

# Executive Summary

## Bay Point Park Assessment Report:

### A community-based participatory research and evaluation project

Prepared March 2018

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In August 2017, a collaborative team of residents and early childhood health organizations assessed nine parks within the unincorporated area of Bay Point to determine their suitability for young children and families to play and engage in physical activity. The partners included: East County Regional Group (ECRG)—a parent advocacy group comprised of residents of East Contra Costa County; First 5 Contra Costa Children and Families Commission; and Healthy & Active Before 5 (HAB45). During follow-up workshops, community participants analyzed the data, identified themes, selected priority parks, and developed recommendations for improvements.

## 2. ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The team developed a survey tool which included eight assessment categories: family amenities, maintenance, safety, play equipment, wheelchair/ADA requirements, park accessibility/transportation, young child experience, and parent overall rating. On August 19, 2017, staff, ECRG members, and other Bay Point residents conducted an assessment of all nine Bay Point parks. Project staff compiled the assessment data and facilitated two community workshops in early 2018 to identify themes across parks and prioritize recommendations for improvement. In addition to park surveys, the partners consulted data from the East Contra Costa County health indicator report, local crime rates, and U.S Census Bureau<sup>i,ii</sup> data to identify two priority parks and agree upon recommendations for park improvements.

## 3. FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

The partners found that the overall quality of the nine parks assessed was low, with improvements most needed in the areas of play equipment, amenities, ADA accessibility, and maintenance at all parks. In particular, the partners recommend immediate improvements are made to Ambrose and Lynbrook parks because these parks are located in neighborhoods where poverty rates, population of young children, and crime rates are high. Further, there is a strong sense among community members that Ambrose and Lynbrook have the most potential to be lively, popular, and widely used community parks.

| Park Name          | Amenities | Maintenance | Safety | Play Equipment | ADA Access | Child | Parent |
|--------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|----------------|------------|-------|--------|
| Ambrose Park       | 2.62      | 3.07        | 2.57   | 3.15           | 1.95       | 2.33  | 2.59   |
| Boeger Park        | 1.4       | 3.8         | 3.39   | 3.25           | 1.78       | 2.15  | 2.41   |
| Trade Winds        | 0.78      | 1.5         | 1.45   | 0.3            | 0.6        | 0.49  | 0.9    |
| View Pointe        | 0.4       | 2.5         | 2.6    | 2.63           | 0.95       | 1.32  | 1.79   |
| Alves Lane         | 1.34      | 2           | 1.05   | 0.4            | 0.8        | 1.03  | 1.13   |
| Anuta              | 1.4       | 2.67        | 2.4    | 2.35           | 1.8        | 1.78  | 2.15   |
| Ambrose Recreation | 1.36      | 2.17        | 2.15   | 2              | 1.7        | 1.77  | 1.92   |
| Hickory Meadows    | 0.78      | 2.23        | 2.55   | 2.4            | 1.2        | 1.85  | 1.88   |
| Lynbrook           | 1.72      | 2.73        | 2.4    | 2.75           | 1.6        | 2.41  | 2.34   |

|                       |                         |                        |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4.00-5.00             | 3.00-3.99               | 2.00-2.99              | 0-1.99                  |
| No Improvement Needed | Needs Minor Improvement | Needs Some Improvement | Needs Major Improvement |

## 4. RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall, the partners recommend that existing, low-rated parks, located in very low-income areas, surrounded by a relatively high count of young children, and plagued with high crime rates are prioritized for immediate improvements, with a focus on the four thematic priority areas. In particular, the partners recommend that Ambrose and Lynbrook parks receive immediate improvements in the areas of amenities, play equipment, safety, and ADA access with a specific focus on improvements that benefit young children (Table 2). The recommendations reflect a comprehensive vision for park redesign that community members assert will promote equitable park access, increased park use by young children and families, increased social cohesion, and neighborhood safety that Bay Point children deserve. The

partners recommend that the Ambrose Recreation & Park District allocate funds and work with the project partners to seek additional park improvement funding to implement the suggested renovations. Partners also encourage staff and elected officials to work with community partners—including the partners in this park assessment project—to explore other revenue generating strategies to fund the recommended park improvements at Ambrose and Lynbrook parks.

| <b>Table 2: Ranked Recommendations for Priority Parks</b>   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Ambrose Park: Priority Recommendations</b>   |   |
| 1.  | Renovated, clean, accessible restrooms                            |
| 2.  | Functional, clean water fountains                                 |
| 3.  | Accessible and engaging play structure for all ages and abilities |
| 4.  | Lighting in and around park and parking areas                     |
| Additional priorities: Maintenance of basketball courts, baseball fields, and jogging trail, improved signage, improve condition of vacant lot near park entrance |   |
| <b>Lynbrook Park: Priority Recommendations</b>  |   |
| 1.  | Renovated, clean, accessible restrooms                            |
| 2.  | Accessible and engaging play structure for all ages and abilities |
| 3.  | Clean and functional water fountains                              |
| 4.  | Improved ADA accessibility for play structure and walking paths   |
| Additional priorities: Walking trail or track around sports field, picnic tables and other seating, BBQ grills, lighting  |   |

**Image 1: Bay Point park locations, parent ratings**

**Color Code**

**Green (4.0-5.0):**

Great

**Yellow (3.0-3.9):**

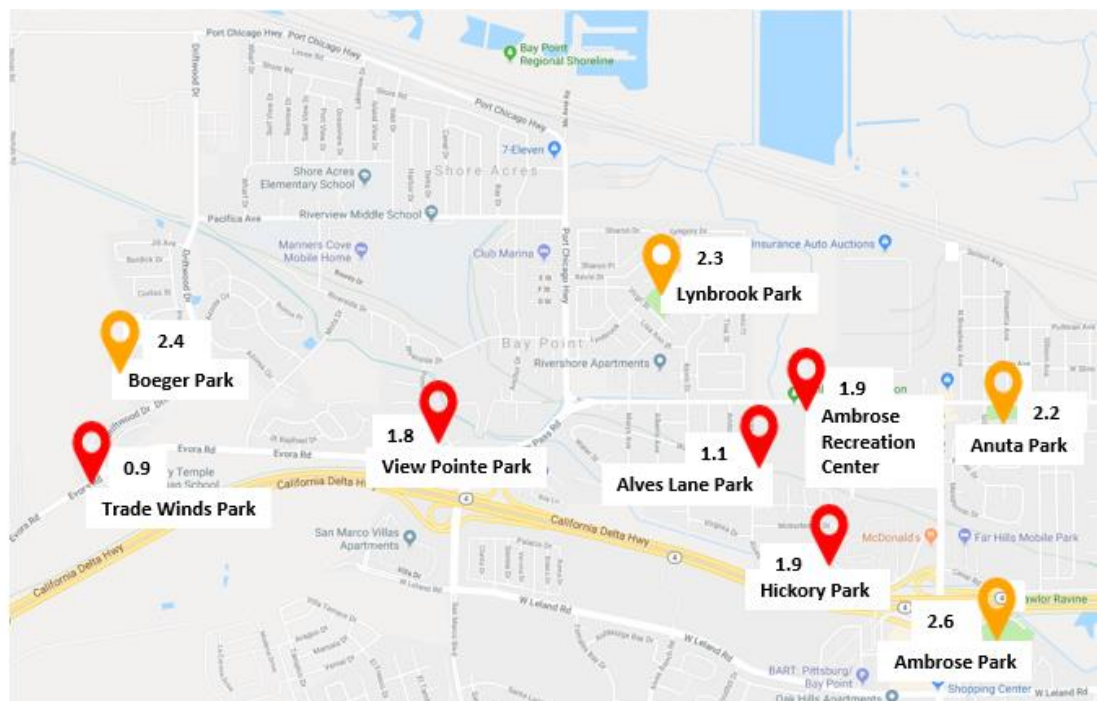
Okay

**Orange (2.0-2.9):**

Needs Some Improvement

**Red (0-1.9):**

Needs Major Improvement



<sup>i</sup> Rattray, T., Kroch, A., Ritterman-Weintraub, M., Rovira-Osterwalder, T., & Milosevich, D. (2013). *Health Indicators and Environmental Factors Related to Obesity for Antioch, Bay Point, and Pittsburg*. Martinez: Contra Costa Health Services.

<sup>ii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey. Obtained by First 5 Contra Costa and Healthy & Active Before 5, January and March 2018.