

# CITY OF CARSON PARKS, RECREATION, AND COMMUNITY SERVICES MASTER PLAN



Source: City of Carson

# 2022



# City of Carson

## Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan

July 2022

Prepared for:



Prepared by:



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

*Source: City of Carson*



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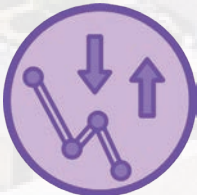
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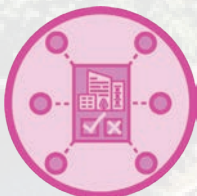
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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Carson Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan serves as a guide and implementation tool for the management and development of parks and recreation facilities throughout the city. This document represents a summary of the extensive community input, research, and professional analysis. The culminating result is a community inspired plan for the future of parks and recreation in Carson.

The process began with a review of pertinent planning documents, existing park resources, and recreation opportunities. Following the initial inventory an extensive community outreach campaign was developed. In-Person and live streaming online video presentations, one on one stakeholder interviews, public online surveys, direct website feedback, and a statistically valid multi-modal survey was conducted to clearly analyze the community recreation demand in the city. 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 following are key strategies developed to balance the available inventory with the community recreational desires.

### **Key Strategy #1: Preserve and Expand Sports Opportunities**

**Goal 1.1:** The City offers adult and youth sports programs that regularly utilize Carson playing fields and facilities throughout the year. Resources for the development of adequate staffing, sports maintenance, and new partnerships with non-city sports organizations should be balanced with the increasing need for active sport recreational activities.

**Goal 1.2:** The City currently has a deficit for indoor basketball courts used for organized games. Gymnasiums across Carson are utilized heavily by the community for various activities including basketball, event space, and fitness classes. Gymnasiums represent a significant investment in the community and should be balanced across the region. The City should begin to reduce this deficit by developing one new gymnasium in the northern region of the city.

**Goal 1.3:** Pickleball has significant regional as well as local influence in the city. Due to the growing popularity of the sport among residents there is a clear deficit of available pickleball courts. The city should look to develop pickleball facilities in the northern and southern regions of the city. To continue to support the recreational desires of the residents the city should also offer programs for both beginners and local tournament play at the new facilities.



## **Key Strategy #2: Strengthen Community Identity Through Facility Modernization**

Goal 2.1: The City of Carson currently owns, controls, and maintains sixteen (16) parks which encompass 119.7 acres of developed parkland. The city should look to implementing a program to address deferred maintenance at facilities that require immediate improvements where existing conditions may limit park use by the community. Court resurfacing, facility lighting, active and passive turf improvements, should be considered as priority projects. The city should continue to advertise ways residents can report maintenance service requests through phone, website, or iWorQ app.

Goal 2.2: Park security is a common element in many cities across America. Modern park designs help limit nefarious and perceptions of potential unsafe conditions through Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) features. The city should implement a passive CCTV system to monitor current conditions in park facilities.

## **Key Strategy #3: Foster Healthy Living in Providing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities.**

Goal 3.1: City recreational opportunities are critical in supporting community healthy lifestyles. Fitness classes and activities are among some of the most requested programs by the Carson community. The city should look to develop classes and partnerships to support community health and active outdoor recreation.

Goal 3.2: Carson is fortunate to have multiple aquatic facilities. There is a high demand for traditional as well as opportunities for more nontraditional aquatic programming. In addition to the current planned facility improvements, the city should look to fully develop a year-round aquatics program as well as staffing to support the recreational demands of the community.

Goal 3.3: Promotion of multimodal transportation beyond an automobile centric design is a modern practice. The Carson community has identified a desire for more trails and pathways. The City should continue to explore and develop the Dominguez Channel trail project in partnership with the County, promoting additional trail connectivity and multimodal transportation opportunities. Additionally, the City should strengthen trail connections in strategic areas focusing on trail crossings at arterials as well as linkages to parks and school sites per the Bikeways Master Plan.

Goal 3.4: Dog parks are a socially engaging activity for dog owners as well as their canine friends. Lack of dog park facilities can put an additional strain on local parks to provide open areas for dog owners to recreate. The City should look to develop a new dog park within the city as well as further develop on and off leash policies in existing parks.

## **Key Strategy #4: Provide Diverse Recreation Programs for All Ages and Abilities**

Goal 4.1: The City should look to build or improve upon the class offering, timing, and availability, as well as the marketing the existing programs to residents.

Goal 4.2: The City would benefit from developing events that were sponsored by or supported local businesses. As community events develop back to pre-COVID levels, the City should foster public private partnerships.

*Source: Jorge Arias on Google [https://www.businessyab.com/explore/united\\_states/california/los\\_angeles\\_county/carson/water\\_street/21205/dolphin\\_park.html](https://www.businessyab.com/explore/united_states/california/los_angeles_county/carson/water_street/21205/dolphin_park.html)*



Source: City of Carson

# SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION



## 1.1 Purpose of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan

The Carson Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan (referred to as Master Plan) serves as a guide and implementation tool for the management and development of parks and recreation facilities within the city boundaries. This Master Plan builds on previous planning efforts and provides an up-to-date understanding of the current and future recreation and program needs and opportunities within the City.

**“Promote development of a cohesive open space system. The General Plan seeks to promote development of a cohesive urban open space system, anchored by an open space recreational corridor along Dominguez Channel, with pedestrian and bicycle linkages to surrounding neighborhoods and community parks. The General Plan supports a balance of active and passive recreational opportunities to serve all segments of the population, while ensuring that these facilities can be maintained over time.”**

-Guiding Principle from the 2040 Carson General Plan

The Carson General Plan, Parks, Recreation and Human Services Element (2004) mentions seven important issues relating to community recreation planning which should be specifically addressed:

- A need for additional recreational facilities in the City;
- A need for enhanced safety and maintenance of the City’s parks;
- A need to promote a variety of recreational and educational facilities for the development of the community’s youth;
- A need to provide affordable recreational and cultural programs;
- A need for leisure services for seniors in the community, as the number of persons over the age of 50 continues to increase;
- A need for locally based cultural arts programs (i.e., theater, music, art, dance, etc.) to enrich community life; and
- A need to address the recreation and social needs of the community’s emotionally and physically challenged residents.

This document is intended to be flexible, and presents findings and recommendations that should be evaluated, and/or modified every 5 years as the City responds to unforeseen opportunities and constraints as well as changes in residents’ needs and demands in the context of other city priorities.

# 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.



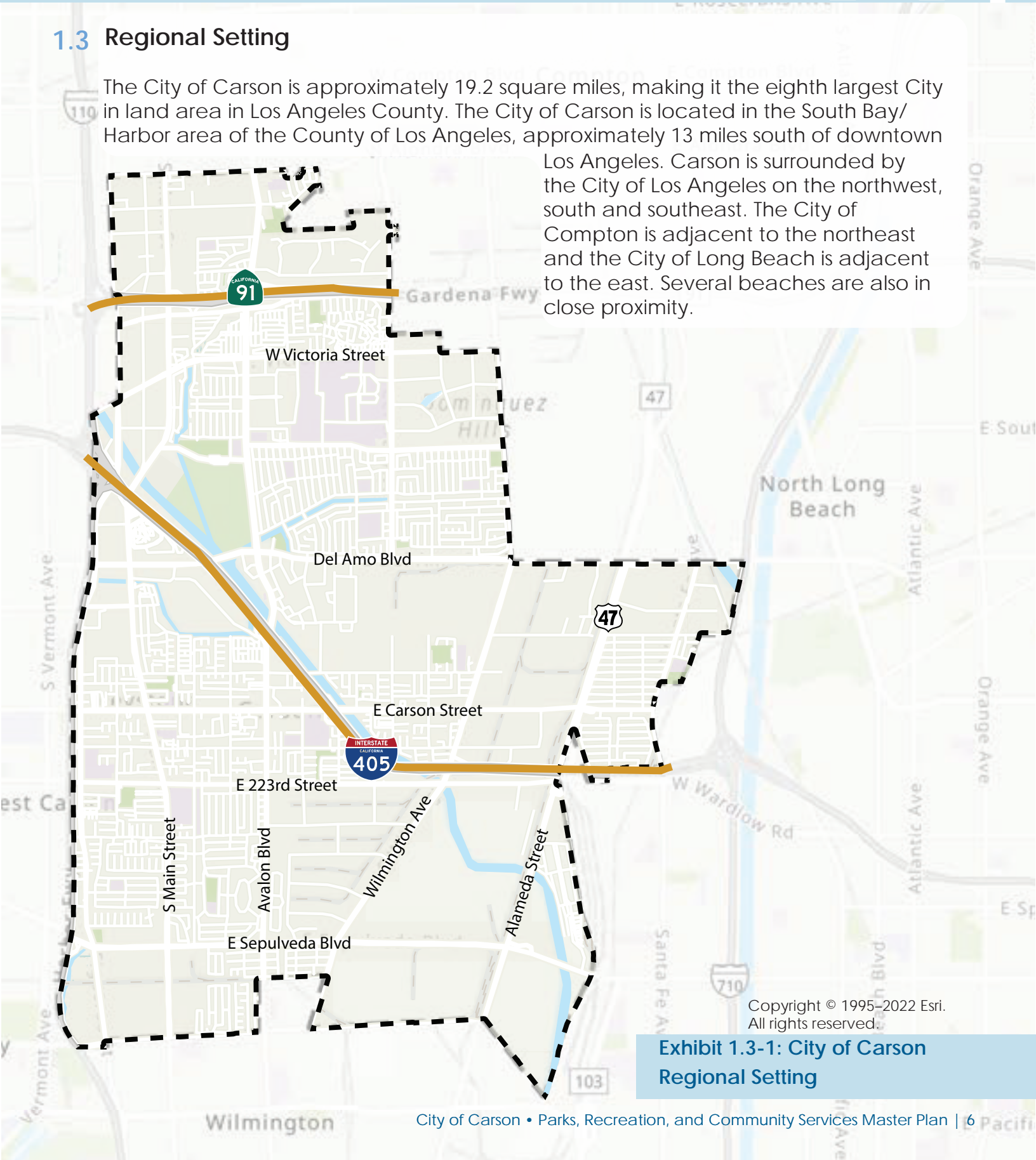
Source: <https://ci.carson.ca.us/communityservices/CarsonPool.aspx>

Carson Pool

### 1.3 Regional Setting

The City of Carson is approximately 19.2 square miles, making it the eighth largest City in land area in Los Angeles County. The City of Carson is located in the South Bay/ Harbor area of the County of Los Angeles, approximately 13 miles south of downtown

Los Angeles. Carson is surrounded by the City of Los Angeles on the northwest, south and southeast. The City of Compton is adjacent to the northeast and the City of Long Beach is adjacent to the east. Several beaches are also in close proximity.



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**Exhibit 1.3-1: City of Carson  
Regional Setting**

# Local Setting

## 1.4 Local Setting

Shortly after incorporation in 1968, the founding City fathers coined a motto for their new town: ***Future Unlimited.***

By the time Carson finally incorporated as a city in 1968, its landscape was pockmarked with the dozens of refuse dumps, landfills and auto dismantling plants that none of the neighboring cities would allow within their boundaries. Following its incorporation, the City acted swiftly to close down most of the unwanted facilities that had been forced upon the city in the past by enforcing a strict building and landscaping code and by attracting new commercial ventures to the City. The new industrial parks in Carson, such as the Watson Industrial Center, are models of cleanliness and attention to appearance. (source: General Plan)

The City is relatively flat, with the exception of the Dominguez Hills in the northeast area of the City where elevations climb to 195 feet.

Carson's Sphere of Influence includes 710 acres of unincorporated Los Angeles County area between Wilmington Avenue and the Alameda Corridor, Del Amo north to the extension of Victoria Street.

Several significant man-made features help shape neighborhoods and provide both opportunities and constraints with respect to parks, recreation, transportation, and community life. These include:

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 – San Diego Freeway (I-405)             | 4 – Harbor Freeway (I-110)          |
| 2 – Long Beach Freeway (I-710)            | 5 – Dominguez Channel               |
| 3 – Redondo Beach/Artesia Freeway (SR-91) | 6 – Cal State Dominguez             |
|   | 7 – Refineries and Industrial Areas |



Source: [googlemaps.com](https://www.google.com/maps)

### Dominguez Channel

This channel is a 15.7-mile-long river in south LA County, in the center of the 110 square mile Dominguez Watershed. The watershed area is mostly developed and largely residential.



Source: [calstate.edu](http://calstate.edu)

### Cal State Dominguez

Founded in 1960, this public university sits in the middle of the northern part of the City of Carson.



Source: [googlemaps.com](https://www.google.com/maps)

### Major Freeways

The San Diego Freeway travels north-south and is considered the most used freeway in the nation. Other major freeways include: Long Beach Freeway (I-710), Redondo Beach/Artesia Freeway (SR-91), Harbor Freeway (I-110)



Source: [commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:B-PR refineryCarson1.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:B-PR refineryCarson1.jpg)

### Refineries and Industrial Areas

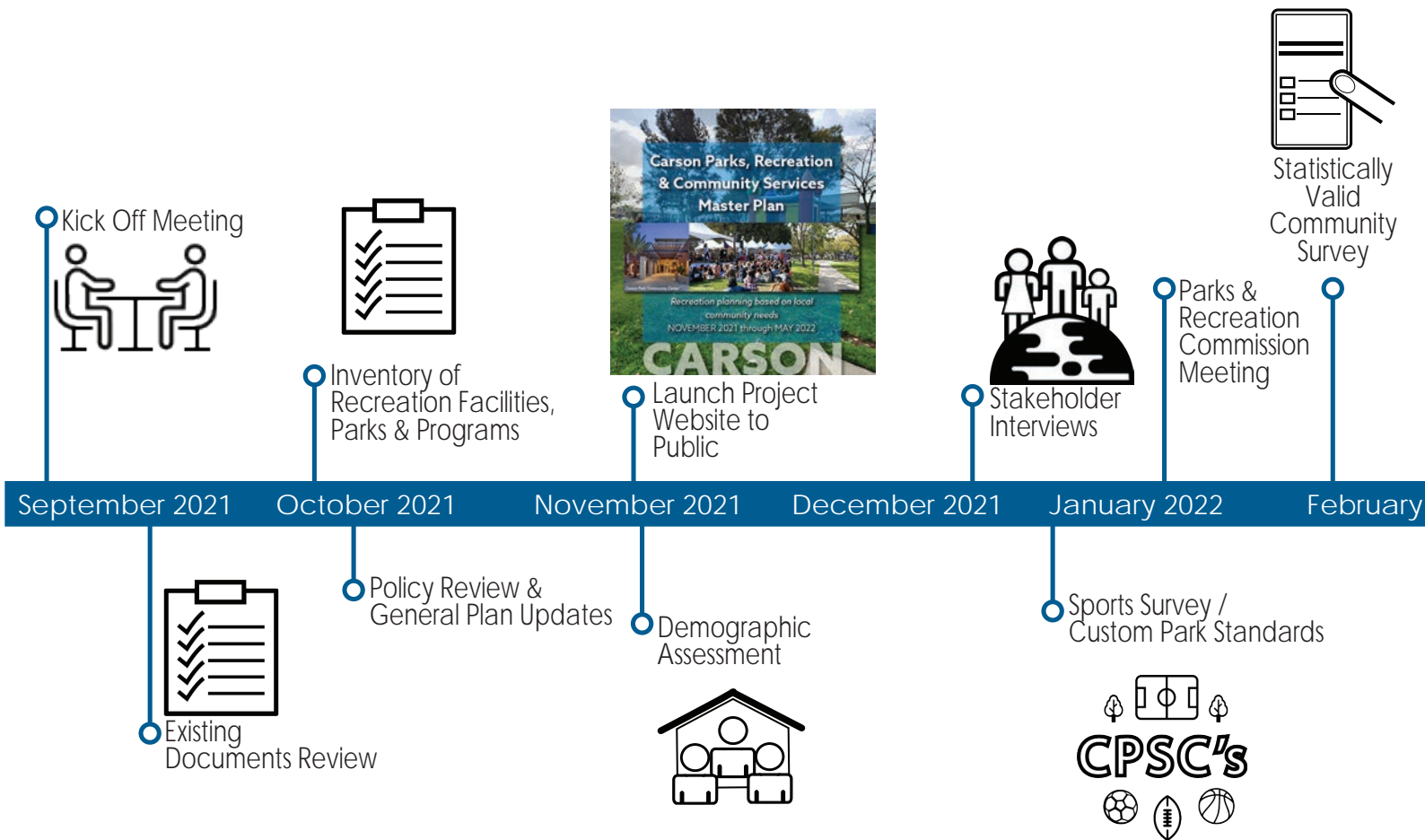
Oil refineries in the City of Carson include Shell Oil Refinery, Marathon Refinery, Los Angeles Refinery, Phillips 66, and Eco Services.

# The Master Plan Process

## 1.5 Process

The Master Plan process began in September of 2021 and included nine months of research, community outreach, and reporting. 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 the City of Carson.

Over a seven-month period (November-May) focused community outreach methods were used to collect data from various segments of the community. Stakeholder interviews, community 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.

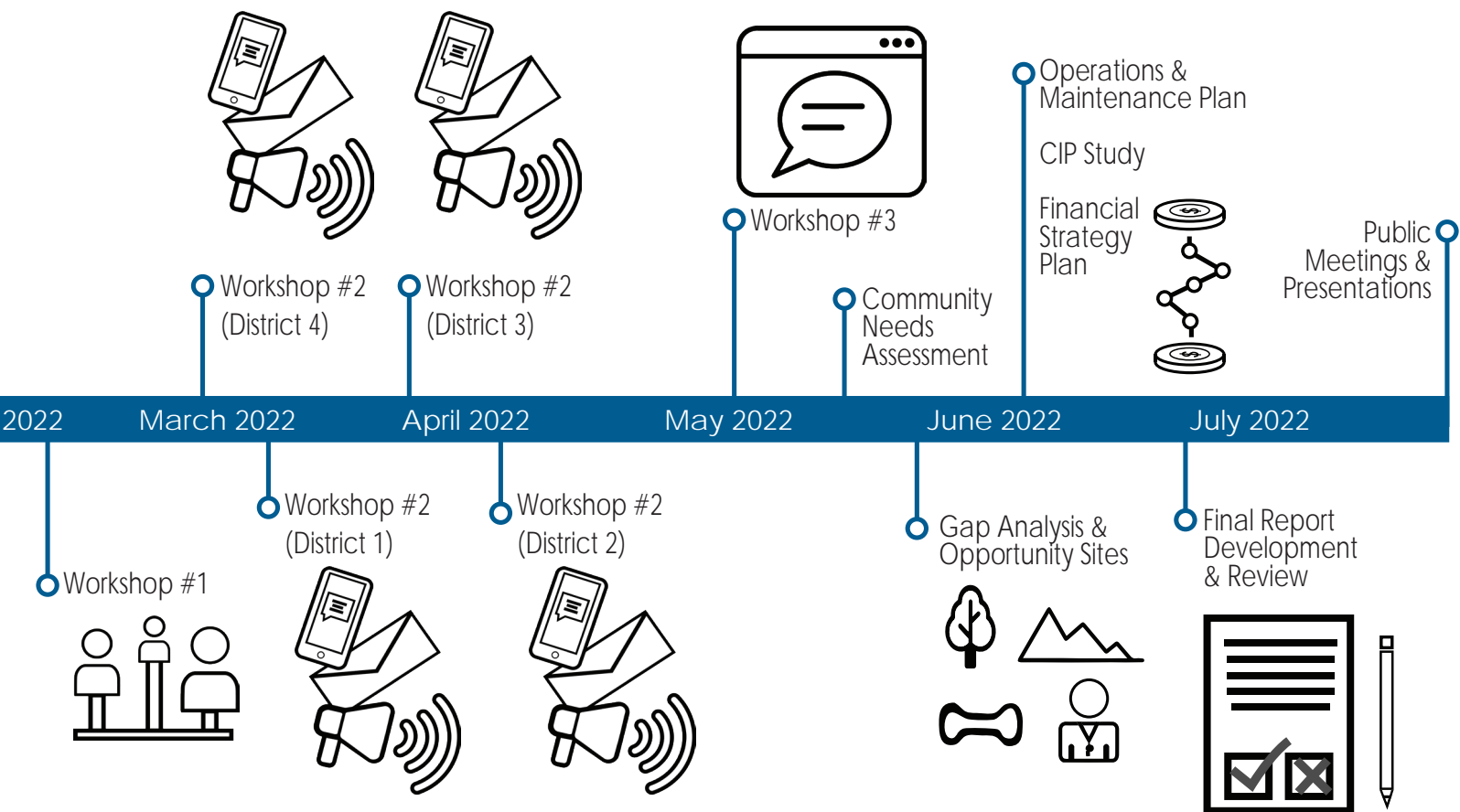






A project website was developed that outlined the Master Plan goals and objectives, and identified a schedule of dates on how to be involved in the outreach opportunities. As each segment of the community outreach was completed, the results were placed on the website for the community to view and provide feedback. This component extended the ability for anyone at any time to review the information collected and provide feedback.

After the outreach process was completed, the data was synthesized into a clear community voice of prioritized programs and facilities. This list of priorities was then compared against the inventory of existing facilities during the months of June and July. The results of the comparison formed the basis for the recommendations presented in this report. This report and subsequent presentations were developed to clearly illustrate what facilities exist, what the community priorities are, and how the two can align today and in the future.



**Exhibit 1.5-1: Project Timeline**

# Related Studies

## 1.6 Related Studies

There are 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:

### [Carson General Plan \(2004\)](#)

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, transportation, open space, parks and recreation, safety, noise, air quality, and economic development. 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 Carson General Plan is currently being updated. As of this report, the Housing Element and Land Use Map have been updated. Updated sections will be posted on the City's website here: <https://ci.carson.ca.us/communitydevelopment/generalplan.aspx>

### [Carson Master Plan of Bikeways \(2013\)](#)

The Carson Master Plan of Bikeways lays out a strategic vision for enhancing bicycle transportation in the city. Carson has a limited existing bikeway network. Carson has about 10.5 miles of bikeways, and these facilities exist predominately in residential areas. There are approximately 1.25 miles of Class I bike paths, 6.75 miles of Class II bike lanes, and 2.5 miles of Class III bike routes. No individual bicycle facility is longer than two miles. The County Bicycle Master Plan proposes bike paths along

the Dominguez Channel and Compton Creek; bike lanes along Broadway, Avalon Boulevard, and Alondra Boulevard to the north of Carson; bike lanes along Rancho Way and Susana Road to the east of Carson; and bike lanes along Del Amo Boulevard, 223rd Street, and Lomita Boulevard to the west of Carson. The proposed Carson bikeway network includes nearly 88 miles of facilities, of which 17 miles are bike paths, 59 miles are various forms of bike lanes, and 12 miles are various forms of bike routes.

### [The District at South Bay Specific Plan](#)

This undeveloped site is in the City of Carson, approximately 17 miles south of downtown Los Angeles and approximately 6.5 miles east of the Pacific Ocean. The entire project site is comprised of approximately 168 acres located southwest of the San Diego Freeway (I-405) at and north of the Avalon Boulevard interchange. The 11 acres located north of Del Amo has been approved for residential uses and is not proposed to be a part of the revised project, but it will be considered as a related project as appropriate in the SEIR.



Source: City of Carson



# SECTION TWO: COMMUNITY VOICE



## 2.1 Who is Carson? 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 was developed utilizing the 2021 Environmental Systems Research Institute (Esri) 2021 demographic datasets. With this information a deeper understanding of “whom” the community is and “where” they are geographically and economically.

The City of Carson has a very diverse population with many Tapestry Lifemode groups. Most (84%) of Carson households fall into one of two Tapestry Lifemode groups:

**1** Upscale Avenues (2B, 2C, 2D)  
Average Age: 40  
Average Income: \$91K  
**% of Carson Households: 48%**

Typically prosperous married couples in older neighborhoods. Majority are homeowners. Many with older children. Generally interested in active recreation and fitness, such as bicycling, jogging, yoga and hiking.

**2** Sprouting Explorers (7B, 7D)  
Average Age: 33  
Average Income: \$57K  
**% of Carson Households: 36%**

Typically young married couples with children and grandparents who are multi-generational and multilingual. Focus on children activities. Generally interested in sports and water/theme parks. Comfortable with technology.

The remaining four Tapestry Lifemode groups that have less than 8% of the resident population include:

**3** Hometown (12A)  
Average Age: 39  
Average Income: \$43K  
**% of Carson Households: 8%**

Typically residents who grew up close to home. Close knit community. Young families. Older children, living at home is common. Focus on religion and strong character values.

**4** Senior Styles (9B)  
Average Age: 52  
Average Income: \$72K  
**% of Carson Households: 3%**

Typically married empty nesters or singles living alone. Independent, active seniors working towards retirement. Generally interested in physical fitness, sports, travel, museums, and concerts.

**5** GenXurban (5A)  
Average Age: 48  
Average Income: \$75K  
**% of Carson Households: 3%**

Typically middle aged families with fewer children. Work close to home. Generally enjoys reading, games, museums, concerts, and walking for exercise. Value health and financial well-being.

**6** Next Wave (13B)  
Median Age: 28  
Average Income: \$38K  
**% of Carson Households: 2%**

Typically married couples with children. Mostly Spanish speaking households. Generally interested in active recreation including soccer. Enjoy music and theme parks. May use public transportation.

# Community Profile

## How old are Carson residents?

The Age Profile as illustrated in Exhibit 2.1-2, shows an equal distribution of population classified in the Under 19 and 19-34 categories. The over 65 category is only (17%) which is slightly higher than the L.A. County average. (14%)



21%

Pop <19



23%

Pop 19-34



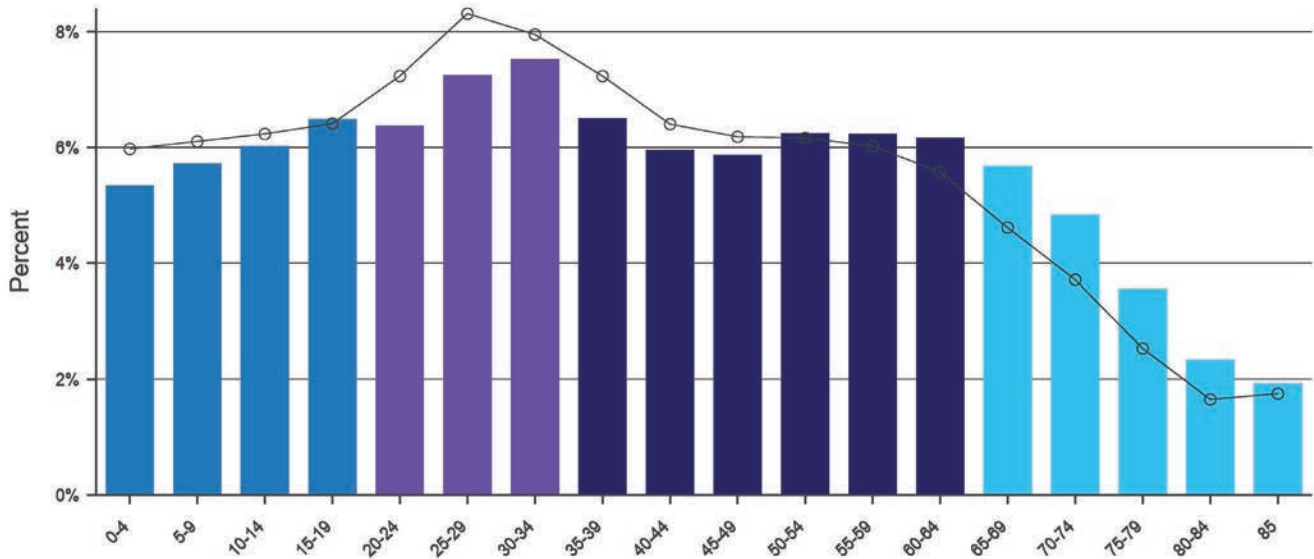
39%

Pop 35-64



17%

Pop 65+



**Exhibit 2.1-2: Carson Age Profile Compared to L.A. County**



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

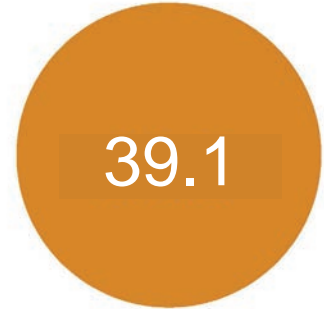
- The overall the population trend, and similar to L.A. County, is that the population under 19 has been slowly declining and will continue to decline.
- The greatest growth in the 2026 projected population is those ages 35 to 44 and those over 75 years of age.
- The Esri forecast data set indicates the population growth will slow down slightly and the population will increase 1.5% from 2021 to 94,567 by 2026. The five-year growth from 2021 to 2026 is slightly above the County’s average growth rate of 1.2% change from 2021 to 2026.
- Housing unit growth in the City during the 2010 to 2021 time frame occurred at a 2.8% rate, with approximately 67 new housing units documented each year on average. The rate of new housing units is predicted to decrease dramatically to 1.9% during the next five years.
- The average household size in the City of Carson is 3.56 persons per household in 2021. This is much higher than the County average of 2.98 persons per household in 2021.

93,184

Population



Average Household Size



Median Age

Source: Esri 2021 Demographic Data

### Community Profile Overview

The City of Carson has a diverse population that is family oriented and engaged in recreation activities, classes, and events. According to the 2021 Statistically Valid Community Survey, 33% of residents participate in recreational programs at least once a month. The age groups under 19 have been declining, 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. This diverse community would benefit from family-friendly community events that celebrate different cultures. Health and fitness is also important to the community.

# Outreach & Engagement

## 2.2 Outreach and Engagement

The community outreach campaign developed for this Master Plan utilized multiple methods of information sharing and data collection including in person workshops, online video presentations, one on one stakeholder interviews, public online surveys, a statistically valid multi-modal survey, and online website feedback surveys.

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 is as inclusive as possible and that it reflects the views, preferences, and recreation patterns of Carson 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.

2

### **Category Two: Community at Large Public Workshops**

Public community consensus-building workshops were held via in person 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 online surveys.

3

### **Category Three: Statistically Valid Surveys**

Direct survey responses were collected through a statistically valid, multi-modal 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:



**3,642**  
Total Website Views



**10**  
Stakeholder Interviews



**116**  
Total Website Feedback Comments



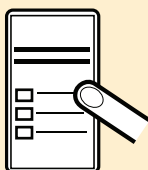
**144**  
Total Social Media Likes (117 Instagram)



**227**  
Total Online Surveys Completed



**119**  
Total YouTube Video Views



**400**  
Total Multi-Modal Surveys Representing  
**1,440**  
Residents



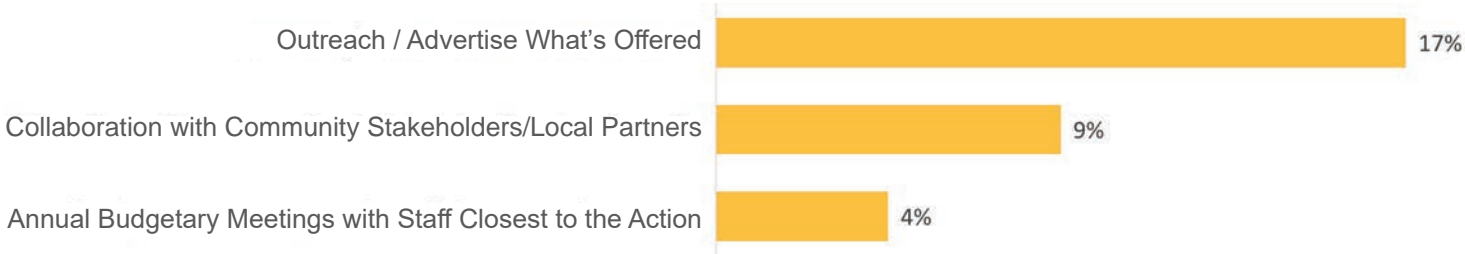
**9**  
Total Sports Organization Surveys Representing  
**5,988**  
Players

# Stakeholder Interviews

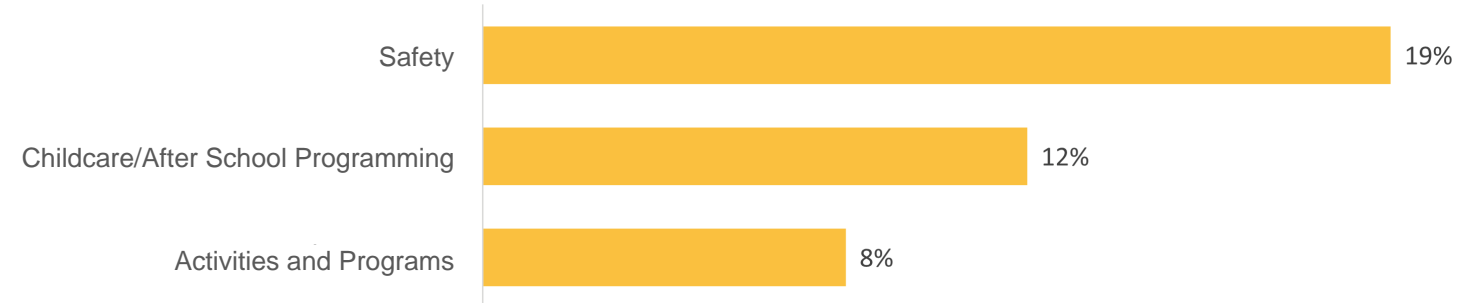
## Stakeholder Interviews:

The following summarizes the results of the ten (10) stakeholder interviews conducted as a part of the public outreach effort to assist in the preparation of the Master Plan. Stakeholder interviews were conducted between January 14, 2022 and April 2, 2022. Community stakeholders including Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Arts Commissioners, LAUSD representatives, Cal State Dominguez Hills representatives, Los Angeles County Parks representatives, and Community Leaders. Stakeholders were emailed a questionnaire related to the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan. They were asked to fill out the questionnaire, then later schedule an in person or video conference interview with an RJM representative to discuss their responses in more detail. The following charts illustrate the frequency of similar responses.

### “How can the Parks and Recreation Department improve in providing parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services to community residents?”



### “What are the most important issues in the community related to the parks, recreation facilities, programs and services currently provided?”





## PROGRAMS

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

- Builder Implemented Programs/ Activities
- Career Development Programs
- Church Involvement
- Class for Homeowners About Having A Living Trust and Will
- Coding Classes
- Communications Program
- Free Programs
- Galaxy Juniors Program
- Gaming Classes
- Mental Health/Social Emotional Wellness Programs
- More Classes
- Outreach for Homeless and Persons In Need
- Partnership Classes or Activities with CSUDH
- Performing Arts
- Pickleball Classes
- Robotics Classes
- Senior-Friendly Facilities/Services
- Two Types of Youth Sports Programs: Recreation And Competitive

## FACILITIES

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

- Communication Systems
- Del Amo Park – Fixed Drainage Issues
- Dog Park
- Foisia Park - Staff Improvement
- Foisia Park - Taller Batting Cage Fencing (balls hitting cars)
- Gym at North End of Town
- Improved Dominguez Channel Walking/Bike Path
- Lighting
- Mental/Physical Wellness Facilities
- Performing Arts Theatre
- Security Systems
- Sports/Academic Complex
- Teen Center
- Wi-Fi

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

# Community Workshops

## Community Workshop 1: Scoping Session

Residents of the City of Carson were invited to the community workshop to learn about the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan process and to participate in the first survey. Workshop #1 commenced on February 16, 2022, at 6:00pm to 8:00pm at the Carson Event Center, aka Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald Community Center. Sixteen (16) attendees attended and participated in the evening workshop. RJM shared an overview of the Master Plan process, City demographics, and existing resources, followed by a brief outline of the evening’s workshop agenda. A video of the workshop presentation was also posted on the project website for those who were unable to attend any of the in-person events. Workshop participants filled out the survey and then discussed their answers to achieve a consensus among their group.

The Workshop #1 Survey was open for two weeks until March 2, 2022. The survey was available online and paper copies were available at all community centers as well as the library. The Workshop #1 Survey was also advertised on the City’s social media. Fifty-seven (56) paper copies were completed, collected, and entered. A total of ninety-nine (99) surveys were completed.

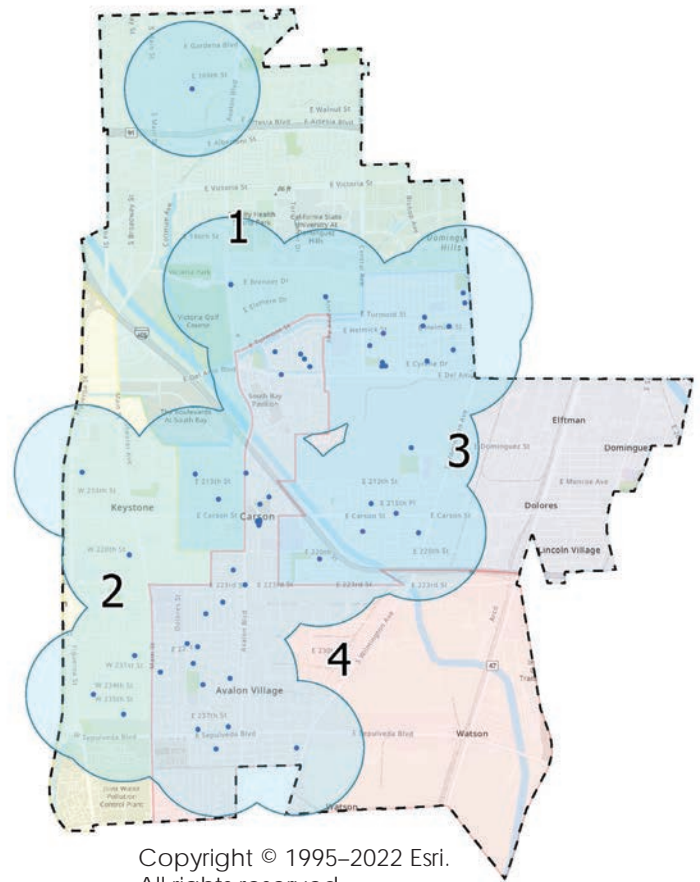


Exhibit 2.2-1: Community Workshop 1 Survey Distribution Map



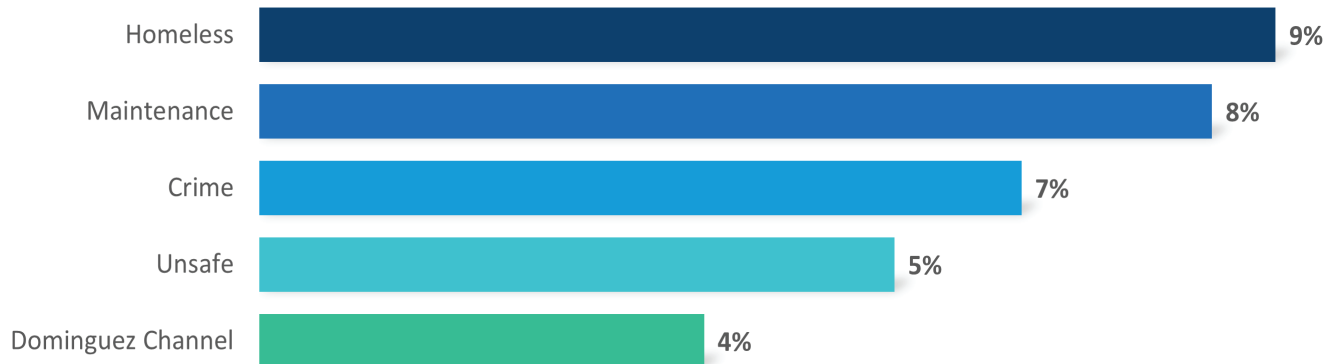
Community Workshop #1 on February 16, 2022



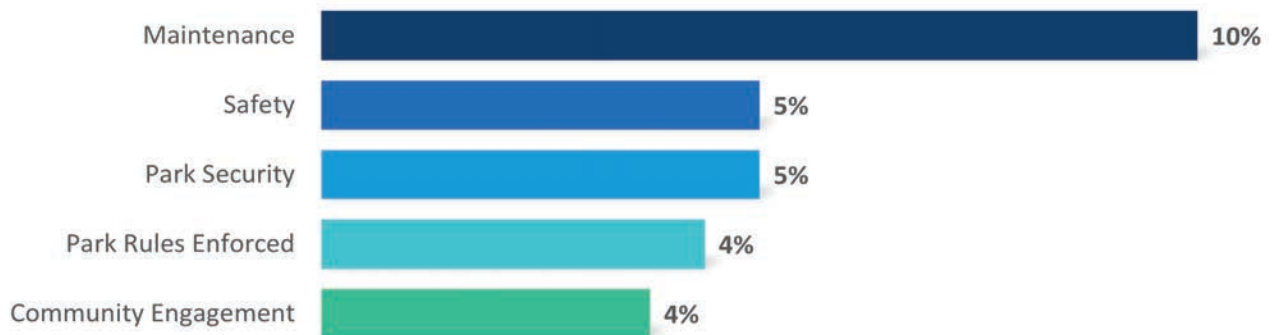
## Important community characteristics that make Carson a great place to live, work, and play.



## Issues or trends that may be negatively impacting the important community characteristics.



## What role can Parks and Recreation play in addressing those issues and support the community characteristics.



# Community Workshops

## Community Workshop 2: Prioritization

Workshop #2 Series consisted of four (4) in-person workshops, held in each Council District. At each workshop, RJM shared an overview of the Master Plan process, City demographics, and existing resources, followed by a brief outline of the evening’s workshop agenda. A video of the workshop presentation was also posted on the project website for those who were unable to attend any of the in-person events. The workshops were accompanied by an online and paper survey collected from March 3 to May 2. The online survey was advertised on the City’s website and on social media. Paper surveys were available at all city facilities and the library.

The workshop 2 series took place on:

- March 3, 2022, at Foisia Park
- March 17, 2022, at Stevenson Park
- March 30, 2022, at Dolphin Park
- April 12, 2022, at Veterans Park

Eighty-one (81) paper copies were completed, collected, and entered. A total of two hundred six (206) surveys were completed.

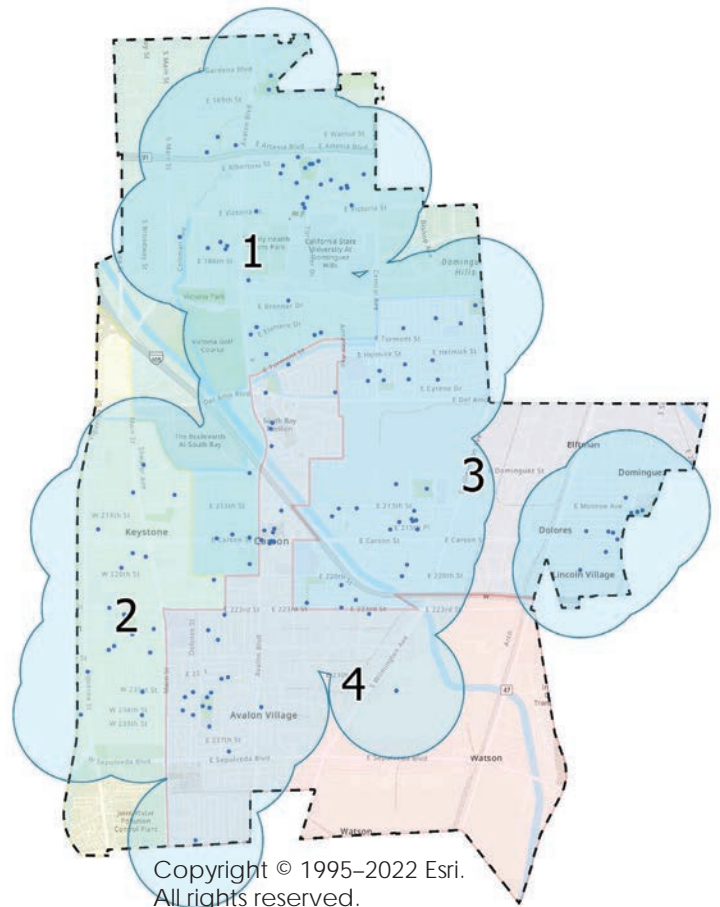


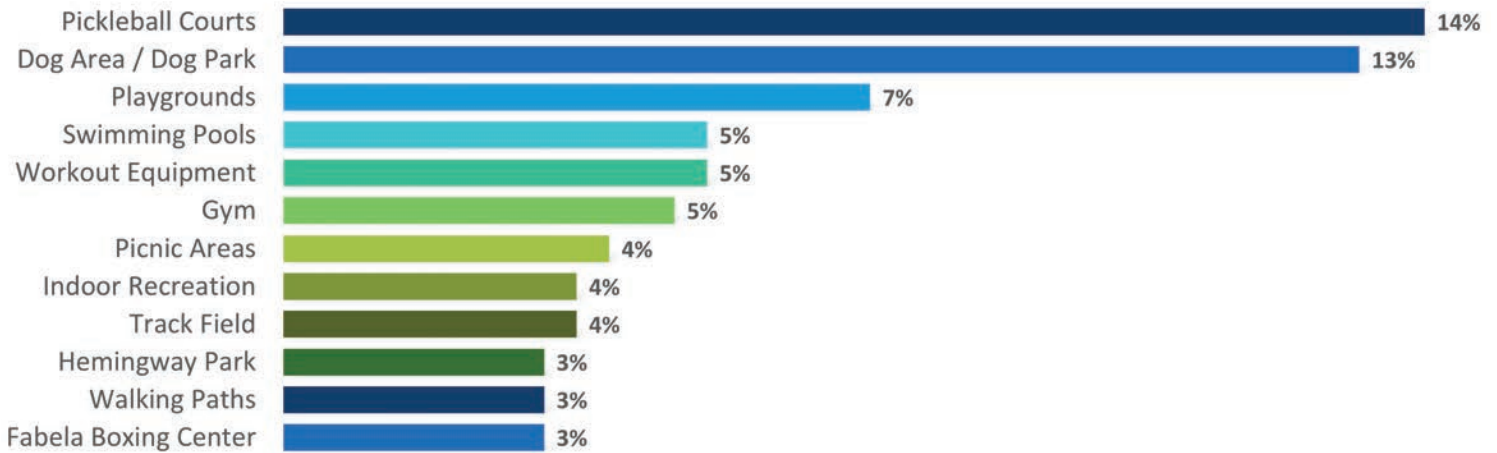
Exhibit 2.2-2: Community Workshop 2 Survey Distribution Map



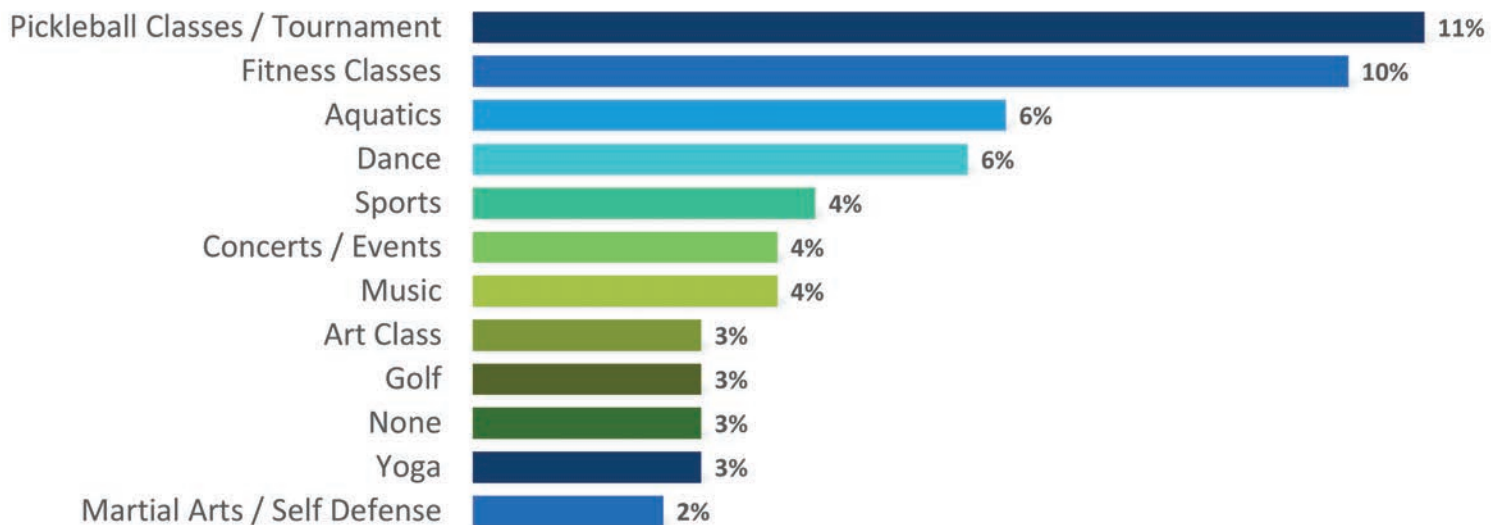


# 2

## What is one **park feature or recreational facility** you would most like to see added or improved in the City of Carson?



## What are the top **programs, classes, activity or service** you would most like to see added or improved in the City of Carson?

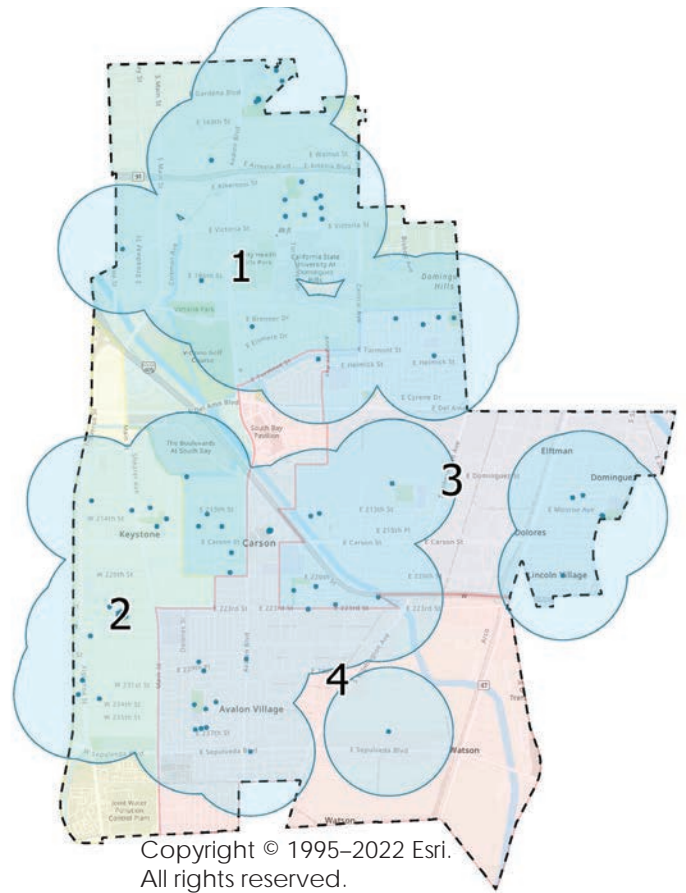


# Community Workshops

## Community Workshop 3: Summary Results

Residents of the City of Carson were invited to the final community workshop to learn about the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan process and to participate in the third survey. Workshop #3 was held in-person on May 19, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. at the Carson Event Center. A video of the presentation was posted on the project website for those who were unable to attend in person.

The Workshop #3 Survey was open for over two weeks until June 5, 2022. The survey was available online and paper copies were available at all community centers. The Workshop #3 Survey was also advertised on the City's social media. A total of three hundred and fifty (350) surveys were completed. Survey participants were given a list of the top program and facility needs identified in all of the community outreach processes and selected their top 5 facility and program needs.



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**Exhibit 2.2-3: Community Workshop 3 Survey Distribution Map**

### TOP 10 PROGRAM NEEDS

- Activities for GenX Adults
- Affordable Programs / Classes
- Afterschool Programs
- Aquatic Programs
- Basketball
- Community Events
- Fitness Classes
- Social Services
- Technology Classes
- Teen Programs

### TOP 10 FACILITY NEEDS

- Dog Park / Dog Areas / Dogs Allowed in Parks
- Gymnasium
- Indoor Recreation
- Lights in Parks
- Parks and Recreation Building Maintenance
- Playgrounds
- Security Systems at Parks
- Trails
- Upgrades
- Wi-Fi / Internet

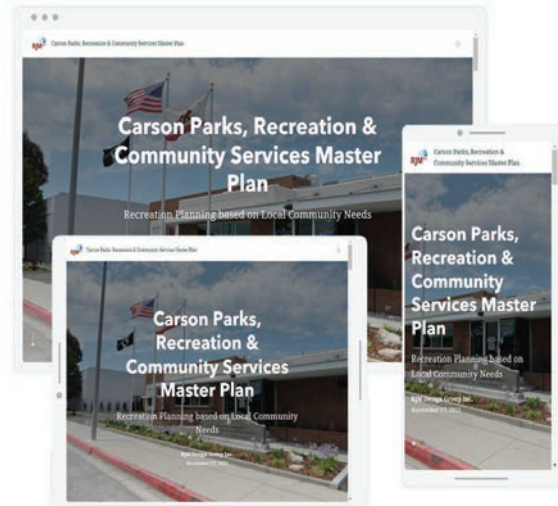




### Project Website and Feedback

A project website was developed to keep the community informed all day, everyday. The website launched to the public on November 18, 2021. Throughout the project, updates were published and surveys made available on the project website. Website views totaled 3,646, averaging 10 views per day.

A total of 116 feedback comments were received throughout the project. The feedback survey option was available on the project website opened with the website launch in November 2021 and remained open for the duration of the project.



\*60 comments regarding Pickleball Courts at Hemingway Park were collected on one weekend.

Exhibit 2.2-4: Word Cloud Summary of Feedback Comments

# Statistically Valid Multi-Modal Survey

## Statistically Valid Multi-Modal Survey

A total of 400 residents were surveyed (134 by telephone and 266 online). A survey of this size yields a margin of error of +/-5%, with a confidence level of 95%. Interviews were conducted with respondents on both landline (38%) and mobile phones (62%) and were offered in English (81%) and Spanish (19%) 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 resident 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 Carson residents.

Critical in the data collected is the geolocation of the participants. The 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.

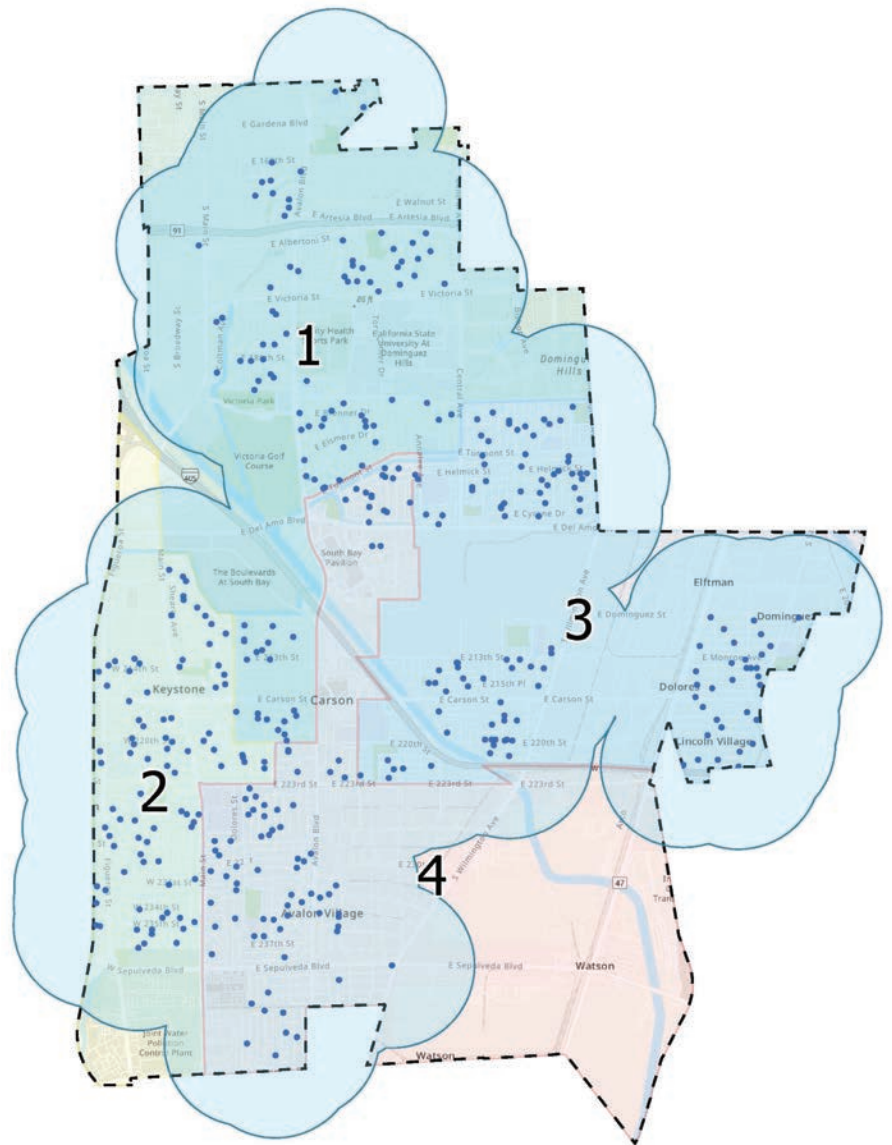


Exhibit 2.2-5: Multi-Modal Survey Distribution Map

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Subjects explored in the context of the multi-modal survey included:

## 33%

Participate in Recreational Programs at Least Once a Month

## 87%

Are Satisfied with Parks and Recreational Facilities in Carson

## 20%

Listed Carson Park as the Most Often Used Park

## 45%

Visit a Park or Recreational Facility in Carson at Least Monthly

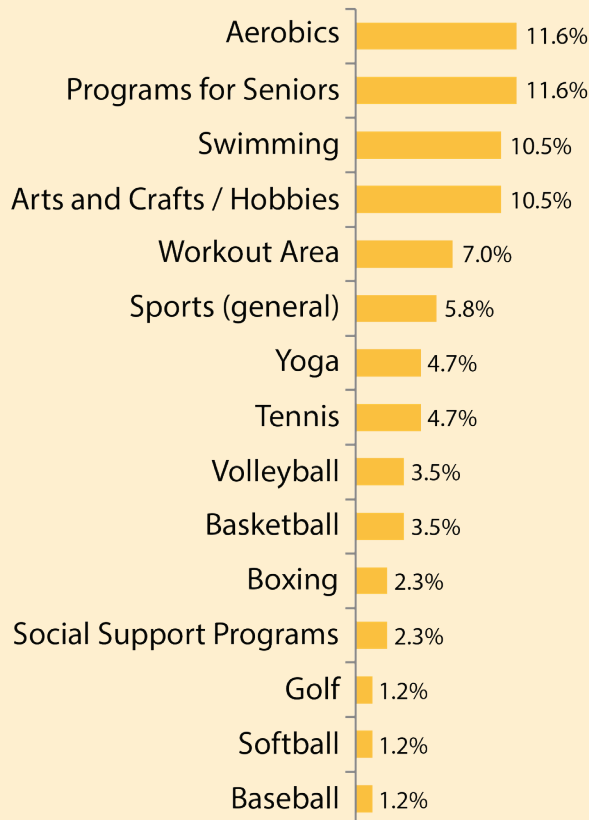
## 60%

Look Online for Information about Carson Parks, Facilities, or Programs

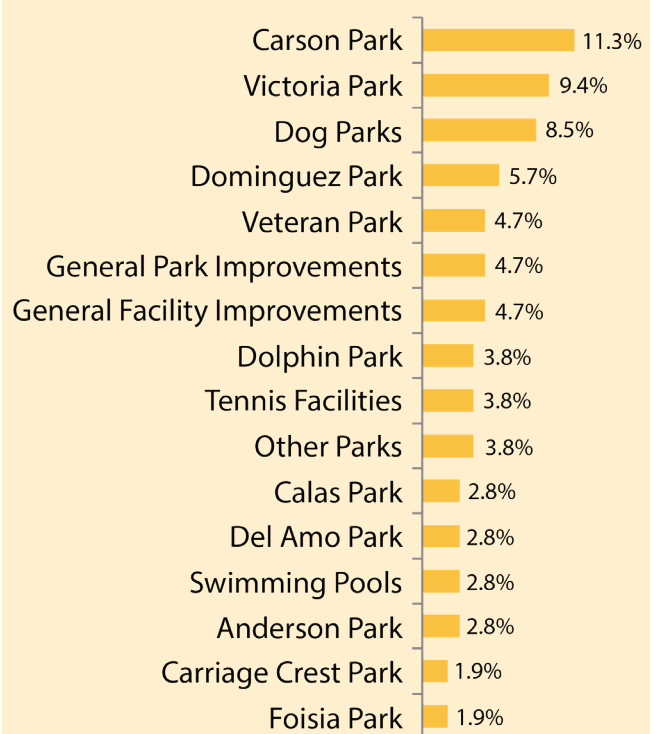
## 55%

Do Passive Recreation When Visiting a Park

What Program Residents Would Most Like to See Added



What Park / Facility Residents Would Most Like to See Added



# Sports Organizations

## Sports Organization Survey

The City of Carson offers competitive sports programs for youth and adults.

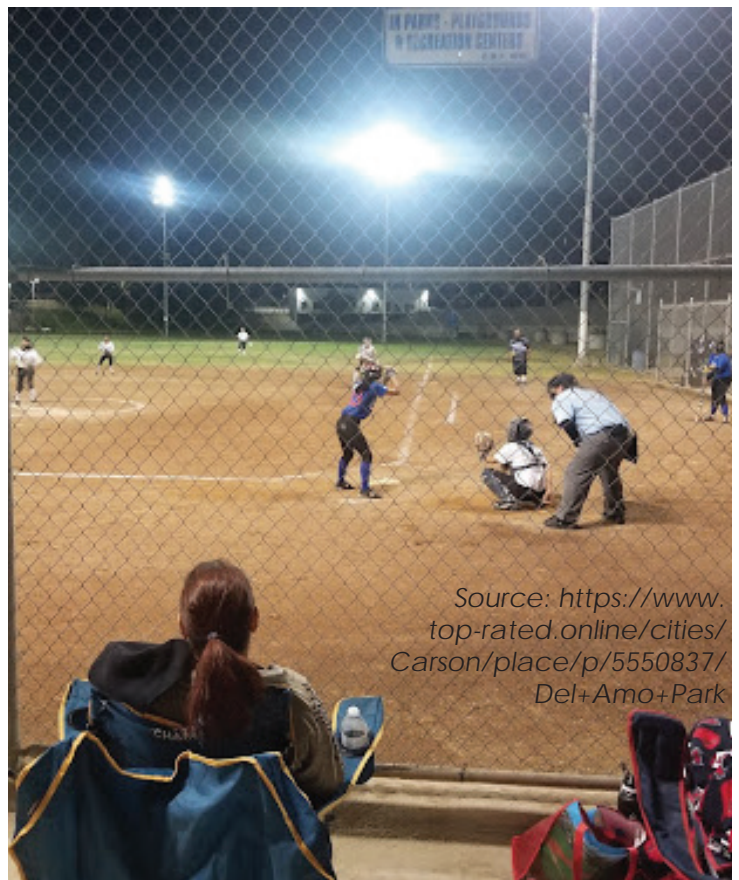
Swim Teams from Carson High School and Rancho Dominguez Hills Preparatory School reserve the swimming pools at Foisia Park and Hemingway Park, respectively, for their swim team competitions. Dominguez Park main pool is used for practice.

The online sports organization questionnaire was completed by each City staff member that coaches the nine (9) sports programs. The information regarding the number of players, size of teams, seasonality, and turnover of facilities for games 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 and youth sports.

The questionnaire addresses the percentage of the players in each organization that live within the City of Carson. This varies widely by type of sport and in Carson 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 Carson.

## Sports Organizations\*

Organization name	% Residents
Baseball (Youth)	90%
Basketball (Adult & Youth)	65%
Soccer (Adult)	60%
Soccer (Youth)	85%
Softball (Adult)	70%
Football (Youth)	85%
Swim Team (Carson High School)	100%
Swim Team (Rancho Dominguez Prep School)	100%



Del Amo Park

Source: <https://www.top-rated.online/cities/Carson/place/p/5550837/Del+Amo+Park>

# 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 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 pool, sports facilities, trails, playgrounds, 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, Park Improvements & Upgrades (6) is ranked higher than Trails (4) 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

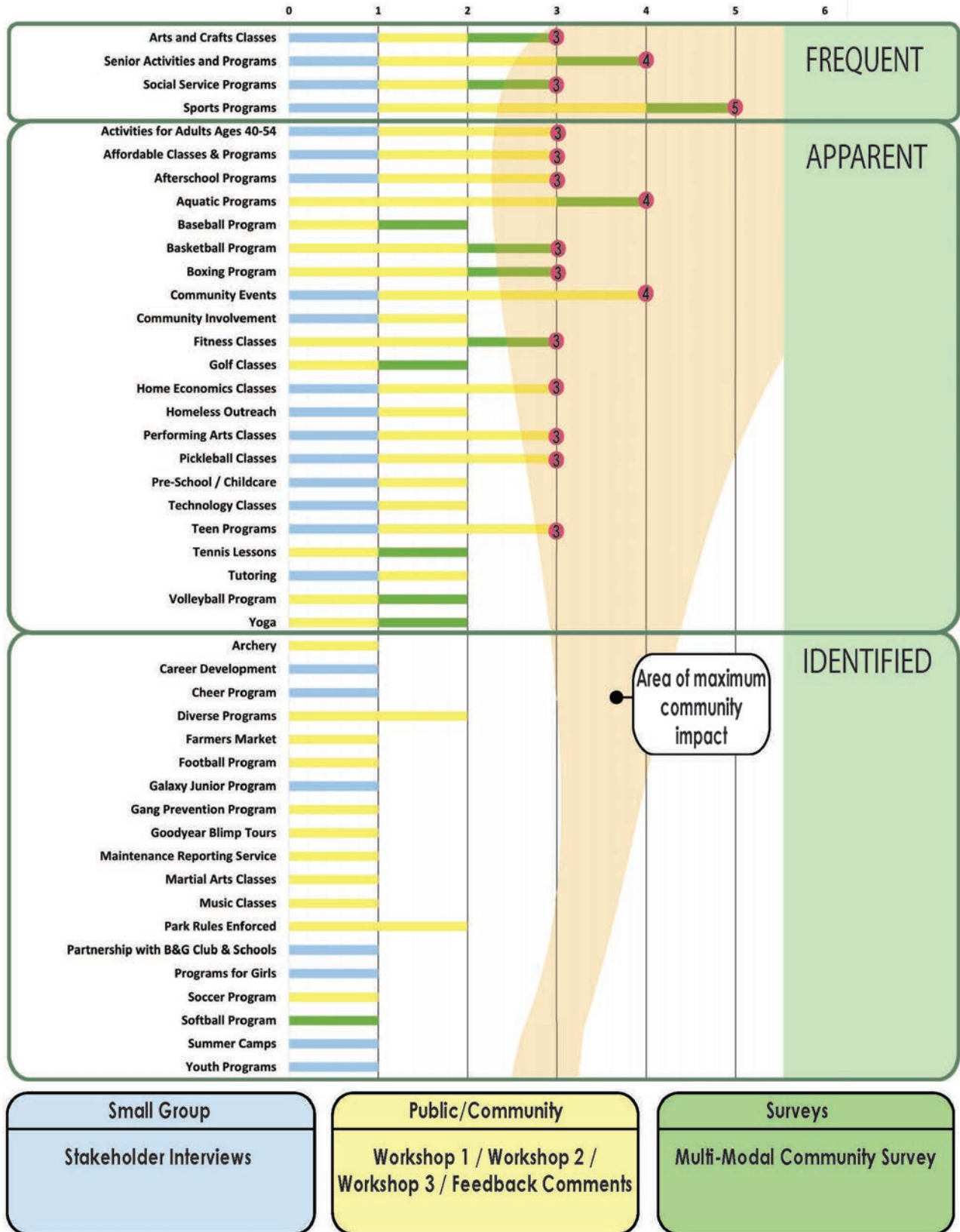


Exhibit 2.3-1: Program Priorities

# Facility Priorities



# 2

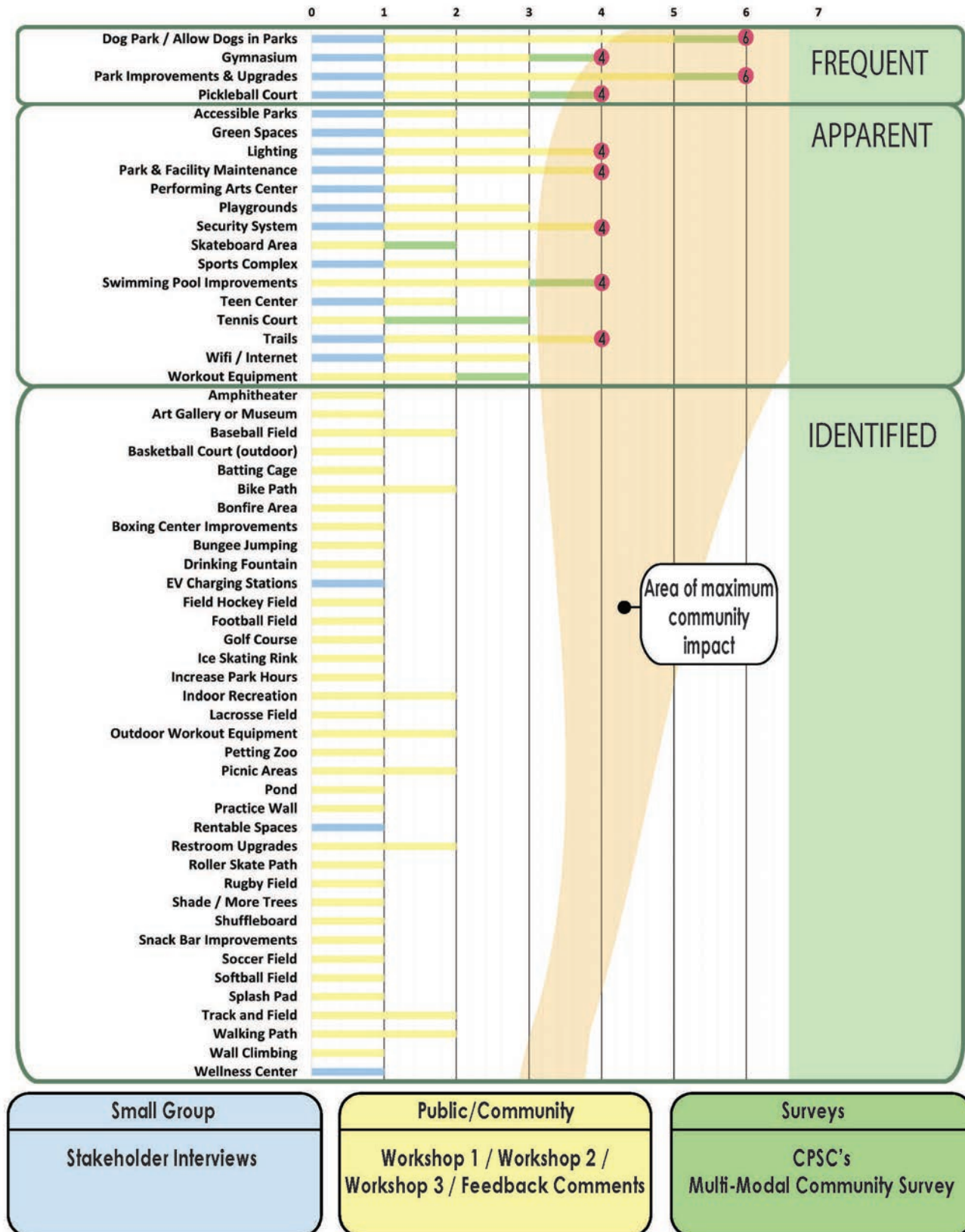


Exhibit 2.3-2: Facility Priorities



Source: <https://www.hamilton-associates.net/portfolio-items/carson-park-sports-complex/>



# 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 2004 Carson General Plan, Parks, Recreation, and Human Services Element contains three types of parks in the City of Carson: Regional Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Mini Parks. In addition, there is a separate classification for community center. These are described below.

Regional Parks. A regional park is designed to serve the active and passive recreational needs of the community and surrounding area. These parks are located on or near arterial roadways to be easily accessible via automobile, foot, or bicycle. The one regional park in the City, Victoria Park, is a County facility consisting of 36 acres.

Neighborhood Park: Neighborhood parks are intended to serve one neighborhood or group of neighborhoods and are located within walking or biking distance. These parks provide a wide range of both passive and active recreational opportunities. There are 12 neighborhood parks in the City, ranging in size from 4.8 to 12.4 acres. Facilities vary at each park, but typically include ball fields, basketball courts, children’s play areas, and picnic areas. Each neighborhood park also includes a recreation center.

Mini Parks. Mini parks are small parks serving a limited area, often where land is not available for a neighborhood facility. These parks generally include children’s play areas and picnic areas. The four mini parks in Carson include Friendship Mini Park, Perry Street Mini Park, Reflections Mini Park, and Walnut Street Mini Park.

Community Centers. The Juanita Millendar- Community Center (also known as the Carson Event Center) is located in the Civic Center complex on twelve acres. It contains a 53,269 square-foot building. The Center includes facilities for seniors and childcare as well as meeting/craft rooms.

The City maintains two other community centers at Carson Park and Stevenson Park, as well as the membership only Veterans Sports Complex and Fabela Chavez Boxing Center. The city also has 10 Recreation Centers. A Recreation Center is located at each of the neighborhood parks and offers programming and kids club/seasonal camps.

# City Parks and Aquatic Centers

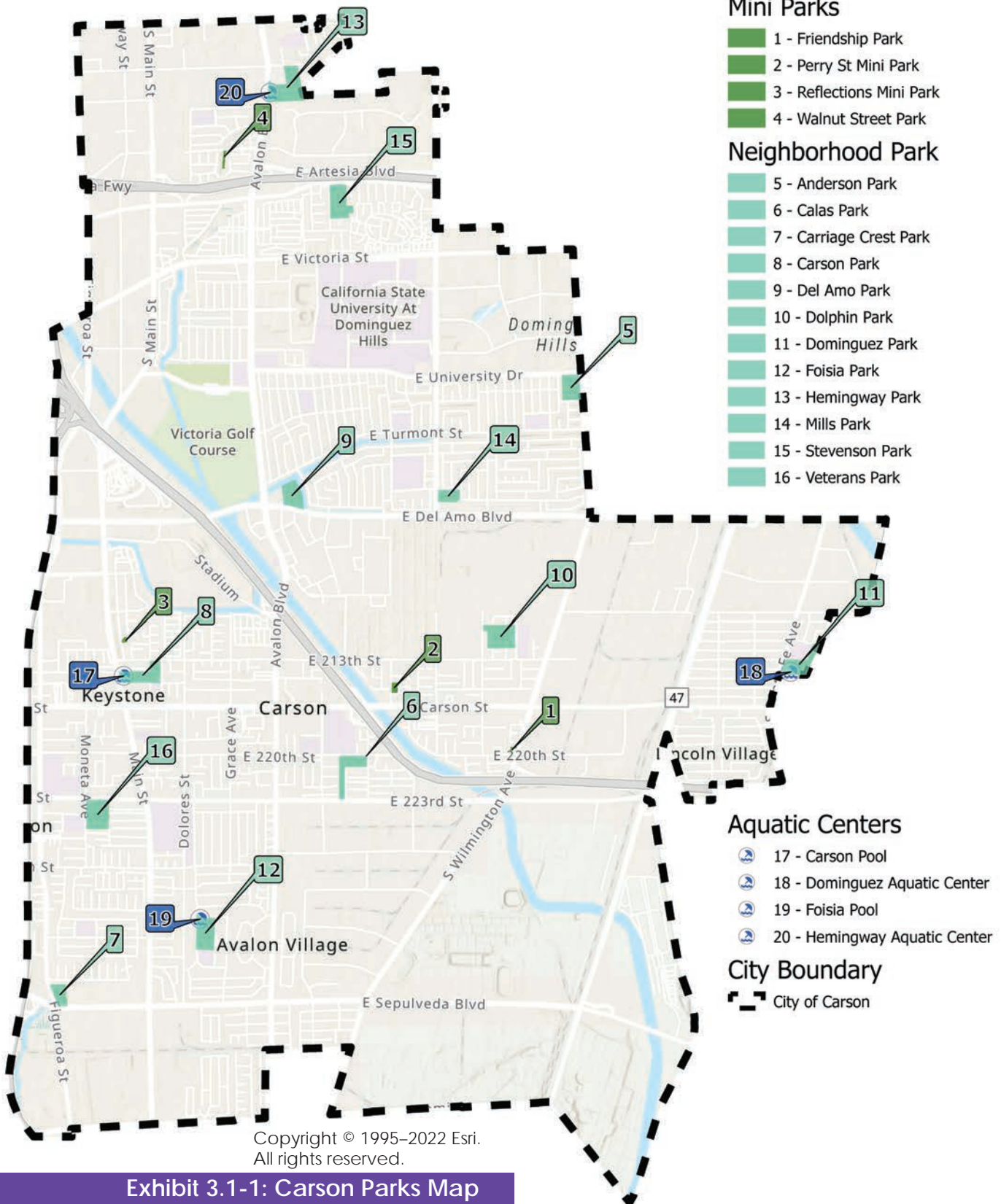









Exhibit 3.1-1: Carson Parks Map

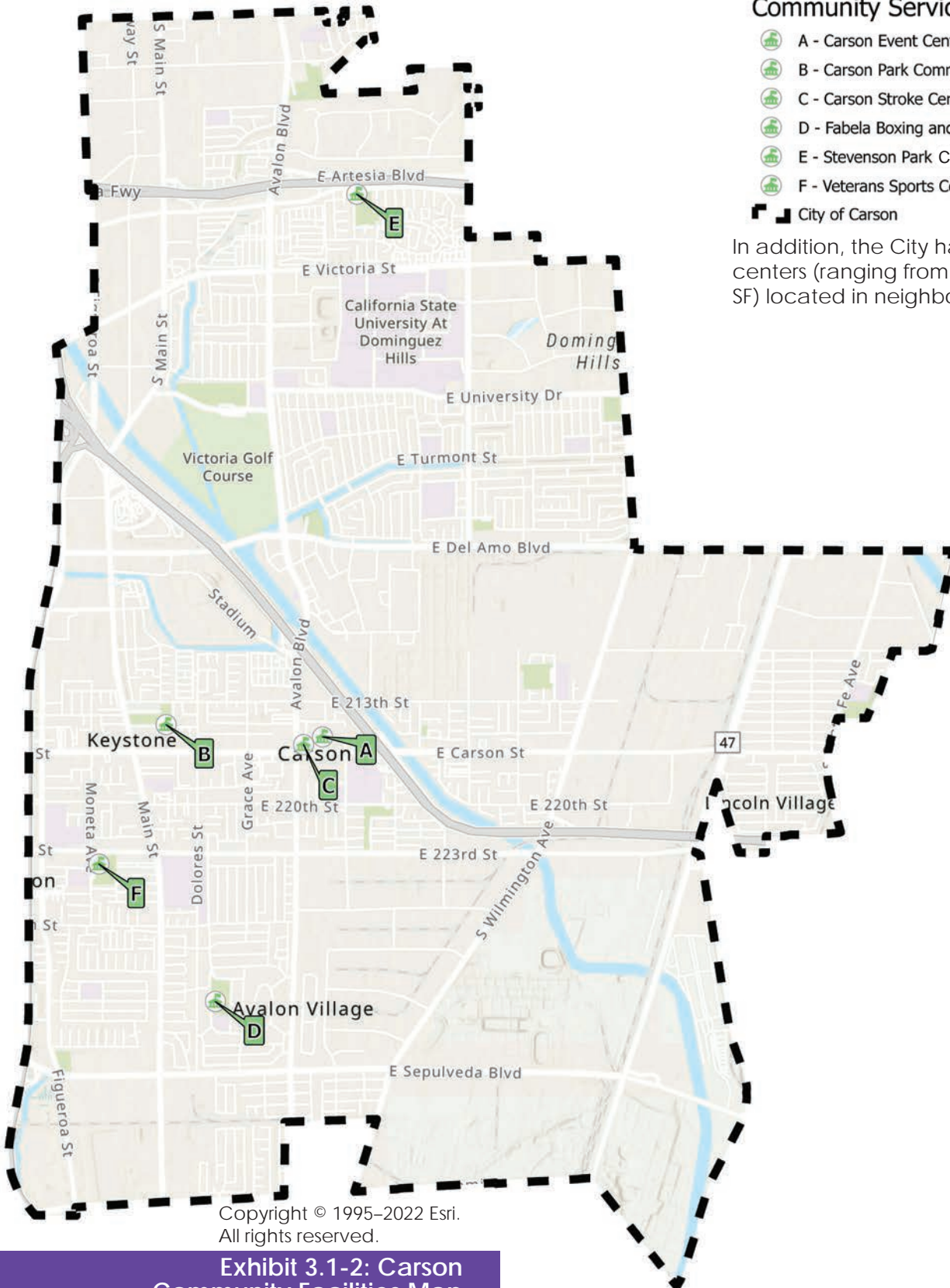


# Community Facilities

## Community Services Facilities

-  A - Carson Event Center
-  B - Carson Park Community Center
-  C - Carson Stroke Center
-  D - Fabela Boxing and Fitness Center
-  E - Stevenson Park Community Center
-  F - Veterans Sports Complex
-  City of Carson

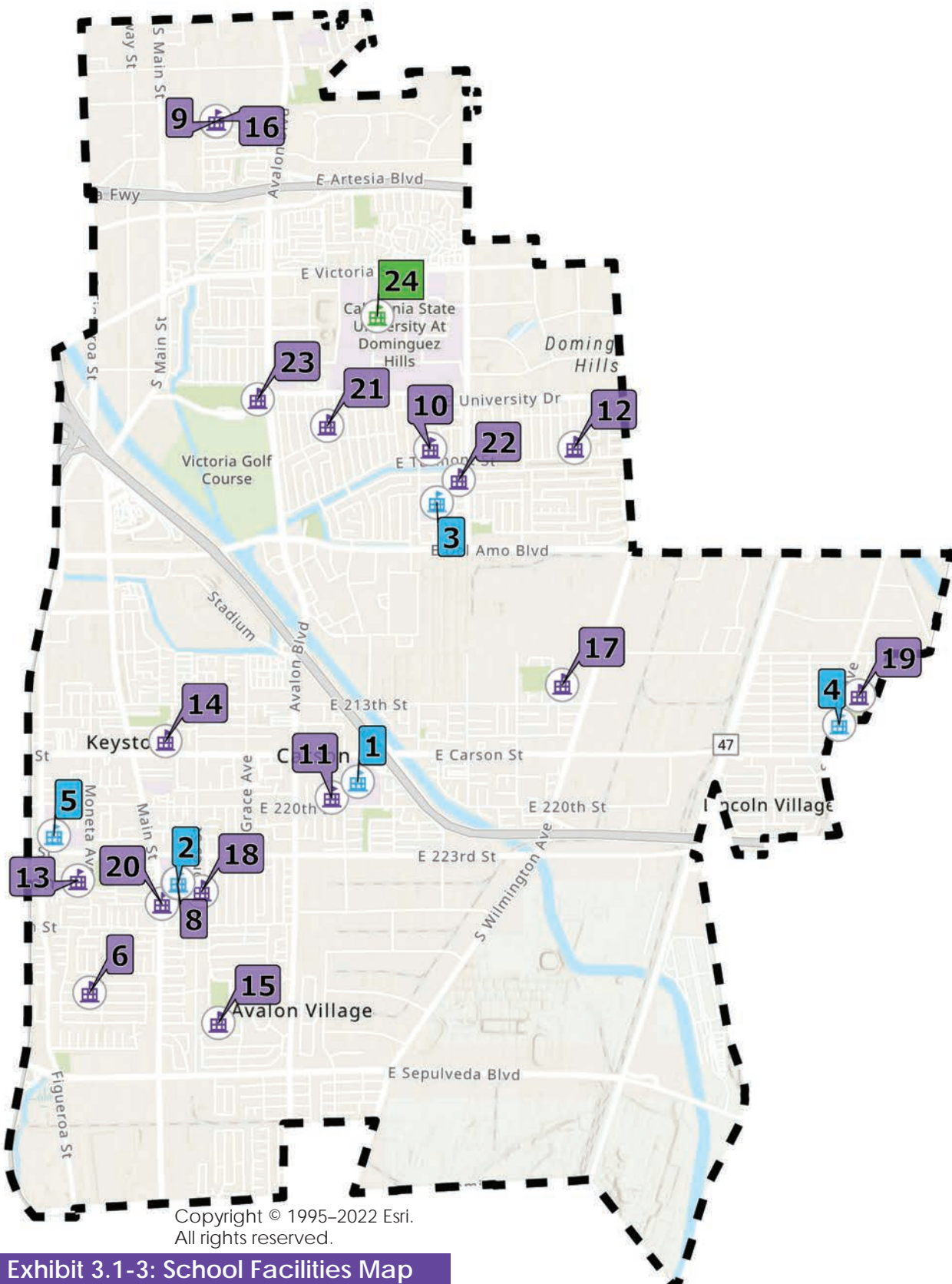
In addition, the City has 10 recreation centers (ranging from 530 SF to 2,530 SF) located in neighborhood parks.



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**Exhibit 3.1-2: Carson Community Facilities Map**

# School Facilities








**Exhibit 3.1-3: School Facilities Map**
















# School Facilities

## Existing Joint Use Schools (proposed)

-  1 - Andrew Carnegie Middle School
-  2 - Carson High School
-  3 - Glenn Hammond Curtiss Middle School
-  4 - Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School
-  5 - Stephen M. White Middle School


## Existing Schools

-  6 - 232nd Place Elementary School
-  7 - Academy of Education and Empowerment at Carson High
-  8 - Academy of Medical Arts at Carson High
-  9 - Ambler Avenue Elementary School
-  10 - Annalee Avenue Elementary School
-  11 - Bonita Street Elementary School
-  12 - Broadacres Avenue Elementary School
-  13 - Caroldale Learning Community
-  14 - Carson Street Elementary School
-  15 - Catskill Avenue Elementary School
-  16 - Community Preparatory Academy
-  17 - Del Amo Elementary School
-  18 - Dolores Street Elementary School
-  19 - Dominguez Elementary School
-  20 - Eagle Tree Continuation High School
-  21 - Leapwood Avenue Elementary School
-  22 - Magnolia Science Academy 3
-  23 - Towne Avenue Elementary School

## Existing University

-  24 - California State University Dominguez Hills

## City Boundary

-  City of Carson

## School Facilities

The City of Carson is served by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Compton Unified School District (CUSD). LAUSD has 14 elementary schools, five middle schools, and six high schools that serve the general Carson area. CUSD has one elementary school, one middle school, and one high school serving the northern edge of the City. The City of Carson is currently developing a Joint Use Agreement with Los Angeles Unified School District.

In addition to public schools, the City also contains the California State University Dominguez Hills campus.

# Trails

## Trails

Carson has about 10.5 miles of bikeways, and these facilities exist predominately in residential areas. There are approximately 1.25 miles of Class I bike paths, 6.75 miles of Class II bike lanes, and 2.5 miles of Class III bike routes. The proposed Carson bikeway network in the County's Bikeway Master Plan would increase the Carson bikeways to include nearly 88 miles of bike paths and trails.



Exhibit 3.1-4: Carson Existing Trails Map

## Other Parks and Recreation Facilities

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

Additional County and private recreation facilities exist within the City of Carson. 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:

#### Victoria Community Regional Park

A 36 acre regional park that includes a gymnasium, heated pool, multi-use fields, baseball diamonds, playground, and tennis courts. This regional park is located directly south of the Towne Avenue Elementary School.



Source: [parks.lacounty.gov/victoria-community-regional-park](https://parks.lacounty.gov/victoria-community-regional-park)

#### The Links Golf Course

The Links is located in the Victoria Community Regional Park in central Carson. The Links was originally designed by golf course architect William Bell and opened in 1966, it was renovated in 2001. Currently, the golf course is under study to possibly be redeveloped to include a driving range, community park, and multi-use facility that includes meeting room and restaurants.



Source: [www.linksatvictoria.com](http://www.linksatvictoria.com)

### Bixby Marshland

Bixby Marshland is a wildlife area operated by the Los Angeles County Sanitation District. The 17-acre marsh, is located near the intersection of Figueroa Street and Sepulveda Boulevard in the City of Carson. The marsh was restored and reopened to the public in 2009. A large variety of plants, birds, fish, and animals can be found at the Bixby Marshland. The marshland is open the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



### Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park

Located in the adjacent City of Harbor City, the Los Angeles County 241-acre lakeside park offers nature trails, picnic spots with BBQs, lighted sports fields & a playground. It contains the largest piece of original native riparian forest and freshwater marsh and lake remaining in coastal L.A. County.



### Dignity Health Sports Park

The Dignity Health Sports Park (formerly the Home Depot Center 2003-13; and StubHub Center 2013-18) is a multi-use sports complex located on the campus of California State University, Dominguez Hills which includes a soccer stadium used by the Los Angeles Galaxy, a track and field facility, and a tennis stadium. The Center also serves as a training facility by the U.S. national soccer team. Concerts and events also take place at this venue.







# Park Acreage

## Acreage Analysis

Per the City’s 2004 General Plan, Parks, Recreation and Human Services Element, the City’s target for the ratio of park acres to population is four (4) acres per 1,000 population.

The City of Carson currently owns, controls, and maintains sixteen (16) parks which encompass 119.7 acres of developed parkland.

Park Acres by Park Type Summary	
Mini Parks	<b>2.6 Acres</b>
Neighborhood Parks	<b>117.1 Acres</b>
<b>Total Park Acreage</b>	<b>119.7 Acres</b>

Based on the park acreage identified above and the City’s 2021 population of 93,184 the City currently has:

Acres per 1000 Residents	
Developed Parks	<b>1.28 Acres</b>
Neighborhood Parks	<b>1.26 Acres</b>

The City needs an additional 253 acres (373 acres of parkland total) of parkland in order to reach the 4 acres per 1,000 parkland acreage goal.

The City’s 2004 General Plan, Parks, Recreation and Human Services Element, includes the recreational land in Victoria Park and Victoria Golf Course (both Los Angeles County facilities) in the City’s ‘Recreational Open Space’.

If this land is available for recreation the total acreage would come close to the goal:

Victoria Community Regional Park	<b>36.0 Acres</b>
The Links at Victoria Golf Course*	<b>171.0 Acres</b>
<b>Total City Park Acreage</b>	<b><u>119.7 Acres</u></b>
<b>Recreational Open Space Acreage</b>	<b>326.7 Acres</b>

\*It is important to note that there are current plans to redevelop The Links at Victoria Golf Course. The Creek at Dominguez Hills would be developed on the 94-acre southern parcel and may include a driving range, community park, and a multi-use recreational facility with meeting spaces and restaurants. The 87-acre northern parcel redevelop plans are not planned at the time of this report. The City should ensure that parkland acreage goals are considered and developer agreements are beneficial in contributing to the City’s parkland acreage goal.

Additional opportunities to increase the City’s park acreage may consider the joint use of public school athletic fields and/or private parks.

Opportunities for new park development are limited. Existing open space in the City which may be suitable for recreation purposes include: utility transmission corridors, areas along the banks of drainage channels, and closed landfills (after appropriate remediation). The District at South Bay Specific Plan may also include opportunities to develop new parks.

# Park Service Area Gaps

## Park Service Area Gap Analysis

In addition to providing appropriate quantities and types of recreation facilities, the City of Carson 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.

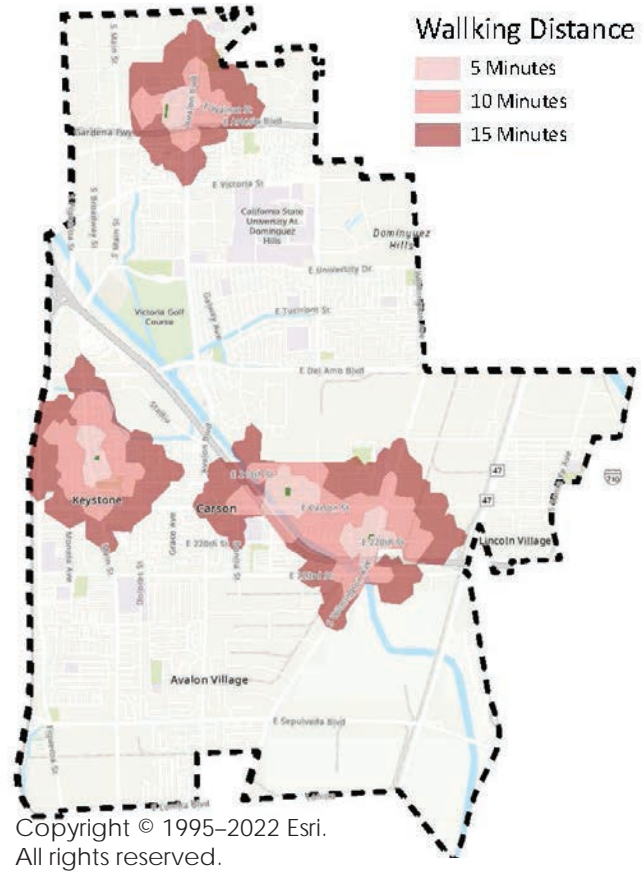
**“Everyone deserves a park within walking distance of their home.”**

-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 maps outline the service availability around the existing parks that are available to Carson residents. The service area boundaries also reflect any 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 area boundaries shown on the following map exhibits.

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



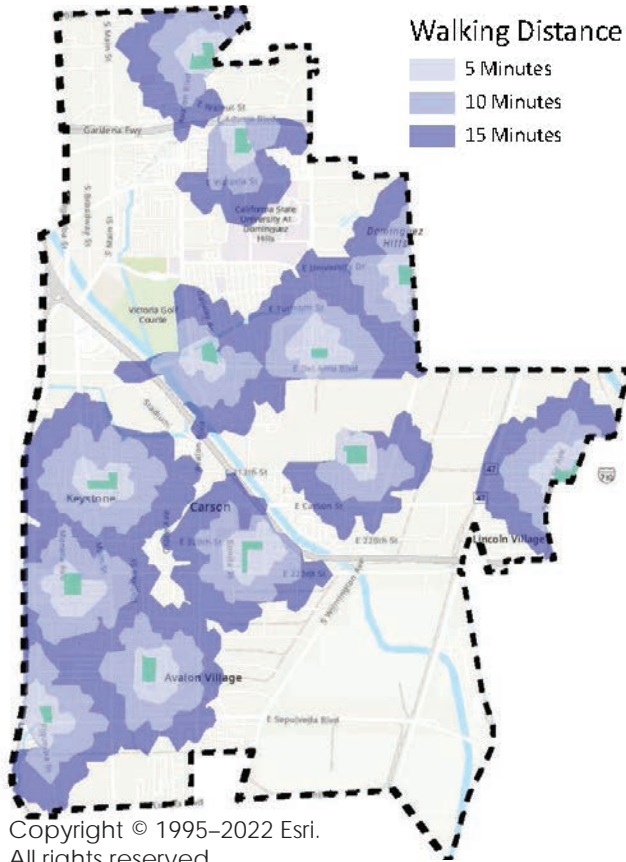
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### Mini Parks

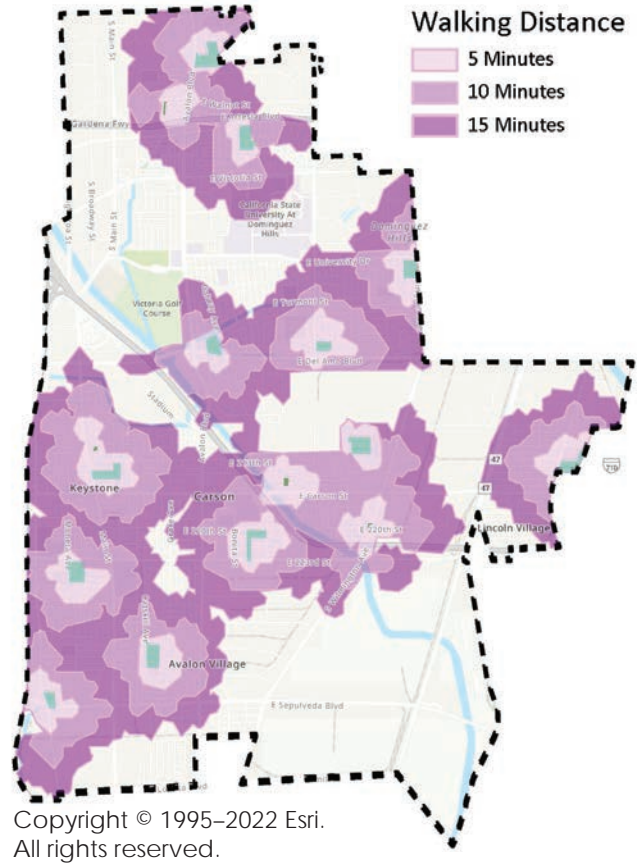
	5 Min Walk	3% of population	2,651 pop / .41 sq. miles
	10 Min Walk	11% of population	10,420 pop / 1.54 sq. miles
	15 Min Walk	20% of population	18,828 pop / 3.27 sq. miles

\* There is a greater population served by the mini parks that go out of the City boundary.

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



### Exhibit 3.1-7: Service Area Gap Analysis for All City Parks



#### Neighborhood Parks

	5 Min Walk	12% of population	11,132 pop / 1.38 sq. miles
	10 Min Walk	46% of population	42,684 pop / 6.53 sq. miles
	15 Min Walk	75% of population	70,110 pop / 9.92 sq. miles

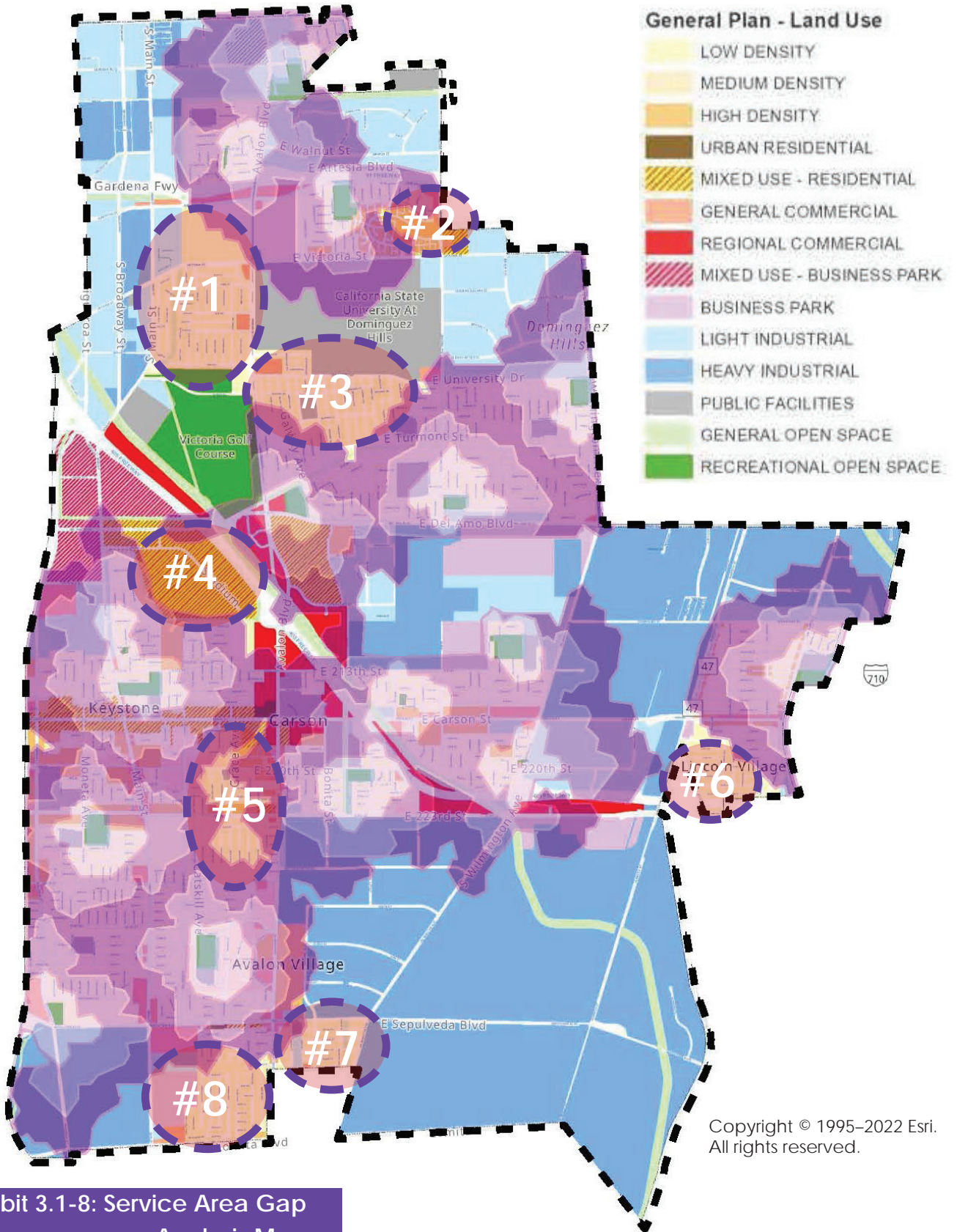
\* There is a greater population served by the neighborhood parks that go out of the City boundary.

#### All City Parks

	5 Min Walk	15% of population	13,784 pop / 1.17 sq. miles
	10 Min Walk	46% of population	42,866 pop / 6.58 sq. miles
	15 Min Walk	81% of population	75,460 pop / 10.73 sq. miles

\* There is a greater population served by the all City parks that go out of the City boundary.

# 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 and neighborhood 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 adequate 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 has access to Victoria Regional Park to the south which is a large 36-acre park maintained by Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation. Also there is a private recreation center and park to the north in the Harbor Village Clubhouse neighborhood.
- #2** This area is Dominguez Hills Village which includes private recreation opportunities. The community has many amenities including a clubhouse, swimming pool, basketball court, tennis courts, playground, parks, and walkways.
- #3** California State Dominguez Hills University is located north of this service gap area. The City could partner with the University to allow access to parkland to the residents in this area.
- #4** This area is part of the District at South Bay Specific Plan, if this newly developing area includes residential areas, parkland will need to be provided for those residents.
- #5** There are limited opportunities to develop new parks in this area. There are several large neighborhood parks nearby.
- #6** This area is known as the Lincoln Village neighborhood and has limited opportunities to parkland. This is a low density neighborhood with large yards.
- #7** This area near the city border with the City of Wilmington to the south.
- #8** This residential area is adjacent to a post office and Planet Fitness with little opportunities to park access.

# Custom Park Standards Calculations (CPSC's)

## 3.2 Custom Park Standards Calculations & Facility Demand

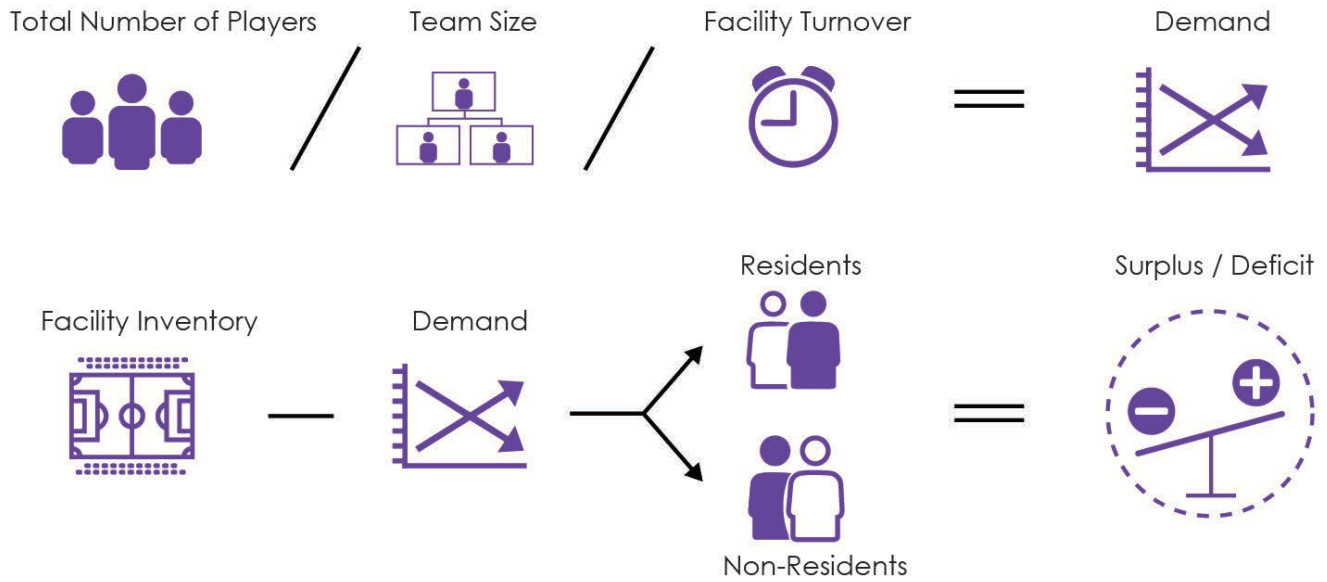
A key element in any planning strategy is an understanding of the nature of “demand” for parks and recreation facilities. This report assesses the demand for recreation facilities by the participants of organized sports within Carson, and participation data from the statistically valid, multi-modal community 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 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review does not present park and recreation “standards”; the benchmarks outlined do not promote any sort of standards against which every 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.”**

- 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review

The Custom Park Standards Calculations (CPSC's) for the City of Carson are based on the 2021 Esri Forecasted population level of 93,184 and participation data gathered in the 2022 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 Carson Local Needs, a comparison of the 2022 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 (50,000 to 99,999 population)	NRPA Facility Need
Baseball (youth)	1/8,192	11.4	1/8,095	11.5
Basketball Indoor (youth)	1/7,171	13.0	1/8,477	11.0
Football (youth)	1/51,769	1.8	1/30,599	3.0
Soccer (youth)	1/16,384	5.7	1/8,224	11.3
Soccer (adult)	1/31,061	3.0	1/16,231	5.7
Softball (adult)	1/14,713	6.3	1/17,228	5.4

\*NRPA does not specify indoor or outdoor.

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

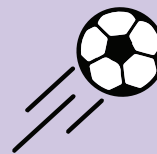
# Custom Park Standards Calculations (CPSC's) continued

The following illustrations identify the individual sports evaluated as part of the local CPSC's for the City of Carson. Existing facilities are compared to the local needs and surplus / deficit calculations are presented for current (2021) as well as future (2031) 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.



Veterans Park

## Soccer (adult) Summary:



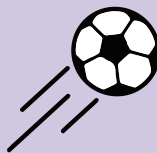
Total Facilities Available	5
Current Needs	1.8
Current Surplus / Deficit	3.2
Future Needs	3.1
Future Surplus / Deficit	1.9

## Baseball (youth) Summary:



Total Facilities Available	12
Current Needs	10.2
Current Surplus / Deficit	1.8
Future Needs	11.7
Future Surplus / Deficit	0.3

## Soccer (youth) Summary:



Total Facilities Available	9
Current Needs	4.8
Current Surplus / Deficit	4.2
Future Needs	5.8
Future Surplus / Deficit	3.2

## Basketball Indoor (youth) Summary:



Total Facilities Available	8
Current Needs	10.1
Current Surplus / Deficit	-2.1
Future Needs	13.3
Future Surplus / Deficit	-5.3

## Softball (adult) Summary:



Total Facilities Available	9
Current Needs	4.4
Current Surplus / Deficit	4.6
Future Needs	6.5
Future Surplus / Deficit	2.5

## Football (youth) Summary:



Total Facilities Available	5
Current Needs	1.5
Current Surplus / Deficit	3.5
Future Needs	1.8
Future Surplus / Deficit	3.2

## Swimming (competition) Summary:




Total Facilities Available	1.28
Current Needs	0.3
Current Surplus / Deficit	1.0
Future Needs	0.3
Future Surplus / Deficit	1.0



The Custom Park Standards Calculations for the Carson Event Center, Recreation Center/Gymnasium, Pickleball, Tennis, Skateboarding and Recreation Swim are based on the 2021 population level in the City of Carson of 93,184. The per capita participation is based on the information received from the 2022 statistically valid, multi-modal 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.

### Carson Event Center:



Total Facilities Available*	1
Current Needs	0.3
Current Surplus / Deficit	0.7

\*Based on 53,269 SF = 1 Carson Event Center

### Recreation Center/Gymnasium:



Total Facilities Available**	14.3
Current Needs	8.1
Current Surplus / Deficit	6.2

\*\*Based on 2,500 SF = 1 recreation center

### Tennis Summary:



Total Facilities Available	18
Current Needs	48.9
Current Surplus / Deficit	-30.9

### Pickleball Summary:



Total Facilities Available	0
Current Needs	45.2
Current Surplus / Deficit	-45.2

### Recreation Swim Summary:



Total Facilities Available***	2.2
Current Needs	2.5
Current Surplus / Deficit	0.3

\*\*\*Based on 25Mx25Yd or 6,150 SF = 1 pool

### Skateboarding Summary:



Total Facilities Available****	1
Current Needs	2.5
Current Surplus / Deficit	-1.5

\*\*\*\*Based on 10,000 SF = 1 skate park

NOTE: "Total Facilities Available" includes City parks and joint use school facilities. Private or County facilities not included.

# Recreation Program Inventory

## 3.3 Programs and Services

In addition to providing open spaces, parks, and recreation facilities for the City of Carson through the Community Services Department also provides a wide range of services and programs geared towards meeting the recreation needs and interests of various age levels.

**“The Community Services / Parks and Recreation Department embraces and enhances community diversity through programs, services and facilities that improve the quality of life for people of all ages and abilities throughout the community.”**

The City’s service and activity programs include:

### Aquatics:

Carson’s extensive Aquatics program provides both drop in and scheduled opportunities. A variety of programs are offered at the Hemingway Aquatic Center and Dominquez Aquatic Center from March through mid-November. The City offers an extensive array of programs at these two facilities. The swim lesson program is very popular with all classes filled to maximum class size.

Carson and Foisia Pools are normally operated during the summer months and offering only recreation swimming and lap swimming.

Source: ci.carson.ca.us



Silent Saturday

Source: ci.carson.ca.us



Kids Club and Day Camp Group

**Children, Youth, and Teen Services:** The Community Services Department offers a variety of preschool and youth programs, camps, teen programming, enrichment-based classes, performing arts programs, sports and fitness activities, and a unique early childhood education program. These programs are a significant component of Carson’s recreational services.

**Classes:**

Carson offers a limited number of classes. Class and activity sessions occur year-round. Community Services provides activities and programs in nearly 30 topic areas, including arts and crafts, science, music, language, and continuing education.

**Community Events:**

The Community Services Department working in conjunction with numerous civic organizations, businesses, and other public agencies provides facilities, staff support, and miscellaneous services for several signatures, special, and seasonal events in the community.

**Sports:**

The Department runs an adult and youth sports program for baseball, basketball, football, soccer, and softball that includes organized games. Other recreational sports classes include tennis and golf lessons. There is also a cheer program through the City recreation.

**Senior Programs:**

Carson offers senior recreation programming for those ages 50 and above. Provided are numerous activities, lectures, health information, and an extensive social services support program. Carson’s Senior Recreation Services is primarily located in the East Wing of the Congresswoman Juanita Millender McDonald Community Center.



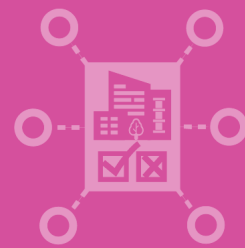
Source: City of Carson

Carson Cheer



Source: City of Carson

# SECTION FOUR: RECOMMENDATIONS



# 4

Carson provides its residents with many park and recreation facilities, a large County Park, and school facilities, as well as some nearby recreation opportunities. Demand is strong for parks that feature active recreational facilities as well as those that support family orientated events and gatherings. Carson’s population demographics is a mix of youth, seniors, older active adults, and families that require a variety classes, programs, and community events. Demand for increasingly diverse and ever-changing recreation programs and facilities should be re-assessed every five to ten years.

The recommendations developed in this section are founded in the desires and needs for recreation opportunities identified by the Carson community. Specific recommendations are broken down within four (4) 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 are designed to balance the equation of where existing recreation resources exist and how they relate to the needs of the community. Through this analysis recreation development can flourish and continue to support a thriving active and healthy community.



**Key Strategy #1: Preserve and Expand Sports Opportunities**



**Key Strategy #2: Strengthen Community Identity Through Facility Modernization**



**Key Strategy #3: Foster Healthy Living in Providing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities**



**Key Strategy #4: Provide Diverse Recreation Programs for All Ages and Abilities**



# Key Strategy #1: Preserve and Expand Sports Opportunities

## Sports Programs and Sports Lighting:

Parks and Recreation play a critical role in ensuring every child in every community has access to team and individual sports. According to the NRPA, the five most popular youth sports are basketball, baseball/softball, soccer, football, and volleyball.

## Existing Conditions:

- The City offers adult and youth sports programs that regularly utilize Carson playing fields and facilities throughout the year. While enrollment among the various non city groups fluctuates each year, most non city sports program groups currently utilize Veterans Sports complex.
- Most sports Courts (15 basketball and 18 tennis) and fields (9 baseball, 8 softball, 10 multi-use overlay) at city parks have installed lighting. Most are scheduled to be off during nighttime hours if not scheduled for use. The City currently has one sports field, at Hemingway Park, without lighting that would allow for increased evening play.

## Community Voice:

- Sports program desires were recorded in Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Workshop 3, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Exhibit 4.1-1 illustrates the location of survey respondents that indicated that sports programs (including baseball, basketball, boxing, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball) were a need in the city.
- Sports Field/Court Lighting desires were recorded in Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Workshop 3, Online Feedback Comments, and in the Multimodal Survey. Light courts at night, field lighting, and lighting on fields/courts were ideas recorded in the community outreach.
- Exhibit 4.1-1 illustrates the location of survey respondents that indicated that sports programs (including baseball, basketball, boxing, football, soccer, softball, and volleyball) and sports court/Field lighting were needed in the city.

## Recommendations:

- As more sports organizations reform after Covid there will be an increased need for active sports facility maintenance compensatory to the level of increased play.
- Develop new partnerships with non-city sports organizations to further develop league opportunities that can serve the community beyond current city resources.
- Continue to evaluate and update resident rates or partnerships with outside sports leagues.
- The city should consider increasing park hours and lighting to accommodate increased sports court and field programs.
- Develop an implementation plan to upgrade the City's park and sports field lighting to energy efficient LEDs.

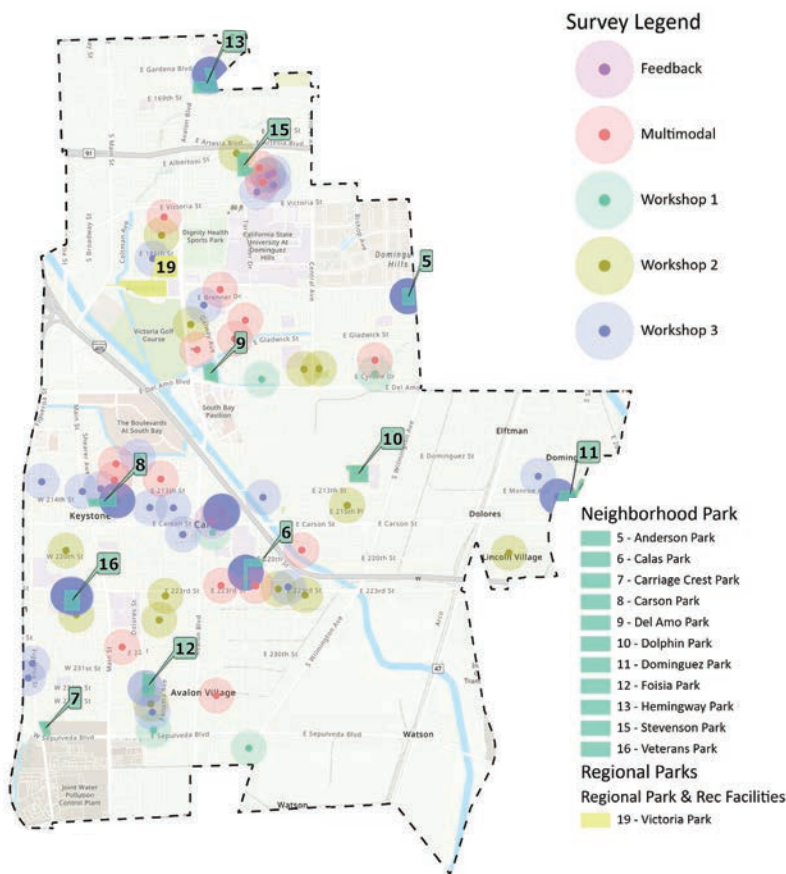
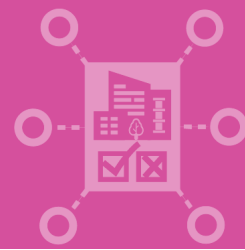


Exhibit 4.1-1: Sports Programs & Sports Lighting Survey Results

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## Gymnasium:

Adult and youth basketball programs offered by the city are highly attended with over 1,500 players registered annually. Basketball games are played in the city park or school gymnasiums. The gymnasiums in Carson are mostly utilized by the city's basketball program and there is little opportunity for additional programming or open play in the gymnasiums.

## Existing Conditions:

- In City Parks, there are (4) Gymnasiums at Carson Park (10,800 SF), Foisia Park (6,000 SF), Stevenson Park (8,500 SF), and Veterans Sports Complex (Main Gym is 13,700 SF and Small Gym is 5,300 SF). Veterans Park gymnasium is rented to corporate basketball teams. The city has a draft joint use agreement with LAUSD to use (4) Gymnasiums at Curtiss Middle School, Stephen White Middle School, Carson High School, and Rancho Dominguez Preparatory School. There is a gymnasium at Victoria Regional Park, programmed by the county.

## Community Voice:

- Gymnasium desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. The sports organization survey indicates that there is a 5-court deficit for indoor basketball courts used for organized games. The Multi-Modal Survey indicated there is a high frequency of visits to the city gyms and recreation centers throughout the year.
- Exhibit 4.1-2 illustrates the location of responses that indicated 'Gymnasium' or 'Gym' as a community need, as well as the location of existing gymnasiums within the city boundary.

## Recommendations:

- Develop one new gymnasium (with 2 indoor courts) to reduce the deficit. The new gymnasium should be in the northern region of the city to balance the equitable distribution of facilities.
- Continue to utilize activity room/meeting room recreation center space or space at the Carson Event Center for adult/senior fitness classes currently conducted in gymnasiums.
- Keep current gymnasiums maintained to avoid disrepair and monitor scheduling of gymnasium facilities.

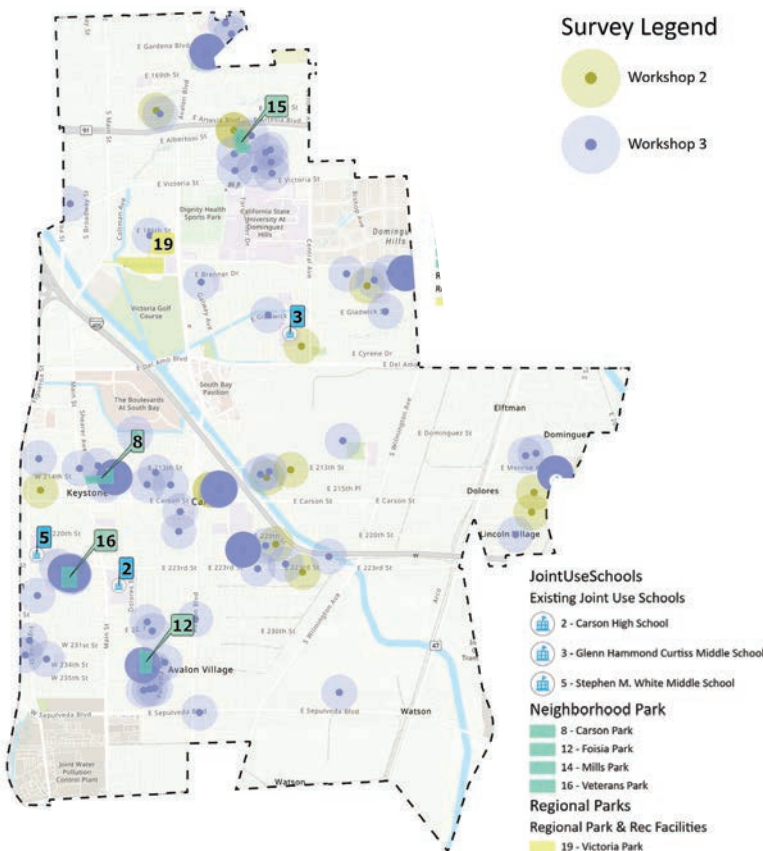


Exhibit 4.1-2: Gymnasium Survey Results

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# Key Strategy #1: Preserve and Expand Sports Opportunities

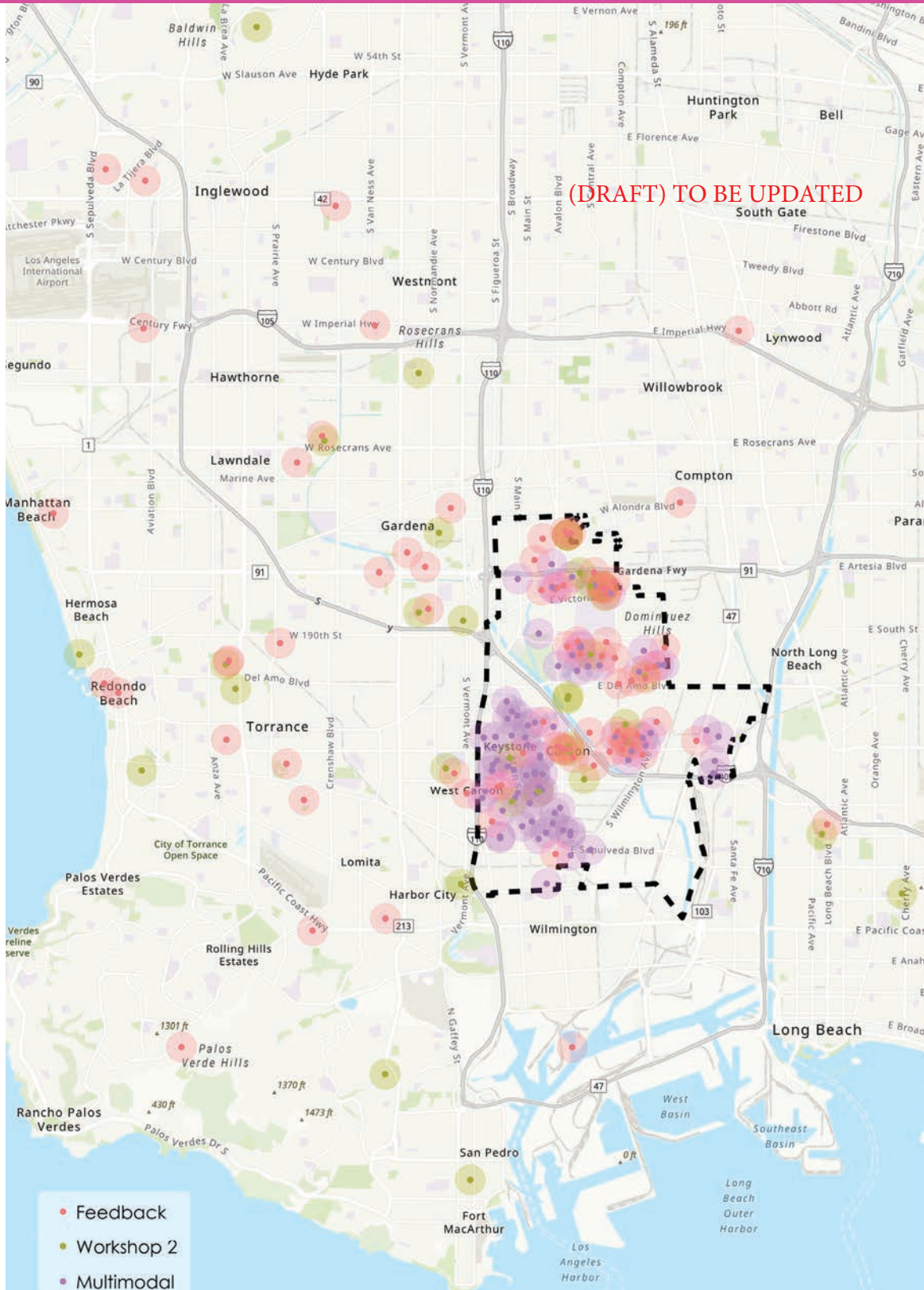
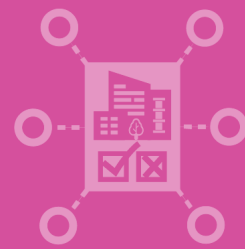


Exhibit 4.1-3: Pickleball Court Survey Results (Regional)

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### Pickleball Courts and Programs:

Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America. Pickleball has had a 650 percent increase in numbers over the last six years 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). The national trend is also now prevalent with the Carson residents.

### Existing Conditions:

- Within the City of Carson, the VELO Sports Center (Private Facility) has pickleball courts available to residents for a \$3 per person drop-in fee, paddle and ball loan included. Pickleball Courts are located in adjacent cities: 6 in Torrance, 4 in Hermosa Beach, 6 in Manhattan Beach and 8 courts located in Inglewood. In City parks, there are temporary pickleball courts at Del Amo, Hemingway and Foisia Parks.
- The Community Services Department currently does not offer leagues, clinics, group lessons, or tournaments. The City has recently organized Pickleball events at Foisia and Hemingway Parks, these events were highly attended and successful. In the past, the City has offered teen pickleball programming at Del Amo Park.

### Community Voice:

- Pickleball Court desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, Multimodal Survey, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. The Multimodal Survey indicated that there is a need for pickleball courts based on local high participation rates.
- Pickleball Classes or Tournament desires were recorded in Workshop 2, and in various Stakeholder Interviews.
- Exhibit 4.1-3 and Exhibit 4.1-4 illustrates the location of survey responses throughout the region as well as concentrated areas within the city boundary.

### Recommendations:

- The majority of pickleball play revolves around group tournaments also known as Round Robin events. As such the city should pursue the development of joint tennis/ pickleball courts in groupings of 8-12 pickleball courts (four courts per one tennis court) in 2 locations, one in the southwest region of the city and one in the northeast region of the city.
- Explore partnership opportunities with Cal State University, Dominguez Hills to reduce the **remaining deficit of tennis and pickleball courts**.
- Maintain and repair existing courts. If tennis courts become unavailable by making the courts dedicated pickleball only courts, additional tennis courts should be made available at a nearby location.
- As new facilities are developed the city should investigate offering pickleball classes and programs.

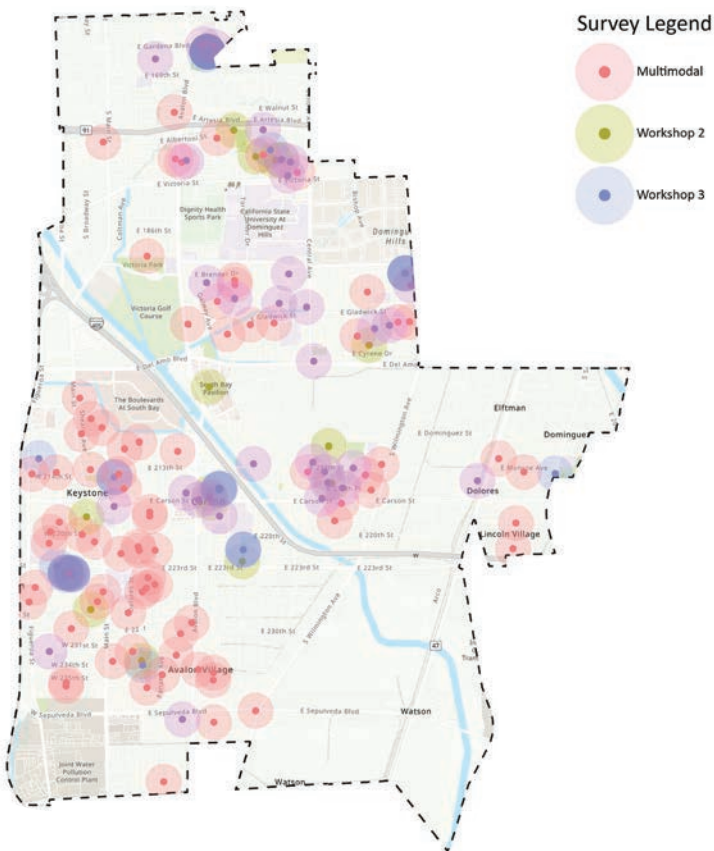
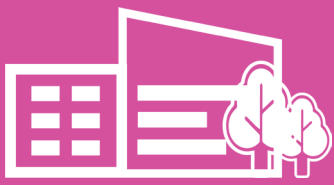


Exhibit 4.1-4: Pickleball Courts & Programs Survey Results

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# Key Strategy #2: Strengthen Community Identity Through Facility Modernization

## Park Maintenance and Improvements:

As indicated in the Multimodal Survey 80% of the respondent's indicated satisfaction with the building and maintenance divisions maintenance of parks within the City. "Parks and recreation services should be equally accessible and available to all people regardless of income level, ethnicity, gender, ability, or age. Maintenance, safety, and accessibility of parks and facilities, should be provided on an equitable basis to all citizens of communities served by public agencies. It is a right, not just a privilege, for people to have safe healthful access to parks and recreation." -NRPA

## Existing Conditions:

- The City of Carson currently owns, controls, and maintains sixteen (16) parks which encompass 119.7 acres of developed parkland.

## Community Voice:

- Park Improvement desires (including infrastructure, modernization, and upgrades) were recorded in all outreach methods including Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Workshop 3, Multimodal Survey and in various Stakeholder Interviews.
- Park Maintenance desires (including general clean up, trash removal, and make repairs) were recorded in Workshop 1, Workshop 2, and in various Stakeholder Interviews.
- Exhibit 4.1-5 illustrates the location of responses that indicated park maintenance or improvements were desired.

## Recommendations:

- The city should look to implementing a deferred maintenance schedule for facilities that require immediate improvements limiting park use, such as tennis court resurfacing.
- Coordinate additional general maintenance schedules following large events and areas of **significant park usage**.
- The city should continue to advertise ways residents can report maintenance service requests through phone, website, or iWorQ app.
- Evaluate park hours and consider offsite controlled remote entry for restroom access.
- Develop unused park space to include features that would activate park use.
- **Begin the conversion of identified "non-functional" turf areas into native and/or drought tolerant landscaping.** Further detailed sustainable practice recommendations are detailed in the operations and maintenance plan available in the appendix.
- Follow the successful grant model of recent funding secured for Carson Park, Carriage Crest Park, and Mills Park improvements to continue pursuit of grant funding for Foisia and other parks.

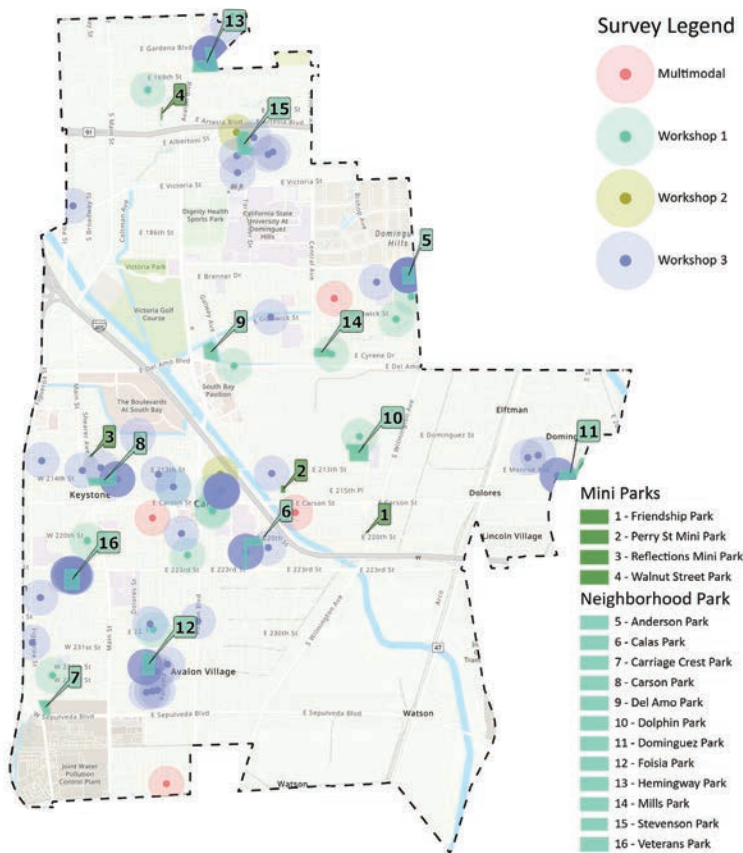
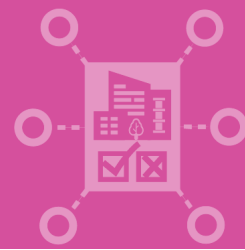


Exhibit 4.1-5: Park Maintenance & Improvements Survey Results

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### Security System:

Park security is a common element in many cities across America. Modern park designs help limit nefarious and perceptions of potential unsafe conditions through Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) features.

### Existing Conditions:

- The City does not have any CCTV capabilities in any of the park facilities. Several parks do have pedestrian night lighting fixtures.

### Community Voice:

- Security system desires were recorded in Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Workshop 3, Online Feedback Comments, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Safety, security, and lighting were ideas recorded in the community outreach.
- Exhibit 4.1-6 illustrates the location of responses that indicated park security system was desired.

### Recommendations:

- The city should look to implementing a remote camera system in parks with intense community use.
- Install additional night lighting as well as repair any existing damaged or inoperable light fixtures.
- Park improvement projects as well as new park facilities should be designed to include Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) features.

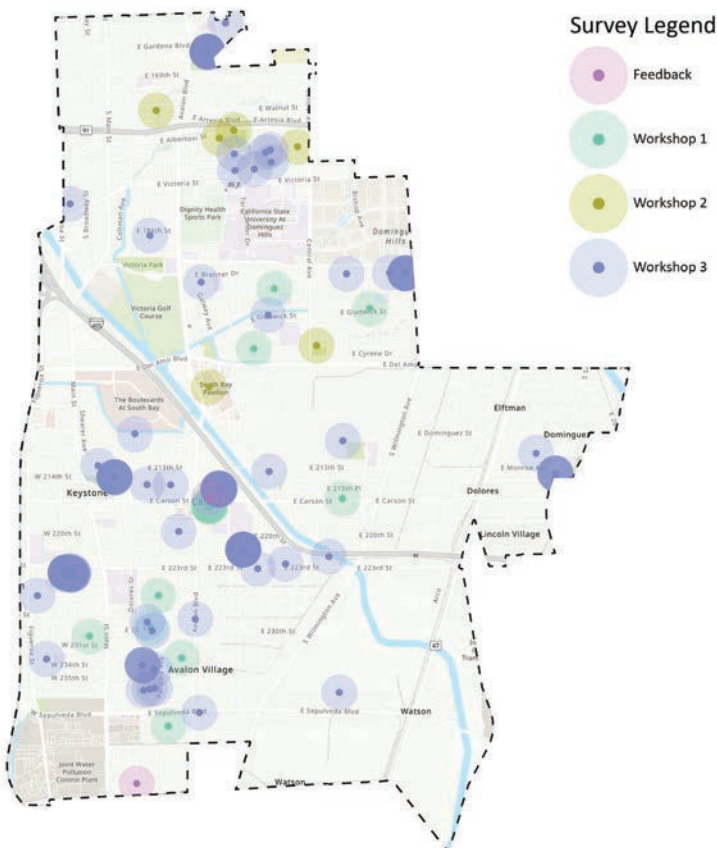


Exhibit 4.1-6: Security Systems Survey Results

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# Key Strategy #3: Foster Healthy Living in Providing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

## Fitness Classes:

“The nation’s public parks and recreation are leaders in improving the overall health and wellness of the nation. They are essential partners in combating some of the most complicated challenges our country faces – poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. Park and recreation agencies effectively improve health outcomes and thus should be supported through national and community level funding and policies that enable them to continue to expand their efforts in making a positive change in the health and wellness of our nation.”  
-NRPA

## Existing Conditions:

- The city currently offers aqua and senior **fitness classes**. There are many private fitness opportunities such as 24 Hour Fitness and Planet Fitness in the city.

## Community Voice:

- Fitness class desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, and the Multimodal Survey. Mentions included aerobics, exercise, cycling, training, yoga, and walking club.
- Exhibit 4.1-7 illustrates the location of survey responses.

## Recommendations:

- The city should look to develop fitness programs at the recreation centers with fitness rooms in the geographic areas where the requests are most concentrated.
- The city should consider offering programs at existing outdoor fitness zones, and/ or contracting for yoga classes.
- As fitness programs are implemented, evaluate participation levels, cost recovery, as well as potential improvements through continued community feedback.

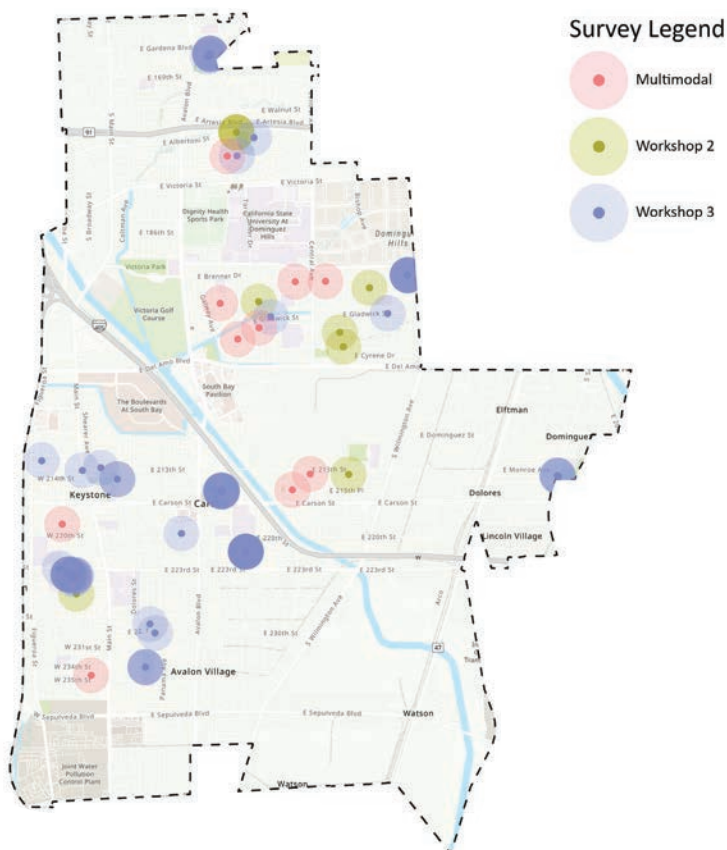
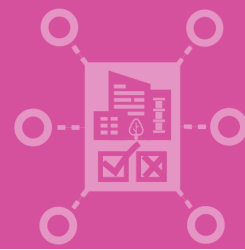


Exhibit 4.1-7: Fitness Classes Survey Results

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## Swimming Pool Improvements & Aquatic Programs:

Aquatic recreation has been a significant desire by residents across Southern California due to favorable climate conditions. Residents in Carson have strongly echoed this desire on a local level. Municipal swimming facilities afford residents the access to swim lessons, recreational swim, and aqua aerobics.

### Existing Conditions:

- The City operates four (4) aquatic facilities from March through November. The four facilities are: Carson Pool, Dominguez Aquatic Center (2 pools), Foisia Pool, and Hemingway Aquatic Center (3 pools). This includes 2 swimming pools, Foisia and Hemingway Pools, suitable for competition swim. These competition pool facilities are used by school swim teams during January through April.
- Carson and Foisia Pools are normally operated during the summer months only.
- Carson's extensive Aquatics program provides both drop in and scheduled opportunities. A variety of programs are offered.

### Community Voice:

- Swimming pool desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, and the Multimodal Survey.
- Aquatic program desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Diving, swimming, water aerobics, and water polo were ideas recorded during the community outreach.
- Exhibit 4.1-8 illustrates the location of survey responses.

### Recommendations:

- City should move forward with the planning for renovation and upgrade to existing aquatic facilities. Initial funding should be budgeted to develop preliminary renovation plans, budget, and schedule for completion resulting in limited impact to the public.
- **Ensure adequate staffing is available to accommodate pool demand.**
- Continue joint use agreement with schools for use of pools during seasonal months not impacting city programs
- Explore the opportunity to schedule during slower season advanced aquatic programming and other non-traditional water-based programming **such as kayaking or fishing. This utilizes the pool when there are still maintenance costs (not heated, and minimal chemical costs).** In Carson, two pools operate for 3 seasons, so this would be a great winter experience.

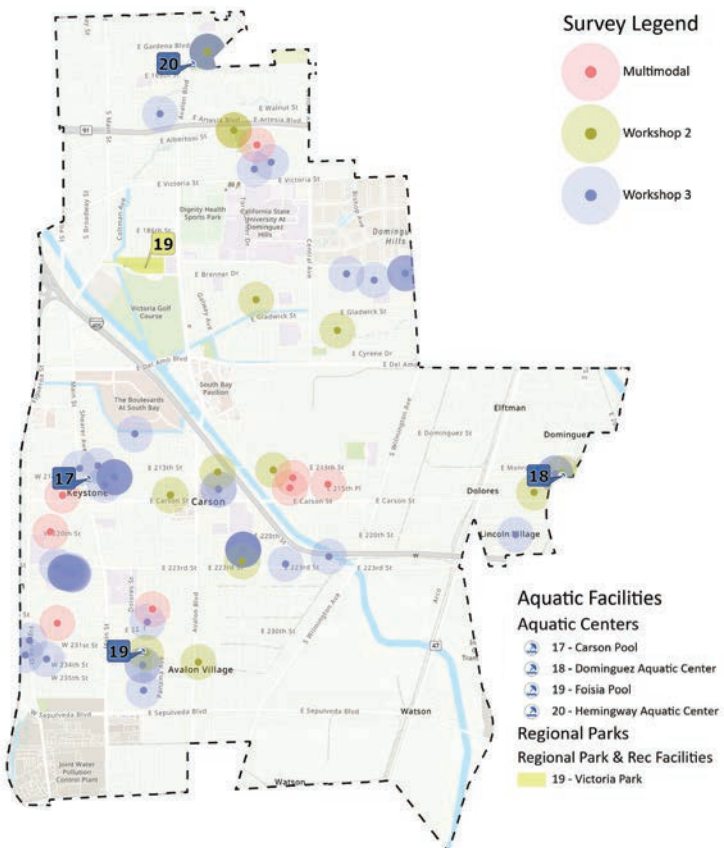


Exhibit 4.1-8: Swimming Pool Improvements & Aquatic Program Survey Results

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# Key Strategy #3: Foster Healthy Living in Providing Outdoor Recreation Opportunities

## Trails:

“Multiple studies have shown that the connection to nature has numerous positive impacts on physical and mental health. Decades of urbanization and sedentary lifestyles have disconnected people from nature. This issue resurfaced during the COVID-19 pandemic, when people were forced to shelter in place in their nature-deprived neighborhoods, a reminder of the importance of nature in our lives.”

-American Planning Association

## Existing Conditions:

- There are 10.5 miles of bikeways in Carson. The Compton creek bike bath and the Los Angeles River trail is nearby. Also, just outside the cities eastern boundary are trails through the Dominguez gap wetlands.

## Community Voice:

- Trails desires were recorded in Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Workshop 3, Online Feedback Comments, the Multimodal Survey, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Trails, bike paths, walkways were ideas recorded in the community outreach.
- Exhibit 4.1-9 illustrates the location of survey responses.

## Recommendations:

- Continue to explore and develop the Dominguez Channel trail project in partnership with the County, 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 per the Bikeways Master Plan.
- Work with other municipal and regional jurisdictions including the County of Los Angeles to improve shared ecological systems, using watershed protection principles and regional projects such as trails and greenways as a basis for cooperation.
- Develop, manage, and maintain City-owned urban natural areas, to facilitate public access and promote ecological values.

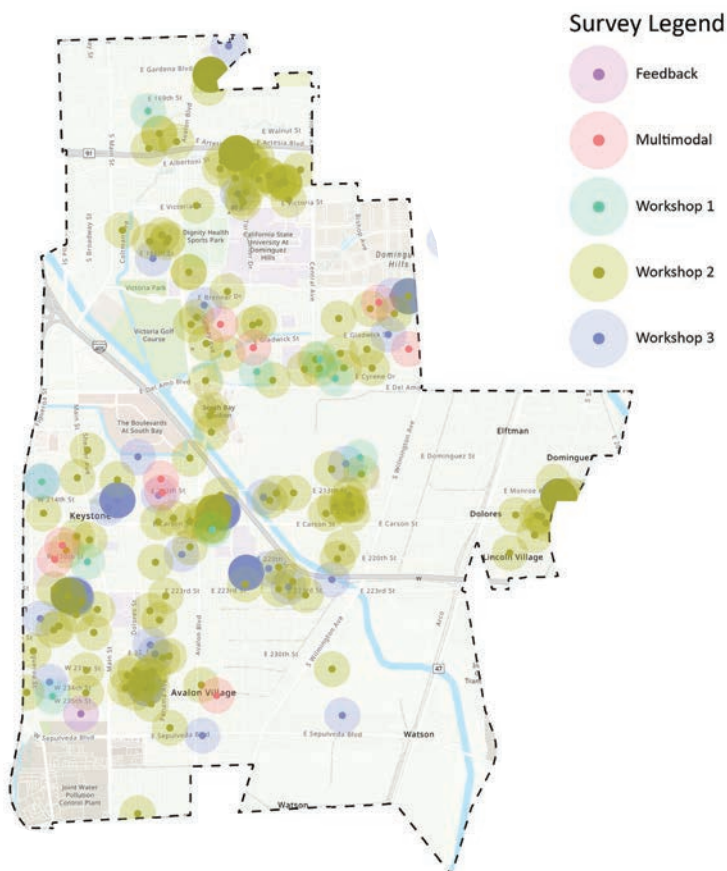
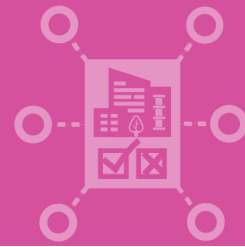


Exhibit 4.1-9: Trails Survey Results

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## Dog Park:

Dog parks are considered regional facilities that attract dog owners from surrounding areas. Dog parks are a socially engaging activity for dog owners as well as their canine friends. Lack of dog park facilities can put an additional strain on local parks to provide open areas for dog owners to recreate. Having a dedicated dog park centralizes off leash dog activities. Regional facilities such as dog parks attract outside resident populations and the opportunity to capture nonresident tax revenue and sales for local businesses.

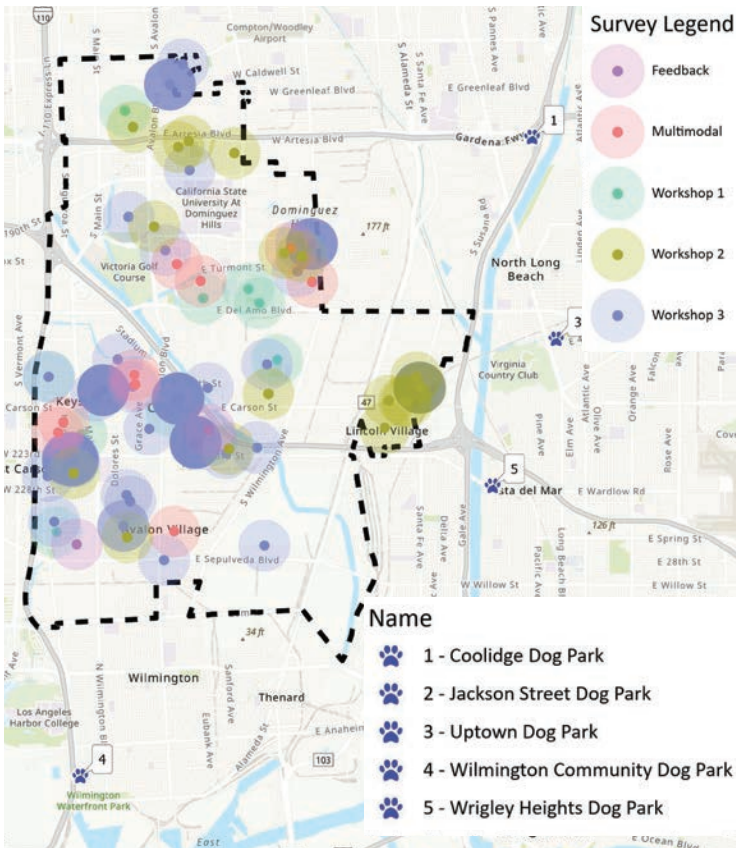


Exhibit 4.1-10: Dog Park Survey Results

## Existing Conditions:

- Currently, there are no dog parks in any city parks. The city has a policy that dogs are not allowed in any city parks. There are currently **6 dog parks in the region, as identified on Exhibit 4.1-10.**

## Community Voice:

- Dog park, dog areas, or dogs allowed in parks desires were recorded in all outreach methods including Workshop 1, Workshop 2, Workshop 3, Online Feedback Comments, Multimodal Survey and in various Stakeholder Interviews.
- Exhibit 4.1-10 illustrates the location of survey responses and the location of regional dog parks.

## Recommendations:

- Implement the approved plans to add a dog park in phase 2 of the Carriage Crest Park renovation.
- Consider updating policy to allow leashed dogs in selected parks and install signage and dog waste bag stations at these park locations.
- Continue to enforce the no dogs in parks policy where applicable.

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## Key Strategy #4: Provide Diverse Recreation Programs for All Ages and Abilities

During the development of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan, several program desires were recorded. 33% of respondents participate in programs more than once a month. Those who do not participate indicated they have no time and are not aware or have no interest. It is important to note that the community of Carson is very satisfied, 76.5%, with the recreation programs that are offered through the community. With a high satisfaction of the programs also comes a desire from the community for the City to continue to offer high quality programming that is in line with the desires of the residents.

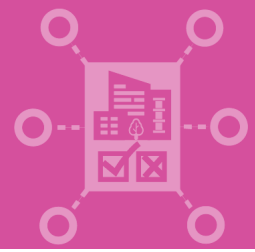
There are several private organizations that also offer youth programs, these include the Boys and Girls Club of Carson, Gardena-Carson Family YMCA, and the School Districts. The Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department also conducts programming at Victoria Park.

The following are program mentions that were recorded most often and would have a high impact in the community should they be developed.

### Community Voice:

- **Activities for Adults Ages 40-54:** Activities for adults ages 40-54 desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, and in various Stakeholder Interviews.
- **Affordable Programs and Classes:** Affordable programs and classes desires were recorded in Workshop 3, Online Feedback Comments, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Low cost or free classes were ideas Recorded in the community outreach.
- **Afterschool Programs:** Afterschool program desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, and in various Stakeholder Interviews.
- **Arts and Crafts Classes:** Arts and crafts classes desires were recorded in Workshop 2, multimodal Survey and in various Stakeholder Interviews.
- **Community Events:** Community events desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, Online Feedback Comments, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Concerts, field trips, movies, and special events were ideas Recorded in the online feedback survey.
- **Home Economics:** Home economics classes desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Online Feedback Comments, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Cooking, Sewing, and life skills were ideas recorded in the community outreach.
- **Performing Arts Program:** Performing arts program desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Online Feedback Comments, and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Dance and drama were ideas recorded in the community outreach.
- **Senior Activities and Programs:** Senior activities and program desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Online Feedback Comments, Multi-Modal Survey and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Ideas recorded in the community outreach were senior fitness classes including aqua/water exercise, low impact sports, pickleball, and silver sneakers program. Computer access for seniors and more senior classes, were also mentioned.
- **Social Services:** Social services desires were recorded in Workshop 3, Multi-Modal Survey and in various Stakeholder Interviews. Assistance with living trust and wills, as well as mental health resources and classes were ideas recorded in the community outreach.
- **Teen Programs:** Teen program desires were recorded in Workshop 2, Workshop 3, and in various Stakeholder Interviews.





## Recommendations:

- Marketing efforts should follow best practices that are in line with “where” the community gets most of its recreation information from the City. Based on the results of the multimodal survey, the majority of respondents (60%) found information for City programming through online searches. 18% look at the city’s website for information on parks, recreation facilities or programs. 16% go to city hall to get information. There was significant participation in the community outreach efforts in receiving paper surveys collected at the event center, community center and recreation centers.
- The City may have some of the above classes already available to the residents and should look to build or improve upon the class offering, timing and availability, as well as the marketing the existing programs to residents.
- Inform the community of classes, programs, and activities / events on city website and calendar.
- Involve the community by holding public meetings and solicit resident input.
- Continue to work in conjunction with numerous civic organizations, businesses, volunteers and other public agencies to provide facilities, staff support, and miscellaneous services for several signature, special, and seasonal events in the community.



Source: City of Carson

# Recommendations

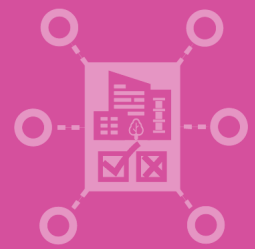
## 4.2 Park and Facility Recommendations

There is approximately \$65 million in needed existing park and facility improvements (Exhibit 4.2-2) based on planned 2021/26 CIP projects. Additionally, to the needs identified, there are substantial deferred maintenance projects identified by the City's maintenance staff.

There is approximately \$18 million in new park and facility improvement projects based on the Master Plan recommendations developed from the community voice and needs assessment. The following projects should be included in the next Capital Improvement Plan:

2022 Master Plan Recommendations	Estimated Cost
Convert existing sports field lighting to LED (\$900k on 2021/26 CIP)	N/A
Provide one new gymnasium in northern region (30,000 SF gymnasium)	\$9,500,000
Repair and restripe tennis courts to allow pickleball play (per 60 ft x 120 ft court)	\$28,000
Convert non-recreation turf areas & landscape improvements	\$5.00 / SF of turf renovation
Install security system [cameras and motion activated lights] (\$50k for security cameras on 2021/26 CIP)	\$85,000 / park
Trail development – per mile	\$250,000
Bike Trail – per mile	\$650,000
Dog Park (1.5 acre)	\$1,600,000
Expand/Renovate Fabela Chavez Boxing & Fitness Center	\$5,500,000

**Exhibit 4.2-1: Capital Costs for Master Plan Recommendations**



2021/26 CIP Project	Estimated Cost
<b>City Parks</b>	
Friendship Mini Park - 0.3 Acres	none
Perry Street Mini Park - 1.2 Acres	none
Reflections Mini Park - 0.4 Acres	none
Walnut Mini Park - 0.7 Acres	none
Anderson Park - 8.4 Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anderson Park Electrical Panel</li> </ul>	\$75,000
Calas Park - 9.2 Acres	none
Carriage Crest Park - 4.8 Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carriage Crest Park Redevelopment</li> </ul>	\$11,800,000
Carson Park - 10.8 Acres	none
Del Amo Park - 8.6 Acres	none
Dolphin Park - 12.4 Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dolphin Park Electrical Panel</li> </ul>	\$100,000
Dominquez Park - 10.0 Acres	none
Foisia Park - 11.3 Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foisia Park Upgrades</li> </ul>	\$8,500,000
Hemingway Park - 12.5 Acres	none
Mills Park - 5.0 Acres <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mills Park Renovation</li> </ul>	\$537,000
Stevenson Park - 11.8 Acres	none
Veterans Park - 12.3 Acres	none
<b>City Facilities</b>	
Carson Pool	none
Dominguez Aquatic Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dominguez Park Re-plaster Pool</li> <li>Dominguez Pool Heaters</li> </ul>	\$260,000 \$200,000
Foisia Pool <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Foisia Park Pool Renovation</li> </ul>	\$450,000
Hemingway Aquatic Center	none
Carson Event Center	none
Carson Park Community Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Center Coiling Wall &amp; Seismic Analysis</li> <li>Community Center Upgrades</li> <li>Community Center Upgrades - Halls &amp; Kitchen</li> </ul>	\$1,500,000 \$1,450,000 \$1,870,000
Carson Stroke Center	none
Fabela Chavez Boxing & Fitness Center	none
Stevenson Park Recreation Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stevenson Park Bungalow Removal</li> <li>Stevenson Park Picnic Shelters</li> </ul>	\$60,000 \$1,000,000
Veterans Sports Complex and Skate Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veterans Park Electronic Marquee</li> <li>Veterans Park Office &amp; Meeting Room &amp; Kitchen Refurbishment</li> </ul>	\$75,000 \$98,000

**Exhibit 4.2-2: 2021/26 CIP Projects for Existing Facilities**

# Recommendations

Multi Parks / City-Wide Projects	
• Calas Park & Foisia Park Roof Repair	\$492,495
• Sidewalk Repair for ADA in City Parks	\$1,420,000
• Dugout Cover Installation at 9 Parks	\$75,000
• Replace Rubberized Play Surface and Playground Structures	\$3,706,000
• Athletic Field Lighting—LED	\$2,000,000
• Pool Slides Replacement at Dominguez and Hemingway Parks	\$900,000
• Security Cameras	\$200,000
• Park Gym Lighting	\$30,000
• Pool Building Shelter Cover	\$50,000
• Wading Pool Demolition	\$200,000
• Park Facility HVAC Installation	\$7,500,000
• Park Facility Restroom Remodel	\$20,100,000
<b>Total CIP 2021/26 Projects</b>	<b>\$64,648,495</b>

**Exhibit 4.2-2: 2021/26 CIP Projects for Existing Facilities (Continued)**

## 4.3 Opportunity Sites

The following new development projects in the City of Carson may include new park and/or recreation facility opportunity sites:

- Victoria Golf Course redevelopment – L.A. County property
- South Bay District Plan – private developer
- New park along Dominguez Channel – L.A. County property

The City should review the existing park development fees and requirements for these new development projects to ensure adequate parkland acreage is provided for the resident population on a proportional basis.

## 4.4 Joint Use Agreement Facility Recommendations

The City’s partnership with California State University (CSU) Dominguez Hills, allows the City to use its theater facility and conference rooms at a discounted rate. The City is currently in the process of developing a formal Joint Use Agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District for use of school facilities and sports fields.

## 4.5 Current Capital Improvements Plan

Project	Estimated Costs	Fiscal Year 21/22	Fiscal Year 22/23	Fiscal Year 23/24	Fiscal Year 24/25	Fiscal Year 25/26
Mills Park Renovation	\$537,000	\$537,000				
Foisia Park Pool Renovation	\$450,000	\$450,000				
Veterans Park Electronic Marquee	\$75,000					\$75,000
Calas Park & Foisia Park Roof Repair	\$492,495		\$492,495			



# 4

Sidewalk Repair for ADA in City Parks	\$1,420,000	\$220,000	\$600,000	\$600,000		
Dugout Cover Installation at 9 Parks	\$75,000		\$75,000			
Anderson Park Electrical Panel	\$75,000	\$75,000				
Community Center Coiling Wall & Seismic Analysis	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000				
Dominguez Park Re-plaster Pool	\$260,000	\$260,000				
Dominguez Pool Heaters	\$200,000	\$200,000				
Veterans Park Office & Meeting Room & Kitchen Refurbishment	\$98,000		\$98,000			
Replace Rubberized Play Surface and Playground Structures	\$3,706,000	\$250,000	\$864,000	\$864,000	\$864,000	\$864,000
Athletic Field Lighting—LED	\$2,000,000	\$200,000	\$400,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$400,000
Community Center Upgrades	\$1,450,000	\$605,000				
Dolphin Park Electrical Panel	\$100,000	\$100,000				
Pool Deck Repair at Dominguez and Hemingway Park	\$100,000	\$100,000				
Pool Slides Replacement at Dominguez and Hemingway Parks	\$900,000	\$450,000	\$450,000			
Security Cameras	\$200,000	\$200,000				
Pool Building Shelter Cover	\$50,000	\$50,000				
Park Gym Lighting	\$30,000	\$20,000	\$10,000			
Wading Pool Demo	\$200,000	\$100,000	\$100,000			
Park Facility HVAC Installation	\$7,500,000		\$2,700,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$2,400,000
Community Center Upgrades—Halls & Kitchen	\$1,870,000		\$1,870,000			
Stevenson Park Bungalow Removal	\$60,000		\$60,000			
Stevenson Park Picnic Shelters	\$1,000,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000
<b>Grants Eligible</b>						
Carriage Crest Park Redevelopment	\$11,800,000	\$500,000	\$5,190,000	\$6,110,000		
Foisia Park Upgrades	\$8,500,000	\$1,700,000	\$3,400,000	\$3,400,000		
Park Facility Restroom Remodel	\$20,100,000	\$400,000	\$4,020,000	\$4,020,000	\$4,020,000	\$7,640,000
Park Facility HVAC Remodel	\$7,500,000	\$500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000		

**Exhibit 4.5-1: Five - Year Capital Requirements**

# Recommendations

## 4.6 Funding Recommendations

To complete this Master Plan, the City will need to develop new revenue sources beyond those currently in use and/or increase funding levels for park maintenance and capital expenditures. Funding needs can be satisfied for the recommended improvements and increased maintenance levels through a variety of potential funding sources. Proposals must include cost-effective administrative funding at a level necessary to adequately sustain quality, safe, and cost-effective maintenance operations and practices and sustain recommended levels of maintenance and service.

NRPA “levels of maintenance standards” should be used to help define recommendations. Most importantly that funding must include not just capital costs but more importantly, ongoing operations and maintenance.

Evaluating operating expenditure data by population served by an agency is a much more accurate and meaningful way of articulating and comparing spending. By this measure, The National Park and Recreation Administration 2022 NRPA Agency Performance Review, found that nationwide, the median level operating expenditures per capita for jurisdiction within the population range of 100,000 to 250,000 was \$74.22. The lower quartile was \$43.03 and the upper at \$154.92 per capita.

The specific funding source to be considered will depend partly on the timing of any new development and the funding sources which may be available, or which are more easily pursued at that time. For major improvements which include such facilities as community centers, tennis complexes, gymnasiums, ball field complexes, etc., the use of a fund-raising effort to be conducted on behalf of a City’s non-profit foundation could be beneficial. Sponsorships/ naming rights for major corporate or other private donors can be offered. In some cases, the use of a professional fund-raising firm should be considered once a facility or project for which the funding will be used is identified. Other sources of funding for such projects could include public/private partnerships, partnerships with private sector through website advertising, user group contributions, joint use with the School District and public or private grants.

Specific recommendations for the City of Carson include:

### **Improve Park Maintenance Practices and Procedures**

The City should fund a review and analysis of park maintenance organizational options, develop basic maintenance standards and practices, which would include the identification of a minimal level of park maintenance standards, routine and preventative maintenance schedules/programs, work management, asset lifecycle management, and performance measurements. In addition the City should determine park maintenance costs, level of service provided per capita and per acre, and complete an evaluation with local and/or national standards.



### **Review Current Fee Policy**

Fees and charges are necessary to provide financial support to Carson's community services and parks for the operation and maintenance of programs and facilities. The revenue generated by these fees constitutes only a portion of funds required for operating and maintaining a park and recreation system. Development of a fee policy would provide a framework and guidance to staff as they develop ideas and proposals for fees and charges. This policy and procedure could also be used by decision-makers to help ensure fees and charges are developed and implemented in a consistent and equitable manner and to not unduly limit access to City's programs and facilities.

The City should compare fee policies of other jurisdictions with the City's and establish a policy that supports established revenue generation goals for each program taking in consideration equity, cost recovery, and consistency.

### **Naming Rights**

Actively search for contributions from corporations and businesses to acquire naming or licensing rights from the City to advertise their name/product. This practice has several different levels and can include the naming of buildings, advertising on public property or license rights to the agency's name and other intellectual property.

### **Prioritize Parks Foundation**

Prioritize support and development of a Carson Parks Foundation "501c3" organization to a fully functioning organization. The primary mission of a Foundation should be based on:

- To aid, sponsor, promote, advance, and assist in the provision of public parks, recreation, and community services in the Carson area.
- To receive, invest, and manage funds acquired through dues, donations, grants, gifts, bequests, and solicitations in furtherance of the purposes and goals of the City.

### **TOT Increase**

The City should consider an increase in the Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to provide long-term funding for capital upgrades to the City's park and recreation system. The current tax rate for Carson is 9%, far below neighboring cities such as Inglewood at 14% and Riverside, Long Beach, and Hawthorne which are at 12%. For each 1% increase in the TOT would bring approximately \$220,000 in new revenue annually.

## **4.7 Conclusion**

The cornerstone of the success of the Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Master Plan is Carson's ability to secure adequate and stable funding for the development and operation of parks, recreation facilities, and programs. Two major cost centers require funding to implement the Master Plan. One is capital costs which includes potential acquisition and development of new required parklands and facilities and renovation of existing parks. The second major cost center is to develop long-term sustainable resources for operations and maintenance of existing and new facilities. Meeting these challenges will require equal amounts of vision, resourcefulness, partnership, and hard work.



Source: City of Carson