

# **17. Public Services and Recreation**

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This chapter describes the existing public services and recreation resources in Livermore. This chapter uses the term “Livermore” to cover the City of Livermore together with the immediately surrounding area within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) and Sphere of Influence (SOI). See the Introduction for more information on these boundaries.

Topics covered in this chapter include:

- Fire Protection Services
- Police Protection Services
- Schools
- Libraries
- Parks

This chapter begins with an overview of the regulatory framework for all the public services topics followed by a description of existing services in Livermore.

## **17.1 REGULATORY FRAMEWORK**

### **17.1.1 STATE REGULATIONS**

#### **17.1.1.1 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE**

The State of California provides a minimum standard for building design through Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The California Building Code (CBC) is located in Part 2 of Title 24. The CBC is updated every three years, and the current 2019 CBC went into effect in January 2020. The City of Livermore adopted the CBC into its Municipal Code (see Section 17.1.2.3). Commercial and residential buildings are plan-checked by City building officials for compliance with the CBC. Typical fire safety requirements of the CBC include the establishment of fire-resistance standards for fire doors, building materials, and particular types of construction, and the clearance of debris and vegetation within a prescribed distance from occupied structures in wildfire hazard areas.

#### **17.1.1.2 CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE**

The California Fire Code (CFC) incorporates, by adoption, the International Fire Code of the International Code Council, with California amendments. This is the official Fire Code for the state and all political subdivisions. It is found in CCR Title 24, Part 9, and, like the CBC, it is revised and published every three years by the California Building Standards Commission. Also like the CBC, the CFC is effective statewide, but a local jurisdiction may adopt more restrictive standards based on local conditions.

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The CFC includes provisions and standards for emergency planning and preparedness, fire service features, fire protection systems, hazardous materials, fire flow requirements, and fire hydrant locations and distribution. Typical fire safety requirements include installation of sprinklers in all high-rise buildings; the establishment of fire resistance standards for fire doors, building materials, and particular types of construction; and the clearance of debris and vegetation within a prescribed distance from occupied structures in wildfire hazard areas.

### **17.1.1.3 THE MELLO-ROOS COMMUNITIES FACILITIES ACT OF 1982**

The Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act, California Government Code Section 53311 et seq., provides an alternative method of financing certain public capital facilities and services through special taxes. This state law empowers local agencies to establish Community Facilities Districts (CFDs) to levy special taxes for facilities such as fire protection, police protection, schools, and libraries. Such districts exist within the City of Livermore.

### **17.1.1.4 SENATE BILL 50**

Senate Bill (SB) 50 (funded by Proposition 1A, approved in 1998) limits the power of cities and counties to require mitigation of school facilities impacts as a condition of approving new development and provides instead for a standardized developer fee. SB 50 also provides for three levels of statutory impact fees. In setting the fees, school districts must prepare nexus studies to demonstrate a reasonable connection between new development and the need for school improvements. The fees may only be used to finance the construction or modernization of school facilities. The fee application level depends on whether state funding is available, whether the school district is eligible for state funding, and whether the school district meets certain additional criteria involving bonding capacity, year-round school, and the percentage of moveable classrooms in use.

### **17.1.1.5 CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE, SECTION 65995(B), AND EDUCATION CODE SECTION 17620**

SB 50 amended California Government Code Section 65995, which contains limitations on Education Code Section 17620, the statute that authorizes school districts to assess development fees within school district boundaries. California Government Code Section 65995(b)(3) requires the maximum square footage assessment for development to be increased every two years, according to inflation adjustments. On January 22, 2014, the State Allocation Board (SAB) approved increasing the allowable amount of statutory school facilities fees (Level I School Fees) from \$3.20 to \$3.36 per square foot of assessable space for residential development of 500 square feet or more, and from \$0.51 to \$0.54 per square foot of chargeable covered and enclosed space for commercial/industrial development. According to California Government Code Section 65995(3)(h), the payment of statutory fees is “deemed to be full and complete mitigation of the impacts of any legislative or adjudicative act, or both, involving, but not limited to, the planning, use, or development of real property, or any change in governmental organization or reorganization...on the provision of adequate school facilities.” The school district is responsible for implementing the specific methods for mitigating school impacts under the California Government Code.

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**17.1.1.6 MITIGATION FEE ACT (CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 66000-66008)**

Assembly Bill (AB) 1600, the Mitigation Fee Act, requires a local agency establishing, increasing, or imposing an impact fee as a condition of development to identify the purpose of the fee and the use to which the fee is to be put.<sup>1</sup> The agency must also demonstrate a reasonable relationship between the fee and the purpose for which it is charged, and between the fee and the type of development project on which it is to be levied. This act became effective on January 1, 1989.

**17.1.1.7 THE QUIMBY ACT**

The 1975 Quimby Act (California Government Code Section 66477) authorizes cities and counties to adopt ordinances requiring developers to set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for park improvements. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for operation and maintenance of park facilities.<sup>2</sup> A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or parkland and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Cities with a high ratio of park space to inhabitants can set a standard of up to 5 acres per 1,000 persons for new development. Cities with a lower ratio can only require the provision of up to 3 acres of park space per 1,000 persons. The calculation of a city's park space to population ratio is based on a comparison of the population count of the last federal census to the amount of city-owned parkland.

**17.1.2 LOCAL REGULATIONS**

**17.1.2.1 2003-2025 GENERAL PLAN**

The City of Livermore 2003-2025 General Plan contains goals, policies, and actions related to fire protection, police services, schools, libraries, and parks throughout the document, as shown in Table 17-1. As part of the General Plan Update, it is likely that some existing General Plan goals, policies, and actions could be amended, substantially changed, or new policies could be added. The General Plan's Infrastructure and Public Facilities Element in its entirety relates to fire protection services, police services, schools, libraries, and parks; every goal from this element will not be included in Table 17-1. For the complete element, please go on the City's website.

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<sup>1</sup> California Legislative Information, California Law, Code Section Group, Government Code Sections 66000-66008, [https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=1.&title=7.&part=&chapter=5.&article=](https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/codes_displayText.xhtml?lawCode=GOV&division=1.&title=7.&part=&chapter=5.&article=) accessed on April 8, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Westrup, Laura, 2002, Quimby Act 101: An Abbreviated Overview, Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation.

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**TABLE 17-1 LIVERMORE 2003-20235 GENERAL PLAN GOALS RELEVANT TO FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, POLICE SERVICES, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND PARKS**

Goal No.	Description
LU-1	<b>Protect the unique qualities of Livermore, which include a historic Downtown, a variety of residential neighborhoods, vineyards, ranches, natural habitats and open space.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal LU-1 ensure that commercial and neighborhood uses are comprehensively designed with public services in mind to increase livability in communities across Livermore.
LU-2	<b>The City recognizes that it has an overriding responsibility to promulgate policies and programs, which will result in the management of growth to best serve the health, safety, and general welfare of its residents (NLUGBI).</b> Policies and Actions under Goal LU-2 limits growth of the City and ensures that public services does not exceed the community’s capability to adequately provide public services.
LU-5	<b>It is the goal of the City to establish a coherent and logical pattern of urban uses that protects and enhances open space and agricultural uses by providing a clear and permanent boundary for urban uses within the City’s Planning Area. The provisions of GOAL LU-5, as readopted by the North Livermore Urban Growth Boundary Initiative shall be amended only by a vote of the people.</b> Policies and actions under LU-5 regulates the development in North Livermore to protect agricultural uses, open space, and the rural character of this area of the City.
CC-4	<b>Protect and enhance public views within and from established scenic routes, including views of arroyos.</b> Policies and Actions under CC-4 protect and regulate scenic routes in Livermore by promoting appropriate maintenance of public services to ensure aesthetic viewsheds are preserved and protected. In addition, various policies and actions require Livermore and County Departments to collaborate to provide an enjoyable recreational experience in the City.
INF-1	<b>Provide sufficient water supplies and facilities to serve the City in the most efficient and financially sound manner, while maintaining the highest standards required to enhance the quality of life for existing and future residents.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal INF-1 cover water availability, fire flows, water for agriculture irrigation, coordination with Zone 7, protection of water quality, water fees for new development, updates to the water master plan, water system operational costs, coordination with Cal Water, and requirements for water infrastructure construction as part of new development.”
INF-2, INF-3, and INF-8	Policies and Actions under Goal INF-2, INF-3, and INF-8 cover the collection, treatment, and disposal of wastewater, stormwater, and solid waste in safe, sanitary, environmentally acceptable and financially sound ways while maintaining high standards required to preserve quality of life for existing and future residents.
INF-4	<b>Provide utilities in ways that are safe, environmentally acceptable and financially sound.</b> Polices and Actions under Goal INF-4 relates to providing adequate utility service to future and projected Livermore residents while respecting Livermore’s natural environment.
INF-5	<b>Maintain a safe environment in Livermore through enforcement of the law, prevention of crime and the function of partnerships with the community.</b> Polices and Actions under Goal INF-5 includes coordination between land use planning and law enforcement to maintain and improve law enforcement and crime prevention services to keep in pace with Livermore’s dynamic population.
INF-6	<b>Minimize loss of life and property from fires, medical emergencies and public emergencies.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal INF-6 includes coordination between the city and the Livermore Fire Department to minimize loss of life and property from fires, medical emergencies, and public emergencies. This includes land use planning and fire protection coordination, partnerships with state, county, and regional fire protection agencies, and revie annual staffing and/or equipment deficiencies.
INF-7	<b>Provide education facilities sufficient to meet the demands of existing and new development.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal INF-7 ensures that the Joint Valley Unified School District develop and maintain school facilities to prevent negative impacts on the health, safety, and welfare of students.
INF-9	<b>The City shall support access to health care in Livermore.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal INF-9 facilitates facility access to health care for Livermore residents.
INF-10	<b>Ensure an adequate range and supply of childcare services to meet the needs of all Livermore residents.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal INF-10 ensures that childcare is provided adequately to meet the needs for Livermore residents through partnerships with organizations like the LARPD, LVJUSD, and community centers.

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**TABLE 17-1 LIVERMORE 2003-2025 GENERAL PLAN GOALS RELEVANT TO FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, POLICE SERVICES, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, AND PARKS**

Goal No.	Description
INF-11	<b>Provide sufficient library service to meet the information, cultural and educational needs of the population of Livermore.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal INF-11 ensures that the Livermore Public Library provides sufficient library service to meet the various needs of Livermore residents.
OSC-5	<b>Develop a full complement of parks and other recreational lands for public use and enjoyment</b> Policies and Actions under Goal OSC-5 create and maintain the open space in Livermore while providing a full range of recreational activities within the City.
N-1	<b>Minimize the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal N-1 ensure that noise sensitive uses, and park facilities and other recreational activities are protected from excessive noise.
PS-3	<b>Protect lives and property from wildland fire hazard.</b> Policies and Actions under Goal PS-3 requires new regulations to ensure the safety of residents and properties from wildfires.

Source: City of Livermore 2003-2025 General Plan

**17.1.2.2 LIBRARY STRATEGIC SERVICES PLAN**

The Livermore Public Library 2020-2025 Strategic Services Plan contains objectives and strategies to make the Livermore Public Library an inclusive and supportive education space, encouraging all community members to gather and learn from a variety of resources, including each other. This plan guides library staff to balance limited resources in ways to meet public needs.

**17.1.2.3 LIVERMORE MUNICIPAL CODE**

The Livermore Municipal Code (LMC), organized by title, chapter, and section, contains all ordinances for the City and addresses fire protection, police regulation, and the city library. Most provisions relating to fire protection services are included in Chapter 15.06, Fire Code. The fire code regulates the hazardous conditions to protect property and life. The fire code includes the portions of the 2018 international fire. Chapter 2.36, Police Department and Police Reserve, establishes that as long as the City receives aid from the State of California, the City will adhere to the standards for recruitment and training of the State of California’s Penal Code. Chapter 2.60, Public Library, of the Livermore Municipal Code establishes the Livermore Public Library.

**17.1.2.4 LIVERMORE AREA RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT MASTER PLAN**

The purpose of the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) Master Plan is to provide a realistic and visionary guide for the creative, orderly development and management of parks, trails, recreation facilities, open space, and programs for the LARPD, now and into the future. The Master Plan findings and recommendations are based on a combination of community input derived from community workshops, targeted surveys, input from professional staff, district records, participation data, and technical analysis, and, as such, they represent community expectations. This plan also includes a recreational facility needs assessment to determine the existing service level of the park, trails, and open space within the LARPD boundary and determine any deficiencies. The needs assessment was used to identify future recommendation and assisted in goal setting of the future of LARPD.

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### **17.1.2.5 LAS POSITAS COLLEGE 2018 FACILITIES MASTER PLAN**

The 2018 Las Positas College Facilities Master Plan guides the development of the campus for the next 15 years and beyond. The Master Plan includes design principles for the development of buildings, outdoor spaces, mobility and infrastructure upgrades, and other physical improvements envisioned for the campus.

## 17.2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

### 17.2.1 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Fire services in Livermore are provided by the Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department (LPFD). In 1996, the Cities of Livermore and Pleasanton entered into a Joint Powers Authority (JPA), consolidating each City's fire department into the LPFD.<sup>3</sup> The LPFD provides contract and automatic aid outside the cities of Livermore and Pleasanton within Alameda County and adjacent areas. The LPFD also provides reimbursed mutual aid at State of California and Federal incidents.<sup>4</sup> As of October 2021, the LPFD has 127 fulltime-equivalent (FTE) employees and three half-time employees.<sup>5</sup>

Within the City of Livermore, the LPFD provides core services to approximately 89,000 residents over an area of 26 square miles. These services include all-risk emergency response, such as fire, emergency medical services, automobile accidents, hazardous materials, and County and Statewide mutual aid. Additionally, LPFD provides mandated emergency readiness training, fire prevention plan checks and inspections, community education, and disaster preparedness. The LPFD also supports law enforcement to implement evacuation orders. LPFD has worked to adopt AC Alert and Zone haven, a community emergency and evacuation interface tool, to facilitate successful emergency preparation and evacuation.

The LPFD is organized into three branches: Administration, Fire Prevention and Emergency Operations. The Administration branch includes the Office of the Fire Chief, the Finance Division, and the Disaster Preparedness Division. The Finance Division partners with the Finance Departments of both cities to oversee the LPFD's budget, including tracking and reporting on all revenues and expenses, developing long-term budget forecasts, and presenting finance information to departmental and City personnel. The Fire Prevention branch focuses on risk reduction to the community through a performance-based approach and application of the codes and laws pertaining to fire, hazardous materials, and use of buildings and facilities. The Fire Prevention branch is also responsible for the enforcement of codes and standards, including fire protection and suppression systems, hazardous materials inventory reporting, aboveground and underground storage of petroleum products, and community fire education programs. The Fire Prevention branch also oversees the Weed Abate Program, Annual Fire Inspection Program, and the Veteran's Administration Hospital (outbuildings and grounds). The Disaster Preparedness Program Division facilitates and trains a disaster-resilient community through training, outreach, and public education.<sup>6</sup> This division trains community-based disaster workers through the Livermore-Pleasanton Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT workers are trained to respond to fire safety, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, and terrorism.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Livermore, City of. 2021, October 14 (accessed). "Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Department Then and Now History." [lpfire.org](https://www.lpfire.org/our-history/then-and-now). <https://www.lpfire.org/our-history/then-and-now>.

<sup>4</sup> Testa, Joe (Deputy Chief of Fire). 2021, September 30. Email to City of Livermore. Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department.

<sup>5</sup> Testa, Joe (Deputy Chief of Fire). 2021, September 30. Email to City of Livermore. Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department.

<sup>6</sup> Livermore, City of. 2021, October 14 (accessed). "Livermore 2021 to 2023 Financial Plan." [cityoflivermore.net](https://www.cityoflivermore.net), <https://www.cityoflivermore.net/home/showpublisheddocument/7915/637679221079530000>.

<sup>7</sup> News, Independent. 2017, April 20. 2021, December 14 (accessed). "CERT training to be offered by LPFD." [Independentnews.com](https://www.independentnews.com/community/cert-training-to-be-offered-by-lfpd/article_3fe51b70-2550-11e7-8001-9bcf565c8ef0.html). [https://www.independentnews.com/community/cert-training-to-be-offered-by-lfpd/article\\_3fe51b70-2550-11e7-8001-9bcf565c8ef0.html](https://www.independentnews.com/community/cert-training-to-be-offered-by-lfpd/article_3fe51b70-2550-11e7-8001-9bcf565c8ef0.html)

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The Emergency Operation team prepares for, responds to, and provides all services related to emergency fire suppression; emergency medical service; traffic collisions; specialized rescue; and emergency hazardous materials response and property losses (i.e., water leaks, fallen trees, and downed wires). Additionally, Emergency Operations also conducts fire safety inspections for businesses and conducts public education outreach.

### 17.2.1.1 FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

The LPFD headquarters are in Pleasanton at 3560 Nevada Street. Five of the ten fire companies are based in the City of Livermore. Table 17-2 shows the fire station addresses in Livermore. Fire companies are strategically located to provide the best possible response time to emergency incidents. Each fire engine or truck is staffed with at least one paramedic, which allows the department to provide first responder advanced life support services. In 2020, LPFD received four new fire engines, two Type 3 (Pleasanton-based) Engines, and two Type 1 engines (Livermore-based).

**TABLE 17-2 FIRE STATION LOCATIONS IN LIVERMORE**

Column Heading	Address
Fire Station 6	4550 East Ave.
Fire Station 7	951 Rincon Ave.
Fire Station 8	5750 Scenic Ave.
Fire Station 9	1919 Cordoba St.
Fire Station 10	330 Airway Blvd.

Source: Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department, "Livermore-Pleasanton Fire Stations," accessed October 14, 2021, <https://www.lpfire.org/about-us/fire-stations>.

### 17.2.1.2 RESPONSE TIMES AND PERFORMANCE

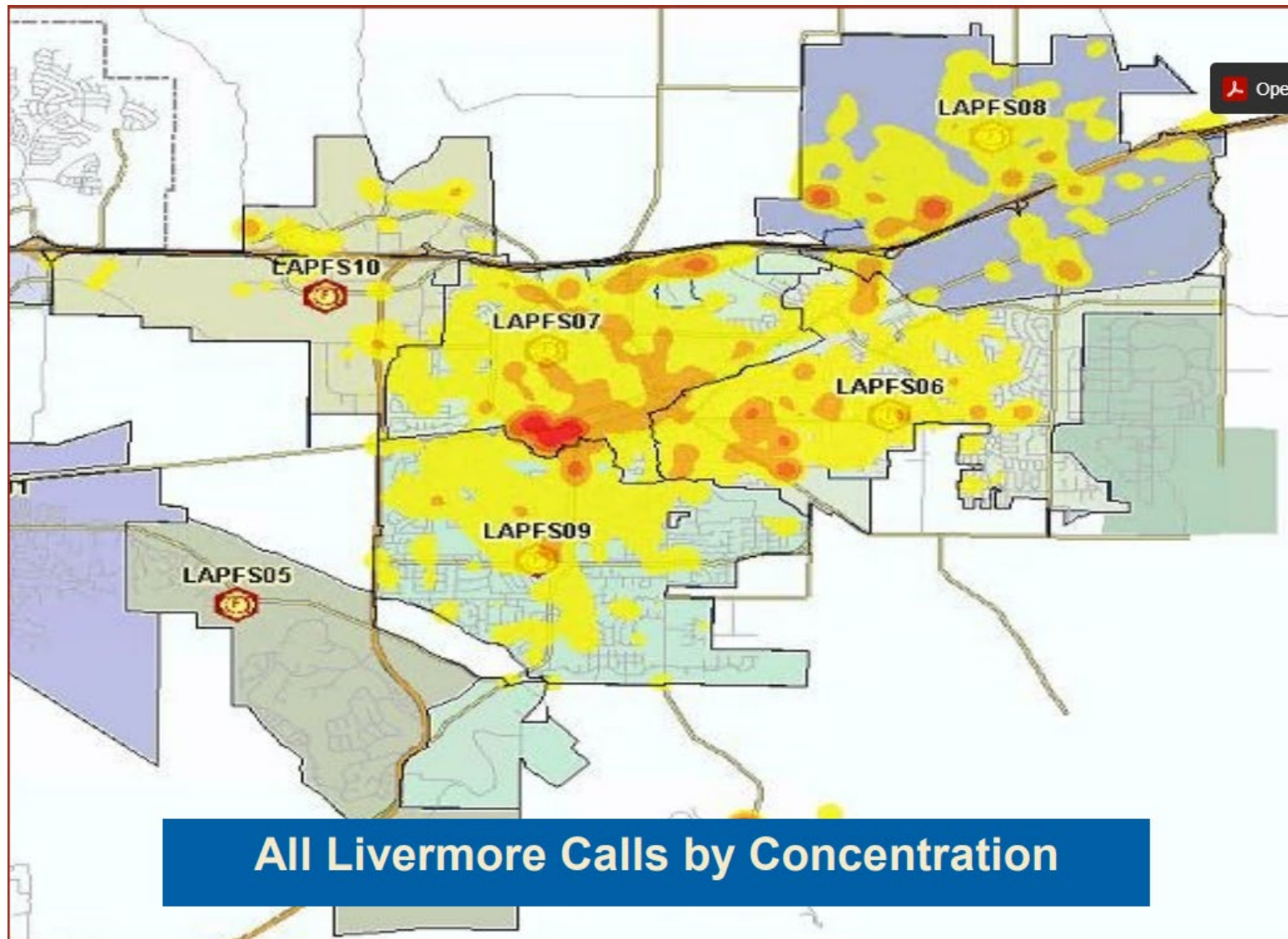
During 2020, the LPFD responded to 13,544 total incidents. Of these incidents, 7,579 were in the Livermore service area, which included 4,922 emergency medical incidents, 314 fires, 164 hazmat and/or hazardous conditions incidents, and 2,179 other incidents (i.e., service requests, false alarms, good intent responses, and canceled enroute incidents).<sup>8</sup> Figure 17-1 shows the concentration of all incident calls from 2020.

<sup>8</sup> Fire Department, Livermore-Pleasanton. 2021, October 14 (accessed). "2020 Annual Report". [cityoflivermore.net. https://www.lpfire.org/home/showpublisheddocument/6001/637575327264800000](https://www.lpfire.org/home/showpublisheddocument/6001/637575327264800000)



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Figure 17-1 2020 LPFD Service Call Concentration



Source: Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department, "Livermore-Pleasanton 2020 Annual Report," accessed October 14, 2021, <https://www.lpfire.org/home/showpublisheddocument/6001/637575327264800000>.

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The LPFD has a reflex time standard of seven minutes over 90 percent of the time, which includes a one-minute call processing time, one minute turnout time, and five minute travel time. In 2020, the LPFD had a compliance rate of 72 percent.<sup>9</sup> To meet their standard, LPFD believes more staffing, additional stations, changes to the deployment model, and more equipment may decrease the LPFD reflex time.<sup>10</sup>

### **17.2.1.3 BUDGET**

In fiscal year 2019 to 2020, fire services accounted for roughly 21 percent of the City’s Municipal General Fund expenditures, which included funding for employee salaries, purchasing fire suppression equipment, and various other basic funding needs. Administrative costs for the LPFD are shared 50/50 between the City of Livermore and Pleasanton, whereas cost-share formulas are used for support services, such as payroll, personnel, risk management, and dispatch. Fire Prevention expenses are shared based on units of service provided (the number of new construction and tenant improvement permits issued per city, per calendar year). Fire operations and suppression expenses are shared between the partner cities based on the number of firefighters each city requires. To maintain current service levels with contractual and inflationary operation costs, the LPFD’s budget will need to increase over time.<sup>11</sup>

## **17.2.2 POLICE PROTECTION SERVICES**

The Livermore Police Department (LPD) provides police services within the City Limits. Outside the City Limits, police services are provided by the Alameda County Sheriff’s Office. In the instance that an unusual occurrence becomes or is beyond the control of the LPD, the LPD’s Chief of Police or their designee may request mutual aid from the Operational Area Law Enforcement Coordinator, also known as the Alameda County Sheriff.<sup>12</sup> The operational area is a county with political subdivisions. Moreover, in response to a law enforcement mutual-aid request, the Sheriff will coordinate within the operation area to activate mutual aid.

The LPD operates through an Area Policing model. This model is often used by public safety agencies to expand their community policing efforts by assigning patrol personnel to a geographic area known as “Area Commands” for extended periods of time. Police agencies practicing this model build long-lasting and more effective relationships with the community and respond proactively to the unique issues within each area. Area Commands are larger than the traditional beat area. A Command-level officer, known as an Area Commander, is typically assigned to each area and responsible for developing key partnerships to community members and understanding the unique issues in their Area Command. In Livermore, there are four Area Command Districts.<sup>13</sup> See Figure 17-2 for a map of the Area Command boundaries of each district.

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<sup>9</sup> Fire Department, Livermore-Pleasanton. 2021, October 14 (accessed). “2020 Annual Report”. [cityoflivermore.net](https://www.cityoflivermore.net).  
<https://www.lpfire.org/home/showpublisheddocument/6001/637575327264800000>

<sup>10</sup> Testa, Joe (deputy chief of fire). 2021, September 30. Email to City of Livermore, Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department.

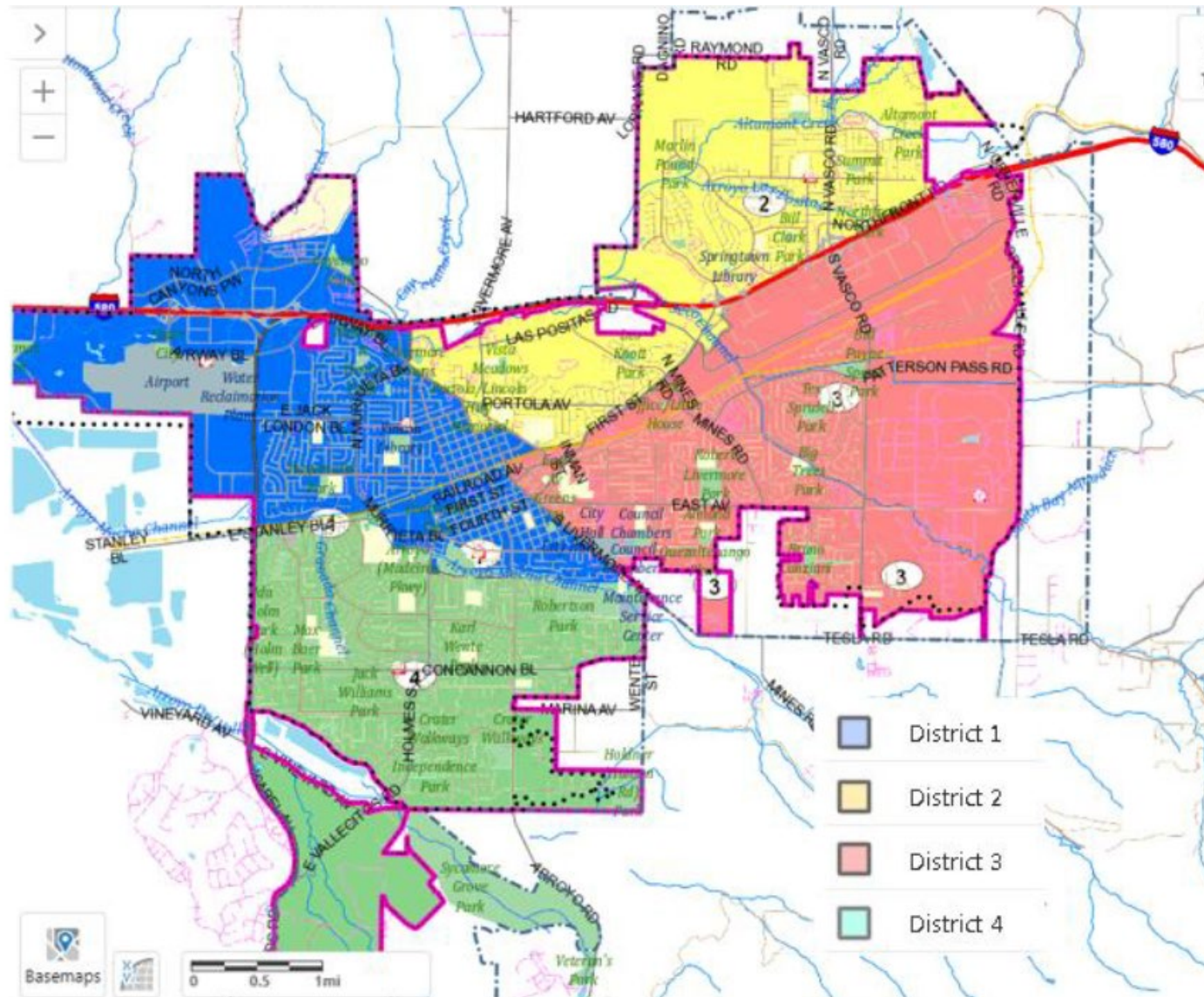
<sup>11</sup> Testa, Joe (deputy chief of fire). 2021, September 30. Email to City of Livermore, Livermore Pleasanton Fire Department

<sup>12</sup> Police Department, Livermore. 2021, October 14 (accessed). Livermore Police Department Policy Manual on Mutual Aid Agreements.

<sup>13</sup> Livermore, City of. 2021, October 14 (accessed). “Livermore Police Department Area Command Model.” [cityoflivermore.net](https://www.cityoflivermore.net/government/police/area-command). <https://www.cityoflivermore.net/government/police/area-command>

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Figure 17-2 Livermore Police Department Area Command Map



Source: Cochran, Julie, (operations captain). 2021, October. Email to Andy Ross, Livermore Community Development Department (senior planner). Livermore Police Department.

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### 17.2.2.1 STAFFING

The LPD employs 95 sworn, 50.50 professional staff members, and are supported by over 100 volunteers.

As of October 2021, the LPD does not meet national police ratio standards for total law enforcement officers and sworn officers per 1,000 residents, as shown in Table 17-3. Although the LPD does not meet national and western regional standards for both law enforcement and sworn officers, the LPD said the current staffing ratios are currently acceptable. However, LPD notes that anticipated growth from future development projects may require an increase in staffing by at least three officers and one professional staff per year.<sup>14</sup> LPD also anticipates the need for additional professional staff in the near future to accommodate the administrative demands from recent national and state police reform legislation such as the Public Records Act requests, Racial and Identity Profiling Act (AB 953), National Incident-Based Report System (NIBRS), and California Incident-Based Report System (CIBRS), Use of Force tracking, and body-worn camera and in-care camera footage.<sup>15</sup>

**TABLE 17-3 LIVERMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFF SERVICE RATIOS**

Service Ratio	National Average	Western Region, Cities less than 99,000 population	Livermore Police Department
Law Enforcement Employees per 1,000 inhabitants	3.5	1.7	1.6
Sworn Officers per 1,000 inhabitants	2.4	1.2	1.0

Source: Cochran, Julie, Operations Captain, City of Livermore Police Department, General Plan Update Police Services Memorandum, October 2021.

The LPD stated that the nationwide social, political, and economic climate has created significant challenges to hiring police employees, specifically police officers. As a result, people do not want to work in law enforcement and those that do apply, are less qualified.<sup>16</sup>

LPD is organized into two divisions: Support Services and Operations.

The Support Services Division supports multiple teams:

- **Communication Center:** This team provides a vital communication link between those in the community who need help and personnel who provide emergency services.
- **Records Unit:** This team manages and maintains the integrity of department codes. The Records Unit also provides information assistance and other services to the public, police personnel, and other governmental agencies.

<sup>14</sup> Cochran, Julie (operations captain). 2021, October. Email to Andy Ross, Livermore Community Development Department (senior planner). Livermore Police Department.

<sup>15</sup> Cochran, Julie (operations captain). 2021, October. Email to Andy Ross, Livermore Community Development Department (senior planner). Livermore Police Department.

<sup>16</sup> Cochran, Julie (operations captain). 2021, October. Email to Andy Ross, Livermore Community Development Department (senior planner). Livermore Police Department.

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- **Animal Control Unit:** This team enforces city ordinances and state laws regarding animals. The animal control unit responds to calls involving both wild and domesticated animals.
- **Training Unit:** This team provides department-wide training.
- **Business Services:** This team creates and monitors the department's budget, administers grants, contracts, and other financial functions.
- **Information Technology Unit:** This team operates, manages, and plans for technology systems and resources necessary to support the mission of the department. This unit is also responsible for supporting 9-1-1 Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD), mobile and field reporting technologies, and Command Center/Emergency Operations Center readiness 24 hours a day, year-round.
- **Volunteer and Reserve Officers:** Reserve officers are professionals who serve their communities in ways that exceed typical volunteer opportunities. Reserve officers are commissioned, and hold at a minimum, California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Level-11 certifications, and volunteer more than 16 hours per month as sworn officers.
- **Explorer Units:** This team is a worksite-based program for young individuals who have completed the eighth grade and are 14 years old, or who are between 15 and 21 years old.

The Operations Divisions consists of the Patrol Bureau, Traffic, Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB), Special Operations Unit (SOU) and School Resource Officer (SRO). The Patrol Bureau is the largest division of the LPD and is made up of uniformed individuals who patrol the City of Livermore in traditional black-and-white police vehicles. The Patrol Bureau, in addition to assigned patrol tasks, officers, and supervisors serve supplemental duty assignments as well (i.e., K-9 Unit, the Tactical Operations Unit, and the Force Options Unit). The duties of each team within the Operations Divisions of the LPD include:

- **Traffic Unit:** This team increases traffic safety in the community through outside-the-box global approach and application of the three "E"s of traffic safety: Education, Engineering, and Enforcement.
- **Criminal Investigations Bureau (CIB):** This team investigates cases that include, but are not limited to, forcible rape, aggravated assaults, robberies, homicide, and crimes against juveniles. CIB also investigates burglaries and grand, vehicle, and identity thefts. The Special Operations Unit is a part of CIB and investigates drug and gang-related crimes while aiding CIB.
- **School Resource Officer Unit:** This team addresses juvenile crime and safety concerns in local schools. The program places police officers on campus at the schools where they are more accessible for both school administrators and students alike.
- **Crime Prevention Unit:** This team educates the public in areas of crime prevention, empowering citizens to protect themselves against crimes of opportunity and potential violent crimes. Additionally, this unit administers the Crime-Free Multi-Housing program, the volunteer program, the neighborhood watch program, and community events.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Livermore, City of. 2021, October 14 (accessed). "Livermore 2021 to 2023 Financial Plan." cityoflivermore.net, <https://www.cityoflivermore.net/home/showpublisheddocument/7915/637679221079530000>.

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### 17.2.2.2 FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

There is one main LPD station at 1110 South Livermore Avenue. The station is adjacent to the Livermore Civic Center Library and City Hall. According to a March 2020 Police Facility Analysis Report, the LPD needs 44,000 square feet of space for additional storage, training, and office facilities over the next decade. The March 2020 Police Facility Analysis Report recommended a three-phase project to meet the LPD facilities and equipment deficiencies. The first phase of the project is already included in the 2019-2021 Capital Improvement Program as Police Facility Expansion, Project No. 2000-28. The completion of all three phases of the project will cost approximately \$7,919,450.<sup>18</sup>

### 17.2.2.3 RESPONSE TIMES AND CALL VOLUMES

In 2020, the LPD received 56,317 emergency and non-emergency calls. Approximately 73 percent of the calls were non-emergency and 27 percent of the calls were emergency calls. LPD prioritizes the response to calls based on these factors:

- **Priority 1** indicates a response is immediate; red lights and sirens are authorized. There is either a serious crime in progress or just occurred, serious injury accident, or any crime where a citizen is detaining a suspect with a potential for violence.
- **Priority 2** calls are urgent, but do not authorize lights and sirens unless specific expectations are noted. These calls may include any non-serious crimes in progress.
- **Priority 3** calls are routine and may hold depending on higher-priority needs.

Figure 17-3 shows the 2020 (January to December) and 2021 (January to September) average response times for Priority 1, 2, and 3 calls in minutes/seconds. Although response times for all three types of priority calls have increased from 2020 to 2021, LPD stated that these response times are acceptable. To reduce response times, the LPD said they will need to increase staffing levels. Local traffic conditions also impact response times.<sup>19</sup>

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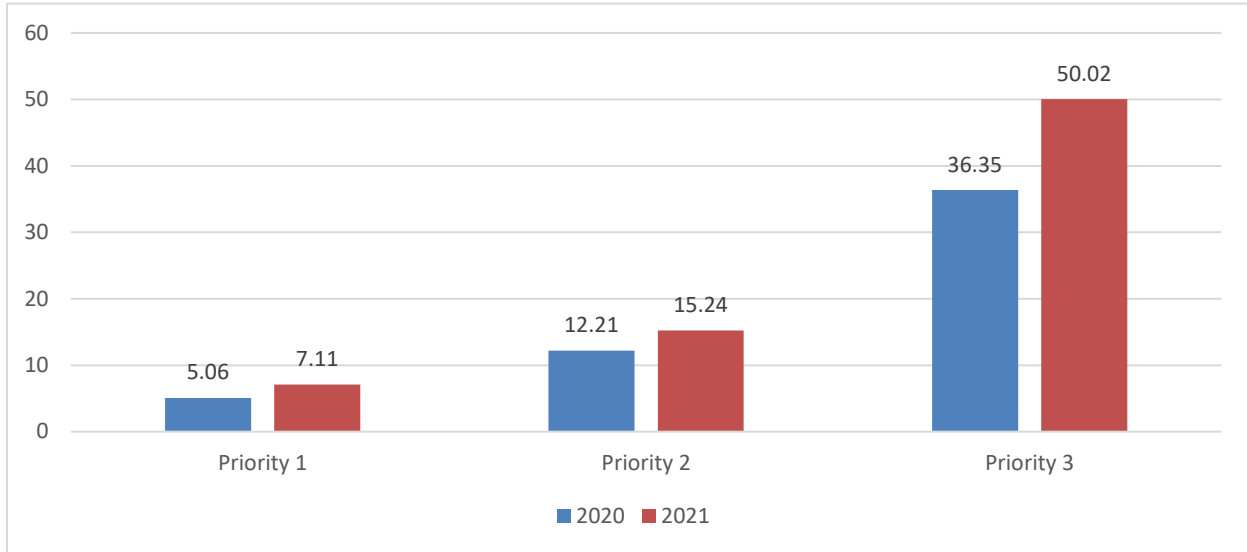
<sup>18</sup> Spence, Paul (community development director). 2021, February 8. Staff Report to Livermore Mayor and City Council. Livermore Community Development Department.

<sup>19</sup> Cochran, Julie (operations captain). 2021, October. Email to Andy Ross, Livermore Community Development Department (senior planner). Livermore Police Department.



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**Figure 17-3 Livermore Police Department 2020-2021 Average Response Time (Minutes/Seconds)**



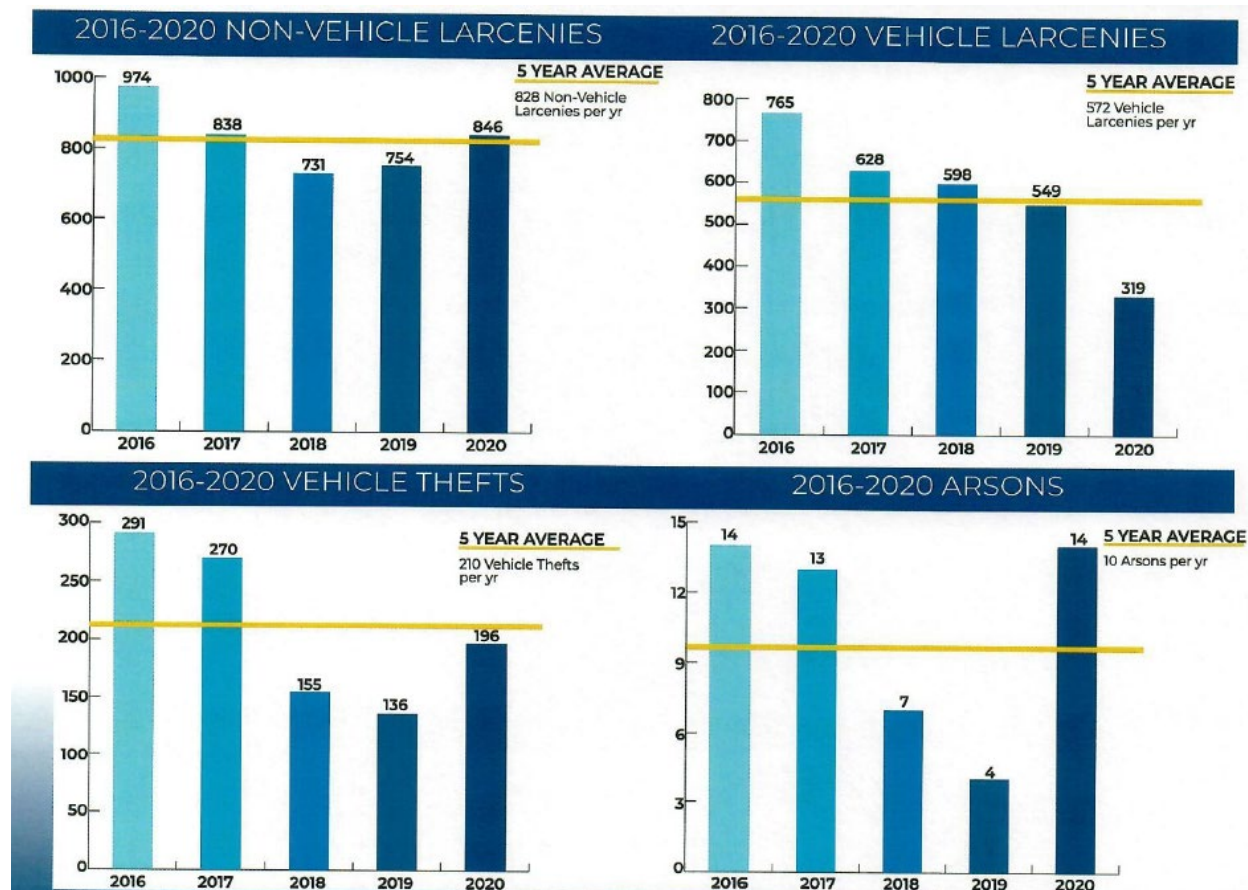
**17.2.2.4 REPORTED CRIME STATISTICS**

The LPD reports crime occurring in the city based on the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI’s) Uniform Crime Report (UCR) standard. UCR is a statewide program designed to provide a nationwide view of crime based on the submission of statistics by law enforcement agencies.<sup>20</sup> The UCR is separated into two types of crimes: Part I and Part II crimes. Part I crimes include violent crimes (forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, murder, and non-negligent manslaughter) and property crimes (burglary, motor vehicle theft, larceny and theft, and arson). Part II crimes include simple assault, curfew offences, loitering, embezzlement, forgery, and counterfeiting, etc. In 2020, there were 1,705 Part I crimes in Livermore. Approximately 50 percent of the crimes were non-vehicle larceny, 18.7 percent were larceny, 11.5 percent were vehicle theft, and approximately 5 percent were homicide. Figure 17-4 illustrates some Part I crime statistics from 2016 to 2020. Overall, the total number of Part I crimes has decreased between 2016 and 2020. However, the total number of reported rapes and arson events have increased between 2016 and 2020.

<sup>20</sup> City of Livermore Police Department, 2020 Livermore Police Department Annual Report, page 9.

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Figure 17-4 Part I Crimes in Livermore from 2016 to 2020



Source: Police Department, City of Livermore. 2020 (published). 2020 Year in Review.

### 17.2.2.5 BUDGET

The LPD is funded primarily by the City’s Municipal General Fund. In fiscal year (FY) 2019 to 2020, police services accounted for roughly 21 percent of the City’s Municipal General Fund expenditures, which funded employee salaries, police equipment, and other needs. In FY 2019-20, the LPD also received funding from Police Grant Funds and Horizons funds. The Police Grant Fund accounts for various federal, state, and local grants used for police programs. The Horizon Fund supports the LPD Horizons Youth and Family Services Division.

### 17.2.3 SCHOOLS

Livermore is served by one school district: The Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District (LVJUSD).

#### 17.2.3.1 LIVERMORE VALLEY JOINT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The LVJUSD serves more than 13,900 students from transitional kindergarten through 12th grade at 10 elementary campuses, 2 K-8 schools, 3 middle schools, 3 comprehensive high schools, and 2 alternative



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schools. These schools offer specialized programs, including International Baccalaureate Programs; Green Engineering Academy; Dual Immersion Programs; and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math (STEAM) pathways. The school names, student enrollment, and school capacity of each school is shown in Table 17-4.

**TABLE 17-4 LIVERMORE VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOLS, STUDENT ENROLLMENT, AND SCHOOL CAPACITY (2021)**

Schools	Student Enrollment	School Capacity	Student Enrollment of School Capacity
Altamont Creek Elementary	563	680	83%
Arroyo Seco Elementary	596	708	84%
Christensen Elementary	628	965	65%
Del Valle High	131	185	71%
East Avenue Middle School	574	725	79%
Emma C. Smith Elementary	657	744	88%
Granada High School	2,306	2,850	81%
Jackson Avenue Elementary	480	668	72%
Joe Mitchell (K-8)	763	795	96%
Junction Avenue (K-8)	859	1,125	76%
Lawrence Elementary	369	520	71%
Leo R. Croce Elementary	641	828	77%
Livermore High	1,809	2,325	78%
Livermore Adult Education	160	384	42%
Marylin Avenue Elementary	350	525	67%
Rancho Las Positas Elementary	595	630	94%
Sunset Elementary	729	796	92%
Vineyard Alternative School	160	384	42%
William Mendenhall Middle School	896	1,175	76%

Source: Unified School District, Livermore Valley. 2021, September 7. 2021, Annual Capacity Analysis, Student Information System.

Schools in the LVJUSD are operating within the existing capacity; however, there are three schools close to meeting school capacity: Joe Mitchell (K-8), Rancho Las Positas Elementary, and Sunset Elementary. As of the 2020-21 school year, these schools have over a 90-percent student enrollment to school capacity ratio.

The Livermore community has financially supported students in the LVJUSD through the passage of Measure J, a facilities finance bond, and Measure G, a parcel tax. The facilities bond provides financial support to upgrade school sites, and create infrastructure and systems needed to outfit twenty-first century classrooms to maximize student success. Per the LVJUSD 2021-22 adopted budget, Measure J funded a new multipurpose room and classroom building at Joe Mitchell K-8 school, the East Avenue Middle School classroom building, the Granada High School aquatic and athletic complex, and a District-wide video project and voice enhancement system.

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The parcel tax enhances STEAM programs and opportunities funds elementary school specialists who deliver hands-on lab experiences for students, supports the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) program throughout K-12 grade levels. These programs incorporate computer science, design, and engineering experiences and engages all age groups in captivating curriculum.

The LVJUSD anticipates a total funding of \$158,686,903 for the 2021-22 fiscal year. LVJUSD funding primarily come from the State Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), property taxes, federal revenue, other state revenue, Measures J and G, and other local revenue. Approximately 80 percent of the school district's funding is from state revenue. For 2021-22, the LVJUSD anticipates an expenditure total of \$163,761,027 or the equivalent of \$12,411 per student.<sup>21</sup>

### **17.2.3.2 LAS POSITAS COLLEGE**

Las Positas College is a community college in Livermore within the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District (District) and serves 9,000 annual students. The school provides a variety of occupational, transfer, and professional development courses while they prepare students for four-year institutions, continued education, career opportunities, or specialized training.

Las Positas College, like the City of Livermore, is within Alameda County and has benefited from two County-approved measures: Measure A and Measure B. Measure A, through the sale of \$950 million of capital improvement bonds, helped the District fund major projects in Las Positas College, which includes modernizing the existing campus with new and remodeled buildings, new sports and recreational facilities, improved landscaping and outdoor spaces, enhanced sustainability, upgraded infrastructure, and improved mobility and parking. By October 2018, 15 building projects on Las Positas College's campus were funded by Measure B.

Seven major projects have already been preapproved such as a new academic Support Office, Public Safety Complex, and New Agricultural Science: Horticulture Building. Las Positas College has divided the future development of their campus into two phases: Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 1 projects include projects that will accommodate immediate needs and accounts for current funds available. Phase 2 projects will accommodate longer-term growth and may require securing additional funding. Projects in Phase 1 include a new STEAM building, student center, auxiliary gymnasium, and new soccer and softball fields. Phase 2 projects include, but are not limited to, renovation of Building 1800, additional classroom space, green house, and shade house expansion.

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<sup>21</sup> Unified School District, Livermore Valley. 2021, June 29 (presented to the Board of Education)

**PUBLIC SERVICES AND RECREATION****17.2.4 LIBRARIES**

This section describes existing library services in the City Limits. There are three library branches in the Livermore Public Library system and a Digital Library. The libraries are Civic Center Library, Rincon Library, and Springtown Library. The Civic Center Library is the Main Library while the Rincon and Springtown Libraries are considered branches. All branches offer books and audio visual materials, public computers, wireless Internet access, and study spaces.

**17.2.4.1 LIBRARY FACILITIES AND SERVICES**

The main Civic Center Library is approximately 53,000 square feet and was opened in 2004. The Civic Center Library is home to 190,000 items and includes study rooms, computer areas for children and adults, wireless Internet access and printing, a large reading room, open study and seating areas, a café, and a Friends' bookstore. The Civic Center Library is open seven days per week for a total of 65 hours. Approximately 70 percent of the Livermore Public Library's circulation is conducted through the Civic Center Library, which receives over 340,000 visits per year.

The Rincon Branch Library is a 4,200-square-foot library that opened in 1992. The Rincon Branch Library is a neighborhood library in May Nissen Park next to Marilyn Avenue Elementary School. The Rincon Branch Library features public computers, wireless Internet access, several small seating and study areas, and one meeting room used for library programming. Using trained volunteers, this library operates a successful homework center throughout the school year. Additionally, this library branch contains the Livermore Public Library's largest collection of Spanish language material to serve the surrounding Spanish-speaking population. In 2019, the Rincon Branch Library expanded its service days from three to five days per week for a total of 31 hours. Approximately 5 percent of the Livermore Public Library's circulation is conducted through this branch and receives over 30,000 visits per year.

The Springtown Branch Library is a 2,400-square-foot library that opened in 1986. This branch features approximately 20,000 items with access to four public computers, wireless Internet access, and one small seating and study area. The library is open 1.5 days per week for a total of 11 hours. In addition, Civic Center Library staff are borrowed to staff the Springtown Library. To supplement the 11 hours of full staff library hours, this branch features an "Easy Access Library," a complete self-service portion of the branch open seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. with an Easy Access keycard. The self-service portion of the branch offers book checkouts, DVDs, and items on hold, and check-ins through the materials return system. Approximately 4 percent of the library's circulation is conducted through this branch; this branch receives over 14,000 visits per year.

The Livermore Public Library has an online branch called the Digital Library, a virtual collection of nearly 34,000 items, including eBooks, downloadable audiobooks, research databases, periodicals, online classes, business data, test preparation, a museum pass program, and more. Approximately 21 percent of the library's circulation is conducted through the Digital Library and electronic content in the Digital Library is used over 200,000 times per year.

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In addition, in FY 2018-19, the Livermore Public Library provided over 1,400 programs to nearly 47,000 attendees. Programs included Summer Reading, story times, Livermore Reads Together, and an Authors and Arts series. Most of these programs were funded by Friends of the Livermore Public Library organization.

### **17.2.4.2 FACILITY AND SERVICE NEEDS**

According to Livermore Library Services Department, the Springtown Library Branch needs exterior building repairs and general maintenance updates. The building is aging and will likely require ongoing repairs. There is also a high need to increase the volume of children’s programming and add a children’s librarian, especially at the Civic Center Branch.<sup>22</sup>

### **17.2.4.3 LIBRARY STAFFING**

The Livermore Library Services Department staffed approximately 27 positions in FY 2019-20. The employee allocation is as follows:

- One Library Services Director;
- Three Supervising Librarians;
- One Supervising Library Assistant;
- Nine Library I/Librarian II (flexible staffing);
- Eight Library Assistants;
- Three Library Clerks;
- One Administrative Technician;
- One Administrative Assistant; and
- One Senior Clerk.

In addition to the 27 full-time employee library staff, the Livermore Public Library system features hourly on-call staff and are supported by 16,000 hours of volunteer help per year to assist library staff.

### **17.2.4.4 LIBRARY FUNDING**

The Livermore Library Services Department’s 2021-2022 budget was \$6,439,862. The largest funding source, 97 percent, was from the City’s General Fund. Other funding came from various fees, tax revenue, and grants.<sup>23</sup> Additionally, Livermore Library programs are funded by the Friends of the Livermore Public Library, a 501c non-profit organization, created to support the Livermore Public Library.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> Baker, Anwan (library services director). 2021, September 29. Email to Andy Ross (senior planner).

<sup>23</sup> Livermore, City of. 2021. 2021, October 14 (accessed). “Livermore Transparency Portal Library Department.” [stories.opengov.com/livermoreca/https://stories.opengov.com/livermoreca/published/SCCQMeQpA](https://stories.opengov.com/livermoreca/https://stories.opengov.com/livermoreca/published/SCCQMeQpA)

<sup>24</sup> Livermore, City of. Public Library. 2021, October 14 (accessed). Livermore Public Library Strategic Services Plan 2020-2025. <https://www.livermorelibrary.net/home/showpublisheddocument/5999/637255061547400000>.

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**17.2.5 PARKS AND RECREATION**

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District (LARPD) is a Special District that serves Livermore with parks, trails, recreation programs, and facilities. The LARPD was created in 1947 via Livermore voters is a completely independent governmental agency and is governed by a five-person, elected Board of Directors, each of whom serves a four-year term.

LARPD’s jurisdictional boundary includes 243.5 square miles bounded by Contra Costa County to the north, San Joaquin County to the east, Santa Clara County to the south, and the cities of Pleasanton and Dublin to the west. Table 17-5 identifies the location, acreage, and program facilities of each park in LARPD.

**TABLE 17-5 LARPD PARKS AND FACILITIES**

	Location	Acres	Swim Center	Tot Lot Equipment	Group Picnics	Barbeque Pits	Picnic Tables	Sports Fields(s)	Basketball Courts	Equestrian Facilities	Hiking/Bicycle Trails	Horse Trails	BMX Course	Meeting Rooms	Restrooms	Horseshoe Pits	Baseball/Softball Fields	Tennis Courts	Rentable	Dog Park/ Dog Run	
Al Caffodio Park	1361 Shawnee Rd.	2	●		●	●															
Almond Park	1400 Almond Ave.	4	●	●	●	●				●											
Altamont Creek Park	6800 Altamont Creek Dr.	6.9	●		●	●	●			●							●				
Barn, The	3131 Pacific Ave.	0.5												●	●					●	
Big Trees Park	5470 Kathy Wy.	4.2	●		●	●															
Bill Clark Park	5451 Hillflower Dr.	2.8	●		●	●															
Bothwell Park & Art Center	2466 Eighth St.	2	●		●	●															
Bruno Canziani Park	5907 Charlotte Wy.	14.7	●		●			●		●	●									●	
Brushy Peak Regional Preserve	Laughlin Rd.	507	LARPD Section by Tour Only / EBRPD Section Open																		
Camp Shelly (25 campsites)	South Lake Tahoe						●								●	●				●	
Carnegie Building	2155 Third St.													●						●	
Cayetano Park	398 Portola Ave.	9.8	●	●	●	●	●	●	●						●					●	●
Christensen Park	5611 Bridgeport Cir.	7	●		●	●	●										●				
El Padro Park	1731 El Padro Dr.	5	●			●															
Ernie Rodrigues Sports Field	So. Livermore Ave.	11												●			●			●	
Garaventa Wetlands Preserve	Vasco/Garaventa Ranch Rd.	24	By guided tour only																		
Hagemann Park	459 Olivina Ave.	7.9	●	●	●	●	●														
Holdener Park	2995 Hansen Rd.	55									●	●									
Ida Holm Park	1106 Crystal Cir.	5.5	●		●	●															
Independence Park (Kellman Fields)	2798 Holmes St.	17.7	●	●	●	●	●							●						●	
Jack Williams Park	2041 Neptune Rd.	4.1	●		●	●														●	
Karl Wente Park	1455 Kingsport Ave.	3.1	●			●															
Lester J. Knott Park	655 N. Mines Rd.	5	●			●		●													
Livermore Downs Park	1655 Paseo Laguna Seco	4.5	●					●												●	
Maitland R. Henry Park	1525 Mendocino Rd.	4.6	●		●	●															

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**TABLE 17-5 LARPD PARKS AND FACILITIES**

	Location	Acres	Swim Center	Tot Lot Equipment	Group Picnics	Barbeque Pits	Picnic Tables	Sports Fields(s)	Basketball Courts	Equestrian Facilities	Hiking/Bicycle Trails	Horse Trails	BMX Course	Meeting Rooms	Restrooms	Horseshoe Pits	Baseball/Softball Fields	Tennis Courts	Rentable	Dog Park/ Dog Run
Marlin A. Pound Park	2010 Bluebell Dr.	9	●			●	●	●	●								●			●
Max Baer Park	1310 Murdell Ln.	11.8				●	●										●			●
May Nissen Park	685 Rincon Ave.	12.2	●	●	●	●	●	●						●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Mocho Park	1130 Mocho St.	3.6	●			●														
Northfront Park	6315 Almaden Wy.	2.3	●		●	●					●									
Pleasure Island Park	280 Pearl Dr.	6.9	●			●														
Ralph T. Wattenburger Park	1515 Honeysuckle Rd.	5.4	●		●	●											●			
Ravenswood Historic Site	2647 Arroyo Rd.	19.9												●	●					●
Ravenswood Park	2632 Tahoe Dr.	3.5	●		●	●														
Robert Livermore Community Center	4444 East Ave.		●					●						●	●					●
Robert Livermore Park	491 Loyola Wy.	29.9				●	●	●							●		●	●	●	
Robertson Park	3200 Robertson Park Rd.	110	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●	●				●	●
Summit Park	6332 Tioga Pass Ct.	3.9	●			●														
Sunken Gardens Bike Course and Skate Park	3800 Pacific Ave.	8.9				●				●										
Sunset Park	1055 Geneva St.	6.7	●			●	●													
Sycamore Grove Park	1051 Wetmore Rd./ 5049 Arroyo Rd.	774		●	●	●				●	●			●						●
Tex Spruiell Park	5411 Felicia Ave.	9.9	●			●		●												
Veterans Memorial Building	522 S. "L" St.	0.3												●	●					●
Vista Meadows Park	2450 Westminster Wy.	5.4	●			●														●
William (Bill) J. Payne Park	5800 Patterson Pass Rd.	14			●	●	●						●				●			

Source: LARPD, 2021.

LARPD currently manages approximately 1,949 acres of parks, trails, and open space lands, the equivalent of 21 acres per 1,000 residents. LARPD breaks down the acreage into three functional categories:

- 1. Neighborhood Park.** Neighborhood Parks are intended to serve LARPD residents who live in close proximity; however, they also contribute to the overall park system available to the entire community. Ideally, everyone in the district would live within convenient walking distance (typically one-half-mile) of a Neighborhood Park. This is defined as the “service radius” or “service area” of a Neighborhood Park. Neighborhood Pocket Parks and Downtown Parks are subcategories of the Neighborhood Park group because these smaller parks provide important accessible recreation opportunities to the residents in their immediate vicinity. LARPD generally does not manage these types of parks due to their small size, limited scope, and the loss of recreational use of downtown parks to commercial interests. Neighborhood Parks address daily recreation needs of the surrounding neighborhood; features of Neighborhood Parks might include playgrounds, multi-purpose open turf areas, practice

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sports fields, picnic tables and/or picnic shelters, walking paths, attractive landscaping, and recreation features such as tennis and basketball courts. LARPD currently has 153.31 acres of Neighborhood Park land.<sup>25</sup>

2. **Community Park.** Community Parks can provide a broad range of both passive and active recreational opportunities, but their primary purpose is to provide active recreational opportunities for use by a larger segment of the population than Neighborhood Parks. Community Parks are generally considered to serve several neighborhoods within a two-mile radius. If a Community Park is located within a residential area, it can also serve a Neighborhood Park function and, therefore, is included in the service area analysis for Neighborhood Parks. Recreation buildings or centers are important features in some Community Parks. These buildings may contain features such as gymnasiums, multipurpose rooms, classrooms, and offices for recreation staff. Other facilities often found at Community Parks might include sports fields, sports courts, amphitheaters, swim pools, restrooms, and group picnic areas. Large special events, such as concerts and festivals, might also be held in larger Community Parks. The ideal size for a community park is about 30 to 50 acres, allowing for adequate community-oriented facilities, parking, and open areas for flexible park programming. LARPD currently has 152.40 acres of Community Park space.<sup>26</sup>
3. **Special-Use Facility/Parks.** Special-Use Facilities generally possess a unique character or function focused on a single type of activity. Sports fields, equestrian facilities, BMX courses, skate parks, community gardens, historic sites, or community buildings (without an associated park), and trail facilities are considered Special-Use Facilities. These parks may serve second or third uses, such as meeting spaces or alternative transportation corridors, but the primary use is prioritized with regard to design, maintenance, and function. Size requirements for special-use parks vary depending on the functions, activities, and required parking/service space. For example, many sports parks exceed 60 acres in size, but a swimming facility could be constructed on 3 to 5 acres of property. LARPD has 199.02 acres of Special-Use facilities/parks.<sup>27</sup>

### 17.2.5.1 PARK SERVICE STANDARDS

Table 17-6 summarizes the LARPD park service standards. Based on a 2015 population of 92,705, LARPD is currently not meeting the established service standards for Neighborhood and Community Parks.

In addition, LARPD also identified the need for six acres of additional baseball fields, softball fields, and multi-sport fields.

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<sup>25</sup> District, Livermore Area Recreation and Park. 2016, June 29 (adopted). Parks and Recreation and Trails Mater Plan. Prepared for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Prepared by RJM Design Group, Inc., Research Network Ltd., and Coman Consulting.

<sup>26</sup> District, Livermore Area Recreation and Park. 2016, June 29 (adopted). Parks and Recreation and Trails Mater Plan. Prepared for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Prepared by RJM Design Group, Inc., Research Network Ltd., and Coman Consulting.

<sup>27</sup> District, Livermore Area Recreation and Park. 2016, June 29 (adopted). Parks and Recreation and Trails Mater Plan. Prepared for the Livermore Area Recreation and Park District. Prepared by RJM Design Group, Inc., Research Network Ltd., and Coman Consulting.

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**TABLE 17-6 LARPD PARK SERVICE STANDARDS**

Park Category	Service Standard	2015 Total Acres	Surplus or Deficit
Neighborhood	2 acres per 1,000 residents	153.31	-32.10
Community	2 acres per 1,000 residents	152.40	-33.01
Special-Use	2 acres per 1,000 residents	199.02	13.61

Source: LARPD, 2016 Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan, June 29, 2016.

### 17.2.5.2 RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

LARPD provides over 50 programs and services to the community. LARPD programming caters to youth, teens, adults, and seniors. Programs range from high-intensity and impact activities, such as sports, to low-intensity and low-impact activities, such as flower arranging and baking. Other programs include camping and nature programming, swimming, and language learning. LARPD also provides a variety of services such as curbside meals, real estate planning, senior services, and health insurance counseling. Even though the LARPD assessment determined no significant gap in programming, there is difficulty in meeting the programming needs for all user groups in the district.

### 17.2.5.3 FUNDING

LARPD's General Fund is funded in primarily two ways: Property Taxes and Earned Income. Residents within the district are taxed based on the value of their property. The earned-income category relates to the various programs and services (i.e., classes, adult sports, LARPD's Camp Shelly at Lake Tahoe, youth sports, etc.) provided by the district to the public. Often, these services and programs result in a net income for the district. Per the 2018-19 Final Operating Budget and 2018-21 Capital Improvement Plan Budget, property taxes (43.6 percent) and earned income (47.3 percent) made up most of the operating income of the LARPD. The rest of the budget consists of various taxes i.e., Special Tax 97.1, Special Assessment Tax, Residual Property Taxes, and Redevelopment Fiscal Impact.

## 17.3 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE GENERAL PLAN UPDATE

Based on information contained in this chapter, the General Plan Update should consider the following:

- How future growth will affect police and fire staffing service levels and response times.
- The fiscal implications of potential land use changes and how they would affect funding for public services and recreational opportunities.
- How future growth will affect the quality of education that can be provided and what this means for staffing levels