

## N. PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE

This section describes parks, recreation, and open space facilities in the City of Alameda and evaluates impacts that would result from implementation of the Northern Waterfront GPA.

### 1. SETTING

#### a. Citywide Park Land

The City divides its park lands into four categories of parks and community open space: developed park lands; undeveloped park lands; limited access lands; and school parks<sup>1</sup> as described below and shown in **Table IV.N-1**.

- *Developed Park Land.* The City has over 200 acres of developed parks separated into subcategories by park type. The categories include neighborhood parks, community parks, community open space, greenways, and regional parks.
- *Undeveloped Park Lands.* Undeveloped park lands consist of the 20-acre Mt. Trashmore site, undeveloped greenways, and the future Catellus Mixed-Use Development and Alameda Point parks.
- *Limited Access Lands.* Limited access park lands consist of either facilities that require a fee for use or that are closed to the general public. The Chuck Corica Municipal Golf Course, College of Alameda recreation and open space facilities, and AUSD facilities are considered limited access. Estuary Park, an 11.2-acre park within the USCG housing area, presently serves the USCG area but is closed for remediation. Limited access park lands are shown in **Table IV.N-2**. Also considered limited access are two public swimming pools. The City has a joint agreement with AUSD for the use of the pools, which are used by students, City Swim Clubs, and the Masters Program during the school year. The Recreation and Park Department provides public aquatic programs during the summer at the pools.
- *School Parks.* This category includes AUSD school properties only. These areas are generally not available for public use after school and on weekends due to locked gates.

#### b. Developed Park Land

Existing parks and open space areas in the City are listed in **Table IV.N-1**. The City owns and maintains the following types of park lands:

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<sup>1</sup> Dyett and Bhatia, 1999. Alameda General Plan Update: Existing Conditions and Planning Issues. December.

- *Neighborhood Parks* are primarily used by elementary school-age children, but they are also used by residents and visitors of all ages for picnicking, passive recreation, and other activities. There are 13 neighborhood parks in the City; ranging in size from 1.1 to 5.5 acres.
- *Community Parks* are larger parks that have recreational facilities such as lighted baseball diamonds, tennis courts, and picnic areas. Alameda maintains four community parks.
- *Community Open Space* facilities are developed areas that consist of special purpose facilities such as the Model Airplane Field, the 32-acre Shoreline Park, and boat launches. There are eight areas of community open space in Alameda.
- *Regional Facilities* land is contained within one facility: the 80-acre Crown Memorial Beach.

**Table IV.N-1: Alameda Parks and Open Space Areas**

Type/ Name of Park	Acres	Type/ Name of Park	Acres
<i>Neighborhood Parks</i>		<i>Community Open Space</i>	
Franklin	2.98	Boat Launches	2.80
Godfrey	5.45	Dog Exercise Area	4.00
Harrington (Soccer Field)	2.02	Mastick Senior Center	2.60
Jackson	2.27	Model Airplane Field	1.30
LittleJohn	3.45	Portola Triangle	2.30
Longfellow	1.14	Scout	0.01
Marina Waterfront Park	2.10	Shoreline	31.83
McKinley	1.22	Edison (Strip Park)	0.28
Neptune	3.08	<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>45.12</i>
Rittler	4.81		
Tillman	4.01	<i>Greenways</i>	
Towata	1.55	Main Street Greenway	6.00
Woodstock	3.96	<i>Regional Park/ Recreation Facility</i>	
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>38.04</i>	Crown Memorial Beach	80.00
<i>Community Parks</i>		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>86.00</i>
Leydecker	5.88	<i>Undeveloped Park Lands</i>	
Lincoln	7.80	Mt. Trashmore	20.00
Krusi	7.46	Future Greenways <sup>a</sup>	9.00
Washington	14.71	Future Catellus Parks	16.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>35.85</i>	Future Alameda Point Parks	844.0
		<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>889.0</i>

<sup>a</sup> Includes Atlantic Greenway and Railroad right-of-way.

Source: Alameda Park and Recreation Department. 2001: Alameda Point General Plan

Existing and proposed parks in the General Plan Amendment Area are shown in **Figure IV.N-1**.

**c. Limited-Access Lands and School Parks**

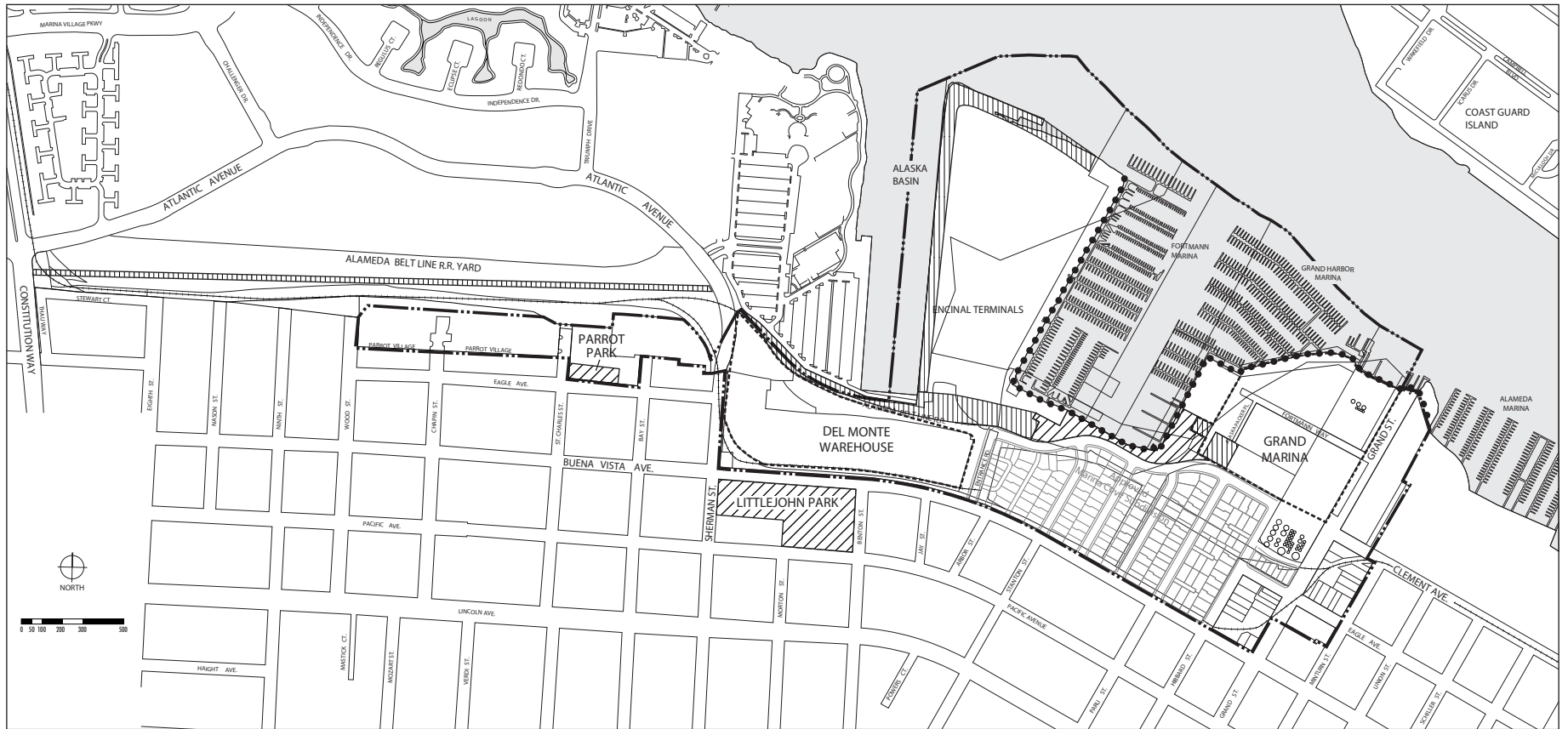
The four limited-access areas within the City of Alameda include the Alameda Municipal Golf Course, the College of Alameda hardball field, the soccer fields at Alameda Point, and Estuary Park. These facilities are maintained by the City. Estuary Park, an 11.18-acre park within the USCG housing area, presently serves the USCG area but is closed for remediation. Limited Access Land totals are shown in **Table IV.N-2**.

**Table IV.N-2: Limited Access Lands**

Name of Park	Acres
College of Alameda Hardball Field	4.0
College of Alameda Recreation/ Open Space	19.2
Alameda Point Soccer Field <sup>a</sup>	4.5
Chuck Corica Golf Complex	328.2
AUSD Facilities	72.8
Estuary Park <sup>b</sup>	11.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>439.9</b>

<sup>a</sup> Leased until 2002.

<sup>b</sup> Estuary Park is currently closed.



- General Plan Amendment Area
- ..... Public Shoreline Access
- Existing/Approved Parks, Open Space and Greenways
- Proposed Parks, Open Space and Greenways

**Figure IV-N.1**  
Existing and Proposed Parks



SOURCE: Dyett & Bhatia, 2000

Alameda has 72.8 acres of school recreational facilities consisting of playing-fields, paved schoolyards, landscaping, tracks, and athletic facilities. Although these are generally not available for public use, they are valuable resources for school-aged children. The public uses seven school facilities for recreation. The Little League field at Wood Middle School is used for team practice and games. Lincoln Middle School and Earhart Elementary School host community soccer programs. Wood, Chipman, and Lincoln schools offer after-school programs during the school year. The College of Alameda includes 19.2 acres of open space and recreational facilities and a 4-acre hardball field.

**d. Open Space**

As an island, the City of Alameda provides a variety of unique open space resources including marshes, tidflats, and Bay waters. Aside from the community open space described in the Parks and Recreation section above, open space in Alameda consists of urban habitat and Bay waters and tidal areas. Several species of wildlife that reside in Alameda are listed as threatened or endangered by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Special habitat protection is required to prevent harm to these species. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has requested 565 acres of land and 375 acres of open water at Alameda Point to establish a wildlife refuge to be included in the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex. The property currently supports one of the State's largest and most successful breeding colonies of the California Least Tern, a federally and State listed endangered species.<sup>2</sup>

**e. Shoreline Access**

The City of Alameda has shoreline around the entire perimeter of the main island and over half the perimeter of Bay Farm Island. Crown Memorial Beach and Shoreline Park are the major shoreline access areas. On the northern side of the island, public shoreline access was a condition of approval for new projects including Mariner Square, Mariner Village, and Wind River. The various marinas on Alameda also provide public shoreline access.

Several proposed projects would offer new or improved public shoreline access. The City of Alameda *General Plan* designates 1,400 feet along the Estuary west of Oak Street for a park. The City plans to create trails and day recreational facilities on land along the shoreline of Alameda Point. In addition, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) Bay Trail<sup>3</sup> includes an Alameda route that circles the entire main island.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> The Bay Trail is planned as a continuous public access corridor consisting of hiking paths, sidewalks, and Class I bicycle routes around the Bay Area region. It is intended to provide public access to the shoreline, to link existing park and recreation facilities, and to provide connections to transportation facilities. Its goal is to follow the shoreline as closely as possible.

**f. Park Facilities near the Northern Waterfront GPA Area**

Three City parks are located near the Northern Waterfront GPA area—the 3.08-acre Neptune Park, which is classified as a passive park with no facilities, the new 2.1 acre Marina Park, and the 3.35-acre LittleJohn Park adjacent to the Del Monte site at Sherman and Buena Vista. Also in the area is the 0.2-acre Parrot Mini-Park, which serves the multi-family residential housing operated by the City's Housing Authority.

Other parks within  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile of the Northern Waterfront GPA area include the 1.2-acre McKinley neighborhood park, and the 2.3-acre Thompson Field, a playing field for Alameda High School. Public open space and shoreline access is provided at the public boat launch facilities at Grand Marina and at Wind River, at Marina Village, and at the eastern side of Encinal Terminal.

**g. Acres of Park Land per 1,000 Residents**

Alameda's current ratio of neighborhood and community parkland, including school playgrounds and fields, is approximately 2.1 acres per 1,000 residents. About 95 percent of Alameda residents live within  $\frac{3}{8}$ -mile of a park, the maximum radius for effective service as indicated by studies in other cities. While the *City of Alameda General Plan* does not state a specific goal of park acreage per 1,000 residents, California cities typically strive for 3 to 6 acres of neighborhood and community park space per 1,000 residents.

**2. IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES**

This section begins with a description of the criteria utilized to determine whether any significant impacts related to parks, recreation and open space would result, followed by a discussion of potential impacts.

**a. Significance Criteria**

Implementation of Northern Waterfront GPA would cause a potentially significant impact to park and recreation services if it would:

- Result in an increased use of existing park facilities such that substantial physical deterioration would occur, or that would require the building of new facilities, the construction of which would result in adverse physical effects on the environment; or
- Result in City residents being outside the target maximum radius (within  $\frac{3}{8}$ -mile) of a park.

**b. Beneficial and Less-than-Significant Impacts**

Beneficial and less-than-significant impacts related to parks, recreation and open space that would result from implementation of the Northern Waterfront GPA are described below.

Implementation of the Northern Waterfront GPA would increase opportunities to improve portions of the Bay Trail within the Northern Waterfront GPA area and would provide additional shoreline

access and park areas. The Northern Waterfront GPA proposes to extend Clement Avenue from Grand Street to Sherman Street and Atlantic Avenue. The right-of-way for this extension will include adequate area to connect the Bay Trail from Grand Street to Atlantic Avenue, which would be closer to the shoreline of the Estuary than an alignment that has been shown along Buena Vista Avenue. The Northern Waterfront GPA also proposes public open space along the western, northern, and eastern edges of the Encinal Terminals site adjacent to Alaska Basin in front of the Del Monte building and connecting to the Wind River and Marina Cove Shoreline parks. Completion of the Del Monte and Encinal Shoreline access will represent completion of a continuous shoreline plan from Marina Village to Grand Street, a distance of about one mile. This would allow a trail along the entire shoreline edge rather than just the eastern side as indicated in the Bay Trail Plan.

In addition, all new development will pay Citywide Development Fees (CDF) a portion of which pays for park improvements Citywide. These fees are designed to mitigate the impact of new development on existing parks facilities throughout the City.