



Ravenswood

Youth Athletic Association

Building Character, Families and Faith

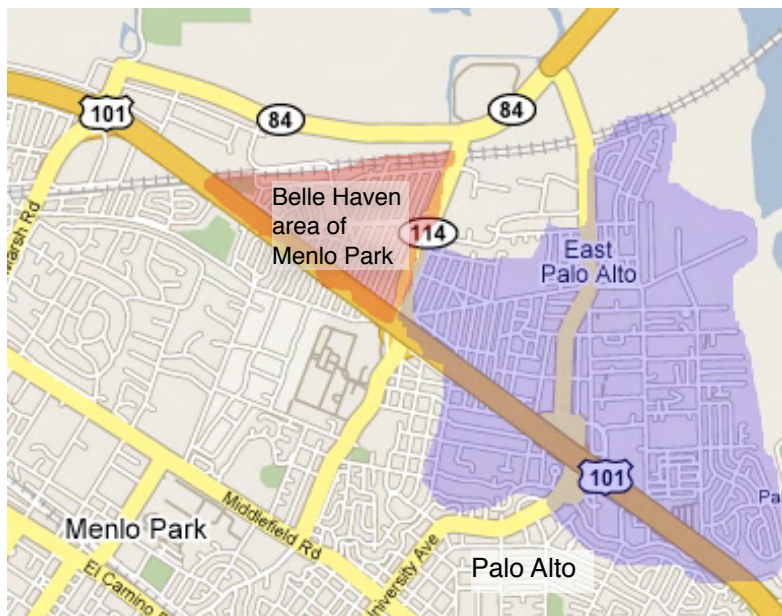


About the Ravenswood Area

Geography

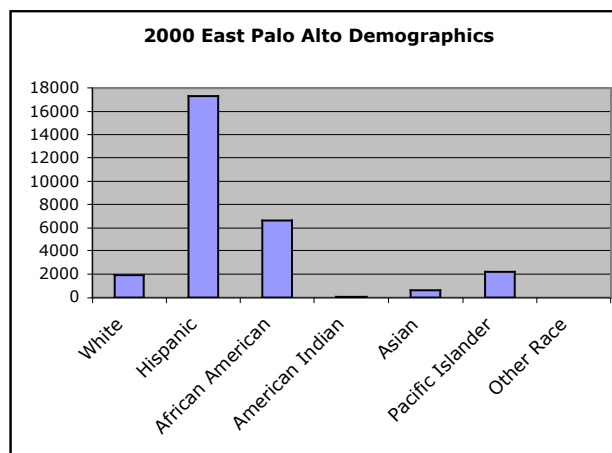
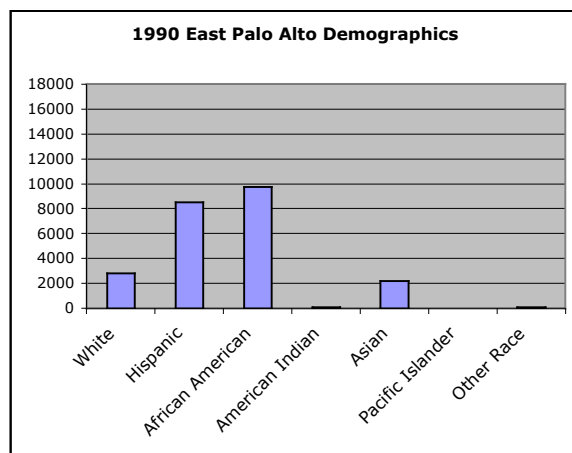
The Ravenswood area consists of East Palo Alto and the Belle Haven area of Menlo Park. This area is served by the Ravenswood City School District. It was mostly unincorporated county land until 1983, when the city of East Palo Alto was formed.

This area is about 3 square miles, and has a population of close to 35,000.



Demographics

The Ravenswood area has historically experienced massive population shifts. In the last 10 years, it has changed from a mostly African-American community to a mostly Latino community, many of whom are immigrants. The children of these new residents often feel disconnected from the culture of their parents, but also not connected with the culture of their new community.



Struggles

While the Ravenswood area has much to be proud of, including its long history of grass-roots and church based activism, it has struggled with a variety of problems in the last few years. It has one of the highest crime rates in the San Francisco Bay area. Childhood obesity rates are also extremely high, and academic achievement is low, even compared to other areas in the state with similar demographics. Over 80% of children in the school district are low-income.

Recent economic investment in the area holds the hope of future benefits for the community. But for now, these gains have had no impact. The Ravenswood City School District does not provide funding for after-school sports, leaving teachers to organize themselves on a volunteer basis. The City of East Palo Alto has one staff member in the recreation department, and no programs, while the City of Menlo Park recently cut recreation services to the Belle Haven area.

