

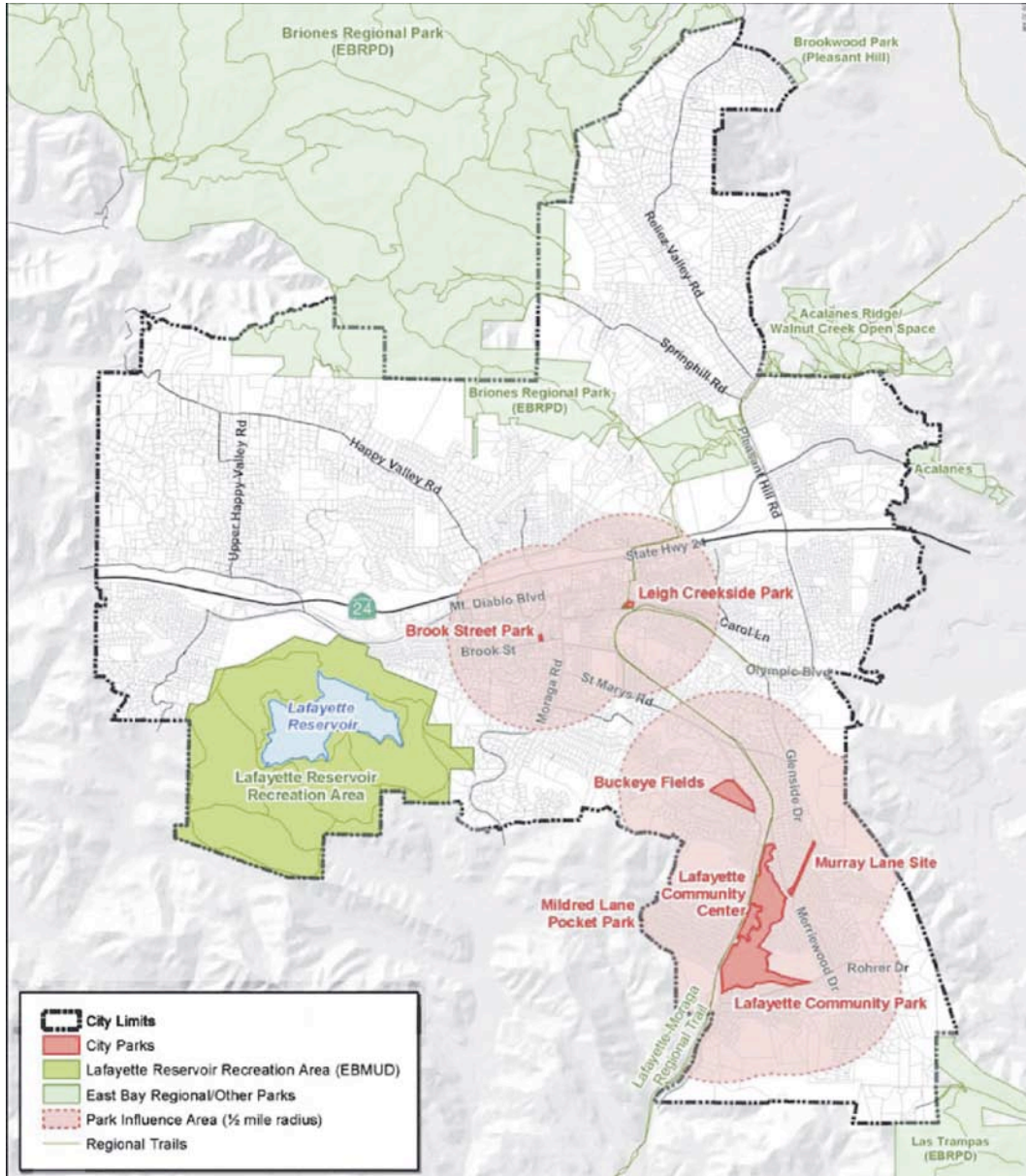
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Survey Says...

By Cathy Tyson



It's not too late for Lafayette residents to complete their Parks Master Plan Opinion Survey. The survey is part of the first phase to develop a Parks Master Plan for the City, a road map for providing the kind of park facilities Lafayette residents want and to meet the goals of the 2002 General Plan.

Five acres per 1,000 residents is the stated goal of the Plan. Currently Lafayette owns 3.8 acres per 1,000 residents, which translates to 91 acres of parks and recreational facilities. Deciding what to do and where to situate the additional future 44 acres of City parkland is what this survey is all about.

Courtesy City of Lafayette's web site
 "It's important for long-term planning to get the community involved so they have a voice in the process. Our intent is not to push parks on everyone, but to give people a chance to dream, maybe about a pool or skateboard park. The survey is also for people who are content with what we already

have," said Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Russell.

Most residents are familiar with the following City run areas: the Community Center, the 68-acre park next to the Community Center which includes sports fields, group picnic area, kids play area, trails, Petanque courts, restrooms and parking, and finally Buckeye Fields.

In addition, there are several lesser known neighborhood parks: Leigh Creekside Park, Brook Street Park, Mildred Lane Pocket Park, and an as yet undeveloped Murray Lane site.

What are not included in the survey are the Lafayette Reservoir and Briones, because they are operated by outside agencies, EBMUD and East Bay Regional Parks District, respectively.

Residents concerned about the need for additional sports playing fields as well as an off-leash dog park, have an opportunity with the survey to make their preference known.

The City Council recently approved the formation of a dog park task force to look into the viability of turning the Olympic Blvd staging area into an off-leash pooch paradise.

The Parks Master Plan dovetails nicely with the Lafayette Downtown Strategic Plan, which clearly showed a desire for a downtown park that included a children's play area.

Go to www.lovelafayette.com and scroll down on the home page to the aptly named, Parks Master Plan Opinion Survey, to get started.