



THE CITY OF
BENICIA
CALIFORNIA



Parks, Trails, & Open Space Master Plan

City of Benicia Parks & Community Services Department



Desired Outcomes?

- 1. Maximize community engagement to guide the plan**
- 2. Provide a detailed level analysis of existing Parks, Open Space, & Trails**
- 3. Ensure diversity of offerings and equity of access**
- 4. Improve financial sustainability and ensure adequate maintenance**
- 5. Develop a Capital Improvement Plan based on priority setting with the community**
- 6. Develop a strategic and realistic master plan**



Our Team



California based full service
Landscape Architectural firm with 40
year award winning experience
throughout Northern and Southern
California

200+ park and recreational
facilities including Regional,
Community, Neighborhood, Sports,
Historical and Specialty Parks and
Trails

Services include:

- Master Planning
- Facility Assessment
- Site Analysis
- Consensus Building
- Historical Research and Planning
- LEED/Sustainable Design
- Cost Estimating
- Construction Documents
- Construction Management



National, full-service management consulting and planning firm specializing in government and not-for-profit agencies

Helped agencies in 45 states and 7 foreign countries through 1000+ projects

Worked all over California / Bay Area for several years

Full-service Consulting Practice

- Planning
- Assessments
- Customer Service Training
- Web and App Development



Team of planners, urban designers, architects, and landscape architects.

San Francisco presence with offices nationwide

Long term collaboration with PROS on Master Planning projects nationally

Services include:

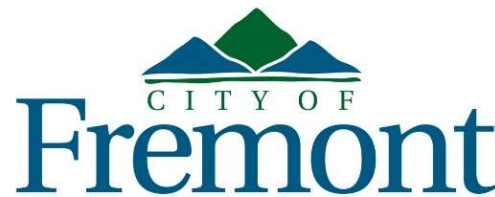
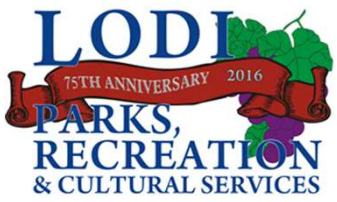
- GIS Analysis
- Master Planning
- Detailed Design
- Site Analysis
- Engagement / Consensus
- LEED/Sustainable Design
- Graphic Design



Full service market research firm of nearly 100 people

Have worked with the team on over 400 surveys over the past 17 years

Extensive experience conducting services in English and Spanish





PARK DISTRICT
of OAK PARK

Carmel • Clay
Parks & Recreation
NATIONAL GOLD MEDAL WINNER
AND ACCREDITED AGENCY



CHANNAHON
PARK DISTRICT

Est. 1971

THE CITY OF
BENICIA
CALIFORNIA



CITY of
DURANGO



**Parks &
Recreation**
M-N C P P C

live more, play more



WESTERVILLE
PARKS & RECREATION



Canton

Leisure Services

Creating Great Experiences

THE CITY OF
BENICIA
CALIFORNIA





POLL #1: AUDIENCE PROFILE

Poll 1: What is your Gender?

- A. Female
- B. Male
- C. Non-Binary
- D. Prefer not to answer

Poll 1: What age segment are you in?

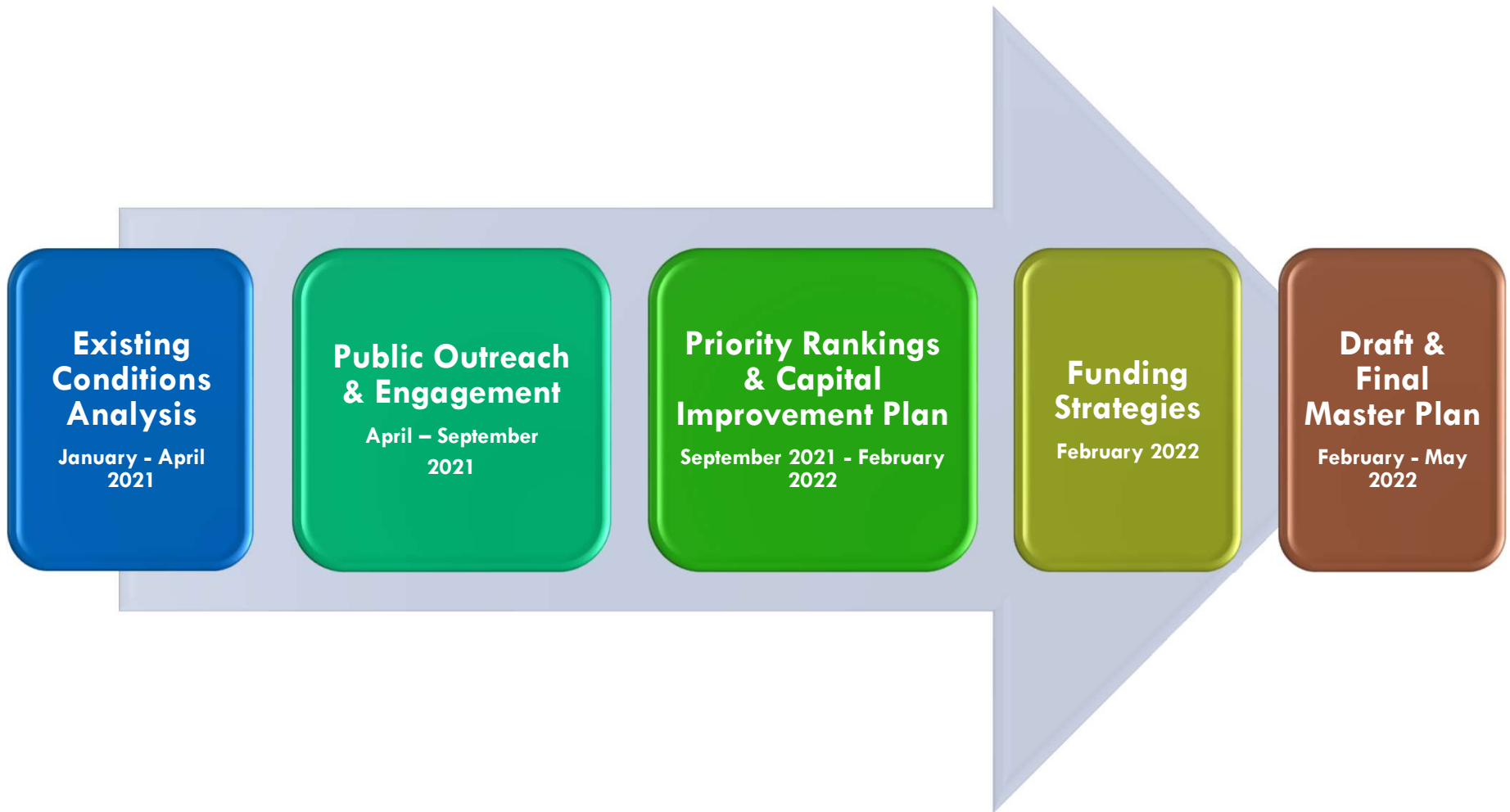
- A. Ages 0-17
- B. Ages 18-34
- C. Ages 35-54
- D. Ages 55-74
- E. Ages 75+

Poll 1: How many people are participating with you in this virtual meeting?

- A. Just myself
- B. One other person
- C. Two other people
- D. Three or more people



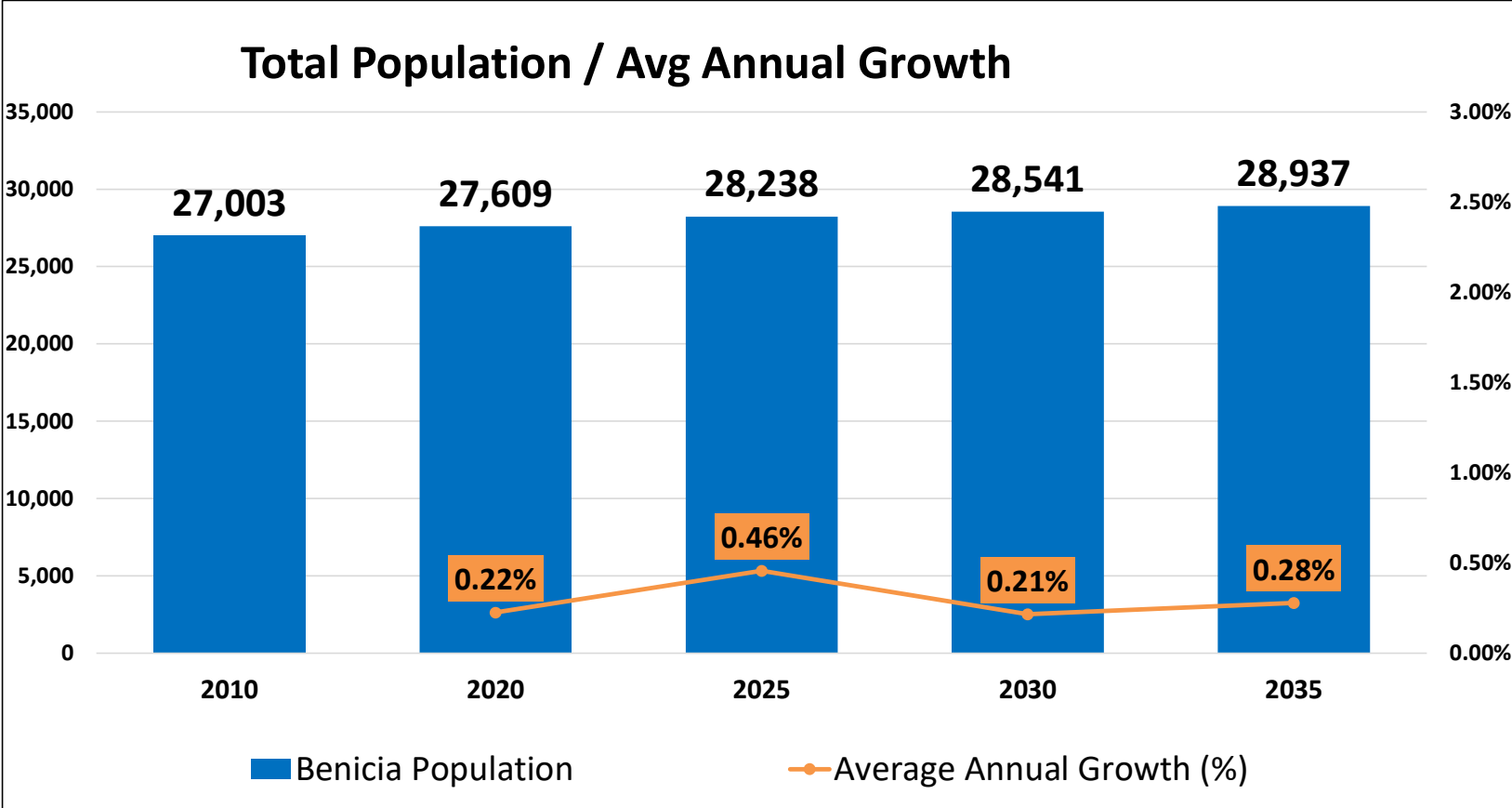
The Proposed Process

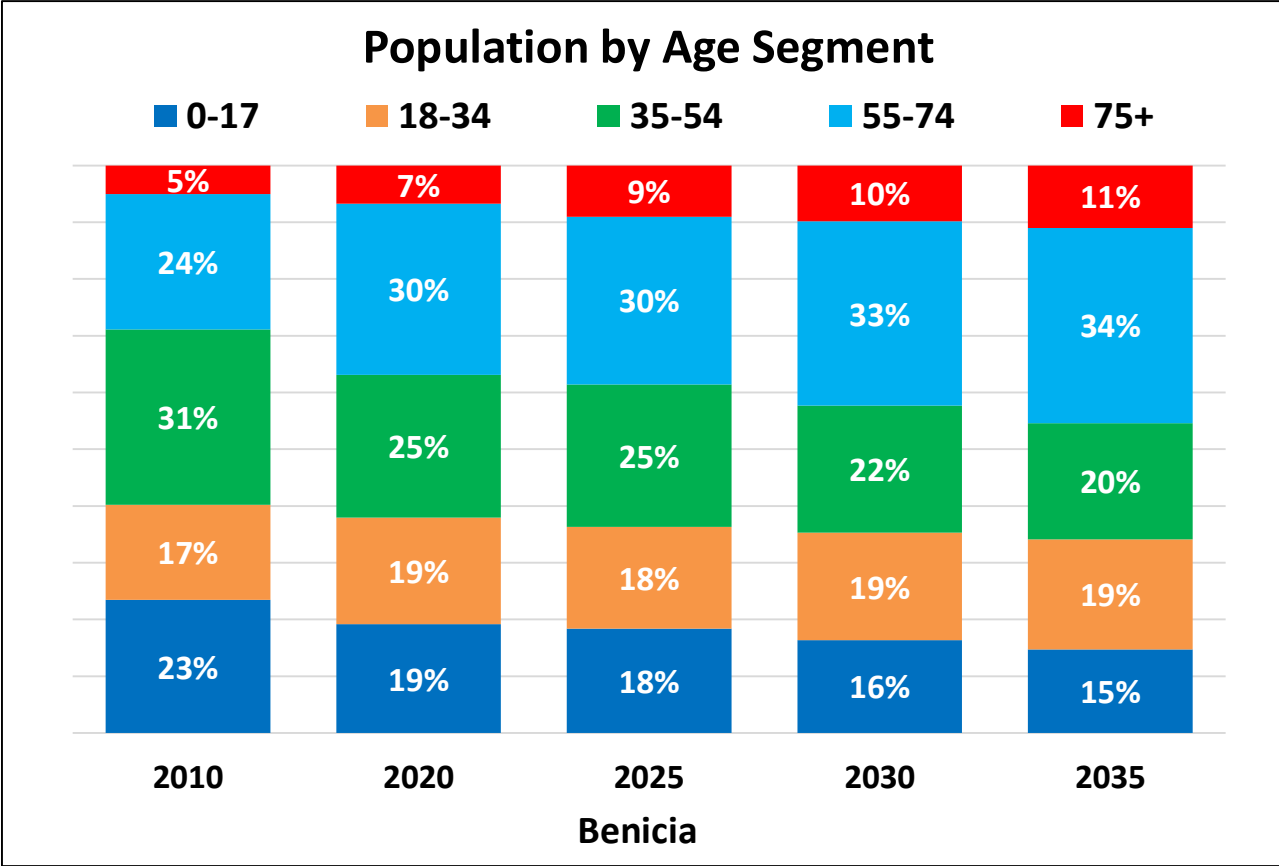


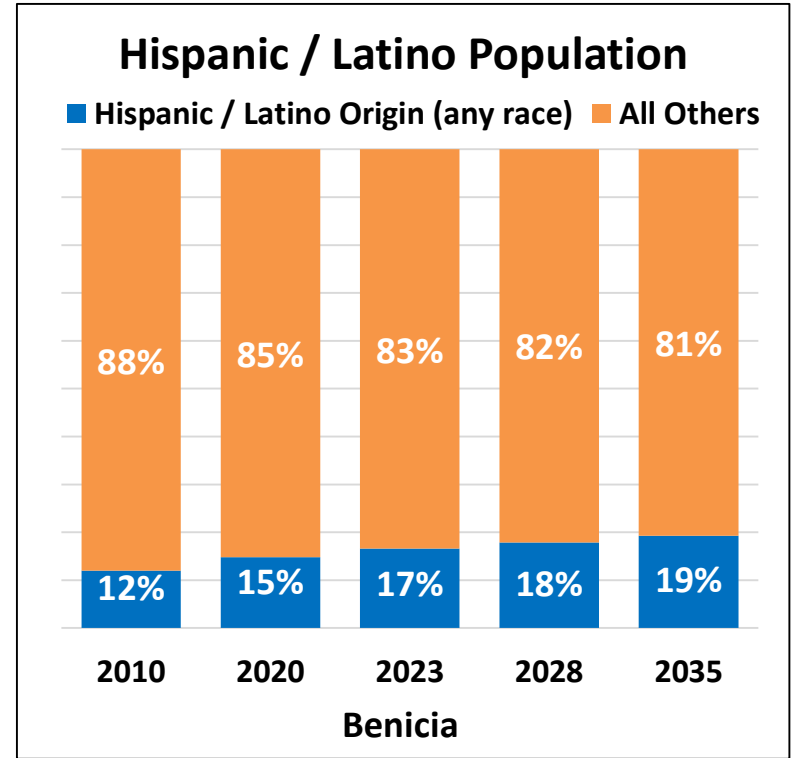
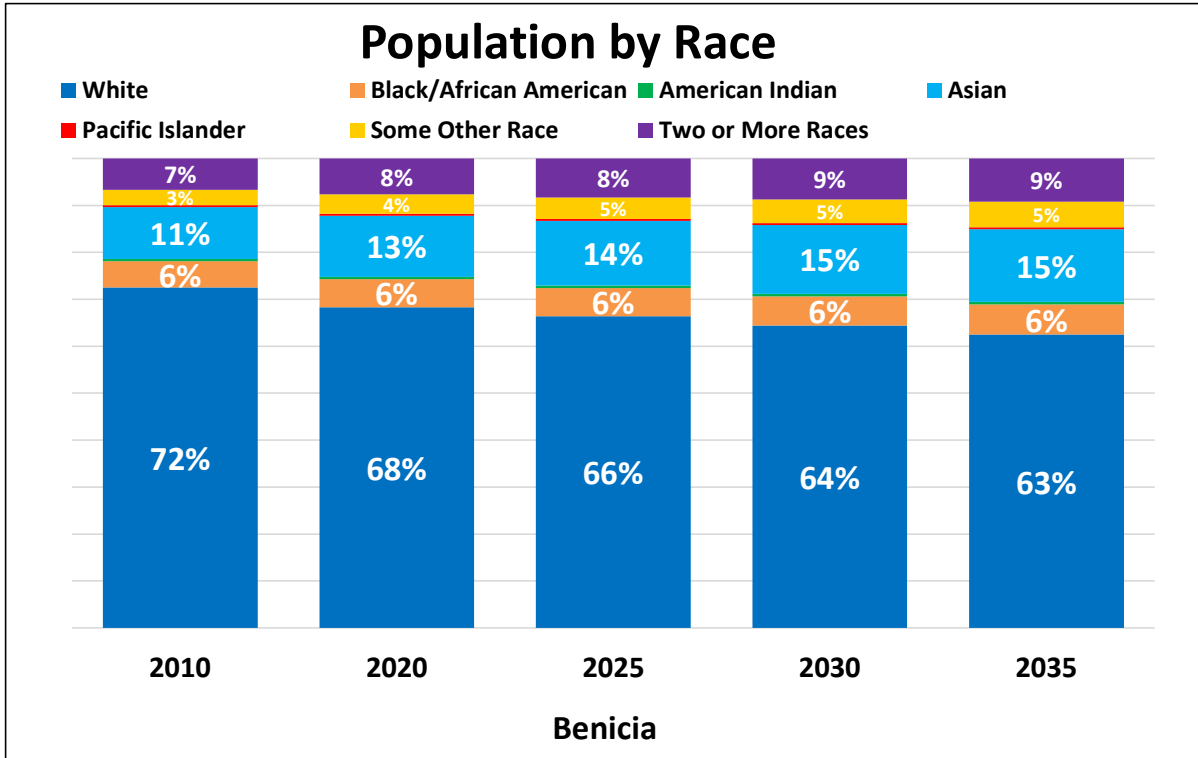


Demographics and Trends

Total Population / Avg Annual Growth

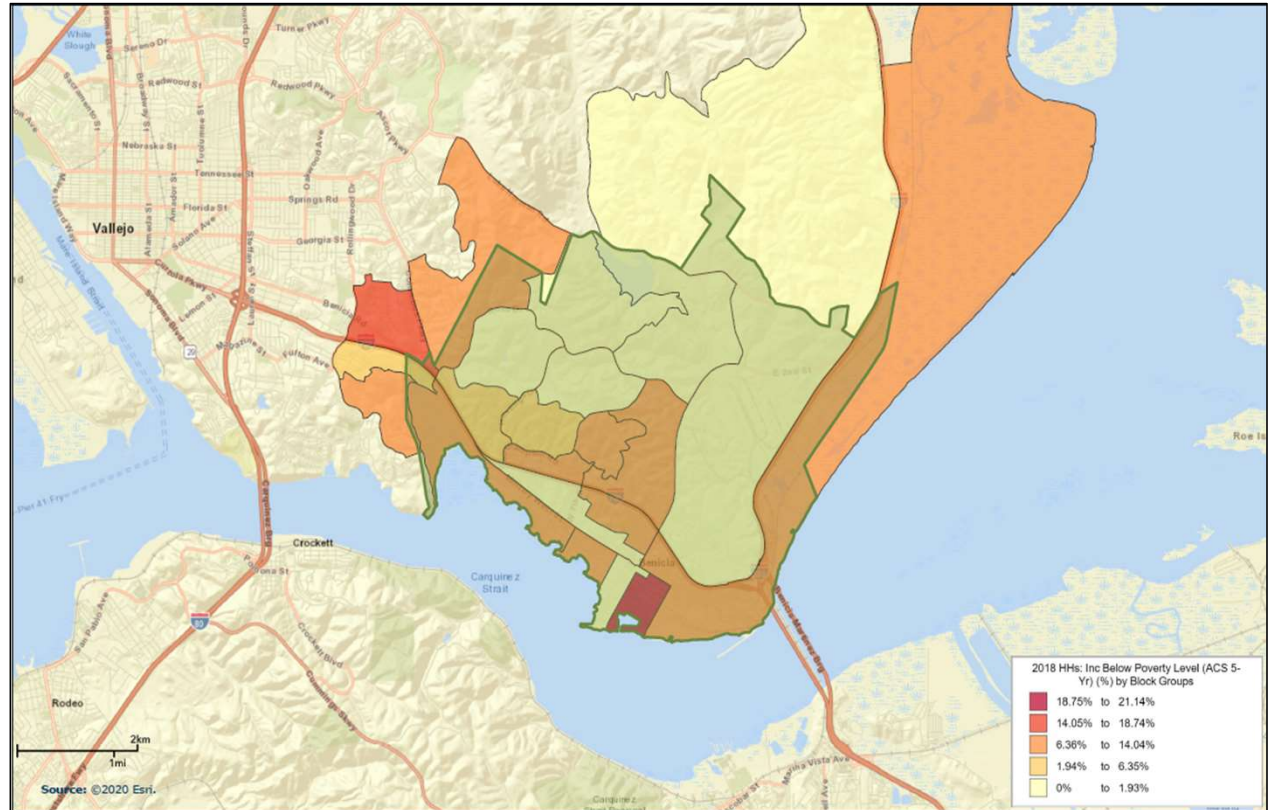
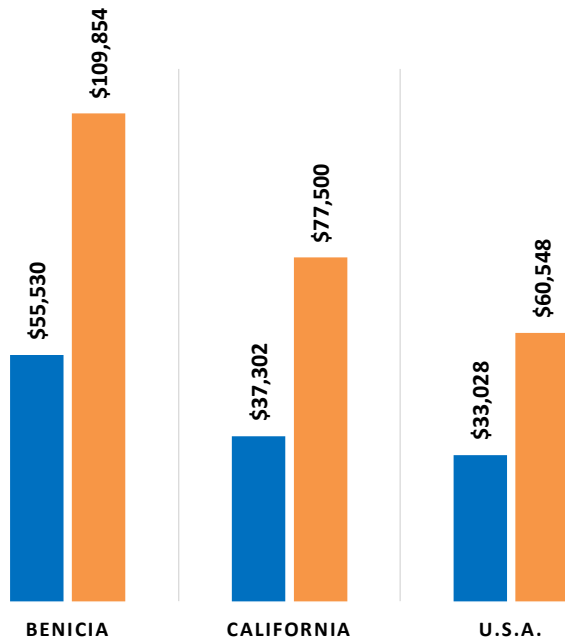




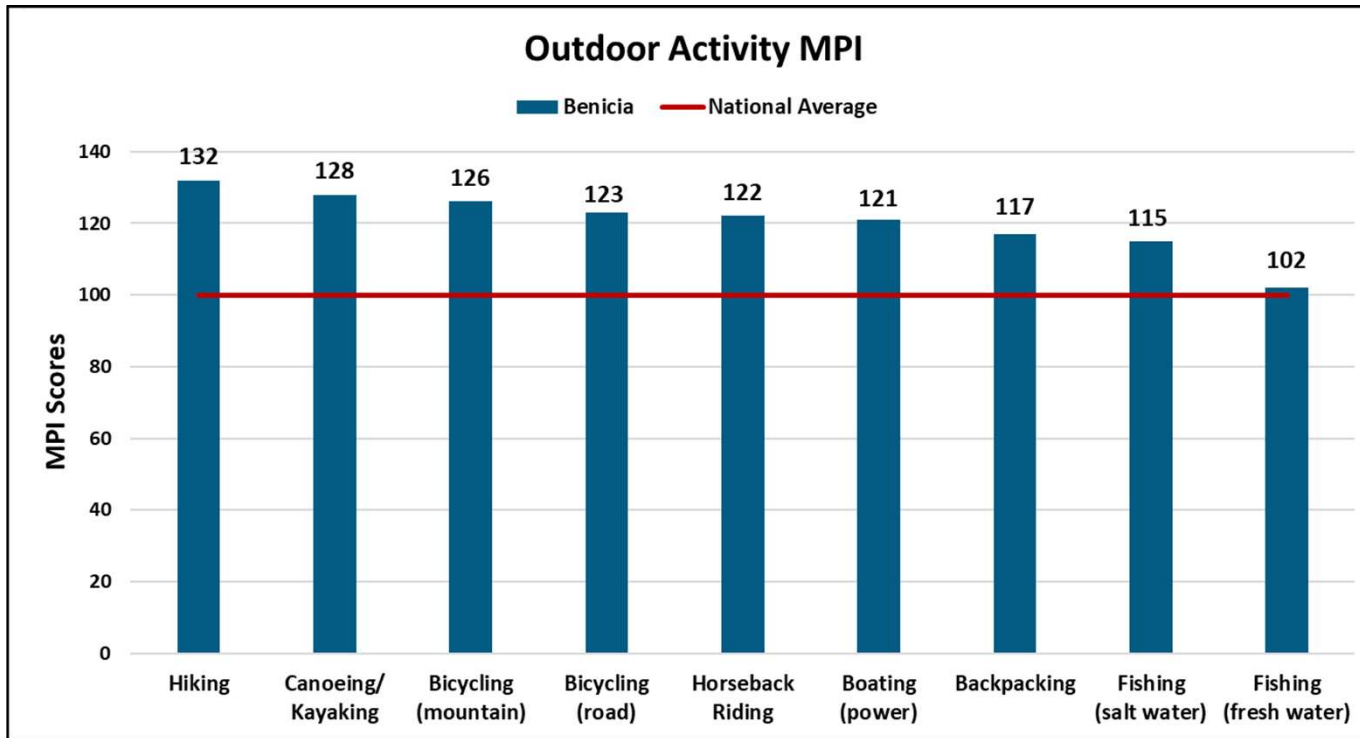


Income Characteristics

■ Per Capita Income ■ Median Household Income



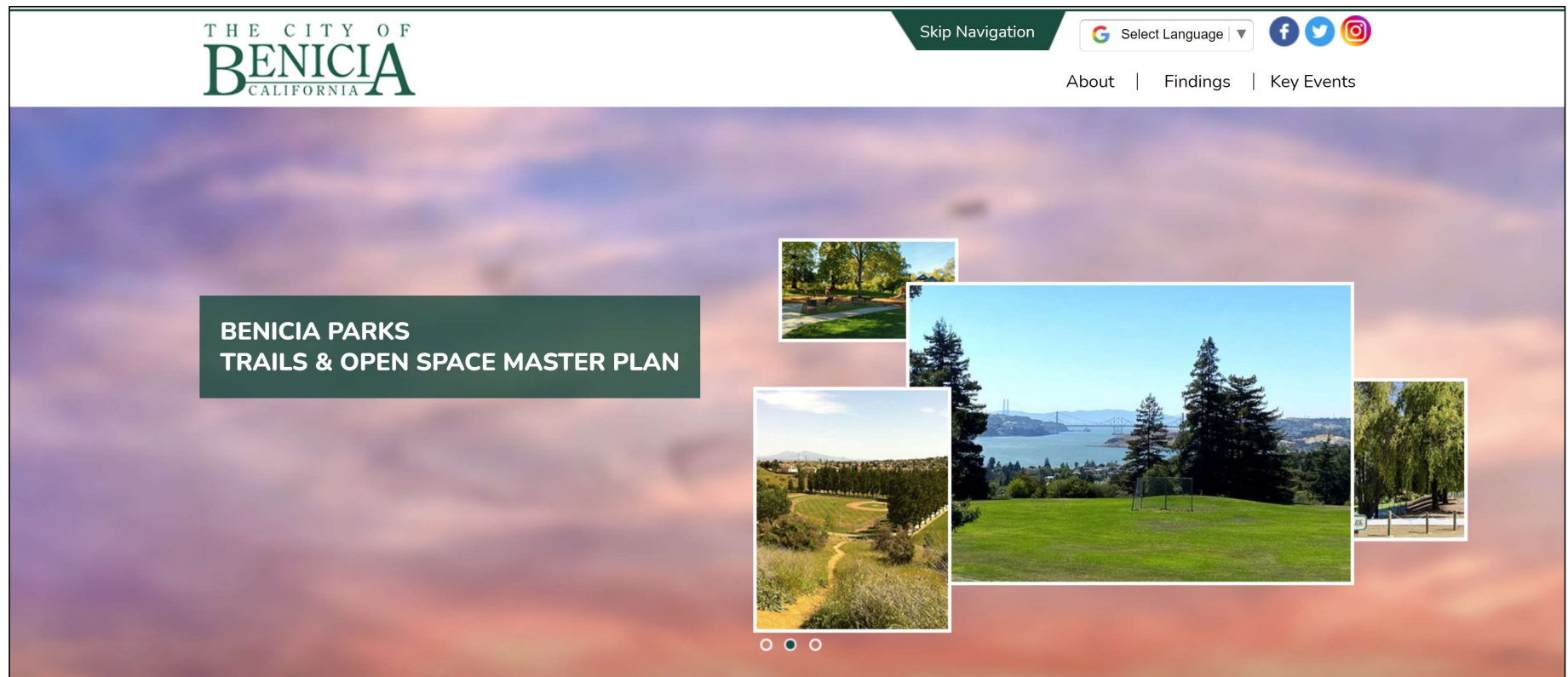
Local Trends (MPI)

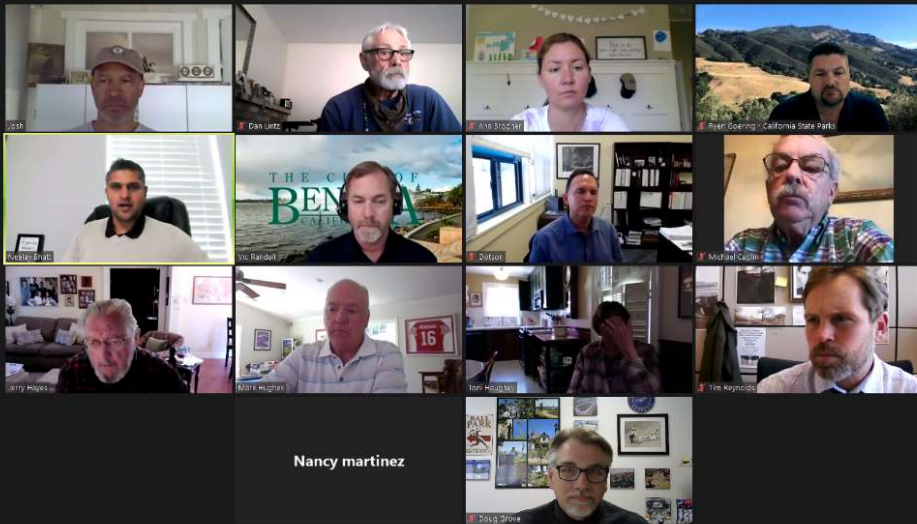




Public Input

Multi-lingual Crowdsourcing Website





Statistically-Reliable Survey

Only scientific and defensible method to understand community needs

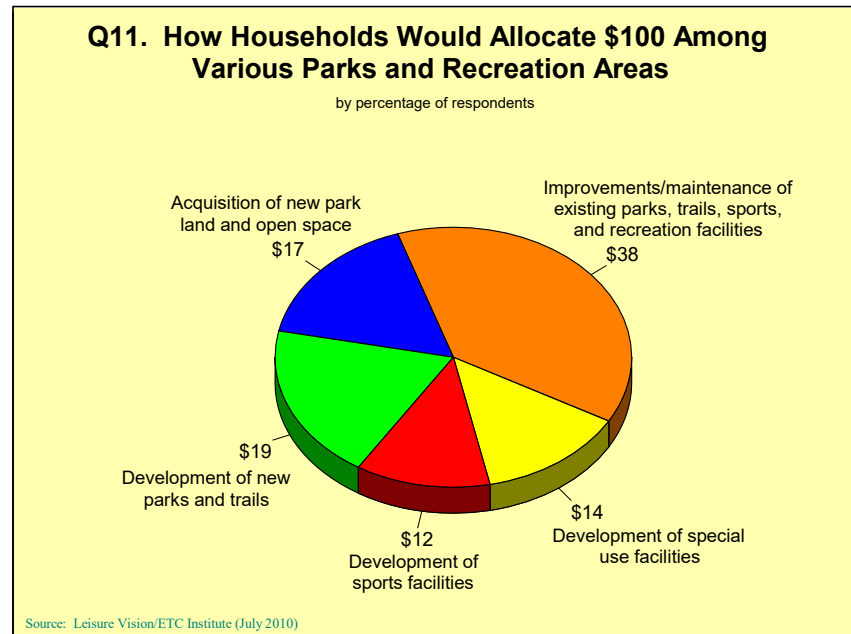
Administered by mail/phone/web

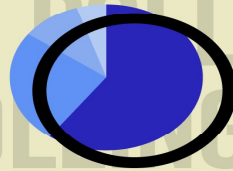
Developed in partnership with the staff

Methodology allows high return rate (25%-35%)

Total of 375 completed surveys, 95% level of confidence with a margin of error of +/- 5%

English and Spanish language survey instrument





POLL #2: USAGE, QUALITY, & ACCESS

Poll 2: How often do you use any City of Benicia parks, trails, or open space?

- A. At least weekly
- B. At least monthly
- C. At least six times per year
- D. At least two to five times per year
- E. Once per year or less
- F. I do not use the City of Benicia parks, trails, or open spaces

Poll 2: Do you live within a 10-minute walk to a park or trail?

- A. Yes
- B. No

Poll 2: Which park amenities do you use regularly?

- A. Athletic fields (baseball, football, soccer, disc golf, etc.)
- B. Dog Parks
- C. Playgrounds
- D. Picnic areas
- E. Shoreline Access
- F. Skate Park
- G. Sports courts (basketball, bocce ball, tennis, pickleball, etc.)
- H. Trails and pathways (paved, unpaved, mountain bike, etc.)

Poll 2: How would you rate the overall quality of the City of Benicia's parks, open space, and trails system?

- A. Excellent
- B. Good
- C. Fair
- D. Poor
- E. N/A – I do not use the City of Benicia's parks, open space, and trails offerings

Poll 2: How do you travel to your nearest local park?

- A. I walk
- B. I bike
- C. I drive
- D. I ride with friend
- E. I teleport
- F. I use transit
- G. N/A – I do not travel to City of Benicia parks



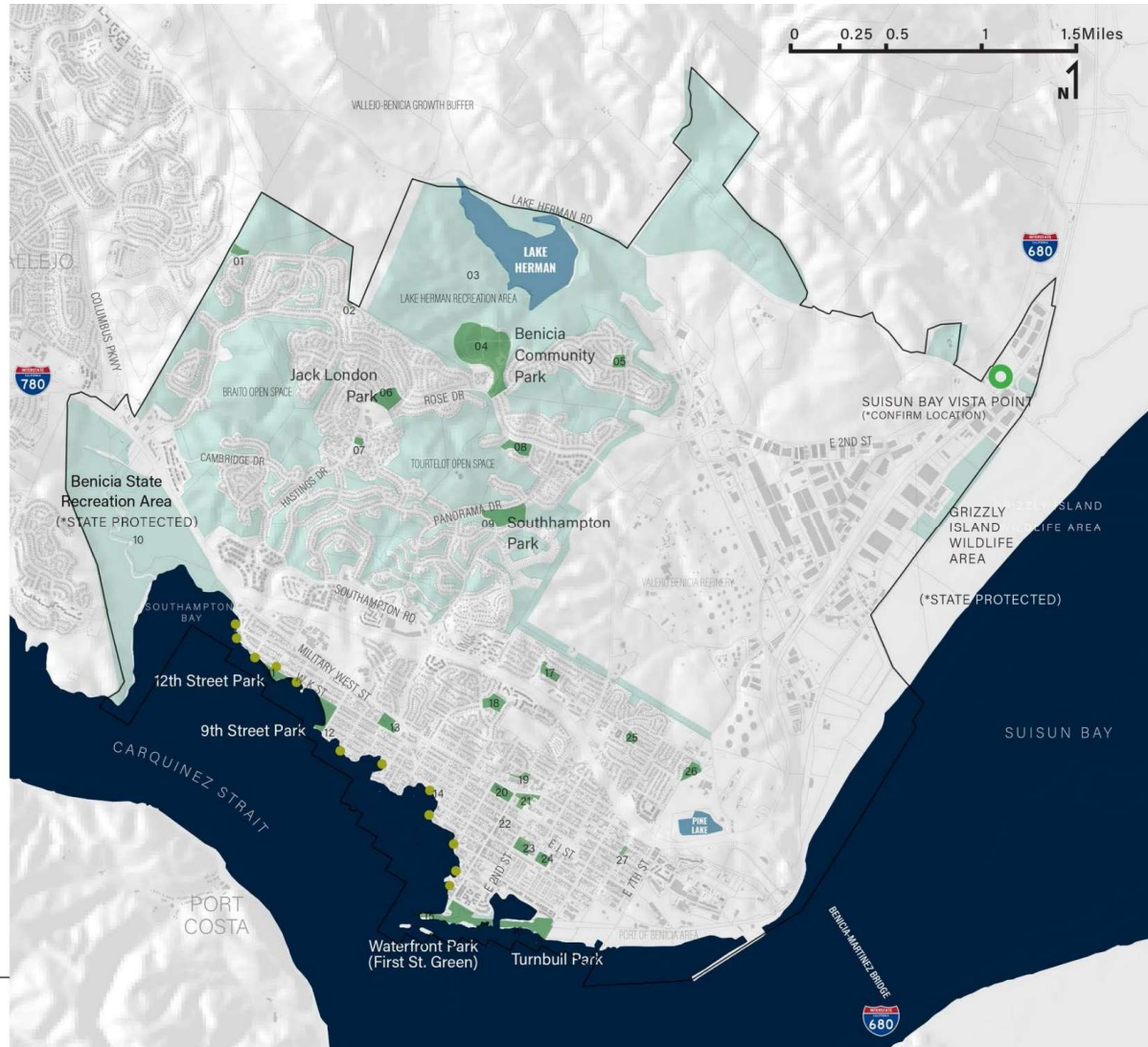
Existing Conditions Analysis

LIST OF PARKS

- Park
- Zoned for Open Space
- City of Benicia Boundary
- Unclassified/ Unmapped Waterfront Micro-Park

- 01 Channing Circle Park
- 02 Gateway Park
- 03 Lake Herman Regional Park
- 04 Benicia Community Park
- 05 Water's End Park
- 06 Jack London Park
- 07 Solano Park
- 08 Frank Skillman Park
- 09 Southampton Park
- 10 Benicia State Recreation Area
- 11 Matthew Turner Park (12th Street)
- 12 Alvarez Park (9th Street)
- 13 Willow Glen Park
- 14 Arneson Park
- 15 Waterfront Park (1st Street)
- 16 Turnbull Park
- 17 Overlook Park
- 18 Bridgeview Park
- 19 St. Catherine's Wood
- 20 City Park
- 21 Civic Center Park
- 22 St. Paul's Square
- 23 Fitzgerald Field
- 24 Maria/ Ribiero (Little League) Park
- 25 Duncan Graham Park
- 26 Francesca Terrace Park
- 27 Ethelree Saraiva Park

WRT BENICIA PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE

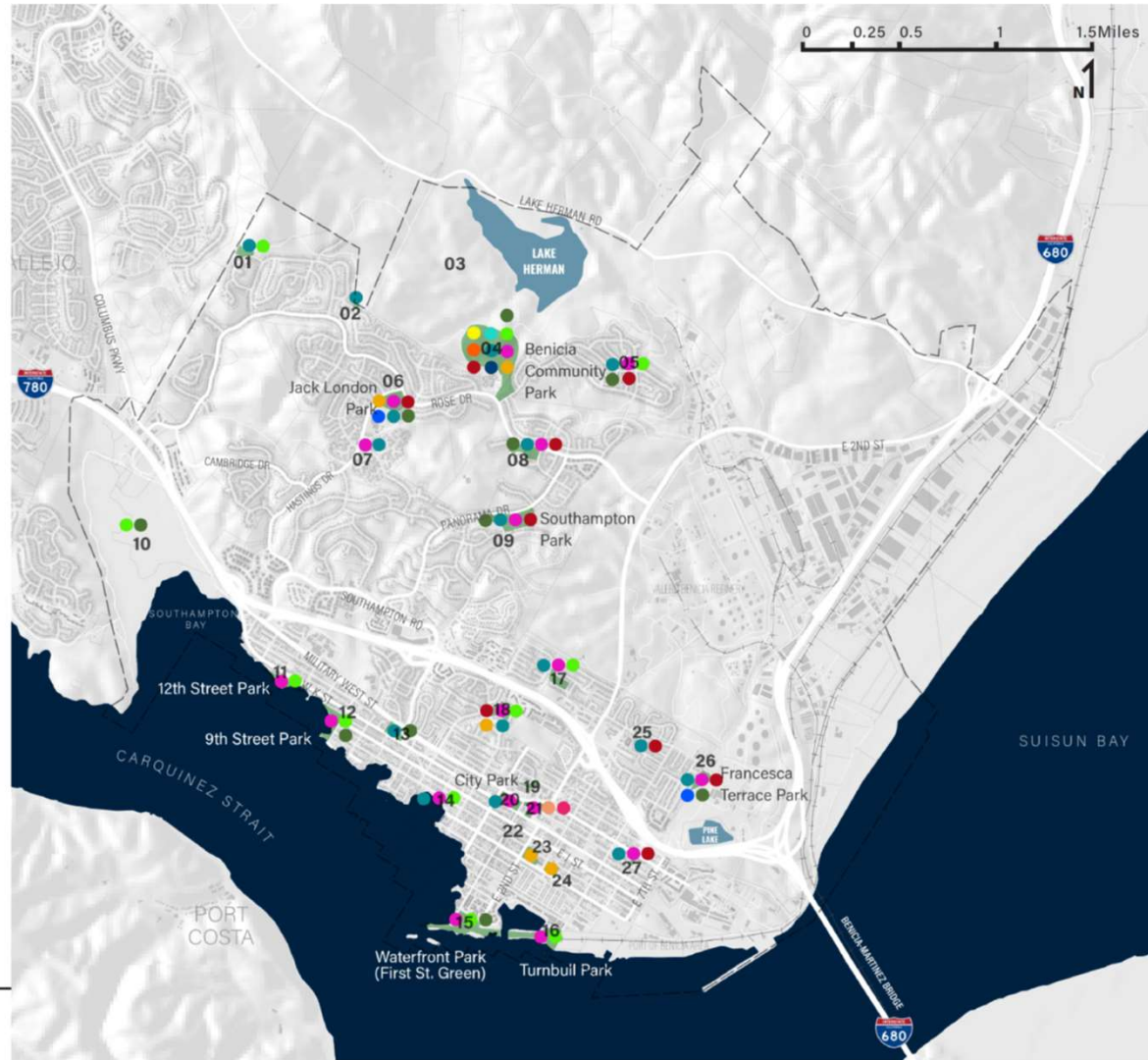


PARK AMENITIES

- Park amenities were noted in the 2018 Parks Assessment and confirmed by the 2021 Parks Assessment.
- Each dot is a representation of the type of amenity that occurs in the park at least once. It does not indicate exact location, quantity, or condition.
- Benicia Community Park, as the sole community park in the city, has the most amenities. This includes several amenities that serve the whole city, such as the skate park and disc golf course.
- Tennis is a notable amenity that is only provided at Civic Center Park.
- Playgrounds, picnic and BBQ areas, walking loops, and views have a more even distribution throughout the city.

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ● Walking Trail/ Loop | ● Tennis |
| ● Bocce | ● Basketball Court |
| ● Horseshoes | ● Soccer |
| ● Skate Park | ● Baseball |
| ● Disc Golf | ● Picnic + BBQ |
| ● Views | ● Playgrounds |
| ● Dog Park | |

WRT BENICIA PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN UPDATE



PARK ASSESSMENT PROCESS & OVERVIEW

WHAT WE ASSESSED:

ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY

Adjacent trails or trailheads, street crossings, sidewalks, park circulation, signage, general accessibility

CONDITION & FUNCTIONALITY

Individual amenities, tree canopy, other vegetation types and appearance, state of paved surfaces, lighting and furniture

SAFETY & COMFORT

Visibility/ sightlines, active use, lighting, evidence of misuse, ease of navigation, road adjacency, any physical hazards, edges of slopes

MAINTENANCE

Concerns for the continued success of park

TRAILS

Existing connectivity and suitability for future trail development

ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

EXAMPLE ASSESSMENT SCORES:

*SCORES DERIVED FROM AN AVERAGE OF SUBCATEGORIES

ALVAREZ PARK (9TH STREET)

ACCESS & CONNECTIVITY SCORE:

3.33

Park is integrated into walkable neighborhood, but backyard adjacency may cause problems with neighbors

CONDITION & FUNCTIONALITY SCORE:

3.14

Diversity of program is strong, but amenities are aging and paving is in poor condition

SAFETY & COMFORT SCORE:

4.10

Open sightlines across park, but steep edge conditions are a hazard

MAINTENANCE SCORE:

3.5

Vegetation is well maintained, bathrooms are clean, surfaces need to be addressed

TRAILS SCORE:

2.8

Strong connectivity to Bay Trail and other regional trails, but poor signage and poor surfacing

SITE ASSESSMENTS : PRIMARY TAKEAWAYS

WHAT'S WORKING IN BENICIA PARKS?

- RECENT PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS
- CLEAN BATHROOMS WITH SOAP
- GOOD CONNECTIVITY TO PARKS ON SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS
- APPEAR WELL USED
- ATHLETIC FIELD CONDITION
- CULTURAL RESOURCES



Water's End Park 9th Street Park (Alvarez) Frank Skilman Park



St. Paul's Square



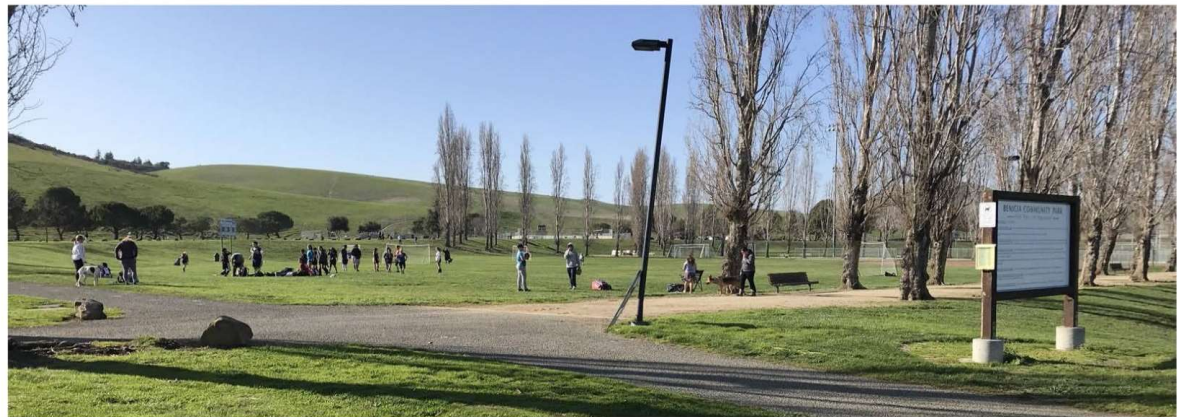
Benicia Community Park



Jack London Park



Turnbull Park



Benicia Community Park

SITE ASSESSMENTS : PRIMARY TAKEAWAYS

WHAT'S NOT WORKING IN BENICIA PARKS?

- BARREN AREAS OF DIRT
- NEIGHBOR ADJACENCY
- UNNECESSARY AREAS OF GRASS
- INSUFFICIENT AND OR IMPROPER TREES
- FURNISHING PLACEMENT AND CONDITION
- WATERFRONT PARK CONDITION VS LEVEL OF USE
- SLR AND EROSION (BEACH AND BLUFF)
- PATH PAVING NEED NEEDS REPLACEMENT
- SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING



Willow Glen Park



9th Street Park



Gateway Park



Ethelree Saraiva Park



Bridgeview Park



City Park



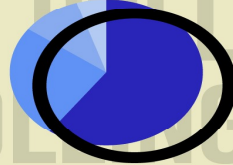
9th Street Park



Matthew Turner Park (12th Street)



BENICIA PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS, & OPEN SPACE
MASTER PLAN UPDATE



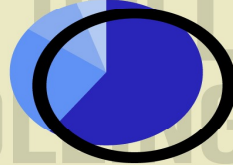
POLL #3: COMMUNICATION & BARRIERS

Poll 3: What are the THREE MOST PREFERRED ways to learn about the City of Benicia's parks, open space, or trails?

- A. Activity Guide**
- B. Benicia Rec app**
- C. City Website**
- D. Email**
- E. Facebook**
- F. Instagram**
- G. Next Door**
- H. Word of Mouth**
- I. Other _____**

Poll 3: What is the largest barrier that prevents you from using City of Benicia's parks, open space, and trails more often? (pre-pandemic)

- A. I am too busy
- B. I do not feel safe
- C. I do not feel welcome
- D. Lack of amenities in parks
- E. Lack of wayfinding signage for trails and open space
- F. Lack of accessibility
- G. Lack of parking
- H. Lack of restrooms
- I. Too far from my residence
- J. Other_____



POLL #4: IMPROVEMENTS & NEW DEVELOPMENT

Poll 4: Which three amenities are you and members of your household most interested in?

- A. BMX/Skate park**
- B. Dog park**
- C. Open Space Trails / Fitness Trails and Pathways**
- D. Picnic Areas**
- E. Playgrounds**
- F. Public Art**
- G. Sports Courts (basketball/pickleball/tennis)**
- H. Sports Fields (baseball/football/soccer/ softball)**
- I. Water Access (kayak/paddle boarding/outrigger canoe)**
- J. Other _____**

Poll 4: What are the THREE MOST IMPORTANT improvements the City of Benicia can make at existing parks over the next ten years?

- A. Add public art
- B. Add innovative, all-abilities playgrounds
- C. Build new or upgrade existing sports courts (basketball/pickleball/tennis)
- D. Build new or upgrade existing sports fields (baseball/football/softball/soccer)
- E. Expand and connect the trail system
- F. Improve ADA accessibility to and within parks
- G. Improve and expand restroom facilities in existing parks
- H. Improve signage and wayfinding
- I. More shade structures and picnic tables
- J. Other _____

Poll 5: Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value you receive from the City of Benicia Parks and Community Services Department?

- A. Very Satisfied
- B. Somewhat Satisfied
- C. Neutral
- D. Somewhat Dissatisfied
- E. Very Dissatisfied
- F. I Don't Know

Next Steps

1. Meeting #2 – April 29 from 6 p.m.-7 p.m.
2. Statistically-Valid Survey
3. Online Survey
4. Needs Assessment Findings Presentation for the public

QUESTIONS?



THE CITY OF
BENICIA
CALIFORNIA



Parks, Trails, & Open Space Master Plan

City of Benicia Parks & Community Services Department

