



# 4

## **PARKS, OPEN SPACE, PUBLIC FACILITIES, AND SERVICES**

Parks, open space, public facilities, and services are a vital part of a livable, sustainable Emeryville. While they are essential in any city, they become even more important in areas of high population density and development intensity. Where homes may not include yard space and landscaping is scarce, green spaces provide opportunities for relaxation, informal sports, passive and active recreation, social and cultural events and a break from the stresses of everyday life.





*The General Plan proposes several new open spaces, complementing existing parks, and providing new open space opportunities for existing and future residents.*

They also serve as important gathering places in a community. Due to its industrial past, Emeryville has minimal parks and open space. Public facilities and services provide for community needs and amenities for education, social services, and public safety. As the residential and employment populations increase, it is essential to seize every opportunity to create additional parks and open space, and to provide public facilities and services that meet the needs of the community.

As a small incorporated city, Emeryville is able to provide high ratios of public services for its residents with a local orientation, personal attention, and quick responses. However, its small population and constrained geography limits its ability to locate and financially support the broad range of amenities found in larger cities. This chapter reviews the public facilities supplied in the City of Emeryville, including schools, libraries, safety services and other civic facilities, as well as major utility infrastructure systems.

The General Plan addresses two main issues concerning open space provisions: a shortage of park and recreation space, and a lack of accessibility—since most of the existing parkland is concentrated along the shoreline on the western portion of the city.

## 4.1 PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

### Framework

The General Plan proposes several different park types to accommodate the needs of present and future residents, workers, and visitors and to create a cohesive network of open spaces. The proposed strategic master plan will outline recommended programming for both active recreation and passive park use. A general framework is described here:

- **Large parks.** Two large parks north and south of Powell Street, are proposed to provide playing fields and other active uses, such as children's play structures and recreation activities.
- **Small open spaces.** Public pocket parks, plazas, tot lots, community gardens and other small open spaces throughout the city will improve residents' access to open space nearer their homes.
- **Greenways.** Two greenways will traverse the city, one north-south and the other east-west. To the extent possible these will be off-street linear parks with pedestrian and bicycle paths, small gathering places, and recreational facilities. Where necessary, the greenways may be along streets. The north-south greenway will follow old railroad spurs, and will connect Berkeley in the north to the Park Avenue District, Bay Trail, and West Oakland in the south. The east-west greenway will generally follow the alignment of Temescal Creek (currently in an underground pipe) and will include water features, daylighted portions above the culverted creek, and other amenities to celebrate the creek. This greenway will connect North Oakland in the east to the Bay Trail and San Francisco Bay in the west.



- **Green Streets.** To improve connectivity between neighborhoods, parks, employment and other activity centers, and to increase the provision of open spaces, a network of “green streets” is established. Green streets are distinguished by elements such as additional trees and plantings, wide sidewalks, pedestrian pathways and public art. This network builds on the greenways to improve connectivity along key streets.

The extent, capacity, and quality of public facilities that serve a community also affect the quality of life enjoyed by those who live, work, and own property there. The proposed Emeryville Center of Community Life will serve as the focal point for community gathering and social services. In addition to new school facilities, the Center may include gymnasiums, a theater, a library, a dance/fitness studio, playing fields, playgrounds, open space, aquatic facilities, and other community facilities.

Together, a cohesive network of open spaces and public amenities will help to create a more vibrant and livable Emeryville.

## Existing Park and Recreation System

### City Parks and Open Spaces

Emeryville has greatly improved the number, acreage, accessibility, and diversity of its park and recreation assets in recent years; however, these facilities fall short of the needs of the city’s expanding population. As shown in Table 4-1, in 2008, Emeryville contained 15 acres of public open space in eight City-owned parks. Most of the municipal parks are small open spaces, such as the .14-acre 61<sup>st</sup> Street Mini-Park, which provides a playground area for neighborhood children. A majority of city parkland is concentrated in Marina Park on the peninsula and is not easily

accessible to the majority of the city’s population, who live east of Highway 80.

The City has been developing the Emeryville Greenway—a series of pedestrian and bike paths intended to provide more connectivity within the city. Once completed, this north/south Greenway will link the north-eastern residential neighborhoods and new residential developments throughout the city with open spaces and activity centers. It will be complemented by the new east-west Temescal Creek greenway envisioned by this General Plan.

The City also has a lease agreement with Emery Unified School District to use the sports and aquatic facilities at Emery Secondary School during non-school hours. The Community Services Department offers classes, sports programs and activities in these facilities.

*Christie Park is small, but provides much needed green space in an area of increasing intensity and usage. It is slated to be enlarged and redesigned as part of the Marketplace Redevelopment Project.*



**TABLE 4-1: CITY OF EMERYVILLE EXISTING PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES**

Park/Open Space	Play Equipment	Sports Facilities	Acreage
<b>CITY PARKS</b>			
61st Street Mini-Park	X		0.14
Christie Avenue Park			0.79
Community Garden			0.29
Davenport Mini-Park			0.44
Hollis Green <sup>1</sup>			0.69
Marina Park			7.56
Point Emery			2.08
Shorebird Park			0.76
Stanford Avenue Park	X	X	1.74
Temescal Creek Park	X	X	0.70
<b>OTHER OPEN SPACES &amp; RECREATION FACILITIES</b>			
Anna Yates Elementary Playground	X		n/a
Eastshore State Park (Emeryville Crescent)			n/a
Emery Secondary Field		X	n/a
Emeryville Recreation Center		X	n/a
Emeryville Greenway		X	n/a
San Francisco Bay Trail			n/a
<b>Total<sup>2</sup></b>			<b>15.19</b>

<sup>1</sup> Owned and operated by Novartis, but open to the public.

<sup>2</sup> Linear parks, including the Greenway and Bay Trail, and conservation areas, such as the Eastshore State Park are not included in park totals.

Source: City of Emeryville, 2008.

ties. In addition, Emeryville is a member of the Joint Powers Authority for the Tom Bates Regional Sports Complex about three miles north in Berkeley.

### State and Regional Parks and Open Spaces

State and regional open spaces provide larger green spaces that connect to adjacent communities. The Eastshore State Park constitutes about 2,250 acres of uplands and tidelands along the shoreline of Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Albany, and Richmond, providing a prime location for bird watching and aquatic wildlife preservation. Emeryville's portion—the Emeryville Crescent—contains 30 acres of marsh shoreline and is identified as Conservation Area. The San Francisco Bay Trail runs through the Emeryville Crescent; this regional trail system will encircle the entire Bay once completed. The Trail runs along or near the Emeryville coastline, with a dedicated off-street pathway on and north of the peninsula, but a disconnected segment in its southern half.

### Supply and Distribution

Existing City-operated open spaces represent a ratio of 1.56 acres per 1,000 residents (based on 15.19 acres and a 2008 population of 9,727 according to the California Department of Finance). The majority of the City's developed parkland is concentrated to the west of the railroad tracks, with 10.8 acres on the peninsula, making up over 70 percent of City-owned park space. All of the City's recreation facilities, however, are located on the eastern side of Emeryville: basketball courts, recreation fields, and children's play equipment are located east of Doyle Street. A new park is being constructed in the block bound by 61st, 62nd, Hollis and Doyle streets.



## Improvements

### Open Space System

The General Plan proposes several different park types to accommodate the needs of present and future residents and to create a cohesive network of open spaces: two new large parks, several new pocket parks and small plazas, two greenways, and a series of green streets connecting major activity centers. These proposed park and recreation facilities—which total to between 41 and 46 acres—are described in Table 4-2 and shown on Figure 4-1. The small parks are identified with circles; actual sites will be identified during the planning period.

**TABLE 4-2: GENERAL PLAN PARK ACREAGE**

Park Type	Acreage
<b>EXISTING PARKS</b>	<b>15.2</b>
<b>PLANNED PARKS</b>	<b>1.3</b>
Horton Landing Park	
Oak Walk Pocket Park	
<b>PROPOSED PARKS</b>	
Neighborhood Parks	20 to 25
61st/64th/Hollis/Doyle	8
53rd/Hollis	5
Small Parks (up to 13)	7 to 12
<b>GREENWAYS</b>	
Emeryville Greenway	1.5 miles
Temescal Creek Greenway	1 mile
<b>OTHER PARKS</b>	<b>5</b>
Plazas and community gardens	
<b>Total Parks<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>41 to 46</b>

<sup>1</sup> Linear parks, including the Greenway and Bay Trail, and conservation areas, such as the Eastshore State Park are not included in park totals.

Source: City of Emeryville, Dyett & Bhatia 2008.



New open spaces will include areas for active recreation as well as facilities for passive activities and contemplation.

## SUMMARY OF OPEN SPACE STANDARDS

- › Develop 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 new residents
- › Develop .25 acres of parkland per 1,000 new employees
- › Locate at least one park within a five-minute walk of all residences

## Standards

The General Plan establishes a new standard for parkland of three acres of neighborhood parks per 1,000 new residents and .25 acres per 1,000 new employees. Using this standard, the City would need to provide 22 acres of new parkland in order to accommodate the additional 6,500 residents and 10,000 employees expected by the end of the planning period. The General Plan proposes 22 to 25 acres of new neighborhoods parks, as well as approximately five acres of other open space (including plazas and community gardens), thereby meeting the standards set here. Moreover, the City would gain more parkland per capita for all if its residents, not just new arrivals. In total, existing, planned and proposed parks would result in 41 to 46 acres of City-owned parkland, plus the Greenways, green streets, and other trails. This total represents a ratio of 2.5 to 2.8 acres per 1,000 residents.

Although the amount of parkland is an essential component to creating a vital network of open spaces, the quality and accessibility of these spaces are equally important elements. A city should have parks with a distribution and form that allows them to be enjoyed by workers during the day, used by children and senior citizens close to their homes, and to serve as a point of focus for residential neighborhoods. The General Plan seeks to provide a network in which there is an open space accessible within a five-minute walk of each resident's home. To achieve this goal, generalized park locations have been identified throughout the city, where a deficit has been noted within existing and proposed neighborhoods.



Park siting is essential to avoid shading by tall buildings (above).

## 4.2 SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

This section describes educational facilities in the City of Emeryville, including schools, libraries, and other civic facilities. Emeryville houses two public schools serving Grades Kindergarten through 12, the Pacific Rim International School serving 90 students from Pre-School through Grade 6, and three other institutions of higher education and learning. Additionally, this section highlights the Emeryville Center of Community Life as a major public facility investment for the near future.

### Emery Unified School District

#### Current Enrollment & Capacity

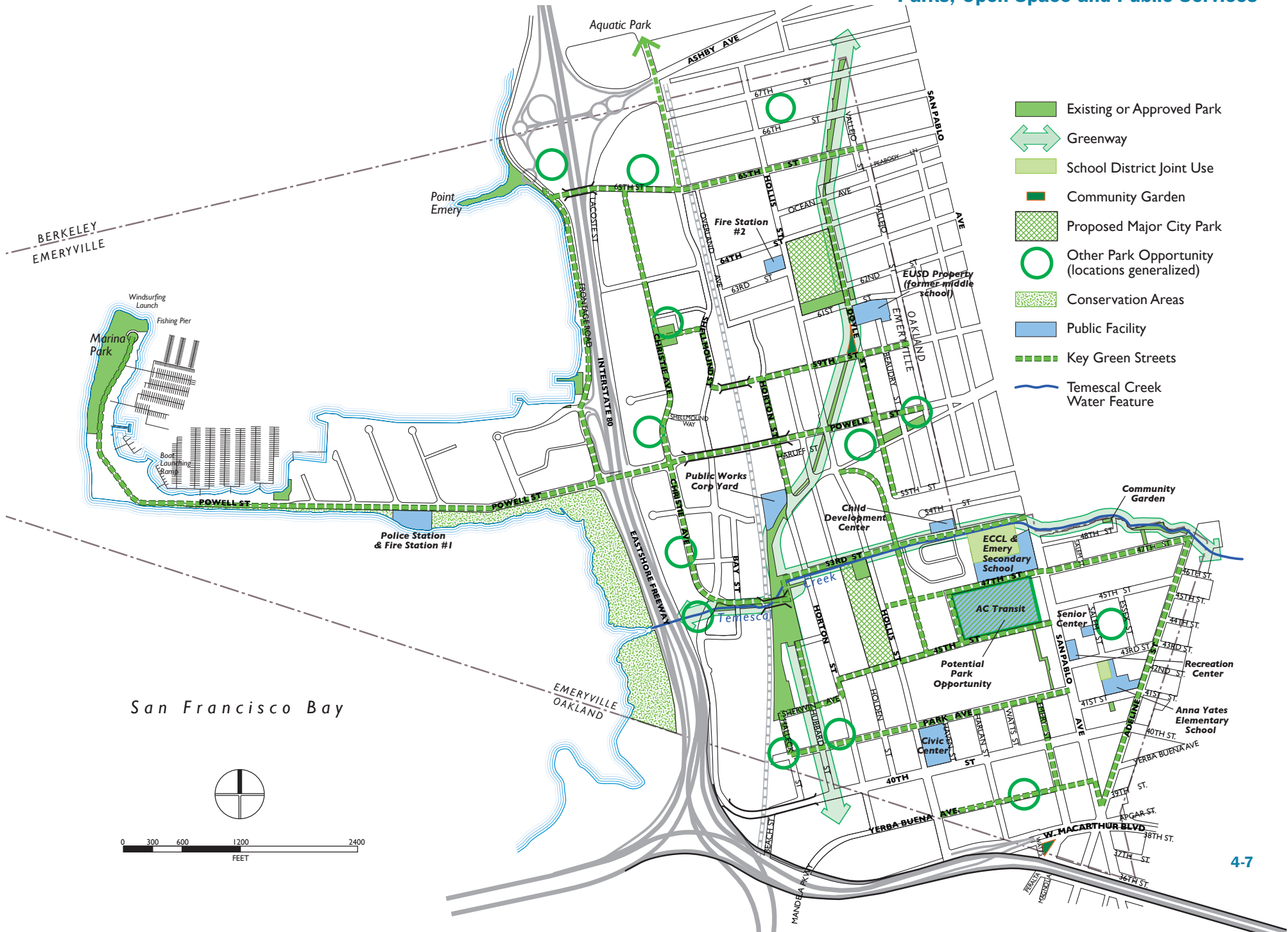
The city boundaries are aligned with a single public school district, Emery Unified, which runs two schools: Anna Yates Elementary School (Kindergarten–Grade 6) and Emery Secondary School (Grades 7–12). Emery Unified owns an additional property at 1275 61st Street, previously called the Ralph Hawley School and prior to that, the Emery Middle School Academy. It ceased regular school operations in 2003.

Emery Unified is a small school district and is likely to remain so during the General Plan period. As of the 2007–2008 school year, Emery Unified served 822 students. Both Anna Yates Elementary and Emery Secondary are located on the Emeryville/Oakland border within the 94608 zip code area. Approximately 40 percent of the district's students live outside the school district boundaries. Of those, 85 percent reside within the 94608 zip code. Students who live outside of Emeryville must apply for an inter-district transfer each academic year. Priority is given to returning students, their siblings, and to students whose parents or guardians are employed in Emeryville.



FIGURE 4-1

Parks, Open Space and Public Services



As enrollment of Emeryville residents either increases or decreases, the percentage of students accepted through the inter-district transfer process is adjusted. This flexibility has aided the City's small public school district in maintaining stable class sizes across all grade levels.

### Funding

The Emery Unified School District experienced a major fiscal turn-around between 2000 and 2008, helped by several public measures. In 2001 the California Legislature passed AB96, a state takeover with a \$1.3 million emergency loan to Emery Unified. In 2002, the City signed a \$1.5 million, 40 year agreement with the school district to lease Emery Secondary School's sports facilities during non-school hours. In 2003, Emeryville voters approved a parcel tax to help its schools thrive. On July 1, 2004, full control was restored to the district. Emeryville voters agreed to an expanded parcel tax in 2007 with those funds allocated to strengthen the academic curriculum and/or programs in the following essential areas: school libraries, wellness initiatives, counseling, tutoring and mentoring, technology supports, English language development, professional development and teacher recruitment/retention. Additionally, the district is supported by resources from federal, state, and private foundation sources. In particular, the Emery Education Fund, a local non-profit organization supported by the Emeryville Chamber of Commerce and others, raises private donations for a variety of school programs, teacher mini-grants, and student scholarships.

### Projected Enrollment

Projecting student enrollment over the life of the General Plan helps to determine the need for new school facilities over time. Emeryville's population is expected to increase by nearly 7,000 residents over the life of the Plan. As the population ages at the county

and state level, the proportion of school-age children is expected to decline despite an actual increase in school-aged residents. Adjusting enrollment based on this factor results in a projection of approximately 1,200 students by 2030—an increase of nearly 400 students. According to a 2008 study, this is a high estimate for potential future enrollment.<sup>1</sup>

The retention of students and their families who can no longer afford to live in the city remains a concern. Emery Unified recognizes the need for an increase in affordable family friendly (3+ bedroom) housing.

### Planned Improvements

The future of the Emery Unified School District's facilities is tied to the development of the Emeryville Center of Community Life described in the next section. According to the Center's 2009 Master Plan, the Center of Community Life will accommodate 800-900 students in Grades Kindergarten through 12 with the ability to expand to serve 1,200 students—enough capacity to accommodate the projected enrollment in 2030.

It is further anticipated that the need for services for children aged 0-5 and their families will increase during this period of increased enrollment in grades Kindergarten through 12. The need to serve preschool-aged children in pre-kindergarten programs is likely to increase. Adjunct facilities may need to be utilized to serve the above population including the current Anna Yates Elementary School site once the K-6 program is relocated to the Emeryville Center of Community Life.



The Emery public schools are Annie Yates Elementary (top) and Emery Secondary (bottom). These schools will be consolidated and integrated into the Emeryville Center of Community Life.

<sup>1</sup> Emery Unified School District Demographic Trends and Forecasts" Presentation by Shelley Lapkoff, Ph.D., Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc., June 4, 2008.



Anna Yates Elementary School was partially renovated and expanded in 2008, increasing its capacity to serve students and programs. Although the existing school facilities throughout the district have been adequately maintained over many years of use, they have exceeded their “useful life” period and are now in need of major repair and updating or replacement. Additionally, the existing facilities present significant challenges to operating current programs in spaces designed fifty or more years ago. And finally, the existing building systems are outdated and present obstacles to owning and maintaining a safe, efficient, energy-conscious set of facilities.

## Higher Education

Emeryville lies within a region that is rich with higher learning opportunities. With the University of California-Berkeley, located just a few miles away, Emeryville has access to the academic and cultural resources of one of the top college campuses in the country. In addition, the Peralta Community College District, with campuses in Berkeley and Oakland, as well as California State University-East Bay, in Hayward, provide high-quality opportunities for post-secondary degrees and lifelong learning.

Moreover, there are several institutions within Emeryville that provided specialized higher education opportunities. Ex’pression College for Digital Arts, an accredited school founded in 1999, offers bachelor degrees in animation, gaming, motion graphic design and sound arts. The campus is located in northwest Emeryville, on Shellmound Street, between 65th and 66th streets. In 2007, Ex’pression expanded its classroom facilities, resulting in about 78,000 square feet of space. In the 2007-08 academic year, Ex’pression had 1,300 actively enrolled students.

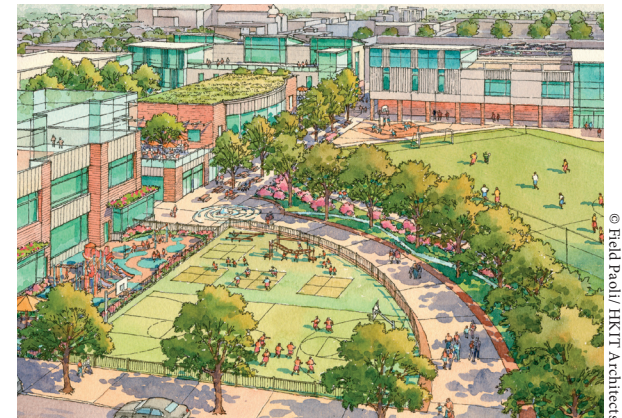
Western Career College (formerly Silicon Valley College) is an accredited private school that offers certificate and associate degree programs in the medical, pharmacy, criminal justice and graphic design fields. It has nine campuses in the Bay Area, including one in the Public Market office tower on Shellmound Street. As of 2008, about 200 students are enrolled at the Emeryville campus.

The National Holistic Institute is a massage therapy school that trains students in massage technique, theory, and career development, preparing students for the national certification exam. The campus is located at 59th and Hollis streets.

## Emeryville Center of Community Life

The concept of a Center of Community Life is a once in a lifetime opportunity to combine City and School programs in a state-of-the art facility to be shared by the City of Emeryville and Emery Unified School District. It is central to the City’s focus on building and supporting a healthy and vibrant community in Emeryville. Although the School District and the City are separate government entities, the City of Emeryville and Emery Unified have had a close working relationship in recent years. The Center will consolidate grades pre-Kindergarten through 12, and house joint-use facilities for arts, performances, classes, meetings, community programs and services, recreation (indoor and outdoor), and administration.

The goals for the Center include: improving quality of life within Emeryville’s dense urban setting; providing a social and community resource; turning the city’s public schools into the center of the community through physical and social integration; and providing a place for the mixing of all the lifestyles, ages, and races that make up the Emeryville commu-



© Field Paoli / HKIT Architects



© Field Paoli / HKIT Architects

Concepts for the proposed Emeryville Center of Community Life.



*The City's public services are essential to maintaining a high quality of life for residents. Municipal services are consolidated in City Hall.*



*The Emeryville Child Development Center provides market rate and subsidized child care services.*

nity. Through several years of public meetings, the Emeryville community has also identified key themes to incorporate into the Center: connections to the community; access to facilities and programs; active engagement of the community in these programs, and the expression of an identity for Emeryville.

Initially the concept involved the Emery Secondary School site, and expanding across 47th Street to occupy the AC Transit facility. Due to acquisition and clean up costs, and the potential to build “up” rather than “out,” it was determined to build the Center at the current Emery Secondary School site. Usable parts of the current School/District complex will be retained, but the vast majority of buildings will be demolished and replaced by higher structures built around a central courtyard, with flexibility to expand further in the future if enrollment increases.

Phase I of the process, which will be completed by the spring of 2009, involves the creation of a Master Plan for the Emery Secondary School site. While there will be separation of grades for security and safety purposes, there will also be many common areas for sure by all students, as well as the entire Emeryville community. Community services and recreation programs provided by or through the City will also make use of flexible space to maximize community-wide uses, participation, and involvement. Phase II involves construction of these community recreation and educational facilities, anticipated for completion in 2013 or 2014. This process is being overseen by the City/Schools Committee. The Center will come to fruition during the life of this General Plan.

## Libraries

There are no public libraries in Emeryville. The Oakland Public Library's Golden Gate Branch, located just outside the city limits on San Pablo Avenue near Stanford Avenue, serves as the main circulation library for Emeryville residents. The Emeryville Secondary School and Anna Yates Elementary School each include a library for use by students. The Emeryville Center of Community Life may include a library, although it would likely focus on serving public school students and would not replace the Golden Gate Branch as the City's main library facility.

## Other Community Facilities

### Civic Center

Located in the block bounded by Park Avenue and Hollis, Haven, and 40th streets, the Civic Center consists of the historic Town Hall building and an addition completed in 2001. The 1.4-acre Civic Center area is used for City business as well as public meetings. A former industrial building behind Old Town Hall has been purchased by the Redevelopment Agency to be developed as an arts and cultural center. As of 2008, a feasibility study has been completed and a strategic plan is being prepared to determine facility requirements for potential user groups. Design work is expected to be prepared in 2009, construction to begin in 2010 and the completed center to open in 2011.

### Emeryville Senior Center

The Senior Center serves older adults from its location in the Triangle neighborhood. It provides services, including meals and financial counseling, and activities for seniors. The American Legion also maintain offices in the Center. Like the rest of the Bay Area and the county as a whole, Emeryville's population is aging. Between 1990 and 2005, the median age in the



city grew slightly from 34.3 to 35.2 years. The population cohort that increased the most over this period was the group between 45 and 60 years old. The City's Commission on Aging has developed a strategic plan for senior facilities and services to accommodate the needs of this growing demographic.

#### **Recreation Center**

The City's Recreation Division of the Community Services Department offers classes and programs for children and adults. Located on San Pablo Avenue at 43rd Street, it is near the recreation facilities at Emery Secondary School and the open space at Temescal Creek Park. This location is temporary and once the ECCL is complete operations will be relocated to that site.

#### **Child Development Center**

Quality early child care and education can have a positive effect on children's learning and on parents' ability to work and earn income. In addition to family day care homes and public and private centers, the Emeryville Child Development Center (ECDC), located at 1220 53rd Street, offers specific programs for infants, toddlers and preschoolers from age four months to five years. ECDC also provides family support programs through parenting workshops, support groups, and partnerships with multiple service providers.

## **4.3 PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES**

### **Public Safety**

#### **Police Services**

##### **Profile**

Emeryville has one police station, adjacent to Fire Station #1 on Powell Street on the Peninsula. The Department employs 39 sworn officers and 20 other staff positions. The result is a ratio of 4.0 sworn officers for every 1,000 residents (based on 9,727 residents in 2008). This is much higher than the countywide ratio of 2.02 officers per 1,000 residents across Alameda County. During the workday, however, the city population swells to 25,000 to 35,000, resulting in a ratio of less than one police officer per 1,000 people. The Records and Communication Section of the Police Department is the public safety answering point for all emergency and non-emergency calls for service. In 2004, the Police Department's dispatch center processed 11,728 emergency calls.

##### **Standards**

While the department does not have service ratios or formal response standards, it aims to respond to emergency calls in two minutes and to non-emergency calls in six minutes. The department anticipates that as the city and its population grows, its staffing levels must also grow. While additional development will impact response times, the department does not use set standards for providing service to a growing population.

##### **Planned Improvements**

The Police Department has identified a need for additional facilities space. In 2008, the Department proposed a renovation of the existing facilities. Improvements would include an enlarged dispatch area; better east-west circulation within the building; adequate stor-

age and office spaces and renovation of the men's and women's locker rooms. The City Council has reviewed conceptual plans and authorized staff to move forward with the design phase. The current schedule suggests that construction would begin in 2009.

These renovations may not accommodate the future needs of the Department given population projections. There are concerns that the current station would be vulnerable and could be cut off from the rest of the city in the case of a large earthquake. The 1987 General Plan also noted that the police station had poor access to the east side of Emeryville, from which most service calls were originating. In addition, the existing station is considered too small by the Department, which would like a new facility that is 25,000-30,000 square feet in size and able to handle 10 to 15 additional personnel. A new station located on the east side of San Pablo Avenue may be suitable, although some residents of the Watergate complex are concerned about being left unprotected if the station moves from the Peninsula.



*The Fire Department responds to emergency calls but also maintains the City's emergency management plan.*

## Fire Services

### Profile

The Emeryville Fire Department (EFD) aims to educate the public, prevent fires, and respond to all emergencies in the city. Fire and emergency medical dispatch is handled through the Oakland Fire Department's communications system. All Emeryville firefighters are certified Emergency Medical Technicians.

The Fire Department employs 31 personnel in two stations: Station #1 at 2333 Powell Street on the Peninsula and Station #2 at 6303 Hollis Street, at the corner of 63rd Street. Station #2 hosts the City's Emergency Operations Center, which is a room that can serve as a disaster coordination center. The department has mutual aid agreements with the fire departments of

Oakland and Berkeley. These departments automatically respond to freeway accidents in the area and can be called for help with any other incident.

The Fire Department has an emergency management operations plan for the city. Evacuation routes from the city in the case of an emergency depend on the circumstances, although San Pablo Avenue, Hollis Street, and I-80 are major routes. The City has an informal understanding with AC Transit that they would help evacuate people in an emergency. The department has the ability to monitor the state of emergency routes through webcams.

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Program educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members also are encouraged to support emergency response agencies by taking a more active role in emergency preparedness projects in their community.

### Standards

The department receives an average of 1,500 calls each year, which includes mutual aid responses to nearby cities. The State requires a minimum response time of eight minutes to emergency calls. The EFD averages just under five minutes time from the inception of an emergency call to their arrival on the scene. Overall, about 60 to 65 percent of the department's calls are medical, with Station #2 handling around 60 percent of all non-fire calls.



### Planned Improvements

The EFD is not currently planning for new facilities. Expansion of the city is going to be vertical rather than horizontal. Infill development will require more equipment and staffing rather than an additional location. The department has discussed whether to expand its equipment to include an adaptive response vehicle, which would be smaller and more maneuverable and able to handle different types of calls, although it would require additional staffing. The EFD also sees a need for a backup water pressure and delivery system in the event that an earthquake disrupts the regular system.

The expansion of commercial and residential building space in the city implies a higher daytime and permanent population. This higher population and greater density will create several impacts: more emergency calls, the potential of incidents that affect more people, greater difficulty in evacuating the city, and longer response times to emergencies due to increased traffic congestion.

## Utilities and Infrastructure Systems

Providing adequate public infrastructure and utilities is an essential part of a city's physical growth and development. This section provides background on the city's gas and electricity provision and wastewater treatment. Note that other public facilities and services are discussed elsewhere in the General Plan. Chapter 6: Conservation, Safety, and Noise, includes a discussion and policies on water systems—potable, recycled and stormwater management. Chapter 7: Sustainability includes a discussion and policies on energy and waste management.

### Gas and Electricity

The Pacific Gas and Electricity Company (PG&E) serves Emeryville with electricity and natural gas.

PG&E purchases both natural gas and electrical power from a variety of sources, including utility companies in other Western states and Mexico. PG&E charges connection and user fees for all new development in addition to sliding rates for service based on use.

PG&E delivered 10,605 thousand Megawatt-hours of electricity to customers in Alameda County in 2000. Approximately 60 percent of this energy was sold to commercial and industrial accounts. Electrical power is provided to the City of Emeryville from various distribution feeders located throughout the city; natural gas is provided to the city from several gas lines stretching from Milpitas to San Francisco. Natural gas is delivered from basins in Canada and/or Texas by transmission mains and deposited at PG&E's Milpitas Gas Terminal. PG&E has indicated that gas and electric demand for its entire service area will grow steadily through 2010, and it does not expect to substantially change the electric transmission system in Emeryville.

### Wastewater

The City of Emeryville operates a municipal sanitary sewer collection system that conveys wastewater from Emeryville and portions of the City of Oakland. The collection system is divided into five drainage basins, each of which connects to the East Bay Municipal Utility District's (EBMUD) sanitary sewer interceptor, which is generally located along the east side of Interstate 80. The EBMUD interceptor carries sewer flows from the East Bay communities' collection systems to its wastewater treatment facility (SD-1) located at the foot of the San Francisco Bay Bridge in Oakland. Except for one pump station and a forced main at the Emeryville Marina, the City of Emeryville's collection system is generally a gravity-fed system, consisting of over 13.6 miles of pipe ranging in sizes from six to 30 inches.

## GOALS AND POLICIES

### GOALS

#### PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

**PP-G-1 A comprehensive open space system—** A system that provides a diverse range of active and passive recreation and open space opportunities for residents, workers, and visitors.

**PP-G-2 New public spaces—** A public realm and new public parks and plazas that serve as focal points of the community.

**PP-G-3 Integration of parks and open space—** Parks that are coordinated with surrounding developments to form unified urban compositions and that are integrated into the redevelopment of underutilized areas.

**PP-G-4 Sunlit parks—** Public parks, plazas, and other open spaces that enjoy maximum sunlight access.

**PP-G-5 Sustainable design—** Park designs that are consistent with sustainable design principles and practices, and efficient use of open space.

**PP-G-6 Locally accessible parks—** At least one park located within a five-minute walk of all residences.

**PP-G-7 An accessible waterfront—** Connections from the waterfront to the rest of Emeryville east of the freeway.

### SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

**PP-G-8 A safe, nurturing and enriching environment—** An environment in which children and youth can flourish and become contributing members of society. The foundation of this vision is a strong and active partnership among the City, School District, and all segments of the community, so that powerful learning from the earliest years is a citywide experience and responsibility.

**PP-G-9 Accessible childcare—** An adequate and diverse supply of childcare facilities that are affordable and accessible for families, and provide safe, educational, and high-quality services for children.

**PP-G-10 Vibrancy and diversity—** Expanded arts, cultural and recreation programs that celebrate a vibrant diverse community.

### PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

**PP-G-11 Public safety—** Police and fire services that are responsive to the citizens' needs to ensure a safe and secure environment for people and property in the community.

**PP-G-12 Adequate public facilities—** Utilities and infrastructure systems that provide safe, reliable, and adequate services.

### POLICIES

*Implementing actions supporting each policy are described in Chapter 8: Implementation Program.*

#### PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

**PP-P-1** Increase park acreage to serve the needs of the growing population and address current deficiencies in park and open space standards. Maintain a standard of three new acres of parkland per 1,000 new residents, and 0.25 acres per 1,000 new employees.

**PP-P-2** Two new large parks (five acres or larger), one each north and south of Powell Street, shall be provided. Active recreation uses will be a component of these parks. The northern park site is bounded by 61st, 64th, Hollis, and Doyle streets. There are two potential southern park sites:

- One potential southern park site is shown on the PG&E site on Hollis Street, between 45th and 53rd Streets. On this site, consideration shall be given as to how to incorporate the existing buildings, which are rated Tier 1 and Tier 2 in the Park Avenue District Plan, into future park uses.
- The second potential southern park site is located at the AC Transit bus yard between 45th and 47th streets,



adjacent to the proposed Center of Community Life. Should this site become available, the City shall explore the possibility of a public park—along with other public uses. If a large park at this site is feasible and is considered desirable, all or part of the PG&E site may no longer be needed for a public park.

**PP-P-3** New smaller open spaces—including public plazas and places, community gardens, and pocket parks—will provide local focus points and diversify the built environment. These should be developed through the identification of underutilized and strategically located parcels, and the redevelopment of larger sites.

**PP-P-4** Locate “other park opportunities” (whose locations are generalized on Figure 4-1) to maximize accessibility for residents, such that every resident in the City has access to a park within a five-minute walk from their residence. Parks shall be located outside the 65 dbL noise contour (Figure 6-10).

**PP-P-5** A system of greenways and Green Streets, as tree-lined open spaces will be developed as continuous recreational paths for bicyclists, joggers, and pedestrians, linking parks and activity centers.

**PP-P-6** The north-south Emeryville Greenway will be expanded, enhancing its role as

an open space corridor and connector across the City, and a source of inspiration and community pride. The City will support the expansion of a park at the Sherwin Williams site, in coordination with the development of Horton Landing Park and the Greenway.

**PP-P-7** An east-west greenway located generally along the path of Temescal Creek will be created. This will include water features to celebrate the creek and improvements to the riparian corridor, where feasible, while maintaining existing drainage capabilities.

**PP-P-8** Locate a series of small parks and plazas along Christie Avenue to create a continuous open space network throughout the district.

**PP-P-9** Shading of parks and green streets by buildings will be minimized.

**PP-P-10** Efficient use of open space will be achieved through techniques such as rooftop play courts and gardens, joint use of sports and recreation facilities at schools, co-location of parks with child care facilities, and possible use of underground parking below new plazas and parks.

**PP-P-11** All large new residential developments shall include a combination of private and common open space.

**PP-P-12** Design, landscaping, lighting, and traffic calming measures will be employed to create safe parks and open spaces.

**PP-P-13** Open spaces that have deteriorated, have design features that limit access and use opportunities, and/or are in need of activity shall be revitalized.

## **SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION**

**PP-P-14** Efforts by Emery Unified School District and childcare service providers to establish, maintain, and improve educational facilities and services will be supported. Encourage a range of child care facilities, including family day care homes, public and private centers, preschool programs, and before and after school programs.

**PP-P-15** A strong relationship and communication between City and Emery Unified School District will be maintained.

**PP-P-16** The City will continue to partner with Emery Unified School District to optimize the joint-use of school facilities for community use.

**PP-P-17** The City will support the development of the Emeryville Center of Community Life.

**PP-P-18** Student engagement and learning will be facilitated through expanded programs and activities.

## COMMUNITY

**PP-P-19** A diversity of lifestyles, ages, and income-levels will be accommodated through zoning and community facilities and programming.

**PP-P-20** The growing senior citizen community will be supported by providing appropriate cultural, recreational and assistance programs and services.

**PP-P-21** A community cultural arts center will be developed.

## PUBLIC SERVICES AND FACILITIES

**PP-P-22** Crime will be deterred through physical planning and community design.

**PP-P-23** There will be adequate police and fire staff to provide timely response to all emergencies and maintain the capability to have minimum average response times.

**PP-P-24** The City will support community involvement in disaster preparation and response through the Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Training program.

**PP-P-25** The City will continue to coordinate with Pacific Gas & Electric to ensure gas and electricity access to new development and high quality service to all customers.

**PP-P-26** The City will continue to operate and maintain the City-owned wastewater collection conveyance system and coordinate with EBMUD on the transfer and treatment of wastewater.

**PP-P-27** The City will continue to cooperate with EBMUD, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and other relevant agencies to adopt and implement programs and policies to further reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I) of storm water in the City's wastewater collection system and private sewer laterals during wet weather events.

**PP-P-28** The City will continue to require development projects to replace or upgrade as needed, sanitary sewer systems serving the development site to reduce inflow and infiltration (I&I) of stormwater in the City's wastewater collection system and private sewer laterals during wet weather events.