
Chapter Three: Governmental Services

Governmental Services

The following sections describe the principal governmental agencies providing services to Foster City: the Estero Municipal Improvement District, the City of Foster City, and the Foster City Community Development Agency. The members of the City Council serve as a policy-making body for all three governmental agencies. City voters elect council members to staggered terms of four years each. The City Council consists of five members, one of whom is elected by other council members in November each year to serve as Mayor for a one-year term. More information about the City Council, including City Council members, agendas and minutes is available at http://www.fostercity.org/city_hall/council/.

The City Council of Foster City meets on the first and third Monday evenings of each month at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at 620 Foster City Boulevard. These meetings are televised on local cable television, Comcast Channel 27, AT&T Channel 99 or live streaming at www.fostercitytelevision.com. All meetings of the City Council, Planning Commission, and any Committees are open to the public except when certain confidential personnel matters and legal items are discussed.

As the legislative branch of local government, the City Council makes final decisions on all major City policy matters. The Council adopts the ordinances and resolutions necessary for efficient governmental operations, approves the budget and acts as a board of appeals. The administrative responsibility of the City rests with the City Manager who is appointed by the City Council.

The City Council has appointed one commission and several committees to advise it on matters of special interest, as listed below:

- Planning Commission
- Ad-Hoc Environmental Sustainability Task Force
- Arts and Culture Committee
- Audit Committee
- Education Committee
- Information Technology Advisory Committee
- Noise Abatement Committee
- Parks and Recreation Committee
- Senior Citizen Advisory Committee
- Traffic Review Committee
- Youth Advisory Committee

For additional information regarding each advisory committee, call the City Clerk at (650) 286-3250, e-mail clerk@fostercity.org, or visit www.fostercity.org.

Community Profile

Estero Municipal Improvement District

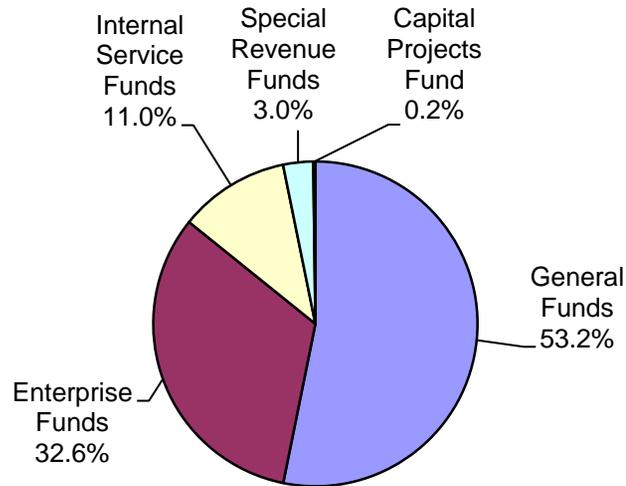
The Estero Municipal Improvement District (EMID) was created in 1960 with a Board of Directors. The three original members of this Board were elected on the basis of "one vote per one dollar of assessed valuation" of land in the District. In other words, the more land owned, the larger the voting power, (such an arrangement was necessary because the "City" had no residents at the time).

EMID sold bonds to finance the major improvements needed for development of the City. The bonds were to be paid back through the levying of assessments on property based upon future development. EMID continues to provide water and

sewer service to Foster City and water service to Mariner's Island and is a separate legal entity with the City Council serving as its Board of Directors.

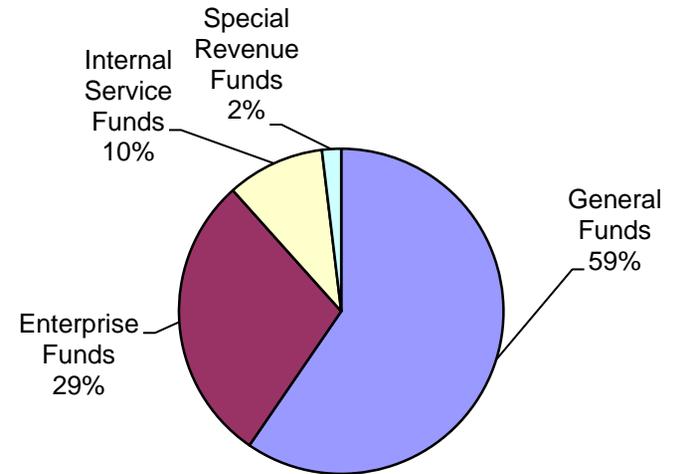
City and EMID Budget

Each year the City and EMID prepare and adopt a joint budget. A summary of the estimated revenues and expenditures are contained in Figure 7 and Figure 8, respectively.



Source: City of Foster City/EMID 2010-11 Annual Budget

Figure 07: City and EMID Revenues (FY 2010-11)



Source: City of Foster City/EMID 2010-11 Annual Budget

Figure 08: City and EMID Expenditures (FY 2010-11)

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Community Development Agency

Foster City's Community Development Agency was formed in 1981 to eliminate blight conditions that had become barriers to the City's full development. The redevelopment concept originated after World War II when public officials at the federal, state and local level were concerned with:

- The condition of existing housing stock;
- The lack of affordable housing for returning soldiers; and
- Blight and slums that had spread over an estimated one-fourth of urban America.

The federal Community Redevelopment Act, adopted in 1945, gave cities and counties the authority to establish redevelopment agencies, to initiate urban renewal programs, and enabled the agencies to apply for federal grants and loans, which were primarily a result of the Federal Housing Act of 1949.

Foster City developed initially as a residential community; its commercial area development was delayed because of high land and construction costs. The City therefore relied heavily on property taxes to fund necessary community services. City officials recognized the need to expand and diversify the City's financial base, such as with increased sales tax. This became particularly important after Proposition 13 was adopted in 1978, restricting property tax revenue.

The Community Development Agency receives its funding from tax increment. The tax increment is the increase in property taxes after the "base year" - the year the Project Area was established. The tax increment is distributed to the Community Development Agency and other agencies, subject to negotiated agreements or pass through payments

mandated by State Law. The Community Development Agency uses the funds to stimulate growth that would not otherwise occur primarily through capital improvement projects such as street improvements, wastewater treatment, and lagoon-levee improvements. The agency is also obligated to spend a minimum of 20% of the tax increment funds it receives on low and moderate income housing.

Prior to the adoption of the first redevelopment agency project area in 1981 and the second and third project areas in 1999, underdeveloped land had retarded economic growth and if allowed to continue would have potentially constituted a substantial financial drain on the community.

The second and third project areas established were the Marlin Cove Shopping Center and the Port O'Call Shopping Center, now the Miramar Apartments. Both shopping centers were failing with many vacancies, deteriorating buildings and site improvements and were dragging down property values in their neighborhoods. Both shopping centers have been successfully redeveloped with attractive apartments, and in Marlin Cove, also retail and office.

The original project area is expected to reach its revenue cap in FY 2010-11, at which time the Community Development Agency will stop receiving tax increment from this large project area and the property taxes will be distributed as they are for property outside of any redevelopment project area.

Revitalization of these underutilized areas has helped to relieve the tax burden the other areas of the community had previously shouldered.

To obtain more information about the Community Development Agency, please call (650) 286-3246 or email CDA@fostercity.org. Information is also available on the City's website www.fostercity.org.

Community Profile

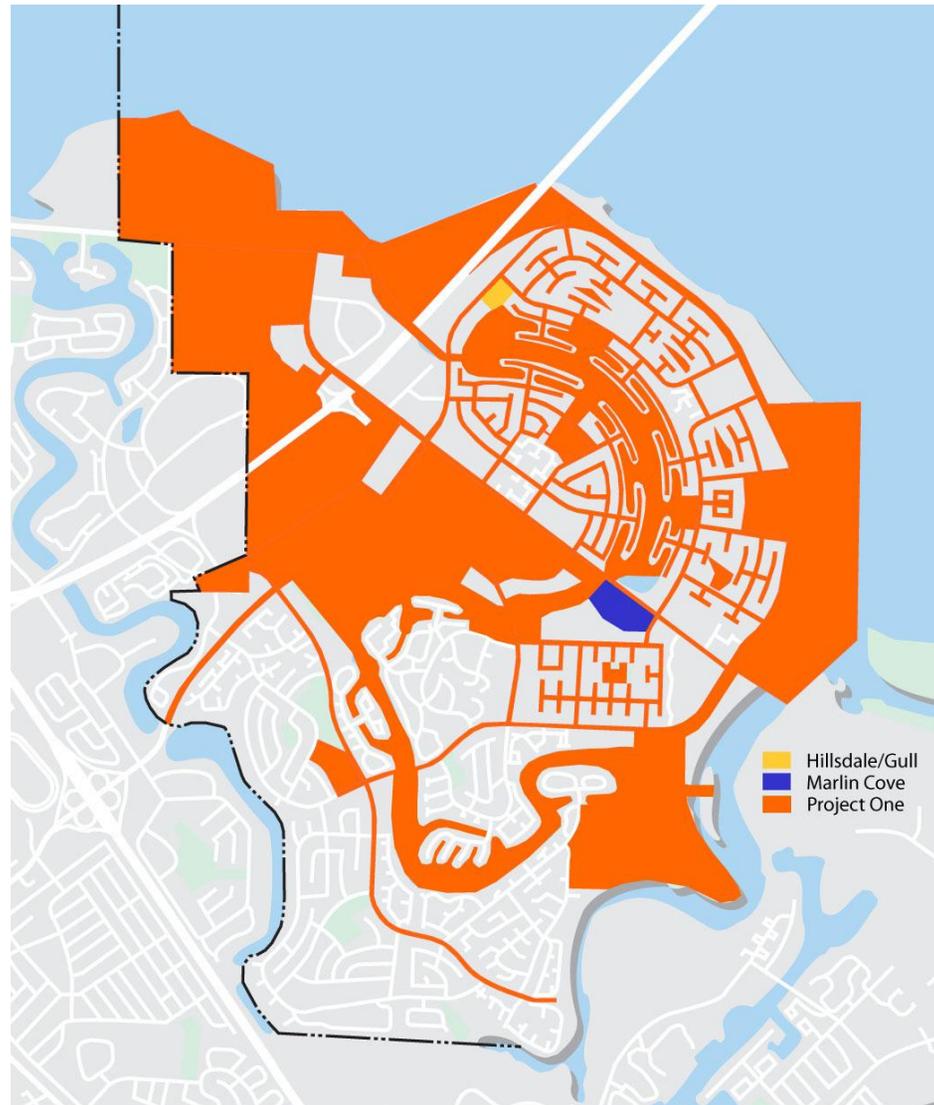


Figure 09: Map of Community Development Project Areas

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City Departments and Services

Foster City is a general law city as established by the California Government Code Section 34102 (rather than a charter city), and uses the council-manager form of government. A City Manager is appointed by and responsible to the City Council to serve as chief administrative officer overseeing personnel, development of the budget, proposing policy objectives, and general implementation of policies and programs adopted by the City Council.

Eight departments report to the City Manager, which include:

- The five line departments, so-called because they serve specifically to meet the needs of the citizens: Fire, Police, Public Works, Community Development, and Parks and Recreation; and
- The three support departments, which primarily serve to support the efforts of the line departments: City Clerk, Financial Services and Human Resources.

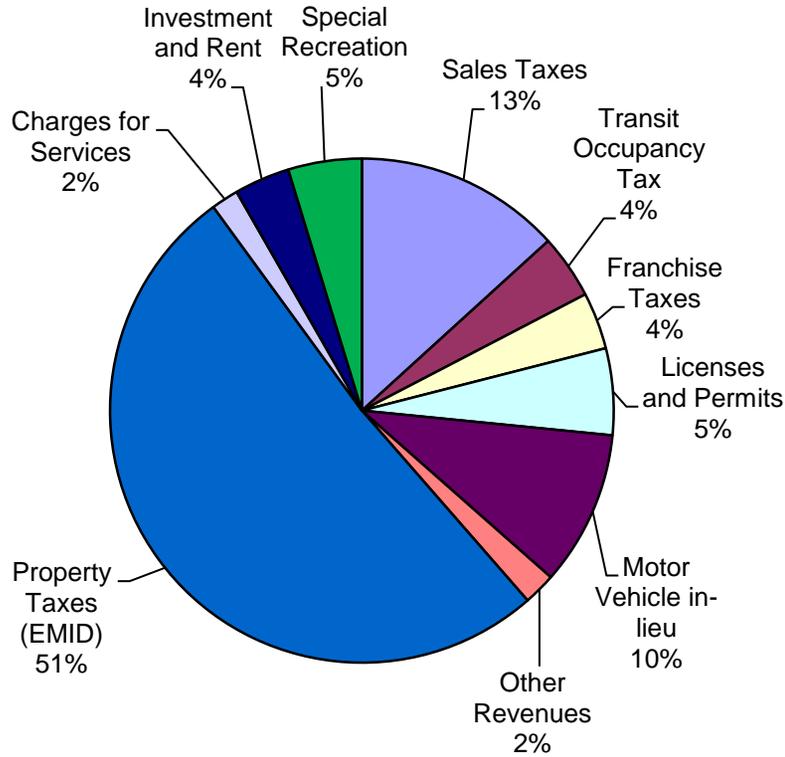
City departments are primarily funded from the General Fund as opposed to other special purpose funds. Figure 10

indicates the sources of revenues for the General Fund. For Fiscal Year 2010-11 the estimated General Fund Revenues total \$27.7 Million. Figure 11 indicates each department's share of General Fund expenditures. For Fiscal Year 2010-11 total General Fund Expenditures totaled \$30.8 Million.

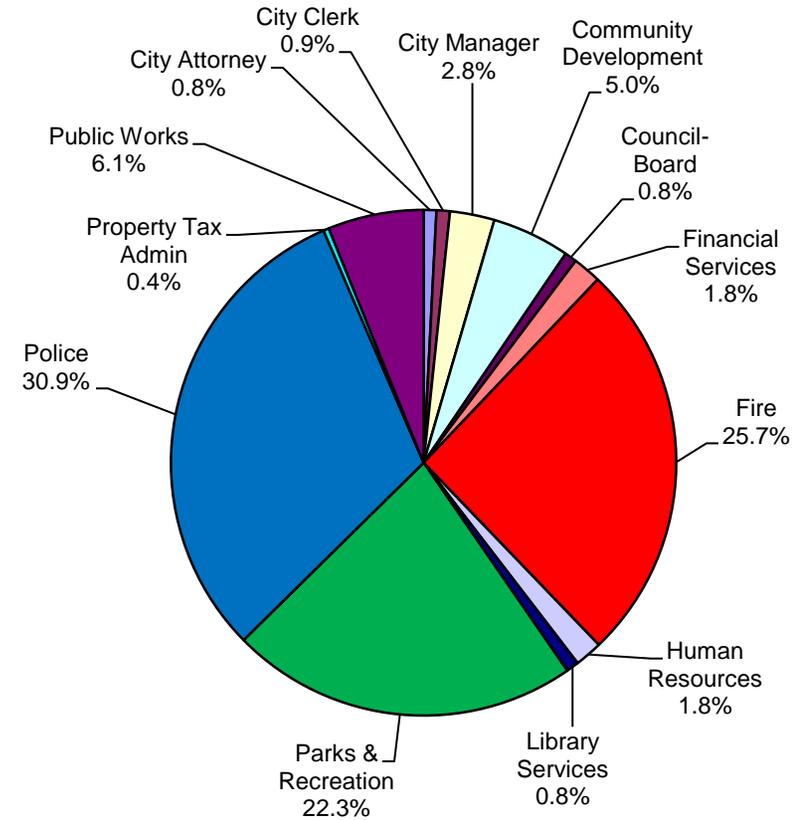
The City prepares a Five-Year Financial Plan as well as an Annual Budget. The Five-Year Financial Plan is based upon the strategies and Policy Calendar adopted by the City Council each year. The annual budget results in the actual appropriation of funds. The budget is the primary policy document adopted by the City Council each year. It describes the City's goals and details how resources are allocated to achieve these goals. In addition, the budget serves as the annual financial plan, an operational guide and a communications tool. For more information, see www.fostercity.org.

The following sections describe each City department and their responsibilities.

Community Profile



Source: City of Foster City/EMID 2010-11 Annual Budget



Source: City of Foster City/EMID 2010-11 Annual Budget

Figure 10: General Fund Revenues (FY 2010-11)

Figure 11: General Fund Expenditures (FY 2010-11)

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Foster City Organization Chart

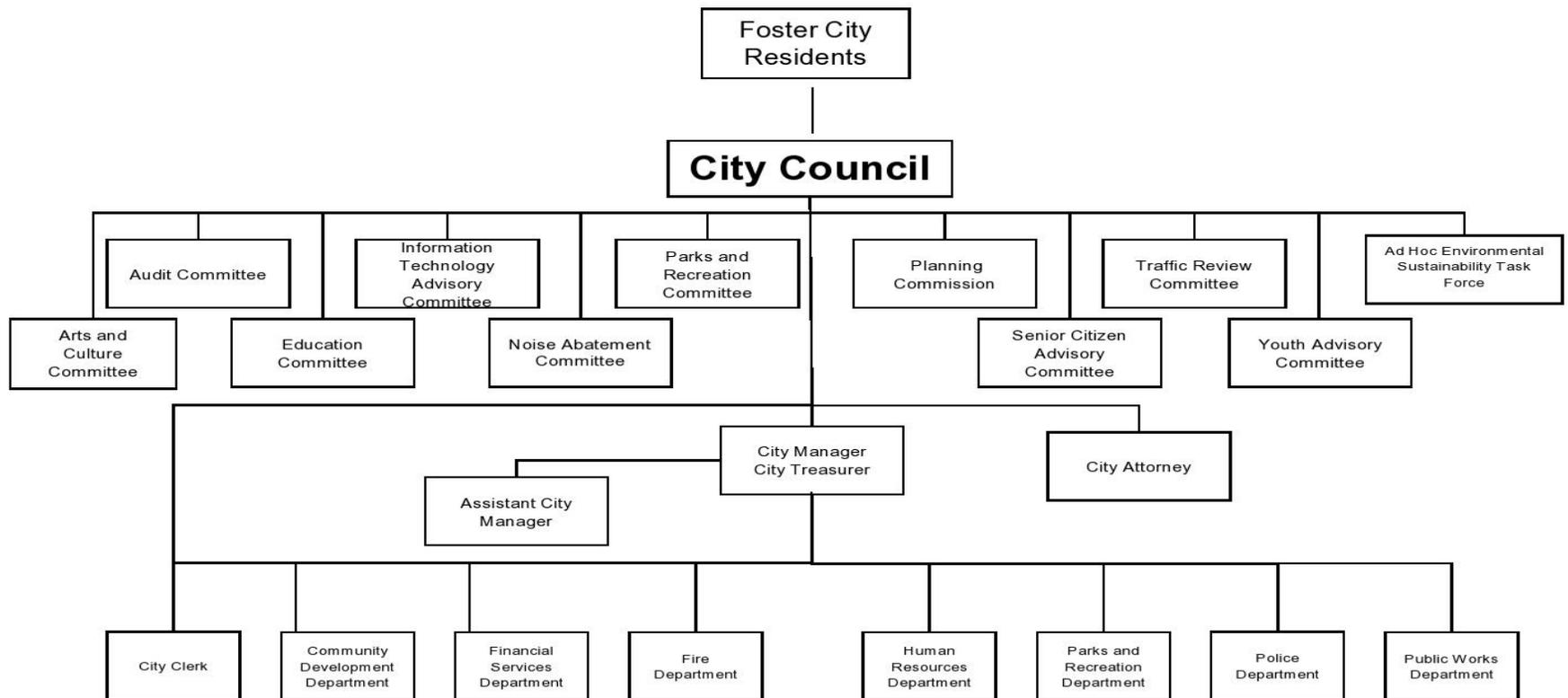


Figure 12: Foster City Organization Chart

Community Profile

City Manager

The City Manager is the chief administrative officer of the City and is responsible for providing direction and reviewing all phases of City/District operations. The City Manager is also responsible for ensuring that Council policy and established administrative practices are efficiently and effectively carried out within the fiscal and physical abilities of the various City/District departments during normal operations as well as emergency situations. The City Manager is also responsible for public information, community relations, special projects and risk management. For more information contact the City Manager at (650) 286-3220 or through email at manager@fostercity.org.

City Clerk

The City Clerk is responsible for Foster City's legislative history, official records, archives, Council Meeting agendas and minutes, municipal code book, and municipal elections. Additionally, the City Clerk is responsible for providing support services to the City Council, recording official records, and administering appointment procedures for Citizen Advisory Committees and the Planning Commission.

In addition, the City Clerk administers campaign financing and conflict of interest laws, and implements changes in State election laws. For more information contact the City Clerk at (650) 286-3250 or through email at clerk@fostercity.org.

Financial Services Department

The Financial Services Department is responsible for managing the City's funding. Its primary goal is to assure necessary and appropriate custody, control, use and reporting of city/district assets. The department also issues business

licenses and manages the billing for utility services in the City/EMID.

In addition, the Financial Services Department monitors a prudent cash investment program in accordance with the City/District Investment Policy and State Law. The primary objectives for all city investments in priority order are safety, liquidity and return on investment. Investments are made with judgment and care considering the safety of our capital as well as the probable income to be derived.

For more information contact the Financial Services Department at (650) 286-3200 or through email at finance@fostercity.org. For Accounts Receivable and Business Licenses contact (650) 286-3262. For Utilities contact (650) 286-3260.

Human Resources Department

The City of Foster City maintains a workforce of 204 full-time and approximately 40 part-time employees in 79 different classifications. Services provided by the Human Resources Department include employee benefits, classification and compensation, workers compensation, recruitment and selection, labor and employee relations, employee training and development, and personnel record keeping. The department analyzes employee benefit programs to ensure that City sponsored benefits meet the needs of the workforce, and develops a comprehensive approach to employee recruitment with an emphasis on retention.

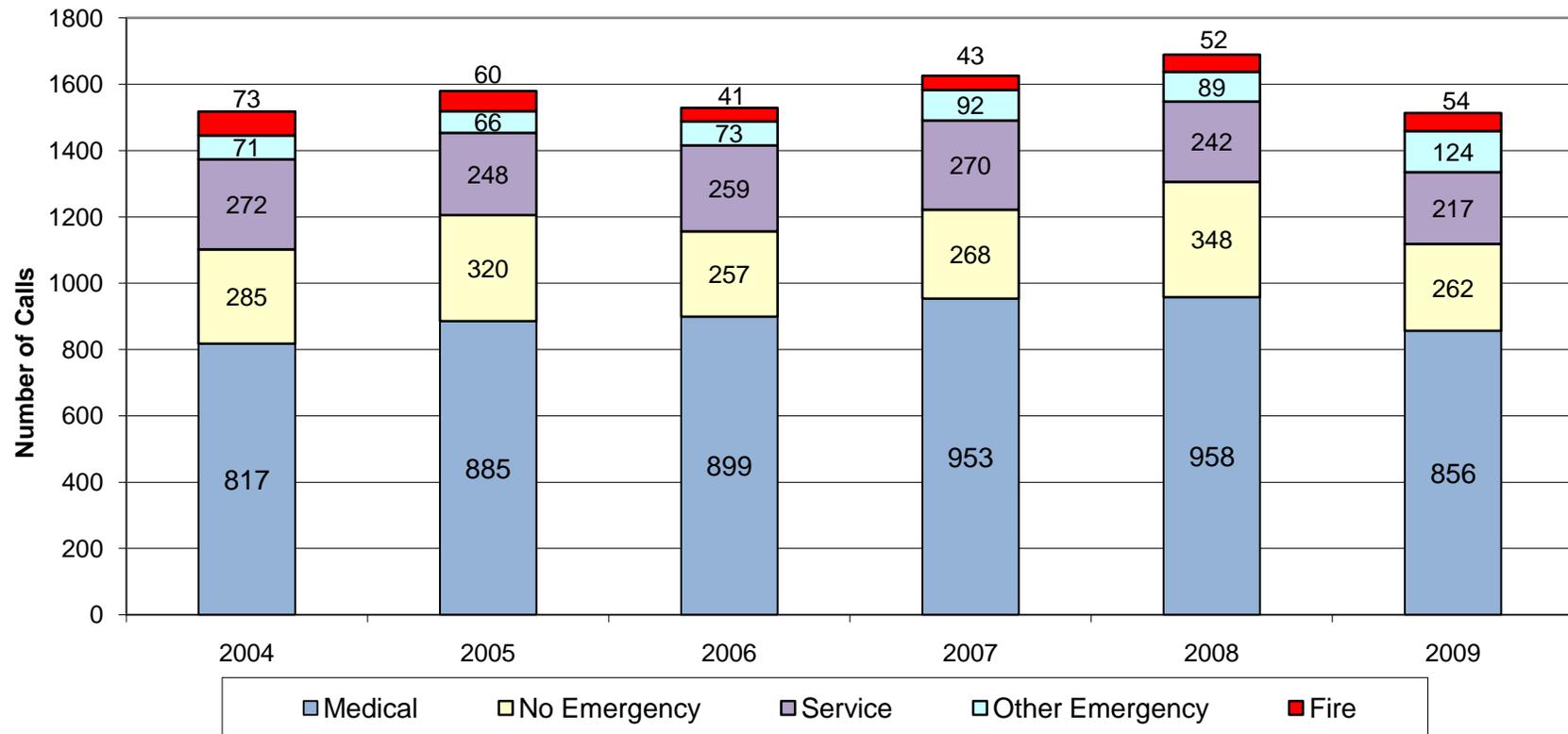
For more information contact the Human Resources Department at (650) 286-3205 or through email at hr@fostercity.org. The City also has a Job Hotline which may be accessed at www.fostercity.org or at (650) 286-3562.

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Fire Department

The Fire Department protects lives, property and the environment from fire and exposure to hazardous materials, offers programs which prepare our citizens for emergencies and provides nonemergency services, including fire prevention and related code enforcement, to residents and visitors of Foster City.

From one centrally located station, the Fire Department maintains an average response time of three to five minutes in the City. The Foster City Fire Department has been rated as a fire safety "Class 2" by the Insurance Services Office. Fire Protection ratings range from Class 10 (least desirable) to Class 1 (best).



Source: Foster City Fire Department

Figure 13: Fire Department Calls (2004-2009)

Community Profile

The Fire Department employs 38 full-time personnel including Assistant Chief, Fire Marshal, Assistant Fire Marshal, Battalion Chiefs, Captains, Firefighters and administrative personnel. The Fire Chief position was combined as a contract position with the Fire Chief for the City of San Mateo, effective on July 1, 2010.

The Fire Department responds to more medical calls than all other emergency responses combined. For that reason, Foster City Fire Department participates with other Fire Agencies to provide Advanced Life Support (ALS) with a paramedic assigned to every fire engine. In addition, the Department participates in combined dispatching so that the closest engine will respond to an emergency call, regardless of City boundaries. Engine-based paramedics ensure that ALS service is available faster than ever. A private ambulance transports patients to local hospitals.

All Captains and Firefighters are trained as emergency medical technicians and every engine is staffed with at least one paramedic daily, ensuring that the citizens of Foster City receive excellent ALS services by Fire Department Paramedics.

The Fire Department provides safety education to the public including classes in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and disaster preparedness. School programs and tours of the fire station make students aware of fire danger in the home. Evacuation and disaster training is provided to businesses upon request.

The Department's divisions work in tandem to provide service to the community. The Administration Division, which includes the Office of the Fire Chief, provides program direction to all divisions and budget oversight for the Department. The Fire Prevention Division works to reduce the factors which contribute to the cause and spread of fire by consulting with the public, issuing permits, checking plans, inspecting for fire

code compliance and developing and recommending new or modification to existing codes to the City Council. Operations Division personnel, trained in the most current and modern firefighting and medical techniques, respond to fire, medical, rescue, hazardous materials and citizen assist calls.

The Fire Department provides the following services for the City:

- Fire Prevention and Suppression
- Engine-Based Paramedic Program
- Certified Paramedics and Emergency Medical Technicians
- Heart Defibrillation Program
- Hazardous Material Spills Response & Containment
- Home Inspections (upon request)
- Commercial/Industrial Inspection (by law)
- CPR Training for the Public
- Home Fire Safety and Earthquake Safety classes
- Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training

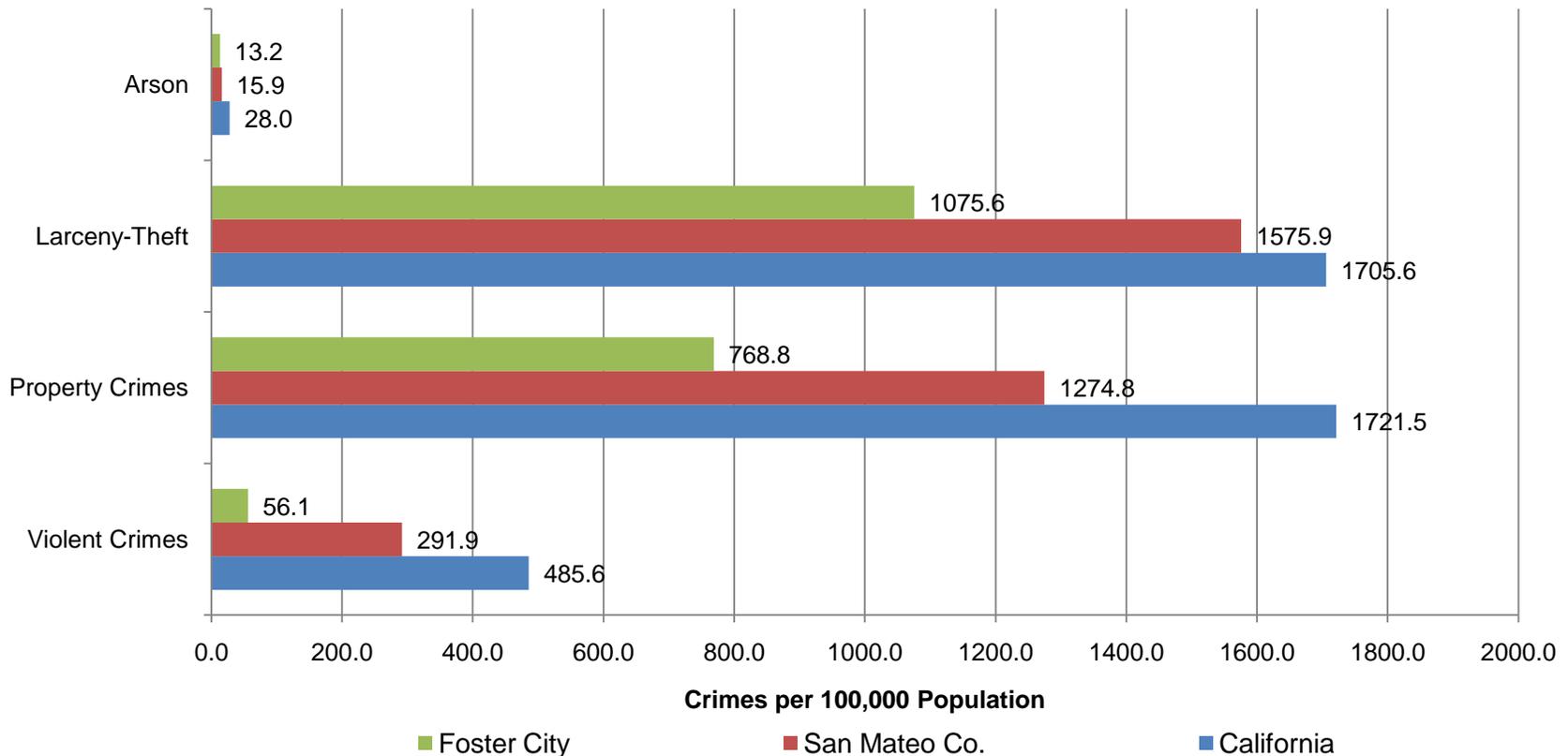
For more information contact the Fire Department at (650) 286-3350 or through email at fire@fostercity.org.

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Police Department

The Police Department organization consists of the Office of the Chief of Police, which commands the Administration and Field Operations Divisions. There are currently 36 sworn officers, 15 full time support employees and 5 volunteer reserve police officers.

Foster City has a very low crime rate and, year after year, is ranked one of the safest cities in California in which to live and work. The figure below compares crime rates in Foster City to San Mateo County and the State of California for 2008.



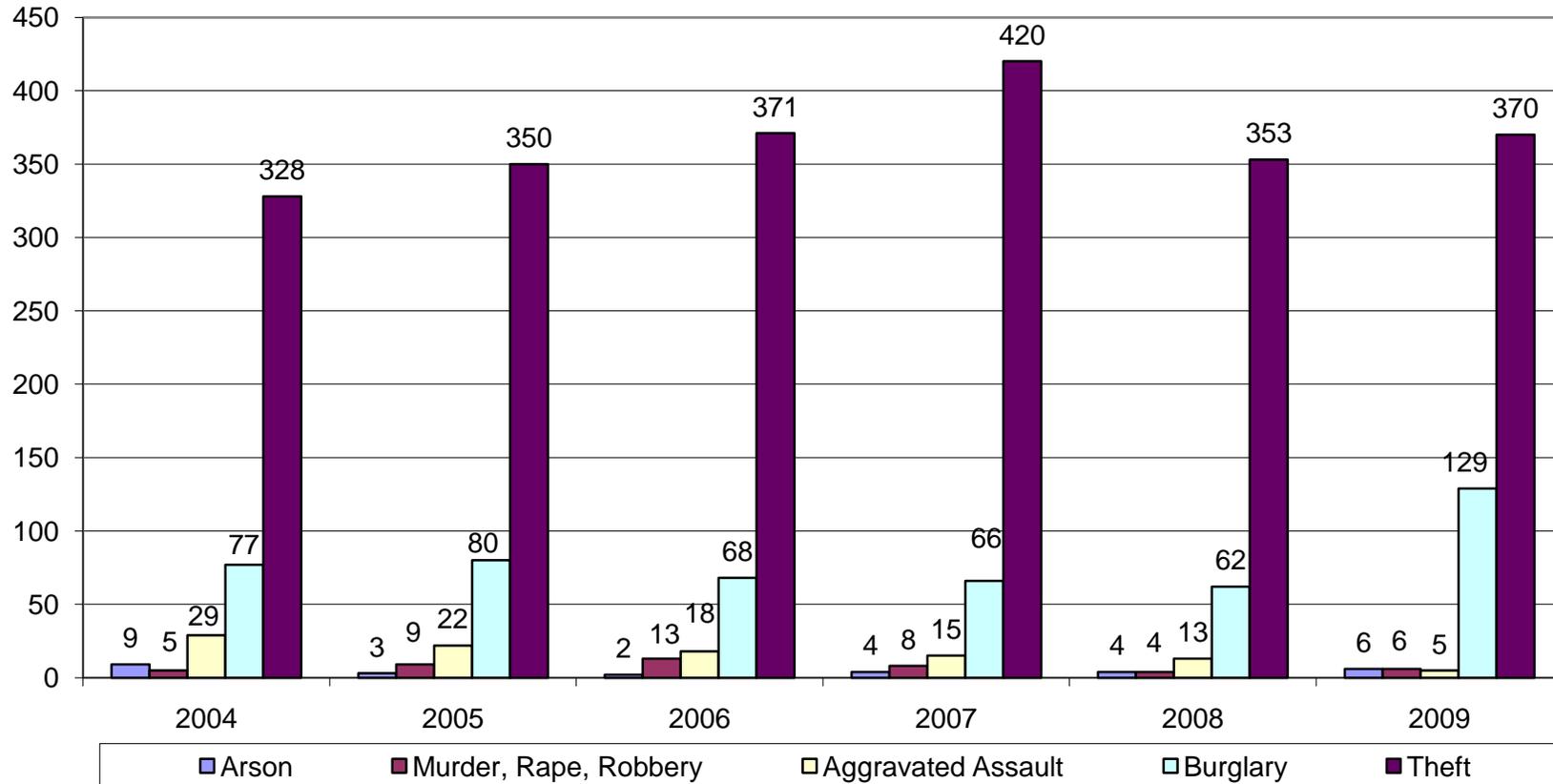
Source: California Office of the Attorney General, 2010

Figure 14: Comparison of Crime Rates in California, San Mateo County & Foster City (2008)

Community Profile

The Administration Division is responsible for criminal investigations, crime prevention, youth services, crime analysis, evidence and property control, budget preparation, press and community relations. It is also responsible for

records processing and storage, computer analysis and maintenance, radio communications and dispatch services for the Police Department.



Source: Foster City Police Department

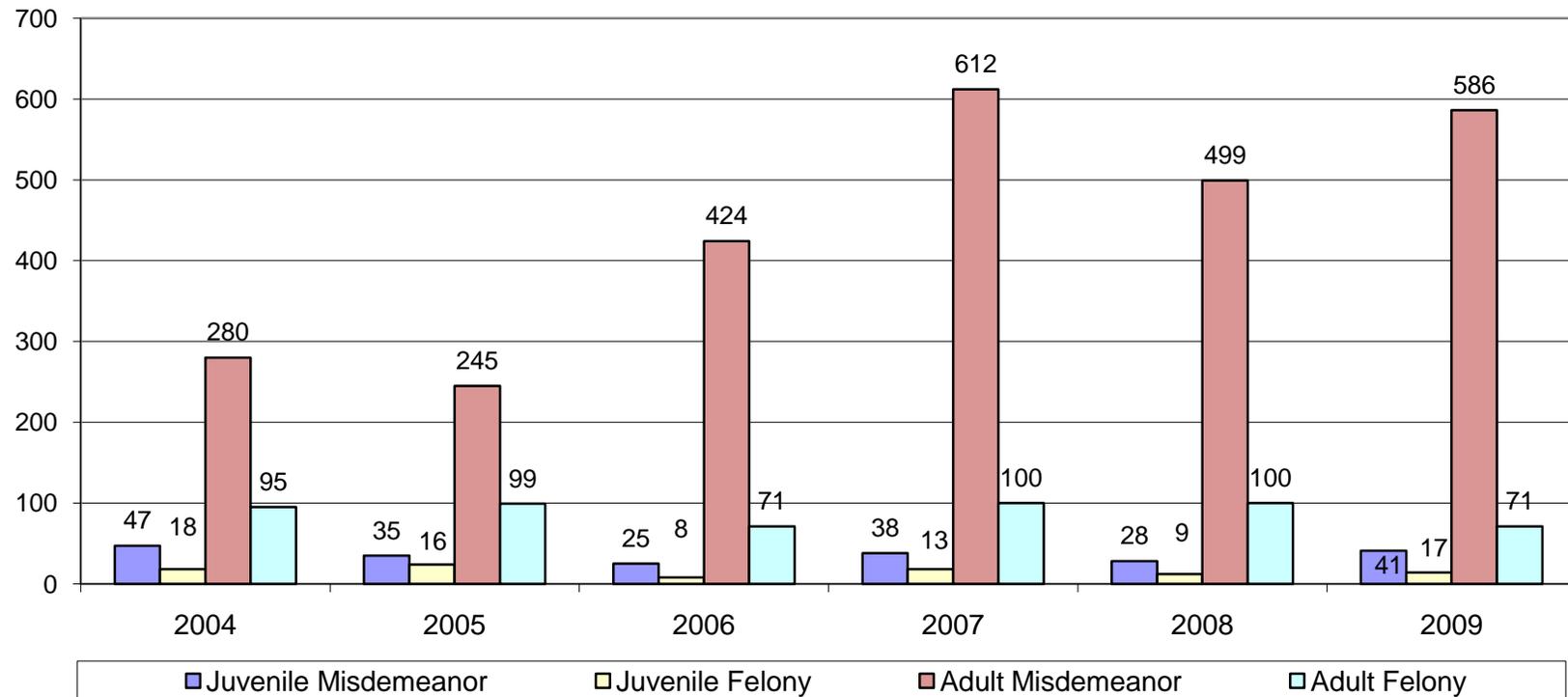
Figure 15: Major Crimes in Foster City (2004-2009)

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The Field Operations Division consists of the uniformed officers who respond to calls for service and preliminary investigations. The division includes the traffic unit, the canine unit, the bicycle unit, field training officers, evidence technicians and community service officers.

Foster City consistently maintains one of the lowest crime rates in California.

The Police Department is located at 1030 Foster City Blvd. For more information, please call the Police Department at (650) 286-3300 or email at police@fostercity.org. Additional information is also available on the City's website www.fostercity.org.



Source: Foster City Police Department

Figure 16: Arrests in Foster City (2004-2009)

Community Profile

Parks and Recreation Department

The Parks and Recreation Department is located in the Recreation Center at 650 Shell Boulevard. The northern portion of the building includes the Foster City Senior Wing.

The Parks and Recreation Department's mission is to create community through people, parks and programs. The Department consists of four divisions: Parks, Recreation, Buildings, and Vehicles. The Department's programs protect and monitor the environmental and economic resources, facilitate community problem solving and build upon community pride while providing a variety of parks and recreation services in the community.

Foster City boasts of more than 100 acres of park and open space land including bike paths, dog exercise areas, a lighted softball field, numerous soccer and youth baseball fields, tennis courts, basketball courts, bocce ball courts, picnic facilities, par courses, and a wildlife refuge. In addition to the 102.72 acres of parks listed in Table 6, the City also has a pedway system that is located on the periphery of Foster City along the Belmont Slough and San Francisco Bay. The pedway is 7 linear miles from start to finish.

The City's Teen Center, The Vibe, is located at 670 Shell Boulevard, at the south end of the Recreation Center parking lot. It includes drop in hours as well as programmed activities. The Skate Park is located adjacent to The Vibe.

For more information, please contact the Recreation Center at (650) 286-3380 or the Senior Wing at (650) 286-2585 or through email at recreation@fostercity.org.

The Parks and Recreation Department also has information on parks and classes offered through the Recreation Department on the City's website at www.fostercity.org.

Table 6: Foster City Parks

Park	Location	Acres
Arcturus Park	Arcturus Circle off of Polaris Ave.	0.75
Boat Park/Dog Park	Bounty Dr. and Foster City Blvd.	3.18
Boothbay Park	Boothbay Ave. and Edgewater Blvd.	11.21
Catamaran Park	Catamaran St. and Shell Blvd.	5.88
Edgewater Park	Edgewater Blvd. And Regulus St.	8.53
Erckenbrack Park	Niantic Drive	3.48
Farragut Park	Farragut Blvd. & Beach Park Blvd.	3.86
Gateshead Park	Baffin St. betw. Pitcairn & Edgewater	.012
Gull Park	Gull Ave. betw. Mallard & Plover St.	3.14
Ketch Park	Betw. Schooner St. & Catamaran St.	1.60
Killdeer Park	Killdeer Ct. off of Gull Ave.	1.53
Leo J Ryan Park	E. Hillsdale Blvd. & Shell Blvd.	20.73
Leo Park	Leo Drive	.015
Marlin Park	Marlin Dr. across from Pompano Cir,	3.13
Pompano Park	Pompano Circle	0.56
Port Royal Park	South end of Port Royal Ave.	3.98
Sea Cloud Park	Pitcairn & Sea Cloud Way	23.90
Shad Park	Between Shad Ct. & Bluefish Ct.	2.16
Sunfish Park	Between Mullet & Sunfish	2.41
Turnstone Park	Turnstone Court	1.53
TOTAL		102.72

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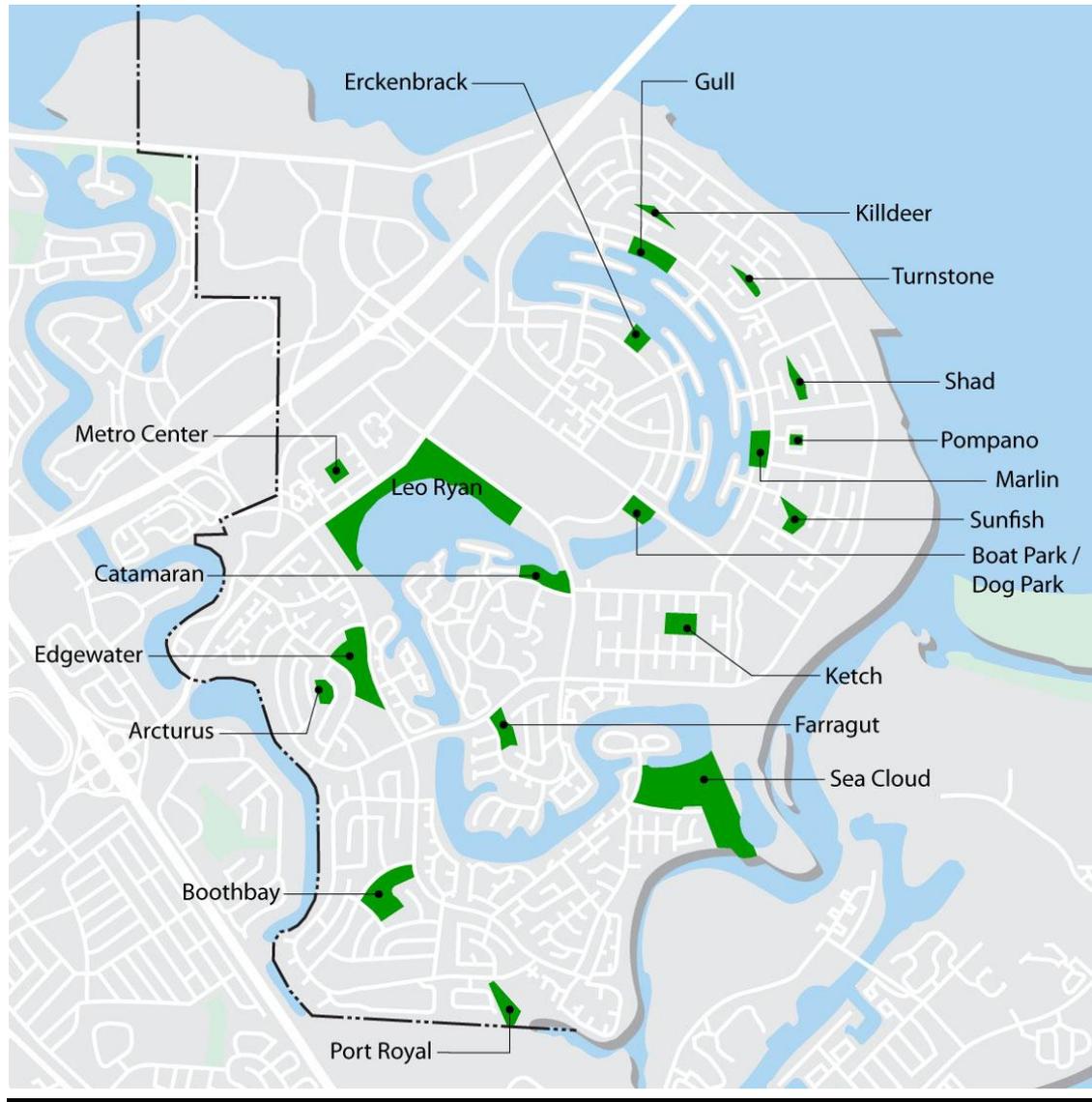


Figure 17: Map of Foster City Parks

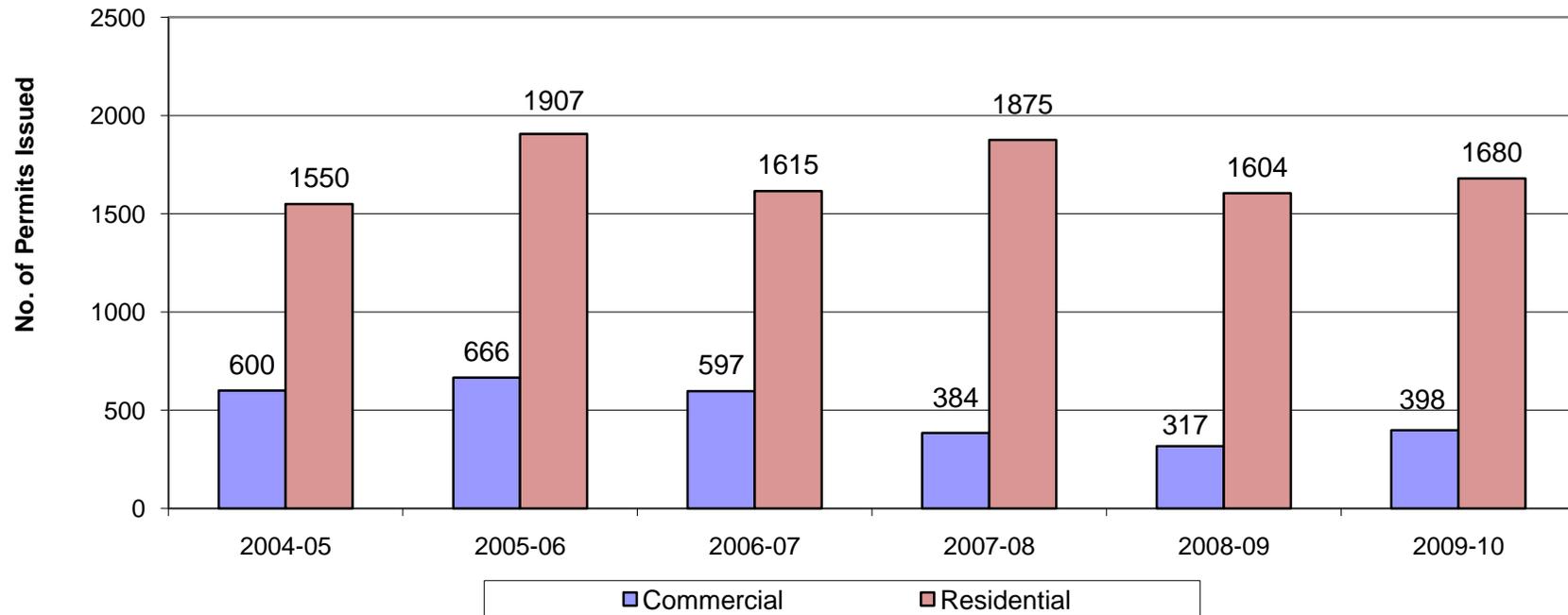
Community Profile

Community Development Department

The Community Development Department serves to guide the physical development and redevelopment of the City while protecting and maintaining the quality of its physical environment. The department is located in the City Hall building and is organized into two divisions: the Planning/Code Enforcement Division and the Building Inspection Division.

The Planning/Code Enforcement Division also manages the affordable housing programs of the Community Development Agency.

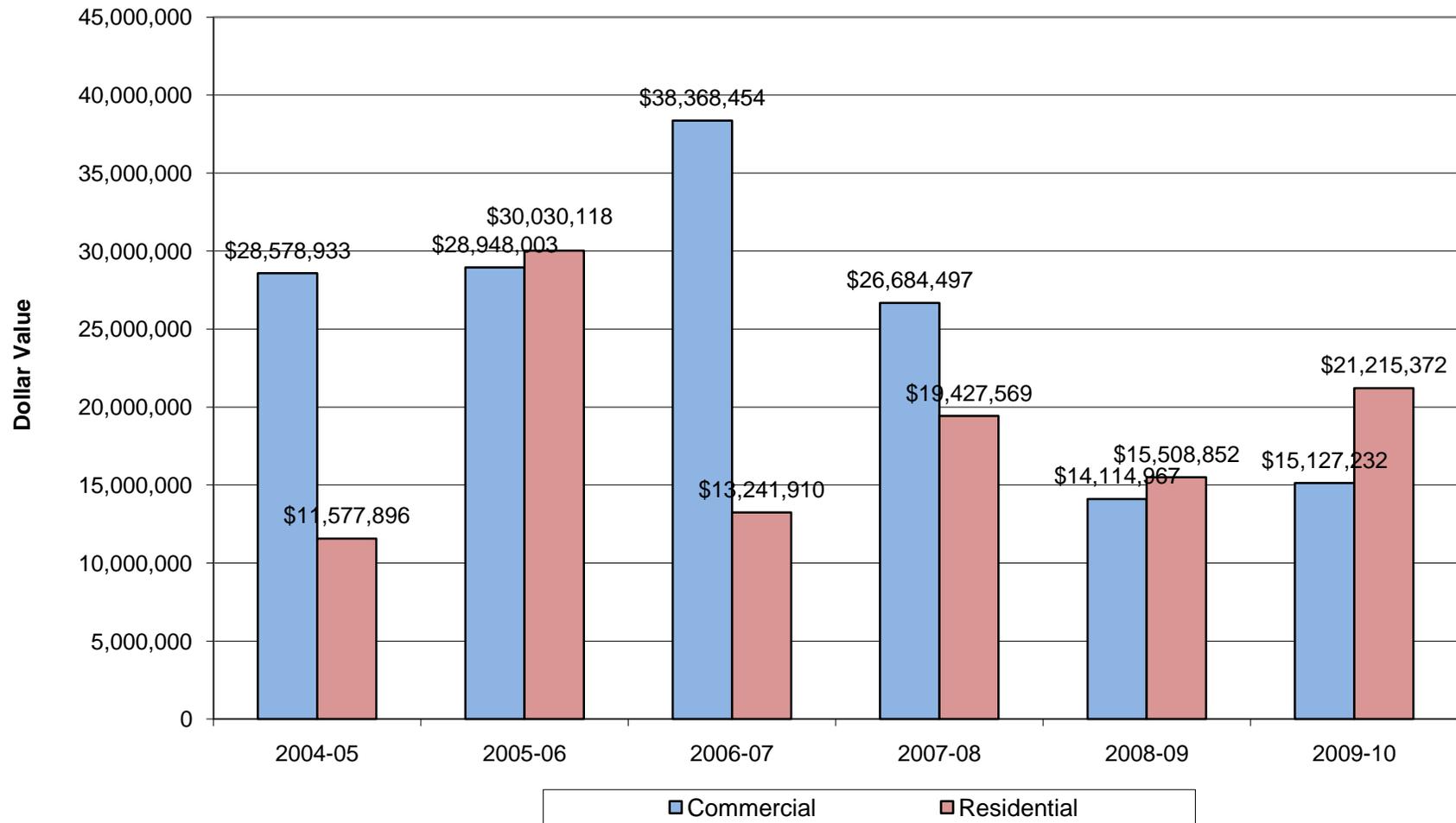
The Building Inspection Division is responsible for ensuring that all construction projects permitted within the City comply with the Uniform Building Codes, the Foster City Municipal Code and all other applicable codes and regulations.



Source: Foster City Building Inspection Division

Figure 18: Building Permits Issued (FY 2004-05 - 2009-10)

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Source: Foster City Building Inspection Division

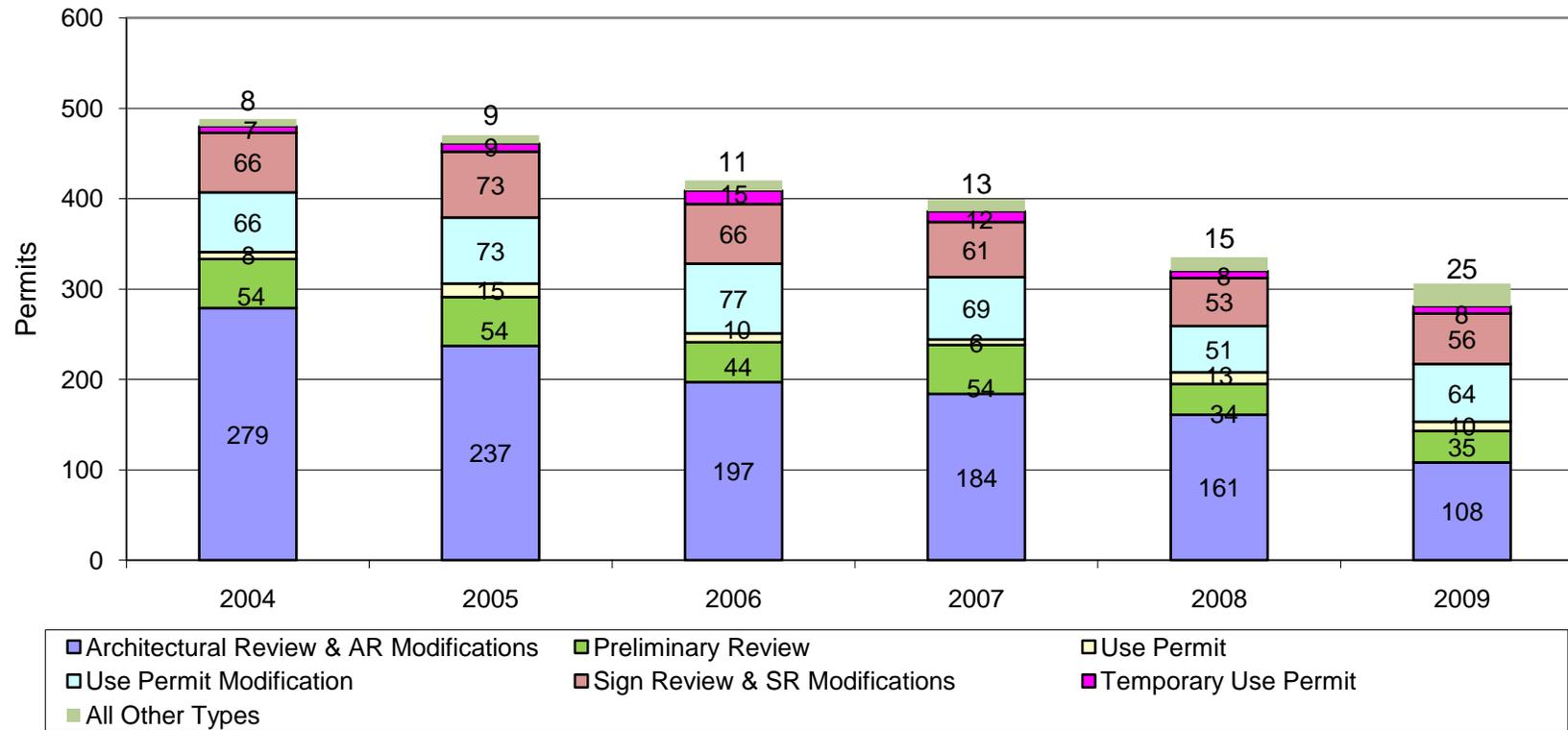
Figure 19: Building Permit Valuation (FY 2004-05 - 2009-10)

Community Profile

The Planning/Code Enforcement Division is responsible for long term planning regarding growth and development of the City, for reviewing and processing applications for all development proposals, and for maintaining the appearance of the community.

The Code Enforcement program ensures that the standards and laws of the City are enforced to assure that the City's safety, health, welfare and aesthetic values are observed.

For more information please contact the Community Development Department at (650) 286-3225 or through email at cdd@fostercity.org. Permits, forms and additional information are available on the City's website at www.fostercity.org.



Source: Foster City Community Development Department

Figure 20: Planning/Code Enforcement Division Permits Processed (2004-2009)