

## 8 OPEN SPACE, YOUTH AND RECREATION

This element outlines the City's policy approach to developing parks, open spaces, and trails, in addition to supporting recreational, cultural, and educational programs and facilities.

The City's park system provides a variety of community and neighborhood parks and facilities for local residents. The majority of the open space acreage within the Planning Area (4,590 acres) consists of three large passive recreational areas – Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, Browns Island Regional Shoreline, and Stoneman Park. Local and regional trails traversing the City provide connections to and from local neighborhoods, commercial districts, and parks. In addition, the City provides limited access to the Suisun Bay shoreline.

Expansion of recreational/educational programs for local youth, and provision of additional recreational/cultural facilities is projected within buildout of this General Plan. Other public facilities, including water and sewer, solid waste, and fire protection, are discussed in Chapter 11: Public Facilities.



*The City strives to provide an open space system with a variety of parks and recreational areas such as the one pictured here.*

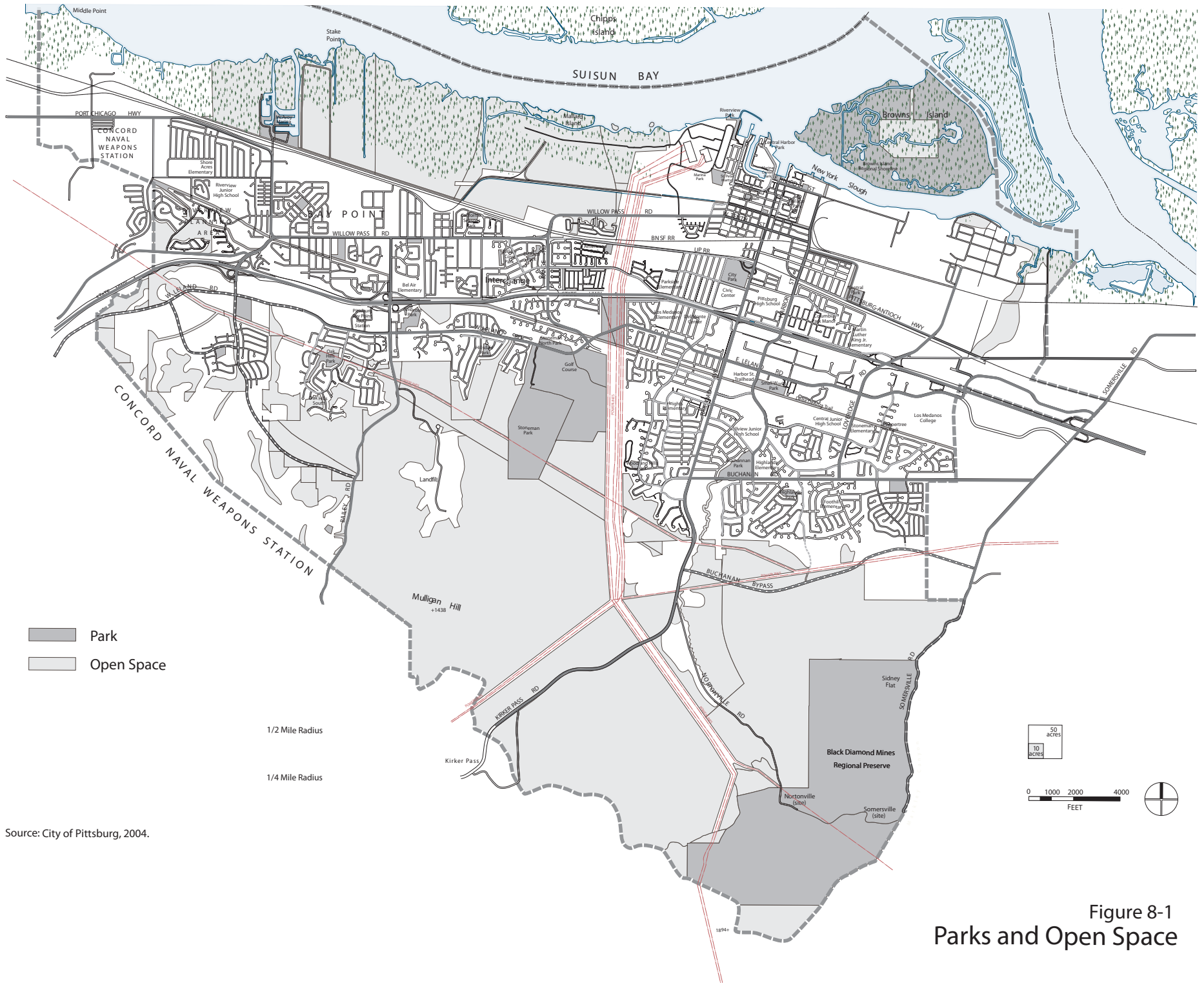
## 8.1 OPEN SPACE CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

---

A well-planned open space system includes a variety of sizes and types, from neighborhood parks to regional open spaces. These park, recreation, and open space areas serve different purposes and usually offer facilities corresponding to their purposes. They can meet active and passive recreational needs, or facilitate resource conservation. The City's park and open space system currently includes the following types of facilities (see Figure 8-1):

### *Parks and Recreation*

- *Regional Trails.* Regional trails provide opportunities for hiking, biking, and jogging along open space corridors throughout the region. The Delta De Anza Trail runs approximately 4.8 miles along the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) right-of-way through Pittsburg.
- *Community Parks.* Community parks are developed primarily to meet the recreational needs of a large portion of the City. Community parks range in size from 2 to 300 acres according to purpose, and often feature one-of-a-kind community facilities or natural resources. For example, Riverview Park offers paths and amenities along the Delta waterfront, while Small World Park features small replicas of a fort, mission, railroad ride, lagoon, riverboat, and a full-scale carousel. Community parks, such as Buchanan Park, may also contain a greater variety of recreational facilities, such as swimming pools, community centers, public rest rooms, bocce ball and horseshoe areas, trails, athletic fields, and pond fishing.
- *Neighborhood Parks.* Neighborhood parks primarily serve a small portion of the City, usually within one-half mile radius of the park. These parks are generally oriented toward the recreational needs of children and youth. For example, Marina Park provides playground equipment, as well as softball, baseball, and soccer fields.



Source: City of Pittsburg, 2004.

Figure 8-1  
Parks and Open Space

- *Linear Parks.* Often located along natural or man-made corridors such as rivers or rail lines, linear parks provide landscaped paths for walking and biking. Ideally, linear parks create linkages between other parks, community facilities, and neighborhoods. The City is currently developing a linear park along the Eighth Street portion of the former Sacramento Northern Railroad right-of-way.
- *Mini-Parks.* Mini-parks are usually small play areas or green spaces designed for small children or for visual purposes. When designed for special groups, mini-parks should be located near those populations, such as family housing areas or senior centers. There are currently five mini-parks in Pittsburg, as well as the Heritage Plaza corridor system in Downtown.

### *Open Space*

- *Regional Preserves.* The primary purpose of Regional Preserve areas is the conservation of natural resources. Browns Island Regional Shoreline, which is accessible only by boat, is a refuge for migrating shorebirds. The Black Diamond Regional Preserve, located south of Pittsburg in Contra Costa County, offers tours of abandoned coal mining tunnels and many miles of hiking trails. Both preserves under the jurisdiction of the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) are within Pittsburg's Planning Area.
- *Open Space.* Open space, as designated by the General Plan, consists of privately-owned, undeveloped land. Steep, unstable hillside areas in new residential developments are considered open space areas, as well as large tracts of open land beyond the proposed limits of urban growth. Most open space areas consist of natural grassy slopes, cattle grazing, and/or wildlife habitat.

## 8.2 PARKS

Pittsburg's Public Works Department manages the maintenance of the City's park facilities, while the Recreation Department manages the operation of the parks. The Planning and Building and Engineering Departments are responsible for acquisition and development of park facilities. Pittsburg has approximately 312 acres of parkland within the City's local park system, ranging in size from quarter-acre mini parks to the 190-acre Stoneman Park. Pittsburg's park facilities are described in Table 8-1.

All of the City's neighborhood parks are located near collector streets in residential neighborhoods, while community parks lie along arterial roadways to serve the larger City population. Central Harbor Park is located along the waterfront adjacent to Downtown, providing public access to this tremendous aquatic resource. City Park is a valuable community park that lies between the Civic Center and Downtown Pittsburg, featuring several baseball diamonds, volleyball courts, and a large group picnic area with bandstand. Stoneman Park consists primarily of picnic facilities and passive recreational facilities, including hiking trails along grassy canyons, directly adjacent to Pittsburg's Delta View Golf Course.

The pace of parkland acquisition in Pittsburg has decreased in the last decade. Although the City's park standard remains at five acres per 1,000 residents, only 2.9 acres of additional parkland per 1,000 new residents has been achieved since 1988. However, currently proposed park sites will provide the City with additional neighborhood parks intended to serve the residential population. The addition of the proposed park sites listed in Table 8-2 will increase the City's parkland to approximately 404 acres. Consideration of the City's linear park facilities (Eighth Street, Sante Fe, and Columbia) brings the City's parkland total to 417 acres, resulting in a total of 4.5 acres of parks per 1,000 residents in 2020 (assuming a buildout population of 93,340).



*Stoneman Park (located on West Leland Road, just west of Golf Course) provides a variety of leisure opportunities for City residents.*

**Table 8-1**  
**Park Facilities, City of Pittsburg, 2000**

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Picnic/Passive</i>	<i>Play Areas</i>	<i>Sports Facilities</i>
<b><i>Community Parks</i></b>				
Buchanan	16.0			
Central Harbor	1.5			
City Park	28.0			
Del Monte Center	2.5			
Riverview	4.0			
Small World	8.0			
Stoneman	190			
Stoneman North	8.0			
<b>Community Parks Subtotal</b>	<b>261</b>			
<b><i>Neighborhood Parks</i></b>				
California Seasons	2.5			
Central <sup>1</sup>	8.0			
DeAnza	3.5			
Highlands	4.5			
Hillsdale	3.5			
Marina	15.0			
Marina Walk	1.7			
Oak Hills	5.0			
Peppertree	2.5	Undeveloped		
Village at New York Landing	1.5			
Woodland Hills	2.4			
<b>Neighborhood Parks Subtotal</b>	<b>50</b>			

**Table 8-1 (continued)****Park Facilities, City of Pittsburg, 2000**

<i>Park Name</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Picnic/Passive</i>	<i>Play Areas</i>	<i>Sports Facilities</i>
<b>Mini Parks</b>				
Downtown/Railroad Ave.	0..25			
La Plazita <sup>1</sup>	0..25	Undeveloped		
Ninth and Montezuma	0..25	Undeveloped		
Village (2 x 0.25 acres)	0.5			
Heritage Plaza	0.1			
<b>Mini Park Subtotal</b>	<b>1.3</b>			
<b>Total Local Parks Acreage</b>	<b>312</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Leased to the City of Pittsburg.

Source: City of Pittsburg, Leisure Services Dept.

**PARK DEDICATION AND IMPROVEMENTS**

The City currently maintains a neighborhood and community park standard of five acres per 1,000 residents, the maximum permitted under the Quimby Act, which also forms the basis of the City's dedication and park fee requirements. Virtually all parkland over the last 10 years has been acquired through dedication and not through active acquisition. While this process has allowed the City to acquire developed parkland, in many instances the parks dedicated by residential developers are not highly visible or accessible. Land dedication has been useful in ensuring provision of pockets of open space as part of planned developments; however, these open spaces generally do not include park amenities.

The two street lighting and landscaping maintenance districts in the City help to ensure that City parks are improved and maintained as needed, by assessing a voter-approved \$77.18 per unit. Revenues from the maintenance districts are very limited and other sources have been, and will continue to be, necessary for further park improvements.

**Table 8-2****Proposed Parks, City of Pittsburg**

<i>Proposed Parks</i>	<i>Acres</i>
San Marco community park	17.0
San Marco school/park site	5.0
Americana neighborhood park	1.0
Highlands Ranch neighborhood park	5.0
West Tenth Street neighborhood park	4.8
Buchanan park expansion	3.8
Power corridor community park	51.0
<b>Total Proposed Park Sites</b>	<b>87.6</b>
<i>Source: City of Pittsburg, General Plan Land Use Diagram</i>	<b>87.6</b>

**SUMMARY OF PARK DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS**

**Table 8-3  
Park Development Standards, City of Pittsburgh**

---

*Neighborhood and Community Parks*

---

- 5 acres of community and neighborhood parkland per 1,000 residents
- Within reasonable walking distance of all residential development
- Minimum 2 acres in size in new residential developments (target of 5 acres)

---

**GOALS: PARKS**

- 8-G-1 *Develop a high-quality public park system for Pittsburgh that provides varied recreational opportunities accessible to all City residents.*
- 8-G-2 *Provide parks that reflect the diversity of Pittsburgh’s natural setting, including creeks and waterways, tree stands, rock outcroppings, and topography.*

**POLICIES: PARKS**

***Standards and Accessibility***

- 8-P-1 *Maintain a neighborhood and community park standard of 5 acres of public parkland per 1,000 residents.*
- 8-P-2 *Pursue the development of park and recreation facilities within reasonable walking distance of all homes.*
- 8-P-3 *Develop public parks and recreational facilities that are equitably distributed throughout the urbanized area, and provide neighborhood recreation facilities in existing neighborhoods where such facilities are presently lacking.*
- 8-P-4 *Consider park accessibility, use and character as more valuable than size in the acquisition and development of new parks.*

The City’s current park classification system (see above) is based more on the use and character of park facilities than their size. For example, many community parks that fulfill important community needs, such as shoreline access, are smaller than those proposed by national and regional recreation agencies.

- 8-P-5 *Maintain park and recreation facility standards for new development to serve both residents and employees, attainable through dedication of parkland or payment of in-lieu fees.*



The demand by new residential development for parks and open space facilities is a well-known calculation among Californian cities, but the additional demands on park facilities by employees of local businesses (for example, eating lunch in a park or jogging along the waterfront after work) who are not residents must also be considered.

*8-P-6 Revise the City's Park Dedication Ordinance to define useable area for parkland dedication requirements. Proposed park sites should be:*

- *Designed such that 80 percent of the site has slopes of less than 3 percent that are suitable for active recreational play;*
- *Sized according to the City's park standard of 5 acres per 1,000 residents (for example, a 200-unit subdivision would yield about 600 residents, and a dedication requirement of 3 acres);*
- *Available for year-round use, so that detention basins are not designated as parkland or shared park facilities; and*
- *A minimum of 2 contiguous acres in new residential neighborhoods.*

*8-P-7 Encourage the development or provision of facilities that cater to diverse recreational interests.*

These facilities could provide hard-surface courts in-lieu of turf areas, which include but are not limited to activities such as tennis, skateboarding, hand/racquetball, bocce ball, basketball, volleyball, badminton, and roller hockey. These may be provided within existing parks or constructed as specific-use facilities.

### ***Design and Natural Resources***

*8-P-8 Preserve areas of riparian and other wildlife habitat, oak woodland, and other significant biotic resources within parks. Design park improvements to be compatible with the preservation of such resource areas.*



Oak Hills Park, pictured above, serves residents of the Oak Hills Park development and surrounding areas.

Any improvements, including paving or installation of recreation equipment, made in parks should be located and constructed in such a way as to ensure the long-term preservation of natural resource areas.

- 8-P-9 *Design the layout of new park facilities in accordance with the natural features of the land. Where possible, preserve such natural features as creeks and drainage ponds, rock outcroppings, and significant topographic features.*

The preservation of natural features in open space areas (even active recreational facilities) reflects the setting in which the City has developed and provides variety to the urban landscape.

- 8-P-10 *Comprehensively update the City's Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan to implement General Plan policies and facilitate detailed planning for parks, trail systems and special recreational facilities. Ensure that this update includes planning for the development of active recreational uses at Stoneman Park.*

The City's Parks Recreation and Open Space Master Plan is intended to bridge the gap between the policies set forth in this General Plan and the actual detailed planning and development of park and recreation facilities.

#### ***Dedications and Maintenance***

- 8-P-11 *Encourage dedication of fully developed parks rather than in-lieu fees. When in-lieu fees are collected, ensure that they are spent acquiring and developing new park sites or enhancing existing park facilities.*

Due to significant increases in land values over time, the City's purchasing power can be diminished as time lapses between the collection of in-lieu fees and the actual acquisition of parkland. Dedication of usable parkland prevents the potential depreciation of park fees while the City searches for appropriate and affordable parkland.

*8-P-12 Ensure that all parks acquired through dedication are at least 2 acres in size within new residential developments (target 5 acres). Accept smaller visual open space areas in new commercial and industrial development for parkland dedications.*

Several of the newer mini-parks contained within residential developments lack necessary park amenities, such as benches. The provision of visual open space as parkland dedication in commercial developments is reasonable. However, residential developments must provide more usable open space areas.

*8-P-13 Limit parkland dedications to flat, usable parcels within new residential neighborhoods (see Policy 8-P-6 above). Ensure that such park sites provide open, grassy areas for informal recreational play (such as football or soccer).*

*8-P-14 Develop a maintenance-funding plan for all City parks. Consider participation in parkland maintenance districts as a condition of development approval for new residential subdivisions.*

Maintenance of existing and new parks is essential in the on-going use of developed parkland. A citywide plan for funding the maintenance and improvement of all City parks will ensure that the citizens of Pittsburg derive the full benefits of City parkland. Requiring new residential development to secure funding sources for the maintenance of new parks will allow the City to continue developing and maintaining recreational facilities on a limited budget.

*8-P-15 Work with PG&E to obtain ownership of lands within the transmission corridor, south of State Route 4 (as designated on Figure 2-2), for development of a community park.*

*8-P-16 Encourage dedication of public parks in new residential developments with more than 150 units.*

Current and proposed parks are not sufficient to meet City's park standard (See Policy 8-P-1). In addition to the parks identified in Figure 8-1 and Table 8-2, the City should consider new sites to add to its park system.

## 8.3 TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE

**Table 8-4**  
**Trails & Open Space: Pittsburg Planning Area, 2000**

<i>Trails / Trailheads</i>	<i>Miles Long</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>
Delta De Anza Trail	4.8	78
Harbor Street trailhead	n/a	1.0
Stoneman Park trailhead	n/a	0.5
Oak Hills trailheads (2 x 0.5 acres)	n/a	1.0
Eighth Street Linear Park*	0.8	4.4
Santa Fe Linear Park*	0.4	3.1
Columbia Linear Park*	0.3	4.8
<i>Trails Subtotal</i>		<i>93</i>
<i>Open Space</i>		
Black Diamond Regional Preserve		3,700
Browns Island Regional Shoreline		700
<i>Open Space Subtotal</i>		<i>4,400</i>
<b>Total Trails &amp; Open Space Acreage</b>		<b>4,493</b>

\* Currently (year 2000) under construction.

Source: City of Pittsburg, Leisure Services Dept

Regional open spaces within the Planning Area include Browns Island Regional Shoreline and Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, both owned by EBRPD. Browns Island Regional Shoreline is a tidal marshland area directly across New York Slough from the City's Downtown. The island preserve provides habitat for a variety of the region's waterfowl and wetlands animals. Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve was a profitable source of coal for many miners during the mid to late 1800s. Riddled with underground mining tunnels, the hills on Pittsburg's southern border now provide valuable wildlife habitat and recreational open space acreage. Table 8-4 gives open space acreages for both of Pittsburg's regional preserves.

Several trails within the Planning Area provide access to regional open spaces, as well as connections to various neighborhoods within the City, as described in Table 8-4. The Delta De Anza Trail runs east-west through the Planning Area for nearly 4.8 miles along the Mokelumne Aqueduct, an East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) right-of-way. Approximately 78 acres of the Delta De Anza Trail lie within the city limits, connecting single-family residential neighborhoods throughout the southern portion of the City. The Stoneman Park trailhead offers access to a trail through the canyons of Stoneman Park. The Eighth Street Linear Park provides a linear greenway through the City's older neighborhoods in and near Downtown, and will connect to other multi-use trails along the waterfront.

Vacant, rolling hills in the southern portion of the Planning Area are used intermittently for livestock grazing. The preservation of local hillsides as open space areas is important for several reasons: marginal agricultural value resulting from grazing activities; undisturbed grasslands habitat; preservation of ridgeline views from developed areas within the City; and quality-of-life value due to open space acreage accessible to local residents.

Proposed trails and open space within the Planning Area include the Contra Costa Canal, Kirker Creek riparian corridor, and PG&E power line right-of-way. Although these proposed trail easements are currently owned by local property-owners or utility companies, the City may actively pursue use of the rights-of-way for recreational activities.

**GOALS: TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE**

- 8-G-3 *Promote a local trail and linear park system to provide access to regional open space areas, as well as connections between neighborhoods.*
- 8-G-4 *Support and promote the active use of regional open space areas, such as Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve, by local residents.*

**POLICIES: TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE**

- 8-P-17 *Work with East Bay Regional Parks District to explore the possibility of developing passive recreation uses and educational programs on Browns Island, such as boating excursions to view waterfowl nesting areas.*

Because it consists almost entirely of marshlands and channels, Browns Island could provide the City with a remarkable resource for wetlands education programs. Informational kiosks may be developed along the City's waterfront to inform visitors of wildlife species and educational programs associated with the island.

- 8-P-18 *Cooperate with regional agencies to develop a "Bay to Black Diamond" trail through the City, providing a diversity of passive recreational opportunities and unique vistas.*

The passive recreational uses currently available at Black Diamond Mines include miles of hiking, biking and jogging trails. The City should promote the extension of these trails north through the City, connecting local park facilities with the Suisun Bay waterfront and Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.

- 8-P-19 *Cooperate with East Bay Municipal Utility District to ensure continued public access to the Delta De Anza Trail, along the Mokelumne Aqueduct right-of-way.*
- 8-P-20 *Pursue the development and extension of local and regional trails throughout the Planning Area by utilizing available public utility rights-of-way including:*

- *Kirker Creek. The Kirker Creek easement could be developed as a creekside trail, connecting other trails and open spaces throughout the City with the hiking trails in the Black Diamond Mines Regional Preserve.*
- *Contra Costa Canal. The Contra Costa Canal provides a meandering right-of-way throughout the southern portion of Pittsburg. A trail along this right-of-way could link several neighborhoods with the Railroad Avenue commercial corridor.*
- *PG&E Utility ROW. PG&E holds a right-of-way for the power/utility lines that run north-south from the southern hills to the power plant on the waterfront, an ideal corridor for public access.*

These rights-of-way are all considered privately owned open space, but may have development potential for recreational trails. Where possible, use trails and linear parks to connect other parks and recreational facilities within the Planning Area.

- 8-P-21 Encourage new residential development in hillside areas to develop public trails and/or trailheads providing connections to other regional and local open spaces.*

Hillside residential subdivisions are developed using clustering techniques to avoid steep, unstable slopes. Recreational trails, however, can be provided through the open space pockets to provide residents with access to the larger trails network within the Pittsburg Planning Area.

- 8-P-22 Preserve land under Williamson Act contract in agriculture, consistent with State law, until urban services are available and expansion of development would occur in an orderly and contiguous fashion.*

## **8.4 WATERFRONT ACCESS**

---

Parks and recreation areas along the City's waterfront can take advantage of one of Pittsburg's most identifiable resources, the Delta shoreline. Historically, Pittsburg's waterfront was used for docking, fishing and canning, and shipping of coal. Black Diamond Mines was the first source of fossil fuel discovered in California, and railways bisected the Planning Area to transport coal and cargo to Suisun Bay. Later, steel, chemical production, and other heavy industries developed along the eastern shore, while Concord Naval Weapons Station spread out to the west.

Currently, the small portion of waterfront adjacent to Downtown consists of small-craft marinas. However, both physical and visual public access to and along the shoreline is lacking. Although nearly three miles of shoreline lie within the city limits, only two small recreational areas—Central Harbor Park and Riverview Park—provide public access to the waterfront. Along the City's shoreline east of Downtown, heavy industrial uses on privately-owned land continue to dominate. Public access, in the form of shoreline trails or smaller park access points, would maximize the City's use of this limited natural resource. Waterfront development standards may require wider setbacks from both residential and industrial development projects to provide the City with desired waterfront access.

Views from the public spaces, including Downtown and street rights-of-way, to the Delta shoreline are also limited. Waterfront development standards should also ensure that new development projects are designed to provide maximum views of the shoreline. Increasing the shoreline's presence within Pittsburg can provide local residents with an improved sense of community identity.

**GOALS: WATERFRONT ACCESS**

- 8-G-5 *Maximize public access to and recreational facilities along the City's waterfront areas.*
- 8-G-6 *Improve linkages between the waterfront, Downtown core, and other recreational open spaces within the City.*
- 8-G-7 *Promote improved views of the shoreline from public parks and rights-of-way.*

**POLICIES: WATERFRONT ACCESS**

- 8-P-23 *Develop standards for all new waterfront development that ensure adequate setbacks from the mean high tide line. Encourage, where possible, provision of public access to the shoreline.*

A waterfront development setback will ensure that new development along the water provides adequate space for a shoreline trail allowing residents access to the Suisun Bay.

- 8-P-24 *During review of development plans, pursue preservation of lands where streets terminate at the waterfront. Such lands should be improved as public open space, ensuring that undisturbed views of Suisun Bay and New York Slough are preserved.*

The development of lands at street terminuses for waterfront parks will provide City residents with views of and identifiable public access to the Delta shoreline.

- 8-P-25 *Emphasize the importance of public views of the shoreline (from public spaces and rights-of-way) when reviewing new development projects along the water.*

Work with developers to ensure that new development along the waterfront, particularly adjacent to Downtown, provides both site tenants and the larger public with views of the Delta shoreline. Inform developers of this City policy



early in the development review process to ensure quality design of new projects.

*8-P-26 Explore all potential improvements to fully integrate the City's shoreline into the urban fabric, including:*

- *Waterfront Parks. Pursue and develop small pockets of open space that provide physical and visual access to the waterfront.*
- *Waterfront Trail/Bikeway. A linear park along the shoreline, featuring a path for both walking and biking, would encourage more vibrant activity along the waterfront.*
- *Landscaping. Plant low-growing and flowering greenery near waterfront access points to extend streetscaping to the shoreline.*
- *Linear Trail Connections. The City's current linear trail network within Downtown and adjacent residential neighborhoods could be extended to provide convenient access to waterfront parks and activities.*

Increased shoreline access, improved landscaping and amenities in accessible areas, as well as linkages to nearby neighborhoods and Downtown, would draw more residents and visitors to Pittsburg's Downtown area. Any linear park connection made to provide access to the shoreline will improve residents' sense of identity with the waterfront.

## **8.5 RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS**

---

Pittsburg's Recreation Department administers and operates youth and adult sports, aquatics, art classes, excursions, and other recreational programming for the community. Because of Pittsburg's ethnic and socio-economic diversity, the City must provide a wide variety of recreational and education programs at low costs. Fortunately, Pittsburg maintains a variety of recreational facilities, including community centers, a swimming pool, baseball diamonds and basketball courts, a golf course, nature trails, and a community theatre.

Nearly one-third of Pittsburg's population is age 17 or younger. A high proportion of youths, who are free from classes in mid-afternoon, creates a definite need for recreational and cultural programs within the City. The development of teen facilities and programs is important to the well-being of local youth; examples of successful City facilities and programs include the proposed Skateboard Park and the Pittsburg Summer Youth Corp, a community service program that rewards volunteers with field trips and camping excursions.

Additionally, as Pittsburg's population ages, there is likely to be a greater demand for senior services and activities. The development of a Senior Center provides local seniors with a space in which to continue and expand exercise classes, music lessons, health and diet programs, and social events.

There are many private cultural programs and groups within Pittsburg that need significant cultural facilities in which to meet and perform. However, local community centers are aging and library collections are becoming antiquated. High priority should be placed on the development of such facilities, potentially in cooperation with Los Medanos Community College, which features an expansive library and performing arts center. The City's Recreation Department also works closely with the Pittsburg Chamber of Commerce to bring several special events and festivals to local residents every year, including the Renaissance Festival in August. There is also Small World Park – a fantasy playground featuring small replicas of a Children's Days.



*Pittsburg's Civic Center is an important icon in the City's landscape.*

**GOALS: RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS**

- 8-G-8 *Provide a diversity of recreational and cultural opportunities, including facilities and programs targeted toward local youth and senior residents.*
- 8-G-9 *Promote the arts as an integral component of Pittsburg's quality of life, economic vitality, and efforts to build a safe and healthy community.*

**POLICIES: RECREATIONAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS**

- 8-P-27 *Locate community facilities in and adjacent to public parks, where possible. Encourage community organizations to utilize these and other park facilities for recreational and cultural activities.*
- 8-P-28 *Pursue the development of recreational facilities and programs specifically geared toward youth and teens, including:*
- *Teen Center. A teen center would provide a safe environment for local youth to meet and interact, or to participate in after-school, athletic, or cultural activities.*
  - *Gymnasium. A large gymnasium would provide the City with more opportunity to get youth involved in local sports leagues and after-school drop-in games, such as basketball.*
  - *Skateboard Park. Construction of a skateboard park would provide challenging topography in a controlled environment for local skateboarders. The City is currently working on the development of such a facility.*
- 8-P-29 *Enable private and non-profit programs to use City recreational facilities, as needed.*
- 8-P-30 *Continue to develop programs for the Senior Center, featuring cultural and recreational programs, classes and special events geared toward the community's seniors.*

The location and development of a Senior Center, where older residents can meet for recreation programs and classes, will be an important consideration in Pittsburg's future.

- 8-P-31 *Improve public cultural facilities, including community centers, theatres, and libraries. Cooperate with Los Medanos Community College to provide City residents with access to local cultural facilities.*
- 8-P-32 *Participate in partnership and collaborative efforts with local art groups and service organizations to strengthen local, regional, and State art advocacy efforts.*
- 8-P-33 *Provide incentives to encourage investments in public art on historic properties.*
- 8-P-34 *Explore and develop new funding options for maintenance of public art, in partnership with private developers.*
- 8-P-35 *Encourage collaboration among artists, art organizations, and other community partners, including businesses, educational institutions, and individuals, for acquisition and maintenance of public art.*
- 8-P-36 *Utilize art and cultural programs as a revitalizing force for renewal of the Downtown.*
- 8-P-37 *Work in partnership with artists, art organizations, and educational institutions to educate youth in the arts.*
- 8-P-38 *Support the preservation, maintenance, and development of community cultural facilities that provide gathering places for cultural exploration, expression, and inspiration.*

## 8.6 EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES

Educational facilities within Pittsburg include elementary and secondary schools, a community college, and a public library. All of the public schools in Pittsburg are within either Pittsburg Unified School District or Mount Diablo Unified School District. However, a few residential blocks in the southeast portion of the City are located within the Antioch School District boundaries. Public school district boundaries and facilities are identified in Figure 8-2.

In addition to elementary and secondary schools, two continuation schools, two private parochial schools (Saint Peter Martyr School and Lighthouse Christian Center School), and Los Medanos Community College operate within the Planning Area. Table 8-5, lists enrollment and capacity figures for all school facilities within Pittsburg.

### PITTSBURG UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Pittsburg Unified School District (PUSD) currently operates seven elementary schools (grades K-5), two middle schools (grades 6-8), and one high school (grades 9-12). Additionally, the school district provides adult education programs, independent study, home teaching, and special education. Many of the schools within PUSD have reached or are nearing capacity.

### MOUNT DIABLO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD) spans several cities within Contra Costa County. District facilities in the community of Bay Point (within the Pittsburg Planning Area) include three elementary schools (grades K-5), one middle school (grades 6-8), and one continuation school. Several MDUSD schools within the Pittsburg Planning Area have reached or are nearing capacity. The expansion of residential development into the southern hills will also result in the need for additional MDUSD school sites within city limits. Proposed schools include San Marco Elementary School, and potential conversion of an existing school site within the Planning Area to a high school facility.



*Stoneman Elementary (located on Loveridge Road, south of the hospital) is one of seven elementary schools within the Pittsburg Unified School District.*

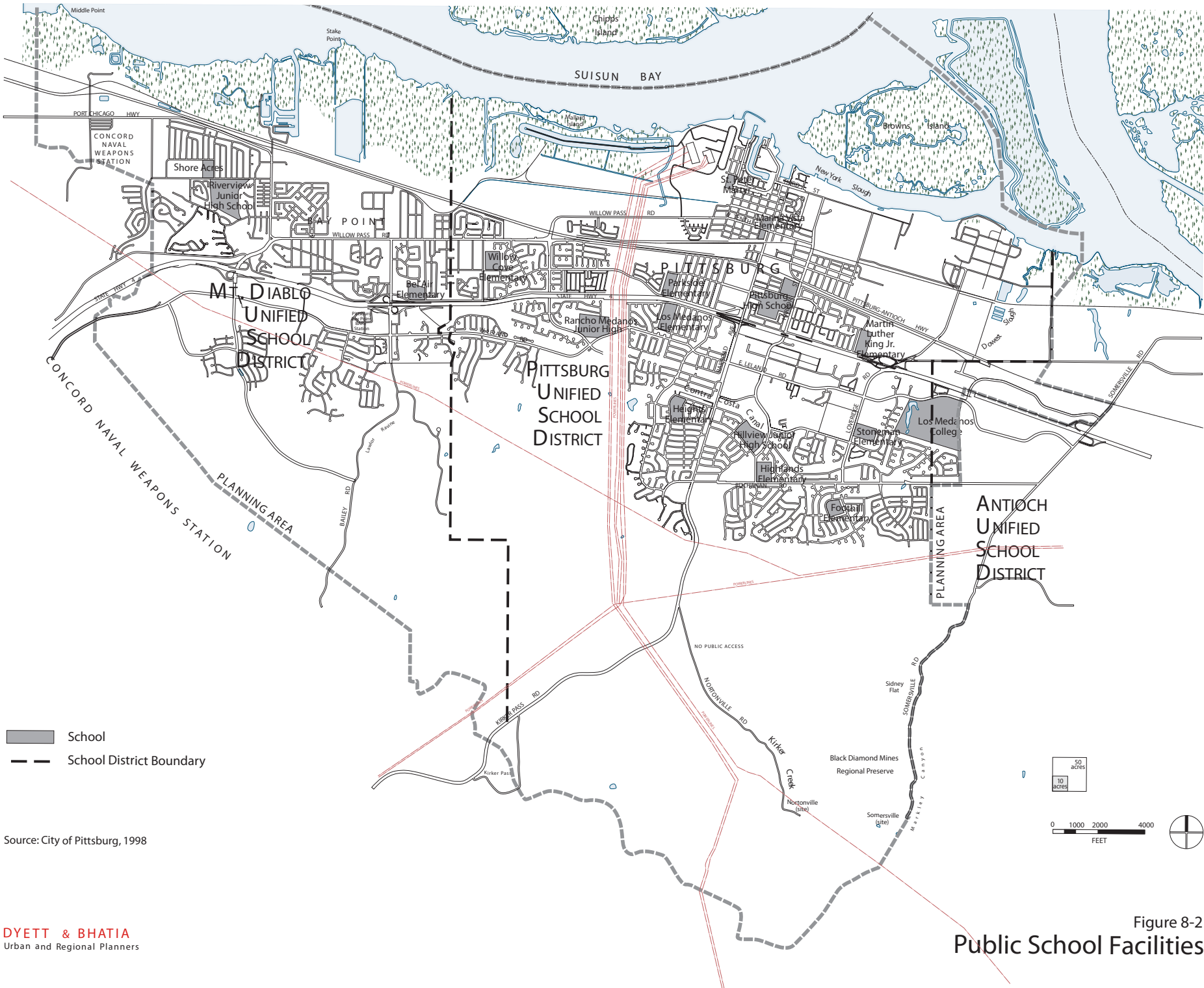


Figure 8-2  
Public School Facilities

## LOS MEDANOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Los Medanos Community College, opened in 1974 as Contra Costa Community College District's third campus, serves as a valuable educational and recreational resource to local residents. Los Medanos, loosely translated from Spanish, means "The Sand Dunes." The College serves adults of all ages from central and eastern Contra Costa County. In addition to general education classes, Los Medanos provides career training to a student body numbering approximately 8,500. The College also features a Public Safety Training Center for local law enforcement and fire response personnel.

Total enrollment for 1999-2000 was 21,338 students, including PUSD, MDUSD, Los Medanos Community College, private schools, and alternative education. Analysis of enrollment figures versus school capacities indicates that a majority of schools are currently operating above capacity (eight elementary schools, two middle schools, and Pittsburg High School). On average, Pittsburg Unified School District is operating at 113 percent of capacity.

**Table 8-5**  
**Schools, Enrollment and Capacity, Pittsburg Planning Area: 2003-2004**

<i>Level</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>% Capacity</i>
<b><i>Pittsburg Unified School District</i></b>				
<i>Elementary (K-5)</i>	Foothill Elementary	681	650	105%
	Heights Elementary	517	600	86%
	Highlands Elementary	707	650	109%
	Los Medanos Elementary	695	600	116%
	Parkside Elementary	658	650	101%
	Stoneman Elementary	677	650	104%
	Willow Cove Elementary	730	600	122%
<i>Intermediate (6-8)</i>	Central Junior High	1,178	700	168%
	Hillview Junior High	1,048	1,000	105%
<i>High School (9-12)</i>	Pittsburg High	2,000	1,950	103%

**Table 8-5 (continued)**  
**Schools, Enrollment and Capacity, Pittsburg Planning Area: 2003-2004**

<i>Level</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>% Capacity</i>
<i>Alternative Education</i>	Martin Luther King Preschool	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Adult Education Center	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Riverside Continuation High	178		
	Opportunity	22		
	Independent Study (GRASP)	131	420	92%
	Home Teaching	10		
	Community Day School	46		
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>9,602</b>	<b>8,470</b>	<b>113%</b>
<b><i>Mount Diablo Unified School District</i></b>				
<i>Elementary (K-5)</i>	Bel Air Elementary	691	702	98%
	Shore Acres Elementary	755	726	104%
	Rio Vista Elementary	592	570	104%
<i>Intermediate (6-8)</i>	Riverview Middle	868	893	97%
<i>Alternative Education</i>	Gateway Continuation High School	30	45	67%
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>2,936</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Other Schools</i>	Saint Peter Martyr Parochial (PreK-8)	300	345	87%
	Los Medanos Community College	8,500	8,500	100%
	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>8,800</b>	<b>8,845</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>Total Schools</b>		<b>21,338</b>	<b>20,251</b>	<b>105%</b>

*Source: Pittsburg and Mount Diablo Unified School Districts, and St. Peter Martyr School.*



## ENROLLMENT PROJECTIONS

Enrollment projections based on California Department of Finance age cohort projections and General Plan buildout estimates result in an increase of approximately 4,415 students within PUSD and MDUSD by 2020. Table 8-6 shows that the student body of PUSD will increase by 13 percent, while new residential development proposed for the southwestern portion of the City will double MDUSD enrollment.

**Table 8-6**  
**Projected School Enrollment, Pittsburg Planning Area, 2020**

	<i>Elementary</i>	<i>Intermediate</i>	<i>High School</i>	<i>Alternative</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>% of Total</i>
Pittsburg USD	5,643	1,822	2,850	712	11,028	65%
Mount Diablo USD	2,502	808	1,263	1,352	5,925	35%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,145</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>4,113</b>	<b>2,064</b>	<b>16,953</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: California Department of Finance K-12 Enrollment Projections, Pittsburg General Plan 2004 Buildout Projections, Dyett & Bhatia.*

Retaining all existing school sites in PUSD will allow future classes to drop below capacity limits within most PUSD facilities. However, MDUSD must begin planning the construction or conversion of school sites in order to accommodate anticipated population growth – two additional elementary schools and one high school will be needed by General Plan buildout. Proposed school sites are listed in Table 8-7. Additional school sites may be identified through negotiations with the school districts to accommodate population growth within the Southwest Hills subarea.

**Table 8-7**  
**Potential School Sites, Pittsburg Planning Area**

<i>Proposed Location</i>	<i>School District</i>
Proposed San Marco Development	Mt. Diablo Unified
Proposed Alves Development	Mt. Diablo Unified
Range Rd @ West Leland Rd, City of Pittsburg	Pittsburg Unified

*Source: City of Pittsburg General Plan Land Use Diagram*

**LIBRARY SERVICES**

The Pittsburg branch of the Contra Costa County Library is located at 80 Power Avenue. It is one of 23 branches within the County Library system. Programs held at the Pittsburg branch include Story Time for children ages three to five, an Introduction to Guide Dogs family program, and other special events. The Friends of the Pittsburg Library hold various book sales and fund-raising events to keep the library collection up-to-date, as well as volunteer with restocking and organizing book shelves during library hours.

**GOALS: EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

- 8-G-10 Ensure that school facilities maintain adequate capacity to provide for current and projected enrollment.*
- 8-G-11 Develop land uses, activities and connections surrounding Los Medanos Community College to foster linkages between the campus and the community.*

**POLICIES: EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES**

- 8-P-39 Work with Mount Diablo Unified School District to ensure that the timing of school construction and/or expansion is coordinated with phasing of new residential development.*

The distribution and growth of residential land uses as projected by the General Plan have a significant effect on projected school enrollment. The City is currently reviewing a number of proposed residential subdivisions in the southern portion of the City. Mount Diablo Unified School District must ensure that adequate school facilities are provided for the youth population of these growing areas. The Schools Master Plan should consider the General Plan land use distribution and plan school locations and improvements accordingly.

- 8-P-40 Encourage the MDUSD to reopen the former Pacifica High School or cooperate with MDUSD to identify possible sites for the construction of a new high school facility and/or middle school facility, or both.*

Current residents of the Pittsburg Planning Area located within MDUSD boundaries use high school facilities that are located within adjacent communities, such as Concord.

- 8-P-41 As part of development review for large residential subdivisions (greater than 100 units), evaluate the need for new school sites. If needed, encourage subdivision design to accommodate school facilities and cooperate with the school districts in acquisition of those sites.*

- 8-P-42 Cooperate with local school districts to develop joint school/park facilities, which provide an increased variety of recreational opportunities close to many residential areas. Additionally, work with school districts to develop public parks adjacent to school facilities.*

Joint school/park planning provides more opportunity for recreational uses near residential areas with reduced design, construction, and maintenance costs to both parties. Cooperation with the school districts on the four proposed school sites listed in Table 8-7 would provide a dramatic increase in recreational facilities for local youth.



*Highlands Elementary serves approximately 700 Pittsburg children.*

*8-P-43 Emphasize the integration of land uses and activities surrounding Los Medanos Community College. Encourage physical connections between the College and surrounding neighborhoods, commercial areas, and open space resources.*

As planned expansions of the campus take place, connections between the college and surrounding residential and commercial areas become more important. Encourage use of the Delta De Anza Trail by students, since the bikeway provides excellent connections to residential areas within the City. As the area between State Route 4 and East Leland Road is redeveloped, such connections can help the new urban uses and Los Medanos Community College complement one another.

*8-P-44 Pursue joint-planning of recreational and cultural facilities on Los Medanos Community College campus. Work with the community college Board to allow public access to recreational facilities and programs.*

College campuses often provide exceptional recreational and cultural facilities for use by enrolled students. Partnering with the community college Board may tremendously increase the facilities and programs available to local residents.

*8-P-45 Promote use of the educational and cultural resources available at the Pittsburg Library.*