

# CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE



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# 2025

Update





# City of Huntington Beach

## Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update

2025 Update

Prepared for:



Prepared by:





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Special thanks to our stakeholders and community members  
who participated in the planning process.







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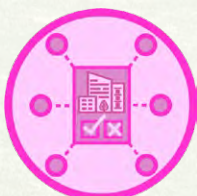
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The background of the page is a photograph of a park. In the foreground, a woman in a floral dress is looking at her phone. In the background, there are people walking and a skateboarder. Power lines and towers are visible in the distance under a clear blue sky.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Huntington Beach Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update serves as a guide and implementation tool for the management and development of parks, recreation facilities, and programs throughout the City. This document represents a summary of extensive community input, investigations, and professional analysis. The culminating result is a community inspired plan for the future of parks and recreation in Huntington Beach.

### The Master Plan Update Process

The Master Plan Update process began with a comprehensive review of the 2016 Master Plan and a strategic selection of key elements for inclusion in the 2021 update. This update focused on evaluating the City's existing parks, recreation facilities, programs, and other recreational opportunities to gain a thorough understanding of available resources. In 2021, innovative methods were employed to engage the community, including crowd-sourcing and virtual communication strategies. A combination of qualitative consensus-building techniques and quantitative, statistically valid surveys provided a well-rounded perspective, establishing a clear "community voice." This community voice shaped the facility and program priorities for recreation development. These priorities were carefully assessed alongside facility usage patterns, local recreation standards, and population projections, resulting in a data-driven foundation for determining the facilities required to meet community needs and for shaping recommendations for future recreation development. The 2021 update reflected the evolving needs of the Huntington Beach community, emphasizing the importance of thoughtful planning and active engagement.

In 2024, the City further advanced the Master Plan by updating critical components, including a detailed inventory of parks and facilities, current demographic trends, updated sports organization surveys, and strategic capital improvement planning. Through this iterative process, Huntington Beach demonstrates its commitment to meeting the community's evolving needs and aspirations while delivering a vibrant, high-quality parks and recreation system. These efforts enhance quality of life and highlight the essential role of parks and recreation in promoting health, wellness, and community connection.

### Huntington Beach Recreation Resources

The City of Huntington Beach owns, manages, and maintains 79 parks, encompassing 737.44 acres of developed parkland. Since the original Parks and Recreation Master Plan was established in 2016, the City has made significant strides in enhancing its parks and recreation offerings. These include the completion of the 37,563-square-foot Senior Center in Central Park, the addition of popular pickleball courts at Worthy Park, trail enhancements at Bartlett Park, practice soccer fields with lighting at Murdy Park, and the development of 17th Street Park at the former Rodgers Seniors' Center site.



## The Community Voice

To reach out to the whole community, an extensive community outreach campaign was developed. Live online video presentations, one on one stakeholder interviews, public online surveys, direct website feedback, and a statistically valid multimodal survey were conducted to clearly analyze the community recreation demand in the City. The initial community outreach was conducted in 2016 then updated in 2021. Throughout the process, project updates and summary results were posted to the project website for the duration of the project. This website enabled community members to review updates and provide immediate feedback at any point in time. This resource enabled anyone in the community to have a voice in the process regardless of when and where meetings were held. Key questions answered throughout this update summary include:

How many fields, courts, swim facilities, and other recreation elements does the City need now and in the future?

Are neighborhood parks conveniently and appropriately distributed throughout City?

What are the program and facility needs for Huntington Beach based on community recreation desires?

Balancing the existing inventory of recreational resources in Huntington Beach and the community voice of the residents' the planning team developed recommendations to meet the top program and facility needs of the community. Below in alpha order is the summary of those needs.

### Top Program Needs:

- Affordable Programs
- Beach Programs / Activities
- Concerts / Events
- Exercise and Fitness Classes
- Homeless Programs
- Pickleball Classes
- Senior Programs

### Top Facility Needs:

- Beach Amenities / Rentals
- Maintenance / Upkeep
- Open Space / Nature
- Playground Renovations including ADA Equipment
- Pickleball Courts
- Restrooms
- Skatepark / Skateboard Areas
- Soccer Fields
- Swimming Pool
- Trails (bike)
- Trails (walk / hike)
- Urban Forest / Trees / Native Plants
- Walkways in Parks

*Photo by RJM Design Group*





Photo by [surfcityusa.com](http://surfcityusa.com)



# SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION



## 1.1 Purpose of a Master Plan Update

The City of Huntington Beach has numerous parks and recreation opportunities available for its community members. Through these parks and recreation facilities people can exercise, socialize, experience California's premier beach waterfront and connect with nature. In pursuit of the Community and Library Services Department mission statement, values, and established goals, this Master Plan Update has been developed for the sound management and governance of City resources. Good governance encompasses balancing an equitable park system both financially and socially. The Community and Library Services Department has developed a framework for sustainable management of the recreation facilities and programs in Huntington Beach.

### **Mission Statement**

The City of Huntington Beach Community [and Library] Services Department provides outstanding programs, services and facilities that enhance and enrich the lives of our residents and visitors.

-2017 Community Services Department Strategic Planning Retreat

The National Parks and Recreation Agency (NRPA) has published guiding principles that impact our community's health and well-being, park equity, and environmental sustainability. These three pillars set the foundation for developing sound recreation planning.

The community outreach process provides a clear understanding of the community's desires and needs for parks and recreation. Having such an understanding enables strategic expenditures and improvements within the recreation system maximizing the community impact. In pursuit of these guiding principles and in concert with the Community and Library Services Department Mission Statement for recreation in Huntington Beach, this report was developed in part to ensure the resources dedicated to sustaining recreation in Huntington Beach is continuously in line with the community expectations and desires.

The Master Plan Update is designed to be adaptable, with a recommendation for evaluation and/or modification every five (5) years to address unforeseen opportunities, constraints, and evolving resident needs in the context of other City priorities. Initially assessed in 2016, the plan was updated in 2021, with the most recent segments revised in 2024 and 2025. Each section of the report includes the corresponding dates when the studies were conducted.



# Benefits of Parks and Recreation

## 1.2 Benefits of Parks and Recreation

The California Park and Recreation Society (CPRS) Vision Insight and Planning Project - Creating Community in the 21st Century identifies the mission of California's park and recreation agencies:

**"To create community through people, parks and programs."**

The CPRS VISION also identifies benefits of park and recreation services including:

- [Foster Human Development.](#) Parks and recreation services foster social, intellectual, physical, and emotional development.
- [Promote Health and Wellness.](#) Participation in recreation improves physical and emotional health.
- [Increase Cultural Unity.](#) Parks and recreation increase cultural unity through experiences that promote cultural understanding and celebrate diversity.
- [Facilitate Community Problem-Solving.](#) Park and recreation professionals have skills in facilitation and leadership that can be applied to resolve community problems and issues.
- [Protect Natural Resources.](#) By acquiring and protecting valuable resources as open space, such as rivers, streams, greenways, viewsheds, forests, and other habitat areas, natural resources are protected and habitat required for the survival of diverse species is preserved.
- [Strengthen Safety and Security.](#) Park and recreation professionals provide safe environments for recreation and design programs and services specifically to reduce criminal activity.
- [Strengthen Community Image and Sense of Place.](#) Parks, recreation facilities, programs, and community events are key factors in strengthening community image and creating a sense of place.
- [Support Economic Development.](#) Recreation programs and facilities attract and retain businesses and residents, as well as attract tourists. Parks and recreation provide jobs and generate income for the community and for local businesses.



Newland Park





# Regional Setting

## 1.3 Regional Setting

The City of Huntington Beach is a seaside community in Orange County in California's Southern Region. It is bordered by the Pacific Ocean on the southwest, and by the cities of Seal Beach, Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Westminster, and Fountain Valley.

While there is more than nine miles of coastal access along the City's eastern most border, the City only owns a few acres out of this of beachfront land. Huntington Beach is known for its long stretch of sandy beaches, mild climate, excellent surfing, and beach culture. The ocean waves are enhanced by a natural effect caused by the edge-diffraction of open ocean swells around the island of Catalina. Swells create consistent surf all year long, thus the nickname "Surf City".

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**Exhibit 1.3-1: City of Huntington Beach Regional Setting**



# Local Setting

## 1.4 Local Setting

Huntington Beach's recorded history stretches back to 1784 with a 300,000 acre Spanish Land Grant. Formerly called "Shell Beach" in the early 1900's then changed to Pacific City by P.A. Stanton who purchased 40 acres along the beach on either side of Main Street with the vision to build a town on the Pacific Coast. Today that vision has grown into a City of almost 200,000 residents and hosts the U.S. Open of Surfing, the world's largest surf competition.

Within the Huntington Beach City boundaries, and the surrounding area, several significant natural and man-made features help shape neighborhoods and provide both opportunities and constraints with respect to parks, recreation, transportation, and community life. These include:

- |                                    |                                 |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 - Interstate 405 (I-405)         | 4 - Trails and Bicycle Pathways |
| 2 - Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve | 5 - Huntington Beach Harbour    |
| 3 - Pacific Ocean                  | 6 - Huntington Central Park     |



### Interstate 405 (I-405)

Multiple major roadways enable easy access to and across the City. Interstate 405 and Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) are connected by Warner Avenue, Beach Boulevard (State Route 39), and Brookhurst Street which provides residents and visitors access across the City.



### Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

The Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is approximately 1,300 acres of coastal estuary. Habitats include open water, mudflats, salt marsh, coastal dunes, seabird nesting islands, riparian, and freshwater marsh.





Photo by unsplash.com

## Pacific Ocean

Spanning approximately 9.5 miles of the City's boundary lies one of California's most sought after recreation destination. Central to the coastal access is the Huntington Beach Pier continuing the Main Street activities right over the water.



Photo by mozaic-romania.org

## Trails and Bicycle Pathways

Huntington Beach has an extensive network of existing bicycle paths including 77.8 miles of class 2 bike lanes running throughout the City. Currently the City is improving the bluff top paths and rails along the PCH.

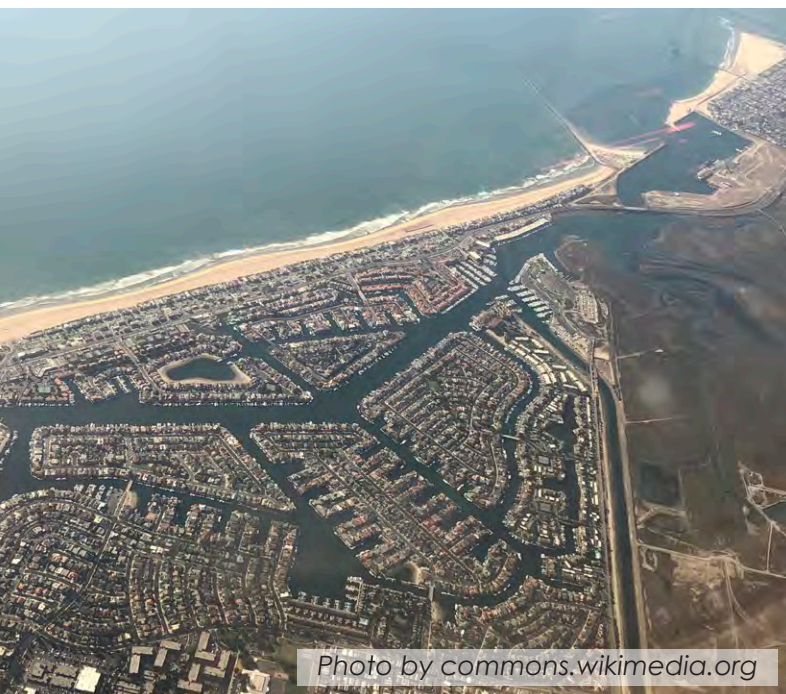


Photo by commons.wikimedia.org

## Huntington Beach Harbour

Huntington Beach Harbor is located on the northernmost side of Huntington Beach's coastal access and boasts several boating, dining, and shopping opportunities.



Photo by de.m.wikipedia.org

## Huntington Central Park

The largest city-owned park in Orange County, Central Park is over 350 acres of parkland. Central park offers a variety of activities and amenities ranging from organized sports fields to open space and naturalized areas where the community can connect with nature.

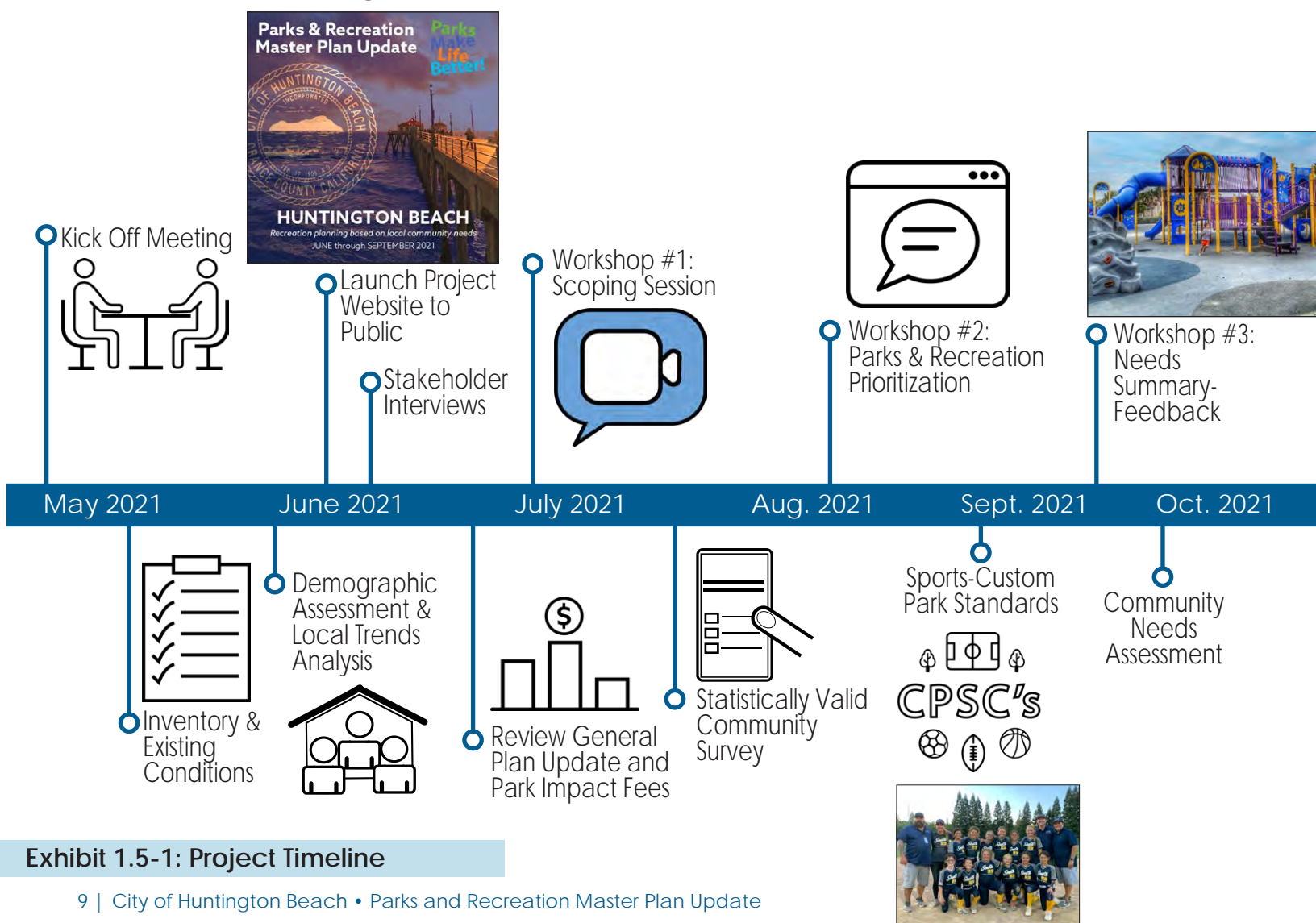


# The Needs Assessment Process

## 1.5 Process

The Master Plan Update process began in May of 2021 and included eight months of investigations, community outreach, and reporting. Through this timeline, local facilities inventoried in the 2016 Master Plan were reviewed for improvements, recently completed, and compared to prior recommendations. Critical to the process was the development of the Community Voice. Through the lens of the community views, program and facility priorities are set leading to the final updated recommendations required to continue the development of parks and recreation in Huntington Beach.

Over a four-month period (June-September, 2021) focused community outreach methods were used to collect data from various segments of the community. Stakeholder interviews, virtual town hall workshops, online surveys, direct feedback surveys, and a statistically valid, multimodal community survey were each conducted to gather insight into the community's views and desires for recreation programs, services, and facilities.







Unique to this process was the development of a central project website. The project website outlined the Master Plan Update goals and objectives and identified a schedule of dates on how to be involved in the outreach opportunities. As each segment of the community outreach was completed the results were placed on the website for the community to view and provide feedback on. This component extended the ability for anyone at any time to review the information collected to date and provide thoughts of their own.

After the outreach process was completed, the data was synthesized into a clear community voice of prioritized programs and facilities. In 2024, the inventory was reevaluated to identify further opportunities for improvement. Updated sports organization surveys were conducted to refine the current custom park standard calculations. In 2025, a review of the most recent approved Capital Improvement Budget was incorporated. This list of priorities was reevaluated against the latest inventory of existing facilities. The results of the comparison continue to support the recommendations presented in this report.





## Related Studies

### 1.6 Related Studies

This Master Plan Update was developed in partial response to the City's General Plan goals and policies including:

#### Goal ERC-1, Goal ERC-2, Policy ERC-2.A., Policy ERC-2.B

In addition, there are other existing documents and plans that relate to the planning of recreation and influence its direction. These documents and their relationship to the planning process include:

##### [Huntington Beach General Plan \(2017\)](#)

Each City in California is required by State law to adopt a comprehensive, long-term General Plan for its own physical development. The General Plan consists of mandatory and discretionary elements including Land Use, Housing, Circulation, Noise, Environmental Resources and Conservation, Natural and Environmental Hazards, Public Services and Infrastructure, Historic and Cultural Resources and the Coastal Element.. California State law requires that the day-to-day decisions of a City should follow logically from, and be consistent with, the General Plan.

The current version of the Huntington Beach General Plan can be viewed on the City website: [https://huntingtonbeachca.gov/departments/community\\_development/planning\\_zoning/general\\_plan.php#outer-741](https://huntingtonbeachca.gov/departments/community_development/planning_zoning/general_plan.php#outer-741)

##### [Huntington Beach General Plan / Environmental Resources and Conservation \(2017\)](#)

The Huntington Beach Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update is intended to be used in conjunction with the Huntington Beach General Plan to provide a coordinated program of recreational facility development and management. The current issues addressed in the Environmental Resource and Conservation Element address:

- Meeting parks and facilities needs.
- Providing recreation programs and services to meet community needs.
- Managing the beach, parks, and recreation to accommodate diverse recreational needs.

### [Bicycle Master Plan \(2013\)](#)

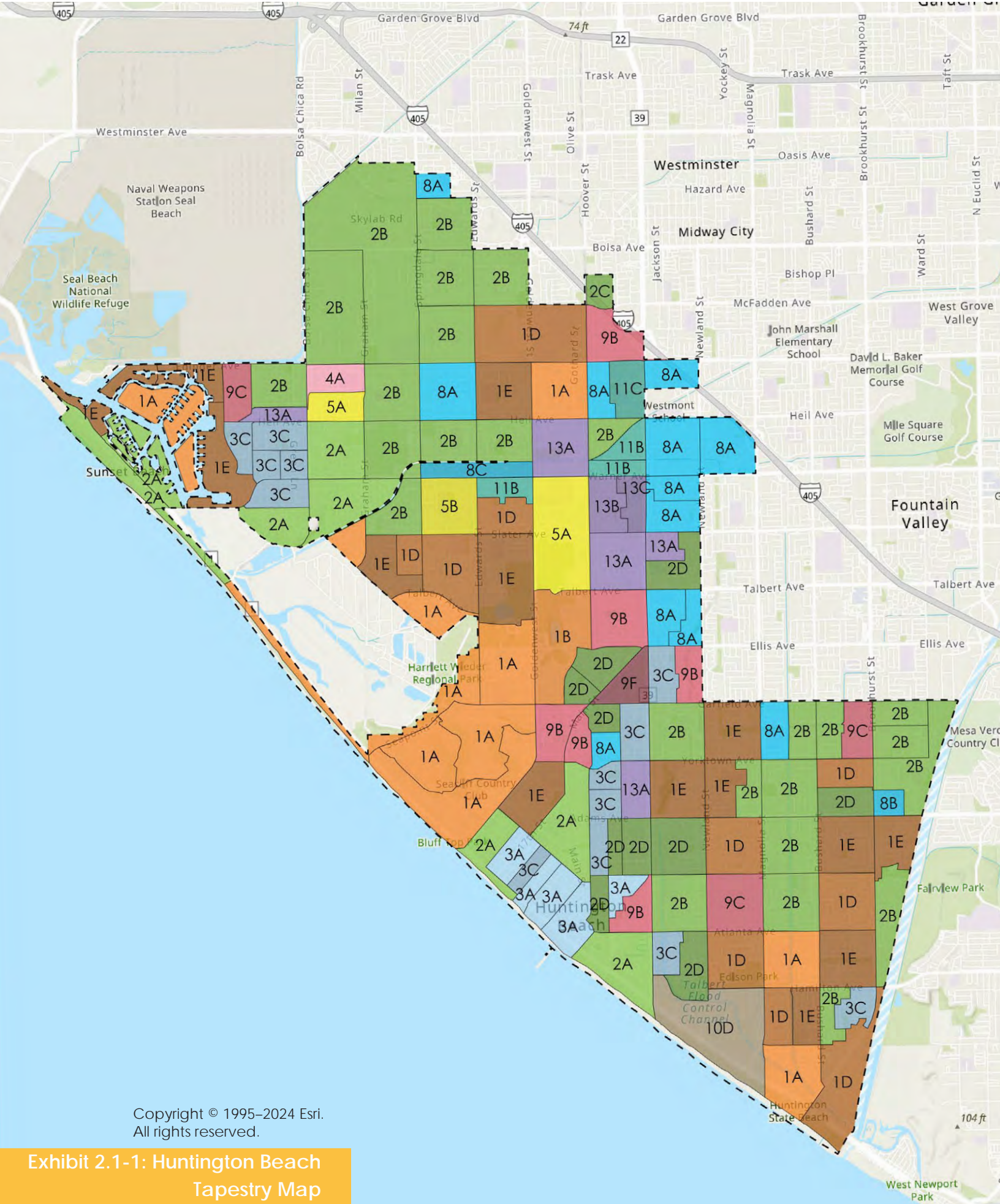
The Huntington Beach Bicycle Master Plan is a comprehensive plan analyzing the City's existing trail network, as well as providing recommendations and potential funding sources. The plan ultimately outlines recommendations for expansion of Class1 Multi-use Paths, Class 2 Bicycle Lanes, and Bicycle Boulevards.

The Huntington Beach Mobility Implementation Plan ("HB in Motion") and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update align in their shared vision of enhancing community well-being through sustainable infrastructure, accessibility, and active lifestyles. Both plans emphasize multimodal transportation systems, including walking and biking, while integrating parks, trails, and open spaces into the City's mobility network. The Mobility Plan focuses on optimizing transportation corridors and pedestrian pathways, complementing the Parks and Recreation Plan's goals of increasing trail connectivity and improving recreational facilities. Community engagement, equity, and environmental stewardship are central to both initiatives, creating a cohesive strategy to foster a connected, vibrant, and livable Huntington Beach.



Photo by [localemagazine.com](http://localemagazine.com)





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Exhibit 2.1-1: Huntington Beach  
Tapestry Map

# SECTION TWO: COMMUNITY VOICE



## 2.1 Who is Huntington Beach? A Community Profile

Understanding the demographic context of a community can create a valuable perspective for understanding current parks and recreation facility and program requirements and, moreover, for anticipating parks and recreation facility and program needs in the future. A complete demographics analysis (initially developed in 2020 and updated in 2024) was developed utilizing the 2024 Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI) demographic datasets including the Tapestry Segmentation. This information provides a deeper understanding of “who” the community is and “where” they are geographically and economically.

Most (93.4%) of Huntington Beach households fall into one of six Tapestry LifeMode groups:

1	<b>2A, 2B, 2C, 2D</b> % of HB Households: 30.9% Average Age: 41.2 Average Income: \$124K	Typically prosperous married couples living in older suburban neighborhoods or townhomes. Majority are homeowners. Many with older children. Generally interested in active recreation and fitness.
2	<b>1A, 1B, 1D, 1E</b> % of HB Households: 23.9% Average Age: 43.1 Average Income: \$157.5K	Typically successful, highly educated professionals. Mostly homeowners. Married couples with children ranging from grade school to college. Known to participate actively in their communities. Generally interested in sports.
3	<b>3A, 3C</b> % of HB Households: 14.8% Average Age: 34.5 Average Income: \$109K	Successful singles. Well educated and hard working. Environmentally conscious consumers. Commonly interested in arts and culture.
4	<b>8A, 8B, 8C</b> % of HB Households: 9.3% Average Age: 37.2 Average Income: \$63K	Mix of single/married, renters/homeowners, and middle/working class. Majority attended college. Internet savvy. Commonly interested in night life and outdoor activities.
5	<b>9B, 9C, 9F</b> % of HB Households: 9.0% Average Age: 57 Average Income: \$63K	Married empty nesters or singles living alone. Have cell phones and land lines. Tend to have regular exercise routine and are health conscience.
6	<b>13A, 13B, 13C</b> % of HB Households: 5.5% Average Age: 33.5 Average Income: \$54K	Young, diverse, hard-working families with children. Multi-generational households, some may be multi-lingual. Most are renters.

The remaining four Tapestry LifeMode groups have less than 4% of the resident population.



# Community Profile

## How old are Huntington Beach residents?

The Age Profile (2024 update) as illustrated in Exhibit 2.1-2, shows significant large portions of the population to be classified in the 35-64 category (40.6% of the total population). The under 19 years of age segment (18.4%) is lower than the Orange County average population (22.1%). The trend from 2024 to 2029 indicates the senior population over 55 will continue to grow into a larger section of the community (72,142 in 2029).

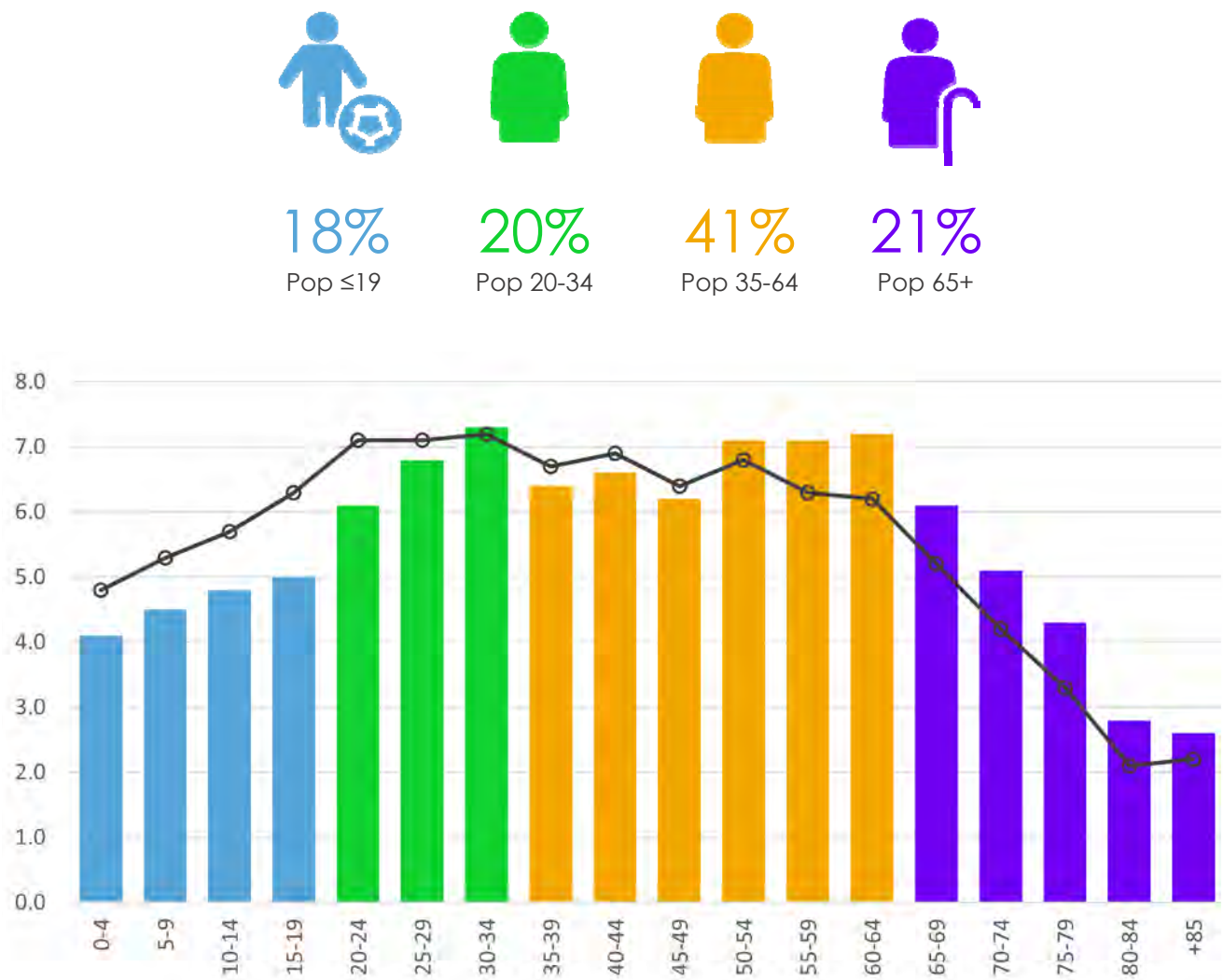


Exhibit 2.1-2: Huntington Beach Age Profile Compared to Orange County



To enhance the analysis population growth, housing unit growth, and age profiles for the resident population was compiled from Esri demographic resources. Highlights of these demographic trends include:

- The Esri forecast data set indicates the population decline from 2024 to 2029 (-0.14%) with a forecasted population of 193,580 by 2029. The five-year growth from 2024 to 2029 is projected at -0.14%, below the County's average growth rate of +0.3% change from 2024 to 2029.
- Total housing units from 2020 to 2024 indicates a -0.3% decrease (less than the County increase of 1.9% for the same time frame). The forecast for total housing unit development from 2024 to 2029 is expected to be 2.0% for the City and 2.5% for the County.
- The average household size in the City of Huntington Beach has remained stable, only slightly decreasing from 2.5 persons per household in 2020 to 2.46 persons per household in 2024 and a forecasted household size of 2.38 in 2029.

**194,978**

Population



**2.5**

Average  
Household Size



Median Age

Source: Esri forecasts for 2024 and 2029. U.S. Census Bureau 2000, 2010, and 2020 decennial Census data converted by Esri into 2020 geography.

### Community Profile Overview

According to the 2021 Statistically Valid Community Survey, 74% use parks and recreation facilities more than once a month. The City of Huntington Beach has a diverse population that is highly active and engaged in outdoor activities. Age groups under 50 have seen decline while the older generations (55+) are showing continued growth in population due to the baby boomer generation. This type of community would benefit from multi-generational facilities and programming options.



# Outreach & Engagement

## 2.2 Outreach and Engagement

The community outreach campaign developed for this Master Plan was conducted in 2021 and utilized multiple methods of information sharing and data collection including live online video presentations, one-on-one stakeholder interviews, public online surveys, a statistically valid multimodal survey, and online website feedback surveys. Due to the extent of the community outreach conducted the data is anticipated to be consistent for the next 5 to 10 years.

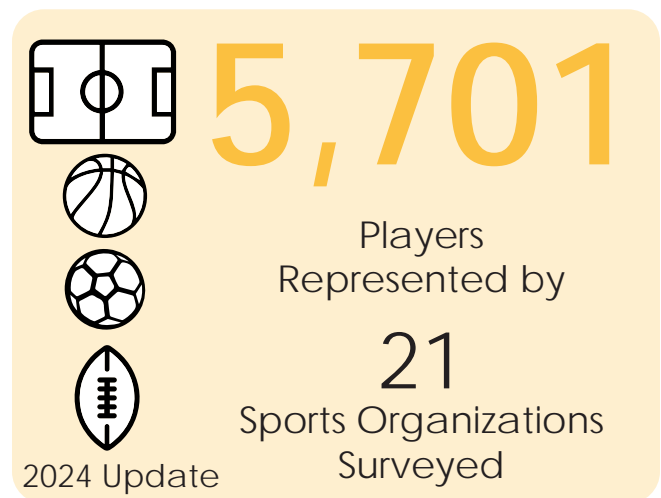
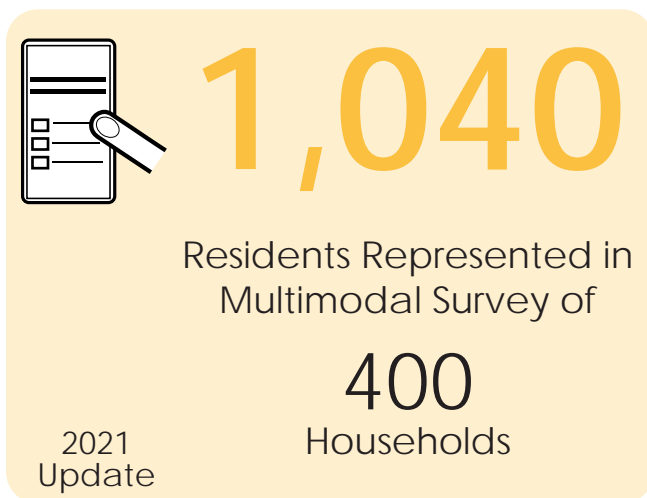
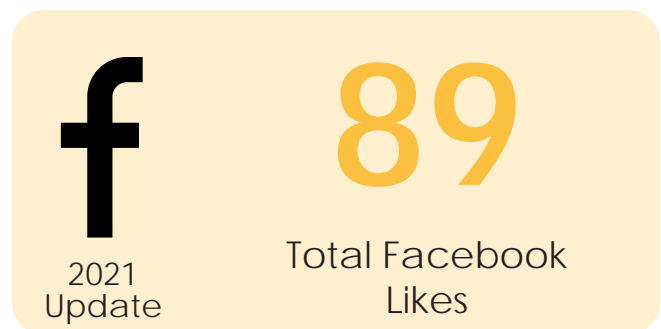
Throughout the process, project updates and summary results were posted to the project website. This website enabled community members to review updates and provide immediate feedback at any point in time. This resource enabled anyone in the community to have a voice in the process regardless of when and where meetings were held.

The purpose of gathering community input through a variety of methods is to ensure that the Master Plan Update is as inclusive as possible and that it reflects the views, preferences, and recreation patterns of Huntington Beach residents. Within this section, community feedback has been recorded in three (3) separate categories:

- 1 Category One: One-on-One Stakeholder Interviews**  
Direct one-on-one interviews with key stakeholders and elected officials were conducted in a format where participant's discuss key issues and opinions on facility needs and programmatic recommendations that should be researched in the Master Plan Update.
- 2 Category Two: Community at Large Public Workshops**  
Public community consensus-building workshops were held via virtual town hall meetings. Meetings were open to the public where community members could learn about past survey results, ask questions of the design team, and participate in live follow up surveys.
- 3 Category Three: Statistically Valid Surveys**  
Direct survey responses were collected through a statistically valid, multimodal survey. This survey was conducted via telephone (land lines and cell numbers), text, and email to ensure the population demographic was represented.



## Total Combined Participants Reached:



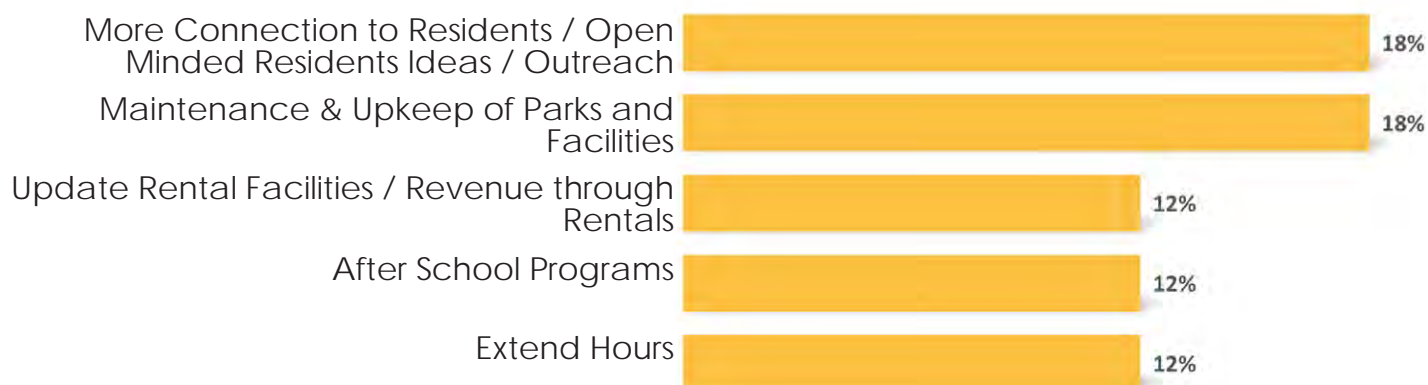


## Stakeholder Interviews

### Stakeholder Interviews:

The following summarizes the results of the seventeen (17) stakeholder interviews conducted as a part of the public outreach effort to assist in the preparation of the Master Plan Update. The interviews were held between July 14 and August 14, 2021. Stakeholders were interviewed in a one-on-one environment in either in-person meetings or over a secure online virtual meeting. Over a series of questions, various topics were discussed to identify important recreation issues, programs, facilities, as well as areas the Community and Library Services Department could improve upon. The following charts illustrate the frequency of similar responses.

### "How do you think the Community and Library Services Department could improve in providing services and facilities to community residents?"



### "What is the most important issue related to the Parks, Recreation Facilities, Open Space, Trails, and Services currently provided in Huntington Beach?"



# PROGRAMS

What is the one program, class, or activity you would most like to see added or expanded in Huntington Beach to meet the needs of the community?

## **MOST COMMONLY IDENTIFIED:**

- After school care
- Pickleball classes
- Shuttle bus for entire City / transportation to parks

## **Additional Responses Included:**

- Internet in all parks
- Social media literacy / safety / basic civics
- Continue to offer great programs
- Art center / cultural facility
- Concerts at the beach
- Historic markers
- QR codes / electronic invention
- Research criteria for students
- Place to rent / store surfboards etc.
- Pool
- Mentally and physically active programs
- Cornhole classes
- Art classes
- Communication system to connect community and City
- Handle a business that wants to rent / host / program space on the beach
- Fitness program for employees offered during lunch hours

# FACILITIES

What is the one recreation facility you would most like to see added in Huntington Beach to meet the needs of the community?

## **MOST COMMONLY IDENTIFIED:**

- Aquatic center / Olympic size swimming pool / City public pool / Swimming Pool
- Pickleball Center / Pickleball

## **Additional Responses Included:**

- Concert hall
- Trees
- Turn Triangle park into café / internet center
- Finish bluffs / new fencing
- Racquetball
- Golf course
- Performing Arts Center
- Muscle beach
- Walkways in park
- Skate / BMX park
- Bike racks / locks
- Surfboard lockers
- Sailing center at harbor
- Restrooms
- Kitchens (for cooking classes)
- Maintenance / Upkeep
- Expand community gardens
- Reduce passive turf areas
- Inclusive design elements in the community
- Ice skating / hockey facility (partner with Anaheim Ducks)

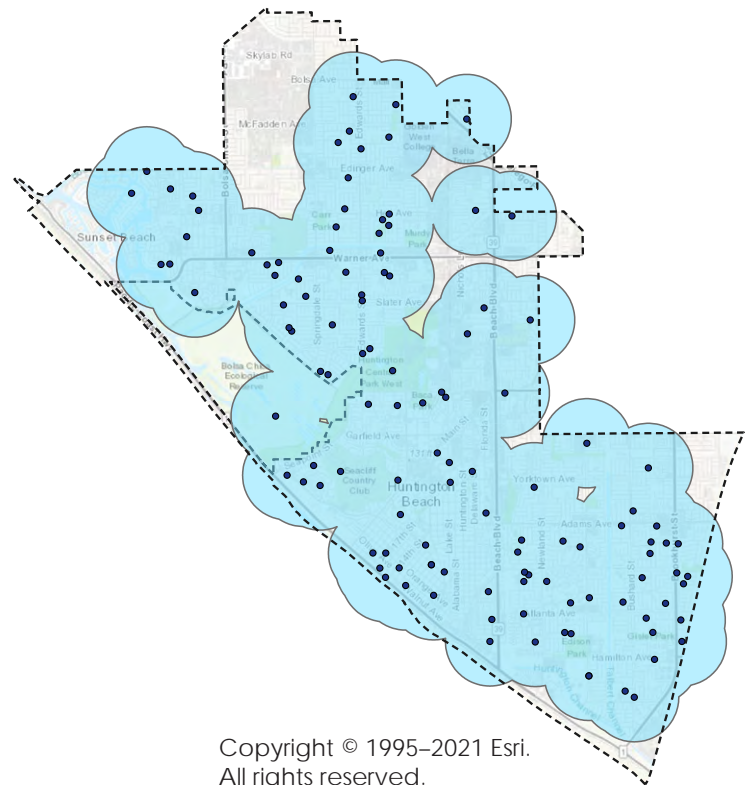
Additional details that were discussed and well as individual answers are available in the Appendix document.



# Community Workshops / Virtual Town Halls

## Community Workshop 1: Scoping Session

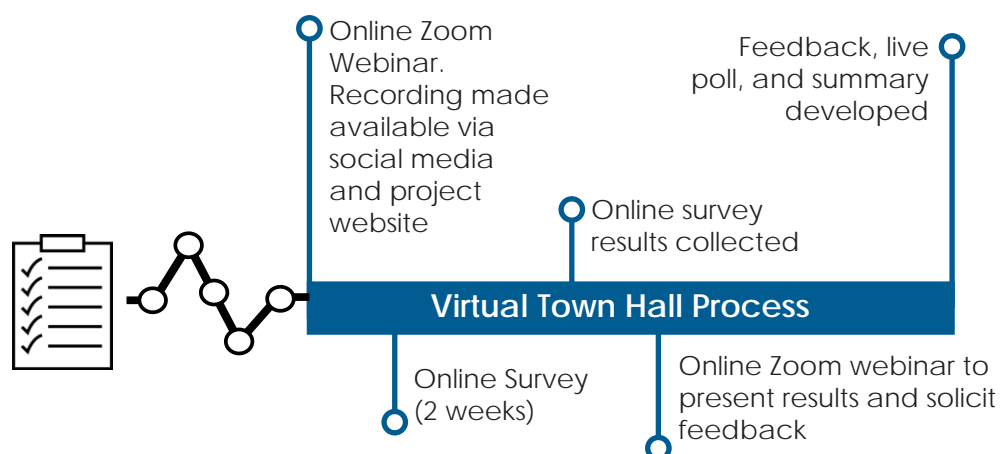
This initial community virtual town hall was focused on seeking high-level information about the community characteristics, issues, and trends, as well as what role the City can play in supporting those community characteristics that make Huntington Beach a great place to live, work, and play. A prerecorded video announcement was posted to the project website and on the City social media channels on June 24, 2021. Following the commencement video, a survey went live for two weeks until July 8, 2021. Participants were asked in an online survey their thoughts on these topics as well as where they live and how long they have been a resident of Huntington Beach. Paper surveys in English and Spanish were also made available at all community centers and libraries. A total of 138 participants completed the survey.



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**Exhibit 2.2-1: Community Workshop 1 Survey Distribution Map**

The results of the survey were reviewed and assembled into a word cloud for visual analysis. The final word cloud results were presented and discussed in a live online broadcast to the community on July 15, 2021. During the broadcast, participants were invited to take a poll to vote on the top responses from the summary. The information received from this workshop helped craft questions in what subsequent outreach opportunities would offer, as well as key areas for targeted research in the local community.



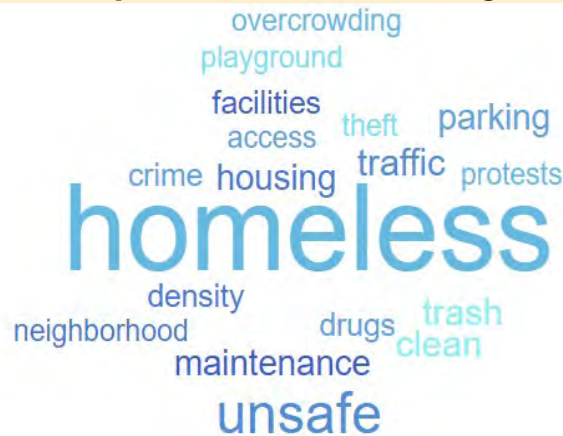


# 2

What are the most important community characteristics that make Huntington Beach a great place to live, work, and play?



What are the issues or trends that may be negatively impacting the important community characteristics?



What role can parks, recreation, and library services play in addressing the issues?





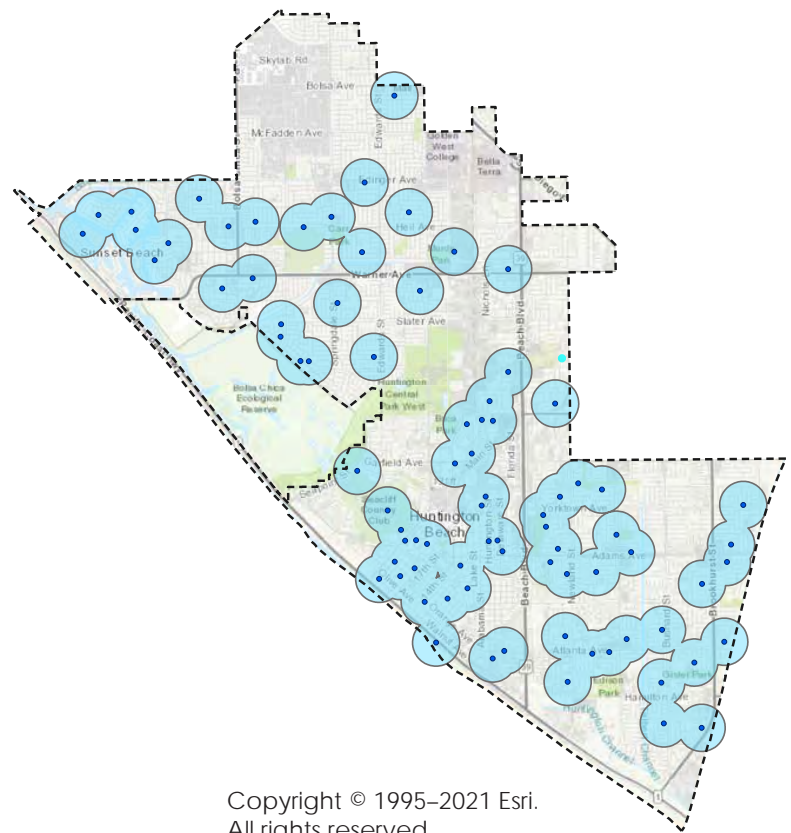
# Community Workshops / Virtual Town Halls

## Community Workshop 2: Prioritization

Community members were invited via the City's social media accounts and the project website to attend another virtual town hall on August 12, 2021. The meeting included a presentation on the overview of the project and a summary of the data collected to date including the multimodal survey summary information. At the conclusion of the meeting, an online prioritization survey was launched. Paper versions of the survey were also made available to the public in both English and Spanish format.

The prioritization survey invited participants to select their top five programs, classes, or activities as well as their top five park and facility improvements they would most like to see added in the City. Participants were also offered write-in options to add in additional programs or facilities that may not have come up in previous outreach efforts. Paper surveys in English and Spanish were also made available at all community centers and libraries. The survey was available for two weeks and resulted in 227 surveys being completed.

At the conclusion of the survey, the results were summarized, and a feedback virtual town hall meeting was hosted online. During the meeting, the previous results of the project were reviewed as well as the summary from the most recent survey. Participants were invited to poll online and rank the top 6 responses from the prioritization survey.

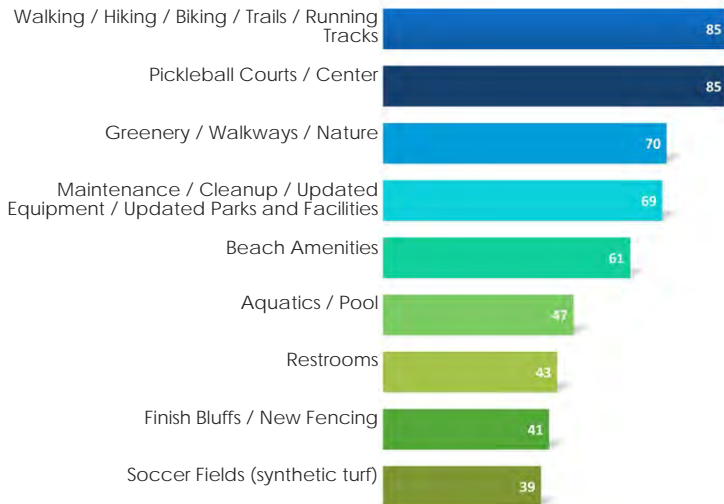


**Exhibit 2.2-2: Community  
Workshop 2 Survey Distribution Map**

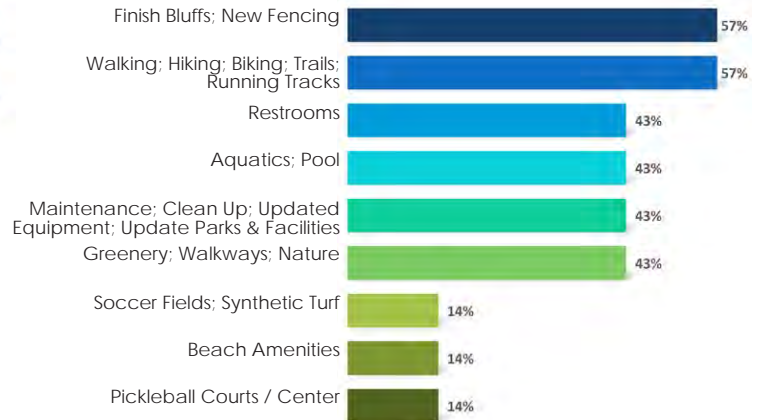


## What are the top **park and/or facility improvements** you would like to see added in Huntington Beach to meet the needs of the community?

### Workshop 2 Online Survey

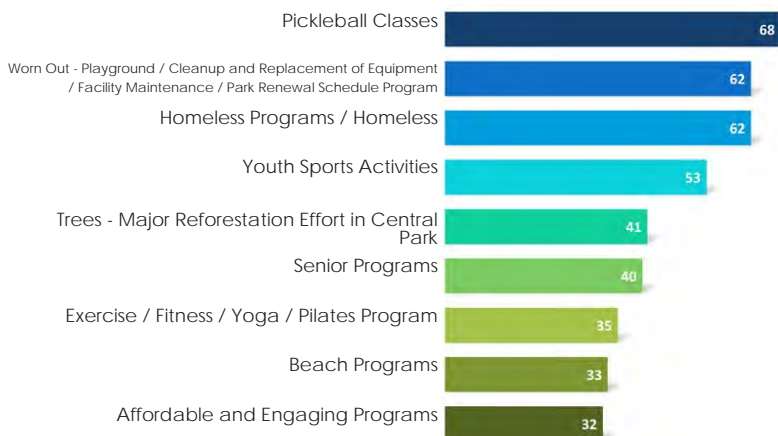


### Workshop 2 Live Poll

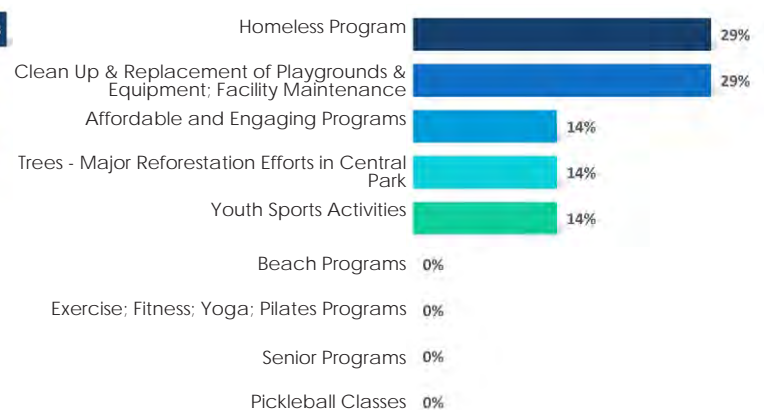


## What are the top **programs, classes, or activities** you would like to see added in Huntington Beach to meet the needs of the community?

### Workshop 2 Online Survey



### Workshop 2 Live Poll





# Community Workshops / Virtual Town Halls

## Community Workshop 3: Summary Results

Community members were invited via the City's social media accounts and the project website to attend a final virtual town hall on September 23, 2021. The meeting included a presentation on the overview of the project, a summary of the data collected to date and the final program and facility needs identified by the community.

At the conclusion of the meeting, viewers were directed to the project website to provide any feedback they felt necessary.



## PROGRAM NEEDS

- Affordable Programs
- Beach Programs / Activities
- Concerts / Events
- Exercise and Fitness Classes
- Homeless Programs
- Pickleball Classes
- Senior Programs

## FACILITY NEEDS

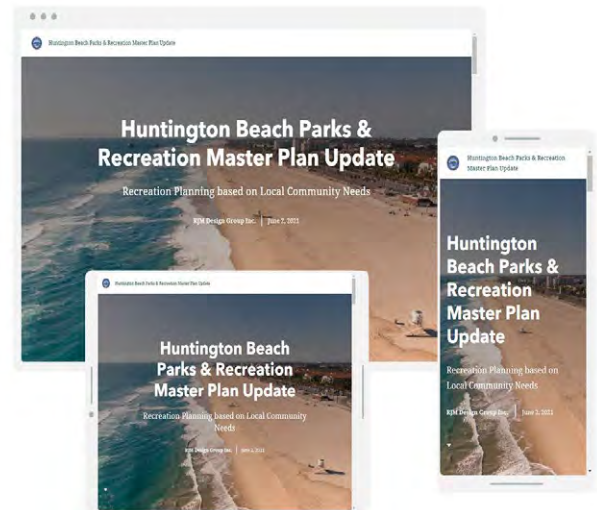
- Beach Amenities / Rentals
- Maintenance / Upkeep
- Open Space / Nature
- Playground Renovations including ADA Equipment
- Pickleball Courts
- Restrooms
- Skatepark / Skateboard Area
- Soccer Fields
- Swimming Pool
- Trails (bike)
- Trails (walk / hike)
- Urban Forest / Trees / Native Plants
- Walkways in Parks



## Project Website and Feedback

A project website was developed to keep the community continuously informed. The website launched to the public on June 2, 2021. Throughout the project, updates were published and surveys made available on the project website. Website views totaled 3,135, averaging 16 views per day.

A total of 45 feedback comments were received throughout the project. The feedback comment option was available immediately when the project website launched in June 2021, and remained available for the duration of the project.



### Exhibit 2.2-3: Word Cloud Summary of Feedback Comments



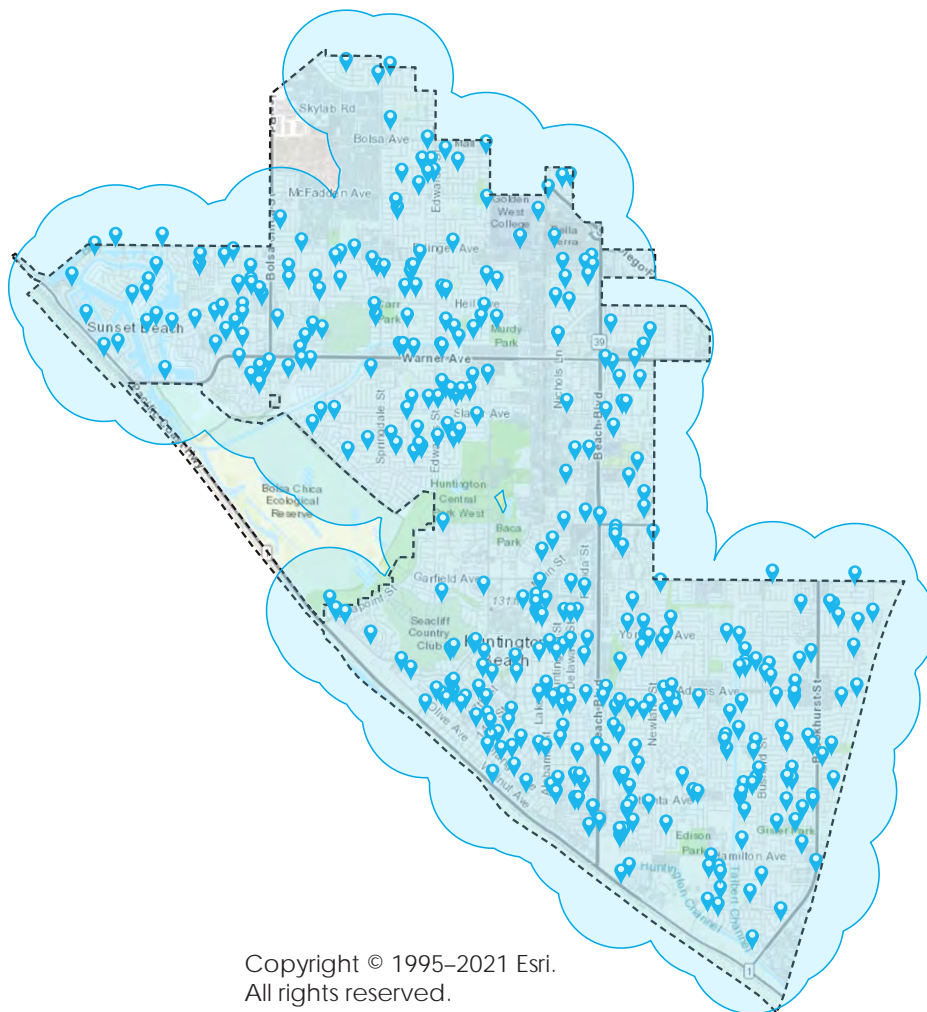
# Statistically Valid Multimodal Survey

## Statistically Valid Multimodal Survey

A total of 400 residents were surveyed (100 by telephone and 300 online) in a statistically valid manner. A survey of this size yields a margin of error of +/-5.0%, with a confidence level of 95%. Interviews were conducted with respondents on both landline (34%) and mobile phones (66%) and were offered in English (95%) and Spanish (5%) languages. For the online survey phase, we invited participation via email (50%) and text message (50%). Security measures precluded individuals from completing the survey more than once and allowed only the designated respondents to complete the survey. Online respondents were able to use their computer, tablet, or smart phone to participate.

Our sample used stratified random sampling methodology to ensure that the demographic proportions of survey respondents match the demographic composition of City of Huntington Beach residents.

Critical in the data collected is the geolocation of the participants. Exhibit 2.2-4 indicates that there was an equal geographic distribution of participants across the City. This not only validates the statistically valid component of the survey but also indicated there is not a geographic bias in the data being recorded from only one end of the community and not the other.



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Exhibit 2.2-4: Multimodal  
Survey Distribution Map

Subjects explored in the context of the multimodal survey included:

**59%**

Use City Recreation Programs, Classes or Lessons at least Once a Year

**65%**

Are Satisfied with Parks, Facilities and Programs

**27%**

Listed Central Park as the Most Often Used Park or Recreation Facility

**92%**

Visit a Park or Recreational Facility in Huntington Beach at Least Monthly

**75%**

Feel Fitness is the Most Important Benefit of Recreation or Leisure Opportunities

**77%**

Get Parks and Recreation Information from City Website or Google

#### What Program Residents Would Most Like to See Added

6.0%	Exercise/Fitness/Yoga/Pilates
5.0%	Music/Dancing/Singing
4.3%	Pools/Swimming Lessons/Safety
3.8%	Home Economics/Cooking
3.3%	Youth Sports/Activities
3.3%	Other Sports Activities (soccer, volleyball, baseball, gymnastics)
3.0%	Gardening/Horticulture
2.8%	Tennis/Pickleball Courts
2.8%	Water Sports (surfing/sailing/kayaking)
2.8%	Arts and Crafts Classes
2.3%	Self Defense/Martial Arts/Tai Chi
1.8%	Language/Writing/Spelling
1.8%	Tech Classes/Computer/Coding
1.8%	Environmental Protection/ City and Beach Clean Up
1.5%	Golf Ranges/Courses
1.3%	Bicycle Lessons/Safety
1.3%	Nature Classes/Back Packing Lessons
1.3%	Entertainment Venues/Concerts/Shows
1.3%	Dog Parks/Training
1.0%	Basketball Leagues/Courts
0.8%	Photography
0.8%	Skate Lessons
0.8%	Beach Related Activities
9.5%	Other
13.8%	Nothing

22.8% said unsure / prefer not to answer

#### What Facility Residents Would Most Like to See Added

10.0%	Swimming Pools/Splash Pads/Water Park
9.0%	Park Improvements/More Parks
6.5%	Tennis/Pickleball Courts
4.3%	Skateparks
3.8%	Biking Paths And Trails
3.5%	Gym Center/Fitness/Yoga
3.5%	Other Sports Activities (soccer, volleyball, baseball, gymnastics)
3.0%	Dog Parks
2.8%	Youth Centers/Learning/Athletics Programs
2.8%	Beach Amenities
2.0%	Community Gardens
2.0%	More Restrooms/Clean Bathrooms
1.5%	Entertainment Venues/Concerts/Shows
1.5%	Walking Trails/Boardwalk
1.3%	Indoor and Outdoor Basketball Courts
1.0%	Senior Citizen Center/Programs
1.0%	Golf Ranges/Courses
13.3%	Other
10.0%	Nothing/None

17.5% said unsure / prefer not to answer



# Sports Organizations

















## Sports Organization Survey (2024)

A questionnaire was designed and distributed to the organized sports groups that use the City facilities. This questionnaire obtained information regarding the number of players and teams in the league or sports organization, age ranges of the players, what seasons they play, if they travel outside Huntington Beach to play, and if they participate in tournaments.

The questionnaire was distributed by the City staff and twenty-one (21) out of thirty-three (33) sports organizations responded. The information regarding the number of players, size of teams, seasonality and turnover of facilities for both games and practice are used to better define peak day demand and convert that to the number of facilities required to meet the needs of this segment of the recreation market. Information regarding which of the facilities are currently being used by the sports groups provides input to the inventory of sports facilities regarding usage for adult sports, youth sports and practices.

The questionnaire addresses the percentage of the players in each organization that live within the City of Huntington Beach. This varies widely by type of sport and in Huntington Beach, reflects that a number of participants in certain sports reside outside of the City. The demand for facilities to accommodate organized sports are adjusted to accommodate all players in the leagues, regardless of whether they are living in Huntington Beach.

## Sports Organizations\*

Organization name	% Residents
 HB Scrappers 12U	100%
 Huntington West Little League	100%
 Huntington West Little League	100%
 Huntington Valley Little League	100%
 Huntington Valley Little league	100%
 Seaview Little League	98%
 Friday Night Lights	97%
 AYSO Region 117	95%
 AYSO Region 56	92%
 South HB Girls Fastpitch Softball	80%
 So Cal Athletics Travel Softball	70%
 Trojan FC	60%
 Rics Volleyball (fall, winter)	50%
 California Cruisers	50%
 HB Sports Complex	48%
 SoCal Misfits	10%

\*Data from 2024 Update for Sports Organization Survey



## Every Voice Counts

### 2.3 Summarizing the Community Voice

Throughout the process, numerous needs have been identified and recorded across multiple modes of outreach (Individual Interviews, Community at Large Virtual Workshops, and Statistically Valid Surveys). Each of these modes represents a specific segment of the community outreach methodology. The community voice is developed through synthesizing all the data into a single summary representing both program and facility needs.

Since each of the input modes is directly or indirectly based on community input (qualitative and quantitative measures), it is fair to say that all of the needs identified are significant and important to some portion of the community. However, it is generally helpful to attempt to determine which needs have the highest priority as perceived by the largest number of residents (identified as the area of maximum community impact).

To achieve this analysis each response recorded from the community is cataloged in a matrix. As an individual program or facility need is brought up (swimming, sports facilities, trails, shade, etc.) it is recorded for frequency in the specific outreach tool and mode in which it was received. Needs that have been identified in each of the three modes have a higher impact across the community than needs identified in only one of these modes.

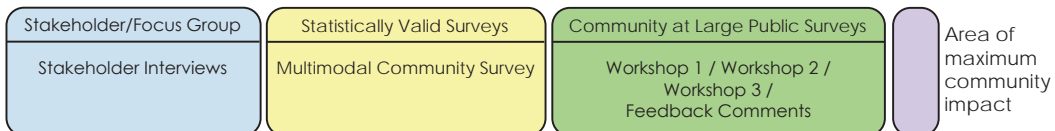
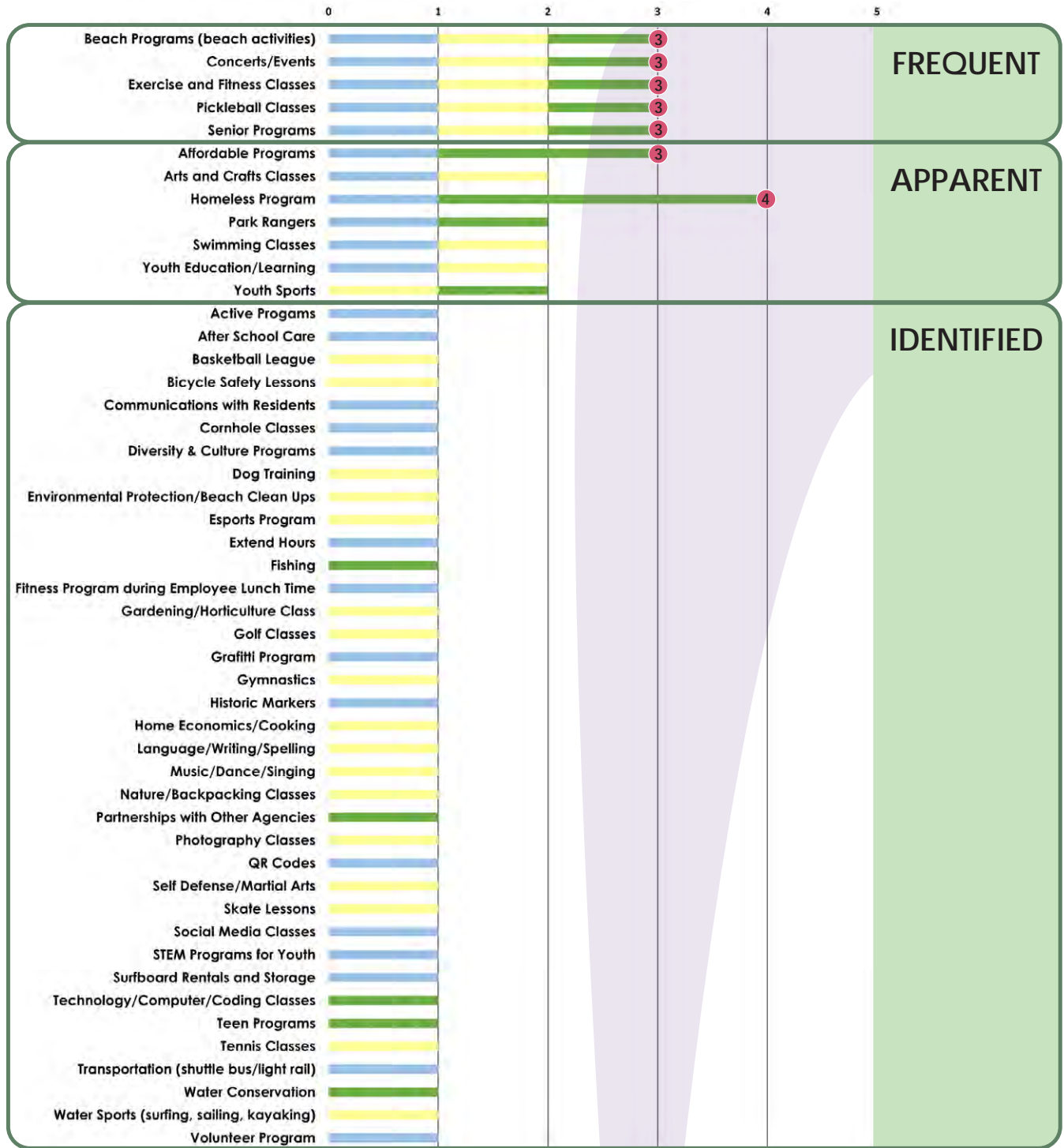
The recommendations are developed from the planning tools and outreach modes in which the community's voice was recorded and evaluated. Both qualitative and quantitative measures are combined to illustrate where improvements will have the maximum impact across the entire community.

Exhibit 2.3-1 and 2.3-2 illustrates the classification of these categories as Frequent (3 modes), Apparent (2 modes), and Identified (1 mode) and the respective needs within each category and the number of times the need was listed across all categories.

The top needs in each category have been outlined as an area of maximum community impact. There is an inherent priority of needs based on the number of times a need comes up in each category. For example, Pickleball Courts (4) is ranked higher than Beach (amenities/rentals) (3) because it was identified in each of the three outreach modes. However, cost implications should take precedence if the City does not have the funds for higher-ranked needs but does for a lower-ranked need the priority for implementation may shift.



# Program Priorities



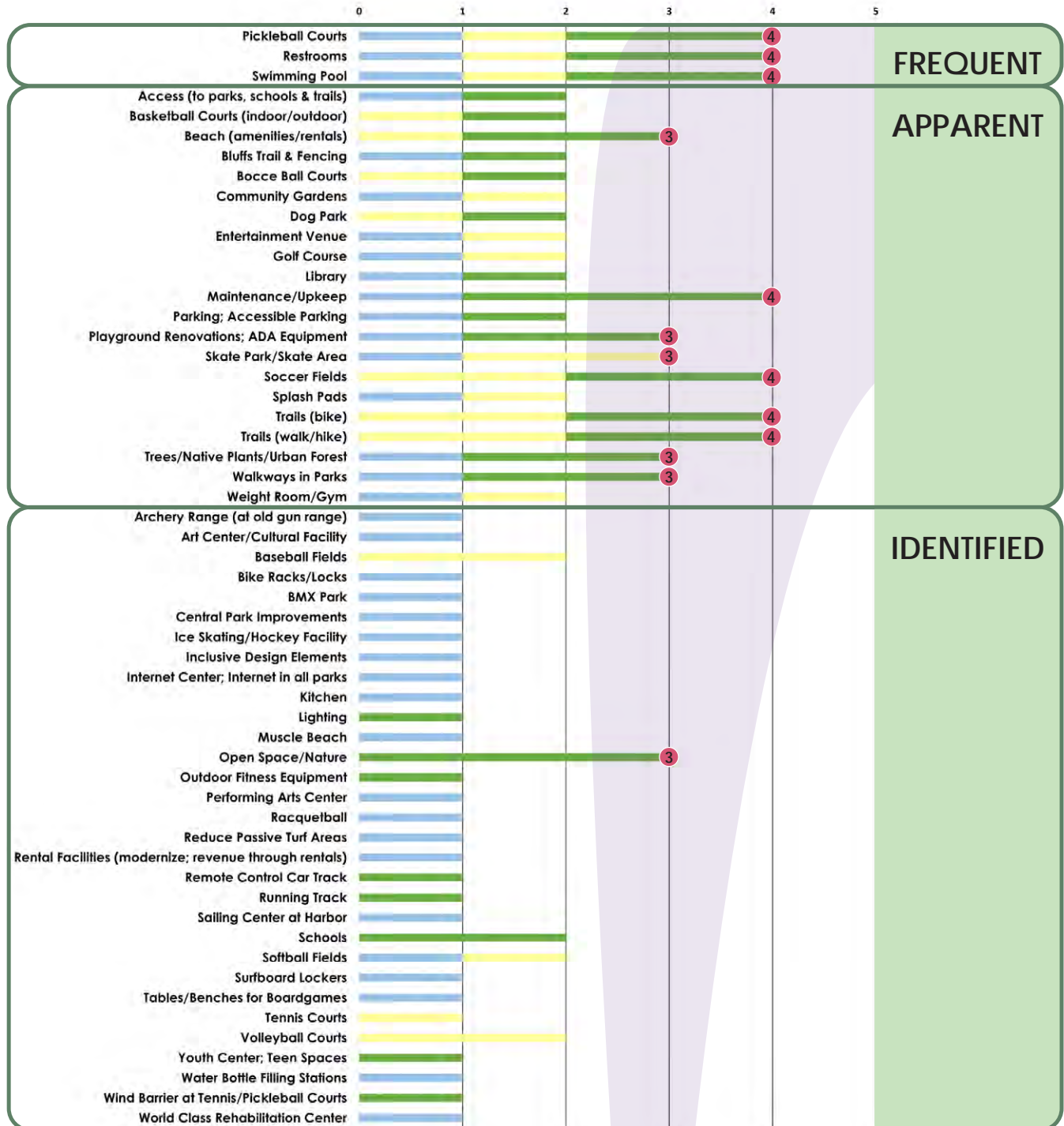
NOTE: Programs are encompassing of multiple "similar" community comments. Individual comments are identified in the recommendations and appendix.

Exhibit 2.3-1: Program Priorities

# Facility Priorities



2



Stakeholder/Focus Group  
Stakeholder Interviews

Statistically Valid Surveys  
Multimodal Community Survey / CPSCs

Community at Large Public Surveys  
Workshop 1 / Workshop 2 / Workshop 3 / Feedback Comments

Area of maximum community impact

NOTE: Facilities are encompassing of multiple "similar" community comments. Individual comments are identified in the recommendations and appendix.

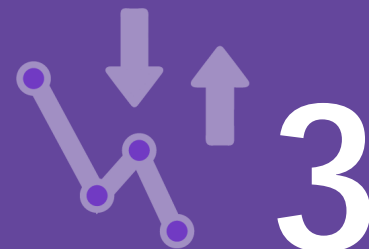
Exhibit 2.3-2: Facility Priorities





Photo by shbgfs.org

# SECTION THREE: NEEDS ASSESSMENT



## 3.1 Existing Conditions

### What parks exist and where are they?

The process for evaluating the community needs relies heavily on what recreation facilities exist today and how they may or may not meet the needs of the community. Carefully balancing the inventory with the community needs and desires will allow resources to be directed to critical areas maximizing the community benefit.

### Park Types

Park classifications are useful in several ways. They can help define a set of characteristics to serve as a guide when parks are constructed or renovated. They can also restrict incompatible activities by limiting those activities to only certain types of parks.

Parks can be classified by type based on their size, function, and character. The 2017 Environmental Resources and Conservation Element of the General Plan contains four park type classifications: 1) Mini Parks; 2) Neighborhood Parks; 3) Community Parks; and 4) Regional Parks.

Mini Park: Mini parks are generally smaller than 2.5 acres and typically do not have enough room for organized recreation facilities, but support passive recreational activities such as walking (e.g., Booster Park, French Park, Tarbox Park).

Neighborhood Park: Neighborhood parks are between 2.5 and 10 acres in size and often provide recreational opportunities to families with young children. They typically have children's play areas and structures, and many are located near a school (e.g., Burke Park, Conrad Park, Drew Park, Marina Park).

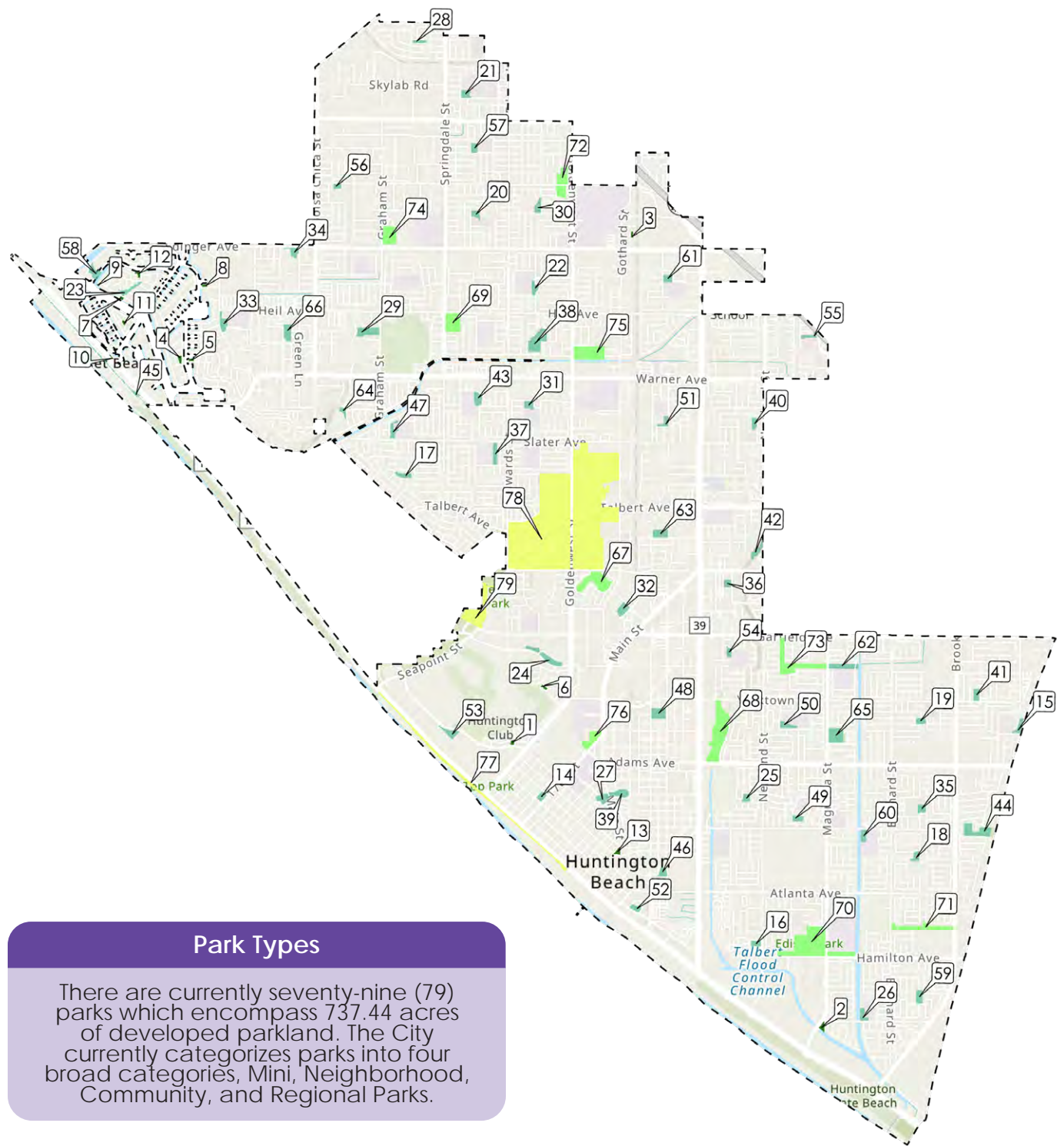
Community Park: Community parks are 10 to 40 acres in size and are often centrally located to serve multiple neighborhoods. These facilities provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for children and adults, and offer a more diverse range of activities than neighborhood parks (e.g., Chris Carr Park, Gisler Park, Langenbeck Park, Marina Park).

Regional Park: Regional parks, which exceed 40 acres in size, provide specialized recreational facilities such as equestrian areas and campsites. In addition to serving Huntington Beach community members, regional parks often attract visitors from a wider region (e.g., Huntington Central Park).

Regional parks may also include natural areas that provide passive recreational opportunities in a more natural environment. This distinguishes regional parks from natural resource areas that are essentially open space conservation areas, where "use" may be restricted or is incidental to their conservation and protection.



# Park Types



**Exhibit 3.1-1:  
Huntington Beach Park Types Map**

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### Mini Park

- 1 - Bailey Park
- 2 - Banning/Magnolia Park
- 3 - Boardwalk Park
- 4 - Booster Park
- 5 - Davenport Beach Park
- 6 - Finley Park
- 7 - French Park
- 8 - Humboldt Beach Park
- 9 - Prince Park
- 10 - 11th Street Beach Park
- 11 - Tarbox Park
- 12 - Trinidad Park
- 13 - Triangle Park

### Neighborhood Park

- 14 - 17th Street Park
- 15 - Arevalos Park
- 16 - Bauer Park
- 17 - Bolsa View Park
- 18 - Burke Park
- 19 - Bushard Park
- 20 - Circle View Park
- 21 - Clegg-Stacey Park
- 22 - College View Park
- 23 - Conrad Park
- 24 - Discovery Well Park
- 25 - Drew Park
- 26 - Eader Park
- 27 - Farquar Park
- 28 - Franklin Park
- 29 - Gibbs Park
- 30 - Glen View Park
- 31 - Golden View Park
- 32 - Green Park
- 33 - Harbour View Park
- 34 - Haven View Park
- 35 - Hawes Park
- 36 - Helme Park
- 37 - Hope View Park
- 38 - Irby Park
- 39 - Lake Park
- 40 - Lake View Park

- 41 - Lamb Park
- 42 - Lambert Park
- 43 - Lark View Park
- 44 - LeBard Park
- 45 - Linear Park
- 46 - Manning Park
- 47 - Marine View Park
- 48 - McCallen Park
- 49 - Moffett Park
- 50 - Newland Park
- 51 - Oak View Park
- 52 - Pacific City Park
- 53 - Pattinson Park
- 54 - Perry Park
- 55 - Pleasant View Park
- 56 - Robinwood Park
- 57 - Schroeder Park
- 58- Seabridge Park
- 59 - Seeley Park
- 60 - Sowers Park
- 61 - Sun View Park
- 62 - Talbert Park
- 63 - Terry Park
- 64 - Vella Park
- 65 - Wardlow Park
- 66 - Wieder Park

### Community Park

- 67 - Baca Park
- 68 - Bartlett Park
- 69 - Carr Park
- 70 - Edison Park
- 71 - Gisler Park
- 72 - Greer Park
- 73 - Langenback Park
- 74 - Marina Park
- 75 - Murdy Park
- 76 - Worthy Park

### Regional Park

- 77 - Bluff Top Park
- 78 - Huntington Central Park
- 79 - Orange County Regional Park - Harriett M. Wieder





Photo by de.m.wikipedia.org



## Park Acreage

### Acreage Analysis

There are currently seventy-nine (79) parks which encompass 737.44 acres of developed parkland. The City currently categorizes parks into four broad categories, Mini, Neighborhood, Community, and Regional Parks.

Open space acreage at Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Brookhurst Marsh, Magnolia Marsh, Newland Marsh, and Talbert Marsh totals 1,456 acres and is not included in City's park acreage goal. These areas are identified as Open Space/Conservation in the General Plan and should be preserved and protected.

In addition, the public and private golf courses are not counted in the parkland acreage goal since they are not available for use by the general public and are pay to play facilities.

Private recreation facilities, such as homeowner association parks, are not credited.

The City's General Plan references that the City should "Maintain or exceed the current park per capita ratio of 5.0 acres per 1,000 persons, including the beach in the calculations."

Including the 434 acres of shore which includes the coastal beaches operated by the City and the State, the City currently has:

#### Acres per 1000 Residents (including shore)

Developed Parks	<b>5.95 Acres</b>
-----------------	-------------------

If the shore is not included the City would have:

#### Acres per 1000 Residents

Developed Parks	<b>3.75 Acres</b>
-----------------	-------------------

#### Park Acres by Park Type Summary

Mini Parks	<b>7.57 Acres</b>
Neighborhood Parks	<b>186.36 Acres</b>
Community Parks	<b>163.61 Acres</b>
Regional Parks	<b>379.90 Acres</b>
<b>Total Park Acreage</b>	<b>737.44 Acres</b>



# Community Facilities

## Community Facilities

- 1 - Art Center
- 2 - Banning Branch Library
- 3 - Beach Public Services Center
- 4 - City Gym & Pool
- 5 - Edison Community Center
- 6 - Harbour View Clubhouse
- 7 - Helen Murphy Branch Library
- 8 - Huntington Central Park - Amphitheater

- 9 - Huntington Central Park - Bandstand
- 10 - Huntington Central Park - Library & Theater
- 11 - Huntington Central Park - Senior Center
- 12 - Huntington Central Park - Sports Complex
- 13 - Lake Park Clubhouse
- 14 - Lake Park BBQ
- 15 - Lake View Clubhouse
- 16 - Main Street Branch Library
- 17 - Memorial Hall
- 18 - Murdy Community Center

## Community Facilities

A wide variety of experiences and opportunities are available to the community through the programs and services provided by the Community and Library Services Department. The Department provides recreation activities and programs at 25 community facilities. Rooms and large halls can be rented for various occasions. Room rental facilities are located at the Art Center, City Gym & Pool, Murdy Community Center, Edison Community Center, Central Library and Theater, and Senior Center in Central Park as well as two clubhouses, Harbour View Clubhouse and Lake Park Clubhouse. The City's Newland Barn, located within Bartlett Park, also has a hall with historical gardens and gazebo available for rent.

NOTE: The Sports Complex is City owned and third-party operated.

**Exhibit 3.1-2: Huntington Beach Community Facilities Map**

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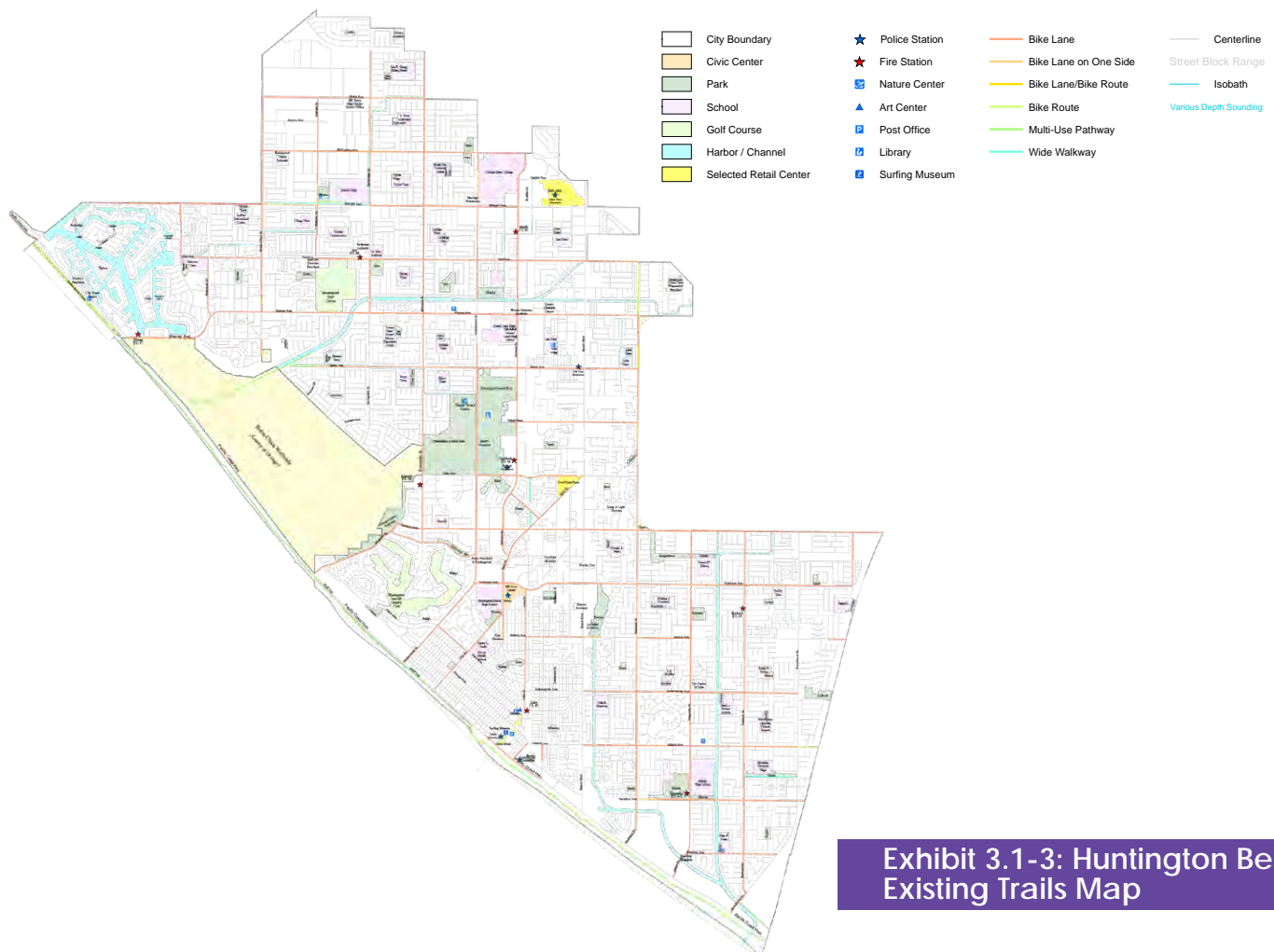
# Trail Connectivity

## Trail Connectivity

The City of Huntington Beach has developed a trail network within the City including a Class I bike trail along Bluff Top Park and 2 miles of equestrian trails at Central Park. The City has 77.8 miles of bike lanes, the vast majority are Class II and III.

The ocean-front path that runs along Huntington Beach's coast is considered to be a multi-use path. It is open to all non-motorized uses and is heavily traveled by runners, walkers and in-line skaters. These paths are separated from roads where cars drive. While the City has 8.8 miles of multi-use paths, the Huntington Beach Bike Trail runs a total of 12.8 from Sunset Beach to Newport Beach.

The 2013 City of Huntington Beach Bicycle Master Plan identifies 9 Class I Bicycle Trail projects including improvements to the current bike trail along Bluff Top Park. The City has an excellent opportunity to design trails to double as transportation routes for bicycles. The additional development of a shared use pathway could include both paved and decomposed granite surfaces, providing opportunity for both the casual walker and utilization of the trail as a transportation route.



**Exhibit 3.1-3: Huntington Beach Existing Trails Map**



# School Facilities

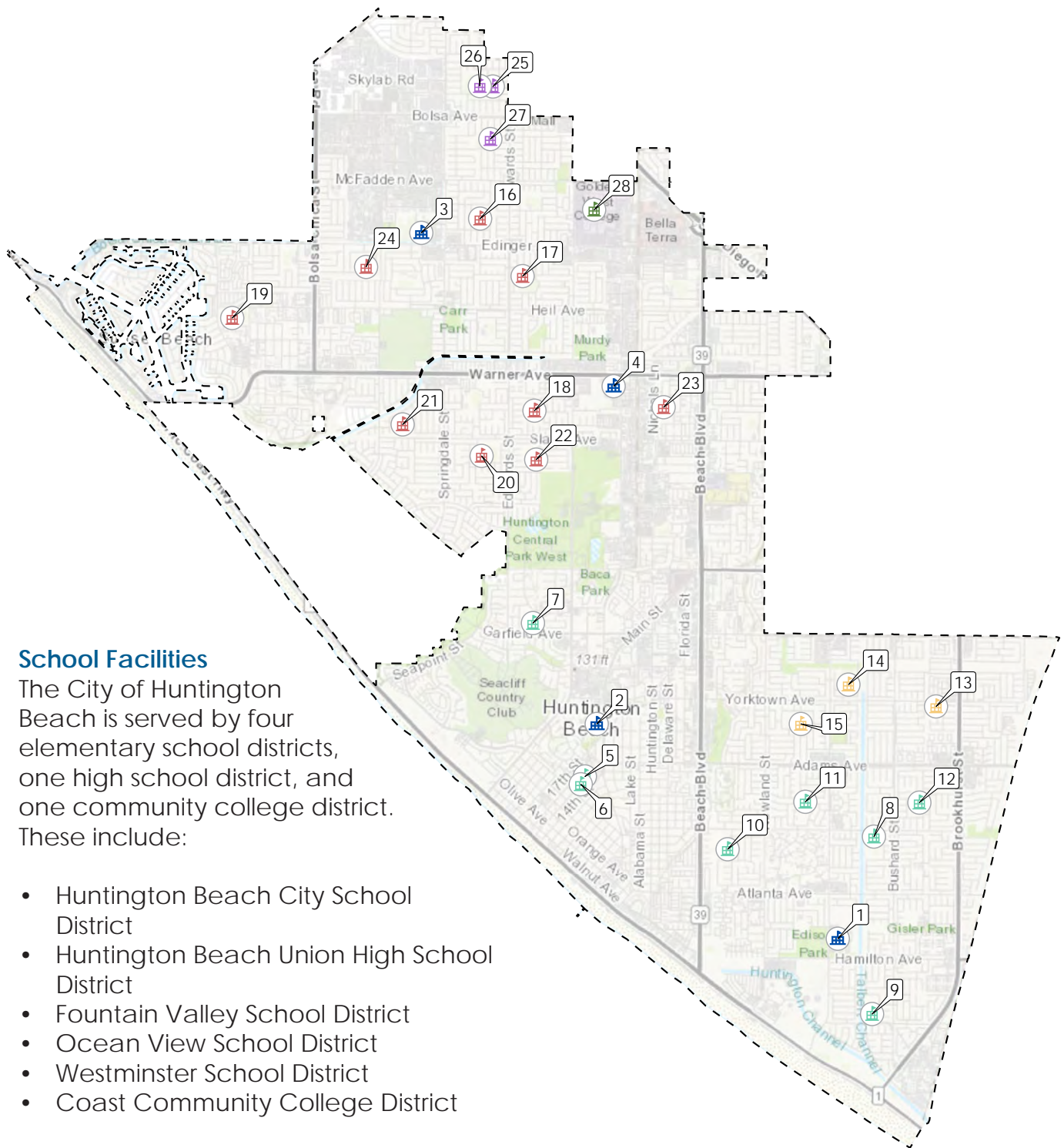










Exhibit 3.1-4: School Facilities Map

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#### Huntington Beach Union High School District

-  1 - Edison High School
-  2 - Huntington Beach High School
-  3 - Marina High School
-  4 - Ocean View High/Coast High/H.B. Adult School

#### Huntington Beach City School District

-  5 - Agnes Smith Elementary School
-  6 - Ethyl Dwyer Middle School
-  7 - Huntington Seacliff Elementary School
-  8 - Isaac Sowers Middle School
-  9 - John Eader Elementary School
-  10 - John Peterson Elementary School
-  11 - Moffett Elementary School
-  12 - Ralph Hawes Elementary School




#### Fountain Valley School District

-  13 - Isojiro Oka Elementary School
-  14 - Samuel Talbert Middle School
-  15 - William Newland Elementary School

#### Ocean View School District

-  16 - Circle View Elementary School
-  17 - College View Elementary School
-  18 - Golden View Elementary School
-  19 - Harbour View Elementary School
-  20 - Hope View Elementary School
-  21 - Marine View Middle School
-  22 - Mesa View Middle School
-  23 - Oak View Elementary School
-  24 - Village View Elementary School

#### Westminster School District

-  25 - Ada Clegg Elementary School
-  26 - Helen Stacey Intermediate School
-  27 - Schroeder Elementary School

#### Coast Community College District

-  28 - Golden West College

### Joint Use Agreements

Throughout the City, the public-school districts have facilities that combined have several recreation amenities including playgrounds, sports fields, pools, running tracks, and tennis courts. Many of the schools are utilized by sports organizations to reserve field space that is necessary to support organized league events.

The City of Huntington Beach has established joint use agreements with some of the school districts for use of the various recreation amenities by the City. While the City and Organized Sports Organizations may request use of school facilities there is no guarantee of availability as the districts typically reserve priority reservation and exclusive use of facilities during normal school operation hours.

Note: The Park View Elementary School was recently closed however the City does not own the parkland that was previously part of the school.



# Regional and Other Parks and Recreation Facilities

## Regional and Other Parks and Recreation Facilities Open to the Public

Additional State, County, and Private Recreation facilities exist within the City of Huntington Beach. Though not directly owned or controlled by the City these parks also provide recreation opportunities to the community. Such facilities are important to identify so not to duplicate City facilities in areas that may already be served through non-City owned recreational opportunities. The following are parks and facilities that have been identified in this category:

### Bolsa Chica State Beach

Camping for recreational vehicles, bonfire rings and concessions which include a snack shop, showers, and barbecues. The park is located on Pacific Coast Highway in Huntington Beach, between Seapoint Street and Warner Avenue. It is important to note the City operates the areas from the Pier to Seapoint.

### Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve

Approximately 1,300 acre coastal estuary. Habitats include open water, mudflats, salt marsh, coastal dunes, seabird nesting islands, riparian, and freshwater marsh. More than 200 avian species have been identified at Bolsa Chica and the reserve is very popular with birders and photographers.

### Huntington State Beach

The 121 acre state beach is a popular destination for water enthusiasts and draws hundreds of thousands of visitors year round. It is a great place to surf, swim, sunbathe, or fish. There are volleyball courts, basketball courts, fire-rings, and a multi-use trail. The City of Huntington Beach operates the portion of the State Beach from the pier north to Seapoint and also Warner to Surfside. The paved beachside trail spans 8.5 miles connecting Huntington and Bolsa Chica State Beaches, with the 3.5-mile City Beach in between.

### Harriett M. Wieder Park

Operated by Orange County, Wieder Park includes an open turf area for picnicking, decomposed granite pathways, toddler and youth playground equipment, picnic area, parking lot, native plants, trails, and a scenic viewpoint. When the regional park is fully completed it will provide an important recreational trail link between Huntington Central Park and Bolsa Chica State Beach.

### Wetlands (Brookhurst Marsh, Magnolia March, and Talbert Marsh)

The Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy, with the help of the California Coastal Conservancy, owns all of the wetlands between Magnolia and the power plant, the "Magnolia Marsh." The Conservancy owns most of the land between Brookhurst and Magnolia.

### Talbert Regional Park

Operated by Orange County, Talbert Regional Park is located North and South of Victoria Street in Costa Mesa between Pacific Avenue and the Santa Ana River. The park totals 182 acres. The park includes a small active area that allows picnicking and informal recreation, while the trail system allows for observation of natural resources and linkage to other parks along the Santa Ana River.



Photo by [huntingtonbeachca.gov](http://huntingtonbeachca.gov)

### Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve

Operated by Orange County, the nature preserve represents approximately 135 acres of open space made up of bluffs surrounding the bay. The park includes the Peter and Mary Muth Interpretive Center. During winter migration up to 35,000 birds may be using the Bay at one time.

### Sunset Harbor and Aquatic Center

Operated by Orange County, there are approximately 3,000 boats along with over 1,500 residences on the water. Additionally there is a vast natural area operated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that lies between the Naval Weapons Station and Sunset Harbor known as the Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. Totalling 911 acres, the wildlife areas are home to numerous types of marine life and birds.

### Mile Square Park

Operated by Orange County, Mile Square Regional Park is located in the City of Fountain Valley and totals 607 acres of land. Within the park's boundaries are three regulation golf courses, three soccer fields, three baseball, and three softball diamonds, an archery range and a nature area. Also, there are two fishing lakes, concession operated bike and paddle boat operations, a wide expanse of picnic areas as well as numerous picnic shelters.

### Golf Courses

The Huntington Club is privately owned and operated and includes an 18 hole championship golf course and practice facilities, fitness center, pool with cabanas and sauna, dining offerings, and club events. Meadowlark Golf Course is City-owned and 3rd party operated. Designed by notable golf course architect William P. Bell, the course offers a 5,609-yard par-70 layout across natural terrain landscapes with mature trees and native vegetation around the manicured fairways.



# Park Service Area Gaps

## Park Service Gap Analysis

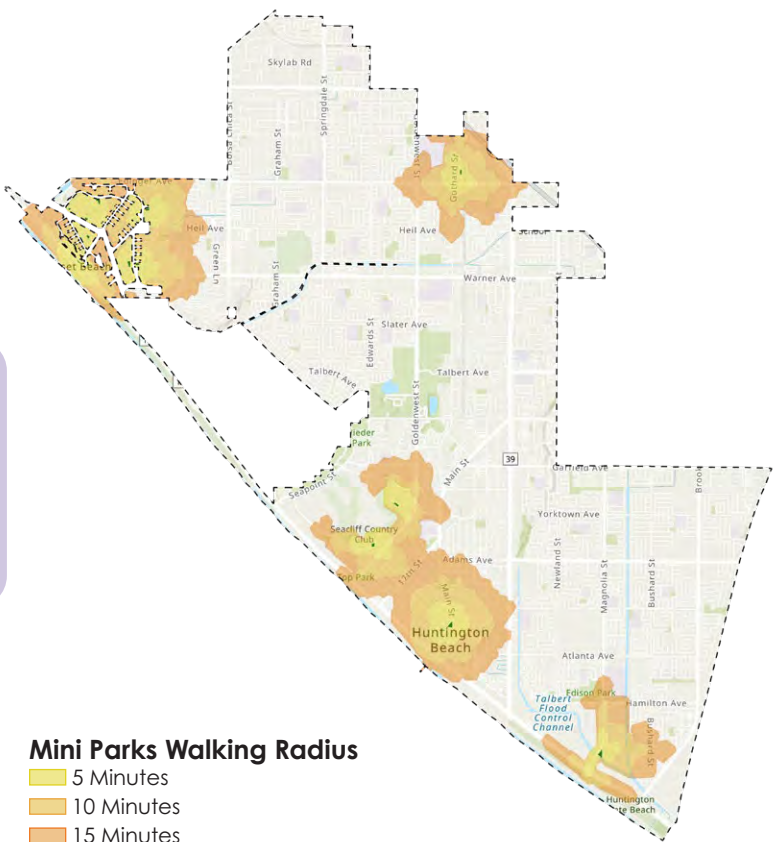
In addition to providing appropriate quantities and types of recreation facilities, the City of Huntington Beach strives to provide them in useful and appropriate locations. The service area gap analysis examines how parks are distributed throughout residential areas in the City.

**"Everyone deserves a park within walking distance of their home."**

-NRPA (National Recreation and Parks Association)

Proximity to parks is more than a convenience issue. It helps to establish an excellent park system by providing improved air quality, circulation, and overall improved community health and wellness. One-half (.5) mile is approximately a 10-15-minute walk for most people. Most residences should be within one-half mile of a neighborhood park or amenity that satisfy common recreation needs.

The 5-10-15 minute walk map outlines the service availability around the existing parks that are available to Huntington Beach residents. The service area boundaries also reflect the physical obstructions to pedestrian travel created by arterial roadways, freeways, etc. which limit easy access to parks and are reflected by truncated shapes in the service areas shown on the following exhibits.






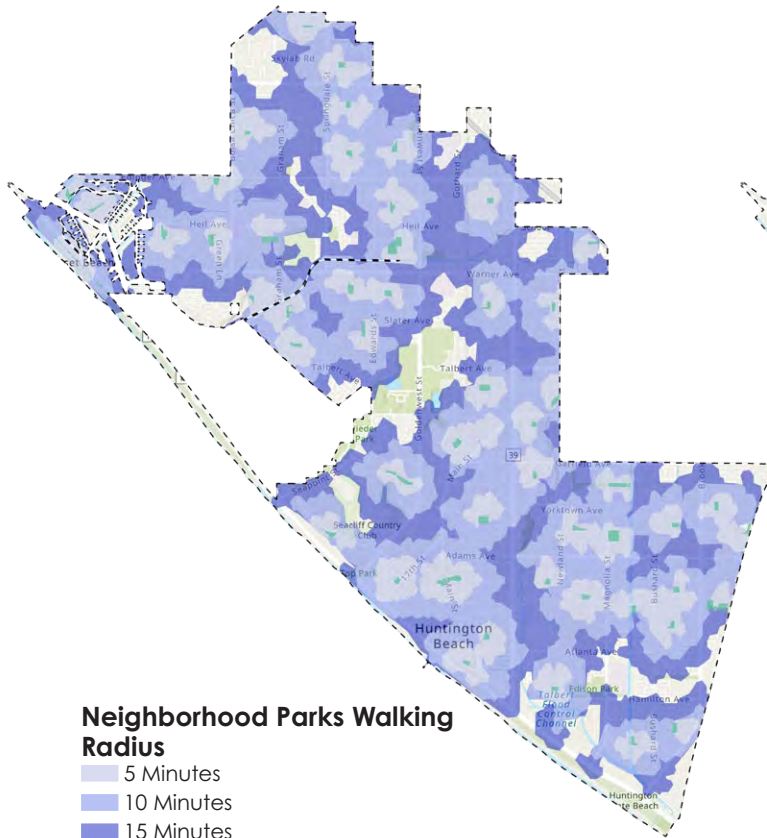
**Mini Parks Walking Radius**

- 5 Minutes
- 10 Minutes
- 15 Minutes

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**Exhibit 3.1-5: Service Area Gap Analysis for Mini Parks**

Mini Parks			
	5 Min Walk	4.4% of population	8,507 pop / 1.1 sq. miles
	10 Min Walk	11.8% of population	23,099 pop / 3.0 sq. miles
	15 Min Walk	20.5% of population	39,906 pop / 5.3 sq. miles

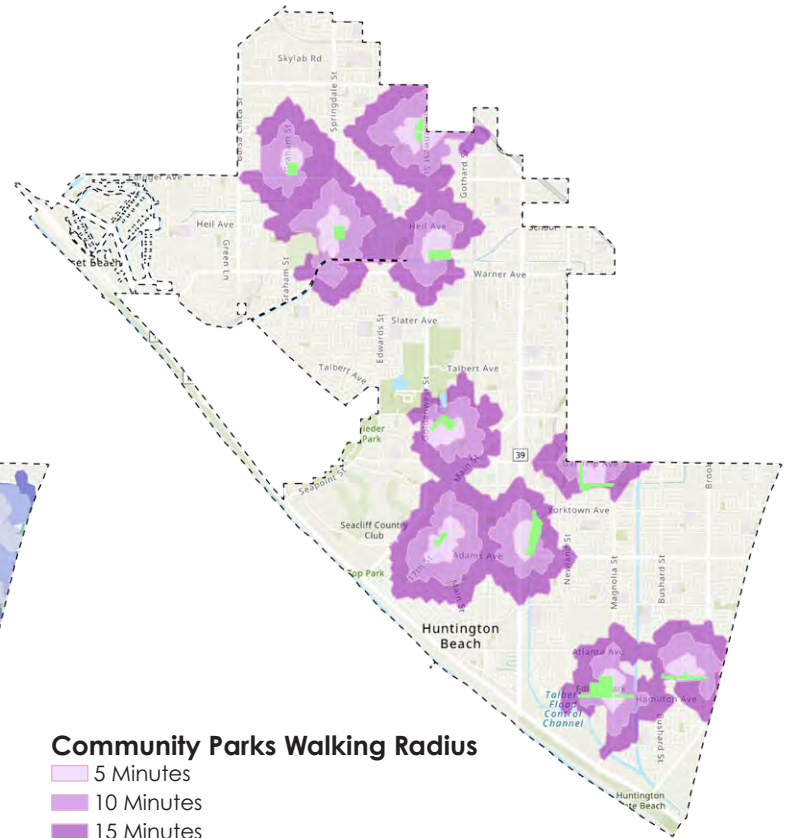


### Nighborhood Parks Walking Radius

- 5 Minutes
- 10 Minutes
- 15 Minutes

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**Exhibit 3.1-6: Service Area Gap Analysis for Neighborhood Parks**



### Community Parks Walking Radius

- 5 Minutes
- 10 Minutes
- 15 Minutes

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**Exhibit 3.1-7: Service Area Gap Analysis for Community Parks**

### Nighborhood Parks

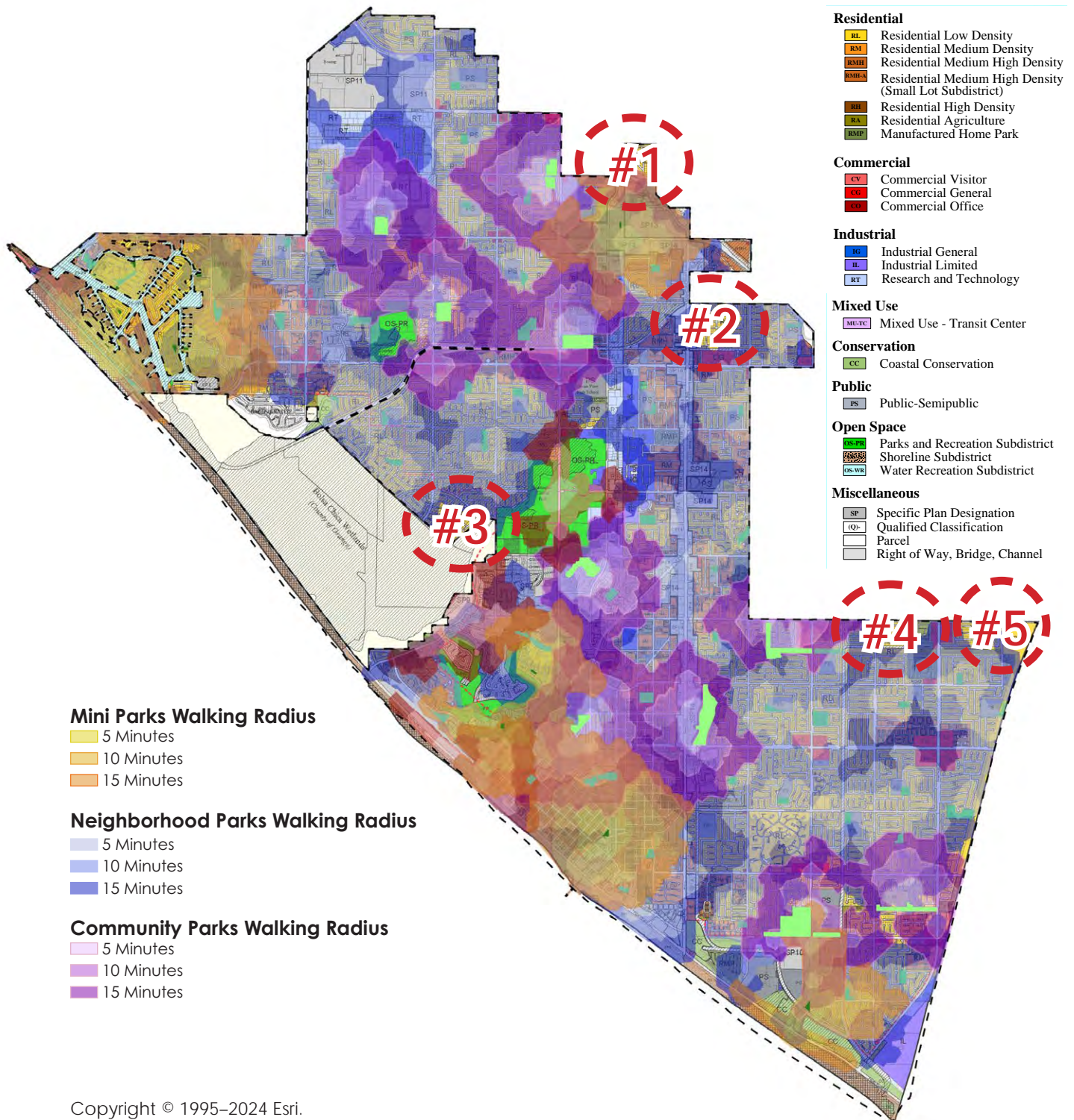
	5 Min Walk	28.2% of population	54,976 pop / 5.6 sq. miles
	10 Min Walk	69.5% of population	135,541 pop / 15.7 sq. miles
	15 Min Walk	97.2% of population	189,472 pop / 23.2 sq. miles

### Community Parks

	5 Min Walk	2.9% of population	5,605 pop / 1.0 sq. miles
	10 Min Walk	10.3% of population	20,097 pop / 3.4 sq. miles
	15 Min Walk	29.6% of population	57,736 pop / 8.0 sq. miles



# Park Service Area Gaps



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**Exhibit 3.1-8: Service Area Gap Analysis Map**



To analyze the distribution of existing City parks, a service area radius map is created for City-owned mini, neighborhood, and community parks (see exhibit 3.1-8).

When areas zoned for residential use fall outside of these service area designations, they are identified as an underserved neighborhood or “gap area”. The City has excellent coverage providing park space that is geographically distributed throughout the community. There are however some gaps as identified in exhibit 3.1-8.

- #1** This area of the community is bisected by the interstate 405 freeway, a rail road line, and major arterials. These barriers make it difficult to provide any significant trails to connect parkland to this neighborhood. There is however a John Land Park in the City of Westminster that does service this community within a ½ mile radius.
- #2** There are neighborhood areas to the east and west of Beach Blvd that lie just outside the City neighborhood parks service radius. Within these areas the private HOA communities have local pool and park spaces available that serve their communities as well as Westmont Elementary School within a ½ mile radius that has playground and active turf for recreation opportunities.
- #3** While this specific area does fall outside the typical mini park and neighborhood park radius it is within a ½ mile radius of Huntington Central Park (a large Regional Park) as well as borders access to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.
- #4** This area has a segmented neighborhood bordered by the Talbert Channel on the west, south and east sides. This community is served by Cordata Park, an adjacent neighborhood park in the City of Fountain Valley.
- #5** This area however identified as residential is a commercial nursery and electrical grid station. The adjacent neighborhoods surrounding this location are close in proximity to Lamb Park and Arevalos Park, both parks are located in and owned by the City of Huntington Beach.

# Custom Park Standards Calculations (CPSC's)

## 3.2 Custom Park Standards Calculations & Facility Demand

A key element in any planning strategy is an understanding of the nature of “demand” for parks and recreation facilities. This report assesses the demand for recreation facilities by the participants of organized sports within Huntington Beach, and participation data from the statistically valid, multimodal community survey. Without this understanding, a policy can only be based on general standards of supply and demand, such as population ratios (acres per thousand population) or service area (distance to a park). Such standards are useful guides lacking specific detailed planning and assessment.

**“The 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review does not present park and recreation “standards”, nor do the benchmarks represent any standards against which every individual park and recreation agency should measure itself. The reason for this is simple: there is not a single set of standards for parks and recreation because different agencies serve different communities that have unique needs, desires and challenges. Agencies also have diverse funding mechanisms.”**

- 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review

The Custom Park Standards Calculations (CPSC's) for the City of Huntington Beach are based on the 2024 Esri population level of 194,978 and participation data gathered in the 2024 Sports Organization Survey. The Custom Park Standards Calculations provide an estimate of the number of facilities or ‘demand’ required to accommodate peak day demand in the context of the local design standards. The local facility design is based on the information received from the sports organizations identifying the number of players, team size, and facility turnover for each facility type. The CPSC Methodology is illustrated in exhibit 3.2-1.







**Exhibit 3.2-1:**  
**CPSC Methodology**

To provide an additional comparison of the Huntington Beach Local Needs, a comparison of the 2024 NRPA Benchmark facility report is provided in Exhibit 3.2-2. The comparison illustrates how each City is unique in its recreation patterns. The City should not rely solely on benchmarking.

Facility	Local CPSC Facility Need Ratio for All Players 1/1000 pop.	Local Facility Need	NRPA National Standard (100,000 to 250,000 population)	NRPA Facility Need
Baseball (youth)**	1/10,061	19.4	1/6,821	28.6
Football (youth)***	1/51,994	3.8	1/7,375	26.4
Soccer (youth)***	1/18,055	10.8	1/7,375	26.4
Softball (adult)**	1/73,111	2.7	1/6,821	28.6
Softball (youth)**	1/37,497	5.2	1/6,821	28.6
Volleyball (indoor)*	1/73,117	2.7	1/46,517	4.2

NOTE: Does not include Picnicking, Tot Lots/Playgrounds, Walking/Jogging or Bicycling/Public Trails.

\*NRPA does not specify indoor or outdoor.

\*\*NRPA does not distinguish youth or adult baseball / softball “diamond” fields.

\*\*\*NRPA does not distinguish youth or adult soccer / football “rectangular” fields.

**Exhibit 3.2-2:**  
**Local Needs vs. NRPA Needs**

## Custom Park Standards Calculations (CPSC's) continued

The following illustrations identify the individual sports evaluated as part of the local CPSC's for Huntington Beach. Existing facilities are compared to the local needs and surplus / deficit calculations are presented for current (2024) as well as future (2034) demand needs. It is important to note that the needs in this section are based on organized sport data and does not take into account additional unstructured recreation desires by the community.



Photo by [https://www.shbgfs.org/photo\\_gallery/show/4447911#4](https://www.shbgfs.org/photo_gallery/show/4447911#4)

### Baseball (youth) Summary:



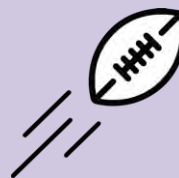
Total Facilities Available	14.0
Current Needs	19.4
Current Surplus / Deficit	-5.4
Future Needs	19.0
Future Surplus / Deficit	-5.0

The City has a current need for 19.4 youth baseball fields.

There are 14 City owned youth facilities available leaving a deficit of 5.4 fields. The remaining deficit can be supported by utilizing the 7 available youth baseball facilities at local schools.

The demand is being met through a combination of City and school facilities. Without a joint use agreement, the City would find itself in a deficit situation.

### Football (youth) Summary:



Total Facilities Available	0.0
Current Needs	3.8
Current Surplus / Deficit	-3.8
Future Needs	3.7
Future Surplus / Deficit	-3.7

The City has a current need for 3.8 youth football fields.

There are no existing City football fields available, however there are four football fields available at school facilities that fill this deficit.

The demand is being met through school facilities. Without a joint use agreement, the City would find itself in a deficit situation.

## Soccer (youth) Summary:



<b>Total Facilities Available</b>	3.0
<b>Current Needs</b>	10.8
<b>Current Surplus / Deficit</b>	-7.8
<b>Future Needs</b>	10.6
<b>Future Surplus / Deficit</b>	-7.6

The City has a current need for 10.8 youth soccer fields.

There are 3 City owned youth facilities available leaving a deficit of 7.8 fields.

The remaining deficit can be supported by utilizing the 9 available youth soccer facilities at local schools.

The demand is being met through a combination of City and school facilities. Without a joint use agreement, the City would find itself in a deficit situation.

## Softball (adult) Summary:



<b>Total Facilities Available</b>	14.0
<b>Current Needs</b>	2.7
<b>Current Surplus / Deficit</b>	11.3
<b>Future Needs</b>	2.6
<b>Future Surplus / Deficit</b>	11.4

The City has a current need for 2.7 adult softball fields.

There are 14 City owned adult facilities available leaving a surplus of 11.3 fields.

The surplus of 11.3 adult fields can be used to support the deficit found in youth softball fields.

## Softball (youth) Summary:



<b>Total Facilities Available</b>	2.0
<b>Current Needs</b>	5.2
<b>Current Surplus / Deficit</b>	-3.2
<b>Future Needs</b>	5.1
<b>Future Surplus / Deficit</b>	-3.1

The City has a current need for 5.2 youth softball fields.

There are 2 City owned youth facilities available leaving a deficit of 3.2 fields.

The remaining deficit can be supported by utilizing the surplus of 11.3 available City owned adult softball facilities and 1 available youth field at Circle View Elementary School.

## Volleyball (indoor) Summary:



<b>Total Facilities Available</b>	2.0
<b>Current Needs</b>	2.7
<b>Current Surplus / Deficit</b>	-0.7
<b>Future Needs</b>	2.6
<b>Future Surplus / Deficit</b>	-0.6

The City has a current need for 2.7 indoor volleyball courts.

There are 2 City owned indoor volleyball courts available leaving a deficit of 0.7 courts.



# Custom Park Standards Calculations (CPSC's) continued

The Custom Park Standards Calculations for Bocce Ball, Pickleball, and Skateboarding are based on the 2021 population level in the City of Huntington Beach of 196,874. The per capita participation is based on the information received from the 2021 statistically valid, multimodal community survey identifying the annual participation for each facility type. The facility need ratio for each type of facility is calculated by dividing the total population by the number of facilities demanded. The City should continue to evaluate growth or decline in recreational activities when prioritizing new development.

NOTE: The "Total Facilities Available" reflects the 2024 inventory.

## Pickleball Summary:



Total Facilities Available	15
Current Needs (2021)	6.1
Current Surplus / Deficit	8.9

The City currently has 15 pickleball courts (including the 4 overlay courts at Marina Park and the 7 temporary stripped courts at Edison Park) available to the community. Based on the data found in the 2021 Statistically Valid Multimodal Survey there was a need for 6.1 courts leaving a surplus of 8.9 courts. Pickleball has continuously grown in the community. Consideration should be given to grouping courts together for larger group round robin type play. This would include making the 7 courts at Edison permanent.

## Bocce Ball Summary:

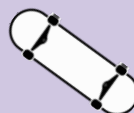


Total Facilities Available	4
Current Needs (2021)	3.5
Current Surplus / Deficit	0.5

The City currently has 4 bocce ball courts available to the community. Based on the data found in the 2021 statistically valid multimodal survey there was a need for 3.5 courts leaving a surplus of 0.5 courts. Bocce ball needs are satisfied with these facilities.

Huntington Beach has a 2021 demand of 1/57,246, the 2024 NRPA does not specify bocce ball.

## Skateboarding Summary:



Total Facilities Available	5.3
Current Needs (2021)	5.1
Current Surplus / Deficit	0.2

A standard neighborhood skate park is considered 10,000 square feet (sf). The City has 5.3 (52,800 sf) skateparks with a demand for 5.1 (51,000 sf) skateparks. Skateboarding needs are satisfied with these facilities.

Huntington Beach has a 2021 demand of 1/38,646 compared to 2024 NRPA (100,000 to 250,000 population) 1/105,567.



*Photo by RJM Design Group*

# Recreation Program Inventory

## 3.3 Programs and Services

In addition to providing open spaces, parks and historic facilities for recreation, the City of Huntington Beach through the Community and Library Services Department also provides a wide range of services and programs geared toward meeting the recreation needs and interests of various age levels. The City's service and activity programs include:

**"The Huntington Beach Community and Library Services Department strives to Create Community Through People, Parks and Programs!"**

### Recreation Classes and Activities:

In addition to those classes geared toward recreation and fitness, Huntington Beach offers a variety of cultural and special interest classes and activities including music, dance, art, computer technology, and science.

### Organized Team Sports Activities:

Numerous organized sports groups such as Little League and soccer teams, utilize Huntington Beach facilities and fields. The aquatics program offers swim lessons and water activities at the City Gym and Pool.

### Community Programs:

Huntington Beach provides programs geared toward assisting individual age and special needs groups such as seniors and developmentally disabled, as well as before and after school programming.



Photo by the City of Huntington Beach Instagram

Grandparents Day Event



Photo by dailybreeze.com

Pacific Airshow

### Special Events:

Huntington Beach works with other jurisdictions including civic organizations and businesses to provide seasonal, special, and educational events for the community.

### Day Camps and Sports Camps:

Huntington Beach's recreation programs include numerous special interest or activity day camps, as well as sports oriented camps.



**Environmental Education Opportunities:** Huntington Beach's open space parks, such as the Shipley Nature Center in Central Park and Gibbs Park, provide unique environmental education as well as walking and hiking opportunities.

There is a detailed analysis of the individual programs and attendance levels from 2015 available in the Appendix, however when compared to the 2021 community voice there is a high degree of satisfaction with the current programs offered. There is a demand for the continued growth of programming efforts.

**59%**

Use City Recreation Programs, Classes or Lessons at least Once a Year

**65%**

Are satisfied with Parks, Facilities and Programs

Note: 2021 Multimodal Survey Data.



Photo by [shipleynature.org](http://shipleynature.org)

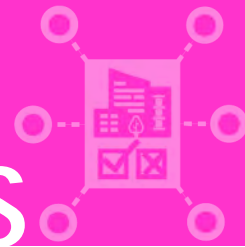
Shipley Nature Center





Photo by [unsplash.com](https://unsplash.com)

# SECTION FOUR: RECOMMENDATIONS



# 4

The City currently meets established standards for providing park and recreation facilities. However, demand for increasingly diverse and ever changing recreation programs and facilities should be re-assessed every five to ten years. Demand is strong for parks that feature active recreational facilities and support team sports as well as those that provide access to natural environments. Since much of Huntington Beach has been developed, park space must be used efficiently and strategically added as part of new developments or reuse of existing facilities, such as closed schools.

The recommendations developed in this section are founded in the desires and needs for recreation opportunities identified by the Huntington Beach community. Specific recommendations are broken down within six key strategies that will advance the development of parks and recreation for the entire community.

## 4.1 Key Strategies

Each of the following recommended key strategies has been reviewed and aligns with the 2025 Master Plan Update process by evaluating existing recreation resources and addressing the community's evolving needs. This analysis ensures that recreation development is thoughtfully balanced, allowing facilities and programs to flourish and support a thriving, engaged outdoor community.



**Key Strategy #1: Provide Diverse Program Opportunities for All**



**Key Strategy #2: Preserve and Expand Active Sports Recreation Facilities**



**Key Strategy #3: Preserve and Enhance Open Space and Natural Landscapes**



**Key Strategy #4: Enhance Equitable Distribution and Access to Parks & Recreation**



**Key Strategy #5: Implement Enhanced Community Communication Strategies**



**Key Strategy #6: Celebrate the City's History and local Identity**



# 2016 / 2024 Needs Comparison

## 4.2 2016 / 2024 Needs Comparison

Over the past three Master Plan Reports and Updates (2016, 2021, and 2024), several facility recommendations have been proposed. Many recommendations from the 2016 report have already been successfully completed, while the remaining ones are listed below. Additional details on recommendations developed from the 2021 and 2024 updates are provided on the following pages.

<b>Aquatics Complex:</b> The City should look to develop a facility to accommodate competition and recreational swim programs beyond what the City Gym and Pool can facilitate.	
2021 Update	No new aquatic facilities have been developed. A new swimming pool continues to be a community desire and is among the frequent identified needs for the 2021 Master Plan Update.
2024 Update	Any new facilities or extended hours of operation may require additional staffing sources beyond what the city already has allocated.
<b>Bike Paths:</b> The City should look to continue to develop bike paths throughout the City.	
2021 Update	There remains a strong community desire for the continued development of bike trails throughout the City.
2024 Update	The City has enhanced its bicycle infrastructure with significant developments on Delaware Street (2022) and Utica Avenue (2023). These enhancements aim to improve mobility and safety for cyclists and pedestrians, reinforcing the city's commitment to sustainable and inclusive transportation solutions.
<b>Gymnasium/ Basketball (indoor):</b> Develop programmable indoor sports space throughout the City.	
2021 Update	No new facilities have been developed since the 2016 report. The demand from the community is indicated in the community workshops and multimodal survey.
2024 Update	No new facilities have been built.
<b>Tennis Courts:</b> In 2016, there was a deficit of about 12 tennis courts based on the demand needs calculations.	
2021 Update	No new facilities have been developed since the 2016 report. Edison Park Master Plan indicates renovated tennis in future development.
2024 Update	Lebard Park tennis courts are being revitalized. Edison Park plans to rehabilitate previously closed tennis courts.
<b>Walking/Jogging/Running/Hiking Trails:</b> In 2016, there was a deficit of about 42 miles of trails based on the demand needs calculations.	
2021 Update	Significant trail upgrades have been developed as part of the Bluff top improvement plan. Additional trail improvements and connections have been implemented in Bartlett Park, and Irby Park.
2024 Update	There are no current plans for immediate trail improvements at the time of this report.
<b>Lighting of Fields:</b> Based on community input, field lights were desired for extended game and practice play on sports fields.	
2021 Update	New field lights have been added to Murdy Park.
2024 Update	Multi-phase LED improvements at HBSC. New lights at practice soccer field.
<b>Pickleball Courts:</b> Based on community input and trends in 2016, Pickleball courts were recommended for development in the City.	
2021 Update	New pickleball courts were installed at Worthy Park and new courts are planned as part of the Edison Park Master Plan.
2024 Update	Temporary Overlays at Marina - one court and net must be provided by players. Seven (7) temporary courts are available at Edison Park.
<b>Softball Fields:</b> Based on the demand needs calculations there was a surplus of 11.3 adult fields and deficit of 3.2 youth fields.	
2021 Update	No new softball fields have been developed since the 2016 report however the reduction of school property has put a strain on the availability of sports facilities. Organizations will be looking to the City more for support in available facilities.
2024 Update	Based on the 2024 demand needs calculations there was a surplus of 11.3 adult fields and a deficit of 3.2 youth fields. Currently softball fields for youth are being met through the surplus of available adult fields. Murdy Park fields are currently being renovated.

### Exhibit 4.2-1: 2016 / 2024 Park and Facility Needs and Update

As part of the updates to the 2016 and 2021 Master Plans, program and facility priorities were evaluated in relation to current and planned city recreation facilities. The findings in the 2024 Master Plan reaffirm and align with these earlier assessments, highlighting the importance of addressing the community's evolving recreational needs. The focus remains on identifying service requirements related to current recreation interests, which may be accommodated through public facilities such as libraries, community centers, schools, public parks, or innovative private partnerships. Prioritizing these program needs continues to facilitate effective park planning, as program demands often determine the facility improvements required.

The 2024 program and facility needs, detailed in Exhibit 4.2-2, along with updated data from the Facility and Program Needs charts (2.3-1 and 2.3-2), identify the community's top desired programs and facilities. These findings serve as the foundation for the recommendations and key strategies aimed at enhancing parks and recreation services in Huntington Beach.

The following pages narrate a story of progress, celebrating past accomplishments, ongoing initiatives, and future projects designed to meet the community's recreation needs. These efforts reflect Huntington Beach's steadfast commitment to providing high-quality parks, facilities, and services that enhance the well-being and enjoyment of both residents and visitors.

Top 2024 Program Needs (Listed in alphabetical order)	Top 2024 Facility Needs (Listed in alphabetical order)
Affordable Programs	Beach Amenities / Rentals
Beach Programs / Activities	Maintenance / Upkeep
Concerts / Events	Open Space / Nature
Exercise and Fitness Classes	Pickleball Courts
Homeless Programs	Playground Renovations including ADA Equipment
Pickleball Classes	Restrooms
Senior Programs	Skatepark / Skateboard Areas
	Soccer Fields
	Swimming Pool
	Trails (bike)
	Trails (walk/hike)
	Urban Forest / Trees / Native Plants
	Walkways in Parks

**Exhibit 4.2-2: Top 2024 Facility and Program Needs**



# Key Strategy #1: Provide Diverse Program Opportunities for All

## Exercise and Fitness Classes:

As part of the 2021 Statistically Valid Community Survey for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update, 75% of the residents chose “Physical Fitness, Health and Well-Being” as the most important benefit when seeking recreation. The most often reported desired recreation programs were exercise, fitness, yoga, and pilates. NRPA’s Commit to Health campaign supports the goals of improving healthy food access, reducing obesity and chronic disease, and fostering social support at local park and recreation sites. Park and recreation departments can join the national movement to support community health and wellness.

## Existing Conditions:

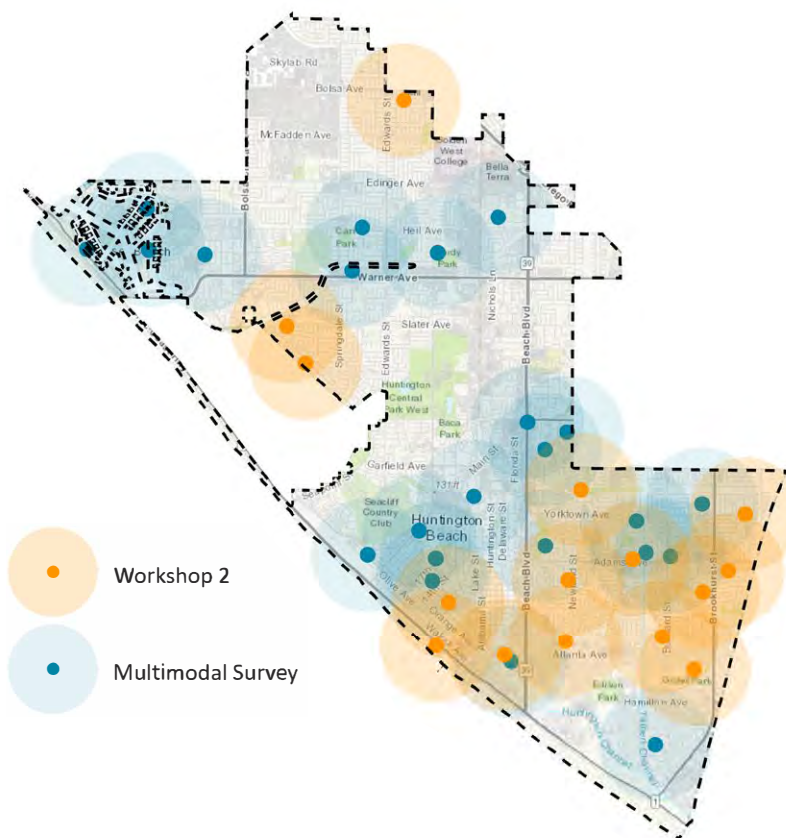
- There are many private businesses that offer exercise and fitness classes including Planet Fitness, Fitness 19, Equinox Huntington Beach, LA Fitness, Orangetheory Fitness, and 24 Hour Fitness. The City currently offers Yoga, Pilates, Tai Chi as well as Cardio and Zumba classes

## Community Voice:

- Exercise and fitness classes as recreation programs desired were recorded from the community in Workshop 2, the Multimodal Survey, as well as various Stakeholder Interviews
- Exhibit 4.2-4 illustrates the geographic distribution of the community responses that desire exercise and fitness classes as a recreation program

## Recommendations:

- City should continue to offer exercise and fitness classes and expand if registration continues to fill to capacity
- The City could expand fitness classes to take place outdoors at a park and at the beach
- Develop multi-disciplinary health partnerships with schools, local hospitals, and health care providers, private health clubs, and other agencies to bring public information and educational programs that prevent obesity and successfully promote physical activity across entire communities



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**Exhibit 4.2-3: Exercise and Fitness Survey Results**





## Senior Programs:

In 2016, the new Senior Center in Central Park established programs to improve the health and wellness of Orange County's seniors by supporting programs such as free health screenings, care management congregate meals, home delivered meals for seniors in Huntington Beach, and Surf City Seniors on the Go, a transportation service for seniors to access medical and senior services. The fitness center was then incorporated into the Senior Center.

## Existing Conditions:

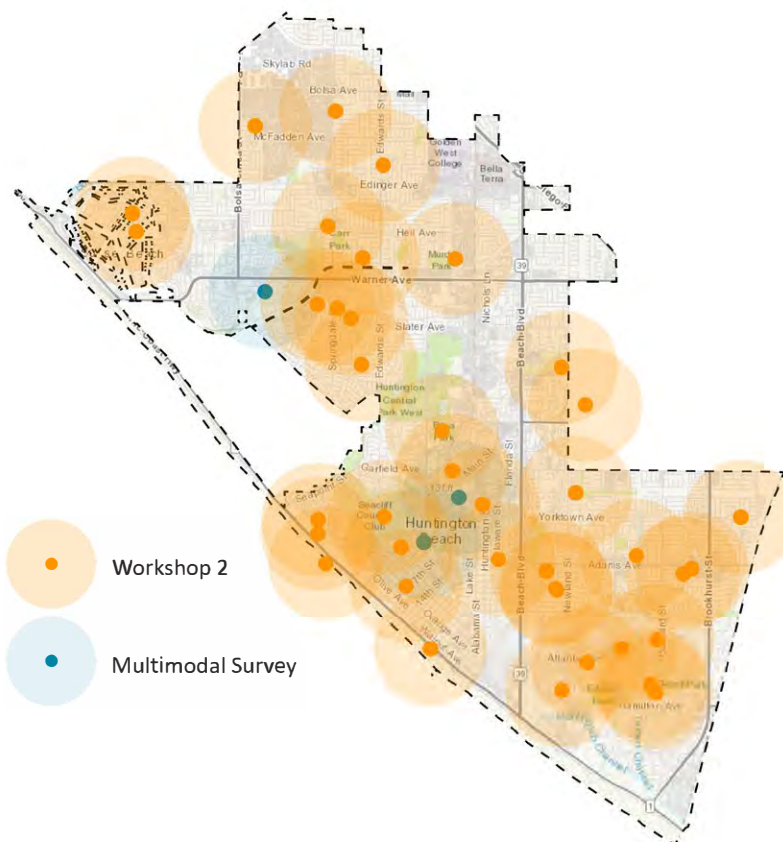
- During the 2020 to 2024-time frame, the second greatest growth in population by age group was evidenced among City residents 75 to 79 years (13.2%)
- The pattern of growth in the City's population over 65 was more than the growth among Orange County residents 65 years or older

## Community Voice:

- Senior programs, activities, and classes as recreation programs desired were recorded from the community in Workshop 2, the Multimodal Survey, as well as various stakeholder interviews
- Exhibit 4.2-5 illustrates the geographic distribution of responses that mentioned senior programs, activities, or classes as a desired recreation program

## Recommendations:

- Continue and expand senior programming including affordable **fitness classes and pickleball classes**
- Could expand senior programming to Murdy and Edison Park Community Centers for seniors living near these community centers
- Continue to offer veterans outreach at the Veteran's Resource Center at the Central Library.
- Continue to offer senior social services at the Senior Center in Central Park.



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Exhibit 4.2-4: Senior Programs Survey Results



# Key Strategy #1: Provide Diverse Program Opportunities for All

## Affordable Programs:

According to a recent poll conducted by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), 9 in 10 (93 percent) of Americans believe affordable out-of-school time programs at local parks, recreation centers, and libraries should be a goal of their local government to families of all income levels.

## Existing Conditions:

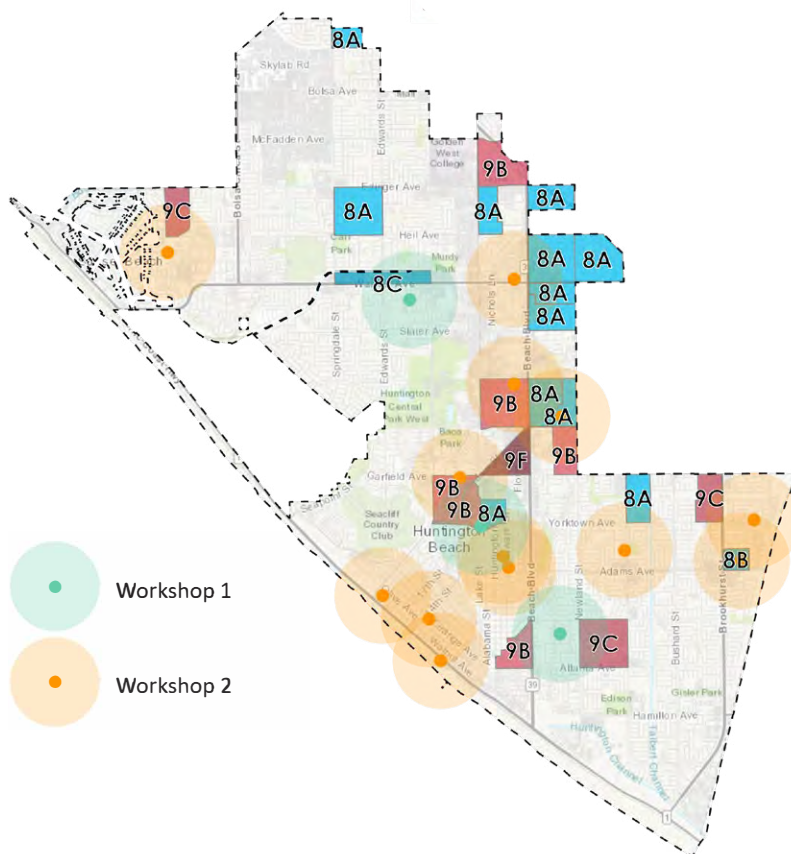
- The City of Huntington Beach has a median household income in 2024 of \$163,375 which is higher than the Orange County median income. However, there are households in the City that have an annual income level of \$43,000 to \$72,000. These **neighborhoods are identified in Exhibit 4.2-6**
- The City has been partnering with Oak View FRC to deliver affordable programs to provide after school programming since 1977.
- The City offers a wide variety of programming for all income levels, free social programs, volunteer led classes, etc. at all City facilities

## Community Voice:

- Affordable programs and classes as recreation program desires were recorded from the community in Workshop 1, Workshop 2, as well as various stakeholder interviews

## Recommendations:

- Even though the school districts offer after-school programs the City should partner with the districts to offer programs that are affordable **to low-income or fixed income populations**. Programs could take place in parks or community centers where district program locations and times are lacking near the **low-income neighborhoods identified on Exhibit 4.2-6** and information can be shared when **classes fill up**
- City could send direct mailings to low-income neighborhoods to inform residents on available assistance programs. Programs such as Housing assistance, the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), and the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) that help low-income households with discounts on rent, internet services and energy costs could help educate
- City should continue to offer free or low-cost community events and programs



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**Exhibit 4.2-5: Affordable Programs Survey Results**

## Pickleball Classes:

Pickleball has had a 650 percent increase in numbers from 2015 to 2021, according to USA Pickleball Association (USAPA). A youth movement is underway, as more schools add pickleball to physical education classes. Most core players (play 8+ times per year) are still 65+, however most casual players are now in the 8–34 age range (axios.com). Pickleball continues to grow nationally (as reported in the SFIA Topline Participation Report for 2023) increasing 51.8% from 2022 to 2023 and 223.5% over the last four years since 2020.

## Existing Conditions:

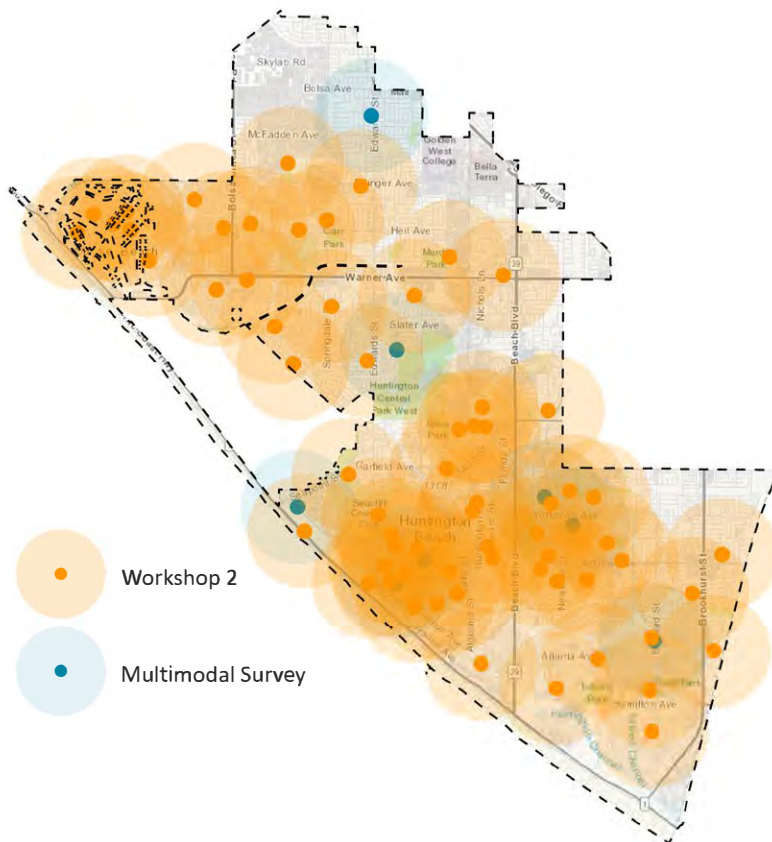
- The City currently offers pickleball classes at the pickleball courts at Edison Park and at the City Gym and Pool. Fees for classes range from \$96 to \$194

## Community Voice:

- Pickleball classes as a recreation program desired was recorded from the community in Workshop 2, the Multimodal Survey, as well as various stakeholder interviews
- Exhibit 4.2-7 illustrates the geographic distribution of responses that desire pickleball classes as a recreation program

## Recommendations:

- Monitor registration for pickleball classes if registration continues to fill to capacity expand the number of classes offered
- The City could partner with USAPA to host tournaments once additional pickleball courts are developed



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**Exhibit 4.2-6: Pickleball Classes  
Survey Results**





# Key Strategy #2: Preserve and Expand Active Sports Recreation Facilities

## Pickleball Courts:

Pickleball has been a growing sport for several years. Pickleball continues to grow nationally (as reported in the SFIA Topline Participation Report for 2023) increasing 51.8% from 2022 to 2023. Huntington Beach has seen an increased user participation in pickleball above other Southern California cities based on individual participation data.

## Existing Conditions:

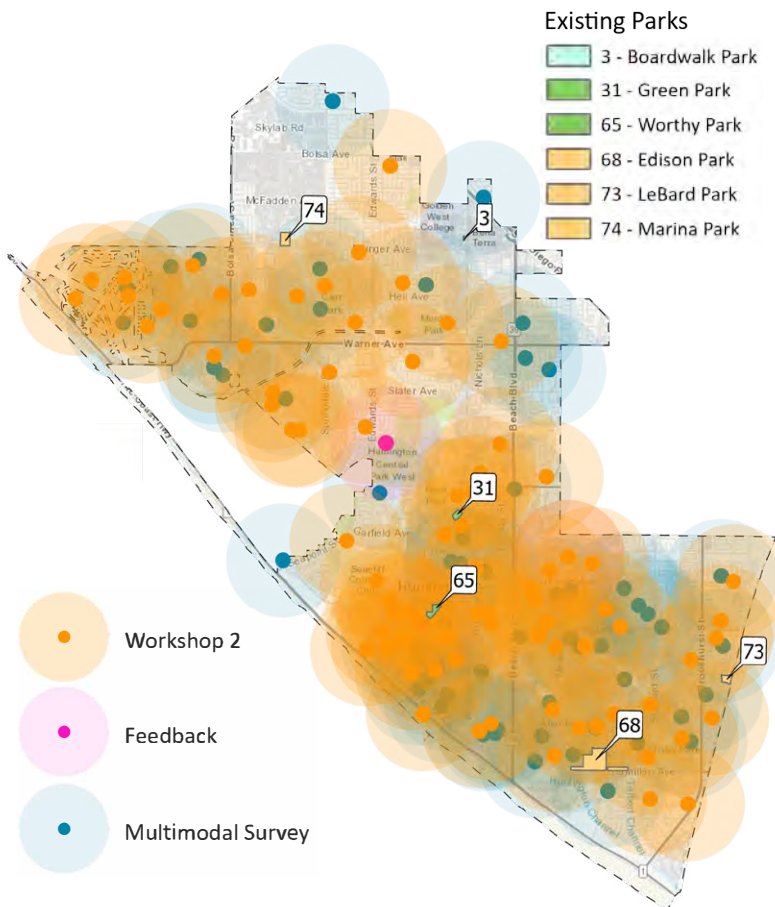
- The City currently has four (4) dedicated pickleball courts at Worthy Park which are used on a regular basis
- Four (4) overlay pickleball courts, shared with tennis, are available at Marina Park
- Seven (7) temporary pickleball courts are at Edison Park

## Community Voice:

- Pickleball activity desires were recorded from the community in Workshop 2, Online Feedback Comments, the Multimodal Survey as well as various stakeholder interviews
- Based on the 2021 Multimodal Survey community participation data can be utilized to determine how often people play pickleball. From this data, the custom park standards calculation shows a surplus of 8.9 pickleball courts

## Recommendations:

- The City should continue to pursue the development of Edison Park Master Plan including the new pickleball courts (16)
- The City should continue to pursue the development of dedicated pickleball courts at Marina Park
- Evaluate opportunities for dual striping on tennis courts for possible joint use programming where sound would not affect neighboring residences



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Exhibit 4.2-7: Pickleball Courts Survey Results

## Soccer Fields:

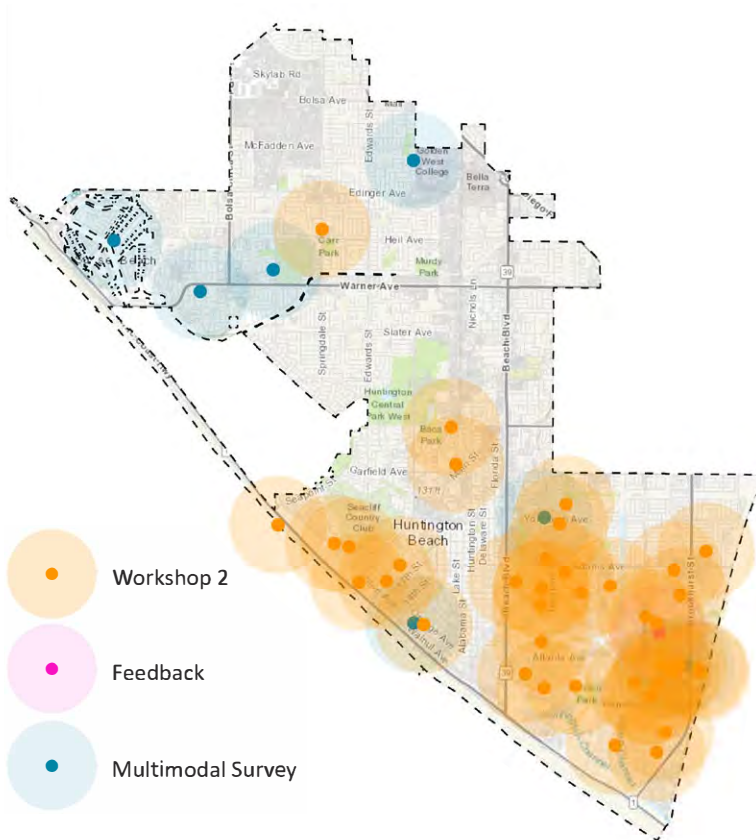
Soccer has the most peak day participants (players) of any of the sports in Huntington Beach. Historically the majority of available soccer fields have been played on school facilities. With the trend in school facilities restructuring there will be an increased demand for field space in the future.

### Soccer (youth) Summary:



Total Facilities Available	3.0
Current Needs	10.8
Current Surplus / Deficit	-7.8
Future Needs	10.6
Future Surplus / Deficit	-7.6

NOTE: Data from 2024 update.



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### Existing Conditions:

- The City currently has one (1) field at the Sports Complex in Central Park, one (1) field at Lamb Park, and one (1) field at Murdy Park
- The majority of league soccer games are played on school facilities, the reduction of school property has put a strain on the potential availability of sports fields

### Community Voice:

- Based on the 2024 sports organization survey data, the custom park standards calculation shows a need for 10.8 youth soccer fields
- Additional soccer fields were recorded from the community in Workshop 2, Online Feedback, and in the Multimodal Survey

### Recommendations:

- The City should work collaboratively with school districts regarding current and future sport facility needs to preserve soccer field space where feasible
- Consider expanding soccer fields at existing City parks
- Develop new soccer facilities within the City in opportunity sites

Exhibit 4.2-8: Soccer Fields Survey Results



# Key Strategy #2: Preserve and Expand Active Sports Recreation Facilities

## Skatepark and Skate Areas:

Huntington Beach has been considered a hub for skateboarding culture for over 50 years. With the 2028 Olympics on the horizon Huntington Beach continues to support its action sports culture including but not limited to surfing, skateboarding, and BMX events.

## Existing Conditions:

- Vans Skatepark, a 40,000 sf City owned facility, is located on Huntington Beach's northern boundary and is operated by Vans
- There is an 1,800 sf skate spot located in Murdy Park
- Recently opened Edison Park temporary skate spot provides +/- 11,000 sf of skateable area in an open plaza style design

## Community Voice:

- Skatepark / Skate Area desires were recorded from the community in the stakeholder interviews and the Multimodal Survey
- Based on the 2021 Multimodal Survey community participation data can be utilized to determine how often people skate for recreation. From this data, the custom park standards calculation shows a surplus of 1,800 sf of skateable area

## Recommendations:

- The City should continue to pursue the development of Edison Park Master Plan that includes a permanent skate facility to replace the temporary skate spot
- The City should pursue additional skate spots throughout the community focusing on a distributed model providing skateable areas / features in existing parks

### Parks

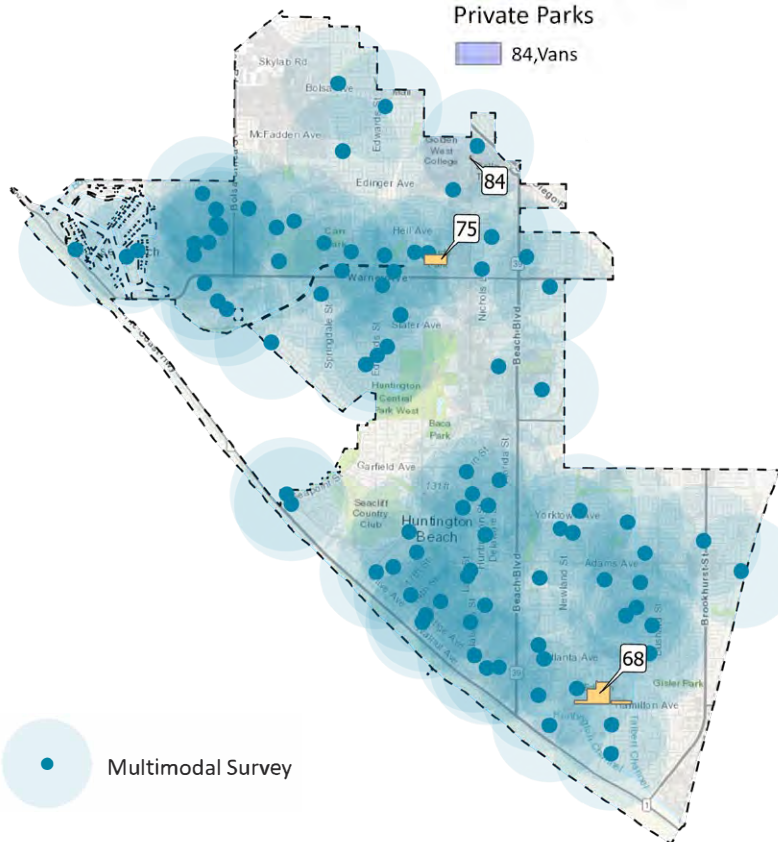
#### Existing Skaboarding Parks

68, Edison Park

75, Murdy Park

#### Private Parks

84, Vans



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Exhibit 4.2-9: Skatepark and Skate Areas Survey Results



## Swimming Pool:

Consistent with the 2016, 2021, and 2024 Master Plans, the popularity of swimming and community desires for a new facility and recreation swim continues to be a high priority in the 2025 Master Plan Update.

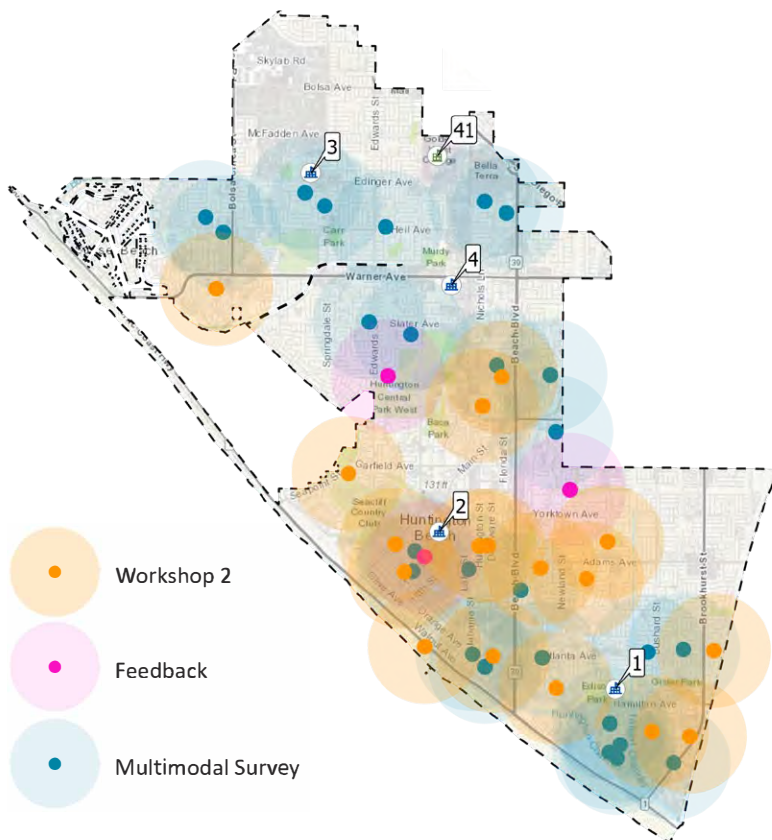
### Existing Public Schools

#### Huntington Beach Union High School District

- 1 - Edison High School
- 2 - Huntington Beach High School
- 3 - Marina High School
- 4 - Ocean View High/Coast High/H.B. Adult School

#### Coast Community College District

- 29 - Golden West College



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Exhibit 4.2-10: Swimming Pool Survey Results

### Existing Conditions:

- The City Gym and Pool is the only City owned pool. The pool is an indoor (20y x 36f) unstripped swimming pool. City Gym and Pool last renovated in 1994 and is listed on the State and National Register of Historic Places (ref# 94001499)
- There is an Aquatics Program at City Gym and Pool.
- Swimming lessons and programs are offered at Golden West College, Ocean View High School (Jump Start Swimming), Huntington Beach High School and Edison High School (Vanguard Aquatics), and a couple privately owned businesses\* that have swimming pools.

\*MerMade Aquatic School, Waterworks Aquatics, and Big Blue Swim School

- Based on the 2024 sports organization survey data the need for swimming pools is being met by available facilities

### Community Voice:

- Developing a new swimming pool facility was recorded from the community in the stakeholder interviews, Workshop 2, online feedback surveys, as well as the Multimodal Survey

### Recommendations:

- Pursue discussion with school districts and/or Golden West College to see if there is an opportunity to use High School swimming pools for City programmed swimming lessons and water safety classes
- Develop a new aquatic facility capable of supporting both recreation swim and competition swim programs
- Partner with private businesses as contract providers that have swimming pools for lessons and aquatic programming



# Key Strategy #3: Preserve and Enhance Open Space and Natural Landscapes

## Open Space and Nature:

Huntington Beach has substantial open space resources in and around the City from the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve to the Pacific Ocean. Additionally, within the City's parks system there are numerous open space areas with naturalized plantings. Preserving publicly accessible open space and their maintenance through generational education and programs is a priority for the community.

## Existing Conditions:

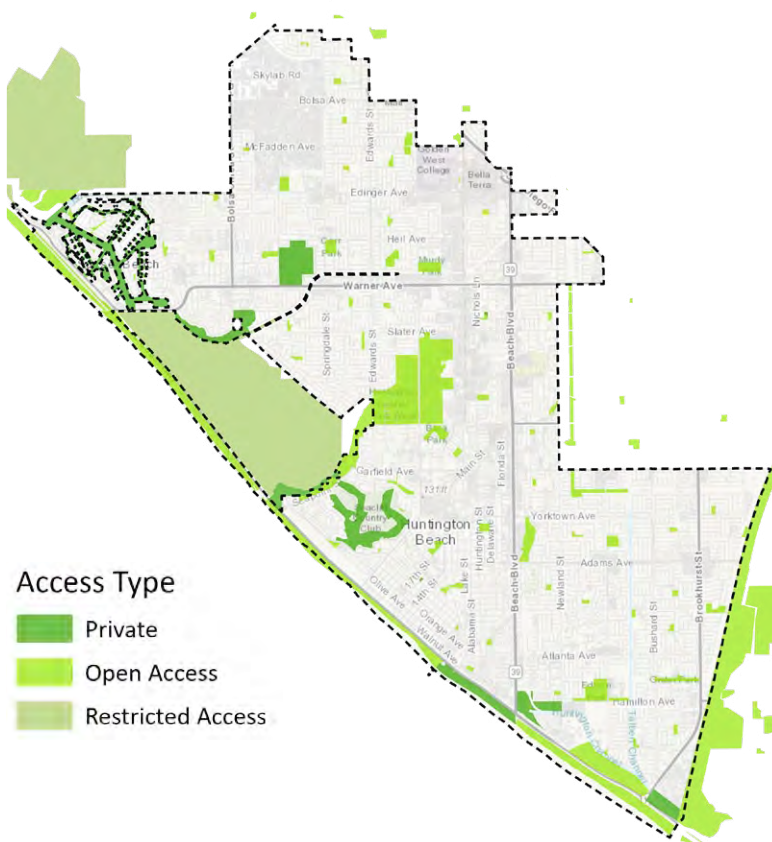
- The Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve is approximately 1,300 acres of coastal estuary. Habitats include open water, **mudflats, salt marsh, coastal dunes**, seabird nesting islands, riparian, and freshwater marsh
- Huntington Beach has 9.5 miles of California's most pristine beach environments along its southern border. Central to the coastal access is the Huntington Beach Pier continuing the Main Street activities right over the water
- Huntington Central Park has over 350 acres with several naturalized areas including the "Urban Forest", "Secret Garden", and the Shipley Nature Center showcasing drought tolerant landscapes and native California plantings

## Community Voice:

- Several comments were recorded from the community identifying Open Space / Nature as desired elements within the Huntington Beach recreation system. The comments were received in Workshop 1 and 2, and in online feedback surveys

## Recommendations:

- Service existing partnerships / multigenerational programs with local groups to continue to preserve the natural open space that already exists within the City
- The City should evaluate the opportunity to work with local school districts to involve students to support and deliver public education and awareness of sustainable practices at City parks



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Exhibit 4.2-11: Open Space and Nature Map

## Tree Canopy and Native Plantings:

The City's trees are important assets that not only beautify Huntington Beach but provide significant environmental benefits as well. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, produce oxygen, purify air by reducing dust and contaminants as well as reduce heat island effect. Continuing to preserve and grow the City's tree canopy and native plant species is a priority for the community.

## Existing Conditions:

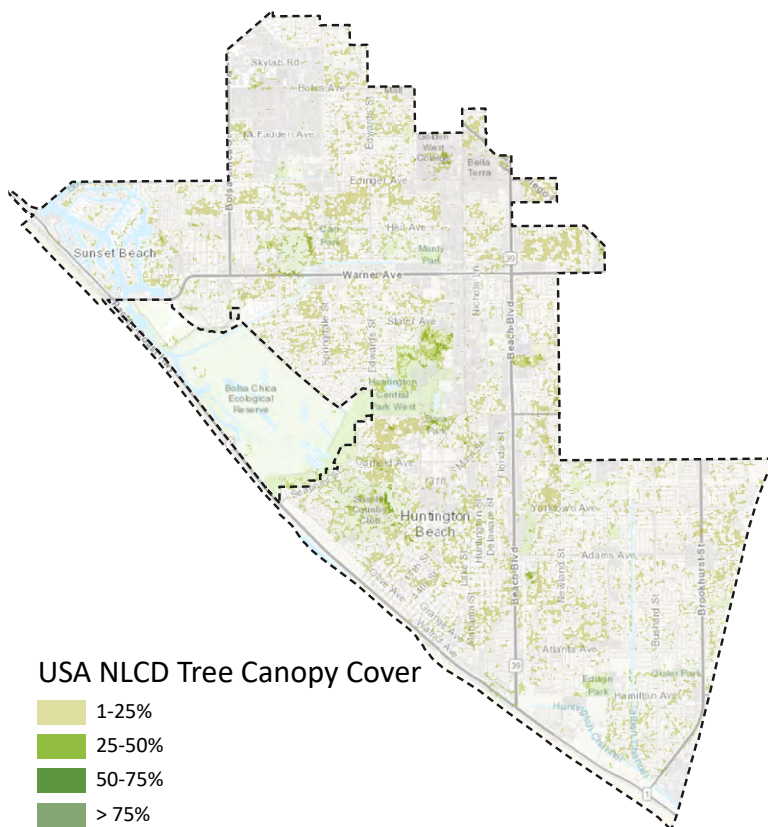
- The City of Huntington Beach has an extensive urban forest of various species and heights of mature trees. The City regularly maintains and monitors approximately 65,000 trees for pruning, planting, pest control, and removals
- Huntington Beach currently has a Tree City USA designation and follows the National Arbor Day Foundation of sustainable tree management practices

## Community Voice:

- Several comments were recorded from the community identifying Trees / Native Plants as desired elements within the Huntington Beach recreation system. The comments were received in the stakeholder interviews, Workshop 2, and in Online Feedback Surveys

## Recommendations:

- Continue to track the quantity and health of the City-wide tree canopy. Policy implementation should include tree replacement schedules, and focused replanting efforts of offset potential canopy die off
- Evaluate existing parks for re-naturalized planting opportunities and removal of high-water use landscapes such as non-active turf areas
- Utilize native plantings in park landscapes. Develop a drought tolerant plant policy that adopts an appropriate plant material list by drought tolerant levels (low, medium, high) and require that 100% of new developments meet medium and high levels
- Per CEQA and Landscape Guidelines continue to implement tree replacement policy.



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Exhibit 4.2-12: Tree Canopy Cover Map

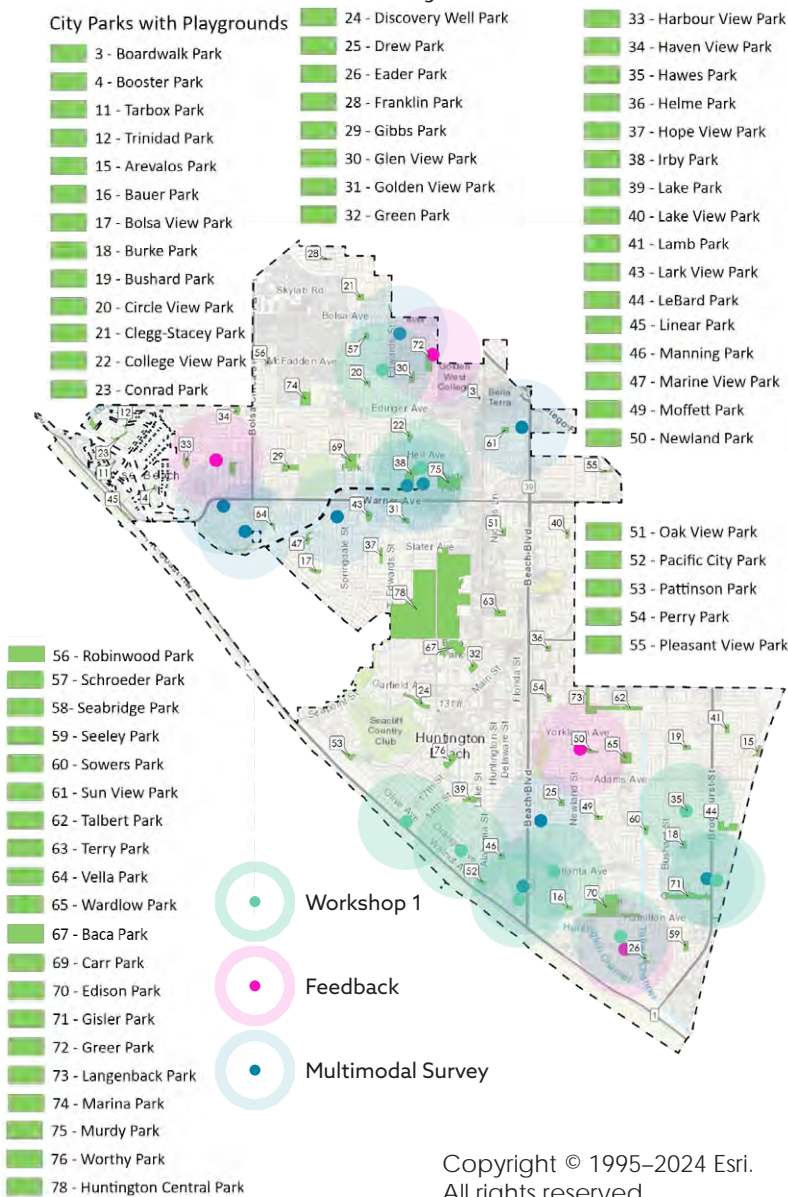




# Key Strategy #4: Enhance Equitable Distribution and Access to Parks & Recreation

## Playground Renovations and ADA Equipment:

Playgrounds can be the focal point for early developmental skills in children. Learning to take risks, develop motor skills, social interactions through cooperative and symbolic play. Playgrounds are also areas for generational interaction between grandparents and grandchildren and the extended community.



### Existing Conditions:

- The City currently has (61) playgrounds across the City's (79) park locations
- While all playgrounds meet ADA requirements there is one (1) universally accessible designed playground on the beach, north of the Huntington Beach pier across from 9th st.
- Recent playground improvements implemented include new facilities at Central Park West, Pattinson Park, Central Park, Slater, and Hope View Park

### Community Voice:

- Several comments were recorded from the community identifying playground Renovations and ADA Playground Equipment as desired improvements within the Huntington Beach recreation system. The comments were received in the Stakeholder Interviews, Workshop 1, and in Online Feedback Surveys

### Recommendations:

- The County of Orange conducted a county wide universal accessible playground survey in 2021 identifying several design elements that would support play activities for individuals of all ages for social / emotional disabilities, ambulatory disabilities, and cognitive disabilities. Huntington Beach should include these design considerations in future playground designs
- The City should look to foster partnerships with other agencies that may offer additional opportunities for accessible play in activities beyond playground interaction

Exhibit 4.2-13: Playground Renovations and ADA Equipment Survey Results

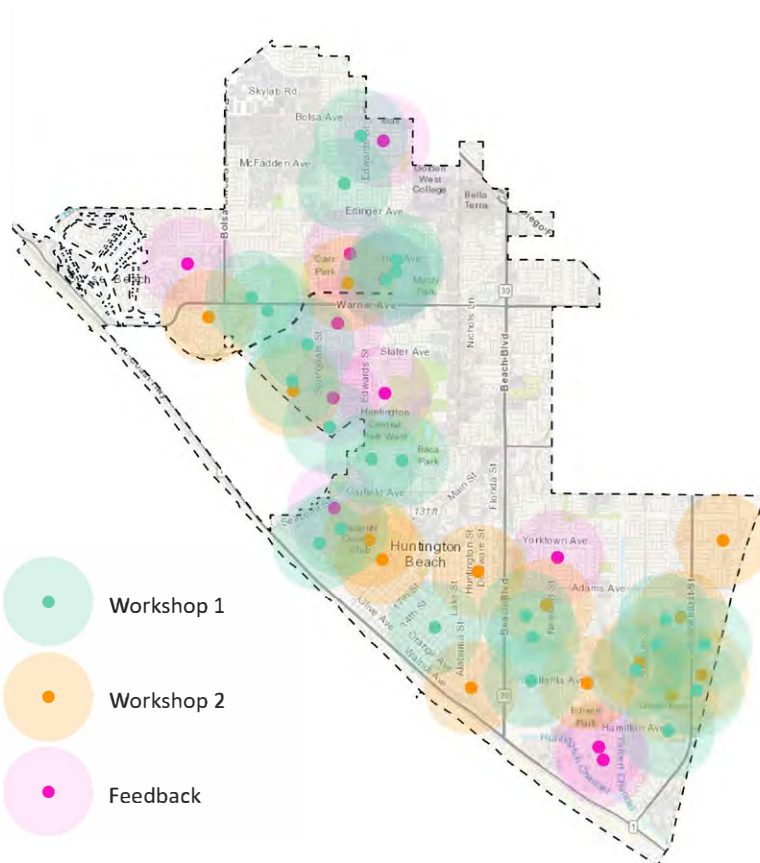
## Park Maintenance and Upkeep:

Huntington Beach residents have a very active outdoor recreation trend. 92% of survey respondents reported visiting a park 1 to 2 times a month or more. This high usage combined with the significant number of parks within the City has no doubt put a strain on the City's maintenance capabilities.

# 92%

Use Parks & Recreation Facilities  
at Least Monthly

NOTE: Data from 2021 Multimodal Survey.



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**Exhibit 4.2-14: Park Maintenance and Upkeep Survey Results**

## Existing Conditions:

- The City park facilities have seen **significant increase in park visitation** according to the Multimodal Survey. In 2015 park usage of 1 to 2 times a month or more was recorded at 74% or residents compared to 2021 at 92%
- Huntington Beach parks are maintained by the Maintenance Operations Division of the Public Works Department
- Equipment that is nearing its lifespan also show the impacts of the natural coastal environment rusting various elements
- The City is actively replacing various playground and park equipment based on known wear and tear from use and **the environmental influences**

## Community Voice:

- Several comments were recorded from the community identifying maintenance, upkeep, and updated equipment as desired improvements within the Huntington Beach recreation system. The comments were received in the Stakeholder Interviews, Workshop 1 and 2, and in Online Feedback Surveys
- Based on data collected in the 2021 Multimodal Survey 60% of respondents **are satisfied with park maintenance** compared to 93% satisfaction in 2015

## Recommendations:

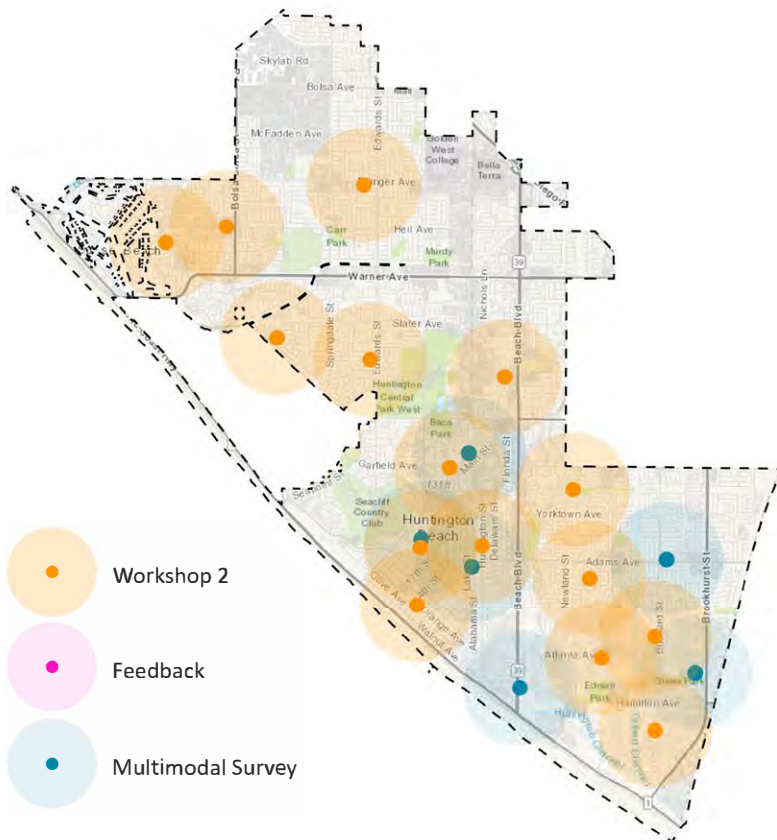
- The City of Huntington Beach currently has a high level of park maintenance standards and practices in place. **These standards, with modifications and improvements, will continue to form the foundation for the development of enhanced operations and maintenance practices**
- New equipment and park amenities should be selected with the coastal **influences in mind and where possible metalized material with a zinc coating during fabrication as alternative materials to steel (wood, plastic, GFRP, etc.)**



# Key Strategy #4: Enhance Equitable Distribution and Access to Parks & Recreation

## Restrooms:

The size and location of parks in Huntington Beach can influence whether they become destination facilities. Small mini and neighborhood parks mainly cater to residents within their local neighborhoods and may not require a restroom facility due to visitors proximity to their residences. In contrast, larger community and regional parks are more oriented toward vehicular access, serving a broader segment of the community and acting as destination facilities. Providing restrooms at these larger parks enhances the experience for various user groups visiting these areas.



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## Existing Conditions:

- The City currently has (26) restroom buildings at the (79) parks

## Community Voice:

- Several comments were recorded from the community identifying a desire for more restrooms and restroom improvements within Huntington Beach parks. The comments were received in the stakeholder interviews, Workshop 2, and in online feedback surveys

## Recommendations:

- Restrooms should be made available at most community parks. Current community parks that do not have restrooms include:
  - Baca Park (Majority of park is open space - no restroom required)
  - Bartlett Park (Trails / undeveloped parkland - no restroom required)
  - Carr Park (Majority of park is open space - no restroom required)
  - Gisler Park (No parking, change to neighborhood park) – next to new housing development – closed school converted to housing
  - Greer Park (Portables available when renting fields)
  - Irby Park (Primarily trails and open space - no restroom required)
  - Langenbeck Park (no parking, change to neighborhood park)
- Restroom renovations should focus on implementing water conservation and energy efficient technologies
- Collaborate with Public Works to identify areas of increased traffic of park users / homelessness to establish a modified restroom renovation schedule based on use intensity

Exhibit 4.2-15: Restrooms Survey Results





## Trails (bike trails, walk/hike trails, walking paths in parks):

The majority of trail routes within Huntington Beach are Class II and Class III bike lanes (approximately 77.8 miles). Several significant walking (off street) trails exist in larger park facilities such as Blufftop Park, Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve, Huntington Central Park, and Harriett M. Wieder Regional Park. An additional 0.4 miles of trail is also available along the Santa Ana River Trail. While the City does not own all the internal park trails it is important to cross promote with other agency's trail networks and incorporate County and internal park walking loops.

### Existing Conditions:

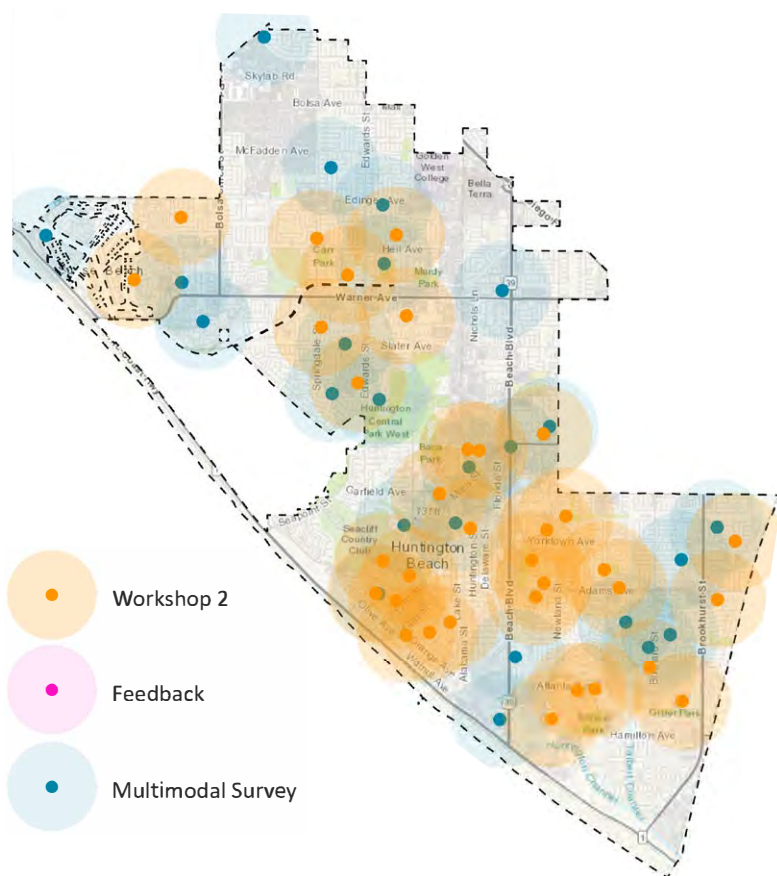
- **The 2013 Bicycle Master Plan identifies class 2 bicycle lanes as marked lanes within roadways adjacent to the curb or parking lane, delineated by appropriate striping and signage for preferential use by cyclists. Bicycle lanes must be one-way facilities and carry traffic in the same direction as adjacent motor vehicle traffic. Based on this definition, the City has 77.8 miles of class 2 bicycle lanes.**

### Community Voice:

- Several comments were recorded from the community identifying a desire for more trails (biking, walking, and hiking) within Huntington Beach. The comments were received in Workshop 2, Online Feedback Surveys, and the Multimodal survey

### Recommendations:

- The City should continue to explore and develop the Talbert Channel and Huntington Beach Channel trail projects
- Continue to develop the Downtown Specific Plan (DTSP) promoting additional trail connectivity and multimodal transportation opportunities
- Strengthen trail connections in strategic areas focusing on trail crossings at arterials as well as linkages to parks and school sites



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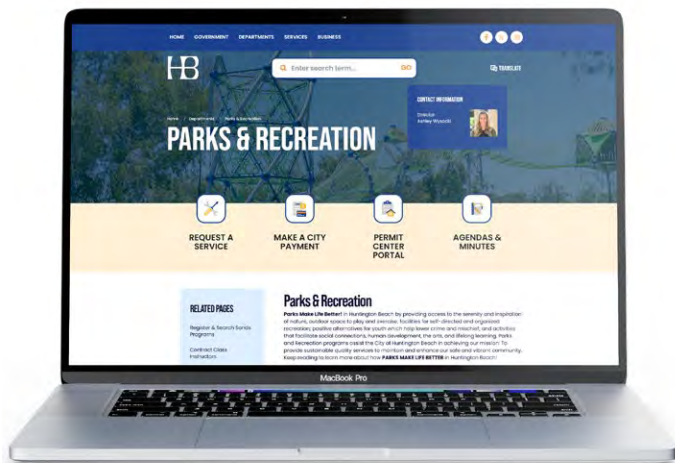
Exhibit 4.2-16: Trails Survey Results



# Key Strategy #5: Implement Enhanced Community Communication Strategies

## Community Communication Strategy:

In any successful endeavor lies the cornerstone of basic communication strategies. Effective communication relies on a two-way dialogue of information delivery and response or reaction to such information. The City has numerous information sharing platforms as well as multiple individual projects that collect community input. The key for continued City growth is the development of a new system that manages and organizes a citywide collective of the communications. This system would coordinate among all departments and match the various opportunities, programs, and volunteers that evolve from within the City and the community at large.



## Existing Conditions:

- The City has numerous community informational platforms including but not limited to the City's website, program publications SANDS, HBTv, social media, email newsletters, and many more. Most of these programs focus on information dissemination identifying what is going on within the City

## Community Voice:

- Various program mentions were requested by the community naturally due to the design of the outreach campaign. However the presence of so many program requests is also an indicator of the need for continued community dialogue at regular intervals
- **Specific mentions included** "communication system to connect community and City".

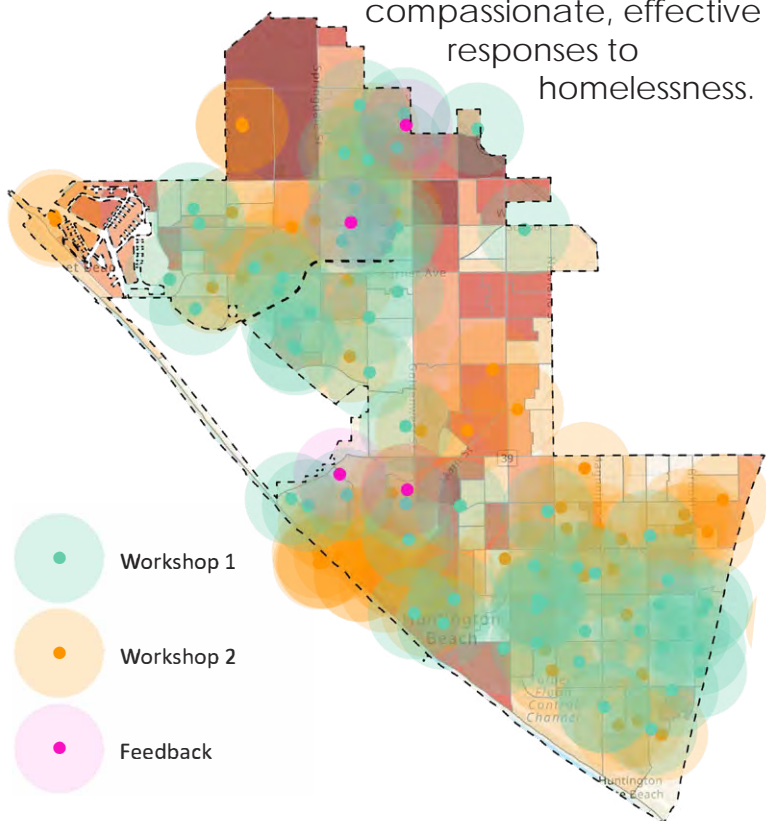
## Recommendations:

- Continue to develop a community dialogue platform that both informs the community of various key project development, program opportunities, and volunteer opportunities
- Develop relationships with local youth and school organizations to coordinate various volunteer projects
- Develop two-way dialogue system where community members can contact the City and be directed to an existing local resource or if none exist identify opportunities within the City for additional programs or growth

Exhibit 4.2-17: Community Communication Strategy Site

## Homeless Program:

Homelessness continues to be a significant concern raised by the community. Community feedback has often highlighted a decreased sense of safety in areas with higher instances of unsheltered individuals or urban camping. While Huntington Beach maintains a relatively low crime rate, some residents have expressed concerns related to public space maintenance, such as the condition of restrooms and the accumulation of trash. Many community members have called for a balanced approach, emphasizing the importance of strengthening services and programs that support individuals experiencing homelessness, while also ensuring the consistent enforcement of City ordinances. This feedback reflects a shared desire for solutions that prioritize both public safety and compassionate, effective responses to homelessness.



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**Exhibit 4.2-18: Homeless Program Survey Results**

## Existing Conditions:

- The County's 2024 PIT Count showed 173 unsheltered homeless which was an 8% decrease from the previous 2022 count.
- The Huntington Beach Navigation Center opened in 2020 and provides 164 beds to people experiencing homelessness with strong ties to Huntington Beach.
- The City currently operates a homeless task force consisting of 4 full-time officers and 1 sergeant.
- The City Manager's Homeless and Behavioral Health Services includes 1 manager, 1 supervisor, 3 social workers, and 15 CARES volunteers to assist with supportive tasks.
- The City partners with Be Well, a mobile crisis response team that assists with both housed and unhoused individuals experiencing a mental health or substance abuse crisis.

## Community Voice:

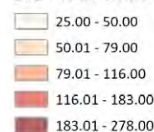
- Several community mentions of Homelessness Issues, Facilities, Programs, and Outreach were recorded in the Stakeholder Interviews, Online Feedback Surveys, Workshops 1 and 2

## Recommendations:

- Continue providing services at the Huntington Beach Navigation Center
- Partnership with OC Cares
- Partnership with Police
- Park Maintenance, replace degraded equipment especially playgrounds. Secure capital funding for ongoing park maintenance
- **Graffiti Removal**
- Code and Rule Enforcement
- Lighting
- Incorporating sound design and maintenance practices have been proven to mitigate loitering and vandalism

### FBI Crime Reports

### 2024 Total Crime Index (AGS)



NOTE: Data from 2024 update.





# Key Strategy #6: Celebrate the City's History and Local Identity

## Beach Amenities and Rentals:

The beach is used for a variety of recreational activities, from swimming, surfing, fishing, and sunbathing to jogging and volleyball, to major sporting and cultural events. Beach access and recreational activities are important to the City's economic vitality and cultural identity. The beaches and adjacent marine habitats also provide habitat for numerous species. The City should look to develop beach amenities and rental opportunities based on strong community feedback.

## Existing Conditions:

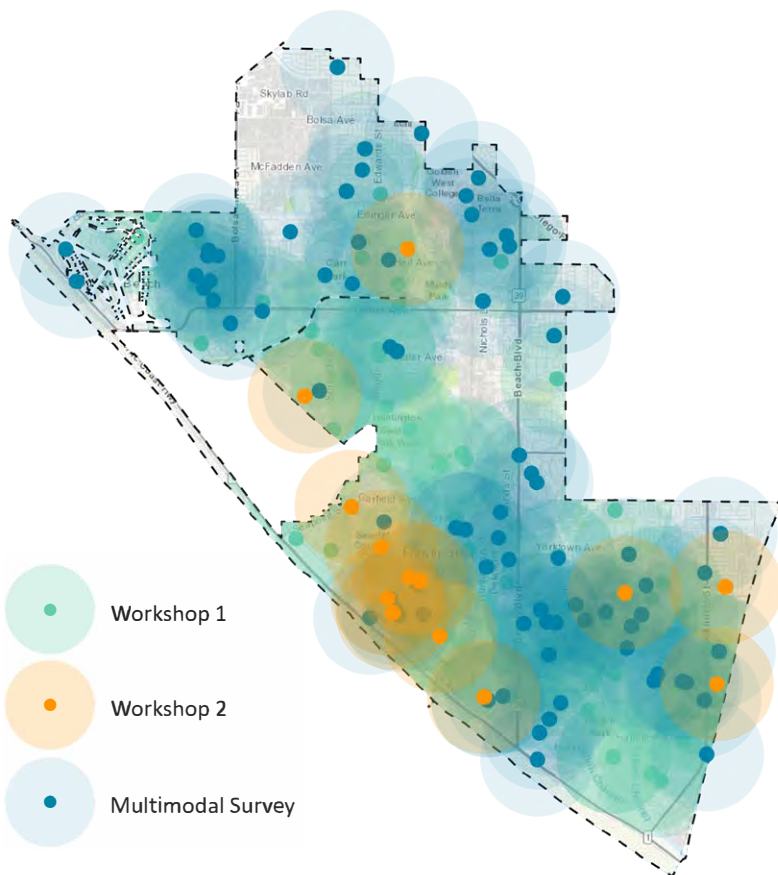
- The City does not own but does operate in Bolsa Chica State Beach north of the Pier to Seapoint
- Huntington Beach Dog Beach is a regional destination
- City contracts operation for concessions on the pier and along the beach front
- New mobi mats provide beach access to mobility devices
- City owns and operates the municipal pier and lifeguard buildings

## Community Voice:

- Beach amenities and rental opportunities were recorded from the community in Workshop 1, Workshop 2, and the Multimodal Survey
- Expanding beach amenities is consistent with stakeholder comments regarding beach class programming, concerts at the beach, rental / storage facilities for surfboards, expanded beach and programming opportunities

## Recommendations:

- The City should continue to partner with local groups to offer greater opportunities for beach patrons as well as focus on dedicated efforts for revenue generating programs
- Currently offered:
  - Surf Camps
  - Beach Volleyball
  - RV Camping
  - Pier (fishing)
  - Dog Beach
  - Note also the All-Inclusive Playground by Bluff Top Park



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**Exhibit 4.2-19: Beach Amenities and Rentals Survey Results**

## Concerts / Events:

The City of Huntington Beach hosts a variety of events ranging from international sporting events, community-based celebrations, and music festivals, attracting more than 1.25 million visitors annually. Some of the regional events include the Pacific Airshow, U.S. Open of Surfing, AVP Pro Beach Volleyball, and Independence Day Parade and Fireworks. Some of the popular local events include the Surf City Marathon, fishing and kite events, Surf City Artisan Fair, Annual Pier Swim, car shows, Surfin' Sunday Concerts, and Pier Plaza events.

## Existing Conditions:

- The City posts upcoming events on the City's website

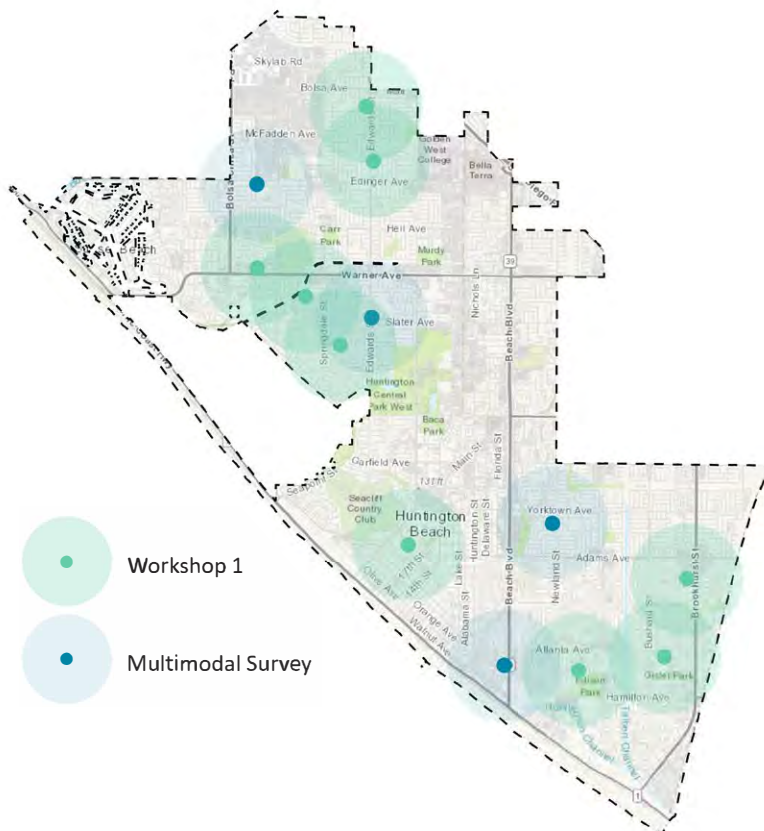


## Community Voice:

- Community events such as concerts, shows, and entertainment as recreation programs desired were recorded from the community in Workshop 1 and the Multimodal Survey

## Recommendations:

- Residents enjoy the beach concerts, summer concert series, and movies in the park, City should continue to offer and expand these events
- City should incorporate diverse cultures and traditions into the community events
- Continue and expand events that celebrate and support "Surf City USA." Hold events at Pier Plaza



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**Exhibit 4.2-20: Concerts / Events Survey Results**

# Funding

## 4.3 Joint Use Agreement Facility Recommendations

The decline in available school facilities for organized sports leagues, mainly due to decreased student enrollment and the consolidation of sports leagues in fewer schools, is leading to increased demand for practice and game fields. To address this, it's advised that cities reinvest in joint use agreements with local school districts. These agreements, designed to be mutually beneficial and equitable for both parties, should support the community's recreational needs while allowing flexible scheduling for both city and school facilities.

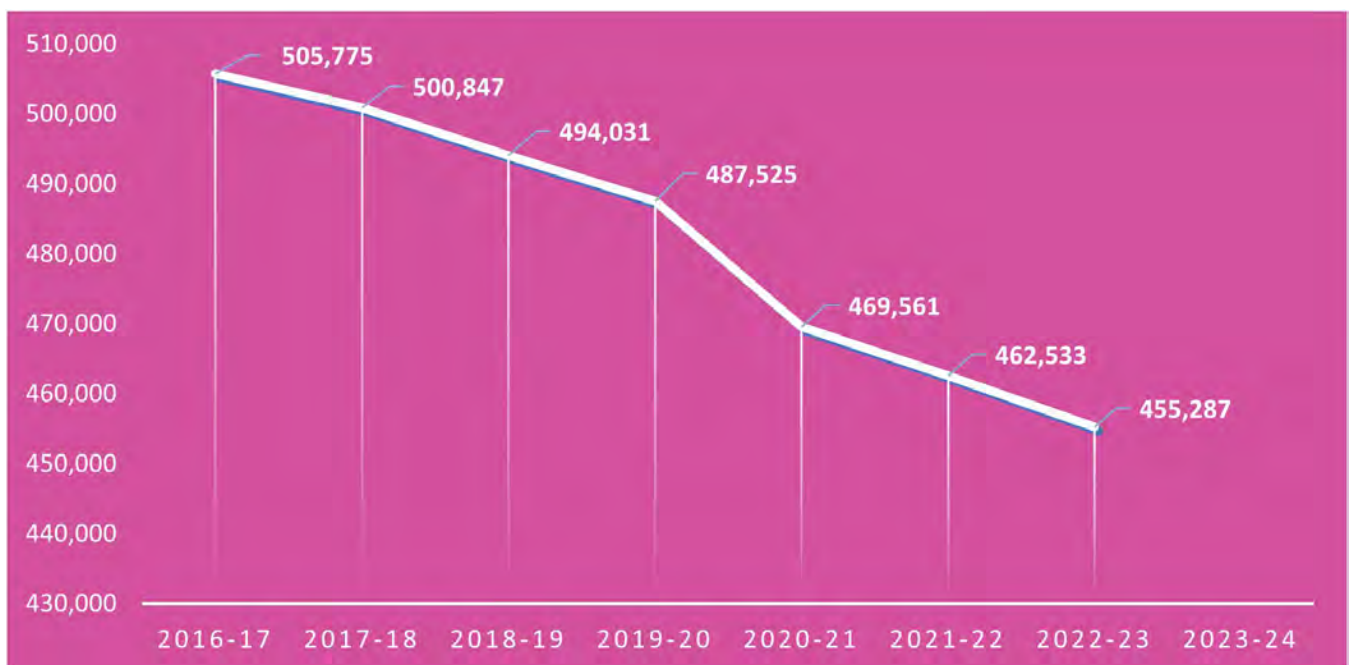
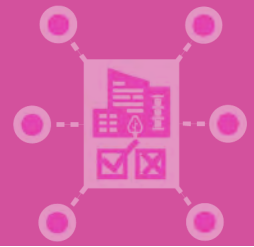


Exhibit 4.3-1: School Enrollment Chart

Source: <https://www.ed-data.org/county/orange/>





### 4.4 Current Capital Project Budget

Currently, funding for capital improvements, renovations, and additions to park and recreation facilities in the City of Huntington Beach comes from several sources.

Funding may be from the Park Development Impact Fund, Quimby Fund, state bond allocations, grants, or Capital Improvement Reserve. The park system is developed in accordance with the Development Impact Fee Report (2023), the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2021), as well as the General Plan, Environmental Resources and Conservation Element.



Murdy Park

Exhibit 4.4-1 shows the allocated funding for capital improvement and renovation of park facilities for the most recent three fiscal years. In a built-out community, fees on new development (development impact fees and developer special agreements) are a minimal source of funding to provide parks and recreation facilities for the residents of Huntington Beach.

FUNDING SOURCE	FY 2022/23*	FY 2023/24**	FY 2024/25***	FY 2025/26****
General Fund	\$980,000			
Special Revenue Funds	\$1,390,000	\$790,000	\$3,646,880	\$1,657,000
Capital Project Funds			\$1,799,000	\$2,581,000
Other Funds	\$1,030,000	\$1,710,500	\$1,200,000	
Total	\$3,400,000	\$2,500,500	\$6,645,880	\$4,238,000

\*Retrieved from FY 2022/2023 Adopted Budget.

\*\*Retrieved from FY 2023/2024 Adopted Budget.

\*\*\*Retrieved from FY 2024/2025 Adopted Budget.

\*\*\*\*Retrieved from FY 2025/2026 Adopted Budget.

Exhibit 4.4-1: Capital Funding Parks and Beaches

# Funding

## Current Capital Project Budget (continued)

Exhibit 4.4-2 shows the current adopted four-year capital improvement program for the City of Huntington Beach. FY 2025/26 adopted budget includes \$4.8 million in recreation facility, park, and beach improvements to enhance and improve parks and facilities throughout the City. The budgeted park projects include All-Inclusive Beach Playground Rehabilitation, Edison Park Reconfiguration, Huntington Central Park Master Plan Update, Langenbeck Park Playground Improvements, Playgrounds - Continuing Citywide Improvements, and Softball Field Improvements.

PROJECT	FY 22/23	FY 23/24	FY 24/25	FY 25/26
<b>FACILITIES</b>				
City Gym and Pool Flooring Replacement				\$155,000
Huntington Beach Art Center Electrical and Lighting Rehab				\$270,000
Main Promenade Parking Structure Improvements				\$80,000
Partial Re-Roof City Gym & Pool				\$385,000
<b>PARKS AND BEACHES</b>				
All-Inclusive Beach Playground Rehab			\$120,000	
Arevalos Park Playground Improvements				\$190,000
Beach Restroom Renovations				\$300,000
Bluff Top Park Irrigation Controller Replacement				\$100,000
Bluff Top Slope Stabilization Repair				\$310,000
Carr Park Improvements	\$355,000			
Central Park Electrical Switchgear Replacement				\$525,000
Drew Park Playground Improvements				\$467,000
<b>Edison Park Reconfiguration</b>	\$475,000	\$1,200,000	\$2,000,000	\$1,000,000
Edison Softball Field Backstop		\$160,000		
Harbour Bulkhead				\$250,000
Hope View Park Playground	\$350,000			
Huntington Central Park Master Plan Update			\$181,800	
Huntington Central Park Slater Playground	\$475,000			
Langenbeck Park Playground Improvements			\$300,000	
<b>Marina Park Reconfiguration</b>	\$440,000			
Pattinson Park Playground / Picnic Area	\$625,000			
Playgrounds - Continuing Citywide Improvements			\$600,000	
Seely Park Playground		\$389,000		
Softball Field Improvements		\$554,000	\$565,000	
<b>Sports Complex LED Light Retrofit</b>	\$430,000			
<b>Sports Complex Outdoor Arena Artificial Turf</b>	\$250,000			
South Beach Lots Attendant Booth Roofs and Rehab				\$121,000
Sunset Beach Restroom Restoration				\$85,000
Trinidad Park Playground Improvements		\$197,000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,400,000</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>	<b>\$3,766,800</b>	<b>\$4,828,000</b>

**Exhibit 4.4-2: Huntington Beach  
Capital Improvement Program**

## 4.5 Proposed Capital Costs for New & Existing Facilities

Exhibit 4.5-1 identifies Master Plan recommended projects for the City of Huntington Beach. Project estimates are general in nature and developed to show potential costs and/or range of costs. Many factors including final scope of projects will affect the ultimate costs estimates. Based on these general project estimates, the City of Huntington Beach can be facing \$27.5 million in park renovations and another \$6.7 million in new park facilities.

RECOMMENDATION	NEW DEVELOPMENT COST	PARK RENOVATIONS / CAPITAL MAINTENANCE
Carr Park Improvements		\$7,500,000
Edison Park Reconfiguration		\$13,100,000
Park Restrooms	\$1,250,000	
Hawes Park - Volleyball Court	\$170,000	
Marina Park Reconfiguration		\$12,600,000
Playgrounds - Continuing Citywide Improvements		\$3,000,000
Sports Complex LED Light Retrofit		\$905,000
Trail Improvements - Walking	\$500,000	
Trail Improvements - Biking	\$500,000	
Youth Soccer Fields	\$1,000,000	
Tennis/Pickleball Courts	\$1,000,000	
Aquatics & Splash Pad Facilities	\$1,500,000	
Skate Facilities (new)	\$750,000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$6,670,000</b>	<b>\$27,505,000</b>

**Exhibit 4.5-1: Recommended Projects for Existing Facilities**



# Funding

## 4.6 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Development of a multi-year Capital Budget is integral to sound financial planning, debt management, and reserve development. This Master Plan identifies new park development costs as well as park maintenance improvements and outlines the requirement over a five-year period to assist with planned cash and debt management.

Exhibit 4.6-1 displays the recommended five year needs for the City of Huntington Beach, including renovation of existing facilities, redesign/modification of existing sites, and development of new park amenities. It should be noted that existing resources are limited and will not be able to fully fund the recommendations within this plan.

The City should look at developing new funding sources beyond those currently in use. Funding needs can be satisfied for each improvement through a variety of potential sources including Voter Approved, Non-Voter Approved, and Partnerships.



Edison Park

*Photo by RJM Design Group*

## Voter Approved - Two-thirds vote required

### Parcel Tax

Parcel tax for parks is commonly imposed on property owners and collected with the property taxes. The process under the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982 allows for the creation of a community facilities district that can impose a special tax on parcels within the district.

### Section 612 (Measure C)

Section 612 of the Huntington Beach City Charter, established through Measure C in 1990, requires majority voter approval for the sale, lease, or significant development of park and beach lands. This provision aims to preserve open spaces and ensure community input on major changes to these public areas. In practice, it has introduced additional layers to the planning and development process, as seen in legal disputes like the 2014 challenge of constructing a senior center in Central Park. Proponents view Section 612 as a safeguard against over-development, while critics argue it can hinder necessary infrastructure improvements.

Efforts to amend Section 612, such as Measure L in 2022, sought to allow smaller-scale developments without requiring voter approval, but these efforts have been unsuccessful, leaving the original provisions intact. This means that substantial changes to park lands continue to require public votes, which can affect the timelines and feasibility of projects. The City has engaged the community to explore potential updates to Section 612, reflecting an ongoing conversation about balancing development needs with the preservation of public spaces.

## Non-Voter Approved

### Transient Occupancy Taxes

Transient Occupancy Taxes (TOT) and business License Taxes are commonly utilized by cities and counties to fund, in part, daily operations including parks and recreation. The City's current TOT tax rate is 10%. For the reported fiscal year 2022-2023 was approximately \$16 million. In addition to the TOT, short-term rentals in Huntington Beach are subject to a 6% assessment as part of the Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID). This assessment is collected alongside the TOT and is used to promote and enhance tourism within the city. It's important to note that while the TOT contributes to the City's general fund, the TBID assessments are specifically earmarked for tourism-related activities and improvements.

### Community Development Block Grants

Funds from the Federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program may be utilized to support a broad range of activities, including housing, public improvements, public services, and economic development initiatives.

While CDBG funding may be eligible under certain conditions, it cannot be used to replace existing funding for recreational programming. Instead, it is intended to supplement or enhance current funding to expand services or improve facilities.

The City of Huntington Beach anticipates receiving approximately \$1,171,668 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the fiscal year 2024-2025. Based on the 15% cap allowed by HUD for public service activities, approximately \$175,750 of the estimated CDBG entitlement of \$1,171,668 will be available for these services.

# Funding

## Partnerships

### **Private non-Profit Hospital**

The Huntington Beach Hospital is a private non-profit hospital located in Huntington Beach. To maintain tax-exempt status, the hospital must provide charitable care and other benefits to their communities. To fulfill this requirement, the hospital must work with public health agencies and other members of the communities to assess the community's health needs and develop a plan for addressing those needs by the identification of community benefits. This is both a state and federal requirement.

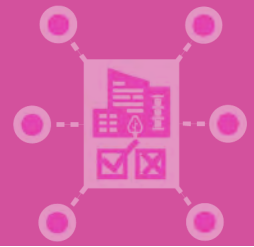
The process includes the development of a written implementation plan that describes how the hospital plans to address each significant health need identified and the identification of community health improvement services and benefits.

Funding for recreational programming would fall within California's community benefit requirement, provided that the recreational program is identified as a need in the community assessment and would meet a community benefit.

### Other Partnerships to Consider:

- Development of a Park and Recreation Foundation
- Non-Profit Partnerships and Operation of Park and Recreational Facilities
- Contracting Out Recreational Programming to Private Business(es)





# 4

PROJECT	FY 25/26	FY 26/27	FY 27/28	FY 28/29	FY 29/30	6+ YEARS
<b>FACILITIES</b>						
City Gym and Pool Flooring Replacement	\$155,000					
Huntington Beach Art Center Electrical and Lighting Rehab	\$270,000					
Main Promenade Parking Structure Improvements	\$80,000	\$420,000				
Partial Re-Roof City Gym & Pool	\$385,000					
<b>PARKS AND BEACHES</b>						
Aquatics & Splash Pad Facilities						\$1,500,000
Arevalos Park Playground Improvements	\$190,000					
Beach Restroom Renovations	\$300,000					
Bluff Top Park Irrigation Controller Replacement	\$100,000					
Bluff Top Slope Stabilization Repair	\$310,000					
Carr Park Improvements				\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$3,500,000
Central Park Electrical Switchgear Replacement	\$525,000					
Drew Park Playground Improvements	\$467,000					
Edison Park Reconfiguration	\$1,000,000	\$1,750,000	\$1,750,000			
Harbour Bulkhead	\$250,000					
Hawes Park Volleyball Court				\$170,000		
Marina Park Reconfiguration						\$12,600,000
New Skate Facilities						\$750,000
Park Restrooms		\$600,000			\$650,000	
Playgrounds - Continuing Citywide Improvements		\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
South Beach Lots Attendant Booth Roofs and Rehab	\$121,000					
Sports Complex LED Light Retrofit		\$590,000	\$540,000	\$315,000		
Sunset Beach Restroom Restoration	\$85,000					
Tennis/Pickleball Courts			\$500,000			\$500,000
Trail Improvements - Walking						\$500,000
Trail Improvements - Biking						\$500,000
Youth Soccer Fields						\$1,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,828,000</b>	<b>\$4,070,000</b>	<b>\$3,235,000</b>	<b>\$3,155,000</b>	<b>\$3,635,000</b>	<b>\$21,450,000</b>

**Exhibit 4.6-1: Huntington Beach Five-Year Capital Requirements**



Source: unsplash.com