

# GPU Park Site Visit Report

2/4/2025

## I. Introduction

In July to August 2024, Strategic Planning staff conducted site visits to 22 parks across Oakland, to better understand the condition and distribution of park amenities distribution throughout the city. [The findings](#), in tandem with existing data and research conducted using Google Earth, will be used to develop a park amenities matrix as part of the update of the General Plan's [Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation \(OSCAR\) Element](#). These findings will also augment the Citywide Parks Condition Assessment project to be completed by Oakland Public Works, as well as help advance the City's goal of providing safe, clean, and high-quality outdoor spaces to all residents.

## II. Methodology

Staff worked with the departments of Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Youth Development to develop the process used to create the list of parks to visit and amenities to review. Staff also reviewed existing work by these departments, existing amenity maps, and work from the Oakland Parks and Recreation Foundation, and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee to inform our methodology.

To ensure that site visits were equitably distributed and prioritized historically marginalized communities, we developed a park prioritization strategy. To be selected for a site visit, parks had to meet two criteria, 1) parks must be in an environmental justice community (as defined by the Environmental Justice element) and 2) parks must be categorized as an active mini park, neighborhood park, or community park. These park classifications were chosen because of their popularity with the local community, rather than regional parks that may also draw visitors from outside of the city. It was important for the planning team to visit parks that were more likely to be frequented by local community members. From the parks that met this criteria, two parks from each neighborhood hub were then identified for site visit prioritization. This process resulted in the twenty-two parks listed in Figure A being prioritized for a site visit.

Site visits were conducted by a group of 2-3 Strategic Planning team members. Each member of the team collaborated to complete the [site visit checklist](#). The checklist prompted the surveyors to identify park signage and times of operation, availability and quality of restrooms, general park amenities, public transportation accessibility and pedestrian safety, number of people present at parks, and activities observed.

**Figure A. Park Site Visits**

Park	Address	Hub	Category
Jefferson Square	618 Jefferson Street Oakland, CA 94607	Lake-Frank Ogawa	Neighborhood Park
Lincoln Square Park	261 11 <sup>th</sup> Street Oakland, CA 94607	Lake-Main Library	Community Park
Peralta Park	2 10 <sup>th</sup> Street	Lake-Main Library	Neighborhood Park

	Oakland, CA 94607		
Clinton Square Park	1230 6 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Oakland, CA 94606	Center-FM Smith	Neighborhood Park
South Prescott Park	1494 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street Oakland, CA 94606	West-Raimondi	Neighborhood Park
Willow Mini Park	1678 13 <sup>th</sup> Street Oakland, CA 94607	West-Raimondi	Neighborhood Park
Wade Johnson Park	1250 Kirkham Ct Oakland, CA 94607	West-deFremery	Neighborhood Park
Lowell Park	1180 14 <sup>th</sup> Street Oakland, CA 94607	West-deFremery	Neighborhood Park
Union Point Park	2311 Embarcadero Oakland, CA 94606	Center-Union Point	Neighborhood Park
Lion Creek Park	966 66th Avenue Oakland, CA 94621	East-Rainbow	Neighborhood Park
Rainbow Park	5800 International Blvd Oakland, CA 94621	East-Rainbow	Community Park
Peralta Hacienda Park	2500 34th Avenue Oakland, CA 94601	Center-Dimond	Neighborhood Park
San Antonio Park	1701 E 19 <sup>th</sup> Street Oakland, CA 94606	Center-San Antonio	Community Park
Josie de la Cruz Park	1637 Fruitvale Avenue Oakland, CA 94601	Center-Dimond	Neighborhood Park
Foothill Meadows Park and Foothills Meadow Extension	3705 Foothill Blvd Oakland, CA 94601  1800 38 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Oakland, CA 94601	Center-Brookdale	Neighborhood Park, Active Mini Park
Brookfield Park	9175 Edes Avenue Oakland, CA 94603	East-Brookfield	Community Park
Sobrante Park	470 El Paseo Drive Oakland, CA 94603	East-Brookfield	Neighborhood Park
Officer Willie Wilkins Park	9700 C Street Oakland, CA 94603	East-Tassafaronga	Neighborhood Park
Holly Mini Park	9826 Holly Street Oakland, CA 94603	East-Tassafaronga	Active Mini Park
Arroyo Viejo Park	7701 Krause Avenue Oakland, CA 94605	East-Arroyo	Community Park
Concordia Park	3000 62nd Avenue Oakland, CA 94605	East-Arroyo	Neighborhood Park
Oak Park	3229 Kempton Avenue Oakland, CA 94611	West-Mosswood	Active Mini Park
Linden Park	998 42nd Street Oakland, CA 94608	West-Mosswood	Active Mini Park

### III. Findings and Next Steps

The findings for each park are listed in [this spreadsheet](#) for ease of viewing.

These site visits were the first step of a larger process to developing a park amenity matrix for all of Oakland parks as part of the OSCAR update. The park amenity matrix will be an accessible and easy to understand tool that will allow users to quickly identify which parks have amenities that meet their interests and needs.

The site visits were also complemented by a citywide park survey that asked respondents to share how they use their parks and what improvements they would like to see at their parks. We received nearly 600 survey responses that provided insights on conditions and uses at over 50 parks across Oakland. The [survey findings](#) show that Oakland parks are well-loved and have a consistent user base. Park users understand parks as spaces of community connection and belonging, as well as spaces that support outdoor recreation and community health. However, uneven access to green space across the city, aging infrastructure, lack of park maintenance, and concerns about safety are challenges experienced by many park users.

Both the observations from the park site visits and the findings from the park survey will be used to inform the development of the OSCAR, the broader General Plan Update and will support existing strategies to guide the maintenance and management of Oakland's parks.