

CHAPTER 8

OPEN SPACE/ RECREATION ELEMENT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Open Space and Recreation Element outlines strategies and actions to preserve and enhance open space areas in the City and meet the recreational needs of its residents. Open space and recreational resources in the City of Cerritos includes neighborhood, community and regional parks, as well as community centers, trails, golf courses, aquatic facilities, open space easements and other publicly accessible outdoor and indoor facilities.

2.0 AUTHORITY FOR THE ELEMENT

The State of California Government Code Section 65302(e) requires that a General Plan “include an open space element.” Recreation Elements are an optional element of the General Plan, pursuant to Section 65303 of the Government Code. Other relevant sections of the Government Code that are applicable to the Open Space and Recreation Element include Sections 65560, 65562, 65563, 65564, 65566 and 65567, as well as Public Resources Code Section 5076, which allows cities to consider the demands for trail-oriented recreational use. In addition, Government Code Section 66477, more commonly referred to as the Quimby Act, allows cities to adopt ordinances addressing park land and/or fees for residential subdivisions.

The Open Space Element must contain goals and policies concerned with managing all open space areas, including undeveloped lands and outdoor recreation areas. Specifically, the Open Space Element includes open space that is left undeveloped for public health and safety reasons, and open space that is used for the preservation of natural resources, for the managed production of resources and for outdoor recreation.

3.0 SUMMARY OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

3.1 EXISTING OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Cerritos' open space and recreation resources include parks, schools, community facilities and privately owned recreational facilities. The combination of these resources constitute the City of Cerritos' open space and recreational opportunities. The City's open space/recreational resources can be categorized into the following three areas:

- Open Space for Outdoor Recreation;
- Open Space for "Day Residents"; and
- Open Space for Public Health and Safety.

3.1.1 OPEN SPACE FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

The parks, open space and other recreational opportunities within Cerritos contribute to the high-quality of life residents enjoy. The provision of a variety of public parks and the availability of small-scale residential, industrial and commercial open space/recreation areas is a contributing factor to the well-being and health of Cerritos residents.

Open Space for outdoor recreation in Cerritos includes:

- Mini-Parks;
- Neighborhood Parks;
- Community Parks;
- Regional Parks;
- Sports Facilities (golf courses, ball fields, aquatics, skate park, etc.);
- Railways and Bikeways; and
- Greenbelts.

Table OSR-1, *City of Cerritos Park and Recreation Inventory*, provides a summary of existing Park and Recreation resources within the City of Cerritos. *Exhibit OSR-1, Open Space and Recreational Facilities*, shows the location of these resources.

3.1.2 OPEN SPACE FOR "DAY RESIDENTS"

Cerritos enjoys an extensive employment base. Successful growth in the office, industrial and retail sectors has increased the number of "Day Residents" – those who reside in Cerritos during business hours. The increased "day resident" population increases demand for additional viable public open space resources. This may include areas for lunch hours, breaks, recreational needs or just quiet contemplation and reflection.

Table OSR-1
City of Cerritos Park and Recreation Inventory

Park Sites	Acreage	Ball Diamond	Basketball/Volley	Island Playground	Meeting Room	Picnic Shelter/Gazebo	Racquetball Outdoor	Racquetball indoor	Restrooms	Play Areas	Spray Pool	Swimming Pool	Tennis Courts	Staffing	Jogging Track	Outdoor Amphitheatre	Golf Course	Fitness Center	Skate Park	Sand Volleyball
Bettencourt Park ⁽⁵⁾	2.5		•							•										
Brookhaven Park	0.7		•							•										
Cerritos Park East ⁽¹⁾	29.9	•	•		•	•	•		•	•	•		•	•						
Ecology Park	1.5		•							•										
El Rancho Verde Park	5.3																			
Friendship Park	3.9	•	•			•								•						
Frontier Park	2.6	•	•		•	•			•	•				•						
Gonsalves Park	5.2	•				•			•	•										
Gridley Park	10.4		•							•										
Heritage Park ⁽³⁾	15.3	•	•	•	•	•			•	•				•						
Jacob Park	5.1		•							•										•
Liberty Park ⁽²⁾	10.9	•	•		•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•		•		•
Loma Park	0.8					•				•										
Rainbow Park ⁽⁵⁾	2.5									•										
Reservoir Hill Park	4.6									•										
Rosewood Park	8.0	•	•			•				•										
Saddleback Park	1.5		•							•										
Satellite Park	1.9	•	•			•				•										
Sunshine Park	3.7	•	•			•				•				•						
Westgate Park	4.5	•	•		•	•			•	•	•		•	•						
Cerritos Swim & Fitness Center	--								•			•		•				•		
Iron Wood Nine Golf Course	22.1								•					•			•			
Cerritos Regional Park, Sports Complex and Skate Park ⁽⁴⁾	45.5	•	•			•			•	•		•	•	•					•	
Community Gym at Cerritos High	--		•						•					•						
Community Gym at Whitney High	--		•						•					•						
Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park	3.8				•	•			•					•				•		
TOTAL	192.2																			

Source: City of Cerritos Recreation Services Division, July 2001.

Notes: (1) Cerritos Park East includes a Community Center.

(2) Liberty Park also includes a Community Center.

(3) Heritage Park also includes a Community Center.

(4) The total acreage for the park is 86.5 acres. The acreage includes a 45.5-acre Skate Park and sports complex that the City of Cerritos leases from County of Los Angeles and maintains.

(5) This park is outside the Cerritos City limits within the City of La Palma, but is maintained by the City of Cerritos (refer to Table OSR-3).











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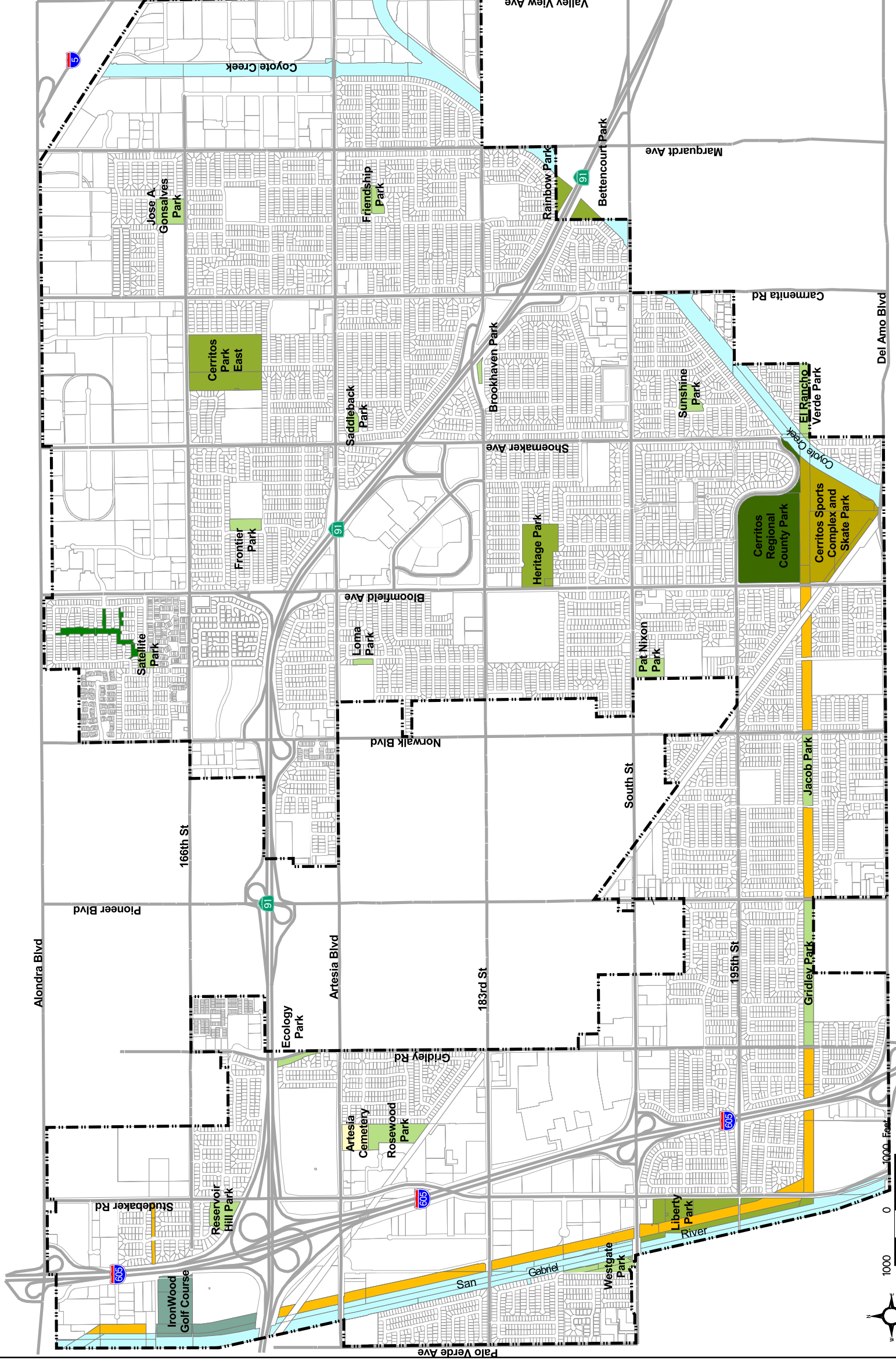
CERRITOS GENERAL PLAN

LEGEND

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  Greenbelts with Trails
-  Regional Park
-  Special Park
-  Sports Complex and Skate Park
-  Cemetery
-  Edison Utility
-  Flood Control Utility
-  City limit

Park Name	Acres
Brookhaven Park	0.7
Cerritos Park East	29.9
Cerritos Regional County Park	41.0
Sports Complex and Skate Park	45.5
Ecology Park	1.5
El Rancho Verde Park	5.3
Friendship Park	3.9
Frontier Park	2.6
Gonsalves Park	5.2
Gridley Park	10.4
Heritage Park	15.3
Jacob Park	5.1
Liberty Park	10.9
Loma Park	0.8
Pat Nixon Park	5.8
Reservoir Hill Park	4.6
Rosewood Park	8.0
Saddleback Park	1.5
Satellite Park	1.9
Sunshine Park	3.7
Westgate Park	4.5
Total Acres	206.1
IronWood Golf Course	22.1
Parks Outside City Limits Maintained by the City of Cerritos	
Parks	Acres
Bettencourt Park	2.5
Rainbow Park	2.5
Total Acres	5.0

Source: GIS Data, City of Cerritos, Land Use modified by RBF Consulting for purposes of General Plan Update.

Open Space and Recreational Facilities

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Urban open spaces utilized by “day residents” requires deliberate thought in project development and urban design.

3.1.3 OPEN SPACE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

As Cerritos is a built out community with a generally urbanized character, a portion of the open space inventory is utilized for the protection of public health and/or public safety. Certain open space areas in Cerritos provide for the protection from potentially harmful natural and man-made hazards. Open space adjacent to overhead electrical wires, pipelines, or setbacks from drainage channels or retention basins are examples of this type of open space.

The City of Cerritos has also utilized these open spaces for multiple purposes. For example, Jacob, Gridley, Liberty and El Rancho Verde Parks are linear parks, which also serve as open space buffers from residential and public school uses. Exhibit OSR-2, *Open Space for Public Health and Safety*, provides an overview of open resources for public health and safety.

3.1.4 CERRITOS RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The City of Cerritos has a number of facilities that contribute to the City’s recreational resources. These facilities include community centers, sports facilities, community gymnasiums, a golf course, swimming facilities, fitness centers and a senior center. It should be noted the majority of these facilities are located within existing park and recreational facilities (refer to Exhibit OSR-1).

3.1.5 MAINTENANCE OF NON-CITY PARKS

The City of Cerritos provides regular maintenance of two parks that are not within the City limits. As shown in Table OSR-2, *Parks Maintained by City of Cerritos*, these facilities contribute to the recreational resources of Cerritos residents, but may not be applied towards the Quimby target acreage (refer to page OSR-16 for a discussion of the Quimby Act).

Table OSR-2
Parks Maintained by City of Cerritos

Park Name	Type	Size	Location
Bettencourt Park	Neighborhood	2.50 Acres	La Palma
Rainbow Park	Neighborhood	2.50 Acres	La Palma

3.1.6 CERRITOS RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

The City of Cerritos has a number of recreational programs that supplement the City's overall recreation resources. The City coordinates with a variety of community groups to provide these recreational programs to Cerritos residents. Programs include sports activities, youth services, classes, cultural arts and senior citizen/human services. The City's relatively built out conditions place additional importance on recreational programming to meet the needs of its residents.

Community Facilities. Community-based facilities provide a location for the majority of City-sponsored educational and recreational opportunities. During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, the Recreation Services Division involved more than 1,119,000 people in programs, use of facilities and sponsored events.

Community Classes. Cerritos residents regularly take advantage of the nearly 900 non-aquatics, fee-based programs. During the 1999-2000 fiscal year, approximately 10,100 residents participated in a wide range of class offerings.

Community Organizations. The City of Cerritos Recreation Services Division provides the facilities and other resources to facilitate the development of community-based organizations. A total of 130 Community Organizations utilized facilities in Cerritos during the 1999-2000 fiscal year.

After School Programs. The City of Cerritos enjoys a cooperative arrangement with the ABC Unified School District to provide drop-in after school and summer recreational programs.

Under the supervision of the City's Special Activities Department, Frontier Park, Sunshine Park, Friendship Park and Westgate Park provided children with activities such as sports, crafts, table games and a monthly excursion to local sites, including the Cerritos Olympic Swim and Fitness Center, and El Dorado Nature Center. In addition, the City also cooperates with ABC Unified School District to offer the Carmenita Recreation Academic Study Hall (C.R.A.S.H.) for Middle School students from September through June. The program is intended to provide middle school students with viable alternatives for after-school activities. The C.R.A.S.H. program provides students with games, arts and crafts and excursions to local recreational facilities.

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CERRITOS GENERAL PLAN

LEGEND

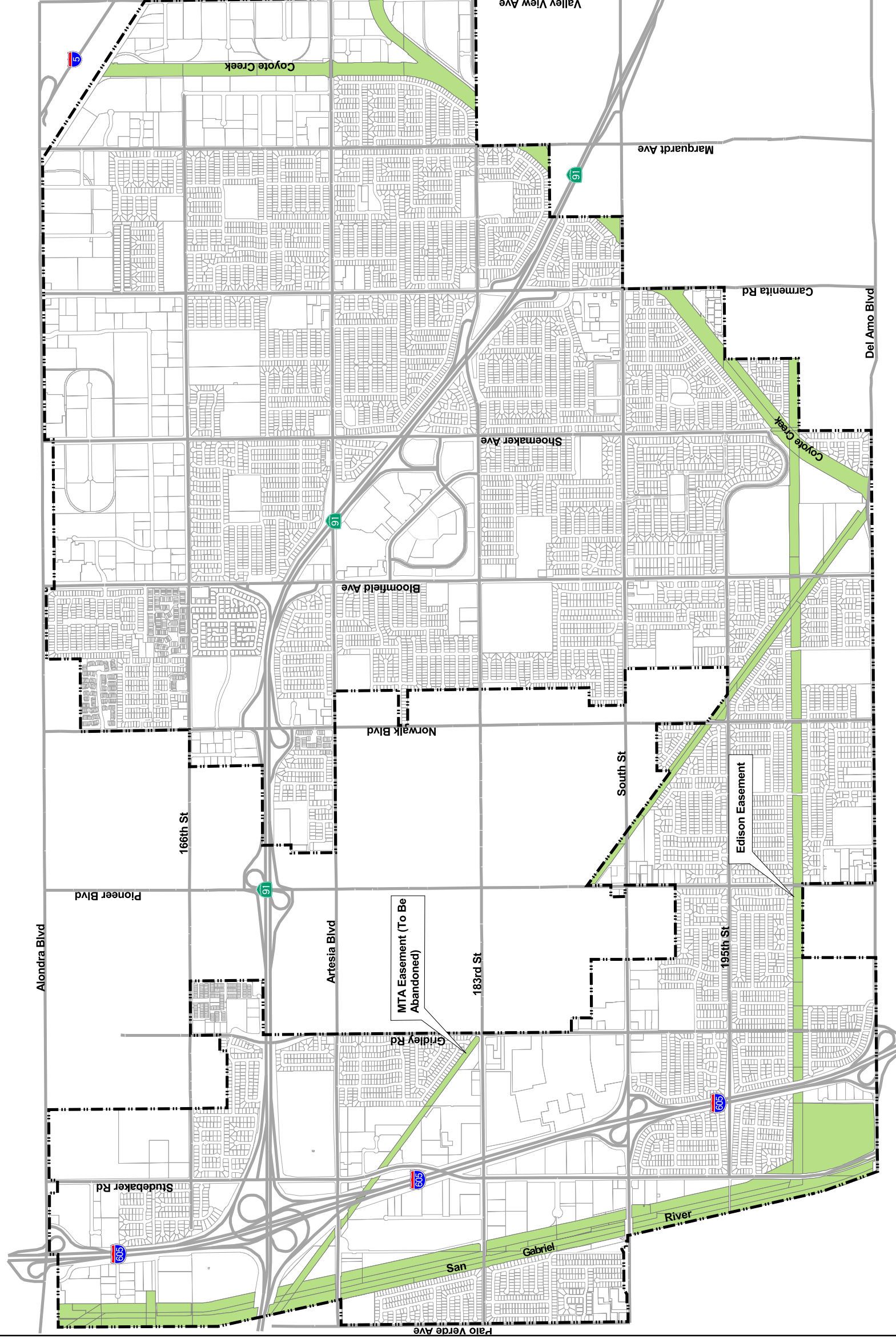
Open Space for Public Health and Safety

City Limits



1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

Source: RBF Consulting



Open Space for Public Health and Safety

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Senior Activities. A combination of structured and informal recreational opportunities are available to seniors at the Cerritos Senior Center at Pat Nixon Park. Seniors may come to the Center to play bingo, watch movies on a giant screen, take dance lessons, learn a new art or craft or sign up for day excursions.

The Center also offers a variety of fitness and wellness programs, educational classes and workshops. In addition, the Center provides counseling and social services including legal aid, tax-preparation assistance, social security, medicare and health.

Community Gymnasiums. The City of Cerritos works cooperatively with ABC Unified School District to provide community-wide access to the gymnasiums at Cerritos and Whitney High Schools. These venues are popular attractions for youth and adult organized sports classes. Approximately 70,000 persons utilized these facilities during the 1999-2000 fiscal year. In addition, the tennis courts at Cerritos High School are available for public use.

Day Camps. Day camps are held throughout the year and provide extended opportunities for children and young adults to socialize and take part in group activities for both educational and social enrichment. The Recreation Services Division conducted 28 different day camps during the 1999 – 2000 fiscal year for children ages 5 through 14.

Adaptive Recreation. The City of Cerritos offers recreational programs specifically for residents with disabilities. The Adaptive Recreation Program is open to all individuals ages 5 years and older, and provides a variety of activities including, sports, crafts, seasonal parties and excursions to local attractions.

Performing Arts Programs. Cerritos Park East's indoor stage provides the facilities for the staging of children's musicals and an annual talent show.

Teen Programs. The Recreation Services Division offers a variety of recreational activities for teenagers during the year. In addition to the variety of sport/fitness classes and leagues, dance, music, aquatics and golf classes, 11 bi-monthly activity nights are held at community centers to provide alternative activities for Cerritos teens.

Teen programs have increasingly become an important aspect of the City's overall recreational program. In order to ensure existing and future programs respond to the needs and desires of the City's youth, City staff, middle school and high school administrators from the ABC Unified School District devised the open-forum concept to gather input from the City's teen population. These forums are designed to define interests and desires for recreational opportunities and programs for teens.

Special Events. A variety of special events, programs and activities are scheduled throughout the year to provide additional opportunities for Cerritos residents to enjoy local recreation, entertainment and community-wide gatherings.

3.2 OTHER OPEN SPACE/RECREATION RESOURCES

3.2.1 OPEN SPACE EASEMENTS

The City of Cerritos utilizes many open space easements as additional open space resources. As shown on Exhibit OSR-1, *Cerritos Regional Park*, Jacob Park, Gridley Park, Liberty Park, and the Iron-Wood Nine Golf Course utilize existing rights-of-way as open space and recreational resources.

3.2.2 GOLF COURSE

The City of Cerritos Iron Wood Nine Golf Course has become one of the more popular nine-hole executive courses in the area. The facility offers nine holes of golf, totaling approximately 2,936 yards. A night-lighted driving range is also available on-site.

3.2.3 INDOOR AND OUTDOOR SWIM FACILITIES

The Cerritos Olympic Swim and Fitness Center is an enclosed 50-meter pool with dressing rooms, press box area and seating capacity for 1,200 spectators. The Swim and Fitness Center includes retractable skylights, illumination and cooling louvers and a solar panel system that collects 96 percent of the energy required to heat the pool water to 84 degrees year-round and 100 percent of the energy required to heat the water used for showers. In addition, the Cerritos Regional County Park provides a 50-meter outdoor swimming pool open during the summer months by Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation.

Swimming classes for children and adults, recreational swimming periods and lap swimming are conducted at both facilities.

3.2.4 BIKEWAYS AND TRAILWAYS

The City provides a variety of bikeways and trailways throughout the City. Exhibit OSR-3, *Bikeways and Trailways Map*. Trailways are located along the San Gabriel River Channel and Coyote Creek flood control facilities.

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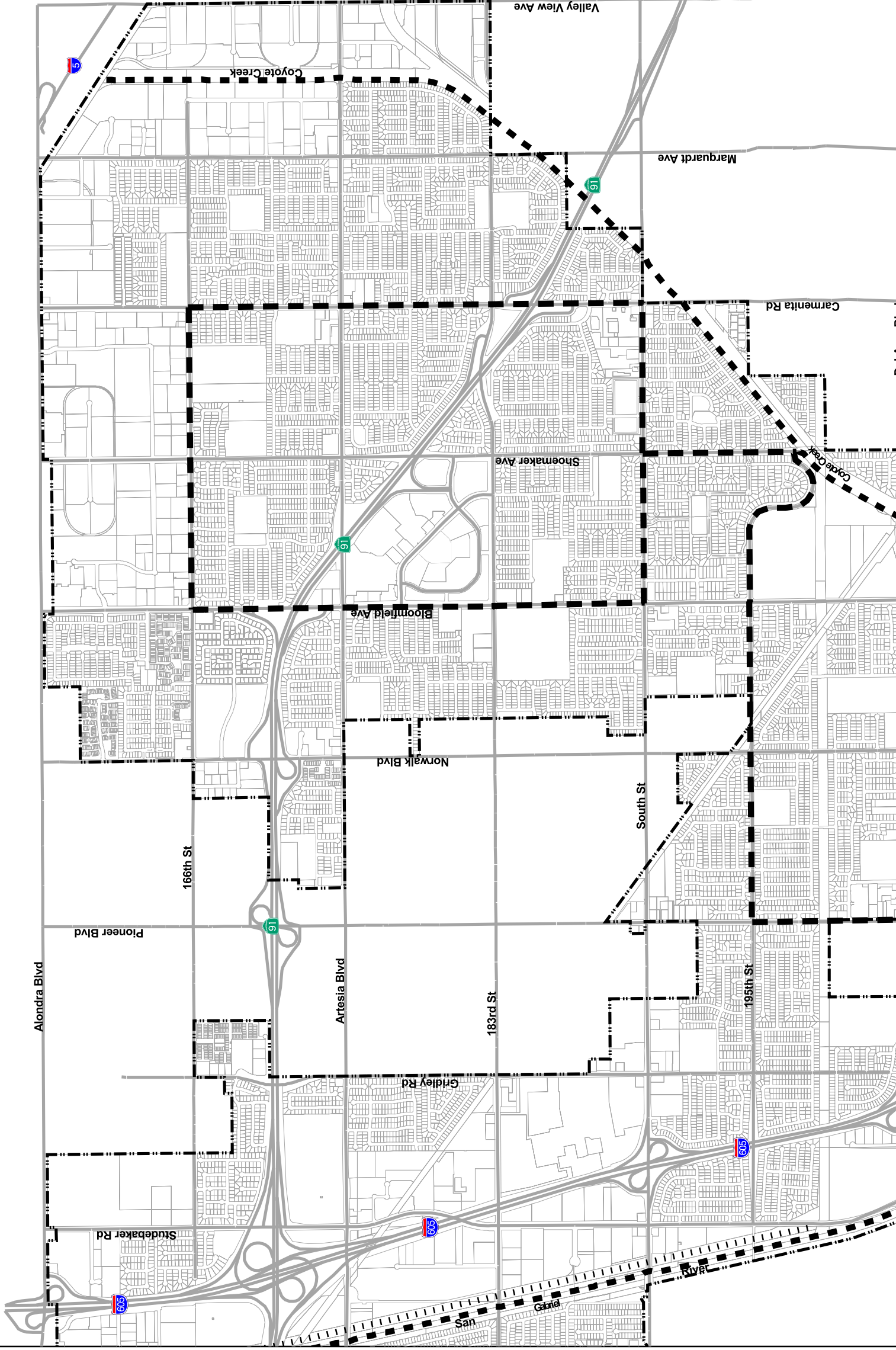
CERRITOS
GENERAL PLAN

LEGEND



1000 0 1000 2000 Feet

Source: GIS Data, City of Cerritos



Bikeways and Trailways Map

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Equestrian Trails

The City of Cerritos takes pride in its ability to provide equestrian facilities for its residents. As shown in Exhibit OSR-3, the City provides equestrian trails along the San Gabriel River Channel and Coyote Creek drainage facilities.

3.2.5 SCHOOL USES

Approximately 23 public and private schools are located within the City of Cerritos. As shown on Exhibit OSR-4, School Facilities, these institutional uses provide additional open space and recreational resources for the City of Cerritos.

Partnerships With Schools

Collaborative agreements between the City of Cerritos and the ABC Unified School District are a crucial component to the City's overall ability to provide resources and programs for its residents. Partnerships and cooperative agreements allow the Recreation Services Division to creatively expand and enrich the community's open space and recreational resources. These partnerships represent successful efforts for sharing resources in the interest of meeting the open space and recreation needs of the community.

The City of Cerritos has forged cooperative joint use agreements with the ABC Unified School district in order to maximize the availability of open space and recreation opportunities for the residents of Cerritos. Currently, the City of Cerritos utilizes resources at Cerritos, Whitney and Gahr High Schools. Refer to Table OSR-3, School Facilities in Cerritos, below.

**Table OSR-3
School Facilities in Cerritos**

School	Acreage
Elementary Schools	
Bragg Elementary	11.51 acres
Carver Elementary	5.28 acres
Cerritos Elementary	9.30 acres
Gonsalves Elementary	8.80 acres
Juarez Elementary	7.05 acres
Leal Elementary	9.44 acres
Nixon Elementary	9.26 acres
Stowers Elementary	9.74 acres
Wittmann Elementary	8.92 acres
<i>Sub-Total</i>	<i>79.27 acres</i>

Table OSR-3 - Continued
School Facilities in Cerritos

School	Acreage
Middle Schools	
Carmenita	11.20 acres
Haskell	12.11 acres
Tetzlaff	18.38 acres
<i>Sub-Total</i>	41.69 acres
High Schools	
ABC Adult	30.18 acres
Southeast ROP	11.61 acres
Cerritos	37.56 acres
Gahr	28.47 acres
Tracy	--
Whitney	15.32 acres
<i>Sub-Total</i>	123.14 acres
Private/Community College	
Concordia Lutheran	4.52 acres
Joy Preschool	0.24 acres
Valley Christian High School	15.09 acres
Valley Christian Middle School	14.85 acres
Cerritos College	74.20 acres
<i>Sub-Total</i>	144.49 acres
TOTAL	388.29 acres
Source: ABC Unified School District, GIS Data, City of Cerritos.	

4.0 OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

The Open Space and Recreation Plan for the City of Cerritos details how the City will provide adequate recreation and open space resources to the City’s residents. This section of the Open Space and Recreation Element emphasizes coordination between the City, its internal departments, local agencies and community groups to provide citywide recreation opportunities. The City will enhance its overall open space and recreational to the satisfaction of Cerritos residents.

4.1 PARKLAND STANDARDS

The State of California Planning and Zoning Law (Government Code Sections 65000 through 66037) and The Quimby Act¹ (Government Code

¹ The Quimby Act was established by the California legislature in 1965 to provide parks for the growing communities in the State. The Act only allows cities and counties to establish ordinances requiring new residential subdivisions to provide park/recreation land and/or in-lieu fees as well as specifying acceptable uses and expenditures of such funds.

LEGEND

- Public Elementary
- Public Middle School
- Public High School/Adult School
- Private School
- College
- School District Facilities

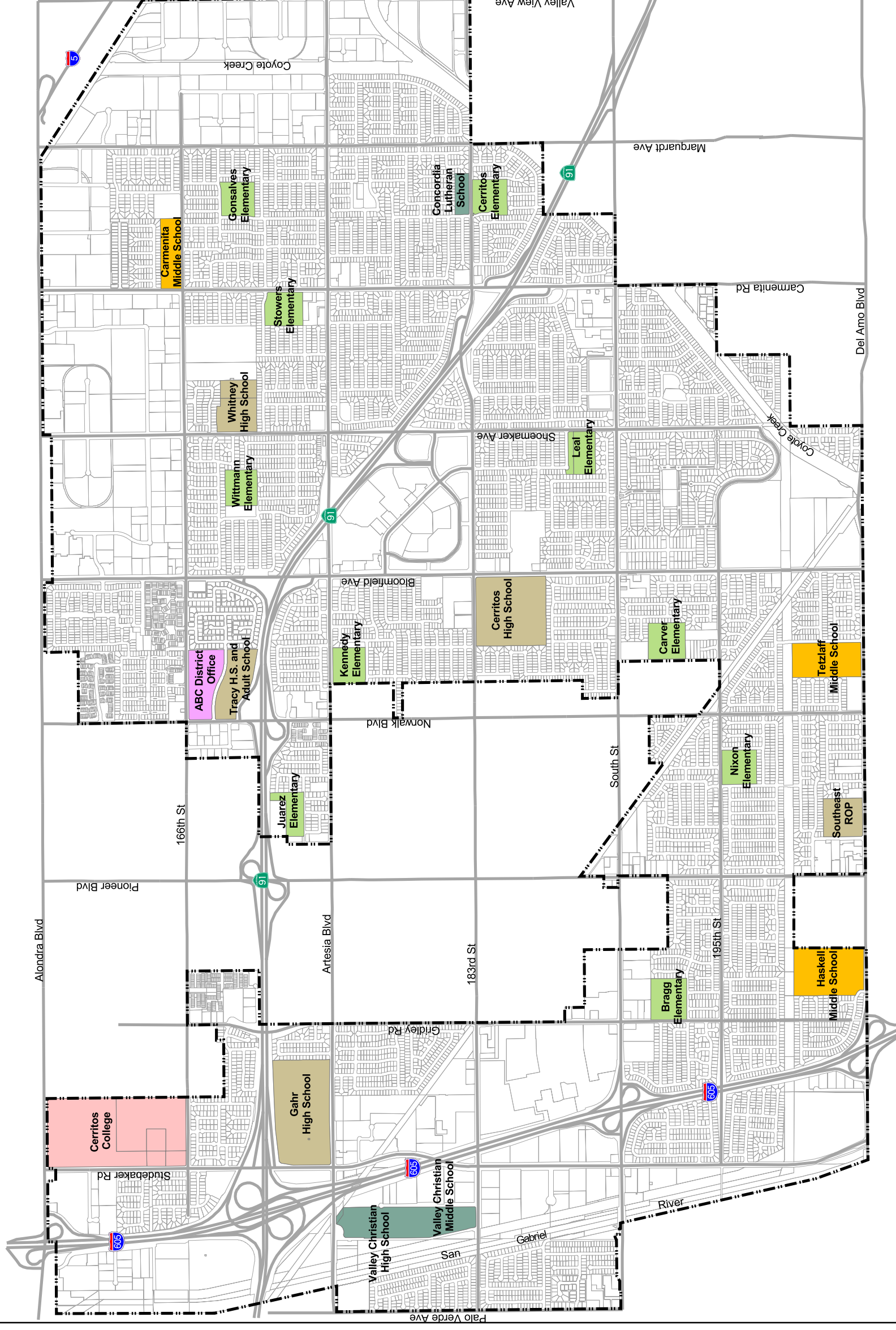


School Name Acres

School Name	Acres
Elementary	
Bragg	11.51
Carver	5.98
Cerritos	9.30
Gonsalves	8.80
Juarez	7.05
Kennedy	9.12
Leal	7.57
Nixon	9.96
Stowers	9.74
Wittmann	8.92
Middle School	
Carmanita	11.90
Haskell	12.11
Tetzlaff	18.36
High School	
Cerritos	37.56
Gahr	28.47
Tracy	15.61
Whitney (Includes Middle School Students)	15.38
Other	
ABC Adult School	14.57
Concordia Lutheran School	4.52
Valley Christian High School	15.09
Valley Christian Middle School	14.85
Southeast ROP	11.61
Cerritos College	74.90



Source: GIS Data, City of Cerritos



School Facilities

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Section 66477) indicate that the legislative body of a municipality or county may, by ordinance, require the dedication of land, the payment of fees in lieu thereof, or a combination of both for park recreational purposes as a condition to the approval for a final tract map or parcel map. In cases where such dedications or fees have not been obtained for particular lots through a map, they may be imposed at the time that building permits are issued.

Among other requirements, the following conditions must be met:

- The ordinance must include definite standards for determining the proportion of a subdivision to be dedicated and the amount of any fee to be paid in lieu thereof; and
- The legislative body has an adopted General Plan containing a Recreation Element, and any proposed park and recreational facilities are in accordance with definite principles and standards contained therein.

The City may also obtain parkland through the methods outlined below.

Area Development Plans. Acting as a Specific Plan, Area Development Plans (ADP) guide, coordinate and regulate the development of property within a given area. These areas have been found and declared to be in some degree different and unique in comparison with other areas of the City due to differences in location; accessibility; natural characteristics of the land; patterns of the land ownership; age and conditions of improvements; characteristics and desires of occupants and other factors. There were 12 ADPs within the City as of February 2003.

Assessment Districts. California state law provides for the establishment of special assessment districts to provide public facilities. Certain types of these districts, mello-roos, can be used to develop and maintain public parks in newly developing areas based upon a vote of current land owners.

Developer Land Dedications and Exactions. The City, at its discretion, may require dedication of land and/or payment of fees for the purpose of providing and preserving open space and recreational facilities and improvements in developing areas as approved in Chapter 17.40 of the Municipal Code.

The City of Cerritos does not have an adopted park standard. However, the City is providing 3.2 acres per 1,000 residents based upon the 2000 Census. Table OSR-4, City of Cerritos Park Development Guidelines, provides an overview of guidelines for park facilities within the City.

Table OSR-4
City of Cerritos Park Development Guidelines

Park Type	Typical Size	Service Area	Typical Facilities
Community	> 10 acres	1 to 1½ miles	Athletic fields, picnic, community centers
Neighborhood	3 to 5 acres	½ mile	Play lot, multi-use courts
Mini	Less than 1 acre	¼ mile	Play lot, open space

4.2 PARKLAND

This Element contains measures to ensure that adequate recreational opportunities are provided for Cerritos residents. The City of Cerritos has approximately 228 acres of parks, which include community, neighborhood and regional parks.

In conformance with government statutes, this Element includes standards determining land requirements for future park sites. Table OSR-5, Existing Parkland Acreages vs. Quimby Act Requirements, provides an overview of existing parking facilities and associated surpluses/deficiencies.

Table OSR-5
Existing Parkland Acreages vs. Quimby Act Requirements

Park Sites	Park Designation	Acreage
Brookhaven Park	Neighborhood	0.7
Cerritos Park East	Community Center	29.9
Cerritos Regional County Park/Sports Complex and Skate Park	Regional	45.5 ¹
Ecology Park	Neighborhood	1.5
El Rancho Verde Park	Neighborhood	5.3
Friendship Park	Neighborhood	3.9
Frontier Park	Neighborhood	2.6
Gonsalves Park	Neighborhood	5.2
Gridley Park	Neighborhood	10.4
Heritage Park	Community Center	15.3
Iron-Wood Golf Course	Golf Course	22.1
Jacob Park	Neighborhood	5.1
Liberty Park	Community Center	10.9
Loma Park	Neighborhood	0.8
Pat Nixon Park/Senior Center	Community Center	3.8
Reservoir Hill Park	Neighborhood	4.6
Rosewood Park	Neighborhood	8.0
Saddleback Park	Neighborhood	1.5
Satellite Park	Neighborhood	1.9
Sunshine Park	Neighborhood	3.7
Westgate Park	Neighborhood	4.5
Total Acreage		187.2
Quimby Target Acreage ²		154.5
Difference (Surplus)		(32.7)

¹ The total park acreage is 86.5 acres; however the City leases and maintains 45.5 acres.
² Using 2000 Census population of 51,488 multiplied by 3 acres per 1,000 population.

4.3 URBAN OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

Cerritos will continue to expand and enhance its recreational programs and services to serve the City's population. Actions that will continue the City's high level of recreational services for the Cerritos Community include:

- Develop cooperative arrangements with adjacent jurisdictions and park departments for providing a coordinated set of recreational programs that provide a broader range of recreational programs than are already available.
- Continue to employ cooperative agreements with the ABC Unified School District to provide additional recreational resources.
- Continue to coordinate with various civic and private groups to provide an overall recreation program that is well coordinated and responsive to the needs of the community.

4.4 ASSESSMENT OF RECREATION FACILITY NEEDS

The City conducted a Public Opinion Survey of its residents in July 1999. The survey provided extensive analysis of public opinion and needs related to services provided to the community. A substantial component of the study involved assessing residents' opinions and behavior with respect to recreational activities, programs and facilities in the City of Cerritos. The following themes were apparent in the survey:

- Residents found youth-related recreational programs as the most important aspect of recreational needs.
- Residents indicated after-school recreation and teen recreation activities are services in which the City has the greatest opportunity and need for improvement.
- Utilization of recreational facilities and services was relatively high.

Therefore, the City of Cerritos acknowledges and places a high priority in enhancing the programs and activities residents are most satisfied with.

4.5 VACANT LAND FOR PARKLAND DEVELOPMENT

Future population growth in Cerritos will require the utilization of existing vacant land resources as a means to provide additional open space and recreational resources.

The City has identified vacant parcels, totaling 26.62 acres, as shown in Exhibit LU-1, *Vacant and Underutilized Land* and in Table LU-2, *Summary of Vacant and Underutilized Land*, in the Land Use Element. Meeting future park and recreation needs of the community will require additional analysis of these parcels to determine if their size, location and other land use and environmental constraints make them suitable for parkland.

4.6 RECREATION PROGRAMMING NEEDS

The City of Cerritos seeks to enhance “Family Enrichment” as the theme for recreational activities throughout the City. Family-oriented programs such as “mommy & me,” tap, and a family choir are examples of the type of activities the City would like to continue and expand.

The City provides and seeks to expand family-oriented evening entertainment, such as concerts in the park and outdoor movies.

In keeping with the “Family Enrichment” theme, the City seeks to revolve its recreational programs around the following:

- Teens;
- Families;
- Cultural/Performing Arts; and
- Seniors.

5.0 PLANNING FACTORS, GOALS AND POLICIES

OPEN SPACE IS A VALUABLE RESOURCE

Planning Factor

Open space is a resource that comes in many forms. The variety of open space in the City is a valuable resource.

Goal OSR-1 *Preserve and enhance open space resources in the City to maintain and promote the high-quality of life Cerritos residents enjoy.*

Policies OSR-1.1 Promote the development of aesthetically pleasing landscaped corridors that promote a sense of the natural environment.

OSR-1.2 Work with ABC Unified School District to beautify and encourage the use of school sites as additional community open space resources.

- OSR-1.3 Ensure no net loss of open space acreage occurs.
- OSR-1.4 Promote the development of open space amenities, such as artwork, sitting areas, etc. in parks and other open space areas to encourage their use.
- OSR-1.5 Acquire (purchase and/or lease) abandoned service station sites for use as temporary passive open space when appropriate until a more suitable permanent use is established.



LIMITED RESOURCES FOR NEW OPEN SPACE AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES OR PROGRAMS

Planning Factor

The City of Cerritos is a built out community. The availability of vacant land resources for open space and recreational resources is severely limited. Therefore, the provision of future open space and recreation amenities must take into account this limited supply of land.

Goal OSR-2 *Provide park and recreation facilities and programs for all those who live and work in the City of Cerritos.*

Policies OSR-2.1 Continue to exceed the State’s and the City’s park guideline of three acres per 1,000 residents.

OSR-2.2 Carefully consider geographic locations, hours of operation and other factors influencing access when evaluating future park and facility locations.

OSR-2.3 Enhance access to and utilization of recreational facilities by those with disabilities.

OSR-2.4 Ensure parks and recreational facilities are developed with amenities that are appropriate to persons of all ages.

Goal OSR-3 *Continue to expand and improve recreational resources within existing facilities.*

Policies OSR-3.1 Strive to update and modernize existing recreational and park facilities through the provision of updated equipment and facilities.

OSR-3.2 Continuously monitor residents' needs so that future development of open space and recreational resources reflect the desires of Cerritos residents.

Goal OSR-4 *Provide for a broad range of recreational facilities.*

Policies OSR-4.1 Ensure recreational resources provide for a variety of recreational needs so that the widest range of Cerritos residents utilize these facilities.

OSR-4.2 Continue to update and modernize existing recreational and park facilities.

MAINTAIN OPEN SPACE IN THE CITY

Planning Factor

Open space in Cerritos is a valuable and scarce resource. Open space not only serves as a place for recreation, it also provides buffers from potential hazards, enhances the aesthetic quality of the environment and provides places for social interaction.

Goal OSR-5 *Preserve existing open space resources.*

Policies OSR-5.1 Ensure that there is no net loss of open space acreage within the City.

OSR-5.2 Provide a GIS-based inventory of existing open space to assist in the management of this resource.

OSR-5.3 Develop a strong partnership with Los Angeles County to cooperatively enhance and/or maintain Cerritos Regional County Park.

Goal OSR-6 *Utilize open space as a means for protecting life, threat of injury or property.*

Policies OSR-6.1 Review opportunities to combine active and passive open space resources that also serve as buffer zones.

OSR-6.2 Maintain existing open space buffers adjacent to flood control facilities, utilities and railroad easements.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Planning Factor

Cerritos is proud of the range of recreational opportunities available to its residents. Recreational programs provide a safe environment for children, enhance family-oriented activities and promote the health of Cerritos residents. Cerritos strives to continue providing its residents with the highest quality of recreational opportunities.

Goal *OSR-7 Provide a high level of community outreach to inform residents of the variety of recreational programs available.*

Policies *OSR-7.1 Ensure all residents of Cerritos are aware of recreational opportunities through the regular distribution of information about programs.*

OSR-7.2 Continually strive to better inform the community of existing and future recreational programs by improving and expanding the methods of communication (i.e., City’s website, reader boards, newsletters, etc.).

STORMWATER BENEFITS FROM OPEN SPACE

Planning Factor

The City of Cerritos recognizes that open space is beneficial to the environment. In general, storm water and non-storm water runoff from open-space is absorbed into pervious surfaces, thereby reducing the amount of runoff originating in the City and flowing into the storm drain system.

Goal *OSR-8: Preserve existing open spaces and their pervious surfaces.*

Policies *OSR-8.1 Strive to maintain the current ratio of pervious surfaces within the City’s open space.*

Related Goals and Policies: Refer to Goal CON-5 and its associated policies, which address stormwater pollution.

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