CHAPTER 4

Community Services

This Chapter describes the City of Beverly Hills’s existing public services and facilities. This Chapter includes the following sections:

- Education/Schools
- Parks and Recreation
- Libraries

4.1 EDUCATION/SCHOOLS

This section describes existing school facilities, education programs, and planned improvements for the Beverly Hills Unified School District, as well as current state and regional policy regarding new school development. Information from this section is based upon the Education Data Partnership website, the State Allocation Board website, the California Department of Education and Office of Public School Construction websites, and the Beverly Hills Unified School District Departments of Educational Services, Special Education, and Business Services.

Existing Conditions

Schools

The Beverly Hills Unified School District (The District) operates seven schools within the City. Headquarters are located at 255 S. Lasky Drive in Beverly Hills. Figure 4.1-1 identifies school locations and Table 4.1-1 lists the schools and their capacities.

As shown in Table 4.1-1, there is currently one high school (grades 9–12), one alternative high school (grades 9–12), four elementary schools (grades K–8), and one adult school within the District that provide school services to Beverly Hills residents.

In addition, there are eight private schools operating in the City of Beverly Hills. Table 4.1-2 lists these schools.

Educational Programs

The District Board of Education provides traditional curriculum education, according to the standards created and adopted by the state of California. In addition to the core curriculum, individual schools supplement the students’ education with a variety of elective courses. For example, students in grades one through five at all four K-8 schools receive special instruction in art, music, computers, and physical education. Students in grades six through eight participate in a variety of exploratory and elective classes, including art, chorus, current events, instrumental music, foreign language, journalism, media and society, study skills, and yearbook.63

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### Table 4.1-1  Schools Located in the Beverly Hills School District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Grades</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Enrollment</th>
<th>Percent of Capacity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>High Schools</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Beverly Hills High School</td>
<td>9–12</td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>2,135</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Moreno High Continuation School</td>
<td>10–12</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>2,300</td>
<td>2,135</td>
<td>93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elementary Schools</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Beverly Vista Elementary School</td>
<td>K–8</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>719</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 El Rodeo Elementary School</td>
<td>K–8</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>765</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Hawthorne Elementary School</td>
<td>K–8</td>
<td>802</td>
<td>775</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Horace Mann Elementary School</td>
<td>K–8</td>
<td>733</td>
<td>713</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>3,050</td>
<td>2,972</td>
<td>97%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Adult School</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Beverly Hills Adult School</td>
<td>Age 18+</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4,741(since July 2004 unduplicated counts)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** Education Data Partnership, 2003-2004

### Table 4.1-2  Private Schools in Beverly Hills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Grades</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 All Saints School</td>
<td>504 North Camden Drive</td>
<td>Daycare: ages 3–5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 International Children’s Center</td>
<td>177 South Robertson Blvd.</td>
<td>Daycare: ages 2.5–5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church Nursery School</td>
<td>505 North Rodeo Drive</td>
<td>Daycare: ages 3–5 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Temple Emmanuel</td>
<td>300 North Clark Drive</td>
<td>Daycare: ages 2.5–5 years &amp; Day school: K–8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Hillel Hebrew Academy</td>
<td>9120 West Olympic Blvd.</td>
<td>Preschool–grade 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Beverly Hills Prep School</td>
<td>9250 West Olympic Blvd.</td>
<td>Grades 7–12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** Beverly Hills Gardens & Montage Hotel EIR, November 2003
BHUSD Schools

High School
1. Beverly Hills High School
2. Moreno High Continuation School

Elementary Schools
3. Beverly Vista Elementary School
4. El Rodeo Elementary School
5. Hawthorne Elementary School
6. Horace Mann Elementary School

Adult school
7. Beverly Hills Adult School

Private Schools
8. All Saints School
9. Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church Preschool
10. Page Private School
11. Good Shepherd Catholic School
12. Temple Emmanuel
13. Hillel Hebrew Academy
14. Beverly Hills Prep School

Source: SCAG & EIP Associates GIS Program, May 2005

Figure 4.1-1
The District offers a program for gifted and talented elementary students (GATE), and has honors classes for intermediate and high school students. High school honors students are also given the opportunity to take a variety of Advanced Placement classes, which allow them to earn college credits if the student passes a nationally distributed test. Beverly Hills High School (BHHS) also participates in the Regional Occupational Program (ROP). ROP provides entry-level job skills training, assists in upgrading of occupational skills, aids in preparation for further education, and provides job placement assistance. Programs for after school activities such as arts and crafts, sports, and games are provided for by the City’s Recreation and Parks Department (individual programs are discussed in more detail in Section 4.2 of this TBR).

Children in the District experiencing academic and/or behavioral problems in the general education program may be referred to participate in the Child Study Team (CTS) process which is a regular education forum composed of personnel with varying specialties and experience chaired by the assistant principal of the school site. It is the intent of the CST to act as a resource when intervention assistance is sought. The CST may suggest regular program interventions within the classroom and/or support services available to all students.64

Other disciplinary and academic support programs include the Character Education Program and Service Learning Program for all students, which reward students for positive behavior. BHHS also has a Conflict Mediation Team, comprised of staff and students, which has been formed to resolve conflicts before they become disruptive to the learning environment. Individual schools as well have extensive counseling and tutoring programs, and BHHS has a very strong extracurricular program, which is an integral part of the educational program and promotes positive attitudes, encourages achievement and aids in the prevention of behavioral problems.65

The District’s Department of Special Education offers a variety of services and programs to students who have disabilities, including Resource Specialist programs and Special Day Classes for identified special education students. Programs are non-categorical, meaning the classes are catered to the students’ needs. The District also offers speech and language therapy classes. The special education students are integrated during the day in both the general education classes and the special education classes, the duration for each depending on the situation of each student.66

The Adult School of the District (discussed above) provides adult education services, offering classes in vocational training, English as a Second Language (ESL), and special interest courses. Classes are offered at several facilities and community centers in the City, including BHHS, BridgePoint at Beverly Hills, ER Scout House, Instructional Center,

66 Curtis, Susie, 2005. Personal communication with Beverly Hills Unified School District, Special Education Department, 4 May.
In order to publicize current events and recent information for the District, KBEV televises the District’s Board of Education meetings twice monthly. The District provides additional information on their website at http://beverlyhills.k12.ca.us. The website offers links to individual school websites, providing more detailed information about each school.68

Planned Improvements

Currently, the District anticipates the following improvements over the next four years: a new High School Science Technology Center, the new Beverly Vista Building E, a new HVAC system at the High School and modernization of the High School and all four elementary schools. Staff is also working on Modernization Applications, Modernization Reimbursements, Facility Hardship and other sources which may be used to augment Measure K Projects (Measure K described under Regulatory Setting of this Section). Currently the District is not receiving any funding from the state, and is in the process of applying for funds to continue modernization and upgrades to its schools. Details of the planned improvements for each area are described below.

- High School Science Technology Center (STC): the STC is expected to be completed and ready for bid at the end of the summer break, 2005. Staff is currently in the final stages of selecting a construction management firm for this project. This project remains on schedule.
- Beverly Vista Building E: the new structure at Beverly Vista houses three new science labs, two state-of-the-art computer labs, a modern library and cafeteria and classrooms for the Middle School.
- Beverly Vista Building B: Staff is working with the architect and consultant to pursue state Facility Hardship Funding through the Office of Public School Construction. If successful the District could gain several million dollars in state funding for this project. This project is anticipated to be out of the Division of State Architect (DSA) approval shortly and will be ready for bid by the end of the summer break, 2005. Staff is currently in the final stages of selecting a construction management firm for this project. The building is currently not in use and the District hopes to complete the remodeling sometime between 2006 and 2007.
- Modernization Projects: All of the modernization projects are in DSA approval stages with the exception of the High School. Renovations include seismic upgrades, lighting, air conditioning/heating, electrical, carpeting, painting, phone and intercom systems, audio/visual systems and classroom furniture and cabinetry.
- High School Central Plant: this project is underway and making substantial progress. It is anticipated that this project will be completed in mid September, 2005.
- Beverly Vista Playground Project: Staff is preparing bid packages and anticipates bidding the first phase of the project for construction during the summer of 2005.

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67 Beverly Hills Adult School, 2005. Website: http://bhas.beverlyhills.k12.ca.us, 10 August.
The bid package is structured with artificial turf and fencing as the main project but will include an alternate for completing the entire playground.

- Maintenance/Operations Building at the High School (non-Measure K funding): the architect is finalizing the design from the selected schematic drawing. Staff is currently receiving estimates for the work and will define the schedule once the estimates are completed.

- Storm Damage Projects: several storm damage projects are currently underway. Water damage remediation will be on-going in the locker room areas within El Rodeo School. Staff is completing water damage repairs at Hawthorne School. The project should be completed by the end of summer, 2005.

### Funding

Currently, all schools within Beverly Hills are operating below allowable capacity, and the student enrollment is decreasing. As state funding is based on average daily attendance (ADA), this decrease in student enrollment impacts the District’s revenue. To accommodate planned improvements, districts fund new school facilities through a combination of several state sources, including state bonds, local bonds, special taxes, developer fees, and various federal funding sources. Districts have also used multitrack, year-round education as a way to avoid or defer the cost of new construction.

#### State Sources

The major state funding program for providing permanent school facilities is the Leroy F. Greene State School Building Lease-Purchase Program of 1976 (Lease-Purchase Program), which is funded by state bonds. These bonds are placed on the ballot by the legislature on a regular basis for approval by voters. In 2000, adoption of Proposition 39 changed the required majority for local voter approval of bonds from two-thirds to 55 percent. Once these bonds receive voter approval, school districts may apply for the funds. Eligibility is based on a district’s need to house current, as well as projected, enrollment. The Lease-Purchase Modernization Program is an affiliated program that provides funds for improvements to enhance facilities at least 30 years old.

Another source of state funding is the School Facility Program or Assembly Bill 16 (AB16), administered by the state Office of New Public School Construction. Under AB16, $13.05 billion was allotted for school facilities in 2002 and the program is funded at $12.3 billion for 2004. In 2002, Assembly Bill 16 created the Critically Overcrowded School Facilities (COS) program, which supplements the new construction provisions within the School Facilities Program. The COS program allows school districts with critically over crowded school facilities, as determined by the California Department of Education, to apply for a preliminary apportionment for new construction projects. COS was funded at $1.7 billion in November 2002 and $2.44 billion in spring 2004.

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69 California Department of Education. Facilities Department, 2005. Website: www.cde.ca.gov/facilities, January.

Levels of developer fee contribution are determined by the State Allocation Board and increase annually. Current state statutes dictate that school districts have the authority to levy fees (known as statutory or Level I fees) on new development at rates of $2.14 per square foot of new residential and $0.34 per square foot for commercial and industrial development.\textsuperscript{71} Because these Level I fees often do not generate sufficient funding for new schools, districts such as the Beverly Hills Unified School District use fees (known as Level II fees) to generate one-half the cost of providing new school facilities. Use of Level II fees assumes that the state will provide the other half of the cost of new schools through the issuance of general obligation bonds. In the event that the state does not have funding available, participating districts have the option to temporarily increase the fees (then known as Level III fees) on new residential development to try and meet their needs. The district must, however, refund these funds when general obligation funds from the state do become available. It should also be noted that some income for school districts is obtained through the state lottery but cannot be used for funding construction projects due to the fluctuating funding levels available through this means.

**Local Sources**

Local funding sources include both non-revenue and revenue monies. Non-revenue funds include lease/purchases, certificates of participation, and other mechanisms typically in the form of loans. Revenue funds are generated from several sources, including the District’s general fund, money from the sale of unused school sites, general obligation funds, redevelopment agreement funds, developer fees, and others.

After land is acquired, school districts are exempt from local zoning regulations and planning processes. But the construction of new schools, like all development, is dependent upon multiple factors, most basically the availability of funds. Also, without support from the City itself, available funding does not guarantee new facilities will be built. It is also important to note that increases in the tax base do not necessarily affect the financial status of the school districts. Thus, a strong local economy does not necessarily mean that new school facilities will be built and that programs will be expanded. Further, other operating expenses that continually increase, such as salaries, can significantly decrease an already limited budget and eliminate opportunities for new development.

**Issues**

- All schools within Beverly Hills are currently operating below allowable capacity and the student enrollment is decreasing. As funding from the state is based on average daily attendance (ADA), this decrease in student enrollment impacts the District’s revenue.

**References**


California Department of Education. Facilities Department. 2005. Website: www.cde.ca.gov/facilities, 5 January


Curtis, Susie. 2005. Personal communication with Beverly Hills Unified School District, Special Education Department, 4 May.

4.2 RECREATION AND PARKS

This section describes the existing parks and recreation facilities within Beverly Hills. Information for this section is based on information provided by the City’s website and personal communication with City staff in the Recreation and Parks Department.

■ Existing Conditions

The Recreation and Parks Department consists of six divisions: Administration, Farmers’ Market, Urban Forest, Leisure Services, and Parks Operations.

Beverly Hills provides a number of recreation and park facilities, and also has access to a variety of parks and recreational areas in the near vicinity. As of 2005, the Recreation and Parks Department is responsible for providing park maintenance for approximately 100 acres of park space, medians, City facilities, and the Civic Center complex. In addition, the Department is responsible for providing maintenance for the City’s urban forest, which has an inventory of over 27,000 street and park trees.72

Parks

The City has two different types of parks within its boundaries, mini-parks and neighborhood parks. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) provides a general description of these classifications, as follows:

■ Vest, Pocket or Mini parks: sub-neighborhood special park facilities between 0.1 to 1.0 acres, serving a population between 500 to 2,500 people, offering passive settings, art sculptures, playgrounds or fountains.

■ Neighborhood parks: serving people within one-fourth to one-half mile, and a population between 2,000 and 10,000 people, typically include passive or active recreational activity areas with fields, courts, and/or picnic areas. These parks vary in size from about 5 to 20 acres.

Currently, seven parks in Beverly Hills are categorized as mini parks, and eight parks fall under the category of neighborhood parks, for a total of 15 parks within the City yielding approximately 76.7 acres. Parks range in size from mini-parks such as Oakhurst (0.1 acre) to the 18.5 acre Greystone Mansion and Park. Figure 4.2-1 identifies the park and recreational facilities in the City and Table 4.2-1 lists each park with their corresponding acreage and available facilities.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Map #</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Type of Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Beverly Gardens Park</td>
<td>22 blocks along Santa Monica Boulevard</td>
<td>16.3</td>
<td>1.9 mile long linear park, cactus garden rose garden, Wilshire Electric Fountain, Doheny Fountain, jogging and walking path, and arbors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Coldwater Canyon Park</td>
<td>1100 North Beverly Drive</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>Lush passive park, preschool, children’s playground, outdoor classroom, water feature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Greystone Mansion and Park</td>
<td>905 Loma Vista Drive</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>Walk-through park and gardens (available for weddings and receptions), and mansion accessible to the public for musical and theatrical performances, and children’s performing arts camp in summer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>La Cienega Community Center, Park and Tennis Center</td>
<td>8400 Gregory Way</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>Leisurely surroundings, playground, three baseball diamonds, two soccer fields, perimeter 1/3-mile jogging track, barbeque grills, four picnic tables, classes, childcare, 16 lit tennis courts with center court offering shaded seating for 300, pro-shop lounge area, shower and dressing facilities, outdoor deck area to view tennis play, meeting rooms, for-rent rooms, small field with grassy berms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>Roxbury Park Community Center, Park and Clubhouse</td>
<td>471 South Roxbury Drive</td>
<td>13.8</td>
<td>Shady areas under tree canopies, gently rolling green hills, picnic table rentals including use of park barbecues, large children’s playgrounds, 4 well-lit tennis courts, lawn bowling, croquet and putting green, baseball diamond/soccer field, 1-1/2 basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, senior adult programs and services, adult classes, preschool classes, for-rent rooms.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Will Rogers Memorial Park</td>
<td>9650 Sunset Boulevard</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>Landscaped with fountain/pond, benches and restroom facilities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Arnaz Mini Park</td>
<td>151 North Arnaz Drive</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Crescent Dr. Mini Park</td>
<td>151 North Arnaz Drive</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Hamel Mini Park</td>
<td>214 South Hamel Drive</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Maltz Park</td>
<td>9800 Sunset Blvd.</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Oakhurst Mini Park</td>
<td>120 South Oakhurst Drive</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Reeves Mini Park</td>
<td>125 South Reeves Drive</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Rexford Mini Park</td>
<td>362 North Rexford Drive</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>Mini Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>76.7 (approximately)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 4.2-1
**Maintenance and Development**

Currently, a community center is under consideration for Beverly Hills within the C-5 zoned light industrial area of the City. The City is proposing to develop a community center on a portion of the block located on the east side of Foothill Road, between Alden Drive and Third Street. At this time, the community center is expected to require approximately 2.5 acres of site area and include approximately 80,000 square feet of enclosed space as well as outdoor activity areas. Proposed indoor uses include two full basketball courts, a fitness center, group exercise/dance studio, leisure pool with lap lanes, large community hall, caterer's kitchen, youth game room/lounge, day care room, juice bar and storage space. The proposed outdoor space features an eight-lane lap pool, patio/courtyard, enclosed play area, a multi-purpose field, and restrooms. The City envisions parking being provided in a subterranean garage. The recreation center is estimated to require approximately 460 spaces to satisfy its parking demand.\(^73\)

Aside from the community center, no new parks are proposed within the City. The Department Initiatives in the 2004/05 FY Budget show plans to apply for Prop A Grant Maintenance Reimbursement Funds for Beverly Gardens Park and Reeves mini-park, and begin a maintenance renovation program for park athletic fields. In addition, the City is continuing to implement the Street Tree Master Plan in coordination with Urban Design efforts.\(^74\)

**Recreational Facilities**

As described in Table 4.2-1, the City’s parks contain a variety of recreational facilities, with areas available for organized sports, including soccer fields, baseball diamonds, tennis courts, volleyball courts, and basketball courts. Additionally, benches, picnic tables, and barbecues are available for informal recreational activities. Jogging trails, putting greens, croquet and lawn bowling are available, and children’s play areas are located within many parks to provide recreational opportunities for children.

There are a variety of other private recreational facilities, some of which are offered to members, guests or students only. Examples include private gyms, swimming pools, and basketball and volleyball courts. Recreation facilities within private multi-family developments also provide a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities.

In addition to the City’s formal recreational structure, there is the informal or improvised recreational network present in any community which draws its existence from the ingenuity and inventiveness of the residents. These include areas used for jogging, bicycling, and so on. In addition, the elaborate network of landscaping and vistas foster a sense of spaciousness within the City’s urban setting. Although a significant portion of the vegetation is the result of strategically located parks and the City’s own tree-planting

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\(^{73}\) City of Beverly Hills, 2005. Written communication from the Recreation and Parks Department, May.

\(^{74}\) Annual City Council Budget—Fiscal Year 2004/05. Budget Initiatives, Recreation and Parks Department. Website: http://www.beverlyhills.org, May.
efforts, a substantial contribution is the result of private investment. The private
contribution combined with the City’s efforts, comprise the fabric of the garden setting
of Beverly Hills. It is seen from many vantage points, and is the result of various features,
including vistas from hillside homes and high-rises, large lots, dense landscaping, and
varied topography.

School Facilities with Joint Use Agreements

When not being used by the School District, most recreation facilities at the public
schools are open to the public, under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the City
and the Beverly Hills Unified School District (The District). Approximately 16 acres of
public school facilities are open to the public after school hours. These school facilities
are illustrated in Figure 4.1-1.

The facilities are operated and maintained by the District, and the City’s Recreation and
Parks Department sponsors programs for citizens of Beverly Hills during the week. The
District provides unsupervised playground access on weekends. The City also has rights
to schedule the public programs at school facilities when they are not being utilized by
the District. For example, the City utilizes the high school pool in the evenings and on
weekends year-round for public recreational swim, swimming lessons, classes and public
swim team practice and meets.75

Other types of activities available to the public at school sites include tennis, soccer, track,
basketball, volleyball, and handball. Schools also have playgrounds, back boards,
gymnastic equipment, multi-purpose rooms, and arts and crafts rooms for the public to
use after school hours under City staff supervision. In addition, the District operates
certain school classes for regular students at Roxbury Park, including tennis, golf, gym,
and track classes.

Regional Opportunities

The City does not provide regional or area-wide recreational opportunities, although
many municipal facilities are used by non-residents. However, there are a variety of
recreational and park facilities near the City that offer many different types of activities,
including some that are unique in the region. Approximately 42 existing parks and open
space facilities are within a three mile radius of Beverly Hills, 36 of which are in regular
public use. Nine of the listed facilities offer activities or facilities not offered in Beverly
Hills, including the following:

- *Campo de Cahuenga*—a .43-acre site with a community building and historic
  monument, 2.3 miles from Beverly Hills
- *Hancock Park*—a 7-acre site consisting of County museums, located 0.7 miles from
  Beverly Hills
- *Hollywood Bowl*—a 32-acre site providing live entertainment, 3.2 miles from Beverly
  Hills

75 Agnitch, Pat, 2005. Personal communication with the Recreation and Parks Department, May.
**Plummer Park**—a 6-acre site with an athletic field, six tennis courts, pro-shop, and the Audubon Society Headquarters, 2.2 miles from Beverly Hills

**Rancho Park**—a 28.33-acre site with golf course, putting green, picnic benches, tennis courts, swimming pool and barbeque area located 0.1 miles from Beverly Hills

**Studio City Golf Course**—a 33-acre site with a golf course and tennis courts, 5.0 miles from Beverly Hills

**UCLA**—a university campus providing community open space and educational facilities, 1.7 miles from Beverly Hills

**VA Hospital**—community open space and medical facilities, 2.3 miles from Beverly Hills

**Wattles Garden Park**—a 48.16-acre site featuring natural areas with a Japanese garden and teahouse, 2.2 miles from Beverly Hills

Federal, state, and county agencies also provide regional park and recreation facilities. Following is a list of some of the open space tracts currently in public use within seven miles of Beverly Hills:

**Griffith Park**—a 4,100-acre park located five miles from Beverly Hills containing golf courses, riding and hiking trails, Griffith Park Observatory and Planetarium, Los Angeles Zoo, restaurants, picnic grounds, barbeque areas, tennis courts, and the Greek Theatre

**Santa Monica State Beach**—a three-acre beach located six miles from Beverly Hills featuring an ocean beach, volleyball and basketball areas, picnic and barbeque areas, shops and Santa Monica Pier activities

**Stone Canyon Reservoir**—a 763-acre site located 1.8 miles from Beverly Hills including hiking trails, horse trails and picnic areas

**Temescal Gateway Park**—a 141-acre site located 6.2 miles from Beverly Hills containing campsites, horseback riding and barbecue areas

**Topanga Beach**—a 4-acre beach located seven miles from Beverly Hills containing an ocean beach and picnic areas

**Upper Franklin Canyon Reservoir**—a 145-acre site located 1.8 miles from Beverly Hills featuring hiking trails, horse trails and picnic areas

**Will Rogers State Beach**—a three-acre beach located five miles from Beverly Hills featuring an ocean beach, volleyball areas, playground and gymnastic equipment, bike path and walkway, and picnic and barbeque area

**Will Rogers State Park**—a 183.5-acre park located 5.8 miles from Beverly Hills featuring horseback riding, picnic area, tour of Will Rogers’ home and polo field

### Park Usage

With the exception of the proposed community center (described above), the more intensely developed portions of the City are better served with recreational facilities. However, due to the location of the City’s major parks, primarily La Cienega and Roxbury parks, near the City’s boundaries, a portion of their service area falls outside the City. Park capacity is, therefore, shared by both non-residents and residents of Beverly Hills.
The NRPA standard is five acres of parkland per 1,000 residents of “local or close to home open space”. As a result, the City is currently deficient by approximately 108.8 acres in existing park acreage. Future increases in population will increase demand on parks and park facilities. The national standard, however, does not account for open space provided within the public schools and private arena. While the City currently does not have its own established standard ratio or goal of open space-to-population, there is less of a dependence upon public facilities in some parts of Beverly Hills due to the existence of private recreational facilities such as swimming pools and tennis courts located at private residences. A few multifamily residential buildings have swimming pools.

Although NRPA standards are useful in determining a benchmark for appropriate allocations of recreational facilities, actual demand will vary from city to city. Beverly Hills is a built-out city with no significant vacant tracts of land, and must address recreational demand on an as-needed basis. Current opportunities include the reconfiguring of existing playing fields and recreational facilities and the development of a new community center to accommodate additional demand.

Recreational Programs

The three divisions of Administration, Leisure Services and Art and Cultural events Programs within the Parks and Recreation Department provide leisure and cultural opportunities to residents through a variety of programs and facilities. Recreation and Parks programs are structured to meet the recreational interests of Beverly Hill’s residents. Baby/toddler classes, adult and youth classes and sports, youth childcare and after-school programs, teen programs, summer youth camps, senior programs, and adult and senior excursions are offered through the Recreation and Parks Department. Cultural and recreational programs in the City are conducted at many City facilities, including neighborhood parks, City Hall, the public library, community centers, clubhouses, and public schools. Art and Cultural Events programs include the annual Garden and Design Showcase, Biannual Affaire in the Gardens Art Show, summer “Plaza Sweets” series, and community-wide special events.

Parent & Me classes, for babies and toddlers, help stimulate a child’s growth and development in a fun and creative atmosphere. Youth classes and programs include a variety of dance classes and sports, such as basketball, aquatics, tennis and soccer. Teen programs include Water Safety Instructor and Lifeguard Training courses. The City also offers summer camps for youth and teens in a number of sports and educational areas. For adults, dance, sports, and exercise and fitness classes are offered, as well as art classes and adult excursions. The City provides a wide range of services and programs for senior citizens as well.

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Year-round preschool programs licensed by the state of California serve Beverly Hills residents with children 3-5 years of age. Developmental needs of the child are met through creative, hands-on activities including music, art, drama and creative movement in addition to science and culinary experiences. Pre-school Programs are offered at City facilities and two District elementary schools. State-licensed after-school childcare programs are also offered.

Many of the programs offered are fee based, however the Beverly Hills Recreation and Parks Department offers a free supervised program at each of the four elementary schools. This free program is open to children in grades Kindergarten through 8th grade and operates weekday afternoons. Leaders of the program plan daily activities such as arts and crafts, sports and board games, in addition to seasonal team sports such as basketball and track and field.

Although not Department programs, many community activity groups are directly supported by the City in the form of providing facilities for the organizations, all of which offer specialized services for Beverly Hills residents. Following is a list of supported community groups:

- Beverly Hills American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)
- Beverly Hills Basketball League
- Beverly Hills Bridge Club
- Beverly Hills Community Theatre
- Beverly Hills Croquet Club
- Beverly Hills Historical Society
- Beverly Hills Lacrosse Club
- Beverly Hills Lawn Bowling Club
- Beverly Hills Little League and Senior Little League
- Beverly Hills Symphony
- The Beverly Hills Theatre Guild
- Beverly Hills Tinseltown Rose Society
- Friends of Greystone
- Beverly Hills Theatre 40

**Additional Community and Recreation Services**

**Beverly Hills Farmer’s Market**

The Beverly’s Hills Farmer’s Market is a weekly outdoor certified market for farmers to sell their fresh products directly to consumers and serves as a community gathering venue. Working in cooperation with County Agricultural Commissioners around the state, each participating grower must be certified as the actual producer of the products.
available at the market. The market is held every Sunday from 9am to 1pm on Civic Center Drive east of the Civic Center in Beverly Hills.\textsuperscript{81}

**Urban Forestry and Park Operations Divisions**

The Urban Forest division is responsible for the care and maintenance of over 27,000 trees located within the parkways, parks, median strips, water reservoirs and parking structures of the City. The Division administers the contracts for trimming, removal, replacement and insect control of all City trees. The Division also conducts an alley and right-of-way clearance program to clear trees and shrubs overhanging into the public domain and is responsible for implementation of the Street Tree Master Plan approved by the City Council.\textsuperscript{82} The City Council approved Phase I of the Street Tree Master Plan in 1996, which sustains the urban forest through the removal and replacement of declining trees. Pruning debris is recycled into useful landscape mulches as part of the green waste program. Some of the declining trees that are removed are recycled as well. Benches made from these trees are available to residents of the City through the Logs to Lumber program.\textsuperscript{83}

The Parks Operation division provides landscape maintenance for all the parks, Civic Center, in addition to administering the contact maintenance of parking structures, traffic islands, and medians within the City limits, water reservoirs and mowing of turf areas throughout the park system. The parkway trees that line the streets of Beverly Hills, as well as the trees in the parks, comprise the City’s urban forest.

### Issues

- The City currently does not have a standard or goal for open space-to-population, and is deficient in park acreage according to national standards. Furthermore, future population increases will increase demand on parks and park facilities.

- With limited open space in the city, a Park Master Plan of existing facilities and park space, especially for La Cienega and Roxbury Parks, would be instrumental in planning for the future.

- Given limited City-owned land available for recreational facilities and open space, the City could explore acquisition of additional sites or facilities if feasible and the properties fit criteria for function, location and cost.

- As the City’s tree inventory continues to age and decline, continuation with additional phases of the Street Tree Master Plan is warranted.

### References

Agnitch, Pat. Personal communication with the Recreation and Parks Department, May.

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\textsuperscript{81} City of Beverly Hills, Annual City Council Budget – Fiscal Year 2004/05. Recreation and Parks Department. Website: www.cityofbeverlyhills.org, May.

\textsuperscript{82} City of Beverly Hills, 2005. Website: www.cityofbeverlyhills.org, May.

\textsuperscript{83} City of Beverly Hills, 2005. Website: www.cityofbeverlyhills.org, May.


———. 2005. Written communication from the Recreation and Parks Department, May.
4.3 LIBRARY SERVICES

This section describes the City of Beverly Hills’s existing library services. Information for this section is based on the City’s website and conversations with City staff at the Public Library.

Existing Conditions

Library Facilities

Two public libraries serve the City, the main Beverly Hills Public Library and the smaller Roxbury Senior Library. The 91,000-square-foot Beverly Hills Public Library opened on September 4, 1990 and is located at the Civic Center at 444 North Rexford Drive Street. The Roxbury Senior Library occupies part of a building at Roxbury Park, located at 471 South Roxbury Drive.84

Beverly Hills Public Library

As of the end of fiscal 2004-05, the library had a current collection of 312,000 items, which includes book volumes, videos, DVDs, CDs, and CD-ROM software, audiocassettes, books on tape, and informational pamphlets. Additionally, as of the end of the 2005 fiscal year, the library received 594 magazine and newspaper subscriptions. Currently, the library has 72 full-time and full-time-equivalent (FTE) staff members.

The library facilities and associated services, which are described below, of the Beverly Hills Public Library are available at no charge to both residents and nonresidents of Beverly Hills. As of the end of the 2005 fiscal year, the library had 67,215 registered borrowers within a total City population of approximately 35,700. The annual circulation for FY 2004/05 was 782,700 in checkout usage. Back issue periodicals used in-house totaled 25,900. Internal usage of reference materials and current periodicals is not monitored. Only current issues of the popular magazines are permitted for check-out. Special Collections are housed in special rooms for the use of patrons within the library.85

The library has two meeting rooms, one which holds 35 people and an auditorium with a capacity for 200 people. The smaller room contains a marker board and screen and the auditorium contains a screen and piano. Typically, staff uses the rooms to conduct meetings and tutoring sessions, however, the rooms and auditorium are also available for rent to the public for recitals and meetings. The library also has one storage room in the basement with very little storage capacity.86

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84 Peoples, Galen, 2005. Personal communication with the Beverly Hills Public Library Administrative Secretary, 26 May.
85 Peoples, Galen, 2005. Personal communication with the Beverly Hills Public Library Administrative Secretary, 26 May.
86 Peoples, Galen, 2005. Personal communication with the Beverly Hills Public Library Administrative Secretary, 26 May.
Roxbury Senior Library

Roxbury Senior Library contains a small collection of approximately 2,000 volumes, including periodicals and newspapers, with a collection of large print and audio books. All books are copies of books that the City orders for the main library. The total annual circulation for FY 2004/05 was 7,000 in checkout. The library does not charge fines, and it is operated by volunteers who are supervised by the Library’s Outreach Coordinator. The library is open three hours a day Monday through Friday. Annual operating expenditures are approximately $21,000 dollars.\(^87\)

Library Services

The library offers a number of services to assist its users. Computer services include an on-line library catalogue access to a variety of research databases and Internet access. The library also offers one-hour sessions in learning the internet, and a delivery service for residents who are unable to visit the library because of physical difficulties. The Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library is a nonprofit citizens’ group dedicated to raising funds with the sole purpose of enhancing the Library’s programs and collections. The group operates two bookstores which are located within the library and staffed by volunteers, which sell new, used, collectible, and out-of-print books. The library is also expanding its services to the visually handicapped, and currently houses a collection of large print materials, audio books, and a magnifying reader. The library will soon be able to provide devices for people to download and listen to audio e-books.\(^88\)

Library Services is part of the Community Services Department. The Library offers its services at the main library and at the Roxbury Senior Library.\(^89\) Among the key services provided by the Library are the following:

- The Administrative Services Division is responsible for the management, budget control, and planning for the Library. In addition, this division manages the Library’s cultural programming and serves as liaison to the Friends of the Beverly Hills Public Library.
- The Circulation Division is responsible for patron registration, the check-in and check-out of materials, reserved books, the collection of fines and fees, shelving and shelf maintenance, collections from outside book returns, the Roxbury Senior Library and book delivery to shut-ins.
- The Reference Services Division is responsible for reference and adult circulating book collection development, the selection of periodicals and newspapers, the maintenance of periodical back files and indexes (print, microfilm and online), on-site and phone reference, reader’s advisory, homework assistance (high school) and new information technologies (e.g. Internet and online databases).
- The Fine Arts Division is responsible for collection development in fine art and music, audiovisual collection development including compact discs, cassettes, books on tape, and videos, and on-site and phone reference in the fine art. This

\(^{87}\) Peoples, Galen, 2005. Personal communication with the Beverly Hills Public Library Administrative Secretary, 26 May.

\(^{88}\) City of Beverly Hills, 2005. Website: www.beverlyhills.org, May.

\(^{89}\) City of Beverly Hills, 2005. Website: www.beverlyhills.org, May.
division maintains a non-circulating fine art research collection as well as a circulating fine arts collection for a diverse population of general users, students and professional persons (e.g. appraisers, designers, gallery personnel, and teachers). The emphasis is on significant titles in 19th and 20th century painting, sculpture, decorative arts, architecture, photography, and performance art.

- The Children’s Services Division is responsible for children’s book collection development, story and reading programs, homework assistance (through 8th grade), class visits and library instruction, readers’ advisory and reference services, and summer reading club. The Division provides assistance for young readers as well as their parents or guardians. By using an extensive reference and circulating children’s collection, the children’s librarians can help children and adults find resources to satisfy their educational and recreational information needs.

- The Literary Services Division is responsible for offering instruction in reading and writing to adults in the community and the workplace, providing referral services to adult learners, and offering family education to adult learners with children under five.

- Support Services is responsible for ordering, cataloging, classifying, processing, binding, and repairing library materials and maintaining financial records of these transactions, and is also responsible for the Roxbury Senior Library. Library materials include newspapers, magazines, books, videos, DVDs, sound recordings (CD, cassette, and LP), talking books and CD-ROMs as well as any other new formats that are developed. Support Services staff serve as the administrators for the library’s automated system (Innovative). The automated system includes modules for the online public catalog, database maintenance, circulation, ordering and receiving (including the financial functions) and other system functions. Support Services is also responsible for providing the public with materials from other libraries via interlibrary loan.

The Library also schedules a storytelling concert series sponsored by the Friends of the Library for adults and mature teens, ages 12 and older. The series are held on Saturday evenings six times during the school year. Each storyteller in the program is selected based on his or her performance experience at local, statewide and national storytelling festivals. A variety of storytelling styles are featured in the series: traditional tales, personal stories, original stories, musical stories, and audience participation tales. Admission is $10.00 per person per performances. The Family Storytelling Festival Series is also offered for adults and children, ages five and older. These events are free and held at the Library Auditorium.  

**Library Usage**

Demand for usage of library materials has decreased in the last few years. However, the figures would have to be itemized in order to determine a decrease in demand for specific materials. Decreased usage may be attributed to increased Internet usage, as well as the availability of CD-ROM databases with full-text magazine articles.

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91 Peoples, Galen, 2005. Personal communication with the Beverly Hills Public Library Administrative Secretary, 26 May.
Chapter 4 Community Services

■ Regulatory Setting

Section 2.2.803 of the Beverly Hills Municipal Code (BHMC) requires that the Department of Library and Community Services be responsible for furnishing administrative staff support to the Fine Art Commission. Section 2.3.701-702 establishes the Library and Community Services Department which shall consist of two divisions, the Library Division and Cable Television Services Division. The Director of the Department of Library and Community Services is responsible for formulating policies and procedures for the management of the Library and Community Services Department. The Director shall also supervise and administer library programs, facilities and services, organize and catalog all library collections of print and nonprint material to facilitate access by patrons, implement and maintain a circulation system that encourages patron use of library collections while also protecting and preserving the integrity of collections, implement the rules and regulations governing the use of the library such as the schedule of fees for the use of library services and the schedule of fines for violation of such rules and regulations.

■ Issues

■ The Library facility on Rexford Drive is approaching the midpoint in the life span of a library facility. Things such as security, storage, general maintenance and electrical, HVAC and other key issues should be addressed to extend the life of the building.

■ Library staff should be tasked to evaluate collections and services to ensure they are provided consistent with community needs.

■ The Roxbury Library facility is in poor condition. A facility needs analysis should be considered in conjunction with other services provided at that location.

■ References


Peoples, Galen. 2005. Personal communication with the Beverly Hills Public Library Administrative Secretary, 26 May.