The operation of the parks and recreation system involves the programming, reservation and publicizing of park spaces and recreation activities as well as the administration of these tasks. Programming parks and recreation spaces involves ongoing programs, recurring classes and one-off or annual special events. Some of these special events require reserving large portions or entire park sites. Other smaller activities also benefit from reservations. Since Emeryville has a constrained park system, the reservation system is even more important than in other communities.

A final and important service is the public information about the opportunities provided in the park system and the benefits that the community receives from supporting it. The major precondition of making full use of a parks and recreation system is to know what is available in terms of sites, facilities and programs.

MAINTENANCE

Maintenance and general upkeep of the existing parks involves a variety of tasks including, but not limited to:

- *Landscaping;*
- *Restroom cleaning and maintenance;*
- *Trash removal and litter pickup;*
- *Irrigation maintenance;*
- *Tree maintenance and pruning;*

- *Weed abatement;*
- *Playground repair;*
- *Building systems upkeep;*
- *Turf management; and*
- *Shrub pruning.*

The upkeep of Emeryville’s parks includes regular maintenance tasks on many different schedules, including replacing landscape materials and plantings and graffiti removal. While the total number of acres being maintained is not large, the cost per unit is substantial due to the high traffic and intensively used spaces in the system.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

Both because the system is growing and as a part of periodic renewal of facilities, capital projects are an important part of ensuring the quality of recreation opportunities in Emeryville. Capital projects are the addition, replacement or renovation of features or sites. In the case of replacements, City policy indicates a project moves from a maintenance task to a capital project if the cost is over \$500. Capital projects can be as extensive as the creation of entire new parks, such as the recent completion of Doyle Hollis Park.

EXISTING ROLES AND RESOURCES

Community Services

The Community Services Department has most of the responsibility for operational services at City parks and recreation facilities. Community Services creates and manages child development, recreation and senior programs. This responsibility includes the

reservation of community facilities for program and private use. To enhance awareness of the parks and recreation opportunities, market specific programs and provide updates on current events and city information, Community Services produces the Emeryville City News and Activity Guide three times per year. Nearly all of the Community Services budget is allocated from the General Fund. One exception is the Child Development Center and its programs, which is funded through a combination of a State Department of Education grant, program fees and a General Fund subsidy. Unlike fees generated from recreation programs, user fees paid to the Child Development Center are designated for use within this specific program.

In FY 2009-10, the budget for the Community Services is \$3.8 million. Of that amount, \$2.6 million is from the General Fund and \$1.2 million is from the Child Development Fund.

Of the General Fund revenue, about \$328,200 is dedicated (including an anticipated \$261,800 in recreation fees, two County of Alameda Grants and some rental income) to Community Services and the remaining \$2.3 million is from general revenue sources.

Of the Child Development Fund revenue, \$750,000 is expected to come from child enrollment fees (“parent fees”) in FY 2008-09.

Public Works

The Public Works Department is responsible for city maintenance and capital projects, not only for Parks

and Recreation but for all City services. In addition to providing maintenance services for all of the City’s parks and recreation facilities, Public Works also maintains sidewalks, streets, street lights, storm drains, sewer, traffic signals and the city’s water infrastructure. While specialized workers and crews exist for some services, much of the general maintenance of parks, streets and other systems is carried out by a single crew that balances time between multiple priorities. This organizational strategy has served Emeryville well as a small city with relatively small and simple parks, but has strained existing resources as the park system has expanded.

Of the total 2009-2010 budget of \$3.7 million for Public Works, \$2.9 million is from the General Fund. Other funds in this department are designated for specific purposes outside of parks, such as sewer funds. The remaining General Funds are allocated across all of the Department’s responsibilities. Because of the overlap of services provided by Public Works maintenance staff, it is difficult to identify exactly how much of the Department’s budget is expended on parks and recreation facility maintenance.

Public Works also manages the construction of all of the City’s capital projects. The sources of funding for these projects depend on the purpose and type of project. The acquisition and development of parks and recreation facilities are covered primarily by the Redevelopment Agency, with some support from the General Fund, Alameda County Measure B, grants and contributions from private development projects.

Planning and Building

The Planning and Building Department administers the laws, regulations and requirements that guide the physical development of the city. In the process of development review, Planning and Building is the contact point between the City and developers who may be required or desire to include parks, recreation facilities and open spaces in their projects. It is at this stage, prior to approval and construction, that decisions determining the amount and quality of space that will be added to the parks and recreation system are made. Planning and Building is also responsible for efforts such as the General Plan and this Strategic Plan that help the community provide guidance to City staff.

The resources of Planning and Building are the staff reviewing individual development proposals and managing planning projects that will direct public investment.

Community Groups

Emeryville has a small but engaged community that has been actively involved in planning processes. In addition to the local population, regional advocacy and service groups have the potential to utilize and improve Emeryville's park system. In addition to volunteer time, the cooperation of community groups can add support for funding measures and applications.

Private Entities

The employer base and real estate developers in Emeryville have contributed to the park system in a variety of ways, from organizing events to contributing and maintaining developed park space. Hollis Green Park and the numerous public art installations on private property are good examples. These private entities often recognize the value of parks and recreation facilities and can be key partners in developing and maintaining new and existing sites.

