



8 COMMUNITY SERVICES, CULTURAL RESOURCES & PUBLIC FACILITIES

This section presents information regarding community services, cultural resources and public facilities in the Planning Area. Community services include libraries, health services, and youth recreation activities. Cultural resources include information about the use of space and cultural activities that occur in the area. Public facilities include parks, schools, and fire and police services.

8.1 Cultural Resources

According to the AHS Community Engagement Process Report, the community goal in regards to cultural preservation is to ensure that public services and spaces proposed preserve and reflect the cultural history and aspects of Chinatown’s historic geography.

Libraries

According to the AHS Community Engagement Process Report, the community vision for the area includes promoting library programs for youth, families, and seniors.

Main Library

The Main Library for the Oakland Public Library system is located at 125 14th Street is one of the largest public library facilities in the Bay Area. In addition to large collections of over 350,000 reference and circulating non-fiction and fiction books, the Main Library offers hundreds of current and historic magazines and newspapers, a major collection of sheet music and thousands of maps. There are federal, state and local government publications and a large collection of compact discs, videocassettes, DVDs and audiobooks. They also have an Oakland History Room, a significant resource on the history of the area, a large and active Children’s Room, and a TeenZone. 33 computers with internet access are available for public use.¹

Asian Branch Library

The Asian Library is located in the Pacific Renaissance Plaza at 388 9th Street. The Library is unique among public library branches in the United States as it houses eight Asian languages (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Cambodian, Tagalog and Laotian) in major reference titles and general subject titles. Additionally, it has an Asian Studies collection, an in-depth Asian American collection in English and a unique young adult Manga collection. English holdings comprise 30% of the total library collection which has approximately 74,000 books, CDs, videos, DVDs, VCDs, magazines and newspapers for adults, pre-school children and a growing teen collection. The Library has nine computers with internet access.²

1 City of Oakland Main Library Website, <http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/Seasonal/Sections/mainhrs.html>, Accessed December 17, 2009.

2 City of Oakland Main Library Website, <http://www.oaklandlibrary.org/Branches/asian.html>, Accessed December 17, 2009.

The Alameda County Law Library

The Alameda County Law Library provides access to current, legal information to Alameda County judges, officials, and residents as well as any attorney licensed to practice law.

Laney College Library

The Laney College campus library is open to Peralta students.

Community Facilities and Cultural Gathering Spaces

Lincoln Square Recreation Center

The Lincoln Square Recreation Center is located in Lincoln Square Park and is run by the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation. It features programs such as arts & crafts, cooking, games and cultural programs, excursions and annual traditions such as the Lunar New Year art contest. The Center is open on weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on weekends from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Each week, the Center serves hundreds of people of all ages in the Chinatown community and outside of the community. The Center has a multi-purpose gym and an outdoor playground which offers cultural classes and recreational activities year round, including ballroom dance, Chinese calligraphy, Chinese lion dance, Chinese orchestra, table tennis, basketball, line dance, and youth dance. In many ways, the Center serves as an active open space and community gathering space for youth during/after school and for adults/seniors throughout the day.

Laney College

Laney College facilities serve as a gathering space and residency for a wide range of cultural organizations. Independent from the college these organizations take advantage of the physical resources Laney offers. Some of these organizations include:

- Oakland Youth Orchestra
- Berkeley Youth Orchestra
- Purple Silk Foundation and Chinese Orchestra
- Destiny Arts
- Youth Speaks
- Chinatown Tai Chi
- Youth Tennis Advantage

- Undercurrents Swimming Program
- CRECE/Laney Soccer Little League
- San Francisco Mime Troupe
- ProArts Open Studios
- Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation

In addition, at the center of Laney College campus is a large outdoor plaza, that is surrounded by the student center, library, theatre and gymnasium, commonly referred to as “the Quad”, where informal gatherings that occur on a daily basis and often develop into spontaneous public events. Parts of the Laney College campus along the Lake Merritt Chanel are also used for Tai Chi by the Chinatown community.

Madison Square Park

Madison Square Park includes grass areas, as well as a small children’s play area. People can also be found at Madison Square Park practicing the arts of tai-chi, qigong and fan dancing.

Hall of Pioneers and Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall in Chinese Garden Park

The Chinese Garden Park (formerly Harrison Square) features a Hall of Pioneers and Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall, along with a pagoda. The hall serves as the Hong Lok Senior Center, a drop in-center for seniors ages 55 years and older, but also acts as a general social hall.

Oakland Asian Cultural Center

The Oakland Asian Cultural Center is located at 388 Ninth Street in the Pacific Renaissance Plaza, above the Oakland Asian Library. Through festivals, classes, exhibitions, school tours and other programs, its mission is to build vibrant communities through Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) arts and culture programs that foster intergenerational and cross-cultural dialogue, cultural identity, collaborations, and social justice. Through its diversity of Asian and Pacific Islander American cultural programming throughout the year, the Center hosts two annual festivals, an artist in residence program, a changing exhibition space, a school tour program, a Chinatown oral history project, and numerous performance/ visual art classes throughout the week. The 15,000 square-foot center includes a 325-seat auditorium designed with lighting, sound stage and dressing rooms for performances, and flexible seating arrange-



Oakland Main Library.



Asian Cultural Center and Asian Branch Library.



Lincoln Square Recreation Center.

ments. A full-service kitchen is available for catering and culinary classes. Classrooms, conference rooms, a dance studio and exhibit space offer year-round opportunities for cultural enrichment. Through its cultural programming and community rental program, the Center serves an estimated 25,000 to 30,000 people each year.

Milton Shoong “Mun Fu Yuen” Chinese Cultural Center

The Center is located at 316 9th Street. For well over fifty years, the Center has offered Chinese language classes to youth, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and a gym for cultural and recreational activities such as basketball, badminton, volleyball, and dance classes. Historically, there have been other Chinese language schools and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for the community such as the Wah Que School on 9th Street and churches in the community, but the Chinese Community Center has served this role since its opening in 1953.

Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts

The Center for the Arts is located at 1428 Alice Street. Patrons can participate in a variety of arts programs or rent spaces for arts events and activities. Spaces available for rent include a 400-seat theater, five dance studios, meeting rooms and rehearsal spaces.

Oakland Museum of California (OMCA)

Established in 1969 as a “museum for the people,” OMCA tells the story of California through its collections of art, history and natural science. The Museum recently underwent a renovation and expansion. Modifications encompass new exhibition and programming space, seating, and modernized lighting for better viewing of the collections. A new 90-foot canopy over the Oak Street entrance enhances the Museum’s street presence. The Art and History Galleries reopened in May 2010; the Natural Sciences Gallery and classroom and education facilities will be completed by early 2012.³ Major facets of the new program include opening on Thursday and Friday evenings; renovating the restaurant food operation with drinks in the evening, and expanding the gift shop.

Family and Regional Associations

Family Associations such as the Wong Association and regional associations such as the Zhong Shang Doo Tao Association have been around since immigrants began locating to the area. These

associations allow immigrant groups from a particular family name or ancestral area in China to reunite and build community in Chinatown. They provide social services and also recreational activities such as Mah Jong or cultural celebrations. There are over a dozen such associations in Chinatown.

Churches in Chinatown

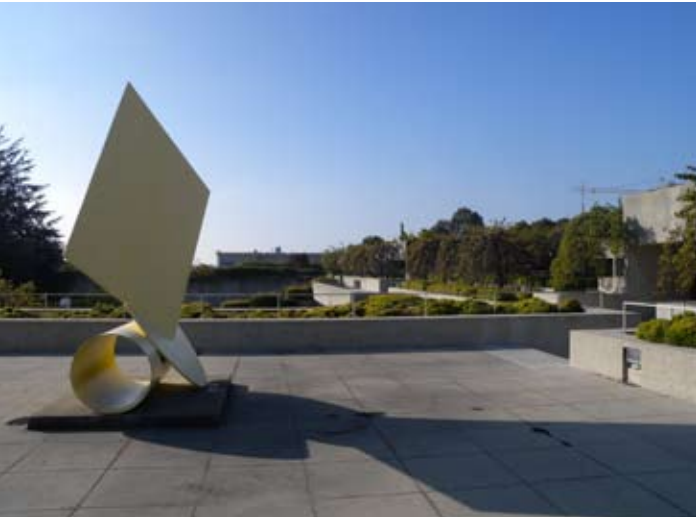
Churches in Chinatown date back to the 1870’s and have historically served as a space for community gathering and formation. Early churches such as the Presbyterians and Methodists offered English classes for immigrants in addition to other community services. The Ming Quong Home for orphaned girls was started by the Presbyterians and was located on Ninth and Fallon Streets from 1936 until the 1950’s. Churches reflected over a century of physical changes to Chinatown and the community’s resilience to these changes.

The Buddhist Church of Oakland was established in 1901; the current building was built in 1927 as the religious and cultural center for the thriving Japanese community that lived amidst the Chinatown community and served as a place of continuity for Japanese Americans amid the forced displacement of members to internment camps in 1942 for the duration of World War II. In 1950, as a result of the construction of I-880, the building was displaced from 6th and Jackson streets up three blocks to its current location at 9th Street. The Buddhist Church of Oakland has provided English classes since 1916 as well as Japanese language classes for children of the Issei immigrants.

The Episcopal Church of Our Savior was forced to relocate from Ninth and Madison Streets to 10th and Harrison Streets to make way for BART in 1965. Today, Chinatown churches continue to serve as key community and cultural gathering spaces with continuing services such as ESL classes, day care, and summer youth programs.

Churches in the Planning Area include the following:

- Buddhist Church of Oakland. 825 Jackson Street.
- The Light of the Buddha Temple. 632 Oak Street.
- Chinese Community United Methodist Church. 321 Eighth Street.
- Chinese Presbyterian Church. 265 Eighth Street.
- Chinese Independent Baptist Church. 280 Eighth Street.
- The Episcopal Church of Our Savior. 1011 Harrison Street.



Oakland Museum.



Buddhist Church.



Center for the Arts – Alice Street.



Chinese Community United Methodist Church.



The pagoda at Chinese Garden Park.



Center for the Arts – Alice Street.

³ Oakland Museum of California, <http://museumca.org/our-building>, Accessed December 17, 2009.

TABLE 8.1: COMMUNITY SERVICES, CULTURAL RESOURCES, AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

LIBRARIES		
1	Main Library	125 - 14th Street
2	Asian Branch Library	388 - 9th Street
3	Laney College	900 - Fallon Street
4	Law Library	125 - 12th Street
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND CULTURAL GATHERING SPACES		
5	Lincoln Square Recreation Center	250 - 10th Street
6	Hall of Pioneers and Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall	275 -7th Street
7	Oakland Asian Cultural Center	388 - 9th Street
8	Chinese Community Center	316 - 9th Street
9	Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts	1428 Alice Street
3	Laney College (see list of organizations using space at Laney College above)	900 - Fallon Street
10	Madison Sqaure Park	No street address
SCHOOLS		
11	Lincoln Elementary School	225 - 11th Street
12	Milton Shoong Chinese Cultural Center	309 - 10th Street
13	Chinese Community United Methodist Church Nursery School	321 - 8th Street
14	Little Star Preschool	169 - 14th Street
15	Yuk Yau Annex Preschool	314 - 10th Street
3	Laney College	900 - Fallon Street
PUBLIC SAFTEY FACILITIES		
16	Oakland Police Chinatown Substation	360A - 8th Street
17	Oakland Fire Station	822 Alice Street
18	Social Security Administration	238 - 11th Street
19	Lincoln Youth Center	261 - 11th Street
SERVICE PROVIDERS		
20	Family Bridges	168 - 11th Street
21	Asian Health Services	818 Webster Street
22	Open Door Mission	92 - 7th Street
23	Salvation Army	379 - 12th Street
24	Asian Community Mental Health Services	310 - 8th Street
25	Asian Pacific Environmental Network	310 - 8th Street
26	Filipino Advocates for Justice	310 - 8th Street
27	Asian Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership	310 - 8th Street
28	East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation	310 - 8th Street
29	Chinatown Chamber of Commerce	388 - 9th Street
30	Oakland Asian Students Educational Services	196 - 10th Street
31	Chinese American Citizens Alliance	303 - 11th Street

32	Hong Fook Adult Day Care Health Center	275 - 14th Street
33	Hong Lok Senior Center	275 - 7th Street
	National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD)	1970 - Broadway (outside study area)
	Vietnamese Community Center of the East Bay	106 International Blvd (outside study area)
	Community Health for Asian Americans	255 International Blvd (outside study area)
CULTURAL RESOURCES		
ORGANIZATIONS		
2	Asian Branch Library	388 - 9th Street
16	Lincoln Square Recreation Center	261 - 11th Street
4	Hall of Pioneers and Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall	275 - 7th Street
5	Oakland Asian Cultural Center	388 - 9th Street
9	Milton Shoong Chinese Cultural Center	309 - 10th Street
7	Malonga Casquelourd Center for the Arts	1428 Alice Street
34	Buddhist Church of Oakland	825 Jackson Street
35	The Light of the Buddha Temple	632 Oak Street
36	Oakland Museum of California	1000 Oak Street
13	Chinese Community United Methodist Church	321 - 8th Street
37	Chinese Presbyterian Church	265 8th Street
38	Chinese Independent Baptist Church	280 - 8th Street
39	The Episcopal Church of Our Savior	1011 Harrison Street
23	Salvation Army	379 - 12th Street
	Wa Sung Community Service Club	No physical location
FAMILY AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS		
40	Bing Kong Tong	374 - 8th Street
41	Chung Shan Family Association	377 - 8th Street
42	Gee How Oak Tin Association	435 - 8th Street
43	Kuo Min Tang	389 - 9th Street
44	Lee Family Benevolent Association	387 - 12th Street
45	Loong Kong Tien Yee Association	379 - 9th Street
46	Oakland Consolidated Chinese Association	373 - 9th Street
47	Soo Yuen Benevolent Association	345 - 9th Street
48	Suey Sing Chamber of Labor and Comemrce	331 - 8th Street
49	Tai Land Lim's Fmaily Association	320 - 8th Street
50	Wong Family Association	387 - 8th Street
51	Zhong Shan Doo Tao Association	372 - 7th Street
52	Toishan Association	378 - 7th Street
53	Wu Yi Friendship Association	714 Webster Street
54	Ying Din Commercial Club	712 Webster Street
55	Happy Home Senior Hall	435 - 8th Street
56	Kee Ying Chinese Senior Center	320 - 8th Street
57	Red Bean Chinese Classical Opera	714 Webster Street
58	Ying Ho Music Department Association	712 Webster Street



Figure 8.1:
COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES

- BART Station Entrance
- BART Station
- Cultural Resource & Service Locations
- Laney College
- Fire Station
- Police Station
- Lincoln School
- Oakland Public Library (Main)
- Oakland Asian Cultural Center
- Lake Merritt BART Station
- Park
- City Right of Way
- Public Buildings/ Major Destinations
- Building Footprints
- Focus Area
- Planning Area - 1/2 Mile Radius



0 100 300 500 750 1,000 Feet

Source: City of Oakland and Dyett and Bhatia, 2009.

Events

StreetFest

Established in 1988, the Oakland Chinatown StreetFest was created by the Oakland Chinatown Chamber of Commerce to encourage a sense of community in a place where diversity in people and businesses thrive. Held on the fourth weekend of August, StreetFest attracts crowds of 100,000 attendees over a two day period. It showcases the vibrancy of Chinatown and multi Asian cultures represented at over 280 street vendor booths and performance stages throughout nine blocks in the commercial core. Performances showcase not only Chinese culture, but also Vietnamese, Korean, Thai, Laotian, Filipino, Japanese, and Polynesian cultures.

Lunar New Year Celebrations & Lion Dances

Each late January to February, Lunar Year Celebrations occur throughout Chinatown.

The Chinatown Chamber of Commerce holds a Lunar New Year Bazaar, created in 2001 with diverse cultural performances at an outdoor stage and over 100 vendor booths at the Pacific Renaissance Plaza’s courtyard and surrounding streets. The outdoor bazaar allows local businesses to sell traditional flowers and gifts during Lunar New Year.

The Oakland Asian Cultural Center holds its own festival at its auditorium space, showcasing a mixture of Asian dance, music, and lion dance performances. Along with an offering of interactive Asian cultural arts and crafts projects, the festival draws hundreds of families out to the Center.

The Laney College Asian American Association also produces a Lunar New Year festival that is widely attended by students and members of the community. Activities include dragon dances, lion dances, hung fun demonstrations, musical performances and a variety of food and cultural booths representing a wide range of Asian cultures.

Night Market

Began in the summer of 2009, the Night Market is organized by the Chinatown Chamber of Commerce and runs for consecutive weekends during June and July. At the night market, numerous vendor booths and a performance stage are located in the Pacific Renaissance Plaza’s courtyard. The Chamber plans to continue expanding the night market in the coming years with a goal of promoting a sense of safety and community during summer nights.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival

The Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival is celebrated during Heritage month each May at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center. A month long schedule of events showcase a unique diversity of traditional and contemporary arts and culture through culinary workshops, music and dance performances, films, and spoken word. The festival draws over a thousand attendees annually.

Obon Festival

The Buddhist Church of Oakland hosts the annual Obon Festival that honors ancestral spirits and celebrates the Japanese-American community. The church originally held the Festival across the street at Madison Square Park, but stopped using it just a few years after it was developed because the plaza was too small for their participants and because of increasing trash and homelessness in the park. The Festival is currently held in the Church’s parking lot behind the building.

Black History Month

Each February, the Laney College African American Studies department and the Black Student Union collaborate to to produce a series of invents that include high profile public speakers, music, and dance performances in the Quad, and other cultural and educational activities

World Music Series

The Laney College Music Department sponsors a world music series in which local musical artists from around the Greater Bay Area provide a performance and lecture to introduce music from a particular culture. The biweekly performances are free and open to the public and represent nations from around the world.

Dia de los Muertos: Day of the Dead

The Laney Latin American Studies Department and the Peralta Association of Chicano and Latin American Studies a Dia de los Muertos festival that includes musical performances, an Art Gallery exhibit, and dance performances.

Open Studios

The Laney College Art Department establishes the Laney Art Center as one of the venues in the ProArts Open Studios events each year in June.

First Fridays After Five

On the evenings of the first Friday of every month, the Oakland Museum produces a night of food, music, art, film, and theatre. The First Fridays receive acclaim in local media and the arts community.

Laney Summer Music Camp

Each summer the Laney Music Department offers a music camp which focuses on genres such as jazz, classical, and vocal. Over the course of two weeks, students ranging from ages 6-18 attend camp and have an opportunity to perform in a large orchestra for a wide audience.

Laney Flea Market

Serving a diverse community, the Laney Flea Market occurs every Sunday in the Laney Parking lot, weather permitting. With over a hundred merchants, the Flea Market is visited by hundreds of people each week.

Cultural Activities

Tai Chi and Martial Arts

Tai Chi and other martial arts lessons are held each morning at Madison Square Park, drawing up to a hundred participants. Tai Chi and other martial arts classes are also held indoors at Lincoln Square Recreation Center, the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, and Laney College. Lion dance troupes from martial arts groups help the community celebrate Lunar New Year in front of business storefronts throughout the commercial core.

Dance Classes

Social and ballroom dance is a popular cultural activity for adults in Chinatown. Formal and informal classes are held throughout the week in both indoor and outdoor spaces throughout Chinatown, including Lincoln Square Recreation Center, Madison Square Park, the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, and Laney College.

Classical Asian Music

Chinese opera and classical Asian instruments (i.e. Purple Silk Orchestra) are a part of cultural life in Chinatown, and can be heard in classes held at Lincoln Square Recreation Center, the Oakland Asian Cultural Center, Laney College, Lincoln School, Family Associations, and at the outdoor stage in the Pacific Renaissance Plaza during festivals.

Sports

Badminton and ping pong are uniquely played at the Lincoln Square Recreation Center. Youth basketball is also a popular activity at Lincoln Square Park.

Mahjong

Mahjong is a table game played at Family and Regional Association centers as well as at Senior Centers such as Hong Fook.

Chinese Chess and other board games

Chinese chess is very popular among elderly Asian men and can be seen being played in clusters at cafes, senior centers, and outdoor spaces, such as the perimeter walls at the Lake Merritt BART Station.

Lion Dancing

Lion dancing occurs in front of storefronts of businesses during the weeks of the Lunar New Year celebration in late January and February.

8.2 Service Providers Inventory

Oakland Chinatown has a long history of being home to numerous service providers who focus on the needs of Asian and Pacific Islander immigrants.

Family Bridges, Inc.

Family Bridges, Inc. is a nonprofit, multi-service agency providing a variety of health and social services programs for the community. These programs include the Hong Fook Adult Day Health Care Centers, Hong Lok Senior Center, the Friendly Visitors program, the Social Services program, Registry Services, and the Diabetes Education Center. Services are targeted to serve immigrants who have limited English proficiency.

The main Administrative Office, Diabetes Education Center, and the Social Services program are located at 168 11th Street. The Hong Fook Adult Day Health Care Center is located at 275 14th Street, in the Hotel Oakland, a 315-unit senior housing facility. The sister site, Hong Fook ADHC Center - Harrison Street, is right around the corner at 1388 Harrison Street. Family Bridges, Inc. also runs the Hong Lok Senior Center in Chinese Garden Park.

Asian Health Services

Asian Health Services is a community health center that offers primary health care services with 36 exam rooms and a dental clinic with seven chairs. It serves over 20,000 patients and over 90,000 patient visits annually. The main clinic for Asian Health Services is located at 818 Webster Street. The clinic offers medical and dental services for all ages. Their satellite clinic is located at the Hotel Oakland, at 275 14th Street which specializes in elderly patients. Their mission is to serve and advocate for the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community by ensuring access to health care services regardless of income, insurance status, immigration status, language, or culture. Its staff is fluent in English and nine Asian languages including Cantonese, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Korean, Khmer (Cambodian), Mien, Mongolian, Tagalog, and Lao.

Chinatown Chamber of Commerce

The Chinatown Chamber of Commerce is located at 388 Ninth Street. It was created to promote and advocate for business and trade in Chinatown the Oakland Asian Community. Each year, the Chamber organizes the Lunar New Year Festival in February, the summer Night Market in June/ July, and Streetfest in August.

Vietnamese Community Center of the East Bay

Located on 106 International Blvd, the Community Center offers summer youth programs and senior programs such as physical and wellness activities, nutrition service, English as a second language and citizenship classes, legal interpretation and translation, information and referral, and shuttle services.

Community Health for Asian Americans

Community Health for Asian Americans is located at 255 International Boulevard. CHAA's Oakland site offers children's mental health services; co-occurring mental health/alcohol and other drugs treatment for youth; and adult mental health services. Services are also provided at Lincoln Elementary School.

Open Door Mission

Open Door Mission, located on 92 7th Street serves breakfast and dinner daily, except for Saturday.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has two locations in the Planning Area. The Salvation Army Oakland Chinatown Corps and Community Center located at 379 12th Street serves as the office for family services and as a food pantry. The location at 601 Webster serves as a men's rehabilitation center.

East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation

The East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation (EBALDC) is located at 310 Eighth Street, home of the Asian Resource Center which is a multi-service center housing social services and businesses. EBALDC is a community development corporation that develops affordable housing and community facilities with integrated services focused on tenants and neighborhood residents, with emphasis on Asian and Pacific Islander communities and the diverse low income populations of the East Bay.

Asian Community Mental Health Services

Asian Community Mental Health Services is located at 310 Eighth Street and provides multicultural and multilingual services, empowering the most vulnerable members of our community to lead healthy, productive and contributing lives.



Family Bridges.



Asian Health Services.



Asian Resource Center.

Asian Pacific Environmental Network

APEN is located at 310 Eighth Street and seeks to empower low-income Asian Pacific Islander (API) communities to achieve environmental and social justice. APEN believes that the environment includes everything around us: where we live, work and play. It strives to build grassroots organizations that will improve the health, well-being and political strength of local communities.

Filipino Advocates for Justice (Filipinos for Affirmative Action)

Filipino Advocates for Justice is located at 310 Eighth Street. Its mission is to build a strong and empowered Filipino community by organizing constituents, developing leaders, providing services, and advocating for policies that promote social and economic justice and equity for all.

Asian Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership

Asian Youth Promoting Advocacy and Leadership is located at 310 Eighth Street as its fiscal sponsor is Asian Community Mental Health Services. It partners with other community groups to organize and build the power of low-income Asian Pacific Islander youth to fight social inequities and to advance an agenda for progressive social change.

Oakland Asian Students Educational Services

The Oakland Asian Students Educational Services is located at 225 Eleventh Street. Its mission is to empower students with limited resources through education, mentorship and service to strengthen the Oakland community. It has over 400 volunteers serving over 400 students in grades K-12 each year.

Oakland Asian Cultural Center

See detailed description of the Oakland Asian Cultural Center under “Community Facilities and Cultural Gathering Spaces”.

Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance is located at 303 Eighth Street. It was one of the first community organizations in Chinatown and throughout its history has advocated for civil rights of immigrants.

National Council on Crime and Delinquency (NCCD)

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency is located at 1970 Broadway in Oakland, and is currently spearheading a community effort to explore the potential creation of a youth center in Oakland Chinatown.

Social Security Administration

This social security administration office is located at 238 Eleventh Street.

Lincoln Youth Center

This recreation center is run by the City of Oakland Parks Department and is located at Lincoln Square Park. It offers a range of programs and activities youth and people of all ages in the community. See detailed description of Center under “Community Facilities and Cultural Gathering Spaces”.

Wa Sung Community Service Club

The Wa Sung Community Service Club began awarding scholarships in 1957 to outstanding students of Asian descent graduating from high schools in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. They also host an annual Easter Pancake Breakfast for the community at Lincoln Square.



Pacific Renaissance Center.

8.3 Use of Public Space

The permeability of storefronts adds vibrancy to pedestrian sidewalk experience.

A key element that makes the pedestrian experience in Chinatown so vibrant is the permeability of the storefronts and the seamless transition from indoor/ outdoor and private/ public in many street-level frontages. One example is the pedestrian shopping experience of the food markets along Eighth Street between Franklin and Webster streets, Ninth Street between Broadway and Franklin Street and Webster Street between 8th and 9th streets

Almost all the storefronts have a level of permeability beyond what is typically found in other commercial districts. Every aspect of the storefront that can be opened is opened, such as garage doors, double doors, and windows. The storefronts with garage doors have literally no storefront at all, and the entire length of the store is open to the outside. Products overflow onto the sidewalk and blur the boundary between the store and the public area. This is more than just a display; the sidewalk is an actual part of the space. In some places cashiers sit outside and workers sort products on the sidewalk. Many of these produce stores literally extend into the sidewalk. Awnings appear over almost every store. These seem to define the boundaries of the store more than the edge of the building.

Loading and unloading occurs throughout the day in front of the stores. With no rear alleys, trucks block the right traffic lane to unload goods and load empty boxes. In many cases, palettes of goods are placed on the sidewalk and sorted outside the store.



Storefront.



Loading throughout the day on the street.



Storefront.



Loading on sidewalk.



Storefront.

Informal social gatherings often occur on circulation paths.

Sidewalks, fronts of stores, stairways, and other informal spaces present opportunities for informal social interaction, gathering, and meeting places that extend beyond indoor social spaces. An example of this is the where Chinese and Vietnamese men spend their mornings drinking coffee together inside the bakery and gather outside to talk at the Oakland Wonder Food Bakery at 340 Ninth Street. Men can also be seen playing Chinese chess and other board games along the Lake Merritt BART station edge planters.

Another example is the stairway and walkways at the Pacific Renaissance Plaza where youth congregate to eat or play board games after school or after an activity at the Asian Branch Library or the Oakland Asian Cultural Center.



Social Gatherings – chess on the sidewalk.



Informal Social Gatherings – Pacific Renaissance Plaza.



Social Gatherings – going to the bakery.



Seating at Pacific Renaissance Plaza.



Social Gatherings – drinking coffee



Youth congregating after school.

There is a walkable concentration of land uses that are culturally compatible.

Chinatown is a complete community in part due to its unique set of compatible uses for residents all within short walking distances (2-4 city blocks). Its distinct concentration of retail, social, and cultural services help facilitate the special needs of a multi-generational, ethnically diverse immigrant community. For instance, there is a concentration of grocery and fresh food stores on 8th Street between Webster and Franklin streets, south side of 9th Street between Franklin Street and Broadway, and Webster Street between 7th and 9th streets.

There is a concentration of health related services (clinics, pharmacies, herbalists) in the blocks between 8th to 10th streets and Franklin to Alice streets.

Tai Chi exercises require open space with even paving, quality light, and safety.

Quality of light, air, paving, and safety are vital components for early morning Tai Chi participants at Lake Merritt BART Plaza and now Madison Square Park. These participants previously did their exercises at the Lake Merritt BART Plaza because of the quality of the early morning light, even paving, and sense of safety. After the plaza was sealed off for construction in 2007, participants were forced to move to Madison Square Park, which lacked the physical qualities of the BART plaza. However, after the repaving of the Park’s basketball court and the demolition of the tall BART headquarters building across the street which previously blocked the morning sun, the quality of light and paved surfaces have greatly improved the experience of the Tai Chi participants at Madison Square Park.



Walkable concentration of land uses.



Concentration of Health Services.



Tai Chi open space with even paving.



Culturally compatible uses.



Health Products.



Tai Chi exercises with quality, light, and safety.



Health clinics and herbalists.

Seating opportunities are difficult to find and often seized wherever possible.

In the few places that benches are provided (Pacific Renaissance Plaza, Lincoln Square Park, some bus stops), they are almost always in use, usually by the elderly. It is evident that more seating opportunities would be welcomed. Where benches are not available, people sit wherever they can, including on windowsills and front stoops.

Street postings help relay multilingual information about services to immigrants.

As an important first entry point for many new immigrants, Chinatown uses multiple forms of communication to access to housing, jobs, and other services through its multilingual newspaper stands and information board postings like the one found on 8th Street and Webster Street.



Benches – Pacific Renaissance Plaza.



Street postings about services for immigrants.



Benches – Pacific Renaissance Plaza.



Street postings with multi-lingual information.



Squeezing in a seating place.

8.4 Schools

Laney College

Laney College is the largest of the four Peralta Community Colleges. It is located at 900 Fallon Street, adjacent to the BART Station and Oakland Museum of California, on about 60 acres. The school serves over 14,000 students, including about 500 international students, and has more than 480 full-time and adjunct positions. The school serves Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland, and Piedmont, though students from other nearby cities attend as well. Laney serves a diverse student population. Students are 31% Asian, 29% African American, 15% white, 11% Latino, 2% Filipino, and 12% other/ unknown. The average age is 31 years old and about 30 languages are spoken on campus. Most students work while taking classes and attend classes at part time.

History of Laney College

In 1915 the Oakland Unified School District created Oakland’s Vocational High School to serve the community’s need for the education of those interested in entering the skilled workforce. The Part-Time School and Central Trade and Technical Institute eventually carried on this mission, which was recognized and acknowledged when, in 1953, the Oakland Board of Education established the Laney Trade and Technical Institute. In July of that year, it also formed the Oakland Junior College, with Laney College as its Vocational Campus in a building that still stands in its original form in the Planning Area and now serves as the Oakland Unified School District Administration Building. The current Laney College campus was constructed in 1968, and opened its doors in 1970 with much of its area dedicated to producing a skilled career and technical workforce. These facilities were designed with the needs of specific trades in mind, providing the floor layout, ceiling height, electrical, ventilation and plumbing needs for the educational programs housed in them. Ever proud of being connected to Chinatown, Laney College recently hosted a centennial celebration of Feng Ru, the famous Chinese aviator who made the first self-propelled mechanized flight on the west coast of the United States, on September 21, 1909 from what is now the Laney Football Stadium. A bust of Feng Ru was sculpted for the commemoration and will be located permanently on Laney College campus.

Coursework

Coursework offered includes:

- Associate degrees, including 32 Associate of Arts Degrees, 12 Associate of Science Degrees;
- Certificates in 28 vocational programs;
- Career and technical education;
- Courses transferable to four-year colleges and universities;
- Intense, short-term courses; and
- Web-based distance learning.
- About 900 classes are held each semester in liberal arts and science fields.

Student Services

Student services are also provided, including:

- Scholarship, Financial Aid, Work Study;
- Assessment Service, Academic & Career Counseling;
- Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS);
- Veterans Affairs;
- Universal Learning Lab, Writing Center;
- Library;
- Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS);
- Tutorial & Academic Support Center;
- Technology Center & Computer Labs;
- Bookstore;
- Student Government, Clubs;
- LaneyWORKs –CalWORKs/Workforce Development Program;
- Intercollegiate Sports;
- Child Care; and
- Health Services.

Several programs at Laney College serve the community in addition to academic post-secondary education programs listed above. For instance, the College works with OUSD to promote post-secondary education through counseling services, summer programs, and campus tours. The College also works with various trades to develop apprenticeship and internship opportunities. Laney ranks among the top community colleges in California in transferring students to U.C. Berkeley.

Peralta Environmental Sustainability Conference

Laney College often hosts the annual Sustainability Conference produced by the Peralta Sustainability Committee every April. The conference brings in guest speakers and organizations to provide workshops, lectures, and panels. In addition there is entertainment, games, and food offered.”

Laney Business Symposium

Each year the Laney Business Department sponsors a symposium of top industry performers around a specific industry sector. The symposium committee designates a theme each year and then finds the industry guests to appear. There are lectures and workshops offered at the symposium.”

Other Activities and Events

Laney College serves many functions in the community. In addition to being a school, it also functions as a community facility and cultural gathering place. The campus is home to Laney Bistro, a restaurant operated by students. In addition, its Performance Theatre and an Arts Center and Gallery hosts numerous artists and performers.

Peak hours for student activity are from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. However, because of various art and cultural activities at Laney College, the campus is also very active on the weekends. The facilities are Laney College serve as a gathering space and residency for a wide range of organizations including the Oakland, Berkeley, and Chinese Orchestras, Destiny Arts, Youth Speaks, Youth Tennis Advantage, Undercurrents Swimming Program, CRECE/Laney Soccer Little League, San Francisco Mime Troupe, ProArts Open Studios, and the Spanish Speaking Citizens Foundation. In addition, there are numerous events that occur at Laney College throughout the year.



Laney College campus.



Laney College and tennis courts.



Laney College athletic fields.

Primary and Secondary Schools

The Planning Area is served by the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). Table 8.2 shows the OUSD K-8 schools that serve the Planning Area.

Table 8.3 shows historic enrollments at Lincoln Elementary School and La Escuelita Elementary School. Enrollment at OUSD schools is based on the number of applicants. For elementary and middle schools, if schools have space, everyone who applied attends that school. If there are more applicants than spaces, first priority goes to students who have an older sibling living at the same address who is already attending the applicant’s first choice school, second priority goes to students who live in the neighborhood boundary of a school, third priority goes to students who are re-directed from their neighborhood school to another school within their middle school boundary, fourth priority goes to students who live in a neighborhood where the local school(s) is (are) Program Improvement school(s), and fifth priority is an open lottery.

Other OUSD Schools within the Planning Area include the Yuk Yau Child Development Center (CDC) and the Centro Infantil Annex CDC. CDCs offer before- and after-school programming for K-3 students at a nearby elementary school, a preschool program, and a prekindergarten program. Yuk Yau is located at 291 10th Street and the Centro Infantil Annex is located at 314 East 10th Street. There are several other child care centers and preschools located within the Planning Area, shown in Table 8.4. Dewey High School, a continuation school, is also located within the Planning Area at 1100 3rd Street.

MetWest High School is located in the Planning Area at 314 East 10th Street. In order to tackle disparities of overcrowded and under-performing schools that plague the flatlands of Oakland, and due to committed teams of parents, educators, teachers and community organizations, the Oakland Unified School District adopted the New Small Autonomous Schools policy in 2000. MetWest High School opened in 2002 as one one of the first “new small autonomous schools” in Oakland. The high school is designed to foster student success through experiential learning and an extensive internship program, MetWest High School now serves 136 students and their families. Students at MetWest are 50 percent Latino, 30 percent African American, seven percent White, and 13 percent Asian American. Seventy percent of the school’s students qualifying for free and reduced lunch.

TABLE 8.2: OUSD K-8 SCHOOLS THAT SERVE THE PLANNING AREA

SCHOOL NAME	LEVEL	LOCATION	CAPACITY
Lincoln Elementary School	Elementary	225 11th Street	576
La Escuelita Elementary School	Elementary	1100 3rd Street	300
Westlake Middle School ¹	Middle School	2629 Harrison Street	606
Oakland High School ¹	High School	1023 MacArthur Boulevard	1,404
Life Academy High School ¹	High School	2111 International Boulevard	391
1. Outside Planning Area boundary.			

Source: Oakland Unified School District Website, <http://www.ousd.k12.ca.us/ousd/site/default.asp>, Accessed December 17, 2009; Oakland Unified School District Website, Presentation to Oakland Unified School District, Long Range Facilities Master Plan, 2005, <http://publicportal.ousd.k12.ca.us/19941081117574070/site/default.asp>, Accessed December 17, 2009.

TABLE 8.3: HISTORIC ENROLLMENT AT LINCOLN AND LA ESCUELITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

YEAR	LA ESCUELITA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL			LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL		
	STUDENTS ENROLLED	STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN ATTENDANCE AREA		STUDENTS ENROLLED	STUDENTS WHO LIVE IN ATTENDANCE AREA	
2000	312	270	87%	635	593	93%
2001	266	224	84%	642	604	94%
2002	267	219	82%	622	598	96%
2003	257	192	75%	607	599	99%
2004	255	172	67%	610	604	99%
2005	239	152	64%	606	591	98%
% change	-23%	-44%		-5%	0%	

Source: Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc., Impact of New Housing Developments on OUSD Enrollments and Facilities, September 5, 2006.

TABLE 8.4: CHILDCARE CENTERS AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN IN PLANNING AREA

NAME	LOCATION
Little Stars Preschool	169 14th Street
Starlite Child Development Center	246 14th Street
Oakland Head Start, Frank G Mar Center	274 12th Street
Lake Merritt Childcare Center	301 12th Street
Chinese Community United Methodist Church Nursery School	321 8th Street
Yuk Yau Annex Preschool and Yuk Yau Development School	314 10th Street

Source: Roy Chan, 2010, Dyett & Bhatia, 2009.



Lincoln Elementary.



La Escuelita Elementary School.



Starlite on Alice Street.

Construction on the Downtown Educational Complex (DEC), to be located at Second Avenue and East 10th Street, will begin construction in March 2010. The complex will host La Escuelita Elementary, MetWest High School, and Yuk Yau and Centro Infantil Child Development Centers, while providing the community with a state-of-the art, multi-use structure. The plans include playing fields that potentially could be used by other groups in the Planning Area if a mutual use agreement is developed.

There have been a number of charter schools established in Chinatown. Some of them have come and moved at different points in time. One of the most recent ones is the Lighthouse Community Charter School which was located at 345 12th Street (between Harrison St & Webster St). It has since relocated to 444 Hegenberger Road, near the Oakland Airport.

Schools that play a particularly important and unique role in the community include Lincoln Elementary School and the Chinese Community Center & Milton Shoong Chinese Cultural Center.

Lincoln Elementary School has over a century of history serving youth in the neighborhood. Currently, the K-5 public elementary school serves over 600 students and a large percentage of the student population comes from a home where a language other than English is spoken, including Cantonese, Mandarin, and Mongolian.

The Chinese Community Center & Milton Shoong Chinese Cultural Center is located at 316 9th Street. For well over fifty years, the Center has offered Chinese language classes to youth, English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, and a gym for cultural and recreational activities such as basketball, badminton, volleyball, and dance classes.

School Demand

Table 8.5 shows the number of students per housing unit in the Planning Area. Table 8.6 shows the estimated student generation rate based on a 2006 study initiated by OUSD to evaluate the effects of recent new downtown Oakland housing development on OUSD enrollments and facilities.⁴ The study cited several factors that affect student generation patterns in high-rise buildings. Typically, luxury high-rise condominium development generates very few students. Generation rates are a bit higher in older high-rise buildings, especially high-rise apartment buildings. The study showed that the Pacific Renaissance had a 0.06 student generation rate. Another consideration is unit type; affordable or below market rate units often house a significant number of children. Therefore, to forecast students from new development, the study suggests a possible range of student generation rates.

In addition, the study also considered the probable distribution of new students across the grades. Three possibilities were presented:

- 1. Students will be evenly distributed across the grades (K to 5 student would then be 46%, or 6/13 of the total);
- 2. Students will mirror OUSD’s historical grade distribution, which is concentrated in the lower grades (between 50% and 57% of OUSD enrollments have been K-5 students during the 1983 to 2005 period); or
- 3. The concentration in the lower grades will be even greater than OUSD’s historical pattern, since households in subsidized housing tend to have younger children than the district as a whole.

TABLE 8.5: STUDENTS PER HOUSING UNIT IN PLANNING AREA (2009)

AREA	STUDENTS¹	HOUSING UNITS	STUDENT/HOUSING UNIT
Planning Area	1,209	6,582	0.18
Oakland	69,832	163,026	0.43

1 Assumes student population is total population aged 5 to 17.

Source: Claritas, Inc., 2009; Dyett & Bhatia, 2009.

TABLE 8.6: ESTIMATED STUDENT GENERATION RATE FORECASTS

UNIT TYPE	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Market-rate Units	0.01	0.03	0.1
Below-market rate units	0.4	0.4	0.7

Source: Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc., Impact of New Housing Developments on OUSD Enrollments and Facilities, September 5, 2006.



Lincoln Square Park Playground next to Lincoln Elementary.



School streets – from buildings to the playground.

4 Lapkoff & Gobalet Demographic Research, Inc., Impact of New Housing Developments on OUSD Enrollments and Facilities, September 5, 2006.

8.5 Parks

Parks, open space and natural areas are important community assets for both social cohesion and interaction, and for physical health. The Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation (OSCAR) element of the Oakland General Plan has a policy to maintain 10 acres of total parkland per 1,000 residents and four acres of local serving parkland per 1,000 residents. Local-serving parks include all parks which meet the active recreational needs of the community. In 2009, the City population was estimated to be 411,736. With a total of 3,367 acres of parkland, the existing total parkland ratio is 8.2 acres/1,000 residents, as shown in Table 8.7. With a total of 1,379 acres of locally-serving parkland, the existing locally serving parkland is 3.3 acres/1,000 residents. Table 8.8 shows the park classifications in Oakland along with service goals and existing acreages of each park classification.

TABLE 8.7: OAKLAND PARK POLICIES

POLICY OR SERVICE GOAL		EXISTING ¹
Total Parkland	10 acres/1,000 residents	8.2 acres/1,000 residents ²
Local Serving Parkland	4 acres/1,000 residents	3.3 acres/1,000 residents ³
1 Based on 2009 City of Oakland Population of 411,736		
2 Calculation based on total parkland of 3,367 acres.		
3 Calculation based on total local-serving parkland of 1,379 acres. (Excludes Resource Conservation Areas.)		

Source: City of Oakland, 2009; City of Oakland General Plan OSCAR Element, 1996; Claritas Inc., 2009; Dyett & Bhatia, 2009.

TABLE 8.8: OAKLAND PARKS TYPES

PARK TYPE	SIZE RANGE	SERVICE AREA	SERVICE GOAL	ACREAGE (2009)
Region Serving Park	≥ 25 acres	Citywide	None Stated	485.5
Community Park	5 – 20 acres	½ mile radius in flatlands, one mile radius in hills	A community park of at least 7.5 acres in every one of the 10 planning areas	96.5
Neighborhood Park	2 – 10 acres	¼ mile radius in the flatlands, ½ mile radius in hills	A neighborhood park of at least 3 acres for every 5,000 residents	139.5
Active Mini-Parks	< 1 acre	1/8 mile radius in flatlands, ¼ mile radius in hills	None Stated	5.1
Passive Mini-Parks	< 1 acre	None	Provide in new subdivisions and redevelopment areas to enhance neighborhood appearance	1.80
Linear Park	Varies	Depends on Park Size	Provide in new subdivisions and redevelopment areas to enhance neighborhood appearance	55.4
Special Use Park	Varies	Usually citywide, but depends on activity	None Stated	563.1
Resource Conservation Areas	Whatever is required to protect the resource	Varies	None Stated	1,988.4
Athletic Fields	4-15 acres	Usually one mile	One athletic field complex (capable of supporting soccer, football, and baseball games) for every 20,000 residents	31.71
Total parkland				3,367.0
1 Acreage does not include school athletic fields.				

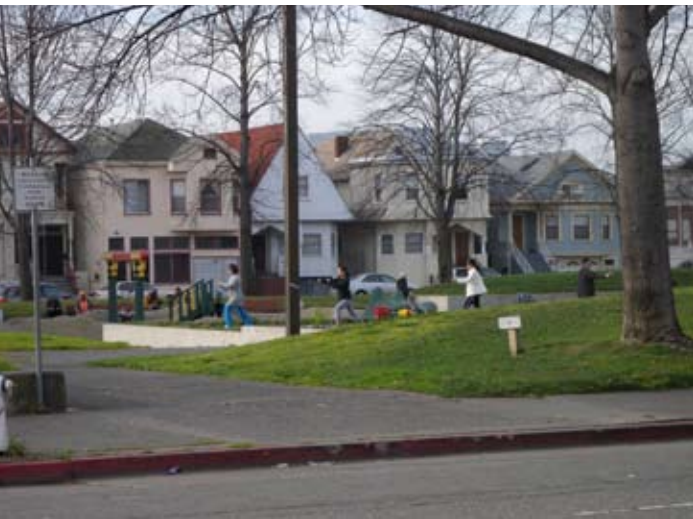
Source: City of Oakland, 2009; City of Oakland General Plan OSCAR Element, 1996; Dyett & Bhatia, 2009.



Region Serving Park along the channel.



Neighborhood Park – Lincoln Square Park.



Special Use Park – Madison Square Park.

Existing Parks and Recreation

There are several different park types within the Planning Area. Parks in the Planning Area are shown in Figure 8.2 and Table 8.9 describes all the parks within the Planning Area, their typology and acreages. Figure 8.2 also shows pedestrian routes as identified in the Pedestrian Master Plan in order to reflect access to parks in the Planning Area. Chapter 7 includes a more detailed pedestrian network map that reflects points of restricted access and key pedestrian activity areas.

Region-Serving Parks

There are two region serving parks in the Planning Area – Lake Merritt and Estuary Channel parks. Lake Merritt is a fresh and salt-water lake, consisting of 3.4 miles around the circumference of the lake, covering 155 acres of land. Lake Merritt Park includes a variety of smaller parks such as Snow Park and Lake-side Park. Amenities include children’s play areas, a putting green, tennis courts and various recreational centers. The circumference of the Lake includes a walking path. The southern portion of Lake Merritt is within the Planning Area. Improvements to Lake Merritt Park are currently guided by the 2002 Lake Merritt Park Master Plan.

The Estuary Channel Park is located along the Waterfront, south of Embarcadero. The Estuary Channel Park includes Jack London Aquatic Center, a community facility providing youth and adult programs in rowing. It also includes a grass field, a public boat launching ramp and a group picnic area.

Linear Parks

There are two linear parks within the Planning Area – Peralta Park and Channel Park. Peralta Park is located next to the Henry J. Kaiser convention Center and south of Lake Merritt, across 12th Street. Accessibility between Lake Merritt and Peralta Park are being addressed through the Lake Merritt Park Master Plan and improvements to 12th Street. The Park currently has a children’s play area and a grass field to the west of the Lake Merritt Channel.

The Channel Park begins south of Peralta Park, from 10th Street to the 880 Freeway. The Park runs along the lake Merritt Channel, through Laney College and Peralta District Administrative Complex. The Channel Park is mostly for passive recreation and includes numerous art sculptures.

Special Use Parks

The Planning Area has two special use parks – Chinese Garden Park and Madison Square Park. The Chinese Garden Park

(formerly Harrison Square) features a Hall of Pioneers and Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall, along with a pagoda. The hall serves as the Hong Lok Senior Center, a drop in-center for seniors ages 55 years and older, but also as a general social hall. The Chinese Garden Park has on its premises garden areas where people can often be found doing tai-chi, as well as a Chinese Zodiac Garden for gardening. Madison Square Park includes grass areas, as well as a small children’s play area. People can also be found at Madison Square Park practicing the arts of tai-chi, qigong and fan dancing. However Madison Square Park does not have a community center, and it is not heavily used. There are some homeless people who use the park during the day.

Generally, Special Use Parks are areas for specialized or single purpose activities, including golf courses, swimming pools, zoos, ornamental gardens, horse stables, and historic sites. Also included are city squares that may lack recreational facilities but which serve an aesthetic function and may have historic significance. In general, activities in special use parks should complement and be related to the special use. If the park’s primary function is historical or aesthetic, facilities for active recreation would usually be inappropriate.

Neighborhood Park

Lincoln Square Park is the Planning Area’s only neighborhood park. It is adjacent to Lincoln Elementary School. Alice Street, between Lincoln Square Park and Lincoln Elementary School is closed off to traffic and serves as recreation space for park users and students at the school. Lincoln Square Park includes a recreation center, children’s play area, and several basketball courts. A concept plan has been developed for the Alice Street to develop a multi-purpose field and hardball courts. It is heavily used by hundreds of people, crammed into small spaces, in both daytime and evening hours.

Resource Conservation Areas

Resource conservation areas are designated to conserve and appropriate manage undeveloped areas in Oakland which have a high natural resource value, scenic value, or natural hazards which preclude safe development. The area adjacent to the Channel are designated as a Resource Conservation area.

Waterfront Parks

Estuary Channel Park

Estuary Channel Park is located at the mouth of the channel exiting Lake Merritt. Much of the space is devoted to an athletic field. The park is home to the Jack London Aquatic Center, a facility that provides rowing programs for the region’s youth and adults. The Bay Trail runs along the shoreline of the park.

Oak to 9th Project and Waterfront Open Space

The Oak to 9th project proposes a mix of active and passive parks and open spaces covering approximately 44% of the project. This includes approximately 20.7 acres of new and permanent public open space (not including existing Estuary Park and Jack London Aquatic Center) that would be designed as a series of interconnected parks and waterfront spaces to provide a variety of recreational opportunities. Potential uses include informal green spaces for passive recreation, playgrounds, picnic areas, and gardens. These improvements would include the continuous public pedestrian trail and Class 1 bicycle path along the entirety of the project’s waterfront, linking an existing Bay Trail segment that currently ends at Estuary Park to Brooklyn Basin where the trail currently continues east to the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline and beyond. The trail would also follow both sides of Lake Merritt Channel, crossing east-west over Lake Merritt Channel Bridge (over the Embarcadero), allowing for extension for future City projects aimed at improved connections between Lake Merritt and the estuary. The trail would accommodate pedestrians and bicycles and a variety of users within a maximum 40- foot-wide right-of-way along the waterfront of the project site.

Lake Merritt Channel Wetland and Widening Project

The Lake Merritt Channel Wetland and Widening Project includes various improvements including widening and tidal restoration improvements along Lake Merritt in association with the 12th Street Reconstruction Project, 10th Street Bridge Project, and Lake Merritt Channel Improvement Project at the 7th Street Flood Control station.

While some of the improvements have been completed, a crucial component for access to the Planning Area, the 12th Street Reconstruction, which began construction in May 2010 and will take approximately two years to complete. Specifically, this project will include the redesign of 12th Street into a tree-lined boulevard with signalized intersections and crosswalks and a landscaped median. The redesign will create significant new parkland at the south end of Lake Merritt Park, remove unsafe and unsightly pedestrian tunnels, provide safer and continuous access for pedestrians and bicyclists along the perimeter of Lake Merritt, and improve access between the Lake, the Kaiser Convention Center, the East Lake neighborhood, and Laney College. Removal of the Lake Merritt Channel culvert at 12th Street will provide an open-water bridged connection and improve water flow between the Lake and the Estuary.

The existing 10th Street crossing of the Lake Merritt Channel consists of a box culvert covered by approximately eight feet



Neighborhood Park – Lincoln Square Park.



Special Use Park – Madison Square Park.



Region Serving Park – Lake Merritt Channel.

of earth fill that forms the roadway embankment. The culvert, which is unnavigable, consists of eight cells, each of which is six feet wide and six feet high. The existing pedestrian bridge below 10th Street would be refurbished or replaced. Pedestrian tunnels under 7th Street would be improved, new traffic signal and crosswalk across 7th Street would be installed. The 7th Street project component proposes the creation of a bypass channel to improve recreational access, as well as to allow large fish to once again enter the upper Lake Merritt Channel and Lake Merritt.

The Planning Area after the 12th Street reconstruction and new parks proposed are shown in Figure 8.2.

Park Needs

According to the AHS Community Engagement Process Report, the community vision for open space includes:

- Preserving and improving existing parks and recreation centers
- Ensuring access to parks and open space for youth and seniors
- Increasing the number of safe parks and open spaces available to the community
- Establishing a community garden
- Creating a multi-use recreational facility to serve both youth and seniors
- Building new neighborhood parks and athletic fields/areas for cultural activities such as tai chi
- Ensuring adequate capacity of school and recreation facilities

The need for additional parkland is also reflected in the standards identified by the City of Oakland. The total parkland ratio within the Planning Area is approximately 3.6 acres/1,000 residents, while the total local-serving parkland is approximately 2.4 acres per 1,000 residents. As Table 8.10 shows, both of the parkland and local serving parkland ratios are well below the City of Oakland standards.

In addition to being below Oakland standards, the ratio also does not account for the daytime population of the Planning Area. The Planning Area has a high daytime working population from County offices as well as a large number of daytime visitors who come to Oakland Chinatown to shop or run errands, to see friends and family, or attend Chinese Language school. Therefore, there is additional need for parkland in the Planning Area, not only to meet the City of Oakland standards but also to serve the additional daytime population in the Planning Area.

The Planning Area only has one neighborhood park – Lincoln Square Park which is approximately 1.4 acres in size. This is below the Oakland service goal of providing a neighborhood park of at least three acres for every 5,000 residents. In addition, Lincoln Square Park is over capacity with students from Lincoln Elementary School and those from nearby charter schools. Future park locations should consider locating desirable park space near schools. Based on the Planning Area population of 12,000 residents, there should be at least two neighborhood serving parks of at least three acres.

Special use parks, such as the Chinese Garden Park and Madison Square Park, are also locally serving but are less than three acres each. The lack of open green space and amenities at the Chinese Garden and Madison Square Park limit its use by the community. Further, while Chinese Garden Park was recently renovated, it continues to have access problems due to traffic accessing Alameda. Access is also a major concern regarding Peralta Park on the east side of Laney College. The City of Oakland Parks and Recreation identifies a need for more program-mable parkland space in the Planning Area.

TABLE 8.9: PARK ACREAGE WITHIN PLANNING AREA

PARK	PARK TYPE	LOCATION	ACREAGE ¹
Lake Merritt	Region-Serving Park	12th and Lakeside	8.6
Estuary Channel Park	Region-Serving Park	5 Embarcadero	3.4
Peralta Park	Linear Park	94 East 10th Street	2.6
Channel Park	Linear Park	1 10th Street & 21 7th Street	10.7
Chinese Garden Park (Harrison Square)	Special Use Park	7th Street & Harrison Street	1.3
Madison Square Park	Special Use Park	810 Jackson Street	1.4
Lincoln Square Park	Neighborhood Park	261 11th Street	1.4
Resource Conservation Areas		Along the banks of the channel (Peralta Park and Channel Park)	13.6
Total			42.9
Total Without Resource Conservation Areas			29.4
1 Acreage only includes the parkland within the Planning Area and excludes the water body.			

Source: City of Oakland, 2009; Dyett & Bhatia, 2009.

TABLE 8.10: PARKLAND RATIO IN PLANNING AREA

POLICY OR SERVICE GOAL		EXISTING ¹
Total Parkland	10 acres/1,000 residents	3.6 acres/1,000 residents ²
Local Serving Parkland	4 acres/1,000 residents	2.4 acres/1,000 residents ³
1 Based on 2009 Planning Area Population of 12,052		
2 Calculation based on total parkland of 42.9 acres.		
3 Calculation based on total local-serving parkland of 29.4 acres. (Excludes Resource Conservation Areas.)		

Source: City of Oakland, 2009; City of Oakland General Plan OSCAR Element, 1996; Claritas Inc., 2009; Dyett & Bhatia, 2009.

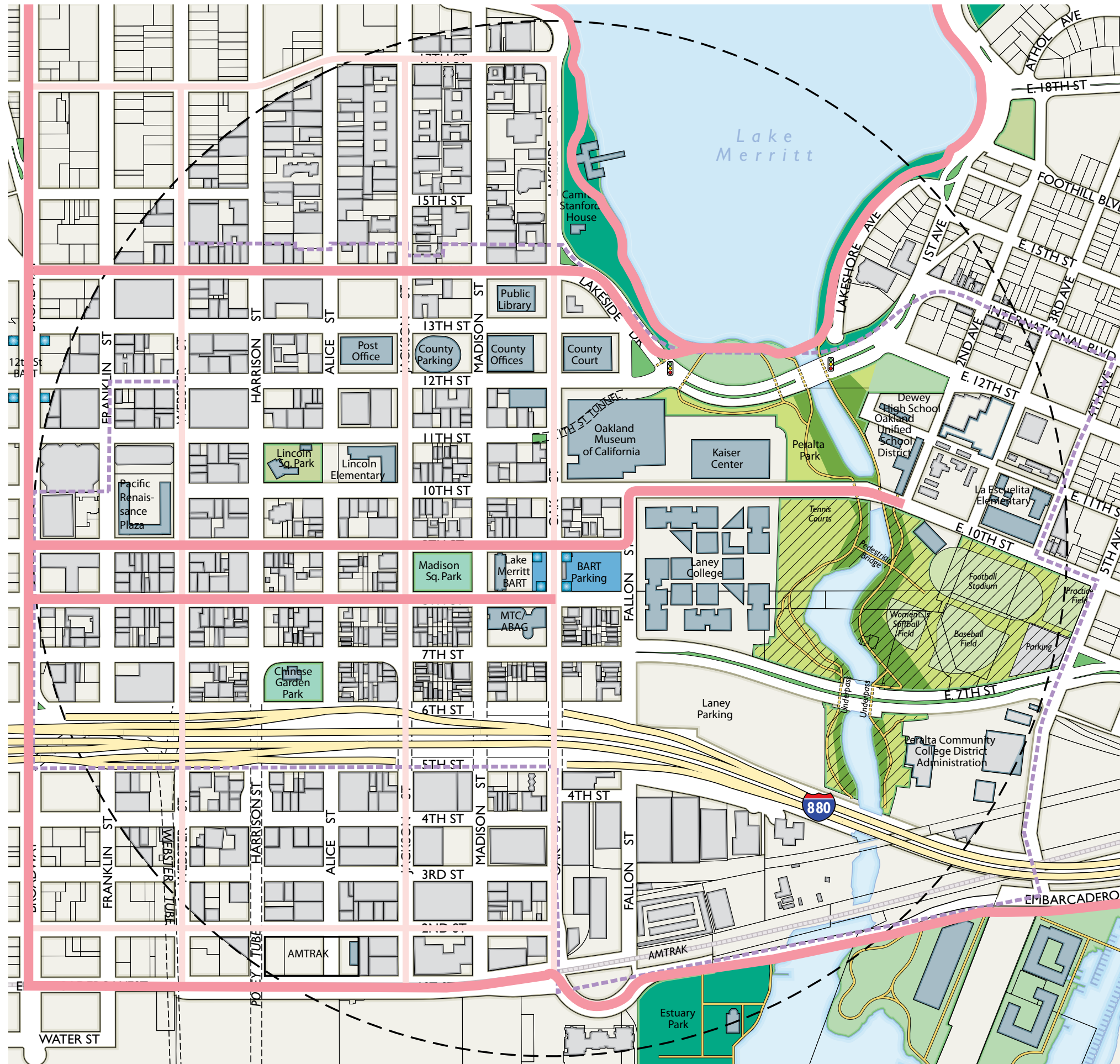
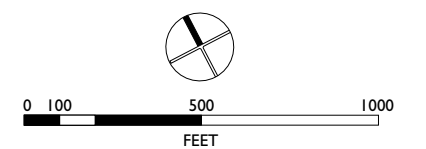


Figure 8.2:
PARKS

- Lake Merritt BART Station
- BART Station Entrance
- City Right-of-Way
- Pedestrian/Bike Path
- Public Buildings/
Major Destinations
- Building Footprints
- Focus Area
- Planning Area -
1/2 Mile Radius
- Amtrak
- Linear Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Region Serving Parks
- Special Use Parks
- Resource Conservation Areas
- Planned/ Proposed Parks
- Parkland Owned by Peralta
- Primary Pedestrian Route
(Pedestrian Master Plan)
- Secondary Pedestrian Route
(Pedestrian Master Plan)



8.6 Crime and Safety

Community Concern Regarding Public Safety

There is extensive concern in the community regarding public safety as it relates to crime and the perception of crime. According to the AHS Community Engagement Process Report, the community identified safety from crime as the highest priority need for the community. They identified the following guidelines for addressing public safety:

- Create safe public spaces
 - Increase foot traffic and create job opportunities by attracting small businesses.
 - Create a friendly, safe, and transit oriented environment with better lighting and pedestrian improvements to enhance Chinatown and Laney College.
 - Strengthen linkages to key destinations within the area, including Oakland Chinatown and Laney College.
- Promote safer streets.
 - Reduce traffic throughout the neighborhood.
 - Improve and maintain sidewalks.
 - Ensure cleanliness and safety of streets and intersection crossings.
- Improve community police services.
 - Establish a police sub-station by the Lake Merritt BART Station.
- Include violence prevention programs and policies.

In addition, the community services coordinator for the Chinatown area notes that the community has expressed interest in having a permanent and visible space for police in the Planning Area, and specifically in the Chinatown area. An office in Chinatown would be easier to access, would provide a stronger police presence in the area, and would help to address language barriers. As new development is planned for the area, spaces set aside for police to work should be considered.

City of Oakland Police Department

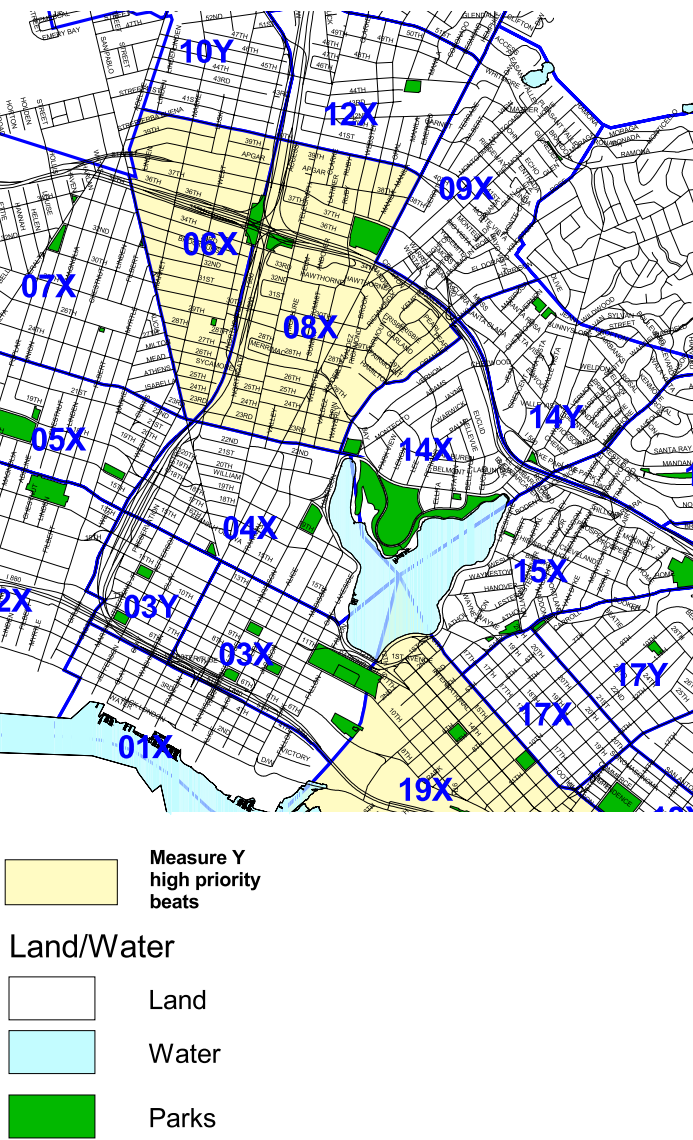
The Oakland Police Department (OPD) is located at 455 7th Street, adjacent to the Planning Area. As of December 2009, the OPD is authorized for 787 sworn police officers. Currently, not all authorized positions are filled, and there are 613 sworn

TABLE 8.11: NUMBER OF CRIMES REPORTED PER BEAT AREA FROM 10/24/09 TO 01/21/10

CRIMES	01X FALLON STREET INDUSTRIAL;JACK LONDON SQUARE	03X CHINATOWN COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL; BART/ABAG; GOVERNMENT; SOUTHERN POR- TION OF 14TH ST. CORRIDOR; WESTERN PART OF CULTURAL/EDUCATIONAL	04X NORTHERN PORTION OF 14TH STREET CORRIDOR	19X EASTLAKE AREA; EASTERN PART OF CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL
Homicide	0	10	0	0
Felony Assault	6	6	16	7
Misdemeanor Assault	3	35	47	17
Domestic Violence	8	7	39	31
Theft – Auto	36	62	117	64
Theft – Grand	12	13	30	11
Theft – Petty	5	25	49	23
Robbery	8	31	45	39
Burglary – Commercial	0	5	8	1
Burglary – Residential	8	4	18	15
Narcotics	1	7	25	31
Prostitution	0	2	11	60
Drunkeness/Disorderly Conduct	7	17	26	8
Vandalism	7	23	32	17
Other	8	13	44	13
Total	109	260	507	337

Source: City of Oakland Website, CW Tabular Data, <http://gismaps.oaklandnet.com/crimewatch/>, accessed January 21, 2010.

Figure 8.3:
OAKLAND POLICE DEPARTMENT
BEATS



police officers.⁵ The current ratio of sworn police officers per 1,000 residents is approximately 1.5, based on the city’s population of 411,736. The City of Oakland does not have a standard for number of police officers.

The City of Oakland is divided into six geographical areas called Police Service Areas (PSA), each is commanded by a Lieutenant of Police. The Planning Area located within PSAs 1 and 2. As of October 2009, PSA 1 and PSA 2 each had 7 problem-solving officers. Problem-solving officers do not respond to service calls but are responsible for conducting projects in the community that patrol police officers frequently are unable to handle. Projects vary depending on the needs of the community. Each PSA contains a Crime Reduction Unit that is responsible for violence reduction and narcotics enforcement efforts. The impacts of the Plan on Police Services will be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Report for the Plan.

Figure 8.3 shows the Oakland Police Department Beat Map near the Planning Area. The area southeast of Lake Merritt falls into the high priority zones of 19X. Other beats in the planning area include 01X, 03X, 03Y, and 04X. The Planning Area is largely located within Oakland Police Department Command Area 1, with the southeastern part of the Planning Area in Oakland Police Department Command Area 2. Table 8.11 shows the type and number of crimes reported from October 24, 2009 to January 21, 2010 in each Beat area.

According to Oakland Police Department Statistics, the Chinatown Commercial and Residential; BART/ABAG; Government, South 14th Street Corridor; and the western part of the Cultural/Educational subareas which are in Police Beat 03X had the most homicides in a 90 day timeframe spanning from October 24, 2009 to January 21, 2010. In addition, Police Beat 03X has a high number of assaults. Police Beat 04X, in which the northern part of the 14th Street Corridor subarea is within, also has a high number of assaults. Commercial robberies are the highest in Police Beat 03X and 04X. Residential Burglary is also high in Police Beat 04X.

Table 8.12 shows the number of crimes per beat area in 2007. Violent crime, which includes murder, rape, robbery, and assault make up approximately 32% of total crime in Beat Area 03x and 19x. Violent crime is lowest in Beat Area 01x at 10% of total crime. Violent crime in Beat Area 04x comprise 25% of total crimes. The highest number of crime incidents in all four Beat Area were thefts. Burglaries and robberies were the second highest. Out of all four Beat Areas, Beat 01x was ranked the highest in the Safety Rank, followed by 03x, 19x and 04x.

5 Phone conversation with Jennifer Foster, City of Oakland Police Department, December 18, 2009.

Oakland Police Chinatown Substation

The Police substation is located at 360A Eighth Street off of Webster Street. It serves as a vital police presence in the Chinatown community, and an officer is specifically stationed here. The Asian Advisory Committee on Crime is also located here as an outreach and program for youth.

BART Police

The BART Police Headquarters are currently located underground at 800 Madison Street, at the Lake Merritt BART Station. The BART Police Department is comprised of 296 personnel, of which 206 are sworn peace officers. Its chief of police commands the department that is BART’s sole law-enforcement entity and provides the full range of police services. To prepare for major emergencies, critical incidents, and tactical responses, the department is a signatory to the Bay Area’s mutual-aid pacts and has teams of highly trained officers for tactical response and/or crisis negotiations. BART police officers are fully sworn peace officers that have the same powers of arrest as city police officers and county sheriff’s deputies. BART officers may take enforcement action off of BART jurisdiction, anywhere within the state of California. If there is immediate danger to persons or property, BART officers may arrest, cite and release, or warn the perpetrators.

The Patrol Bureau is decentralized into four geographical police zones, each with its own headquarters and field offices. Zone lieutenants are assigned the personnel, equipment, and resources to manage their respective police operations. This community-based deployment strategy enhances the BART police’s ability to work more closely with the local residents, allied public-safety agencies, businesses, schools, and other transit district employees.

Other Measures

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is discussed in Chapter 5.

The United Neighborhood Councils of Oakland includes an Asian Advisory Committee on Crime that covers Beat 3X (which includes Chinatown), and there is a Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council for Beat 3X.

TABLE 8.12: NUMBER OF CRIMES PER BEAT AREA IN 2007

CRIMES	01X FALLON STREET INDUSTRIAL; JACK LONDON SQUARE		03X CHINATOWN COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL; BART/ ABAG; GOVERNMENT; SOUTHERN PORTION OF 14TH ST. CORRIDOR; WEST- ERN PART OF CULTURAL/ EDUCATIONAL		04X NORTHERN PORTION OF 14TH STREET CORRIDOR		19X EASTLAKE AREA; EASTERN PART OF CULTURAL/EDUCA- TIONAL	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Safety Rank (of 57 beats)	10		37		56		54	
Murder	0	0%	2	0%	4	0%	2	0%
Rape	1	0%	0	0%	7	1%	7	1%
Robbery	14	4%	147	24%	143	14%	160	20%
Assault	18	6%	48	8%	104	10%	85	11%
Burglary	68	21%	89	14%	161	15%	113	14%
Theft	174	54%	245	40%	518	49%	228	29%
Vehicle Theft	47	15%	85	14%	116	11%	190	24%
Arson	0	0%	0	0%	2	0%	10	1%
Total Violent Crime (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Assault)	33	10%	197	32%	258	25%	254	32%
Total Crime	322		617		1055		795	

Source: United Neighborhood Councils of Oakland, <http://uncofo.com/map.html>, accessed April 23, 2010.



There are many community concerns about public spaces safer streets, community police services, and violence prevention.

8.7 Fire

The Oakland Fire Department provides fire protection services and emergency medical services throughout the city. The Fire Department operates 25 fire stations, and currently maintains 25 engine companies with approximately four personnel per engine, and 7 truck companies with four to five personnel per truck. The actual number of assigned personnel depends on the location of the emergency. Total Fire Department staffing consists of 562 personnel, of whom 492 are sworn personnel (fire suppression and emergency medical personnel). Approximately 100 of Oakland’s firefighters are also trained as paramedics (Sierra, 2004), and many are trained as Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs).

The Fire Department is organized into four divisions and three battalions. While the divisions focus on department functions, the battalions are organized by geographical districts, providing requested fire and emergency medical services. Battalion 2 serves West Oakland and North Oakland, including the Lake Merritt Planning Area. Battalion 4 serves Central Oakland and Battalion 3 serves the area from Seminary Boulevard east to the city of San Leandro (there is no Battalion 1). Each battalion consists of seven to ten stations.

There is one Fire Station within the Planning Area – Fire Station 12 at 822 Alice Street. Other nearby Fire Stations are:

- Fire Station 1 at 1605 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
- Fire Station 2 at 100 Jack London Square
- Fire Station 4 at 1235 International Boulevard

The Fire Department’s response time goal is seven minutes or less, 90 percent of the time. Response time is measured from the time a call is received in the Fire Dispatch Center until the time the first unit arrives on the scene of the emergency, 90 percent of the time.⁶ The Oakland Fire Training Division is located at 250 Victory Court in the Fallon Street Industrial area. The impacts of the Plan on Fire Services will be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Report for the Plan.



Chinatown Fire Station.



Chinatown Fire Station.



Old Fire Department C.

6 City of Oakland, Oak to 9th Avenue Project DEIR, August 2005.