

I. *Educational and Cultural Resources*



I. Goals and Opportunities

Building a sense of belonging and identity within the community involves recognition of the unique cultural characteristics of the community. Through educational and cultural planning, exciting cultural places, celebrations, and activities can be developed, providing outlets for the creative and artistic visions of Norwalk residents. The cultural leaders and organizations within the community can work together to reveal the unique and dynamic identity of the City of Norwalk, providing leverage for positive growth and development.

Norwalk has over 100 years of community history dating from 1877 when the original tract map was

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

filed with the County of Los Angeles. Following the discovery of oil in what is now Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk rapidly grew into a prosperous suburb. In fact, between 1946 and 1956, Norwalk was one of the fastest growing communities in the United States. Norwalk achieved cityhood on August 26, 1957 and has continued to develop into a successful and culturally diverse community. Norwalk's many historical, educational and cultural resources not only provide a link to the past, but substantially enrich the quality of life today. The City's commitment to maintaining and expanding these resources is exemplified by the following goals:

- To maintain and enhance quality education.
- To provide a comprehensive approach to historic preservation and adaptive reuse of buildings.
- To maintain and enhance cultural facilities, programs, and services.
- To reveal the unique and dynamic cultural identities of Norwalk residents.

2. Existing Resources

The City of Norwalk offers an extensive array of educational and cultural resources. While these resources are discussed below, the General Plan Land Use Map, located in Section 6, shows the location of these resources.

a. Educational Resources

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The following tables provide an indication of the educational characteristics of the residents within the community:

CITY OF NORWALK EDUCATION ATTAINMENT FOR PERSONS 18 YEARS AND OVER		
Education Level Attained	Number of Persons 3 Years and Over	Percent of Total
Less than 9th Grade	9,832	14.86%
9th to 12th Grade, no diploma	13,774	20.82%
High School Graduate or equivalent	18,529	28.00%
Some college, no degree	13,566	20.50%
Associate degree	4,681	7.07%
Bachelor's degree	4,325	6.54%
Graduate or Professional degree	1,460	2.21%
TOTAL	66,170	100.00%

Source: 1990 Census

Also, the following table provides an indication of the school enrollment and type for persons 3 years and over:

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

CITY OF NORWALK SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND TYPE OF SCHOOL FOR PERSONS 3 YEARS AND OVER		
Type of School	Number of Persons 3 Years and Over	Percent of Total
Public Pre-Primary School	934	1.05%
Private Pre-Primary School	631	0.71%
Public Elementary or High School	17,657	19.77%
Private Elementary or High School	2,016	2.26%
Public College	5,892	6.60%
Private College	900	1.01%
Not Enrolled	61,298	68.62%
TOTAL	89,331	100.00%

Source: 1990 Census

Educational resources within the community include a Community College, Public School Districts, and Private Schools.

Community College - Cerritos College is located on Alondra Boulevard within the City boundaries. The College is part of the State Community College system and serves the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Lakewood, Norwalk. It offers a wide variety of academic and vocational courses, including two-year degree programs and coursework which are transferrable to the University of California and California State University systems.

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

Vocational education programs are particularly well utilized.

The College has a Community Services Department with general interest classes open to non-students. Theater productions are offered every two months throughout the year.

With an enrollment of 33,350 students in 1990, the student population is considered to be one of the most ethnically diverse in the state. Enrollment has been increasing slightly over the past five years and is expected to continue to grow. A new Multi-Cultural Studies building and new faculty building were constructed in 1991.

Public School Districts - Public school enrollment in elementary or high schools accounted for 66.32% of enrolled persons. Two school districts operate schools within the City of Norwalk: Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District and Little Lake Unified School District.

The Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District has twenty-one schools in its district accommodating a total of 10,611 elementary and high school students in 1991. Of these, Norwalk's two high schools, John Glenn and Norwalk, are both within this District. With an overall capacity of 11,900 students, the District's schools are 89 percent utilized.

Little Lake Unified School District has five elementary and one intermediate school in the

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

City of Norwalk. Given an overall capacity of 3,968 students and an enrollment of 2,645, these schools are 67 percent utilized.

A limited number of Norwalk students attend schools within the ABC Unified School District and the Whittier Union High School District, which are located outside of the City's boundaries.

Projected growth through 2010 in the City of Norwalk will result in an additional 4,320 students. With a combined capacity to accommodate an additional 3,612 students, the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District and the Little Lake Unified School District face a shortage of classroom space for 718 students. The Norwalk-La Mirada School District anticipates an increase in the number of teachers to accommodate this growth. Little Lake School District, however, anticipates a decrease in enrollment over the next five years. Adult School is also offered by the Norwalk-La Mirada Unified School District.

Private Schools - Approximately 9.44% of enrolled persons are enrolled in private elementary or high schools. There are a number of private elementary and high schools which serve the community, located both within City boundaries and outside. A listing of private elementary schools would include:

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

PRIVATE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ENROLLMENT - 1994		
School	Persons Enrolled	Norwalk Residents Enrolled
Baptist Christian	179	82
Nazarene Christian	222	74
St. Pius X	346	15
Santa Fe Christian	223	36
Seventh Day Adventist	121	9
Creative Beginning	122	7
Our Lady of Fatima	325	25
St. Dominic Savio	292	28
Woodruff Christian	239	7
St. Mark's Episcopal	107	2
Grace Christian	70	24
St. Linus	330	180
Trinity Christian	220	77
St. John of God	355	287
Concordia Lutheran	89	4
Pioneer Baptist	75	30
St. Bernard's	245	10
Norwalk Christian	194	65

Source: 1994 Department of Finance Forms

b. Cultural Resources

The City of Norwalk is an extremely diverse community, with persons from various cultural backgrounds. The different languages spoken at home is an indication of this diversity:

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

CITY OF NORWALK LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME: PERSONS 5 YEARS AND OVER		
Language	Persons	Percent of Total
English only	45,448	52.82%
Spanish or Spanish Creole	30,110	34.99%
Tagalog	2,656	3.09%
Korean	2,258	2.62%
Vietnamese	1,161	1.35%
Chinese	861	1.00%
Other Unspecified	706	0.82%
Indic	692	0.80%
Mon-Khmer	317	0.37%
Arabic	303	0.35%
Italian	207	0.24%
German	201	0.23%
Other Indo-European	199	0.23%
Japanese	188	0.22%
French or French Creole	153	0.18%
Other West Germanic	137	0.16%
Portugese or Portugese Creole	101	0.12%
Greek	95	0.11%
Polish	60	0.07%
South Slavic	59	0.07%
Native North American	42	0.05%
Russian	37	0.04%
Other Slavic	23	0.03%

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

CITY OF NORWALK LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME: PERSONS 5 YEARS AND OVER		
Language	Persons	Percent of Total
Hungarian	18	0.02%
Yiddish	13	0.02%
Scandinavian	4	0.005%
TOTAL	86,049	100.00%

Source: 1990 Census

As indicated by the preceding table, the City of Norwalk is home for a wide array of cultures. Providing residents with an opportunity to explore the City of Norwalk's past, and other cultures, is an important part of the development of Norwalk's future.

Libraries - The County of Los Angeles' Regional Library in Norwalk is located on Imperial Highway in the Civic Center. It provides support services for twenty libraries in the region as well as direct library services for residents of Norwalk. The present 39,000 square foot facility was opened in 1969 and contains approximately 200,000 volumes. It has 23,171 registered borrowers and, in 1990, circulated 365,959 items. Its most heavily used services are the business reference collection, video collection and magazine collection. The library has a special collection for the social sciences (education, crime, sociology and ethnic history) and a government section containing state and federal documents. The library's audio-visual resources include videos, language records, compact discs, books on tape and audio

cassettes.

The library also offers outreach services in the form of a language learning center for adult literacy, a "books by mail" service and volunteer delivery program for shut-ins.

The County of Los Angeles also operates Alondra Library on East Alondra Boulevard. The 7,056 square foot facility was opened in 1972 and contains approximately 30,660 volumes. One full-time librarian and an assistant serve 50,349 registered borrowers. In 1990, 86,483 items were circulated. Its most heavily used services are the paperback book, video and children's picture book collections. Other special collections include books, videos, periodicals and audio cassettes in Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese; compact discs and books on tape in English and Spanish; and children's audio cassettes in English and Spanish. The library serves seven local public schools and three private schools and provides special children's programs.

The major issue facing the libraries is budget impacts brought about by changes in State tax laws and increasing publishing costs nationwide.

Arts and Sports Complex - The recently completed Arts & Sports Complex located in Norwalk Park is an important sports and cultural facility serving all segments of the community. The handsomely designed Complex provides Norwalk residents with

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

numerous recreational and cultural outlets. Sports facilities, classrooms, exhibit rooms, and meeting rooms provide space for community meetings, recreation, and education in one centralized area.

Southeast Japanese Center - The Southeast Japanese Center offers classes to the public regarding various aspects of Japanese Culture.

Historic Resources - Historic Resources encompass a wide range of buildings, structures and places which illustrate the development of the Norwalk community and serve as tangible links to the past.

Respect for the work of past Norwalk generations encourages current investment in the community and instills pride by suggesting that today's work will be appreciated and long lasting. Added to these concepts is a growing awareness that the conservation, rehabilitation, or restoration of older buildings and neighborhoods can also mean savings in energy, time, and raw materials.

Some buildings listed as National, State, and Los Angeles County Historic Landmarks for their historic importance to the development of Norwalk include:

The Sproul Museum (1870)
12237 Sproul Street

Paddison Ranch Buildings (1878)
11951 Imperial Highway

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Darius David Johnston House (1891)
(Hargitt House)
12436 Mapledale Street

Front Street Buildings (late 1800's)
Front Street

3. Objectives and Policies

Objectives

- To provide quality education for Norwalk residents.
- To provide a broad range of educational and cultural opportunities for Norwalk residents.
- To encourage cultural and social diversity and the preservation of the cultural heritage of the City of Norwalk.
- To ensure that Norwalk residents are fully informed about the variety of educational and cultural opportunities available in the City.
- To encourage and promote civic pride, community awareness, and cultural diversity.

Policies

- Coordinate with the La Mirada-Norwalk Unified School District, Little Lake Unified School District, Whittier Union High School, and ABC Unified School District to ensure that quality educational services and facilities are provided for the children of Norwalk residents.

The City of Norwalk General Plan

CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Encourage Cerritos College and other local educational institutions to provide diverse continuing educational and vocational opportunities for residents of the City.
- Encourage use of public school facilities during non-school hours on a year-round basis.
- Encourage, when appropriate, school and recreational facilities to be located near one another.
- Encourage the Norwalk cable television station to advertise educational and cultural activities, programs and services available to Norwalk residents.
- Encourage educational and cultural programs which support community values and cultural diversity.
- Cooperate with the Los Angeles County Library system in the expansion of service to meet the needs of residents; such as book fairs, bookmobiles, and acquisition of additional multi-lingual and multi-cultural materials.
- Develop and maintain the appropriate environment to preserve historically or culturally important buildings, structures, sites, or neighborhoods.
- Foster public appreciation for the beauty and culture of the City and the accomplishments of its past reflected through its buildings, structures, sites, areas, neighborhoods and

The City of Norwalk General Plan
CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

ethnic diversity.

4. Implementation Programs

- Establish cooperative agreements with the school districts for the use of school facilities for City sponsored purposes.
- Enter into discussions with the various school districts in the City to explore the development and/or purchase of closed schools for active public facility use or as parks.
- Support programs which focus on the services of the Los Angeles County Public Library (Norwalk and Alondra) and the services they provide.
- Monitor cable television services in the City of Norwalk for their performance and activities and maintain a liaison between the cable company and the City.
- Continue live broadcast of City Council and Planning Commission meetings.
- Make taped broadcasts of City Council and Planning Commission meetings available to the public.
- Continue to publish the *Norwalk Now* bimonthly newsletter and continue to cover citywide issues and advertise educational and cultural programs available.
- Explore the possibility of making public

The City of Norwalk General Plan
CITYWIDE ELEMENTS - EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

materials and information available through computer on-line services.

- Continue to advertise Citywide events in the Civic Center Marquis.
- Consider the use of two-way cable television systems which enable viewers to provide feedback to televised surveys and input on important issues.
- Sponsor City wide events which celebrates Norwalk's rich historic heritage and cultural/ethnic diversity.
- Advise and, where feasible, support community groups which wish to sponsor educational and/or cultural programs and services.
- Support the undertaking of a survey of historic resources. Prepare an inventory of buildings, structures and sites which identifies the significance of the resource and important facts such as date of construction, architect, builder, physical appearance, etc.
- Study possible assistance of programs and funding to restore and retrofit historic properties, such as the buildings on Front Street.
- Continue the collection and use of Art in Public Places fees.

()

()

()