Lafayette’s downtown offers a vibrant mix of recreational facilities and activities for all ages. Several downtown facilities are described below with links to their websites so you can fully explore the myriad of activities they offer.

◊ At the heart of the downtown is the **Lafayette Library and Learning Center** with its unique mix of library services and lifelong learning opportunities. To find out about all the activities offered through the Lafayette Library Foundation, including the **Glenn Seaborg Consortium**, click here: [About the LLLC](#)

The Consortium is comprised of twelve dynamic organizations:

California Shakespeare Theater; Chabot Space & Science Center; Commonwealth Club of California; Greenbelt Alliance; John F. Kennedy University; John Muir Health; Lindsay Wildlife Museum; Oakland Museum of California; Oakland Zoo; Saint Mary’s College; UC Institute of Governmental Studies; and UC Lawrence Hall of Science.

Their goal is to enlighten, inspire and encourage visitors of all ages to learn more about science, the arts, politics, history, our environment and our health.

◊ The Library is also home to the **Friends Corner Book Store** and the **Lafayette Historical Society**.

These beloved organizations give so much back to the community and define our character. [About Friends of Lafayette Library](#) and [About the Laf. Historical Society](#)
Three distinct City parks offer a variety of outdoor enjoyment.

1. **Plaza Park** offers a gathering place near shops and restaurants and features popular events like “Rock the Plaza”. [About Plaza Park](#)

![Plaza Park Image](image1.jpg)

2. **Brook Street Park** offers a shady place to relax while toddlers play on a whimsical pirate ship. [About Brook Street Park](#)

![Brook Street Park Image](image2.jpg)

3. **Leigh Creekside Park**, with its grand oak, is perfect for a quick and peaceful lunch break with views of the creek and close proximity to the EBRPD Regional Trail. [About Leigh Creekside Park](#)

![Leigh Creekside Park Image](image3.jpg)

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**The Lafayette Moraga Regional Trail** is the very first “rails to trails” success story. The paved surface provides bicyclists, walkers, strollers and equestrians a convenient way to travel to the downtown.

The entire Trail is 7.65 miles long and goes through Lafayette and Moraga. [About the EBRPD Lafayette-Moraga Trail](#)

![Trail Image](image4.jpg)
Next on the list of downtown treasures is the Town Hall Theater.

Established in 1944 as the Dramateurs and reorganized in 1992 as the Town Hall Theatre Company of Lafayette, they are the oldest continuously active theatre company in the county. The theatre has won numerous Shellie Awards for its work and continues to delight young and old with its diverse plays and programs.

About Town Hall Theatre

Three Downtown Housing Facilities Offer Senior Residents an Array of Activities

1. **Merrill Gardens** is scheduled to open in 2014. Offering independent and assisted living options, Merrill Gardens plans to host events and activities that match the desires of the residents. Examples include premier dining events, musical and theatrical entertainment and outings to local community events. Physical activity and wellness programs are also offered on a regular basis. [About Merrill Gardens]

2. **Belle Terre**, an Eden Housing property, also plans to open in 2014. It will have an on-site Services Coordinator who will develop and present various on-site enrichment activities and services such as guest speakers, health and wellness presentations, dancing, blood pressure screening and visiting nurses and podiatrists. A computer lab and exercise room will be located on the premises. The Services Coordinator will also gather and share information on programs offered in the community. [About Belle Terre]

3. **Chateau Lafayette** is located within easy walking distance of the Lafayette Library and Learning Center, Friends Corner Book Store and the Lafayette Historical Society. [About Chateau Lafayette]
Special Events in the Downtown
The Lafayette Chamber of Commerce puts on several special events throughout the year including the fabulous Lafayette Art and Wine Festival and the Lafayette Reservoir Run.  About the Lafayette Chamber

Heading west on Mount Diablo Boulevard from the downtown you’ll discover four great destinations:

1. The Lafayette Veteran’s Memorial Building was dedicated on Memorial Day 2005. Since 1925, a Veterans Memorial Building has served central Contra Costa County in memory and honor of our American war dead. The new Lafayette Veteran’s Memorial Building provides an emotional and historical sanctuary for former, current, and future Comrades in Arms as well as a social venue for occasions of ceremony and camaraderie. The business component of the building provides a location for the business meetings of each Veterans Service Organization as well as an opportunity to make the building space available to the general public for a wide variety of non-veteran events.  About the Lafayette Veteran's Memorial Building

2. The Lafayette Reservoir and Recreation Area offers boating, fishing, hiking, and picnicking. Owned and operated by the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), the area features a 2.8 mile Shore Trail (paved) and a 4.3 mile Rim Trail (dirt). About the Lafayette Reservoir and Recreation Area
3. **Lafayette Community Garden**

   offers intergenerational classes and workshops covering a range of gardening and sustainability topics.

   About the Lafayette Community Garden

4. Founded in 1946, **Orchard Nursery** is more than a place to buy plants and seeds. Flower arranging, heirloom tomato tasting, holiday celebrations and gardening classes are offered in a picturesque setting.

   About Orchard Nursery

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**Future Plans for Parks in the Downtown**

Three potential park sites are described in the City’s Downtown Specific Plan – the City’s long range planning tool to help guide future development.

About the Downtown Specific Plan

The City does not own any of the park properties described in the plan but hopes to be in a position to acquire more downtown parks in the future.

1. **Town Green**: The area known as the “Shield Block” or “LaFiesta Square” would benefit from a passive park that would offer shoppers and other downtown patrons a place to relax and participate in community events. Adjacent to the creek and some of our City’s most significant downtown oak trees, the vision is to provide both hardscape and landscaped areas with seating and public art displays.

2. **Library Park**: To complement the library, an active park is proposed on the property at the southeast corner of Golden Gate Way and First Street adjacent to the creek. This property is the best location for an active park given its proximity to the Library, schools and residences. The park would be designed to serve residents and downtown patrons and may include such uses as children’s play equipment, interactive public art and picnic benches and tables. The intent is to create a park in conjunction with the development of the entire property through a private/public partnership.
3. Gazebo Park:

A passive park is proposed adjacent to the Gazebo located at the intersections of Golden Gate Way and Mt. Diablo Blvd. With its creekside setting and connections to regional trails, this park will be an amenity to the residents of the three nearby senior housing facilities and will also serve as a wayside stop for pedestrians and bicyclists. The design of the park may include picnic tables and benches, a play lawn and garden areas. Development of this site as a park will depend, in part, on replacing the existing public parking spaces. It will also need to be developed in conjunction with adjacent private development.

Additional Downtown Civic Facilities

- City Offices
- Police Services Office
- County Building Inspection
- Post Office
- Public Parking lot at Mount Diablo Boulevard and Oak Hill Road
- Post Office Annex
- Fire District Station 15
- County Supervisor’s District Office
- Alamo-Lafayette Cemetery
- Lafayette Elementary School
- Masonic Lodge
- Firehouse Preschool
- Public Parking lot on Moraga Road north of Brook Street
- Lafayette Nursery School
- BART Station
- Caltrans Right-of-Way
- EBMUD Aqueduct Right-of-Way
- EBMUD Pumping Plant

This information was produced by the City of Lafayette Parks, Trails & Recreation Department. Feel free to send updated information to recreation@lovelafayette.org