



***Recreation and Parks
Master Plan
2000 - 2005***

City of Bakersfield
Department of Recreation and Parks
Master Plan
2000 - 2005



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1 BAKERSFIELD

! The City of Bakersfield

The City of Bakersfield was incorporated in 1898 and is the county seat of Kern County. The city covers approximately 113.74 square miles at an elevation of 492 feet above sea level. Located at the southern end of the San Joaquin Valley, it is partially surrounded by the three mountain ranges of the Temblor Range, the Tehachapi Range and the Sierra Nevada Range. The fastest falling river in the U.S. is the Kern River, which flows through the valley (Source: 1).

The early growth began in 1851 with the discovery of gold in the bed of the Kern River and in 1865, oil was also discovered in the region. Coupled with rich soil, agriculture and the

expanding railway system, the area growth was enhanced (2).

The town of Bakersfield was named after Colonel Thomas Baker, an early settler who planted ten acres of alfalfa that fed the animals of travelers. The field was called Baker's field and in 1869, he was appointed to survey the formal township (3).

Bakersfield was designated an All-America City in 1990 by the National Civic League and in 1995 Kern County was the leading oil producing county in the continental U.S. and the fourth most productive agricultural county in the nation (1). The population more than doubled from 1980 to 1997 with a projected growth rate of three times from now until the year 2010. The population increase for this seventeen-year period was 200%+ with a greater metropolitan area population of 377,000 (2). Many parts of Kern County sit as islands spread throughout Bakersfield, hence a city and greater metro area population description is essential to properly understand this unique community. Some government services are provided to these island residents by sources other than the City of Bakersfield. Current indicators suggest steady growth as the community increases diversification.

! Recreation and Parks

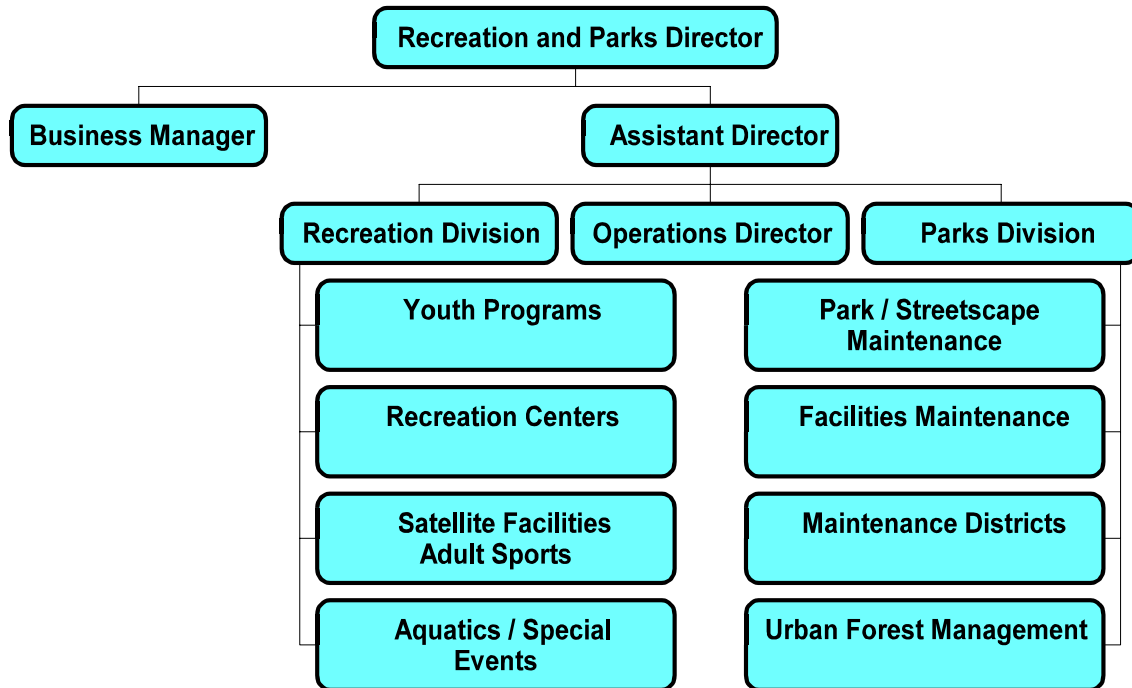
Significant changes were made in June of 1998 with Ordinance 3852 creating the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks. Earlier governmental structures existed but with this 1998 action, a unified department with a blended direction was established (4).

The Department has accepted the following as its mission:

The City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks has as its primary goal to provide the highest quality services, facilities, parks and programs possible to the residents of Bakersfield.

The Department has eighty-two full time employees with nine serving in administration, sixty-one in parks and twelve in recreation (5).

The following is the current organizational structure:





2 RESOURCES

! Recreation and Parks Resources

This section details those recreation and parks resources and programs that are provided to the residents of the community. The resources include those facilities that are the physical location of the leisure experience such as parks, pools, playing fields, etc. and the programs including such offerings as open recreation, lessons, special events, tournaments and clubs. This description is of both those services delivered directly by the Recreation and Parks Department of the City of Bakersfield and provisions offered by other groups such as schools, other government agencies, volunteers and not-for-profit agencies.

! City of Bakersfield

The City of Bakersfield, primarily through its Recreation and Parks Department, provides a varied resource base for residents. Included in the resource base are forty-three parks, three community centers, nine aquatic facilities, six lighted softball fields, forty-four horseshoe courts, fifteen outdoor volleyball and badminton areas, two rugby / soccer fields, one disc golf course, one roller hockey court and a skateboard park.

Parks

The forty-three parks include:

Amberton Park (School House and Vallecito Roads): 2.75 acres. Picnic tables and grills, playground equipment and a covered shelter. No restrooms.

Beach Park (21st and Oak Streets): 31.5 acres (the city's largest park). Lighted softball field, soccer field and horseshoe courts, group picnic area, individual tables and grills, children's playground equipment, concession stand, security lighting and two restrooms.

Beale Park (Oleander Avenue and Dracena Street): 6.83 acres. Two group picnic areas, individual picnic nooks and grills, a 250-seat amphitheater, swimming pool, wading pool, three lighted tennis courts, four lighted horseshoe courts, volleyball turf, playground equipment, softball backstop, lighted basketball court and restrooms.

Bill Park Greens (San Esteben and Guaymas Avenues): 3 acres. Picnic tables and grills, a lighted basketball half court, playground equipment and a covered shelter. No restrooms.

Campus Park North (Hemingway Place and Park View Drive): 8.13 acres. Exercise track course, picnic tables and grills, playground equipment and covered shelter. No restrooms.

Campus Park South (District and Pin Oak Boulevards): 12.13 acres. Picnic tables and grills, playground equipment, covered shelter and lighted tennis courts. No restrooms.

Castle Park (Wilson Road and Edgemont Drive): 4.21 acres. Picnic tables and playground equipment. No restrooms.

Centennial Park (Montclair Street and Marella Way): 9.76 acres. Two group picnic areas, individual picnic tables and grills, softball backstop, lighted volleyball, tennis and basketball courts, two multi-purpose courts, playground equipment and restrooms.

Centennial Plaza (Truxtun Avenue and N Street): Features interactive fountain, waterfall and small stage on a mostly brick, tile and concrete surface. It is adjacent to the Bakersfield Centennial Garden and Convention Center.

Central Park (19th and R Streets): 8.11 acres. Two group picnic areas, individual picnic tables and grills, playground equipment and restrooms.

Challenger Park (Harris and Akers Roads): 5 acres. Picnic tables and grills, playground with covered shelter and a small game area. No restrooms.

Coral Keys Park (Harris Road and Caracas Avenue): 2.4 acres. Picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, covered shelter, small open game area. No restrooms.

Corvallis Park (Corvallis Lane and Chewacan Drive): 5.5 acres. Picnic tables and grills and playground equipment. No restrooms.

Deer Peak Park (Deer Peak and Beckenham Park Drives): 6 acres. Picnic tables and grills, basketball courts (non-lighted), playground equipment, and handicapped-accessible restrooms.

Garden Park (South Laurel Glen Drive near Gosford Road): 6.19 acres. Picnic tables and grills and playground equipment. No restrooms.

Grissom Park (White Lane and Grissom Street): 12 acres. Two group picnic areas, grills, softball backstop, basketball, volleyball, multi-purpose court, playground equipment and restrooms.

Haggin Oaks Park (Limoges Way and Chinon Street): 10 acres. Picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, two tennis courts and restrooms.

International Square (Sumner and Baker Streets): 0.63 acres. Tables. No restrooms.

Jastro Park (Truxtun Avenue and Myrtle Street): 9.24 acres. Large group picnic areas (one holding about 300 people, another holding 100). Lighted amphitheater, a concession stand, one basketball court, four tennis and two horseshoe courts (all lighted), a roller hockey area, swimming pool, volleyball and badminton areas, playground equipment and restrooms.

Jefferson Park (Beale Avenue and Bernard Street): 8.55 acres. One group picnic area, individual picnic tables and grills, a stage area, lighted basketball court, tennis and volleyball courts, two horseshoe courts, a swimming pool, playground equipment and restrooms.

Kern River Parkway (Truxtun Avenue and Office Park Drive): 21.6 acres. Exercise court, three sand volleyball courts. No restrooms.

Kroll Park (Kroll Way and Montalvo Drive): 4.39 acres. Picnic tables and grills, covered shelter and playground equipment. No restrooms.

Lowell Park (Fourth and R Streets): 9.23 acres. One group picnic area and grills, a basketball court, a backstop for softball, volleyball and badminton area, playground equipment and restrooms. Home to Lowell Neighborhood Community Center, offering drop-in, after-school and youth summer programs.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park and Community Center (East California Avenue and South King Street): 12.79 acres. Two group picnic areas, individual tables and grills, four lighted basketball courts, two lighted tennis courts, one lighted softball field, swimming pool and restrooms. The community center has a gymnasium, two meeting rooms and kitchen facilities.

Patriots Park (New Stine Road and Ming Avenue): 20 acres. Two group picnic areas, individual picnic tables and grills, lighted volleyball area, two lighted basketball courts, two lighted softball fields, playground equipment, a concession stand and restrooms.

Pin Oak Park (Park View Drive and Mill Oak Run): 16.8 acres. Picnic tables, grills, covered shelter, two sand volleyball courts, two lighted basketball courts, playground equipment and handicapped-accessible restrooms

Planz Park (Planz Road and South H Street): 8.12 acres. Three group picnic areas, individual picnic tables and grills, a lighted softball field, two horseshoe courts, volleyball and basketball courts, swimming pool, playground equipment and restrooms.

Quailwood Park (Quailwood and Quail Park Drives): 5.55 acres. Picnic tables, grills, playground equipment and shelter. No restrooms.

Saunders Park (Palm Street between Oak St. and Real Rd.): 11.26 acres. Three group picnic areas, individual picnic tables and grills, two lighted basketball courts, four lighted tennis courts, softball area, lighted volleyball area, playground equipment and restrooms.

Seasons Park (Harris Road and Winter Grove Drive, between Stine and Ashe Roads, north of Panama Lane): 9.78 acres. Picnic tables, grills, and a picnic shelter. No restrooms.

Siemon Park (Redlands Drive and Pasadena Street): 9.07 acres. One group picnic area, individual picnic tables, grills, lighted basketball court, swimming pool, lighted tennis courts, lighted volleyball court, playground equipment and restrooms.

Silver Creek Park and Community Center (Harris Road and Reliance Drive): 14.17 acres. Two group picnic areas, individual picnic tables, grills, lighted tennis courts, lighted basketball courts, a stage, a volleyball area, swimming pool, wading pool, two playgrounds, a disc golf area and restrooms.

Stiern Park (Monitor Street and Kyner Avenue): 5 acres. Picnic tables, grills, covered shelter, playground equipment and a lighted basketball half court. No restrooms.

Stonecreek Park (Akers Road and Whitegate Drive): 3.43 acres. Picnic tables, grills and playground equipment. No restrooms.

Tevis Park (Saddle Drive and Rancho Verde Drive): 8.93 acres. Picnic tables, grills, lighted basketball courts and playground equipment. No restrooms.

University Park (University Avenue and Camden Street): 11.47 acres. Picnic tables, grills, covered shelter and playground equipment. No restrooms.

Wayside Park (El Toro Drive and Ming Avenue): 14.32 acres. Three group picnic areas, individual picnic tables, grills, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts (all lighted), lighted softball field, swimming pool, playground equipment and restrooms.

Weill Park (James and Q Streets): 1.92 acres. Picnic tables and grills. No restrooms.

Westwold Park (Westwold Drive and Gosford Road): 4.25 acres. Picnic tables, grills, lighted basketball courts, playground equipment and covered shelter. No restrooms.

Wilderness Park (Wilderness Drive and Harris Road): 5.2 acres. Picnic tables, grills, lighted basketball courts, playground equipment and covered shelter. No restrooms.

Wilson Park (Wilson Road and Benton Street): 8.4 acres. Once group picnic area, individual picnic tables, grills, volleyball, basketball, tennis court and softball field, playground equipment, a covered shelter and restrooms.

Windsor Park (Howell Drive and Windsor Park Drive): 7.25 acres. Picnic tables, grills, playground equipment, covered shelter, lighted volleyball and basketball courts, soccer field and handicapped-accessible restrooms.

Yokuts Park (Empire Road and Bahamas Court): 18.25 acres. Three group picnic tables, individual picnic tables, grills, lighted soccer/rugby field, open turf area, playground equipment, shelters and restrooms.

On the following page is a summary chart of the amenities provided at each of these parks (7).

	RENTABLE FACILITIES															
PARK AMENITIES GUIDE	Picnic Areas	Serving Shelter	Amphitheater	Multi-Purpose Room	Softball Field	Athletic Field	Pavilion	Swimming Pool	Basketball Courts	Barbeque Grills	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Courts	Horseshoe Pits	Disc Golf Course	Restrooms	Backstops
Name																
Amberton																
Beach	1															
Beale	2															
Bill Park Greens																
Campus Park North																
Campus Park South																
Castle																
Centennial	2															
Centennial Plaza																
Central	2															
Challenger																
Coral Keys																
Corvallis																
Deer Peak																
Garden																
Grissom	2															
Haggin Oaks																
International Square																
Jastro	2															
Jefferson	1															
Kern River Parkway																
Kroll																

	RENTABLE FACILITIES															
PARK AMENITIES GUIDE (cont.)	Picnic Areas	Serving Shelter	Amphitheater	Multi-Purpose Room	Softball Field	Athletic Field	Pavilion	Swimming Pool	Basketball Courts	Barbeque Grills	Tennis Courts	Volleyball Court	Horseshoe Pits	Disc Golf Course	Restrooms	Backstops
Name																
Lowell	1															
Martin Luther King Jr.	2															
Patriots	2				2											
Pin Oak																
Planz	3															
Quailwood																
Saunders	3															
Seasons																
Siemon	1															
Silver Creek	2	2														
Stiern																
Stonecreek																
Tevis																
University																
Wayside	3															
Weill																
Westwold																
Wilderness																
Wilson	1															
Windsor																
Yokuts	3	2														

Community Centers

Silver Creek Community Center is located at Harris Road and Reliance Drive and provides rental areas such as a multi-purpose room, kitchen, picnic areas and pavilion. In addition, the following physical features are available: covered basketball courts, disc golf course, exercise course, horseshoe pits, playground equipment, heated pool and tennis courts. A variety of programs and classes are also offered. This facility is 2,400 square feet in size.

Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center is located at 1000 South Owens Street and provides rental facilities including a gymnasium, kitchen, meeting rooms and picnic areas. The features provided also include a lighted softball field, swimming pool, tennis courts and circuit training equipment. Some programs and services are also offered. The facility is 22,000 square feet in size.

Lowell Neighborhood Community Center is located at 610 4th Street and features a kitchen, game room, classroom, study areas, computers, basketball court and playground area. A wide variety of youth activities are also offered (8). This facility is 2,200 square feet in size.

Aquatic Facilities

The City provided pools are at nine different locations with extensive summer programming. They include:

POOL	INSTRUCTION	LAP	OPEN SWIM	RENTAL	COMPETITION
Beale					
Jastro					
MLK, Jr.					
Jefferson					
Planz					
Saunders					
Siemon					
Silver Creek					
Wayside					

The pools have the following characteristics:

POOL	SQ. FT	DIMENSIONS	GALLONS	DEPTH	PAOT*	HEATER
Beale	3150	42 x 75 ft.	130,000	3-8 ft.	130	No
Jastro	2625	35 x 75 ft.	80,000	3-8 ft.	130	No
Jefferson	3750	50 x 75 ft.	260,000	5-10 ft.	200	Yes
Planz	2625	35 x 75 ft.	80,000	3-5 ft.	130	No
MLK, Jr.	4130	70 x 75 ft.	180,000	3-10 ft.	200	No
Saunders	2625	35 x 75 ft.	80,000	3-5 ft.	130	No
Siemon	3150	42 x 75 ft.	95,000	3-5 ft.	150	No
Silver Creek	4425	59 x 75 ft.	149,000	3-6 ½ ft.	200	Yes
Wayside	2625	35 x 75 ft.	80,000	3-5 ft.	130	No

* PAOT = Participants at one time (19)

Softball Areas

There are six softball fields at five locations. The locations include:

Beach Park	(1)
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	(1)
Patriots Park	(2)
Planz Park	(1)
Wayside Park	(1)

All fields are lighted and conform to American Softball Association design requirements. Additionally, there are softball backstops at five other locations which include:

Centennial Park
 Grissom Park
 Lowell Park
 Saunders Park
 Wilson Park

Horseshoe Pits

There are a total of forty-four horseshoe pits at the eight following locations:

SITE	NUMBER
Beach Park	26
Beale Park	4
Centennial Park	2
Jastro Park	2
Jefferson Park	2
Planz Park	2
Saunders Park	4
Silver Creek Park	2

Tennis Courts

At eleven different locations are a total of twenty-nine tennis courts. All courts are lighted and conform to appropriate design standards. They are located at:

SITE	NUMBER
Beale Park	3
Campus Park South	2
Centennial Park	2
Haggin Oaks Park	2
Jastro Park	4
Jefferson Park	4
MLK, Jr. Park	2
Siemon Park	4
Silver Creek Park	2
Wayside Park	2
Wilson Park	2

Outdoor Basketball Courts

There are thirty-six lighted outdoor basketball courts at eighteen different sites. The City does have one indoor basketball court at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center. The facilities are:

SITE	OUTDOOR	INDOOR
Beale Park	1	
Bill Park Greens	1	
Centennial Park	2	
Challenger Park	1/2	
Grissom Park	2	
Jastro Park	1	
Jefferson Park	2	
Lowell Park	4	
MLK, Jr. Park	4	1
Patriots Park	2	
Pin Oak Park	2	
Planz Park	1	
Saunders Park	2	
Seasons Park	1	
Siemon Park	1	
Silver Creek Park	2	
Stiern Park	1/2	
Tevis Park	1	
Wayside Park	1	
Wilderness Park	1	
Wilson Park	1	
Windsor Park	1	

Outdoor Volleyball / Badminton Areas

Provided to residents are fifteen volleyball / badminton areas at thirteen different locations. These areas are grass, concrete or sand. They are:

SITE	TYPE
Beale Park	grass
Centennial Park	concrete
Grissom Park	grass
Jastro Park	grass
Lowell Park	grass
Kern River Parkway	sand
Patriots Park	concrete
Pin Oak Park	sand
Planz Park	grass
Saunders Park	grass
Siemon Park	sand
Silver Creek Park	concrete
Wilson Park	grass

Rugby / Soccer Fields

The two rugby / soccer fields are located at Beach Park and Yokuts Park. Both are lighted for evening play and practice.

Disc Golf Course

The disc golf course is located at Silver Creek Park and maintains all design features of this type of activity option.

Roller Hockey Court

The one roller hockey court is located at Jastro Park and has appropriate equipment features.

Skateboard Park

At Beach Park (southwest corner) is a new 14,000 square foot skateboard park. Features include a “street course” layout that includes grinding rails, benches, one half pipe, ramps and pyramids. Protective head, knee and elbow equipment is required.

Programs

Associated with these physical parks and recreation resources are programs prepared for and delivered to the interested resident group. The programs are varied, balanced, cover all age groups, incomes, geographic areas, interests, skill levels and seasons of the year. The following is an abbreviated overview of the typical offerings.

Aquatics

- Swim Lessons
- Lap Swim
- Competitive Teams
- Junior Life-guarding
- Recreation Swim
- Exercise Classes
- Water Polo

Club Fun

- Trips
- Movies
- Dances
- Drama
- Music

Classes

- Spanish
- Roller Skating
- In-Line Skating
- Ice Skating
- Cycling
- Dog Obedience
- Cooking
- Drama

After School Activities

- B.E.S.T.
- Games
- Arts / Crafts
- Sports
- Music
- Homework Club

Day Camps

- Swimming
- Tennis
- Ice Skating
- Bowling
- Guest Speakers

Music

- Summer Music Camp
- Beginning Instruments
- Harmony Road
- Toddler Tunes
- Music and Me
- Musical Theater
- Youth Choir

After School Games

- Homework Assistance
- Tournaments
- Contests
- Computer Lab
- Sports
- Music

Exercise

- Yoga
- Adult Fitness
- Self Defense
- Karate / Tai Chi
- Kick Boxing
- Weightlifting
- Mom and Tot
- Senior Fitness

Sports

- Tennis
- Golf
- Baseball
- Softball
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Disc Golf
- Football
- Racquetball
- Broom Hockey

Arts and Crafts

- Calligraphy
- Quilting
- Pressed Flowers
- Art Studio

Dance

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| - Ballet | - Ballroom | - Swing |
| - Clogging | - Dance Troups | - Jazzercise |
| - Jazz | - Salsa | - Aerobics |
| - Gymnastics | - Ethnic | - Drill Team / |
| - Tap | - Modern | Cheerleading |

Special Events

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Camp Fair | - Regatta | - Day Trips |
| - All Nations Celebration | - Various Championships | - Carnivals |
| - Mozart for Mom | - Rockin' by the River | - Haunted River Trail |
| - Family Fun Days | - Punt, Pass & Kick | - Springtime in |
| - Cross Country Meet | - Festival of Lights | Wonderland |

! Other Resources

A variety of resources and programs, which exist within the general area of Bakersfield, are provided to residents from sources other than the City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Department. These options meet the needs of various elements of the population and are the types of resources and programs that would be typically promoted by a local governing authority. Though private enterprise may offer certain opportunities, these have not been included if the offering is not a reasonably expected provision of government. However, depending on the type of resource and program, these non-city provided options are important and appropriate opportunities.

Schools

There are thirty-three public elementary school districts, eight unified school districts and four high school districts, that serve the greater Bakersfield area and fifty-eight private schools that provide some level of physical resources and programs that have recreation elements. For example, the Fruitvale School District has four elementary schools and one junior high school in which each site provides a playground area that can be used for track, soccer and baseball. Both the Bakersfield City School District and the Greenfield Union School District, in conjunction with the City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Department, provide the B.E.S.T. (Bringing Enrichment to Students Today) program at fourteen different school sites. Additionally, many of the sports programs such as basketball, volleyball and football occur at various school sites. At thirty-six Bakersfield City School District sites a variety of education / recreation programs are offered.

Senior Centers

There are twenty-seven senior activity centers in the greater Bakersfield area that provide services for those over 60 years of age. These sites provide programs such as music, dancing, board games, cards, pool, bingo, arts and crafts, day trips and exercise. Lunch, library services and television rooms are also available.

Libraries

The Kern County library system provides twenty-five branches distributed throughout the valley. Besides the one million volume holdings, services such as local history, genealogy, geology, minerals and petroleum rooms are available. Seven of the branches are located in Bakersfield proper.

Museums and Galleries

In the greater Bakersfield area are thirty-one museums and galleries that archive, preserve and present various historical, natural and artistic items. They range from space travel items to oil, natural history and desert and art displays.

Golf Courses

There are three county owned public golf courses, five privately owned but open to the public golf courses and six private membership golf courses. The county provided and privately owned but publicly used courses are all in the same general user price range. The private country club courses are restricted to membership users or by invitation.

North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District (11)

This district serving the north side of Bakersfield provides a number of physical resources and program offerings. The primary resources include three swimming pools, five community centers, fourteen parks of 80.9 acres, sixteen softball diamonds, one baseball diamond, seven basketball courts, eight volleyball courts, four tennis courts, eight horseshoe pits, and one in-line hockey area. Programs are provided in adult team sports (baseball, hockey, softball, basketball, soccer, volleyball), youth sports (basketball, football, gymnastics, kids sports, soccer), aquatics activities, senior activities, youth activities as well as special event activities.

Kern County Parks and Recreation

The golf courses provided by the county have already been described but additionally the county provides eight regional parks that may be a significant distance from some city residents. The total acreage of the parks exceeds 15,000 acres including Lake Buena Vista, Lake Evans, Lake Webb, Lake Isabella and Lake Ming. These areas range from simple picnic areas to highly developed camp areas to shoreline and lake related facilities, as well as an extensive bike path. The County also maintains a fairgrounds area.

Other Government Agencies

A variety of resources are provided by other government agencies such as the state and various federal entities. They include such sites and activities as:

Camping

BLM Campgrounds
Breckenridge Mtn.
Col. Allensworth State Park
Fort Tejon State Park
Greenhorn Mtn. Park
Hungry Valley State Recreation Area
Los Padres National Forest
Red Rock State Canyon
Tehachapi Mt. Park
Tehachapi Recreation and Park District
Sequoia National Forest

Wildlife

Tule Elk State Reserve
Kern River Preserve

Fishing

Brite Valley Reservoir
California Aqueduct
Kern River
Lake Woollomes
Tehachapi Recreation and Park District

Other Sites

Millerton Lake State Park
Tomo-Kahni State Park
Carrizo Plain Natural Area
Squaw Leap
Painted Rock Interpretive Trail

Scenic Byways

Sierra Heritage

Colleges and Universities

Associated with these campuses are facilities and programs specific to the student body. In the greater Bakersfield area are California State University, Bakersfield, Kern Community College, Bakersfield College, Cerro Coso Community College, Porterville College, Taft College, Fresno Pacific University (Bakersfield Center), Point Loma Nazarene University (Bakersfield Campus), San Joaquin Valley College (Bakersfield Campus), University of Pacific and University of Phoenix. California State University, Bakersfield provides a more extensive physical resource such as a swimming pool, tennis courts, indoor facilities, track, softball field, play-fields, amphitheater and associated programs provided for the student

body and staff of the institution.

Clubs and Associations

A number of organizations and activity specific associations are available that provide programs and in some cases, physical sites. These include:

Boys and Girls Club of Bakersfield Gold Wave Master Swim Club
Boy Scouts, Southern Sierra Council Fairfax Jr. Baseball Club
Campus Life City Center Kern Community Tennis Association
4-H Clubs of Kern County Bakersfield Youth Symphony
Friendship House Community Center B.C. Strikers Soccer Club
Girl Scouts, Joshua Tree Council Bakersfield Bobby Sox
Generation X Bakersfield Amateur Softball Association
Kern River Valley Youth Center Jack Frost Football
YWCA American Youth Soccer Organization
Youth Connection Golden Empire Youth Football
Police Athletic League Kern County Rugby Club
Fairfax Baseball Association Bakersfield Track Club
Southwest Little League Kern County Gun Club
Junior Baseball Association Northwest Little League
Bakersfield Babe Ruth League Bakersfield Adult Soccer Club
Greenfield Baseball Association Bakersfield Girls Soccer League
Kern River Volleyball Club Bakersfield Select Volleyball Club

Two significant for-profit enterprises that provide services that are similar to government delivery are Mesa Marin Fields and also Van's Skate Park.

Swimming Pools

Besides the aquatic facilities provided by the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks and North Bakersfield Recreation and Parks District, there are a number of other public swimming pools. They include Lakeside Pool, Arvin Swimming Pool, California State University Campus Pool, Cesar Chavez Park, Lamont Pool, Sgt. John Pinney Memorial Pool, Shafter Aquatic Center, Maricopa School Pool, West Park Pool, Westside Recreation Natatorium, Dye Natatorium and Baker Park Pool. There are a number of private swim club pools as well.

Tennis Courts

There are six tennis facilities that are private in nature. The only public courts are those provided by the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks, and other government entities.

Programs

Recreation programs provided to the community that are prevalent and realistic options have been identified. The following summary chart represents a detailed analysis of the impact levels of these offerings for Bakersfield residents

AGENCY	OPEN RECREATION	LESSON/ CLINICS	LEAGUES / TOURNAMENTS	CLUBS	SPECIAL EVENTS
Schools	EX	EX	MN	MD	MN
Senior Citizens	EX	MN	NO	MN	MN
Libraries	EX	NO	NO	NO	MN
NBRPD	EX	EX	EX	MD	MD
BRPD	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX
KCPR	EX	NO	NO	NO	NO
State / Federal	EX	NO	NO	NO	MN
College / Univ.	EX	MD	MD	MD	MD
Clubs / Assoc.	MN	EX	EX	MD	MD

EX = Extensive; MD = Moderate; MN = Minimum; NO = None

! Conclusions

A multitude of physical resources and programs are provided for residents by the City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Department as well as by other entities. The following conclusions seem appropriate:

The primary provider of recreation and park resources and programs is the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks. Kern County provides significant regional parks. North Bakersfield Recreation and Park District provides resources and programs and the public school system has a multitude of sites available for their students and, at times, for others.

A multitude of other services are provided for residents by other government and not-for-profit groups that compliment the existing city provided services. Between the city services and other groups, a wide variety of programs are offered.

The provision of golf courses and associated activities is through Kern County and private groups. Significant provision of regional parks comes through Kern County.

The three most significant resource providers are the City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Department, North Bakersfield Recreation and Parks District and Kern County. The two most significant program providers are the City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Department and the wide array of not-for-profit organizations and associations.



3 POPULATION

! The City of Bakersfield Population

The City of Bakersfield as well as the surrounding metropolitan area has maintained a rather consistent growth pattern with a more rapid increase in the past two decades. This section highlights the population of the city and other areas as necessary to determine past growth patterns, current distribution of residents and future growth projections. A variety of indicators were assessed to create as clear a picture as possible.

Past Patterns

The total population of the City of Bakersfield as of January 1, 1999 is 230,771 with a metropolitan area population of 389,000. The community has grown since its inception with

various patterns of increase. The following table illustrates this past pattern of growth over a one hundred year period.

YEAR	CITY	METRO
1890	2,626	3,400
1900	4,736	6,300
1910	12,727	17,300
1920	18,638	25,700
1930	26,015	42,400
1940	29,252	71,000
1950	34,784	121,900
1960	56,848	157,900
1970	69,515	185,100
1980	105,611	228,000
1990	174,820	320,000

Table 1: Population Growth Rate 1890-1990 (12)

The population growth from 1890 to 1950 is particularly significant because the size of the city in square miles remained constant at 6.98 to 6.99 during that sixty-year period of time. The following table best illustrates the growth of the geographic area of the city.

YEAR	SQUARE MILES OF CITY
1890 to 1950	6.98 to 6.99
1960	15.90
1970	25.86
1980	75.03
1990	93.26

Table 2: Square miles of City 1890-1990 (12)

The current size of the City of Bakersfield is 113.74 square miles, however, with the current annexation program in operation, the size of the city is growing.

The total household population is another significant indicator of the population. The following table illustrates the increase of household population over the past ten years for the communities in the Kern County area.

COMMUNITY	1990	1995	1999
Arvin	9,179	10,786	11,295
Bakersfield	171,851	209,108	227,169
California City	5,955	8,888	8,741
Delano	22,685	26,449	29,259
Maricopa	1,193	1,267	1,233
McFarland	6,939	7,575	7,985
Ridgecrest	27,601	29,031	27,093
Shafter	8,381	10,615	11,175
Taft	5,763	6,100	6,141
Tehachapi	5,766	6,630	6,779
Wasco	12,394	13,819	14,447

Unincorporated	277,707	330,268	265,872
Incorporated	252,126	272,114	351,317
Total	529,833	602,382	617,189

Table 3: Total Household Population in Kern County 1990-1999 (13)

It should be noted that the incorporated areas as well as total growth have increased but the incorporated area of California City, Maricopa and Ridgecrest had a slowing in growth of the total number of households.

Over the past twenty years the population has increased during each year from as few as 1,800 to as many as 11,000 residents. The rate of growth during those twenty years helps to clarify the level of stability of past growth patterns.

YEAR	POPULATION	YEAR	POPULATION
1980	105,611	1990	174,820
1981	109,010	1991	180,195
1982	113,190	1992	186,201
1983	118,641	1993	192,351
1984	129,686	1994	197,469
1985	138,518	1995	207,472
1986	148,227	1996	212,715
1987	153,399	1997	214,555
1988	157,423	1998	221,689
1989	161,750	1999	230,771

Table 4: City Population by Year 1980-1999 (12) {See Fig 1}

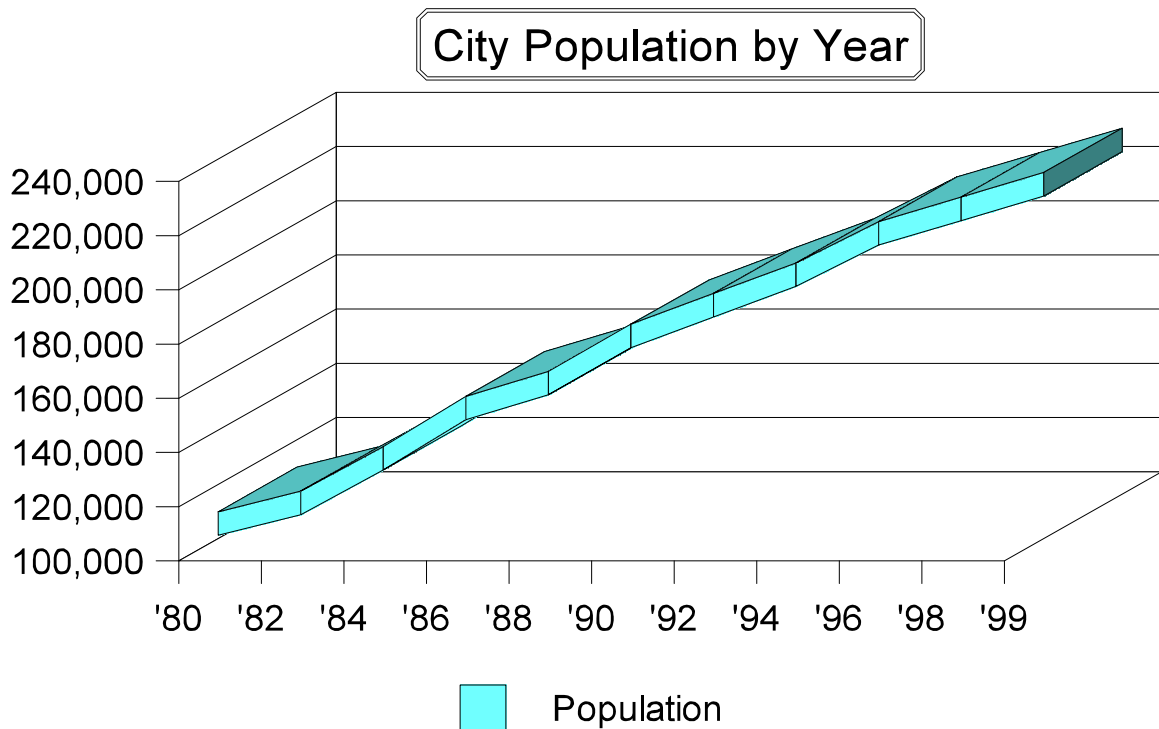


Figure 1: City Population by Year (1980-1999)

The years 1984, 1985, 1986 and 1995 indicate large increases in the population as do the years 1998 and 1999. The 1996-1997 year was much slower but the pattern of growth for the immediate years has been more consistent.

YEAR	INCREASE	YEAR	INCREASE
1981	3,399	1991	5,375
1982	4,180	1992	6,006
1983	5,441	1993	6,150
1984	11,055	1994	5,118
1985	8,832	1995	10,003
1986	9,709	1996	5,243
1987	5,172	1997	1,840
1988	4,024	1998	7,134
1989	4,327	1999	9,082
1990	13,070		

Table 5: City Population Increase by Year 1981-1999 (12)

Housing permits issued are also a reflection of what level of growth a community is experiencing. Notice the shifting pattern in the number of housing permits issued for the following selected years.

YEAR	SINGLE	MULTI-FAMILY	TOTAL
1994	1,432	183	1,615
1995	1,567	380	1,947
1996	1,331	42	1,372
1997	1,412	140	1,552

Table 6: Housing Permits Issued by Type: 1994-1997 (14) {See Fig. 2}

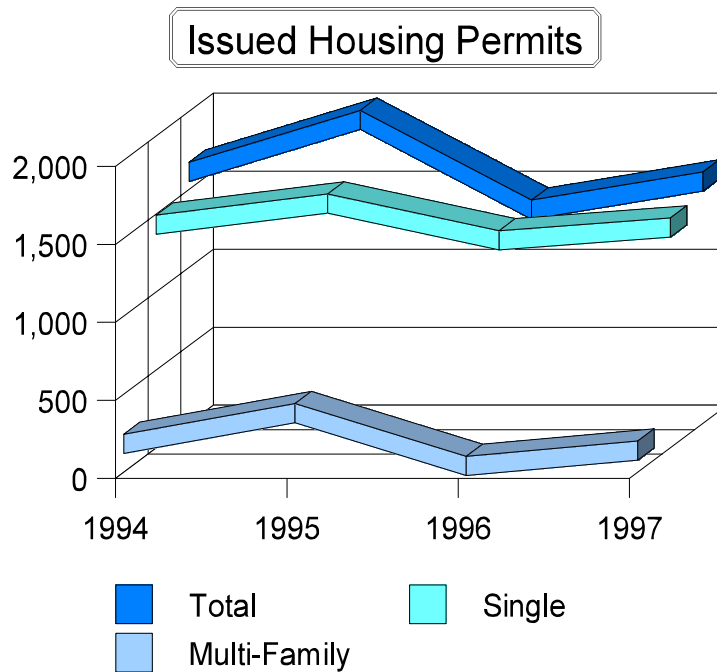


Figure 2: Housing Permits Issued by Type (1994-1997)

To gain a better sense of housing growth, an analysis of housing units over the past ten years helps to clarify what pattern exists.

YEAR	TOTAL UNITS	% VACANT	P.P.H.H.
1992	68,881	4.65	2.816
1993	70,784	5.54	2.849
1994	72,963	4.29	2.843
1995	76,560	4.27	2.853
1996	78,098	5.66	2.839
1997	79,572	5.66	2.810
1998	81,932	5.66	2.822
1999	85,480	5.59	2.815

Table 7: Housing Units, Occupancy Rate and Person per Household for 1992-1999 (12)

The number of person per household has remained constant with the occupancy rate varying less than one percent while the total units have increased by almost twenty thousand, suggesting a continuous increase pattern.

Current Distribution

Currently the City of Bakersfield has 230,771 residents covering 113.74 square miles. The greater metropolitan population, which includes selected areas within the county, expands that population to 389,000 residents. The Bakersfield area is divided into six large geographic blocks (Oildale, Central, Northeast, Southeast, Southwest and Northwest) with much smaller Census tracts that may be as small as a few blocks or very large open areas. The tracts are based on amount of population. These Census tracts are established by the federal government, in conjunction with local government agencies, and may or may not be used by the Recreation and Parks Department as planning units, but these federal units render the specifics of the population.

The latest accurate figures for Bakersfield come from the most recent Census figures. It should be noted that in the next few years these figures will be updated with the year 2000 Census. From the 1990 Census, Bakersfield is described in this manner.

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Total Population	174,820	100.00
Male	84,920	48.58
Female	89,900	51.42
White	115,199	65.90
Hispanic	35,854	20.51
Black	15,944	9.15
Native American	1,589	0.91
Asian / Pacific Islander	5,800	3.32
Other	384	0.22

Table 8: Bakersfield (1990) by Gender and Ethnicity (15) {See Fig. 3}

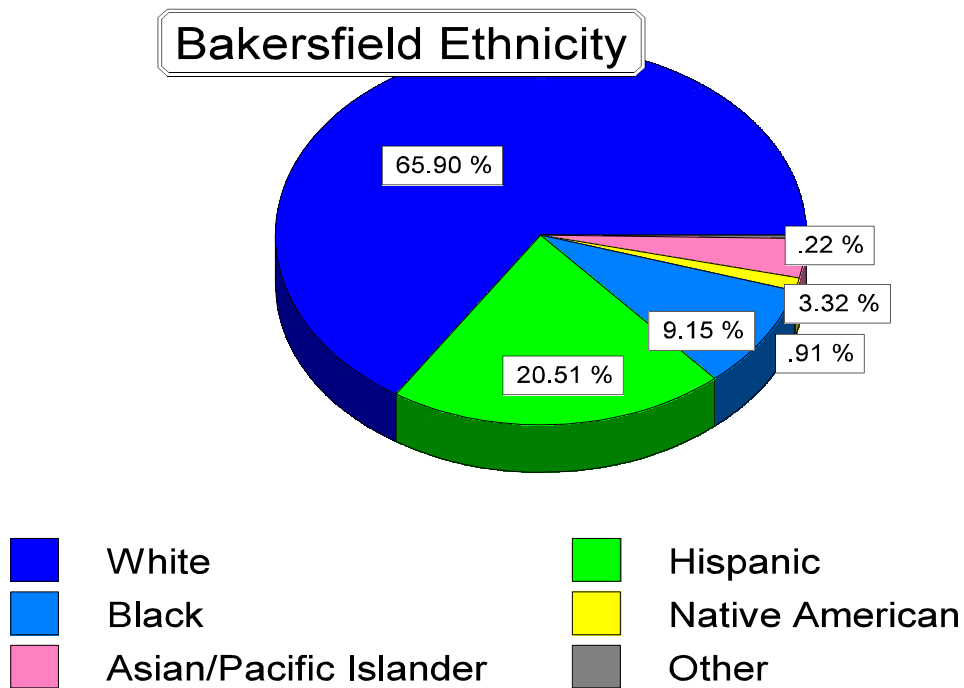


Figure 3: Bakersfield (1990) by Ethnicity

How do these characteristics compare to the unincorporated area within the metropolitan area? The following table displays the same factors for those areas.

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Total Population	165,413	100.00
Male	82,959	50.15
Female	82,454	49.85
White	99,996	60.45
Hispanic	55,326	33.45
Black	5,908	3.57
Native American	2,283	1.38
Asian / Pacific Islander	1,516	0.92
Other	384	0.23

Table 9: Unincorporated Area (1990) by Gender and Ethnicity (15) {See Fig. 4}

Unincorporated Area Ethnicity

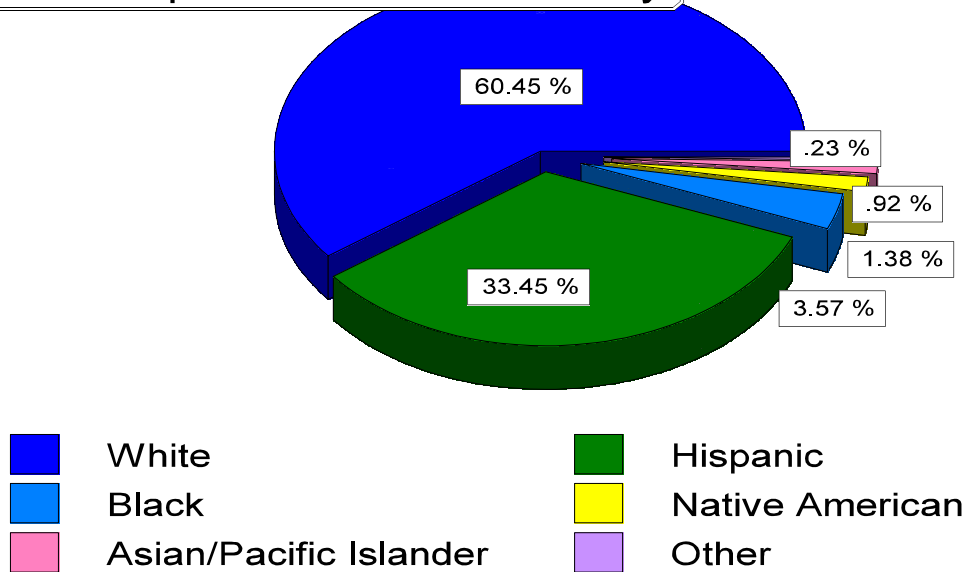


Figure 4: Unincorporated Area (1990) by Ethnicity

Generally, slightly more males live in the unincorporated area of the community with significantly more Hispanics and one third less Blacks. Looking at the larger metro area or a total, the following is found.

	TOTAL	PERCENT
Total Population	340,233	B (51.38%) : K (48.61%)
Male	167,879	49.34
Female	172,354	50.66
White	215,195	63.25
Hispanic	91,180	26.80
Black	21,902	6.44
Native American	3,872	1.14
Asian / Pacific Islander	7,316	2.15
Other	768	0.23

Table 10: Bakersfield and Larger Metro Area (1990) by Gender and Ethnicity (15)

For the greater metro area, the population has slightly more females, has about two-thirds of the residents white and slightly more than one-fourth of the residents Hispanic. Blacks represent about one-twelfth of the population with Native Americans and Asians between about one and two percent respectively.

The age distribution of the population is a helpful indicator of the residents. The following displays the age breakdown for both Bakersfield and the larger Kern area.

AGE	BAKERSFIELD	%	KERN AREA	%	TOTAL	%
0-5	20,600	11.78	19,350	11.70	39,950	11.74
6-19	38,345	21.93	39,388	23.81	77,733	22.85
20-64	99,877	57.13	90,122	54.48	189,999	55.84
65+	15,998	9.15	16,553	10.01	32,551	9.57

Table 11: Bakersfield and Larger Metro Area (1990) by Age Category {See Fig. 5}

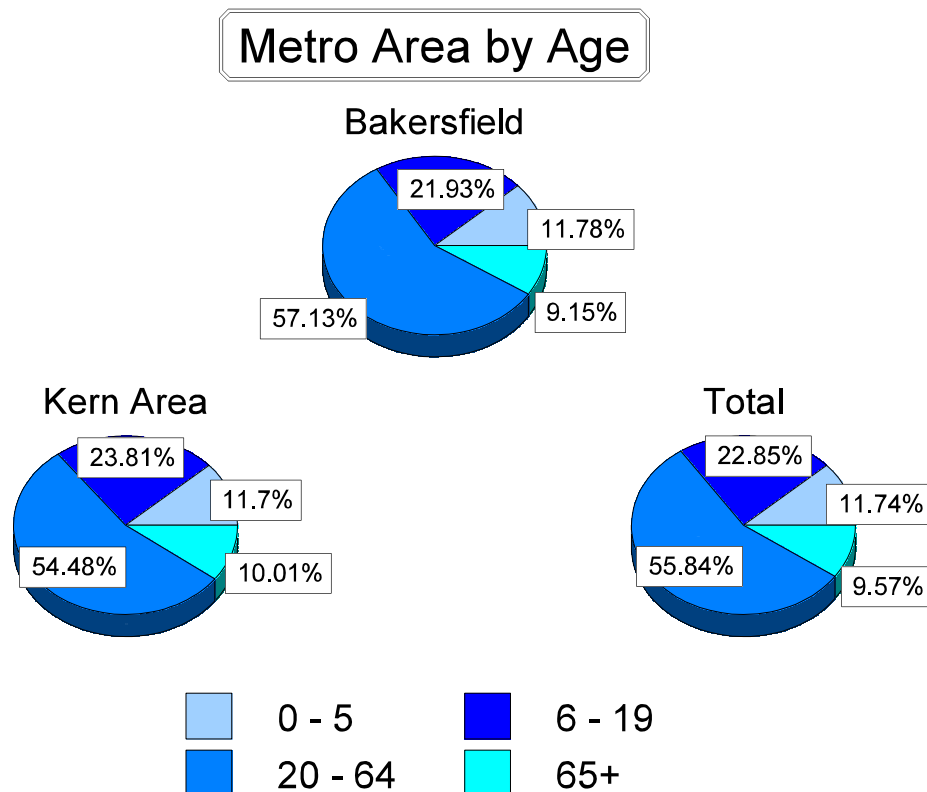


Figure 5: Bakersfield and Larger Metro Area (1990) by Age Category

It should be noted that for both the city and the greater metro area that about one-third of the population is considered youth and about one-tenth of the population is over 65.

This information can be viewed additionally by the number of families and persons per family, which is slightly higher than persons per household. The following table demonstrates this fact.

	FAMILIES	PERSONS/FAMILY
Bakersfield	44,453	3.93
Kern Area	41,008	4.03
Total	85,421	3.98

Table 12: Bakersfield and Larger Metro Area (1990) by Number of Families and Persons per Family (15)

This indicates that the majority of residents live in a family unit on the average of almost four individuals.

The distribution of the residents by geographic area is a helpful way to understand the placement of the residents. This figure includes both the incorporated and unincorporated areas within the Bakersfield Metropolitan area. Statistics exists with these figures separate; however, the Recreation and Parks Department must assume that they are or have the potential to serve all residents that live in the greater metro area.

AREA	% OF POPULATION
Oildale	6.69
Central	10.08
Northeast	27.76
Southeast	27.26
Southwest	20.65
Northwest	7.53

Table 13: Bakersfield Census Distribution (1990)
By Percent and Geographic Area (15) {See Fig. 6}

Bakersfield Census Distribution

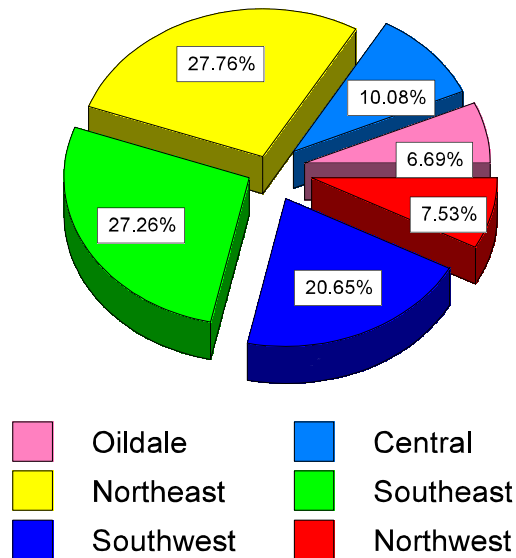


Figure 6: Bakersfield Census Distribution (1990)

The gender distribution for the greater metro area is approximately 49% male and 51% female. The unincorporated area is approximately 50% male and 50% female. There is slight variation in gender by geographic area but no significant difference exists for resources or programming needs.

AREA	% MALE	% FEMALE
Oildale	48.19	51.81
Central	49.59	50.41
Northeast	47.36	52.64
Southeast	50.52	49.48
Southwest	48.57	51.43
Northwest	52.63	47.37

Table 14: Bakersfield Census Distribution (1990)
by Percent of Gender by Geographic Area (15) {See Fig. 7}

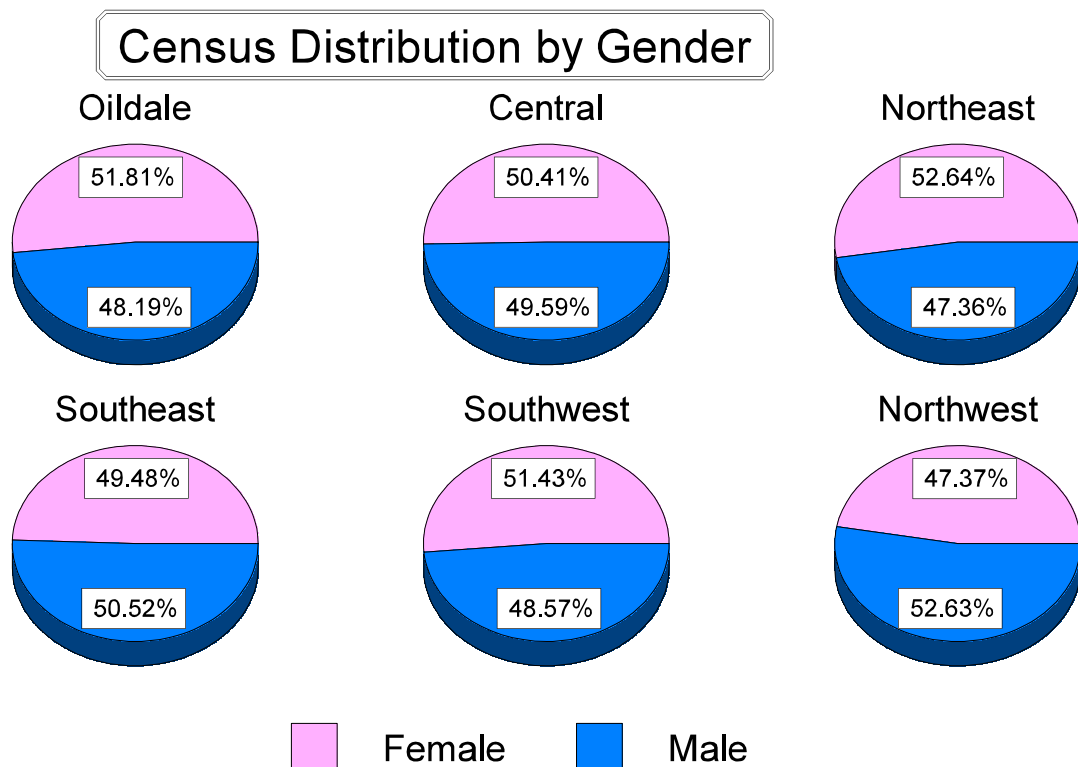


Figure 7: Bakersfield Census Distribution (1990) by Gender

The ethnicity of the community is predominately White with both a Hispanic and Black ethnic component. The following distribution comes from selected sector elements of the most recent Census data (1990).

AREA	WHITE	HISPAN.	BLACK	NAT. AM.	ASIAN	OTHER
Oildale	85.94	4.85	4.45	1.11	3.57	>0.10
Central	66.13	21.06	7.45	1.56	3.33	>0.47
NE	64.55	28.51	3.56	0.65	2.71	>0.10
SE	47.06	26.91	21.78	0.98	2.95	>0.32
SW	78.30	11.77	5.05	0.82	3.97	>0.10
NW	72.00	20.32	7.68	0	0	0

Table 15: Bakersfield Census Distribution (1990) by
Percent of Ethnicity by Geographic Area (15) {See Fig. 8}

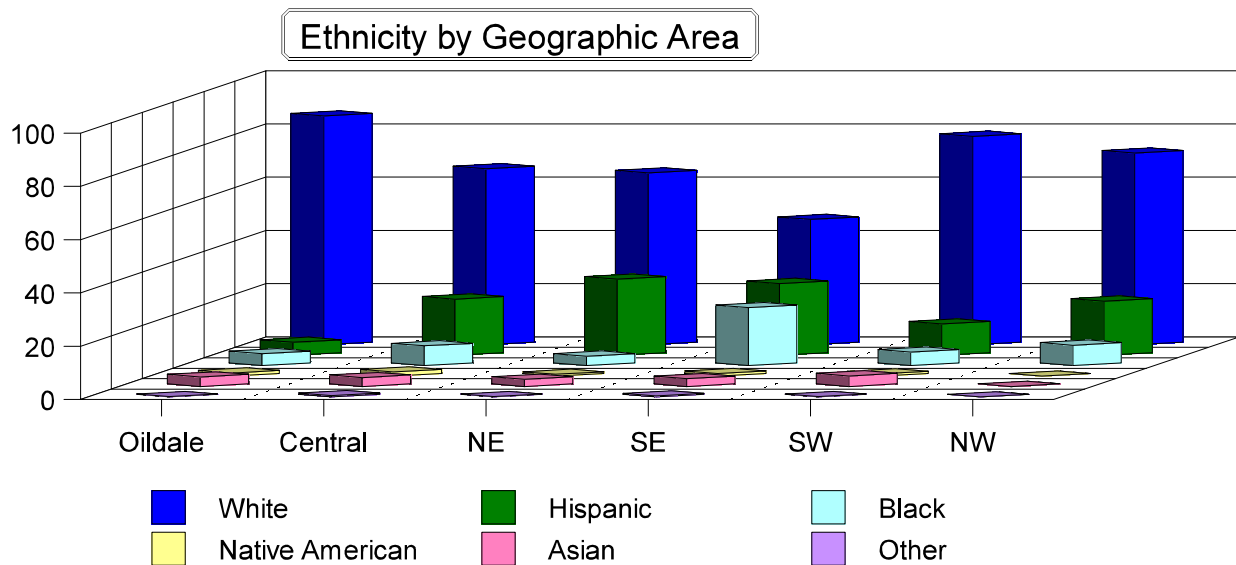


Figure 8: Bakersfield Census Distribution (1990) by Percent of Ethnicity by Geographic Area

It should be noted that even though Central district represents 23.57% of the distribution of the Black population, Census tract 20 has 55.17% of that geographic area African-American. Census tract 23.02 has 87.95% Hispanic, which falls in the Northeast district, which also has the largest concentration of Hispanics. There are neighborhood census tracts in which up to 98% of the area is White.

The age breakdown by geographic region is helpful to see if particular regions have greater concentrations of elderly or of youth. It can be seen that the youth distribution is generally even throughout the planning districts, but one note regarding the elderly is that Oildale has about twice the percent of elderly as the Northwest district.

	0 - 5	6 - 19	20 - 64	65 +
Oildale	11.18	20.38	55.54	12.88
Central	10.72	19.77	58.15	11.33
Northeast	12.18	23.71	52.78	11.32
Southeast	12.99	24.74	53.87	8.38
Southwest	10.93	21.74	59.87	7.43
Northwest	9.68	24.75	59.29	6.26

Table 16: Bakersfield Census Distribution (1990) by Percent of Age {See Fig. 9}

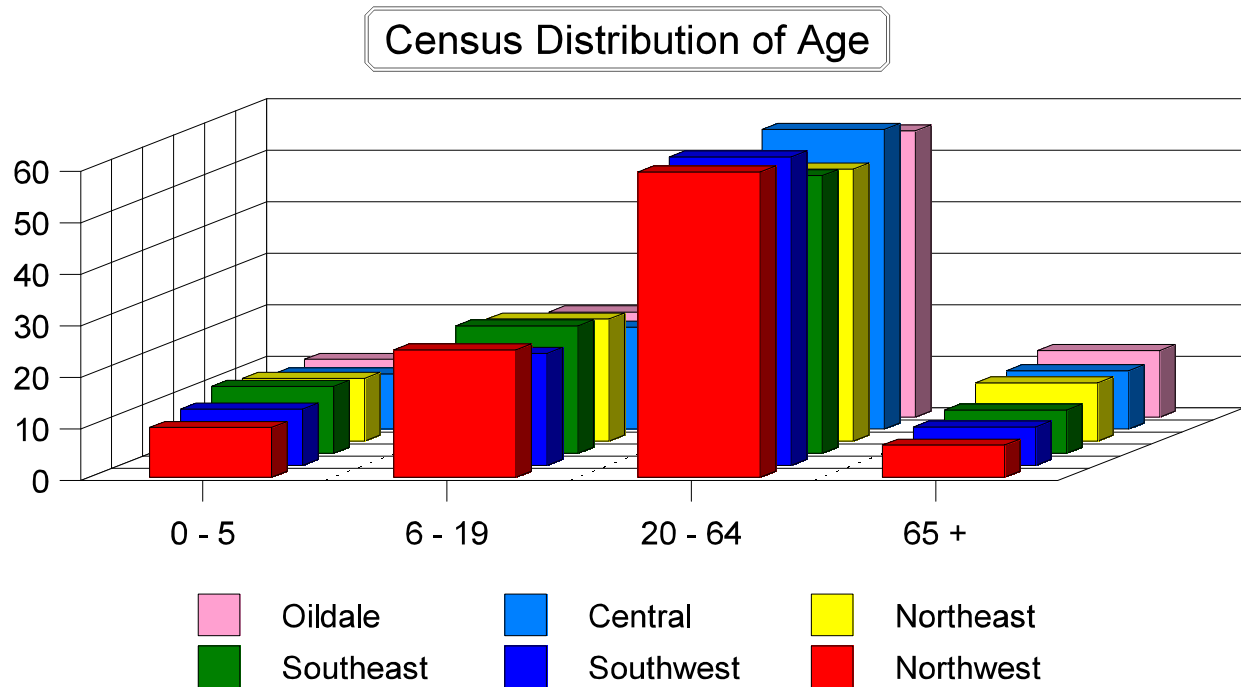


Figure 9: Bakersfield Census Distribution (1990)
by Percent of Age

The current employment distribution of residents is reflected in the following figure.

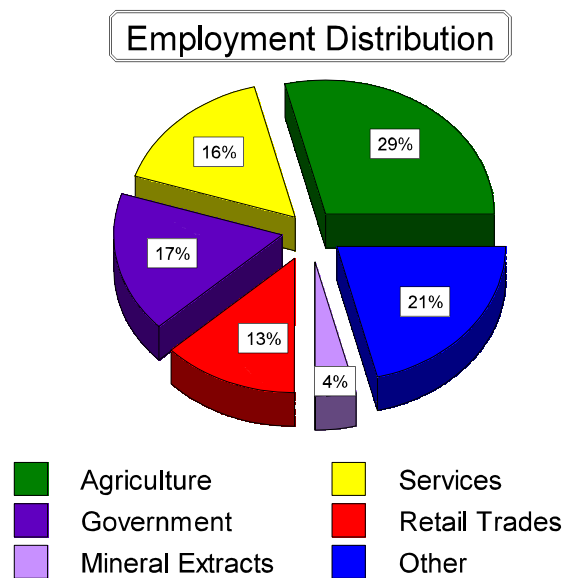


Figure 10: Bakersfield Employment Distribution of Residents

Future Projections

It is anticipated that the natural growth pattern of Bakersfield will be positive. The projections are based on a linear regression model, which can be updated annually as new figures are built into the formula. The following table describes the anticipated growth for Bakersfield and also the unincorporated lands in the greater Kern area.

YEAR	BAKERSFIELD	METRO AREA
2000	236,800	400,300
2001	243,300	408,200
2002	249,800	416,200
2003	256,200	424,200
2004	262,700	432,200
2005	269,200	440,100
2006	275,600	448,100
2007	282,000	456,100
2008	288,500	464,100
2009	295,000	472,000
2010	301,500	480,000
2011	307,900	488,000
2012	314,400	496,000
2013	320,900	504,000
2014	327,300	511,900
2015	333,800	519,900

2016	340,300	527,900
2017	346,700	535,900
2018	353,200	543,800
2019	359,600	551,800
2020	366,100	559,800

Table 17: Projected Population Growth of Bakersfield and Greater Metropolitan Area (12) {See Fig. 11}

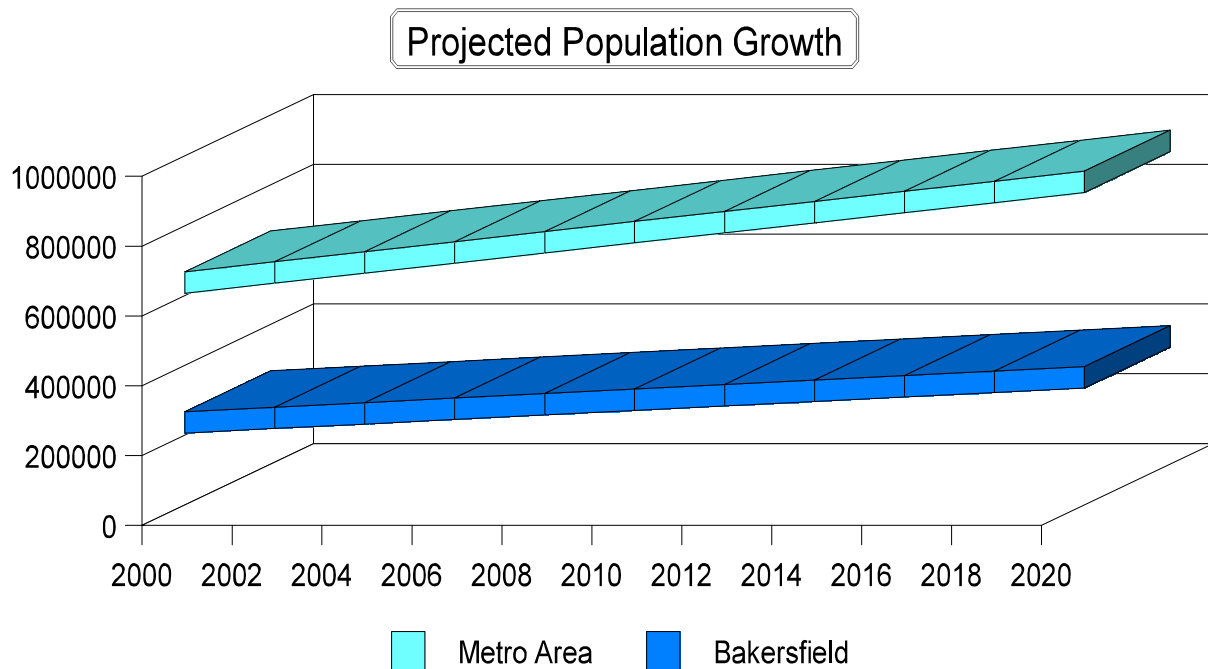


Figure 11: Projected Population Growth of Bakersfield and Greater Metropolitan Area

This projected growth can be validated by the basic increase in the geographic size of the Bakersfield community. The table on the following page illustrates the expanding of the city in square miles. It should be noted that current annexation policies will increase the geographic size of the city in the future.

YEAR	SQUARE MILES
1990	93.26
1991	95.69
1992	100.12
1993	106.75
1994	107.37
1995	108.49
1996	110.94
1997	111.07
1998	112.31
1999	113.74

Table 18: Square Mile Growth Pattern of the City of Bakersfield (12) {See Fig. 12}

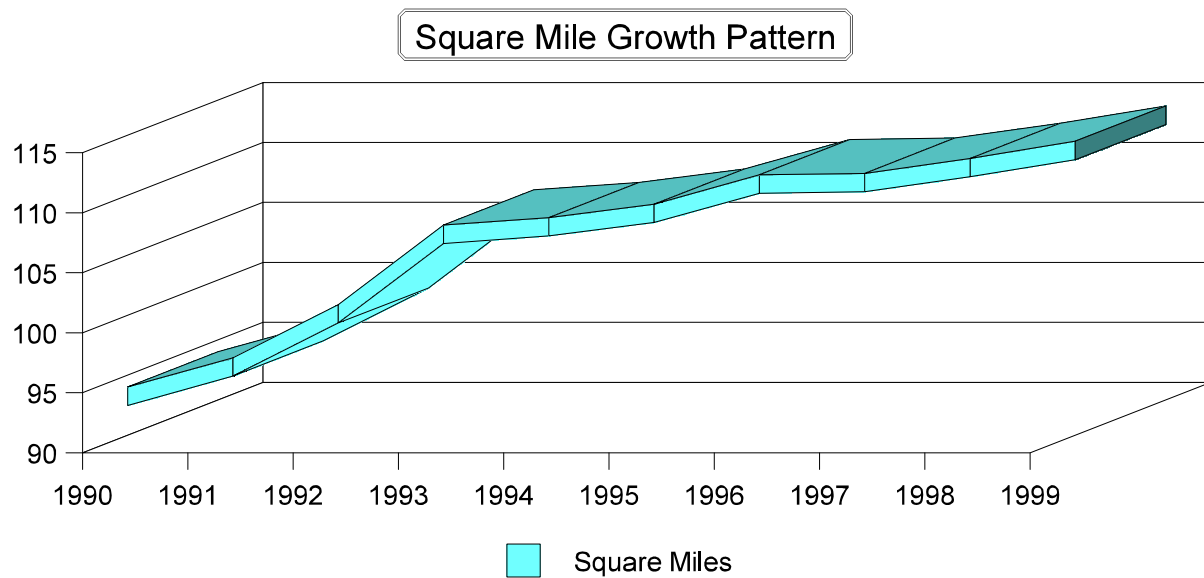


Figure 12: Square Mile Growth Pattern of the City of Bakersfield

Conclusions

The population analysis of the City of Bakersfield and the greater metro area led to the following conclusions:

Clearly the past and present growth of Bakersfield is evident with the City serving as the residential hub of the greater metro area. Both the City and the Greater metro area have experienced continuous growth with some periods of more rapid growth.

Single family growth has surpassed multi-family growth with a family structure consisting of three to four persons per household. The population has slightly more females within the city with an ethnic diversity supporting the community.

Approximately one-third of the population is below 19 years of age and about one-tenth of the population over 65 years of age. There is minimal unequal distribution of these characteristics across the community.

Currently, good employment rates / low vacancy rates exist with large pockets of available land for further residential growth. The Southwest and Northwest portions of the community are experiencing the greatest current growth (20).

The Northeast portion of the community is a source of potential growth with the recent introduction of water and utility services.

The normal growth pattern is strong with a projected increase in the population estimated well into the future. The existence of county island pockets within the city boundaries is unusual and requires, at times, a combination of city and metro area figures to provide the greatest accuracy. Also, interaction of some city and county services exist for these areas.

Significant outside forces, such as an enhanced transportation system, could have dramatic impact on the future population of the community.



4 STANDARDS

Parks and Recreation Standards for the City of Bakersfield

The City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Department provides a number of physical resources and program options designed to meet the needs of the residents. One way to help determine if these opportunities provide sufficient options for the residents is to compare local resources to nationally accepted standards or benchmarks.

National parks and recreation standards have been developed and validated for physical resources and facilities by the National Recreation and Parks Association and these standards are generally the accepted convention within the United States (22). These standards are based on a population and distance radius formula and serve as a good indicator for local communities. Local standards can also be developed that factor in weather patterns and popularity of use, which may adjust these national standards.

There are no nationally established standards for program provisions because of the unique interest of residents nor is it possible to quantify what is appropriate for a specific community. However, national studies have indicated that when a specific program meets or exceeds a certain participation use by residents requirement, then that program can be considered a BENCHMARK program. This status reflects that the program meets local interests with quality delivery in appropriate environments.

This section details the expected types of parks and recreation resources, facilities and programs provided by the City of Bakersfield Recreation and Parks Department to both nationally accepted standards and to locally adjusted standards where appropriate.

Parks

The City of Bakersfield provides forty-three parks spread throughout the city, which constitutes 388.78 acres of developed parkland. The standard established by the National Recreation and Parks Association is six to ten acres per 1000 residents. For the current population of Bakersfield, the city provided average falls well below the national standard. Coupled with the mild weather, allowing generally year-round use, and significant citizen use and interest in parks, the distance from the national standard is even further. There are regional parks provided by the County and also island parks maintained by North Bakersfield Park district, but when adjusting the population for the total metro area, the provision of parkland is still significantly below the national standard. The regional parks provided by the county are significant in acreage but are not designed as neighborhood parks.

Community Centers

There are three centers that are defined as either community recreation or neighborhood centers that are provided by the Recreation and Parks Department. Their total square footage is 26,600 square feet. The standard is one center per 25,000 residents with a dimension standard of one half a square foot per resident. This provision is well below the standard in both number of centers and square footage of available use area. There are a few other centers provided by non- profit agencies and clubs, but again, factoring in the greater metro area population, and the current usage of facilities, this provision is well below the accepted standards.

Swimming Pools

The City of Bakersfield provides nine swimming pools with a total square footage of surface water of 29,105 square feet. These pools are spread throughout the community. The standard established nationally is that one city provided pool, per 20,000 residents, must be able to accommodate 3-5% of the population at one time with a specific per person usage area. The city is slightly less than the standard for number of pools but is sufficiently below the size capacity for pool use. With high popularity of swimming, despite the older structure

systems and lack of heating, and with favorable weather patterns, the distance between meeting the national standard is significant. Other open-to-public pools are available, but when adjusting for the greater metro population the shortage is still significant.

Softball Fields

The national standard for softball fields is high at one field per 5,000 residents. The reason for this high standard is the assumption that fields will be used for softball and baseball by making adjustments in the dimensions of the inner and outer playing areas. When these fields are used for multiple purposes, the standard bears some justification. The City of Bakersfield provides six lighted softball fields which, with the population, is below the standard. That the fields are lighted enhances the use time and modifies the measure to the national standard. The schools and North Bakersfield fields also take some pressure off of the city, but adjusting for popularity use, favorable weather patterns and the greater metro area, a significant shortage still exists.

Tennis Courts

There are thirty-one lighted tennis courts available for resident use, spread across different parts of the community. All of the court facilities are lighted and meet current design standards. The national space standard for tennis courts is one court per 2,000 residents in a 1 / 4 to 1 / 2 -mile radius. The city meets neither the standard for total number of courts or for the distance use radius. The public school system alleviates some pressure with California State University also providing a significant option. Both of these sources are set aside for use by their campus students. The population of the greater metro area intensifies the distances between current provision and the national standard.

Basketball Courts

The City of Bakersfield has available thirty-six lighted outdoor basketball courts and one indoor facility. This is significantly below the national standard of one court per 5,000 residents for a community with the population of Bakersfield. The public school system does provide a significant set of outdoor courts and some indoor facilities. The weather patterns and popularity of use by both adults and youth puts particular strain on the use of these facilities. The greater metro area population also intensifies this resource issue.

Soccer Fields

The City of Bakersfield provides two fields specific for soccer play while the national standard calls for one field per 10,000 residents. This places the current provision significantly below the national standard for this type of activity. It is noted that some parks

can be used for practice fields and at times for competition. However, this places significant pressure on the park area that has not been designed for this purpose. The public schools, California State University and the County Soccer Park Complex do offer up significant resources for soccer field areas, however, the residents are dependent upon these school / university / county areas for open soccer use. The population of the greater metro area coupled with the high demand for this activity intensifies the lack of this resource.

Golf Courses

The City of Bakersfield does not provide any municipal based golf courses. However, three courses are provided by the county and five privately owned but open to public courses are available in the community. These courses meet the national standard that calls for one course per 50,000 residents. When factoring in the greater metro area population and the six private membership courses, the national standard is still met.

Multi-Purpose Fields

Difficult to manage, but necessary during different seasons is the multi-purpose field that can shift from softball to baseball to soccer to football to rugby. Generally, parks with certain size dimensions are used to accommodate these types of demands. Because the concept is multi-use during different seasons no one specific standard can be applied. However, it is clear that the city does not meet the needs of the user groups nor comply with a generalized combination set of standards for the multi-purpose field. Many other land areas besides parks attempt to meet the demand, such as schools, universities and regional areas, however, given the population of Bakersfield and the greater metro area, a significant shortage is evident.

Use Standards

The City of Bakersfield's resources can be compared to a national participation standard that has been developed through research literature. A resource can be considered BENCHMARK, which indicates that the resource meets or exceeds a certain, and high participation use by residents. The resource can also be rated HIGH, MODERATE, or LIMITED, again based on use and participation standards.

A number of resources have been compared to this participation standard and the following table helps to clarify this pattern.

BENCHMARK	HIGH	MODERATE	LIMITED
Beach Park	Centennial Park	Campus Park North	Amberton Park
Beale Park	Grissom Park	Campus Park South	Bill Park Greens
Jastro Park	Jefferson Park	Castle Park	Challenger Park
Patriots Park	Planz Park	Central Park	Coral Keys Park
Silver Creek Park	Siemon Park	Haggin Oaks Park	Corvallis Park
Yokuts Park	Wilson Park	MLK Park	Deer Peak Park
		Pin Oak Park	Garden Park
		Quailwood Park	Int. Square Park
		Saunders Park	Kroll Park
		University Park	Lowell Park
		Wayside Park	Season Park
			Stiern Park
			Tevis Park
			Weill Park
			Westwold Park
			Wilderness Park

Programs

Many of the programs provided by the City Recreation and Parks Department can be considered BENCHMARK due to the total number of uses or participation that occurs at these programs. The following indicates the programs and what level of resident impact occurs based on use patterns.

BENCHMARK	HIGH	MODERATE	LIMITED
After-School Programs	Open Swim	Dog Obedience	Pressed Flowering
Arts and Crafts	Aerobics	Tennis	Calligraphy
Summer Playground	Water Aerobics	Flag Football	Competitive Swimming
Swim Lessons	Basketball	Sign Language	Clogging
Infant Swim Lessons	Adult Weightlifting	Piano Workshops	Cross Country Meets
Special Events	Dance Classes	Roller Skating	Quilting
	Gymnastics	In-line Skating	Racquetball
	Figure Skating	Ice Hockey	Lap Swim
	Karate		Baton Twirling
	Softball		Punt, Pass, Kick
	Day Camps		
	Sports Clinics		
	Volleyball		

Caution is suggested when viewing participation and use measures. Some programs may be purposefully designed for some groups or user-interests.

Conclusions

The following conclusions seem appropriate given comparison to national space standards, distance radius, use measures and program participation.

The majority of the physical resources provided by the City Recreation and Parks Department do not meet the current national provision standard when population and distance is factored.

There is significant reliance on other agencies in the need to provide the physical resource demands of the community. Of particular note are the public schools, Kern County and CSU - Bakersfield.

There is sufficient provision of public play golf courses and regional based parks.

The majority of the resources receive BENCHMARK, HIGH, or MODERATE use by residents and many programs also receive significant use.

Six parks and six programs achieve the BENCHMARK status for use by residents. Also, six parks and thirteen programs achieve the HIGH status for use by residents.

The following chart depicts the recreation and parks resources provided by the City of Bakersfield and the provisions relationship to national standards.

Resource	Bakersfield	National Standard	% of Standard	National Standard Number	Major Non-City Providers	
Parks	388.78 Acres	6-10 Acres / 1,000 people	28%	1,384 Acres	County	15,000 Acres
Community Centers	3 Centers	1 Center / 25,000 people	33%	9 Centers	NBRPD	5 Centers
Swimming Pools	Nine	1 Pool / 20,000 people	75%	11 - 12 Pools	NBRPD CSU-B	3 Pools 1 Pool
Softball Fields	Six	1 field / 5,000 people	13%	46 Fields	NBRPD CSU-B	16 Fields Multiple
Tennis Courts	Thirty-one	1 court / 2,000 people	27%	115 Courts	NBRPD CSU-B	4 Courts Multiple
Basketball Courts	Thirty-six	1 court / 5,000 people	78%	46 Courts	NBRPD	7 Courts
Soccer Fields	Two	1 field / 10,000 people	8%	23 Fields	County CSU-B	Complex Multiple
Golf Courses	Zero	1 18-hole course / 50,000 people	Zero	4-5 Courses	Kern County Private Open to Public	3 Courses 5 Courses



5 CITIZEN INPUT

Demand for Parks and Recreation Services

A significant measure of the demand for parks and recreation resources, facilities and programs comes from the citizens of the community. By assessing residents use patterns, current interests, and future priorities, an accurate representation of the users and potential users can be gleaned. Five elements have helped to clarify the current and future demand for various parks and recreation resources and programs.

Assessment Process

During the spring and summer of 1998, eight hundred and forty-eight randomly selected

residents participated in a door-to-door survey assessing such areas as: parks, facilities and programs, future programs, safety, and funding. This study was conducted by the Applied Research Center of California State University at Bakersfield. This Center also conducted (during spring of 1999) two surveys of school age children, one group grades 3-5 and the other grades 6-8 with a total of thirteen hundred and twenty-two participants in the two surveys. This study looked at recreation activities, use of resources, and additional activities that youth would like provided. During August 1999, four focus groups were held in a variety of locations within the community by Bennett-Worthen Associates, a parks, recreation and environmental planning firm. During the summer and fall of 1999, the parks and recreation participation statistics were gathered and calculated to serve as an indicator of use, popularity and demand. Lastly, during early fall of 1999, interviews were conducted by Bennett-Worthen Associates at various parks and facility sites and program areas. Residents using the areas were given opportunities to make various observations and comments. The results of these five (5) efforts helped to identify current needs and future priorities.

Current Needs

The residents of Bakersfield feel that the provision of public parks and recreation services are important to them, their families and to the quality of community life. Generally they feel that sufficient opportunities are available to residents. Between one-fourth to one-third of the community use the currently provided resources and programs with upwards of one-half of the residents using specific programs or resource amenities. The residents value those programs and resources with about one-third to just over two-thirds of the residents feeling that the availability of specific programs and resources of interest to them are provided. The residents are interested in additional and newly provided programs and resources and have clear ideas as to what the future should bring.

Current Use

Several parks receive significant use by the residents and it appears therefore that these resources are important to the residents and meet their needs. The following table shows the four most used parks.

RANK	PARK	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Beach Park	32.3
2	Silver Creek	21.6
3	Jastro Park	21.5
4	Patriots Park	20.0

Table 19: Rank and Percent of Use by Residents
Using Selected Parks (16)

A variety of amenities associated with parks in general are widely used by residents when they visit the city provided parks. These services appear important to the users. The seven (7) most used are included in the following table.

RANK	RESOURCES	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Picnic Facilities	45.4
2	Barbecue Facilities	39.5
3	Outdoor Basketball	24.9
4	Bike Paths	24.3
5	Swimming Pools	17.1
6	Tennis Courts	13.2
7	Softball Fields	12.3

Table 20: Rank and Percent of Use by Residents Using Selected Resources (16)

Besides this view from the general populous, the youth indicated that the activities that they most prefer are a combination of organized and self selected choices. The eight most preferred activities for the younger children are shown in Table 21.

RANK	ACTIVITY	% MALE	% FEMALE	TOTAL %
1	Swimming	74.4	80.6	77.6
2	Sports	70.2	52.3	61.1
3	Playing w/ Friends	59.3	62.7	60.8
4	Playing Games	61.4	47.1	54.1
5	Roller Skating	53.0	54.9	53.8
6	Arts and Crafts	41.6	45.0	44.6
7	Ice Skating	37.7	50.3	44.0
8	Playing Music	34.3	50.3	42.3

Table 21: Rank and Percent of Most Preferred Activities of Children Grades 3-5 (17) {See Fig. 13}

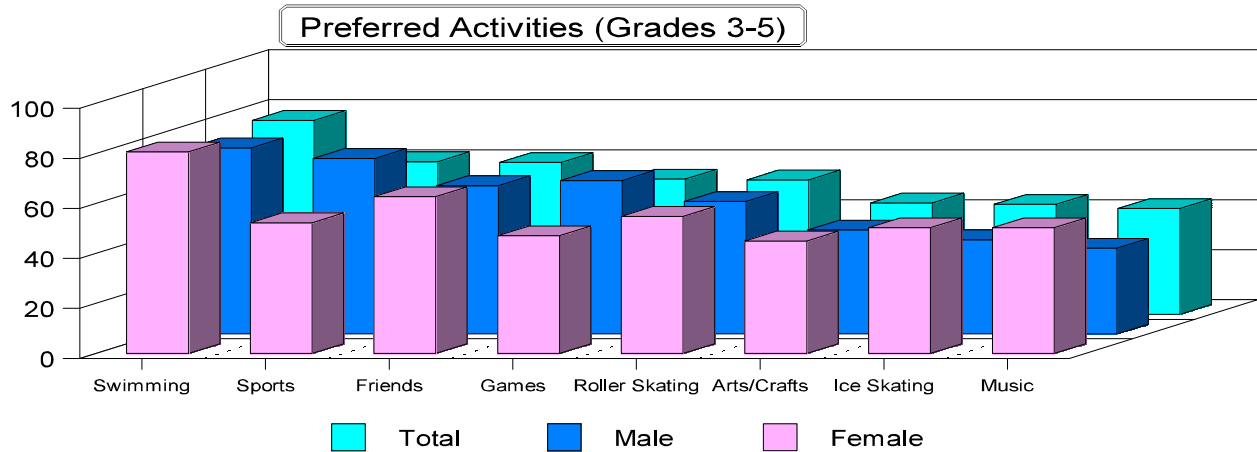


Figure 13: Most Preferred Activities of Children Grades 3-5

The older youth selected activities that were clearly sports oriented. The four most preferred activities that would be typically provided by a recreation and park department are listed below.

RANK	ACTIVITY	% MALE	% FEMALE	TOTAL %
1	Swimming	57.4	72.2	64.1
2	Basketball	58.8	48.1	53.8
3	Softball/Baseball	49.1	44.0	46.7
4	Football	61.2	27.8	45.8

Table 22: Rank and Percent of Most Preferred Activities of Youth in Grades 6-8 (17) {See Fig. 14}

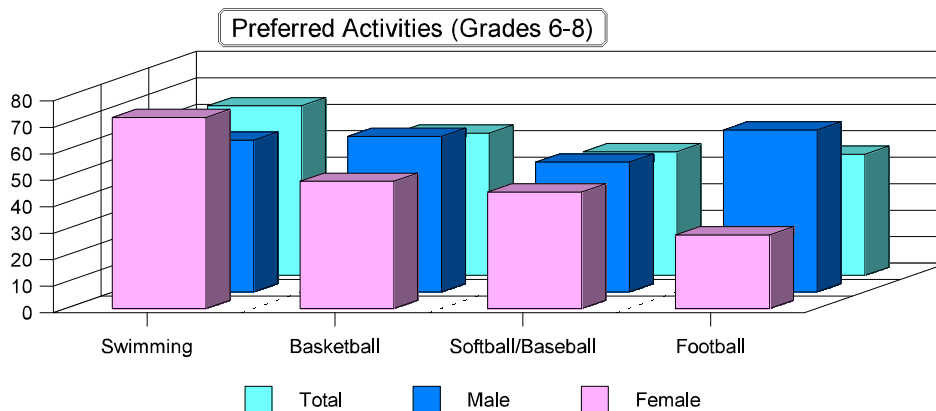


Figure 14: Most Preferred Activities of Youth Grades 6-8

The older group had other activities that they preferred, which are less program driven. The following table shows these activities.

RANK	ACTIVITY	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Watch Movies / Videos	61.1
2	Visit with Friends	57.5
3	Play Computer Games	50.0
4	Listen to Music	49.1

Table 23: Rank and Percent of Preferences
For Other Youth Activities Grades 6-8 (17)

Ratings of Quality and Availability

Several of the parks are viewed by residents as having exceptional quality. These parks have indicators of quality that may be applied to other resource areas. The eight most highly ranked, and it should be noted that they all are the City's newer parks, are as follows :

RANK	PARK	EXCELLENT/ABOVE AVERAGE (%)
1	Silver Creek	89
2	Haggin Oaks	78
3	Deer Peak	78
4	Yokuts	76
5	Tevis	68
6	Pin Oak	66
7	Seasons	61
8	Campus North/South	60

Table 24: Rank and Percent of Quality Rating of Selected Parks (16)

Associated with the parks are various amenities that the residents felt were available and important to their use. The five most highly ranked are found in Table 25.

RANK	RESOURCE	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Bike Path	69.0
2	Picnic Areas	51.4
3	Swimming Pools	51.1
4	Soccer Areas	50.9
5	Softball Areas	50.8

Table 25: Rank and Percent of Residents Indicating
Availability of Selected Resources (16)

The residents indicated that there are some resources that are currently of interest to them as they attempt to meet their leisure needs. The following items appear to be most important.

RANK	RESOURCES	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Picnic Areas	58.9
2	Bike Path	46.8
3	Swimming Pool	41.4
4	Outdoor Basketball Courts	33.6
5	Indoor Basketball Courts	32.5
6	Softball Areas	32.4
7	Tennis Courts	31.0

Table 26: Rank and Percent of Residents Indicating
Their Interest in Selected Resources (16)

Associated with these resources are programs that appear to be the most important at the current time. These programs are currently provided by the City Recreation and Parks Department and are found in Table 27.

RANK	PROGRAMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Arts and Crafts	64.3
2	Swimming Lessons	61.7
3	Summer Playgrounds	60.9
4	After-School Programs	60.8
5	Basketball	59.0
6	Recreation Swim	55.6
7	Softball	55.3

Table 27: Rank and Percent of Residents Indicating
Current Most Popular Programs (16)

Future Priorities

Of significance to the residents are those resources and programs that they would like to see the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks increase or advance in the future for community use. The parents indicated that the programs of most importance now are youth and children based. The most preferred are:

RANK	PROGRAMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Arts and Crafts	64.3
2	Summer Playgrounds	60.9
3	After-School Programs	60.8

Table 28: Rank and Percent of Programs of
Interest to the General Population (16)

The programs that the general populous would like to see emphasized in the future that are not totally currently provided by the City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks consist of several different types of activities.

RANK	PROGRAMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	First Aid/CPR	76.3
2	Computer Classes	72.5
3	Baseball	56.3
4	Cooking	56.2

Table 29: Rank and Percent of New Programs
Desired in the Future (16)

The citizens also have indicated that there are several citywide programs that they value and would like emphasized in the future. They are:

RANK	PROGRAMS	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Concert in the Parks	88.0
2	Community Festival	85.6
3	Arts and Crafts Fair	82.3
4	Holiday Events	80.3

Table 30: Rank and Percent of Residents Indicating Increased
Interest in Selected Community-wide Programs (16)

The adults have indicated that there are some facilities that they would like to see developed in the future. They are:

RANK	RESOURCE	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Water Park	51.9
2	Indoor Swimming Pool	47.5
3	Recreation Centers	47.0
4	Volleyball Courts	39.8
5	Gymnasium	37.6
6	Tennis Courts	30.3
7	Running Track	25.4
8	BMX Track	23.7
9	Skateboard Facilities	20.6

Table 31: Rank and Percent of Adults Desiring New Facilities for the Future (16)

The youth have indicated that water based facilities and resources are of most interest to them as future physical sites are developed. The seven top sites are as follows:

RANK	RESOURCE	PERCENTAGE (%)
1	Water Park	66.9
2	Outdoor Pool	54.9
3	Indoor Pool	47.6
4	Recreation Center	38.7
5	Skateboard Park	38.2
6	Soccer Field	37.1
7	Running Track	27.3

Table 32: Rank and Percent of Youth Desiring New Facilities for the Future (21)

The residents have strong agreement concerning policy that supports the development of future recreation and parks programs. Though many items are considered important to residents, two prevalent themes emerged as most significant.

The City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks should increase facility and program partnerships with other agencies. The department should assess available opportunities provided by other appropriate groups such as schools, non-profit and other government agencies. It should also actively serve as the facilitating leader in creating agreements of joint ventures with these other community approved groups (18).

The City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks should enhance and expand recreation programming in high-need problem areas of the city. The department should assess the types and variations of needs and the department's unique and special expertise to render both short term and long range solutions (18).

The residents have provided thoughtful consideration to policies that should guide the development of future recreation and parks resources. Though many possibilities exist regarding the future, the following themes have strong support from residents.

The City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks should cluster together the acquisition, development and enhancement of existing and future parks and recreation services to better meet the needs of residents and resources.

The City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks should develop Community Centers that serve multiple populations and interests. Centers that range from pre-school age opportunities to the needs of senior citizens. Centers that provide a full range of opportunities from sport to culture and art to special activities such as skateboarding, in-line skating and roller hockey.

The City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks should expand, enhance and modernize the existing aquatic facilities and pools to bring up to date this provision, looking for approaches that meet current needs and also long term value.

The City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks should increase land acquisition for future recreation facilities being thoughtful to the different geographic areas of the community; The types of resources of most value and the future leisure needs of residents; To set aside land now for future development with reconsideration as to the types and purposes of that land as the population approaches the need for that property.

The City of Bakersfield Department of Recreation and Parks should enhance efforts to increase trails, bike paths and multiple spurs in and around the Kern River area. The Kern River is seen as the signature attribute to the quality of leisure experiences and a theme of developing, enhancing and interconnecting river associated resources is encouraged.

Conclusions

Clear and precise themes emerge from the five citizen assessments. Generally two program based and four resource based elements seem consistent throughout the community.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should be responsible for developing leisure programs that meet the needs of residents. They should work to partner with other agencies and focus on high need community areas. The department should actively look for future sites to set aside for the future growth of the community. The use of the Quimby Act and park development fees should be utilized.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should concentrate on at least the following two programming themes in addition to their other program offerings. Theme one is concern for youth activities that involve after-school activities and summer camp programs. Theme

two is concerned with sports offerings, particularly basketball, softball, baseball, soccer and swimming.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should continue their significant investment in parks and the associated amenities of picnicking, barbecue and the other offerings available at the parks. Additionally the use of the parks for community-wide concerts, festivals, fairs and events is encouraged.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should expand, enhance and develop the aquatic facilities that are currently provided or need to be provided to residents. Significant expressions of concern regarding the size and age of the current pools and the future need of the community were evident.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should concentrate on the development of additional community centers spread appropriately throughout the area, that meet a multitude of user group needs. These centers should be true “community” centers expanding the role beyond recreation to include senior citizen services, before/after school programs, sports provision and serve as a hub for new, innovative and continuously changing program options.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should focus energies on the Kern River Parkway, enhancing bike, walking, jogging and interconnecting trail systems. To the extent possible, effort should be made to develop spurs for the river way trails into various regions within the community.



6

STRATEGIES

Action Strategies for Recreation and Parks Services

Described within this section are those strategies that seem most appropriate for consideration by the Department of Recreation and Parks of the City of Bakersfield. The rationale for these recommendations are based on the careful analysis of the combined influence of:

The resources and programs currently provided for the residents from the Department of Recreation and Parks and also by other appropriately considered agencies and groups.

The population of the city, its past growth patterns, current distribution, future projections and sector use group patterns, first, of

the incorporated city areas and secondly, of the greater metro area factoring in the county island areas.

The identifiable use patterns of residents, the surveyed responses regarding resident preferences, and the thoughtful policy recommendations that have been collected from various segments of the residents.

The comparison of existing resources and programs to nationally accepted standards for those resources and programs, establishing some balance between national and local benchmark norms.

Resources

Aquatic Facilities

One of the most significant areas of concern as expressed by the residents is the provision, upgrading and expanding of the aquatic facilities provided to city residents. The concept was cross validated by all citizen assessment measures with each element holding the enhancement of pools as significant. Currently the city provides slightly less than the recommended number of pools and far less in the appropriate size of these facilities as compared to national norms. The vast majority of the pools are old, non-heated and small in space dimension. Other groups provide swimming options but when factoring the larger metro area population and that not all of these pools are available for general public use, the shortage remains constant. Swimming is an all age activity with particular interest to youth and also to parents and other adults. These population sectors are anticipated to grow and current usage, despite the lack of heating, and in some pools, rather small use areas, the need is rather high and constant.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
<p>HIGH</p> <p>1</p>	<p>The development of a specific swimming pool enhancement plan, that at a minimum includes:</p> <p>consideration of closing some of the older pools and abandoning the site.</p> <p>consideration of adding one to two additional pools with current state of the art support systems and pool dimensions that are 6-8 lanes, 25 yards in length with zero-depth pool entry.</p> <p>consideration of one large leisure aquatic area that provides for the basic pool programs but adds additional themes such as zero-depth, limited slides and fountain elements.</p>	<p>2000</p> <p>-</p> <p>2002</p>

Community Centers

Considered by citizens as one of the most needed attributes to the city's recreation and parks offerings are additional community center opportunities. The concept of "recreation" or community center was validated as a significant desire by each of the city's assessment efforts. In this concept, the citizens articulated a desire for centers that go beyond just recreation provisions, though that is seen as the most significant element, but also provides other community services such as pre-school, after-school, senior citizen services and opportunities for arts, music and cultural outlets. The current provision of centers is far below the national norm in both number and particularly in square footage. Other provisions have their facilities restricted to use by memberships and hence are not open to the general population. The service provided would range through all population segments and that is recommended as one of the major programming goals.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
HIGH 2	The development, over time, of three community centers, each of which is 25,000 to 30,000 square feet, that provides for a multitude of community based services. The need for full gymnasiums as an essential design feature is paramount. The development of the center in coordination with other options such as parks, fields, courts, path systems and play areas should be considered. The placement of these centers should be in high need problem areas.	2000 - 2002

Bike / Walking Paths

The Kern River is a major recreation asset to the greater Bakersfield area and is viewed by residents as a resource that needs further enhancement. Found throughout all resident assessment efforts was a clear and strong voice for the development of bike and walking paths along the corridor of the river. Additionally, the creation of "spurs" that interconnect the river to other sectors of the community is highly desirable. The existence of the bike system along the river-way has current use by all age groups and the enhancement of the system would meet both current and future population needs. The national standard recommends a community-wide system and Bakersfield has the available resources to serve as the hub for the necessary expanding systems.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
HIGH 3	The development of walking and bike pathways, lanes and systems along the Kern River Corridor. The addition of spurs that interconnect the river-way paths to other geographic sections of the community for recreation, education and environmental purposes should be considered.	2000 - 2002

Dedicated Fields

This concept, of fields that can be used for different activity venues depending on season, resident interest, and program delivery, is clearly a need area for Bakersfield. Residents have expressed concern about the availability of areas to accommodate various activities of soccer, softball, baseball, football, rugby, particularly as it relates to practice areas, instructional areas and then competition layouts. It is recognized that many parks attempt to accommodate these activities as well as some school and university land being utilized to meet the demand. However, it appears that dependence on other agencies, significant park use interference and other space conflicts strongly suggest attention to this area. Currently the community does not meet standards for any of these activity venues as independent sites or the more useful and appropriate dedicated sites. The primary user segment is the nineteen years of age and younger, however, very substantial adult use has been the pattern in Bakersfield. With anticipated population growth, the current and future needs are paramount.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
MEDIUM 4	The acquisition, development and design of at least two significantly sized dedicated fields with regulation design features. The use of movable modification elements that would accommodate a variety of activity venues is suggested. The fields should be placed in high need areas.	2000 - 2002

Parks

The City of Bakersfield provides an array of neighborhood parks and the County supplements with significant regional park options. There is little need for the city to move into the provision of regional parks, however, some attention needs to be centered on both the number and acreage of neighborhood parks. The citizens highly value the neighborhood parks and some parks receive use by as many as one-third of the entire population. The acreage provided is below the national norm and with very favorable use and near year-round use weather patterns, the local standard is higher. The parks are open to, and used by all segments of the population. With good future growth patterns, additional parkland is essential.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
MEDIUM 5	<p>The development of a specific park enhancement plan, that at the minimum includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consideration of additional neighborhood parks in high density areas and new growth areas of the community consideration of a park amenities plan that considers types of services to be provided at that site. Data supports the need for such items as restrooms, basketball courts, picnic and barbeque areas. consideration of coupling the new parks with other recommended action items (sports fields, centers, etc.) 	2001 - 2004

Tennis Courts

There are a number of lighted tennis courts provided by the Department of Recreation and Parks as well as by various school sites. Several private quasi-public options are also available. However, the total number and geographic distribution falls beneath the national norm threshold. This outlet is an all age activity with good current participation-use statistics. Residents generally feel that the current opportunities are sufficient but with population growth, this leisure provision should be considered.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
MEDIUM 6	<p>The development of a series of multi-court tennis areas that are built for all levels of play, instruction and competition. The multi-courts should be lighted and located in areas such as the southeast portion of the community.</p>	2001 - 2004

Basketball Courts

Basketball, both youth and adult, is considered a high priority activity to many residents. The placement of both indoor and outdoor court areas is a strong felt need by the community. Of specific interest is either the addition of indoor gymnasium areas or the creation of joint use agreements with schools and / or other not-for-profit groups to increase public use opportunities. The schools do provide significant opportunities that are in some ways open for public use. The current provision of indoor court options is significantly below national norms. The outdoor court options are more available but are still below national standards. The use is somewhat limited but current interest is very high.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
MEDIUM 7	The development of indoor gymnasium options either by new development or the creation of increased joint-use agreements with schools. Within the recommendation for community centers, the gymnasium concept is described. Besides indoor provision, the addition of outdoor courts in new and existing parks (if appropriate) should be considered.	2001 - 2004

Horseshoes

The current availability of horseshoe pits is significant with few other providers. The activity is generally utilized by about ten (10) percent of the population. The residents feel that current provision is adequate and the city is in general compliance with national space standards.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
MINIMAL 8	The addition of horseshoe pits as opportunities arise at new park sites where design of the park can accommodate the design features.	2003 - 2005

Volleyball / Badminton

The residents feel that the current provision of volleyball and badminton courts is sufficient. The city is approximate to the national norm with generally family use patterns and a few competitive leagues. Indoor competition can occur at school and community center sites. However, in-season use agreements are necessary. The current outdoor provision seems adequate.

PRIORITY	RECOMMENDATION	TIME FRAME
MINIMAL 9	The addition of outdoor volleyball areas as appropriate to the design feature of new and existing parks. Indoor, in-season joint agreements with schools should be considered.	2003 - 2005

Programs

Recreation and parks resources require significant planning with long-range strategies to assure that the significant investment is warranted. Programs, on the other hand, are fluid, ever-changing and specific to the community, current interests, weather patterns and seasons of the year. As a consequence, recreation programs considered for the future should be driven more by general policy statements than specific recommendations. There are however, several clear program policies that seem important.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should be the primary provider of public offered recreation programs. Several other vendors provide programs, but to assure public access, sensitivity to economics, age, skill and public safety, the creation of a full range of balanced and varied programming, requires the City's leadership.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should consider the facilitator or broker role as the primary clearinghouse of these public provided programs. It is essential that professional staff with specific skills in program management rather than direct activity leadership provide the many program options for the residents.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should rather consistently assess the program interest of its residents being sensitive to all age groups, economic levels, interest and segments of the population.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should work to partner with other agencies and focus on high need community interests.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should concentrate on youth, aquatic, humanities, sports, exercise, and special events and activities.

The Department of Recreation and Parks should assess local, regional, and national program trends constantly looking for innovations.



7 FUNDING

Implementation Costs

Implementation of many of the recommended action plans will not be possible unless existing and new funding strategies are available. The various action strategies for recreation and parks services have been analyzed relative to development, construction, operation and maintenance costs. The development costs include those items that are generally necessary as pre-construction elements and include such efforts as architectural renderings, engineering reports and various site specific studies. Generally, the largest expenditure is the actual cost of construction of the project. These figures have been created as specific to the Bakersfield region as possible and have been estimated through study of recently completed similar projects, consultation with a variety of construction firms and interviews with experts in the field. The annual operation and maintenance costs of the completed project is also a financial concern. These costs vary greatly depending on available local resources, level of care and service desired and based on the funding strategy selected to fulfill this annual costs necessity.

For the action strategies for the Department of Recreation and Parks, the following cost estimates appear to be accurate. These are only estimates and serve as baseline indicators of potential costs.

ACTION STRATEGY	DEVELOPMENT COSTS (estimated)	CONSTRUCTION COSTS (estimated)	ANNUAL O/M COSTS (estimated)
Outdoor Swimming Pool	\$216,000	\$1,350,000	\$20,000 (Seasonal)
Leisure Aquatic Area	\$480,000	\$3,000,000	\$75,000 (Seasonal)
Community Center	\$720,000	\$4,500,000	\$150,000
Walk / Bike Paths	4-6%	\$14.00 / Linear Foot	Incidental
Dedicated Fields	\$60,000	\$60,000 / Acre	\$8,500 / Acre
Neighborhood Parks	\$90,000	\$90,000 / Acre	\$10,000 / Acre
Tennis Courts	\$15,000	\$40,000 / Court	Minimal
Indoor Gymnasium	\$288,000	\$1,800,000	\$80,000

** Increase the cost by the CPI for the year of construction.

Potential Funding Strategies

A number of methods of funding the proposed actions exist. The following is a summary of potential approaches that seem appropriate.

Reverse Annuity Purchase

Property owners interested in releasing their land holdings to the community for parks, recreation and public use may join forces with the city and enter into a reverse annuity purchase. The community purchases the property by paying installments to the seller throughout the seller's lifetime. Upon the seller's death, the community agency receives the title to the property. The seller is provided income and significant tax reduction and the community is able to preserve for future use key land sites.

California Parklands Act of 1980

To the extent that funds are remaining, this act provides for the development, acquisition, or restoration of real property for park, beach and historic resource preservation purposes. The program funds 100% of eligible development costs and 75% of eligible acquisition costs.

Historic Preservation Grants-in-Aid

This program provides federal funds channeled through the National Park Service to the State Department of Parks and Recreation. Up to 50% of eligible costs are matched for acquisition, rehabilitation and preservation of sites that are currently listed on the National Registrar of Historic Places or are eligible for such inclusion.

The California Community Foundation

This not-for-profit organization serves as a clearing house for additional potential funds within the State of California. The Center assists communities in identifying and applying for grants both government or private foundation based.

State of California Resources Agency

This State agency provides funding for natural resource projects which may include parks, river-ways, flood control and the like. Projects are usually limited to \$100,000 per project.

California Department of Transportation

Within this State organization is the State Office of Bicycle Facilities which oversees and encourages bicycle commuter facilities, including building bike paths, striping lanes and constructing parking facilities. Funds are available for planning and construction but not maintenance. The California Transportation Development Act, Section 4, managed by the COG, should also be considered.

General Fund Appropriation

One of the most frequently used methods of obtaining money for the agency's annual operating budget is to receive an appropriation from the general fund of the overall governmental unit. The money from the general tax fund is usually levied on the taxable property of the taxing district. The general fund appropriation is the most common funding source and is found in probably all governmental settings. The City of Bakersfield's largest revenue source is its one percent sales tax.

Special Tax Levy

The Special Tax levy is a special tax earmarked for parks and recreation and is spent only for the specified earmarked source. A special tax levy alleviates pressure from the general fund and eliminates competition for special projects with other community agencies. As an example, Texas has a cigarette tax of \$.01 per pack and generates a multi-million dollar amount for local parks, recreation and open space projects. Proposition 4 sets maximum limits for special tax levies and also requires a 2/3 majority voter approval.

Special Assessment

Similar to special assessments used to finance improvements for streets, curbs, sidewalks, sewers, and other such project improvements or additions, a parks and recreation assessment to specific community areas could be approached in a special assessment basis. In Maryland, there exists a tax on transfer of real estate that provides funds for open space acquisition. This .05% tax generates multi-million dollar funding, which assists in paying off parks and recreation bonds. For Bakersfield, the Lighting and Landscape Act provides funds for maintenance, but any increases require an election. There are also special assessment districts for specific parks and recreation resources. Proposition 218 sets special election requirements related to any special assessments.

Zoning and Subdivision Fees

Special assessment fees could be placed in specified zoned areas, where extensive subdivision is occurring to pay for needed parks and recreation resources for that area. The subdivision fee is paid by the developer to insure public construction of the needed resources. Various city ordinances in Utah allow a \$250 per building permit fee on all new housing construction, which is earmarked for park development and recreation program provision for that subdivision area of the community. The amount of total dollars generated is dependent upon building growth but stays proportionate to growth need. The City of Bakersfield has the Quimby Act and the Park Development dedication fee program. North Bakersfield Parks and Recreation District uses a separate Quimby Act authority for their resources. Special maintenance agreements exist in some Bakersfield subdivisions.

Fees and Charges

Pay as you play is a vital and acceptable method of funding parks and recreation resources, programs, and facilities. The assessment is placed upon the user to help defray the overall cost of the provision. Only realistic fees and charges can be established and must reflect the ability of the user to pay for those provisions. Several approaches from entry fees, fishing and hunting license fees, and registration charges to Indiana's approach of registration fees on recreation equipment are examples of this method. For Bakersfield, an increase in fees and charges may require public hearings.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Established in 1965, the LWCF's purpose is to provide federal funds for the purpose of financing the current outdoor recreation needs of the American public. The two primary purposes of the LWCF are to provide funds for existing federal managing agencies and to provide grant-in-aid funds to states to be passed on to local units of government. These funds must be dispersed on a 50/50 match basis with the local unit. Contact your State Parks and Recreation Agency or the Regional National Park Service office.

Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program

This program is on its last phase of provision but its primary purpose is to provide rehabilitation grants, innovation grants, and recovery action program grants. The federal funds processed through the National Park Service are to provide for rebuilding and remodeling, as well as personnel, equipment and supplies, and also for community assessment and planning. California has been awarded limited moneys for the upcoming year.

Community Development Block Grant

The Open Space Program of the CDBG is important to parks and recreation provisions. The primary purpose of the CDBG program is to use federal funds to assist local government in dealing with the problems of urban blight and to benefit low and moderate income groups. These funds cannot be used for maintenance of parks and recreation facilities but can be utilized for acquisition, construction, and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities.

Corporate Giving

Corporations may choose to sponsor various parks and recreation programs, as well as provide major funding for new projects. As an example, the “Adopt-a-Park” program, wherein a corporate group agrees to pay the operation and maintenance costs of a park for a specific period of time as a contribution to the local community. An additional approach is the “5% Program”, which is based on the IRS rule allowing a 5% write-off for corporate gifts to community service agencies.

Private Foundation Grants

Private foundations and other philanthropic organizations are excellent sources of financing local programs. A specific example is the Hershey Track and Field Program or the Wells Fargo Fitness Trail Program. The Mott foundation provides funds for community school education efforts, as well as other foundations providing funds for special efforts. The state of Indiana has the National Heritage Protection Fund with the purpose of providing money for land acquisition for future nature preserves.

Parks and Recreation Foundation

A Parks and Recreation Foundation provides a vehicle for receiving gifts and endowments from individuals and organizations, which are interested in assisting the parks and recreation agency. A foundation established with the interest of improving the overall community can attract donations from citizens, businesses, and other foundations. The City of Bakersfield currently maintains the Bakersfield Foundation for the purpose of receiving gifts.

Citizen and Neighborhood Funding Groups

Local neighborhoods in which a sensitive parks and recreation need exists can be organized and developed to help meet that need which might be financial in nature. Fund-raising events, as well as donations to be utilized to meet the local neighborhood Parks and Recreation can be established. Neighborhood groups living adjacent to city parks have raised funds for the construction of desired equipment or services for that park, such as tennis courts or play apparatus that could not be funded otherwise.

New Membership Program

Individuals or organizations join the Parks and Recreation Department program through the purchase of a membership. The membership provides special benefits to the member, such as entry into facilities, free park reservations, invitations to special events, and calendar of upcoming events. A recent national survey indicates that approximately one-fourth of the cities in the U.S. have some sort of Parks and Recreation Membership Program, usually associated with the provision of recreation centers.

Gift Catalog

A gift catalog is an attractive brochure that lists a wide variety of needed equipment, facilities, and programs that might be sponsored by individuals and organizations in the community. For each item listed, a price tag is attached, so that a potential donor may choose from the extensive shopping list. In Arizona, an individual, family, service group, or business may select a tree, park bench, sport tournament, or equipment from a gift catalog and then purchase that item and donate it back to the government entity. For many companies, it has become a fun employee experience searching for just the right community gift.

General Obligation Bond

Bonding is the process of a government entity borrowing money to make major improvements and then paying back the borrowed money over a period of years. A tax is levied on all taxpayers, on their taxable property, using the taxable property of the governmental body as security for the repayment of the debt. The obligation is spread over all community residents through an increased tax for the period of time that the bond repayment is in effect. General obligation bonds are voted for by registered voters at a special or general elections and is a common method of funding major acquisition and development projects.

Revenue of Enterprise Bond

A revenue bond is an obligation of the borrowing agency to repay the principal and interest to the investor for the financing of a revenue-producing enterprise or facility. Revenues to repay the bond issue must come solely from the revenue of the enterprise. What factors make

a specific project profitable and hence, eligible for non-voter-approved revenue bonds, is very specific to the dynamics of the community. Projects that are commonly successful are golf courses.

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act

The Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), passed in the fall of 1991, authorizes a broad spectrum of conservation, environment, planning, transportation, and energy investments, which could aid recreation. Section 133, the Surface Transportation Program, addresses these “enhancements”, which include: pedestrian and bicycle facilities; acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites; historic highway programs; landscaping and beautification; historic preservation; rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation structures or facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including their conversion and use for pedestrian or bicycle trails); control and removal of outdoor advertising; archaeological planning and research; and mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff.

Certificates of Participation

The COPs are lease revenue bonds, the purpose of which are to acquire equipment, buildings and make improvements in which a revenue stream is present. The revenue makes the lease payment on the certificate. Common to California local governments, the COPs are used for rather large projects.

Funding Sources

The following chart may help to plan which funding source is most appropriate for each action strategy:

FUNDING SOURCE	Swimming Pool	Leisure Aquatic Area	Community Center	Walk / Bike Paths	Dedicated Fields	Neighborhood Parks	Tennis Courts	Indoor Gymnasium
Reverse Annuity								
California Parkland Act								
Historic Preservation								
California Community Foundation								

FUNDING SOURCE	Swimming Pool	Leisure Aquatic Area	Community Center	Walk / Bike Paths	Dedicated Fields	Neighborhood Parks	Tennis Courts	Indoor Gymnasium
California Resource Agency								
Department of Transportation								
General Fund								
Special Tax Levy								
Special Assessment								
Zoning / Subdivision Fee								
Fees and Charges								
Land / Water Fund								
Urban Recovery Program								
Community Development Block								
Corporate Giving								
Private Foundations								
Parks and Recreation Foundation								
Citizen Funding Groups								
Membership Programs								
Gift Catalog								
General Obligation Bond								
Revenue Bond								
Intermodal Act								
Certificates of Participation								

= Primary Source = Secondary Source

Though these different methods of funding are available, the monies in these approaches are not always easily accessible. Depending on the source, local ordinances, citizen support, voting initiatives and funding from other agencies are necessary and important components. Serious investigation into these funding models is encouraged but it should be noted that most funding for projects will be dependent on local dollars coming from the citizen generated tax base.

SOURCES

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