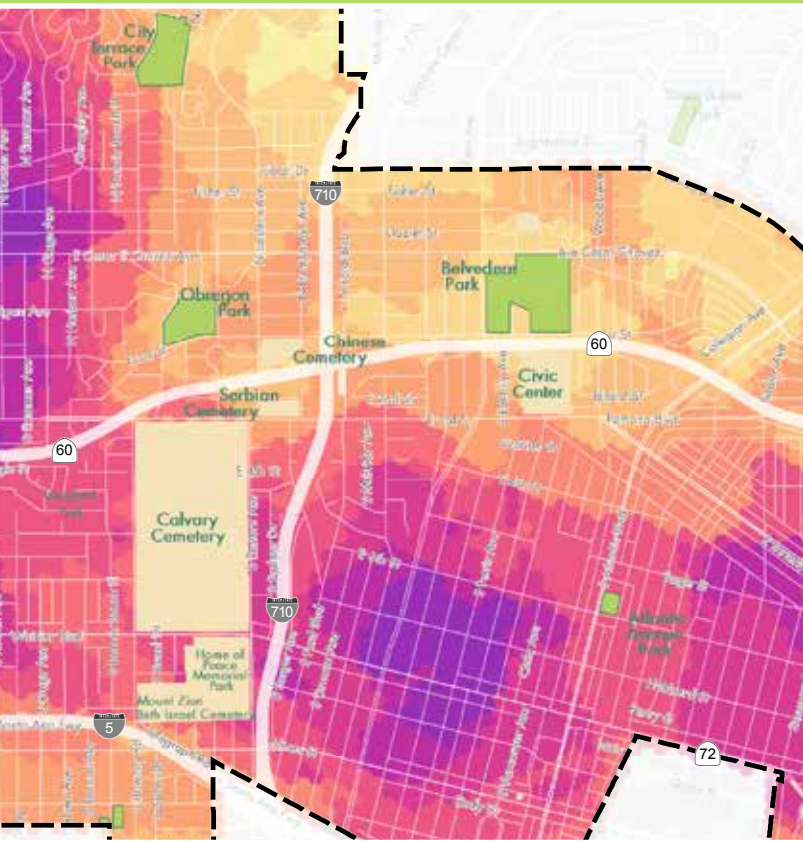


FEBRUARY 2016

EAST LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



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This document was prepared by:



Acknowledgements

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Teresa Villagas Legislative Deputy for Parks & Recreation as well as
Environmental and Water Issues

PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF

John Wicker Acting Director of Parks and Recreation
Norma E. Garcia Deputy Director- Planning and Development
Frank Gonzales Deputy Director- East Community Services Agency
Jim Smith Chief of Development
Kathline King Chief of Planning
Blake Warner Supervising Landscape Architect
Clement Lau Department Facilities Planner II

CONSULTANT TEAM

PlaceWorks
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Special thanks to the residents of East Los Angeles who took time to participate in outreach events and provide feedback about the future of parks and recreation in their community. This plan is dedicated to their vision.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

1-1

CHAPTER 2: EXISTING CONDITIONS

2-1

Policy Context	2-2
Existing Partnership Agreements	2-3
Demographics	2-3
Parks Inventory	2-6
Special Use Facilities	2-22
Recreational Programs	2-22
Parks and Recreation Access	2-24
Other Green Space	2-24
Planning Context	2-27
Urban Forest Inventory	2-30
Spatial Analysis	2-40

CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

3-1

Surveys	3-2
Focus Groups	3-4
Stakeholder Interviews	3-5
Community Workshop	3-6
Youth Events	3-9
Safety	3-10
Community Design Workshop	3-13
Summary of Community Outreach	3-14

CHAPTER 4: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4-1

Facility Needs	4-2
Summary of Facility Needs	4-8
Connecting Facility Needs to Park Systems	4-9
Spatial Needs	4-12
Potential Parkland Opportunities	4-14
Evaluation	4-16
Priority Recommendations	4-16

CHAPTER 5: GREEN SPACE VISION PLAN

5-1

Vision and Goals	5-2
Green Connections	5-4
Vision Plan Features	5-6
Urban Greening	5-8
Urban Forestry	5-11
Meeting the Needs	5-12
Potential Impact of Implementation	5-18
Greenscore	5-18

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 6: DESIGN CONCEPTS

6-1

Southern California Edison Corridor	6-4
Folsom Street Mini-Park	6-10
Linear Bike Skills Park	6-14
City Terrace Trail	6-16

CHAPTER 7: IMPLEMENTATION

7-1

Summary of Goals	7-2
Strategies	7-2
Implementation Actions	7-3
Partnership	7-21
Funding Sources	7-22

FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Location of East Los Angeles in Region	1-3
Figure 1.2	East Los Angeles	1-5
Figure 2.1	Demographics Summary	2-4
Figure 2.2	Existing County Parks in East Los Angeles	2-7
Figure 2.3	Atlantic Avenue Park Snapshot	2-9
Figure 2.4	Belvedere Park Snapshot	2-11
Figure 2.5	City Terrace Snapshot	2-13
Figure 2.6	Obregon Park Snapshot	2-15
Figure 2.7	Parque De Los Sueños Snapshot	2-17
Figure 2.8	Salazar Park Snapshot	2-19
Figure 2.9	Saybrook Park Snapshot	2-21
Figure 2.10	Youth Programs at County Parks	2-22
Figure 2.11	Adult, Senior, and Event Programs at County Parks	2-23
Figure 2.12	Other Recreational Programs	2-25
Figure 2.13	Other Green Space and Planning Areas in East Los Angeles	2-28
Figure 2.14	Existing Canopy Coverage	2-31
Figure 2.15	Species Composition	2-34
Figure 2.16	Service Areas- Local and Regional Parks	2-41
Figure 2.17	Percent Population Near a Park	2-42
Figure 2.18	Land Use Types	2-42
Figure 2.19	Parkland Gaps/Walkability	2-43
Figure 2.20	Population Density	2-44
Figure 2.21	Land Use	2-45
Figure 2.22	Pedestrian, Bicycle Collisions per 1,000 Residents	2-46
Figure 2.23	Transportation, Safety, and Connectivity	2-47
Figure 2.24	Crimes Against Persons	2-49
Figure 2.25	Air Quality	2-51
Figure 2.26	Food Access	2-53
Figure 2.27	Vacant Lands	2-55
Figure 3.1	Sample Question from Community Safety Survey	3-10
Figure 3.2	Sample Question from Community Safety Survey	3-11
Figure 3.3	Sample Question from Community Safety Survey	3-12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Figure 4.1	East Los Angeles Needs Assessment and Site Identification Process	4-2
Figure 4.2	Summary of Participation Rates from ESRI Business Analyst	4-4
Figure 4.3	Adult Responses to Usual Activities Engaged at Parks	4-5
Figure 4.4	Adult Responses to Importance of Facilities	4-5
Figure 4.5	Age Groups of Youth Respondents	4-6
Figure 4.6	Youth Responses to What They Would Like To Do In Parks	4-6
Figure 4.7	Adult Responses to Importance of Trails	4-6
Figure 4.8	East Los Angeles Spatial Needs Map	4-13
Figure 4.9	Potential Parkland Opportunity Types	4-15
Figure 4.10	Site Selection Prioritization Criteria	4-16
Figure 4.11	East Los Angeles Potential Parkland Opportunities Map	4-17
Figure 5.1	East Los Angeles Green Vision Map	5-3
Figure 5.2	Current and Potential Future Connections	5-5
Figure 5.3	Potential Urban Forestry Opportunities in East Los Angeles	5-13
Figure 5.4	Third Street Corridor	5-14
Figure 5.5	City Terrace and Central Pocket Parks	5-15
Figure 5.6	Whittier Boulevard Corridor and Eastern Pocket Parks	5-17
Figure 5.7	Prioritization of East Los Angeles Potential Opportunity Sites	5-19
Figure 5.8	Service Areas- Existing and Potential Future Parks	5-20
Figure 5.9	Parkland Gaps/Walkability - Existing and Potential Future Parks	5-21
Figure 5.10	Service Improvements with the Addition of Potential New Parks	5-22
Figure 5.11	Spatial Need- Existing and Potential Future Parks	5-23
Figure 6.1	Conceptual Site Design Sample Projects	6-3
Figure 6.2	Southern California Edison Utility Corridor Park Concept	6-5
Figure 6.3	Precedent Images for Southern California Edison Corridor	6-6
Figure 6.4	Thematic Zones and Utility Access	6-7
Figure 6.5	Conceptual Visual Simulation of Utility Corridor Park	6-9
Figure 6.6	Folsom Street Mini-Park Concept	6-11
Figure 6.7	View up from N. Gage Avenue (Day)	6-12
Figure 6.9	Section through Folsom Street Mini-Park	6-13
Figure 6.8	View up from N. Gage Avenue (Night)	6-13
Figure 6.10	Linear Bike Skills Park Concept	6-14
Figure 6.11	Areas and Circulation	6-15
Figure 6.12	Conceptual Visual Simulation of Linear Bike Skills Park	6-15
Figure 6.13	Precedent Bike Skills Parks	6-15
Figure 6.14	City Terrace Trail Concept	6-17
Figure 6.15	City Terrace Trail Concept Diagrams	6-18
Figure 6.16	Precedent Images for City Terrace Trail	6-19

TABLES

Table 2.1	Matrix of Amenities in East Los Angeles Parks	2-6
Table 2.2	East Los Angeles Tree Canopy Coverage Comparisons	2-32
Table 2.3	Tree Canopy Coverage in East Los Angeles Based on Land Use	2-32
Table 2.4	Overview of Trees Per Park	2-34
Table 2.5	Maintenance Needs	2-35
Table 2.6	Summary of Annual Net Environmental Benefits	2-38
Table 2.7	Summary of Annual Net Economic Benefits	2-38
Table 2.8	Problematic Areas	2-46
Table 2.9	Crime Category Intensity Ratio	2-48

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table 3.1	Summary of Needs Identified from Survey Results	3-3
Table 3.2	Summary of Needs Identified by Focus Groups	3-4
Table 3.3	Needs Identified from Stakeholder Interviews	3-5
Table 3.4	Summary of Needs Identified from Workshop	3-6
Table 4.1	Community Input Summary	4-7
Table 4.2	Parkland Classification	4-9
Table 4.3	Types of Parkland to Meet Need	4-11
Table 4.4	Potential Additions to Parkland Inventory	4-14
Table 4.5	Summary of Potential East Los Angeles Park Opportunities	4-18
Table 4.6	Summary of Potential East Los Angeles Trail Opportunities	4-19
Table 5.1	Sample Park Project Water Saving	5-24
Table 5.2	East Los Angeles Carbon Sequestration Under Existing and Target Canopy Coverage	5-25

EAST LOS ANGELES

Community Parks & Recreation Plan

A PARK
EVERY
DAY

MISSION

“A Park Every Day” emphasizes the importance of **providing local park access** within the community. Green spaces, **of a variety of sizes**, should be available throughout the community and easily accessible in the everyday routine of residents’ lives. Given the lack of available land for new parks, the vision for East Los Angeles (commonly referred to as East LA), is a **creative approach** of amplifying the existing network with new spaces for **exercise and recreation**, including new parks, parklets, fitness nodes, and expanded walking paths.

PARKS AND GREENING PROFILE

East Los Angeles has seven parks, totaling 75.5 acres of parkland. However, 31 acres of those are at Belvedere Park, which is designed to accommodate use by County residents up to 20 miles away. The other six parks in East Los Angeles are local parks intended for use predominately by community residents. The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a standard of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. East Los Angeles has a current population of 126,496 residents and approximately 44 acres of local parkland, translating to **0.34 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents**, a figure well below the General Plan standard.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EXISTING PARKS

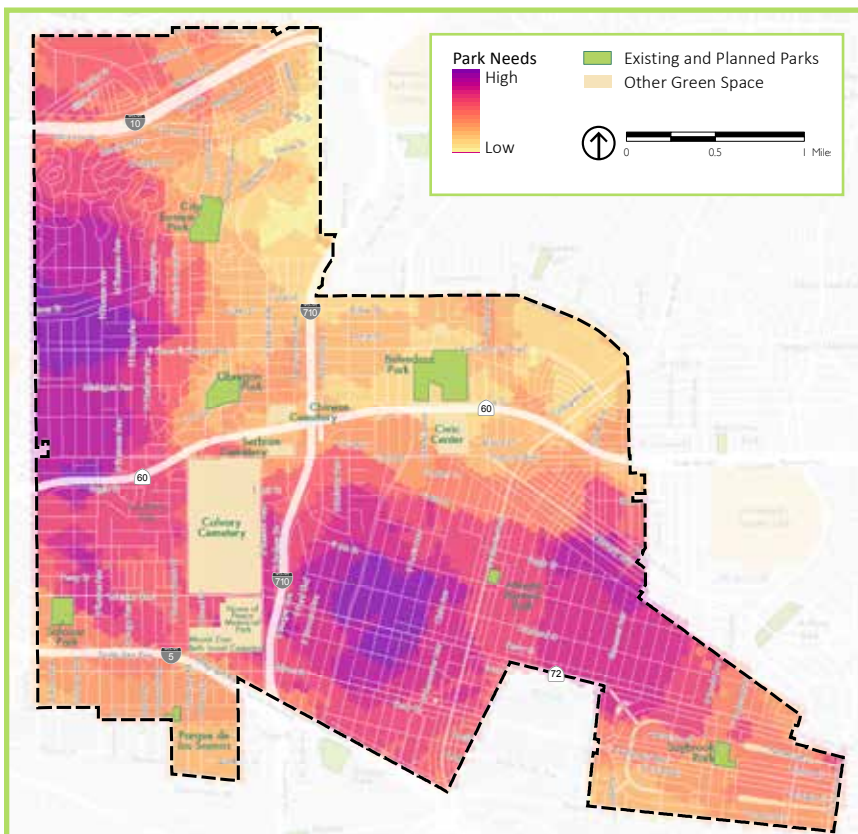
1.7 million
gallons of
stormwater
intercepted
annually

1,600
pounds of
reduced air
pollutants
annually

153,000
tons of CO₂
sequestered
annually

Access to existing parkland in East Los Angeles is not consistent across the community. **About 44 percent of the East Los Angeles residents is not within walking distance (1/2 mile) of a park.** Additionally, due to socioeconomic conditions, including relatively low incomes, low levels of car ownership, and a large percentage of families with children, a master plan for parks and urban greening is needed to help East Los Angeles meet its needs for parks, green space, and community health.

Where are parks most needed in East Los Angeles?



Youth Bike Ride to Identify Potential Park Sites.



Community Members at the Design Workshop.

EAST LOS ANGELES GREEN VISION MAP

This map identifies potential park, trail, and greening projects that may be implemented in the short, medium, and/or long term to meet the needs of East Los Angeles.



GOALS FOR EAST LOS ANGELES PARKS

1. Increase overall green space.
2. Integrate parks and healthy activities into the everyday lives of East LA residents.
3. Create new urban trails, walking paths and safe streets that connect residents to parks and open space.
4. Enhance public spaces that support community interaction and cultural identity.
5. Consider creative new green space types:
 - » Utility corridor parks
 - » Freeway underpass parks
 - » Freeway cap parks
 - » Parklets
6. Increase the sense of nature within the parkland system and in the everyday lives of East Los Angeles residents.
7. Maintain and enhance East Los Angeles' urban forest.
8. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

East Los Angeles community members participated in a design workshop to develop concepts for three potential new parks in their community, including a mini park at Folsom Street, a segment of the Southern California Edison Utility Corridor, and a fitness trail near City Terrace Park. These concepts were developed into schematic plans that serve as guiding templates for new parks.

Folsom Street Mini-Park Concept

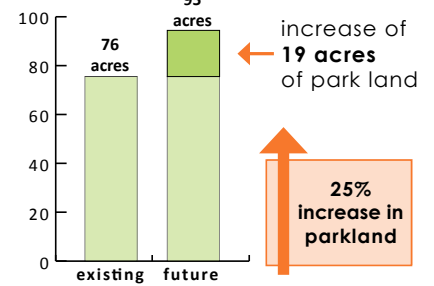


Community Members at the Design Workshop.

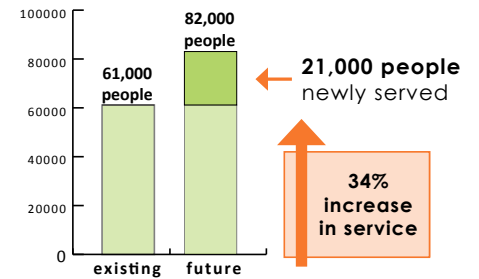


Service improvements

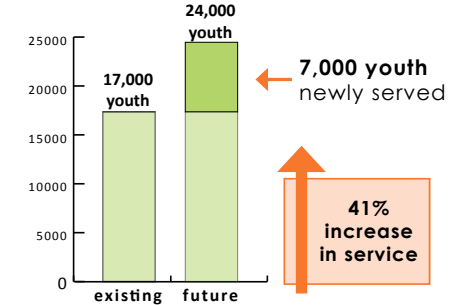
(with the addition of potential new parks)
Parkland Acres



Total Population Served



Youth Population (Under 18) Served



Graphs show improvements based on the addition of high priority park projects.

CONCEPTUAL PARKS AND GREEN SPACE

Bike Skills Park



Multipurpose Field with Walking Path



Folsom Street Mini-Park



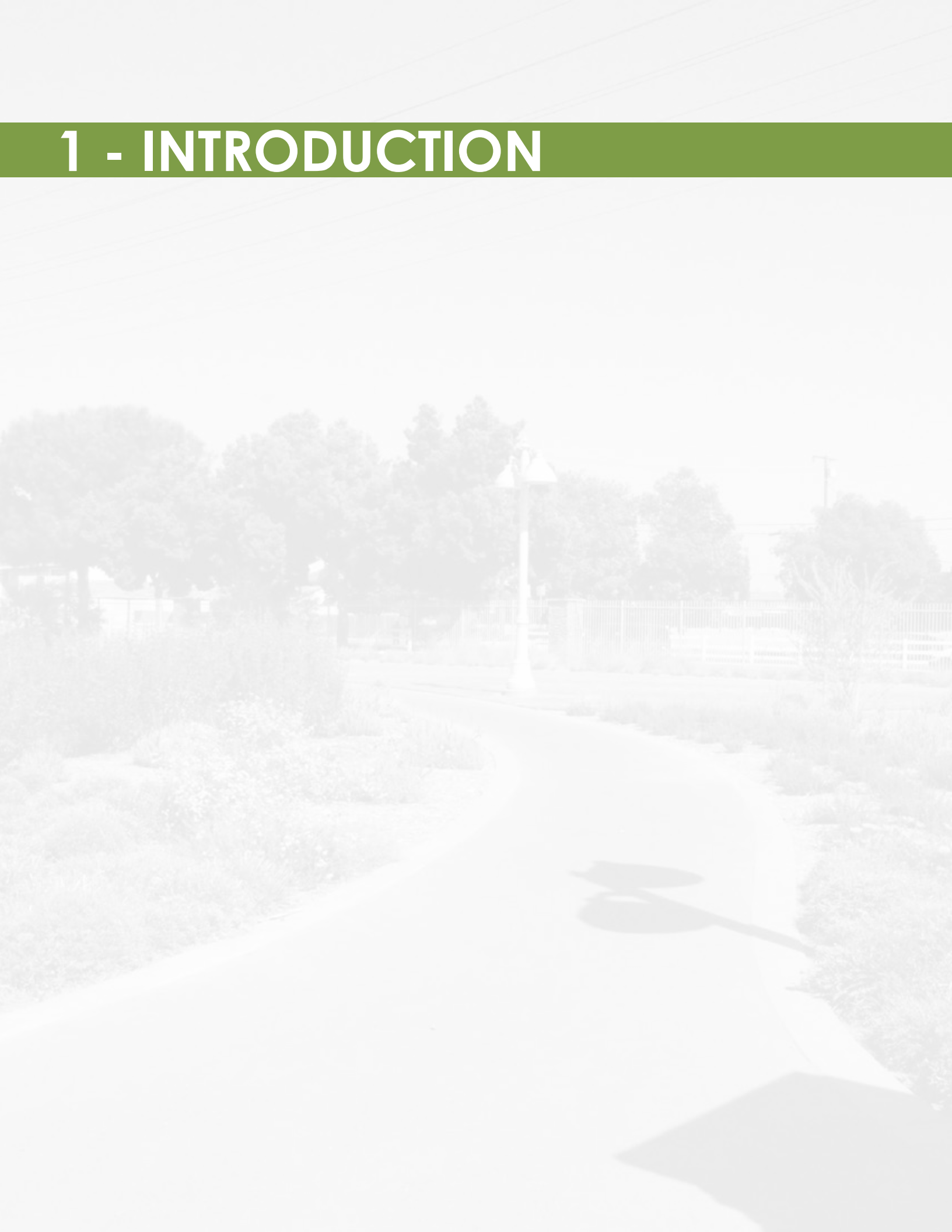
PLACEWORKS

LOS ANGELES
NEIGHBORHOOD
LAND TRUST

For more information, contact:

Clement Lau, AICP, Departmental Facilities Planner
County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
Tel: (213) 351-5120; E-mail: clau@parks.lacounty.gov

1 - INTRODUCTION



There are large areas of the County that are underserved by parks and recreational facilities. Nearly two out of three children in the County do not live within walking distance (one quarter mile) of a park, playground, or open space.

- Los Angeles County General Plan, Parks and Recreation Element

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN?

A Community Parks and Recreation Plan is a guiding document for the improvement of existing parks and recreation resources and the development of new parks or programs within a community based on public input and need. The plan evaluates existing facilities and programs, as well as service areas for existing parks and recreation centers, recreational needs of current residents, trends in recreational activities, and projected future changes in the area. Through community outreach, spatial analysis, and site studies, the plan identifies areas within the community with the highest need for new parks and potential opportunity sites. The plan offers recommendations for the provision of new parks and recreation resources, and strategies to implement them in the community.

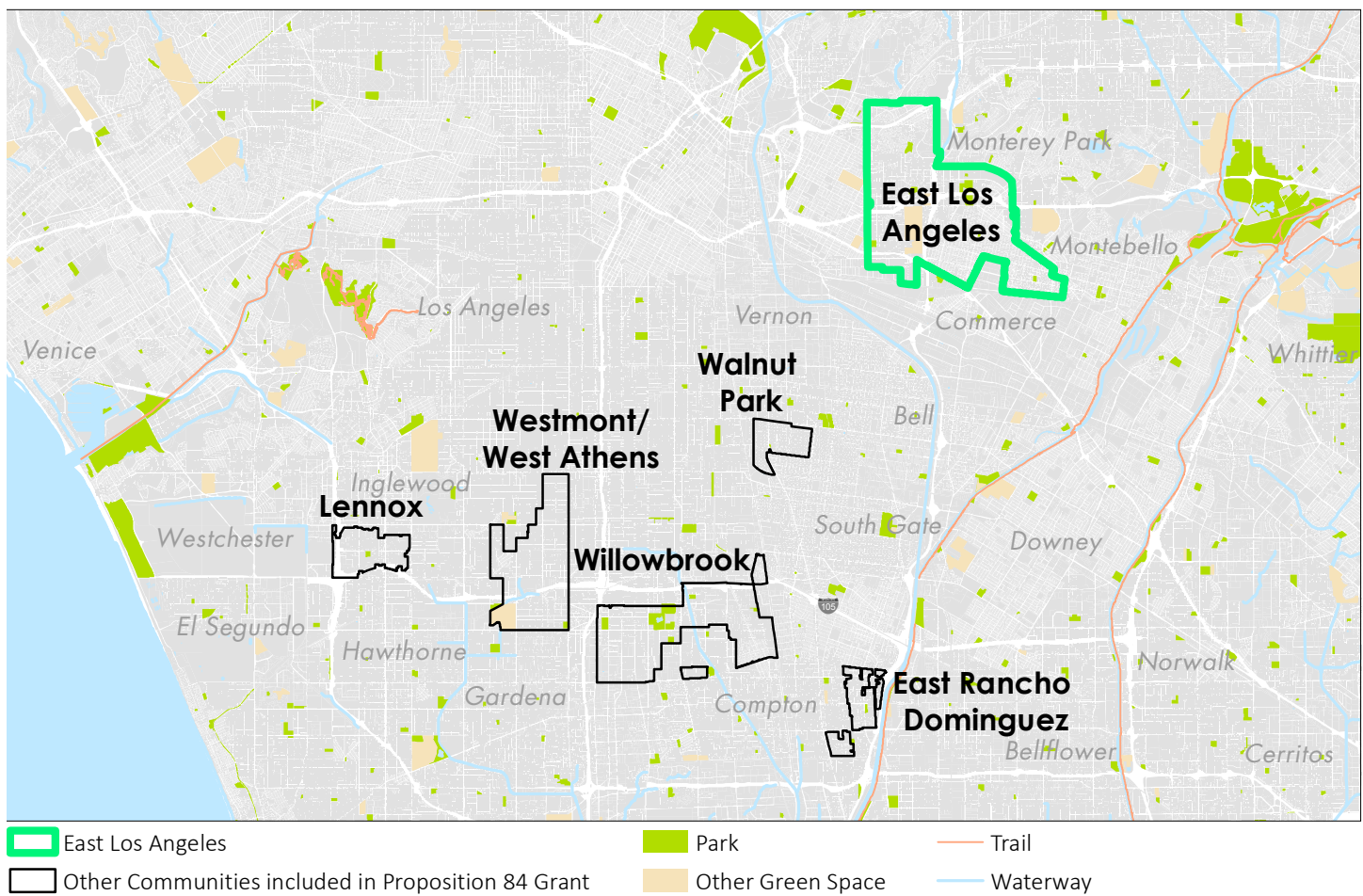
WHY EAST LOS ANGELES?

East Los Angeles has several quality parks but it needs more. The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a goal of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. With a population of nearly 130,000 residents, East Los Angeles only has 0.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. To meet the General Plan goal, East Los Angeles needs to have 506 acres of parkland. However, there are currently only 75.54 acres within the community, indicating a significant deficit in open space. Although many residents currently fill the recreational gap by using non-traditional open spaces or by traveling outside of East Los Angeles, it is more desirable for residents to have parks and recreation experiences within walking distance of their homes.

In addition to total acreage of parks, spatial equity of parkland is also key in East Los Angeles where nearly 44 percent of the population is not within walking distance of a County park. Parks, along with local cemeteries, serve as the primary source of green space within the community and this limited access suggests that East Los Angeles residents are not experiencing the benefits of natural space in their everyday lives.

Community activism and County initiatives are bringing change to East Los Angeles through strategic planning along the Third Street Corridor and Civic Center, expanded farmers markets and community gardens, and parklets along commercial corridors. This document intends to bring together these exciting initiatives and define a vision for parks, recreation and urban greening in East Los Angeles. It assesses community need according to this baseline, and proposes various strategies to achieve the vision. The realities of parkland development in East Los Angeles are addressed, such as the lack of available land, and considered within the plan. Creative strategies for



FIGURE 1.1 LOCATION OF EAST LOS ANGELES IN REGION

integrating parks and recreation benefits into the community are presented as ways to address this need through alternative means. This includes proposals for green space interventions throughout the community, and particularly in areas with the greatest need. Just as importantly, this document also includes implementation actions to give the residents of East Los Angeles better access to parks and green spaces, emphasizing community connections, safety, and a diversity of park and recreation opportunities.

HOW DID THE EAST LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN HAPPEN?

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) received a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant from California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for the *Master Plan for Sustainable Parks and Recreation: Phase I*, which consists of the development of community parks and recreation plans for six communities within Los Angeles County that currently have significant parks and recreation deficits. In addition to East Los Angeles, community parks and recreation plans were developed for East Rancho Dominguez, Lennox, Walnut Park, West Athens-Westmont, and Willowbrook, outlined in black in Figure 1.1.

Funding for the grant was provided by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, with the purpose of funding projects that significantly reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and water quality, and provide other community benefits. Due to the multi-beneficial qualities that parks and open space provide in terms of energy conservation, stormwater retention, air quality enhancement, and public health improvement, plans to increase or improve existing green space are a valuable piece of meeting the goals of the program.

The grant provides funding for technical analysis, as well as an in-depth community outreach process to gather a comprehensive understanding of existing conditions, including parks and recreation needs, and potential opportunities and strategies to address identified needs. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT), a local community-based open space advocacy group, led the outreach program for the East Los Angeles Community Parks and Recreation Plan, utilizing a variety of strategies, from stakeholder interviews and interactive community workshops to interactive surveys and a youth-led bicycle trip through the community. The goal of the outreach was not only to gain information about current usage of parks and preferred facilities or amenities, but to also

facilitate a dialogue with community members about parks and recreation in their community. This feedback helped shape the vision for the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

Community feedback was supported by spatial analysis of existing conditions, review of potential opportunity sites, strategies to address the identification needs, and illustration of potential parkland ideas to move the vision forward to an implementable plan.

WHY PARKS AND URBAN GREENING MATTER?

Parks make significant impacts on the everyday lives of urban residents. They provide valuable places for recreation and social engagement, as well as important ecological services. Together with community-wide urban greening, this plan proposes a vision with wide-reaching impacts. The values are grouped into categories as follows:

SOCIAL

- **Improved Public Health.** Parks provide locations for outdoor recreation and exercise. Trees and landscape features help clean the urban air and water. Additionally, public trails and tree-lined streets encourage walking and physical activity.
- **Stress Reduction and Academic Performance.** Parks in urban areas convey serenity by providing a sensory experience of being surrounded by nature, which helps to reduce stress. Additionally, parks and trees near school grounds facilitate environmental education opportunities and create a healthy setting for learning. Access to green space and opportunities to exercise can help students concentrate and focus in school.
- **Community Safety.** Violence and crime rates are lower in areas with nearby trees and landscaping than areas without trees. Furthermore, research has indicated that neighbors have better relationships with each other and that communities are stronger and more cohesive where there is green space, perhaps because people like where they live and feel safer.
- **Community Building.** The presence of a healthy park network and community-wide efforts to improve park spaces can empower communities to work together to protect and/or expand the network, and to build community identity.
- **Walkable Streets.** Shaded paths and trees offer pedestrians a buffer from nearby vehicles, respite from the hot sun, and colorful scenery to enjoy. In addition, trees can provide dramatic view corridors and, when properly planned, facilitate way-finding within an urban area.

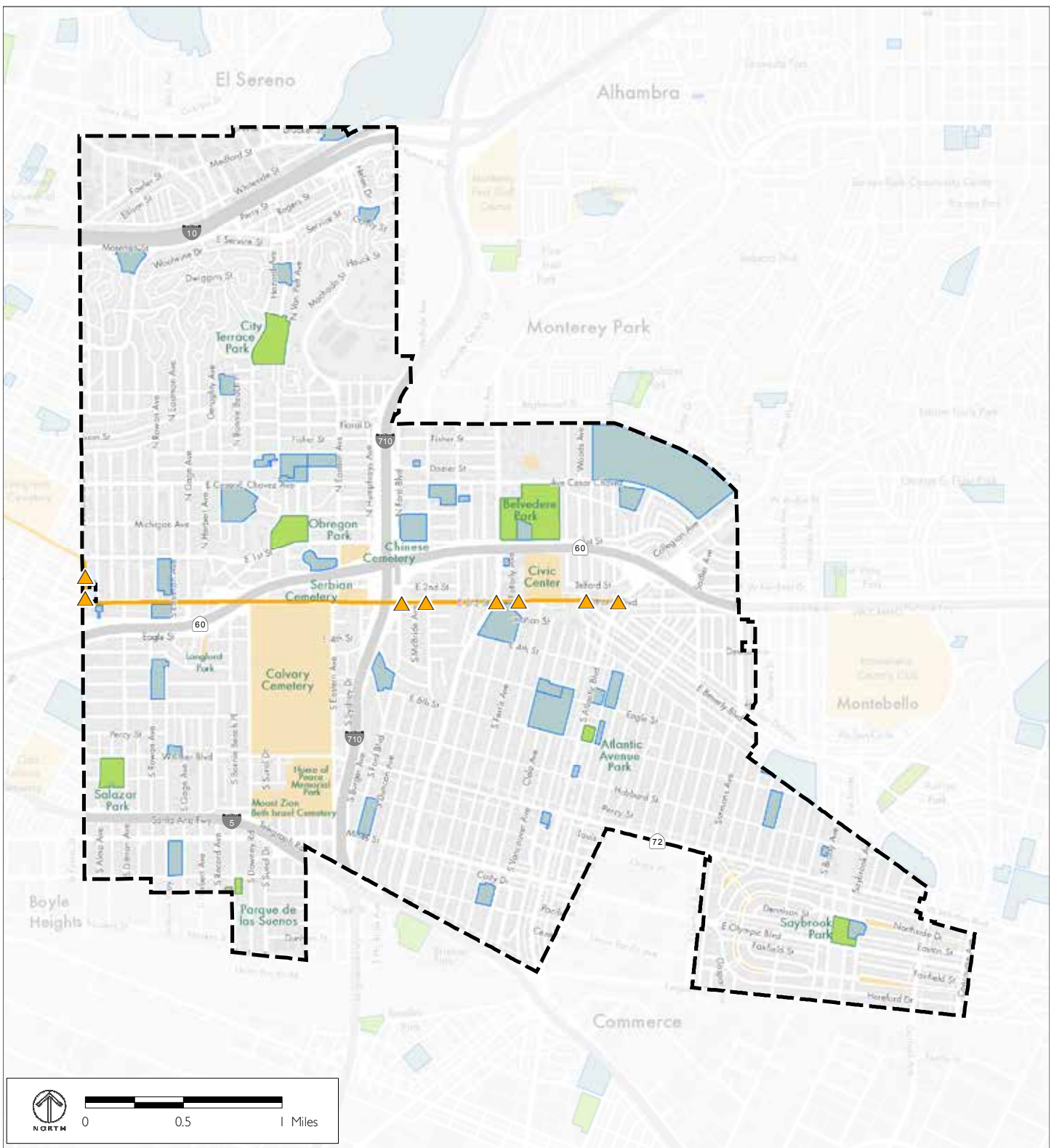
ENVIRONMENTAL

- **Wildlife Habitat.** Parks and green infrastructure provide shelter and food for birds and small animals, and their root networks are home to a wide array of organisms that provide beneficial soil improvements. A varied plant population supports a wide diversity of habitat, which in addition to being beneficial on a regional and global level, creates a dynamic, educational, and enjoyable environment for people.
- **Stormwater Management.** Trees and stormwater treatment facilities within parks improve the quality of stormwater by intercepting and filtering stormwater before it reaches the underground water system, thus reducing the total amount of runoff lost to storm drains or contributing to flood events.
- **Improved Air Quality.** Trees and plants in urban parks can play several roles in improving air quality. The most direct way that trees help to improve air quality is by absorbing and filtering air pollutants, such as ozone and nitrogen dioxide, through their leaves or needles. In addition, parks reduce air pollution by creating cool microclimates since increased temperatures can accelerate the production of some air pollutants, such as ozone smog. Increased shading can also reduce the demand for air conditioning in buildings, impacting energy need and emissions from energy production at a larger scale.
- **Heat Island Mitigation and Temperature Stabilization.** Urban areas can become “urban heat islands” due to the abundance of dark surfaces like asphalt and buildings that absorb the sun’s heat and re-radiate the heat resulting in higher air temperatures. Parks and green space can reduce this heat island effect by shading parking lots and other surfaces, effectively intercepting the sun’s heat and reducing temperatures through evapotranspiration.

ECONOMIC

- **Energy Conservation and Green Infrastructure.** Energy upgrades and energy conservation measures at parks can result in significant savings. Additionally, trees can help reduce the need for cooling and heating buildings, thereby reducing the cost of operating these systems. In addition, trees are an important component of many green infrastructure projects that reduce costs of stormwater management.
- **Increased Property Value.** Numerous studies have shown a general increase in property value for residential properties near parks and areas with street trees.
- **Increased Activity in Retail Areas.** Small park plazas and street trees can raise the aesthetic appeal of a shopping street, and thus attract more shoppers to a retail block.

FIGURE 1.2 EAST LOS ANGELES



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2013.

- Existing Park Included in Analysis
- Other Existing Green Space
- School
- Metro Rail Gold Line Station
- Metro Rail Gold Line

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN?

This planning document brings together community input, spatial analysis, and design to present a community-wide plan for parks and recreation. To accomplish this, the plan:

- Provides a guide toward developing new green spaces and enhancing existing recreational amenities in East Los Angeles.
- Documents community input on parks and recreation planning issues in the community.
- Formalizes a vision for parks and recreation in East Los Angeles based on community input and identified needs.
- Recommends potential sites and site types for acquisition and development of new projects.
- Develops conceptual plans for potential future park sites.
- Proposes meaningful strategies that can be realized by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in collaboration with its partners.

WHAT DOES THE PLAN INCLUDE?

Chapter 1. Introduction provides a summary of the plan, background of the planning process, and intended purpose.

Chapter 2. Existing Conditions identifies key conditions related to parks and recreation amenities within East Los Angeles, including a demographic profile of the community, an inventory of existing parks and recreational programs, a summary of the existing urban forest, and spatial analysis of the community.

Chapter 3. Community Outreach summarizes the community outreach completed as part of this plan, including key input from the community regarding their perception of park needs and ideas for new parks.

Chapter 4. Needs Assessment describes the current state of park and recreation need within East Los Angeles, based on findings from existing conditions, community outreach, and spatial analysis.

Chapter 5. Green Space Vision Plan describes the goals and vision of green space in East Los Angeles, including opportunities for new green space development and enhancement of existing facilities. This chapter additionally provides a vision for urban forestry in East Los Angeles.

Chapter 6. Design Concepts provides conceptual site designs for sample sites selected during the planning process.

Chapter 7. Implementation recommends potential actions and funding sources for carrying out the vision presented in the plan.





2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS



East Los Angeles is 7.9-square mile unincorporated community with the First Supervisorial District in Los Angeles County. The community is predominately low-density urban residential with core commercial corridors. Based on current population and existing park acreages, the community is significantly deficient in overall park land. This chapter presents an overview of the policy context for developing new parks in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County and a snapshot of the community.

POLICY CONTEXT

There are existing policies in place relevant to the development, financing, and maintenance of new parks in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, including the following policy documents.

- **PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES GENERAL PLAN 2035 (ADOPTED OCTOBER 2015).** The Parks and Recreation Element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan plans for and guides the development and maintenance of parkland and recreation space and facilities to meet the needs of existing and future residents. The General Plan will guide future development throughout the unincorporated areas of the County to the year 2035.
- **LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2020 (SAMP).** In 2004, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation prepared a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) for 2020. The SAMP provides guidance for park development serving future population growth within the County in accordance with General Plan parks and open space guidelines. The SAMP includes an assessment of existing parks and recreation resources and sets five-year, ten-year, and twenty-year priorities for identified needs per Supervisorial District within the County.
- **FLORENCE-FIRESTONE COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN (DRAFT OCTOBER 2010).** The Florence-Firestone Community Parks and Recreation Plan plans for services that meet the parks and recreation needs of residents in the unincorporated Florence-Firestone area. While this plan applies exclusively to Florence-Firestone, it contains examples of best practices policies reflective of a community process that could be replicated for establishing new parks in East Los Angeles and other unincorporated communities.
- **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE, TITLE 17 - PARKS, BEACHES AND OTHER PUBLIC AREAS.** In the Los Angeles County Code, Title 17 – Parks, Beaches and Other Public Areas, there are several ordinances pertaining to parks and recreation. In general, the Code implements planning policies and establishes enforceable regulations. The ordinances in Title 17 regulate parks and recreation areas, arboreta and botanical gardens, beaches, Pyramid Lake, and particular recreational activities (i.e. skateboarding and roller skating).



- **THE QUIMBY ACT.** The California Quimby Act, which is part of the Subdivision Map Act, applies to residential subdivisions and permits cities and counties in California to adopt ordinances which require the dedication of land and/or payment of in-lieu fees for park and recreational facilities. The Quimby Act is made effective through the Los Angeles County Quimby Code in Title 21 (Subdivision Code), which details how it is applied throughout the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

A summary of these policy documents and their relevance to the East Los Angeles Community Parks and Recreation Plan can be found in Appendix A.

EXISTING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) may partner with non-profit organizations or public agencies to develop new facilities or amenities within existing parks. Following are existing partnership agreements in that could impact park development in East Los Angeles.

- **COMMUNITY SPACE USE AGREEMENT**
DPR and Housing Authority of the County of Los Angeles (Housing Authority) — 2011

The Nueva Maravilla Public Housing Community is a public housing facility located north of Belvedere Park at 4919 East Cesar E. Chavez Avenue. The community is owned by the Housing Authority and includes a recreation center for teens, basketball courts, and a soccer field, in addition to housing units. This agreement establishes a partnership between the Housing Authority and DPR, in which DPR will provide onsite recreational programming for residents of Nueva Maravilla aged seven to seventeen. This agreement is renewed annually between and continues to be in effect.



- **FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT LAND USE AGREEMENT**
DPR and Los Angeles County Flood Control District (FCD) — 1967

This agreement allows for the development of recreation facilities by DPR on FCD properties, however, a written request to FCD is required before any improvements can take place. This agreement helps to facilitate trail development along FCD right-of-ways and has been utilized in other communities in Los Angeles County. In East Los Angeles, FCD properties could be utilized for this purpose.

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION

Population is an important indicator for assessing park and recreational needs. Traditionally, park and recreation standards have been based on the ratio of parkland provided to population (i.e. X acres/1,000 people). The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a goal of 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 people.

East Los Angeles was home to about 126,500 residents in 2010. Over the past two decades, the area's population remained relatively unchanged. Comparatively, Los Angeles County experienced growth over the past two decades: 7 percent between 1990 and 2000, and 3 percent between 2000 and 2010. A steady population in East Los Angeles suggests that as new parks and recreational facilities are provided in the community, the ratio of parkland to population would improve.

RACE AND ETHNICITY¹

The racial and cultural profile of a community often influences recreational preferences and is important to consider along with other demographic trends. Numerous studies have shown that parks and recreation needs, preferences, and perceptions vary by race/ethnicity, place of origin, and length of residence in the U.S. The vast majority of the population in East Los Angeles is Latino (97 percent). It is important to provide recreational amenities and programming that meet the unique and diverse preferences and needs of community residents.

AGE

Identifying a population's age profile is important for parks and trails because different age groups have different recreational needs. For example, young children require more play equipment and cushioned surfaces for safety, while seniors utilize more passive recreational amenities such as walking paths and gardens. Understanding how the population shifts over time with respect to age is also an important consideration in planning future parks and recreational facilities.

1 The race and ethnicity categories used in this document (i.e., African American, Asian, Latino, White, and Other) are derived from the 2010 U.S. Census.

FIGURE 2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY

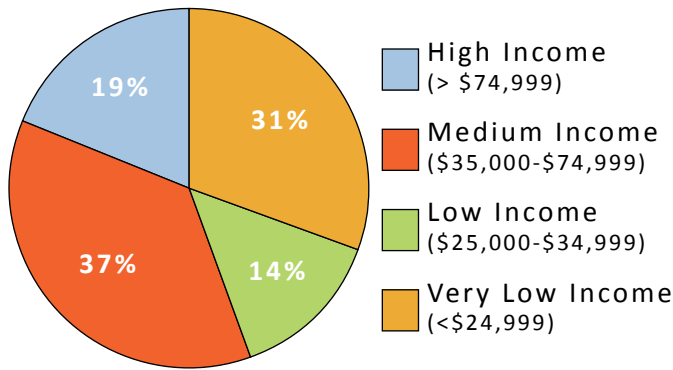
POPULATION CHANGE

	1990	2000	2010
EAST LOS ANGELES	126,379	124,283	126,496
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	8,863,164	9,519,338	9,834,410

RACE AND ETHNICITY

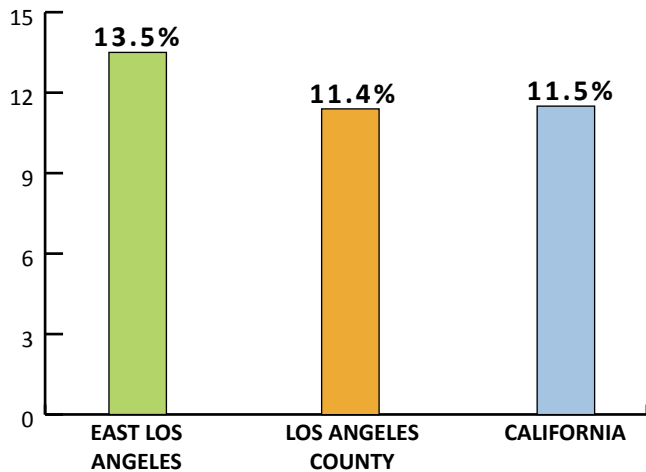
	Percent of 2000 Pop.	Percent of 2010 Pop.	Percent Change 2000-2010
LATINO	97%	97%	NO CHANGE
AFRICAN AMERICAN	<1%	<1%	NO CHANGE
WHITE	2%	2%	NO CHANGE
ASIAN	<1%	<1%	NO CHANGE
OTHER	<1%	<1%	NO CHANGE
TOTAL	100%	100%	--

INCOME GROUPS

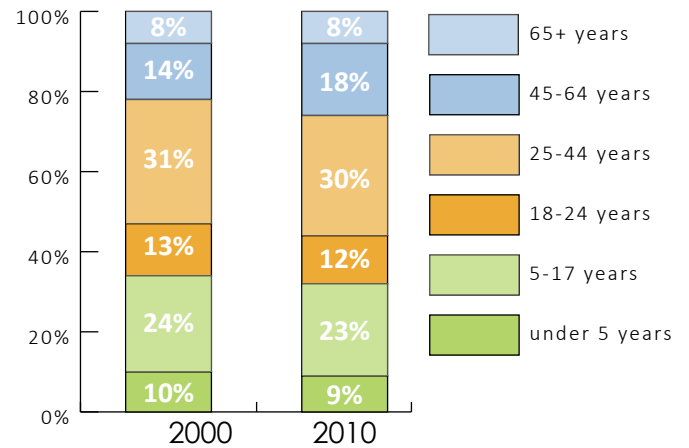


(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

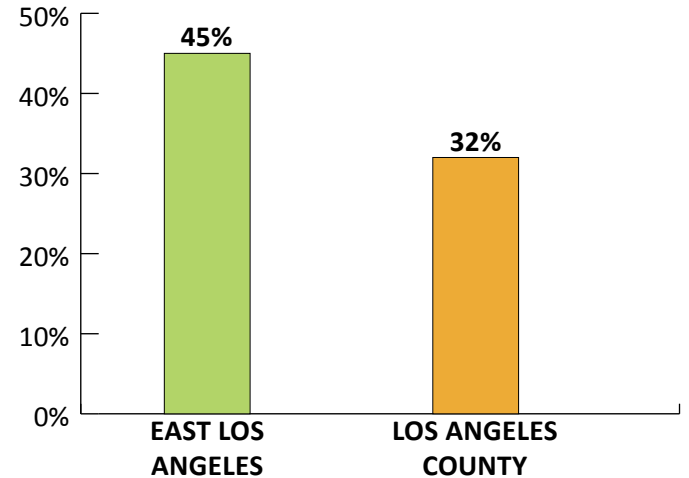
UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES



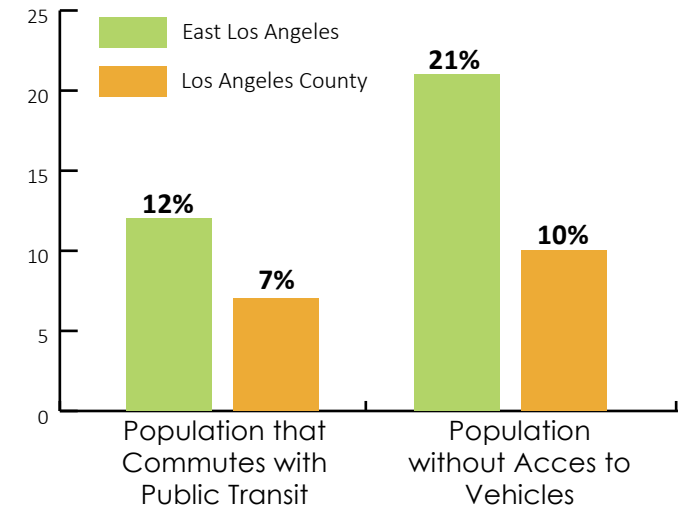
POPULATION BY AGE



HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN



VEHICLE ACCESS & PUBLIC TRANSIT USE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

East Los Angeles' median age increased from 27 years in 2000 to 29 years in 2010, but is still noticeably younger when compared with the County's median age of 35. Similar to the race profile for the community, the age profile has also remained relatively consistent from 2000 to 2010. The 45 to 64 year-old group experienced the largest change, increasing from 14 percent to 18 percent in their share of the population, accounting for the rise in the median age. Baby boomers are approaching retirement, and an increase in seniors over the decade is thus likely to occur as more residents age in place. Therefore, it will be important to include passive recreational amenities when planning for new parks and recreational facilities.

Although the population in East Los Angeles is aging, the age groups making up the largest percentage of the population are 25 to 44 year-olds (30 percent) and 5 to 17 year olds (23 percent). These groups represent households with children, and suggest a need to plan for park amenities that support activities for the entire family, in addition to seniors.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of households with children under age 18 in East Los Angeles decreased from 48 percent to 45 percent. Yet the community still has significantly more households with young children compared with the County, at 32 percent. It is important to continue to plan for park amenities and recreational programs that support families with children in East Los Angeles.

INCOME

The median household income of East Los Angeles is \$38,986, significantly lower than the County's median income of \$56,200. In general, lower income populations have fewer opportunities to engage in physical activity and have poorer health outcomes than the average population.² This is due in part to the fact that low-income groups often face social and environmental barriers to physical activity and may have fewer means by which to overcome these obstacles than higher income levels. For example, lower income residents are much more likely to rely on public parks for recreation; many lower income families have little or no money to spend on recreational facilities and programs offered by alternative providers such as private gyms and the YMCA.

About 45 percent of the population in East Los Angeles is very low or low income, meaning they make less than \$35,000 annually. This is a significant percentage of the population and emphasizes the need to focus on the needs of lower income residents in the planning of new parks, trails, and open space, in order to improve their access and opportunities for physical activity.

EMPLOYMENT

According to the 2007–2011 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census, most of the employed East Los Angeles workforce is in the manufacturing (15.1 percent) or educational services, health care, and social assistance (16.8 percent) industries. A slightly smaller percentage of the workforce is in the construction (9.9 percent), retail trade (13.8 percent), or professional, scientific, administrative and waste management service (9 percent) industries.

Unemployment estimates from the 2013 American Community Survey indicate that the unemployment rate in East Los Angeles (13.5 percent) is noticeably higher than the County (11.4 percent) or State (11.5 percent), although the general trend throughout the state has been an decrease in unemployment.

VEHICLE ACCESS

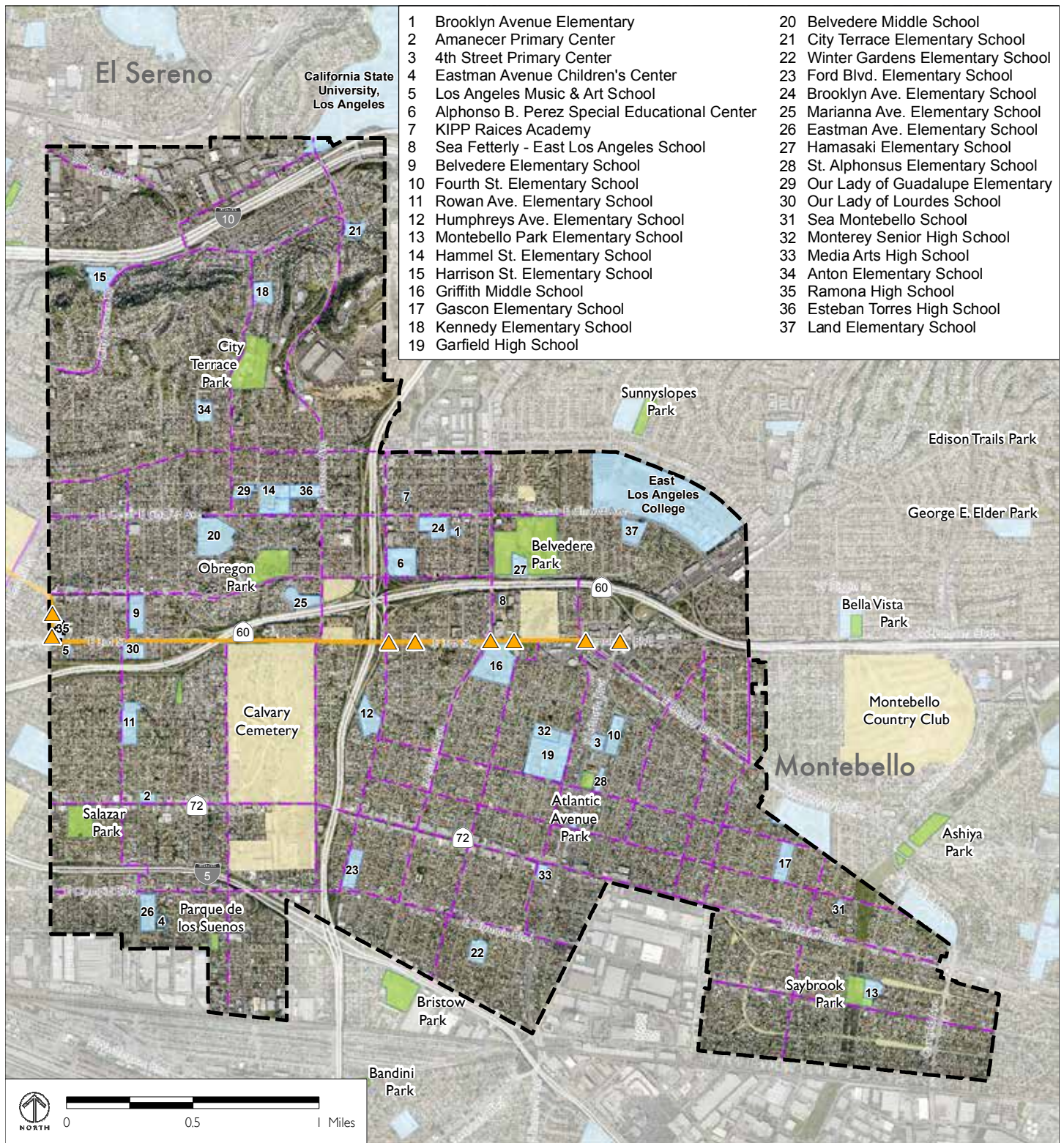
Understanding transportation needs is important when considering access to parks and trails. When compared to County households (10 percent), more than double the households in East Los Angeles (21 percent) have no vehicle access. The relationship between automobile ownership and access to parks is not often discussed, but cars clearly make a big difference because they give people mobility and options. With cars or some form of transportation, residents can travel to recreational facilities outside of their immediate neighborhood, including beaches, arts and cultural facilities, regional parks, state parks, and national parks.

East Los Angeles residents are also considerably more dependent on public transportation than other residents in the County. Over 12 percent of working residents commute to work via transit compared with 7 percent of workers countywide. This underscores the need to plan new neighborhood and community parks within walking or biking distance to residents and/or in close proximity to public transportation lines, wherever possible.



2 Active Living by Design, 2012, "Low Income Populations and Physical Activity."

FIGURE 2.2 EXISTING COUNTY PARKS IN EAST LOS ANGELES



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2013.

- Green Space and Schools
- Public Transit Network
- Bicycle Network
- Park
- Metro Rail Gold Line Station
- Existing Bike Route
- Other Green Space
- Metro Rail Gold Line
- Proposed Bike Route
- School

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ATLANTIC AVENUE PARK



source: LA County



source: LA County

PARK USE

Atlantic Avenue Park is 1.96 acres in size and is located at 570 South Atlantic Boulevard. The small park is predominately used for its pool facilities and splash pad, although it can accommodate social gatherings and undesignated active and passive uses on its open lawn spaces. It has one playground for younger children between the ages of two and five, which is adjacent to the splash pad and can be used in conjunction with water play. There is a large bath house at the park to facilitate pool use.

The interior walls surrounding the pool are painted with aquatic images. Artist Sonia Romero created a series of stencils and youth from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps painted the installation. The project was completed in 2008 with funding from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission, and the stencils were stored so the artwork can be recreated if the piece degrades or is tagged with graffiti.

Atlantic Avenue Park is accessible from all surrounding streets, although a fence surrounds the pool, splash pad, and playground area. The park does not have parking lot, but street parking is available on surrounding streets. There is one uncovered bike rack in front of the pool at Atlantic Avenue Park. However, according to the County's April 2012 bike survey, it was in an unsecured location. The survey also indicated that it would be desirable to install two new bike racks at the park near the splash pad. There is lighting from street lights around the perimeter of the park.

Atlantic Avenue Park has the lowest target canopy coverage (6 percent) of all the parks in East Los Angeles. Significant sections of the park are not shaded.

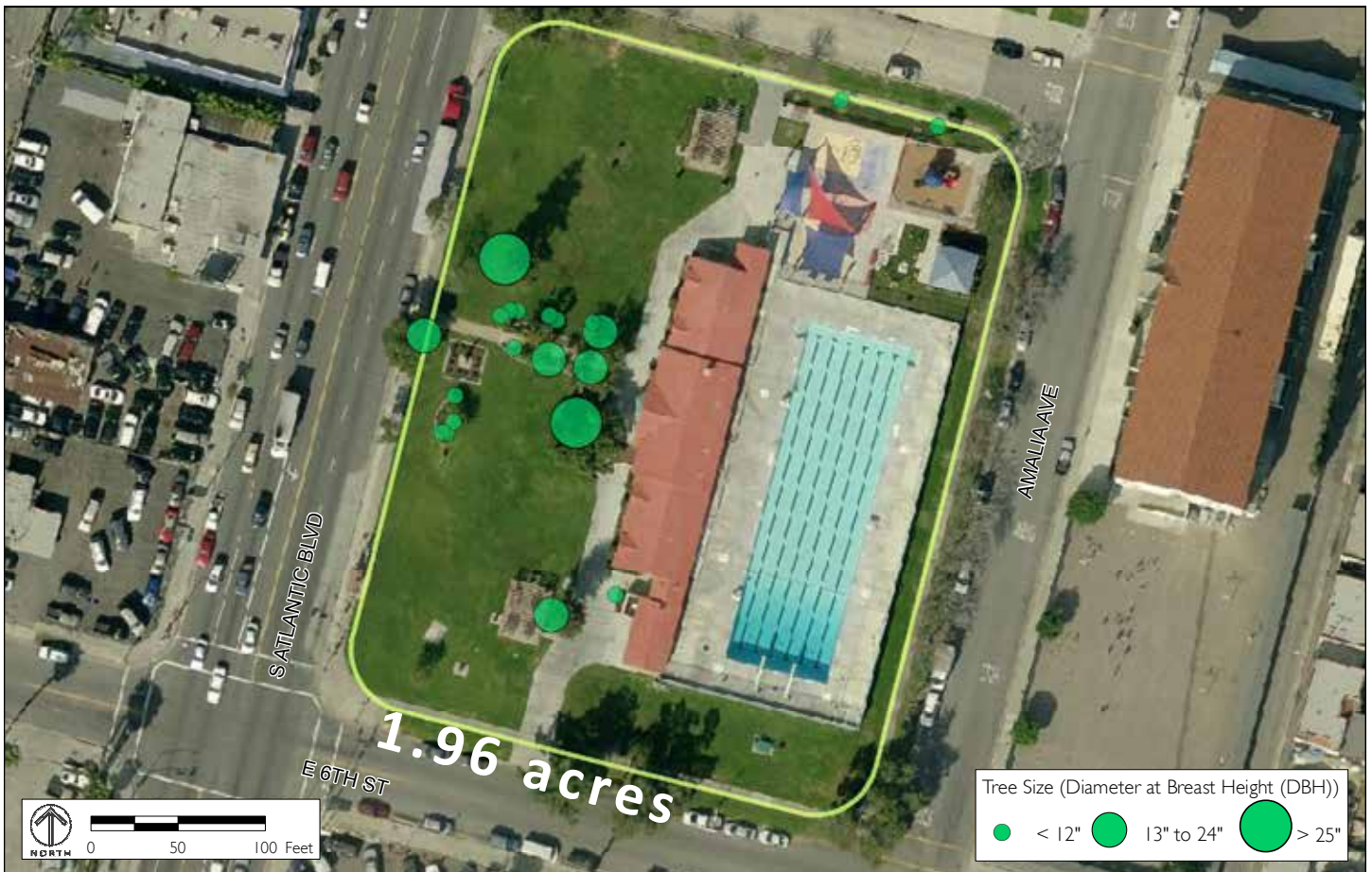
PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition but has low to moderate use. There are some underutilized areas within the large lawn areas along South Atlantic Avenue that could be opportunities for future park improvements.

PROGRAMS

All of the programs at the park take place in the pool. These programs are run by LA84 Foundation, a sports-advocacy, non-profit group funded through surplus funds from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. The site has swim, dive, and water polo teams. It also offers swimming lessons, recreation and lap swim, and synchronized swimming.

FIGURE 2.3 ATLANTIC AVENUE PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

- sports
- flexible outdoor
- play
- social outdoor
- indoor rec



1 pool



1 tot lot
(2-5 yr olds)



1 splash pad



2 picnic shelters



outdoor cooking

ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING



street lights around park

TRANSPORTATION



1 bike rack



0 car parking spaces

BELVEDERE COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK

PARK USE

With an area of 30.74 acres, Belvedere Community Regional Park is the largest Park in East Los Angeles. The park connects to Civic Center Park to the south through a pedestrian bridge over the Pomona Freeway. Although connected, the two parks are bisected and perform slightly different functions for the community. Belvedere Park, to the north, provides more traditional park amenities, while Civic Center Park is much more of a central gathering space for the larger East Los Angeles community. Civic Center Park is not managed by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation and is discussed in a subsequent section.



Belvedere Park has designated sports facilities, including space for softball, baseball, soccer, basketball and tennis. It also houses the largest skate park in East Los Angeles. It has one swimming pool and a fitness zone with exercise equipment, as well as one tot lot for children between the ages of two and five and one playground for children between the ages of five and twelve.

There are various green spaces at the edge of the sports areas for gathering or less formal active recreation. Additionally, there are four group picnic shelters and two restrooms for events. The walls surrounding the Belvedere Park pool feature an aquatic theme. Artist Sonia Romero created a series of stencils that youth from the Los Angeles Conservation Corps painted. The project was completed in 2008 with funding from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Belvedere Park is accessible from the pedestrian bridge or from the residential streets on its east and north sides. Hamasaki Elementary School sits in the center of the park and is separated by a chain link fence from the rest of the park. Also, the University of California and the Centro de Niños, a childcare facility, have buildings in the northwest corner that are also separated from the park. There are three parking lots with 114 parking spaces. There are no bike racks or spaces for formal bike parking at the park. The County's April 2012 bike survey indicated that it would be desirable to install two new bike racks near the public phone. In addition to the lights for the sports spaces, there are streetlights around the perimeter of the park and along the pathways. The parking lot has lighting and was considered well lit, according to the 2012 bike survey.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition with moderate use. The Department of Parks and Recreation's replacement of the existing pool and bath house with two new pools and a new bath house is in the design phase. Additionally, the turf on the soccer and softball fields will be replaced with synthetic turf for easier maintenance.

PROGRAMS

For youth, the Belvedere Park offers swimming, basketball, baseball, karate, soccer, cheerleading, and dance, as well as after-school enrichment and various social clubs. The park includes three park offices, one community building, one gymnasium, two multi-purpose rooms, and a computer lab, to support program activities. Additionally, the County manages the large lake in Civic Center Park, as well as a fishing club that uses the lake.

FIGURE 2.4 BELVEDERE PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

- sports
- flexible outdoor
- play
- social outdoor
- indoor rec

1 softball fields	3 baseball diamonds	2 basketball courts	4 soccer fields	2 tennis courts	1 pool	1 skate park	1 fitness zone	1 multi-purpose field

1 tot lot	2 playground (2-5 yr olds)(5-12 yr olds)	4 picnic shelters	10 barbecues	1 gymnasium and 1 weight room	community center	1 computer lab	3 offices	2 multi-purpose rooms

ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING

- security lighting along paths in park
- parking lot lighting
- sport lighting around fields
- street lights around park

TRANSPORTATION

- 0 bike racks
- 199 car parking spaces

CITY TERRACE PARK

PARK USE

City Terrace Park is 15.31 acres in size and is located at 1126 North Hazard Avenue. The park can accommodate social gatherings, active and passive use activities, and indoor and outdoor programs. Picnic tables and barbecue grills are placed throughout the park, and there is one covered picnic shelter and one restroom for events. Open green lawns at the edges of sports fields and tree-covered areas may also be used for gatherings or other types of passive recreation. Additionally, City Terrace Park has the only outdoor stage managed by the County Parks and Recreation Department in East Los Angeles,

and this stage is used for large social events. Sports facilities include two softball fields, one soccer field, one basketball court, one tennis court, one handball court, and one skate park. There is also one fully enclosed pool with a splash pad and accompanying bath house. The park utilizes the elevation change within the park to create a large seating area around the softball field on the lower eastern side. The park has both a tot lot and playground for older children. City Terrace Park is accessible from the lower level on its eastern edge and from a higher level on its western edge. Ramping paths or stairs connect the lower and upper features. There is one parking lot with 100 parking spaces. There are no bike racks or formal bike parking at the park. The County's April 2012 bike survey indicated that it would be desirable to install one new bike rack for six bikes in front of the gymnasium. In addition to lights for sports fields, there are lights around the perimeter of the park, in the central activity area, and along the pathways. The parking lot has some lighting but was considered poorly lit, according to the 2012 bike survey.

In 2013, City Terrace Park was among several parks selected for the Tot Parks and Trails project in Los Angeles County, funded by First 5 LA. The project seeks to "enhance existing play areas to improve access to parks and trails from prenatal stage through age 5," and will fund new features such as play equipment, nature discovery areas with native plants, stroller/walking trails, and site amenities.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition with moderate use. There are some "social paths" that park users have created to access the park. These paths might be formalized as part of future park improvements.

PROGRAMS

There are programs for each of the sports facilities at City Terrace Park, including basketball, baseball, and swimming. The swimming program is run by the LA84 Foundation. The park also offers fitness classes for youth and adults. Educational classes range from arts and crafts, to literacy and life skills programs. There are a number of clubs based at the park for maintaining active lives and learning job skills. The park runs an after-school program and a summer lunch program. There is a park office, gymnasium, community building, multi-purpose room, and computer lab in the park.

The outdoor stage is used for summer concerts and movie nights. During the summer of 2013, City Terrace Park participated in the County's "Parks After Dark" Program, in which parks extend their hours on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings until 10:00 pm and offer evening programming and events. The program was initiated to help prevent violence around the parks at night and help to create a safer and more welcoming nighttime environment in the parks and adjacent areas.



FIGURE 2.5 CITY TERRACE SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

1 softball/ baseball field	2 basketball courts	1 tennis court	1 handball court	1 pool	1 multi- purpose field	1 playground (2-12 yr olds)	2 playground (5-12 yr olds)
1 splash pad	1 picnic shelter	3 barbecues	1 gymnasium	1 community center	1 computer lab	1 multi-purpose room	1 office

ACCESS

	security lighting along paths in park		sport lighting around fields	TRANSPORTATION	
	parking lot lighting		street lights around park		0 bike racks
					118 car parking spaces



OBREGON PARK

PARK USE

Obregon Park is 10.94 acres in size and is located at 4021 East First Street. The park can accommodate social gatherings, active and passive use activities, and indoor and outdoor programs. Picnic tables and barbecue grills are placed throughout the park, and there are two covered picnic shelter and one restroom for events. Picnic areas are well-shaded with a diverse array of trees. Open green lawns at the edges of sports fields and tree-covered areas around the perimeter of the park may also be used for gatherings or other types of passive recreation. Sports facilities include space for softball, baseball, basketball, and handball. The park has both a tot lot and playground for older children.

Obregon Park is accessible from residential streets along all sides. There are two parking lots with 55 parking spaces. There is one uncovered, outdoor bike rack for five bikes on the north side of the gymnasium. The County's April 2012 bike survey indicated that it would be desirable to install five new bike racks for six bikes each near the softball fields and community buildings. In addition to lights for sports fields, there are lights around the perimeter of the park, in the central activity area, and along the pathways. The parking lot has lighting and was considered well lit, according to the 2012 bike survey.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in good condition with moderate use. The main office and facilities buildings at Obregon Park are across the street from Queenscare Family Clinic. The clinic provides primary care, dental services, and pediatric care. Potential partnerships with the clinic could help guide future park improvements in Obregon Park. The park is currently undergoing a redesign through Los Angeles County's Green Pilot Project. The park upgrades will improve resource efficiencies in the park, including reduced water and electricity uses. For the project, the County conducted an in-depth site analysis to find areas of ineffective planting design. The new planting plan will prioritize both the needs of the park users and potential for effective plant growth with limited water resources. Low-impact stormwater design elements will also be added to the park to more effectively manage runoff. As part of the Green Pilot Project, approximately 6,000 square feet of solar panels were installed on the gymnasium and pool house buildings at Obregon Park in 2010.

PROGRAMS

There are programs for each of the sports facilities at Obregon Park, including basketball, baseball, swimming, and diving. The swimming program is run by the LA84 Foundation. There are indoor fitness classes for youth and adults, as well as ceramics classes. The park sponsors youth and senior clubs, as well as a summer day camp with snacks and lunch for youth. There is a park office, gymnasium, community building, multi-purpose room, computer lab, and Senior Center in the park.

FIGURE 2.6 OBREGON PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

1 softball field	1 baseball diamond	1 basketball court	1 handball courts	1 pool	1 multi-purpose field	1 fitness zone	2 picnic shelter
6 barbecues	1 tot lot (2-5 yr olds)	1 playground (2-12 yr olds)	1 office	1 community center	1 gymnasium and 1 weight room	1 multi-purpose room	1 computer lab

ACCESS

	security lighting along paths in park		sport lighting around fields		1 bike rack		63 car parking spaces
	parking lot lighting		street lights around park				

PARQUE DE LOS SUEÑOS

PARK USE

Parque de los Sueños is 1.61 acres in size and is located at 1333 S. Bonnie Beach Place. This small “pocket” park is predominately a play space for children. The play equipment is accessible for children with disabilities and the central path through the park passes through a variety of play facilities for children of all ages. Due to this primary use, the park’s look and feel is lively and playful. The perimeter fence undulates in a wave pattern to create a dynamic and amusing edge. The play equipment is colorful and the safety surfacing incorporates thematic patterns to create a whimsical feel within the park. There is a mural on the building that borders the park to the east which contributes to the lighthearted feel of the park.

Around the play area is a lawn space, which may be used for social gatherings or other passive recreation. The park also includes one covered picnic structure and one restroom. The basketball court is separate from the main park and is located in a small lot across the street. A small wall with a mural faces the court, which continues the playful elements of the main park.

The main play area of Parque de los Sueños is accessible from all surrounding streets on the northwest and west sides. The basketball court is open to the street on its eastern edge. There is a small parking lot for each area and street parking is available on the surrounding residential streets. There are no bike racks or spaces for formal bike parking at the park. There is lighting from street lights around the perimeter of the park, but there are no court lights or lights around the play equipment. The park is lined with large trees along both major streets adjacent to the park, creating a buffer around park and creating a pleasant walking experience.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition but has low to semi-moderate use. There are some opportunities for improvements to the lawn space on the western side of the park, which is mostly open and can be used as a space to monitor children as they play.

PROGRAMS

There are no programs at Parque de los Sueños and no accompanying buildings. However, the park is directly across the street from the Union Pacific Empowerment Center, which is part of the Greater Los Angeles YWCA. The Center offers programs for women, seniors, and youth. The Center provides assistance with health and wellness, legal issues, and child development, with a variety of classes that integrate the Center’s message of female empowerment with life and social skills.



FIGURE 2.7 PARQUE DE LOS SUEÑOS SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

- sports
- flexible outdoor
- play
- social outdoor
- indoor rec



1 basketball



2 playground (5-12 yr olds)



1 picnic shelter

ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING

- street lights around park

TRANSPORTATION

- 0 bike racks
- 4 car parking spaces

RUBEN F. SALAZAR PARK

PARK USE

Ruben F. Salazar Park, “Salazar Park,” is 7.92 acres in size and is located at 3864 Whittier Boulevard. The park can accommodate social gatherings, active and passive use activities, and indoor and outdoor programs. Picnic tables and barbecue grills are placed throughout the park, and there is one covered picnic shelter and two restrooms for events. Open green lawns at the edges of sports fields and tree-covered areas around the perimeter of the park may also be used for gatherings or other types of passive recreation. Sports facilities include two softball fields, two tennis courts, one basketball court, and one swimming pool. Salazar Park also includes a skate park and multi-purpose field, as well as an exercise station that may be used for less formal active recreation. There is one playground for children under twelve.

There are two murals at Salazar Park. The first piece, painted by artist Paul Botello in 2001, occupies the exterior wall of the park buildings along Whittier Blvd. The mural was commissioned by Los Tigres del Norte, a Norteña band, who are depicted in the scene playing alongside a dancing couple and cosmic interpretations of the “struggles and strength” of everyday life. The other sides of the building are brightly painted with lively colors and shapes. The second mural, painted by artist Richard Haro, is located inside the Senior Center. The piece centers around a window to the celestial world and a childhood play scene, which are surrounded by the portraits of 30 influential Latino figures.

Salazar Park is accessible from residential streets along three sides. There are two parking lots with a total of 200 parking spaces. There is one uncovered, outdoor bike rack for eight bicycles located between the pool and the park office. The County’s bike survey from April 2012 indicated that it would desirable to install two new bike racks for six bicycles each in front of the park office. In addition to lights for sports fields, there are lights around the perimeter of the park, in the central activity area, and along the pathways. The parking lot has lighting and was considered well lit, according to the 2012

bike survey. The Whittier Avenue edge of the park is lined with Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*). These trees help define the edge of the park and distinguish it from other parts of the street. However, Mexican fan palm makes up a large part of the urban forest at the park (33.77% of population) and does not provide much diversity within the plant communities there.

In 2013, Salazar Park was among several parks selected for the Tot Parks and Trails project in LA County, funded by First 5 LA. The project will fund new features such as play equipment, nature discovery areas with native plants, stroller/walking trails, and site amenities.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in good condition with moderate use. The undesignated green space along the eastern edge is popular for passive recreation, such as socializing and reading. These areas could be improved for this use by increasing seating opportunities and shade.

PROGRAMS

Salazar Park has an active program schedule. It offers classes and programs for youth, adults, and seniors. Youth may participate in sports programs as well as after-school education programs and a summer lunch program. There are exercise classes for adults, as well as English classes and programs for moving through the citizenship process. Salazar Park has more programs for seniors than any other park in East Los Angeles. There are numerous dance and exercise classes, including aquatic exercise, as well as social activities, such as bingo and card clubs, and meal programs. The swimming programs at Salazar Park are run by the LA84 Foundation. There is a park office, gymnasium, community building, computer lab, Senior Center, library, and six multi-purpose rooms in the park. Additionally, the Senior Center contains a commercial kitchen for meals and cooking programs. The buildings also provide a space for public art. Large murals are painted on the sides of some of the community buildings.



FIGURE 2.8 SALAZAR PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

2 softball/ baseball fields	1 basketball court	2 tennis courts	1 skate park	1 pool	1 multi-purpose field	1 fitness zone	1 playground (2-12 yr olds)
1 picnic shelter	1 office	1 community center	1 gymnasium	1 senior center	6 multi-purpose rooms	1 computer lab	

ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING		TRANSPORTATION	
	security lighting along paths in park		sport lighting around fields
	parking lot lighting		1 bike rack
	street lights around park		200 car parking spaces

SAYBROOK PARK

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Saybrook Park is 7.06 acres in size and is located at 6250 East Northside Drive. The park can accommodate social gatherings, active and passive use activities, and indoor and outdoor programs. There is a large picnic area with tables and barbecue grills along the eastern side, and there is one covered picnic shelter and one restroom for events. Open green lawn, outfield space, or tree-covered areas around the perimeter may also be used for gatherings or other types of passive recreation. Additionally, the park has one softball field, one tennis court, two basketball courts, and an exercise equipment zone. The park has both a tot lot and playground for older children.



Saybrook Park sits in the corridor of an above ground electrical line that runs through the site and continues to the north and south, with four large electrical towers located within the park. Both the space to the north and the south are currently occupied by nurseries, creating an interesting effect of continuous planting in both directions. The utility line continues to the north and south of East Los Angeles, creating a corridor of undeveloped land. This corridor could serve as a good site to develop a pedestrian connection through the neighborhood. Within the park, facilities are generally located around the power lines, with the area underneath being dominated by open lawn or parking. The park represents a unique partnership between park and utility use, although maintenance of the park must take into consideration the special needs of the site, including providing clear access to the towers, preventing dangerous use around the towers, and limiting tree interference with the lines.

Saybrook Park neighbors Montebello Park Elementary School to the east. The school's outdoor space borders the park but is separated by a fence. Saybrook is accessible from residential streets on all other sides. There is one parking lot with 25 parking spaces. There are no bike racks or spaces for formal bike parking at the park. The County's bike survey from April 2012 indicated that it would be desirable to install two new bike racks for six bikes each in front of the park office. In addition to lights for sports fields, there are lights around the perimeter of the park, in the central picnic and play areas, and along the pathways. The parking lot has lighting and was considered well lit according to the 2012 bike survey.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition with moderate use.

PROGRAMS

There are baseball, basketball, soccer, and cheerleading programs for children at Saybrook Park. Additionally, there is an enrichment and snack program after school and during the summer. There are separate programs for teens and a Tiny Tot program for pre-school children. Saybrook Park has a park office, community building, multi-purpose room, and computer lab recreational program needs.

FIGURE 2.9 SAYBROOK PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

- sports
- flexible outdoor
- play
- social outdoor
- indoor rec
- 1 softball/ baseball field
- 2 basketball courts
- 1 tennis court
- 1 tot lot (2-5 yr olds)
- 1 playground (2-12 yr olds)
- 1 picnic shelter
- 1 office
- 1 community center
- 1 multi-purpose room
- computer lab

ACCESS

- SECURITY LIGHTING
- security lighting along paths in park
 - sport lighting around fields
 - parking lot lighting
 - street lights around park
- TRANSPORTATION
- 0 bike racks
 - 25 car parking spaces

SPECIAL USE FACILITIES

Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation also manages Eastside Eddie Heredia Boxing Club in East Los Angeles. The indoor facility is used exclusively for boxing and weight training. The facility is open every week day from 11:30 am until 7:30 pm and offers boxing classes and practice space for youth between the ages of eight and 19.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Recreational programming enriches a community by providing access to new forms of physical activity and social engagement. The Parks and Recreation Element of the 2035 Los Angeles General Plan states that parks and recreation programs specifically benefit the greater community by:

- Offering opportunities to play, grow, and learn.
- Providing a sense of place and belonging.
- Promoting health and wellness.
- Improving neighborhood and community connections, and problem-solving.
- Enhancing community cohesiveness while honoring diversity.
- Helping protect natural environments.

Although many programs target health and fitness, recreational programming can also offer educational opportunities, job and life skills, or arts and social activities. The types of activities offered vary based on community interest and involvement.

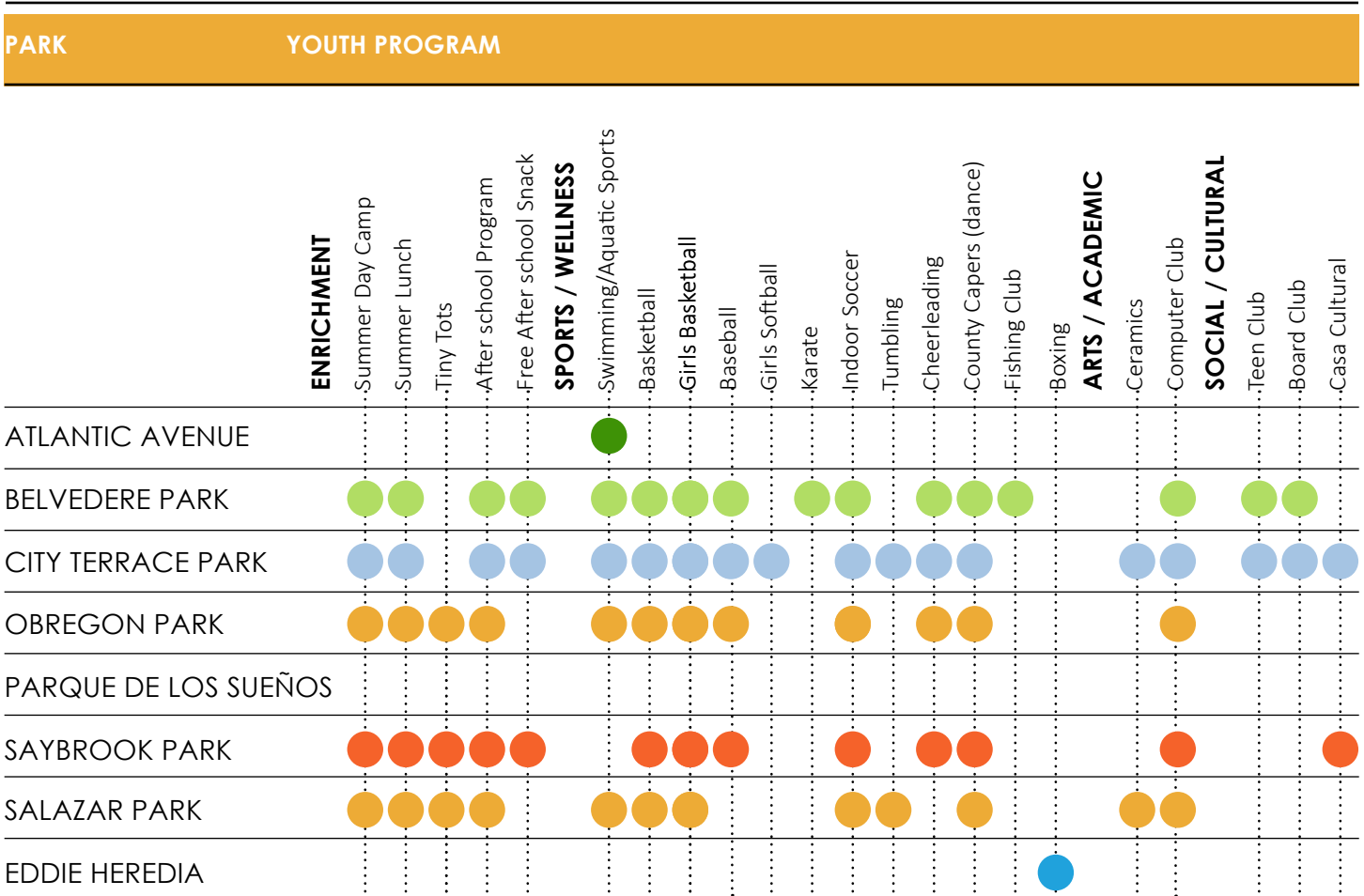
DPR PROGRAMS

Figure 2.10 shows an overview of the youth programs offered at the County parks in East Los Angeles and Figure 2.11 shows an overview of adult and senior programs and special events. These programs are offered at various times throughout the year.

The summer day camp and lunch program is a major component of some East Los Angeles Parks, utilizing the entire park for most of the day during the summer months. These camps provide a place for young children to go during the summer recess from school. They incorporate a variety of health, arts, and academic enrichment activities.

Many of the parks also offer an after-school program during the school year, which alleviates some of the burden on working parents to find supervision for their children directly after school. These programs utilize the park until 6:00 pm on school days.

FIGURE 2.10 YOUTH PROGRAMS AT COUNTY PARKS



In general, most parks’ programming is focused on youth. All of the parks offer some kind of youth sports program and most have sports occurring throughout the year. Some provide more informal social gathering groups or clubs to provide a space for youth, particularly older youth or teens, to gather in a safe environment.

With the exception of Salazar Park, there are very few programs for seniors or adults in East Los Angeles County Parks. There are adult aerobics classes at Belvedere, Obregon, and Salazar Parks. City Terrace Park has an adult wheelchair basketball league. These parks also offer some social events and enrichment courses for adults. City Terrace Park and Obregon Park offer programs for seniors but most senior activities in East Los Angeles are at the Senior Center at Salazar Park.

In the summer 2013, the Department of Parks and Recreation started East Los Angeles Arts Fest, an arts-based events program focused around East Los Angeles Civic Center. Running from the end of June until September, the outdoor series included concerts, dance performances, interactive musical jam sessions, art walks with local artists, movie nights, fireworks displays, and neighborhood bike rides. Most of the events took place around the park at Civic Center and activated the space outside of typical park hours.

OTHER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

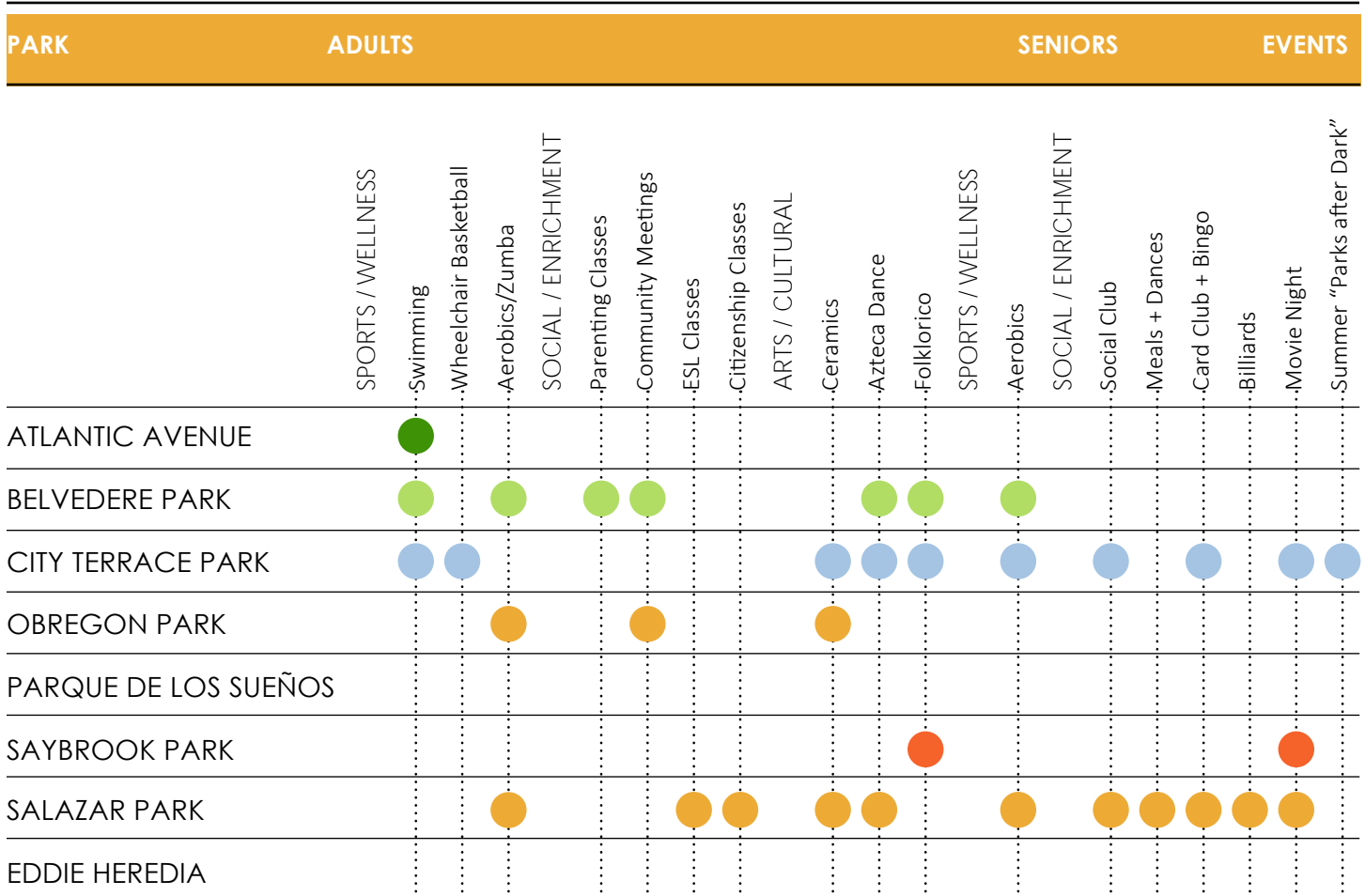
YOUTH PROGRAMS

The **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** in East Los Angeles provide much of the youth programming outside of the public parks. Some East Los Angeles schools are within the Los Angeles Unified School District while others are within the Montebello Unified School District. Both districts operate after-school programs until 6:00 pm that focus on academic enrichment, fitness and health activities, and arts development.

The **BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF EAST LOS ANGELES** offers youth-based programs out of their clubhouse facility at 324 N. McDonnell Avenue. The center has a large outdoor space, including a pool, where they provide sports programming and swimming classes. They additionally offer arts programs such as music and dance lessons, drawing and painting, digital arts, and photography, as well as health and lifestyle programs and classes such as gang prevention, healthy eating, and cooking courses.

The YWCA of Greater Los Angeles manages the **UNION PACIFIC EMPOWERMENT CENTER** at 4315 Union Pacific Avenue in East Los Angeles. The center serves women and girls in the area and offers a wide range of fitness and health classes

FIGURE 2.11 ADULT, SENIOR, AND EVENT PROGRAMS AT COUNTY PARKS



for youth, adults, and seniors. They also offer targeted courses in career development and life skills. The site offers programs for special-needs children and is located directly across from Parque de los Sueños, a County park designed for universal play, accommodating children with developmental disabilities.

The East Los Angeles Station of the **SHERIFF'S YOUTH ACTIVITY LEAGUE (YAL)** operates a Youth Center at 4100 City Terrace Drive. The YAL moved to this location in February 2013 in an effort to integrate more directly with existing social networks. East Los Angeles YAL partners with a local neighborhood group, City Terrace Coordinating Council, on outreach for their teen-focused programming. The Youth Center offers sports and educational programming, as well as cultural activities, such as ballet folklorico. The Youth Center is located across the from St. Lucy's Catholic Church, which offers a day camp for younger children during the summer months and provides outreach support to the YAL.

JOB TRAINING PROGRAMS

YOUTHBUILD is a national non-profit organization that partners with local social justice advocates to work with youth to develop construction trade skills and community building techniques. Youthbuild partners with **LA C.A.U.S.A.** (Los Angeles Community Advocating for Unity Social Justice and Action) in East Los Angeles to work with neighborhood youth. The program offers an alternative path to a high school diploma or GED's for youth 18 to 24, which incorporates on-the-job construction experience and various trade certifications intended to facilitate an easy transition into a long-term career. La C.A.U.S.A.'s center is located just outside the neighborhood boundary to the southeast, at 5400 East Olympic Boulevard.

The Los Angeles Conservation Corps runs a similar program to Youthbuild, offering a paid job-training program for youth between the ages of 18 to 24 in the construction trades, with an emphasis on conservation and service projects. The Corps operates an East Los Angeles Center at 1020 South Fickett Street, just beyond the neighborhood's western boundary. The center serves as a community headquarters for the Corps, although they may work in various locations around Los Angeles.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

There are three public libraries in East Los Angeles that offer various cultural programs and events focused on youth and adult literacy.

EAST LOS ANGELES LIBRARY is located at 4837 East Third Street, within East Los Angeles Civic Center. The library offers free Wi-Fi internet access and online educational classes, as well as toddler storytime and family life skills workshops for children and their caregivers. East Los Angeles Library is also home to the Chicano Resource Center, which houses historical information on Mexican-American heritage and culture. The center offers special programs, including dance performance and author readings.

The **ANTHONY QUINN LIBRARY** is located at 3965 Cesar Chavez Avenue in the northwestern part of the community. The library offers general library research assistance and an after-school storytime for children, as well as some non-traditional library programming, such as zumba, gardening, crafts, and computer classes.

EL CAMINO REAL LIBRARY is located at 4264 E. Whittier Boulevard near the Calvary Cemetery. The library offers afterschool homework help and "Family Place," a resource and activity facility for children under three and their parents. The library was expanded in 2014 to add a community meeting room, a teen area, and an outdoor reading patio.

PARKS AND RECREATION ACCESS

EL SOL SHUTTLE

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) manages El Sol, a shuttle service with three routes through East Los Angeles. The shuttles offer residents reduced fares (25¢ for the general public and free for seniors, persons with disabilities, children under five and Metro Pass Holder) to parks and commercial areas in their community.

BEACH BUS

Between June 20 and September 1, Los Angeles County DPW runs a shuttle between two locations in East Los Angeles and Santa Monica Beach on Fridays and on Labor Day. The bus costs \$2.00 round trip for children or adults, providing a cost-effective means of traveling to the beach.

OTHER GREEN SPACE

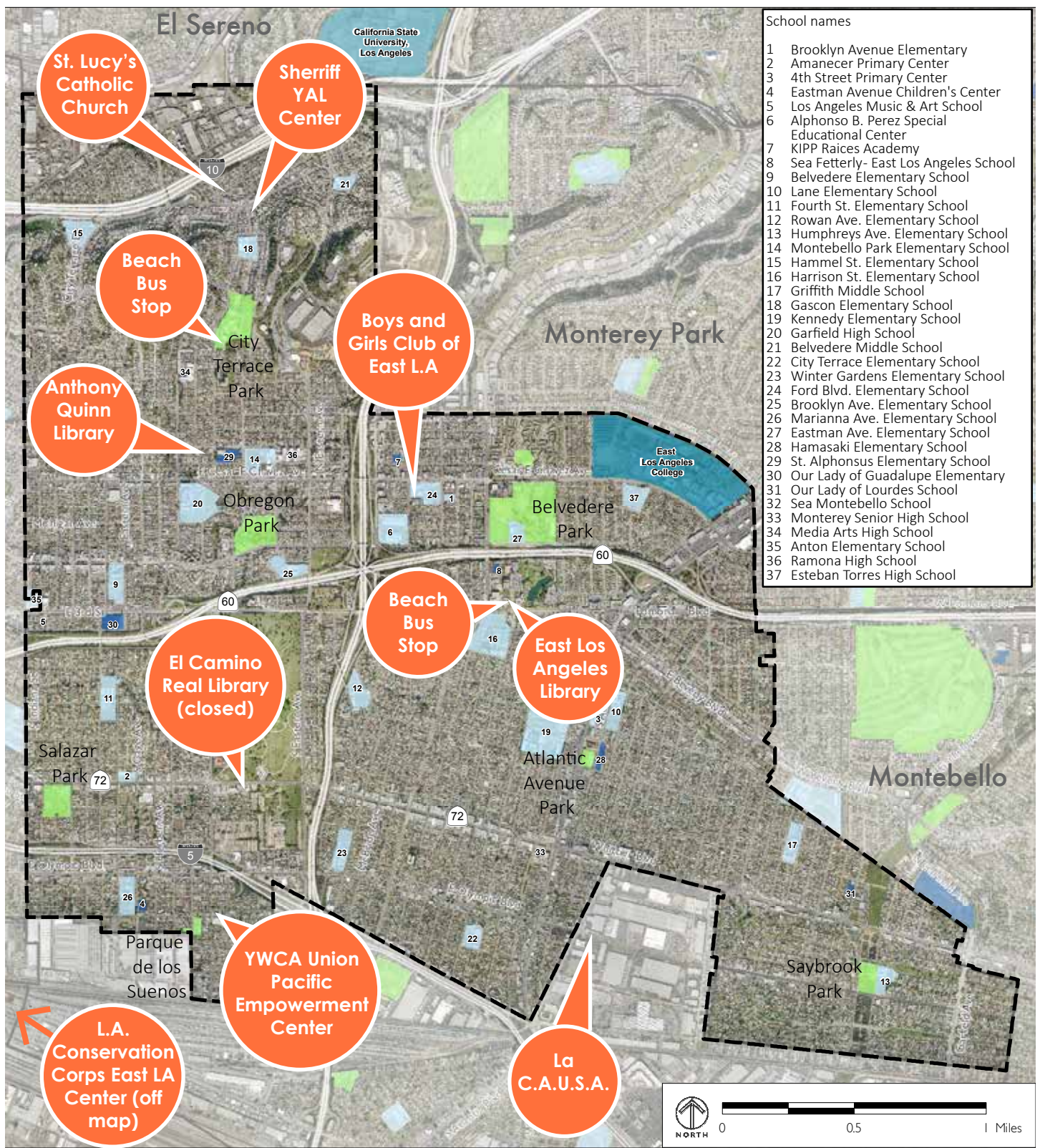
CIVIC CENTER PARK

As mentioned above, the East Los Angeles Civic Center is the central hub for the community, which includes a large green space managed by the Internal Service Department. The lake and amphitheater are operated and maintained by DPR.

The park is 17.96 acres in size and is connected to Belvedere Park to the north via a pedestrian bridge over the Pomona Freeway. Civic Center contains numerous County offices, health facilities, and non-profit community development group, providing an anchor for this area and creating an active and lively environment. Civic Center Park is mostly used for social gathering and passive recreation.

A large artificial lake dominates the center of the southern space. Walking loops around the lake and lawn area provide space for semi-active recreation. There are two playground spaces for children between the ages of two and twelve. The southern area also includes three covered picnic areas for group gatherings, as well as an amphitheater that overlooks the lake and a stage area for performances located on an island in the lake. There is one restroom structure, and the County Sheriff's office and East Los Angeles Public Library are located adjacent to the park.

FIGURE 2.12 OTHER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS



School names

- 1 Brooklyn Avenue Elementary
- 2 Amanecer Primary Center
- 3 4th Street Primary Center
- 4 Eastman Avenue Children's Center
- 5 Los Angeles Music & Art School
- 6 Alphonso B. Perez Special Educational Center
- 7 KIPP Raices Academy
- 8 Sea Fetterly- East Los Angeles School
- 9 Belvedere Elementary School
- 10 Lane Elementary School
- 11 Fourth St. Elementary School
- 12 Rowan Ave. Elementary School
- 13 Humphreys Ave. Elementary School
- 14 Montebello Park Elementary School
- 15 Hammel St. Elementary School
- 16 Harrison St. Elementary School
- 17 Griffith Middle School
- 18 Gascon Elementary School
- 19 Kennedy Elementary School
- 20 Garfield High School
- 21 Belvedere Middle School
- 22 City Terrace Elementary School
- 23 Winter Gardens Elementary School
- 24 Ford Blvd. Elementary School
- 25 Brooklyn Ave. Elementary School
- 26 Marianna Ave. Elementary School
- 27 Eastman Ave. Elementary School
- 28 Hamasaki Elementary School
- 29 St. Alphonsus Elementary School
- 30 Our Lady of Guadalupe Elementary
- 31 Our Lady of Lourdes School
- 32 Sea Montebello School
- 33 Monterey Senior High School
- 34 Media Arts High School
- 35 Anton Elementary School
- 36 Ramona High School
- 37 Esteban Torres High School

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Existing Los Angeles County Parks and Other Green Space
- Public Schools
- Preschools, Private, or Charter Schools
- Colleges & Universities

Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation; PlaceWorks, 2013.



Civic Center Park



Civic Center



Langford Park

The main entrance to Civic Center Park is on East Third Street. The Metro Gold Line runs along East Third Street, and the East LA Civic Center station is across from the park entrance. The park is also accessible from the Civic Center buildings to the east and from the pedestrian bridge over the Pomona Freeway to the north. The plaza at the Civic Center is used on Saturday for the East Los Angeles Farmer's Market. Although not directly in the park, it brings people to the area during its operation. It is managed by Volunteers of East Los Angeles (VELA) through a Community Development Block Grant.

LANGFORD PARK

Langford Park is a small pocket park located on land owned by Los Angeles County, but not managed or maintained by DPR. The park is located just south of the Pomona Freeway at the end of Langford Street, just to the east of Calvary Cemetery. The park is built at the bottom of a steep embankment that separates the residential neighborhood. The park is designed with a naturalistic feel and includes a central decomposed granite walkway surrounded by planting.

CEMETERIES

The largest green space in East Los Angeles is Calvary Cemetery, occupying an area of 136.8 acres. While also functioning as a cemetery, the space serves as a gathering place for the families and friends of the people buried there. More informally, the perimeter sidewalk serves as an exercise space for the community, who walk or run the almost 2-mile distance around the cemetery. Metro has plans to formalize the route into a walking path with a rubberized walking surface and new street trees, as part of their Eastside Access Project.

Four smaller cemeteries are located adjacent to Calvary Cemetery to the northeast and southwest. The Serbian Cemetery is located to the south of the Pomona Freeway and the Chinese Cemetery is located to the north. Both cemeteries are smaller in size with more densely packed grave markers. The Serbian Cemetery is surrounded by a chain link fence rather than a large wall, allowing for a less restricted view of the green space within. Beth Israel and Mount Zion Cemeteries are located south of Calvary Cemetery, on the other side of Whittier Boulevard.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

There are currently ten existing or in-process community gardens in East Los Angeles, established and managed by various local groups.

KIPP Raices Academy has rooftop garden space available for students and educators and Esteban Torres High School has a garden on campus. Belvedere Middle School and Griffith Middle School are in the process of developing gardens at their schools.

La C.A.U.S.A. set up the garden at Humphrey’s Elementary School, as well as one adjacent to the school at Edith’s Market on 498 S. Ford Boulevard. La C.A.U.S.A. also established a garden at Eastman Avenue Children’s Center at 4112 E. Olympic Boulevard, although it is under-maintained and rarely used. Yash La Casa, a converted market for healthy food at 3968 Hammel Street, has a garden plot behind the store that is open to the public.

PARKLETS

In Spring 2015, DPW, in partnership with Supervisor Hilda L. Solis’ office, opened three parklets in East Los Angeles. The parklets, located on Whittier Boulevard, 1st Street, and South Mednick Avenue, are located adjacent to restaurants that are partnering with the County to maintain the parklet spaces. The restaurants include El Machin at 4514 Whittier Boulevard, El Kiosko at 3541 1st Street, and So-Cal Burgers Chill & Grill at 203 South Mednic Avenue. In addition to providing outdoor dining spaces for the partnership businesses, the parklets are expected to improve streetscape conditions in these areas and provide visitors with places to gather and socialize around these commercial spaces.



Rendering of Future Walking Path at Calvary Cemetery
 source: Los Angeles County

**PLANNING CONTEXT
 EASTSIDE ACCESS PROJECT
 METRO**

The walking path around Calvary Cemetery, noted above, is part of Metro’s larger Eastside Access Project. The project is funded through a sales tax increase approved by voters 2008 (Measure R) and is expected to provide \$12 million for pedestrian and cycling improvements in the eastern neighborhoods along Metro’s Gold Line, including East Los Angeles. The project includes streetscape improvements along the Gold Line route, and bike routes to connect residents to line. Initial plans focus predominately on First Street in Boyle Heights; however, this could create an important connector to Third Street in East Los Angeles, where the Gold Line connects to Civic Center. In addition to walking and biking paths, the Project is reviewing plaza improvements near Metro stops, new street furniture and art installations, and fitness stations along popular walking and running routes. These improvements are intended to promote the use of public transit and improving the overall outdoor experience in these neighborhood.



KIPP Raíces Academy

**THIRD STREET SPECIFIC PLAN
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF
 REGIONAL PLANNING**

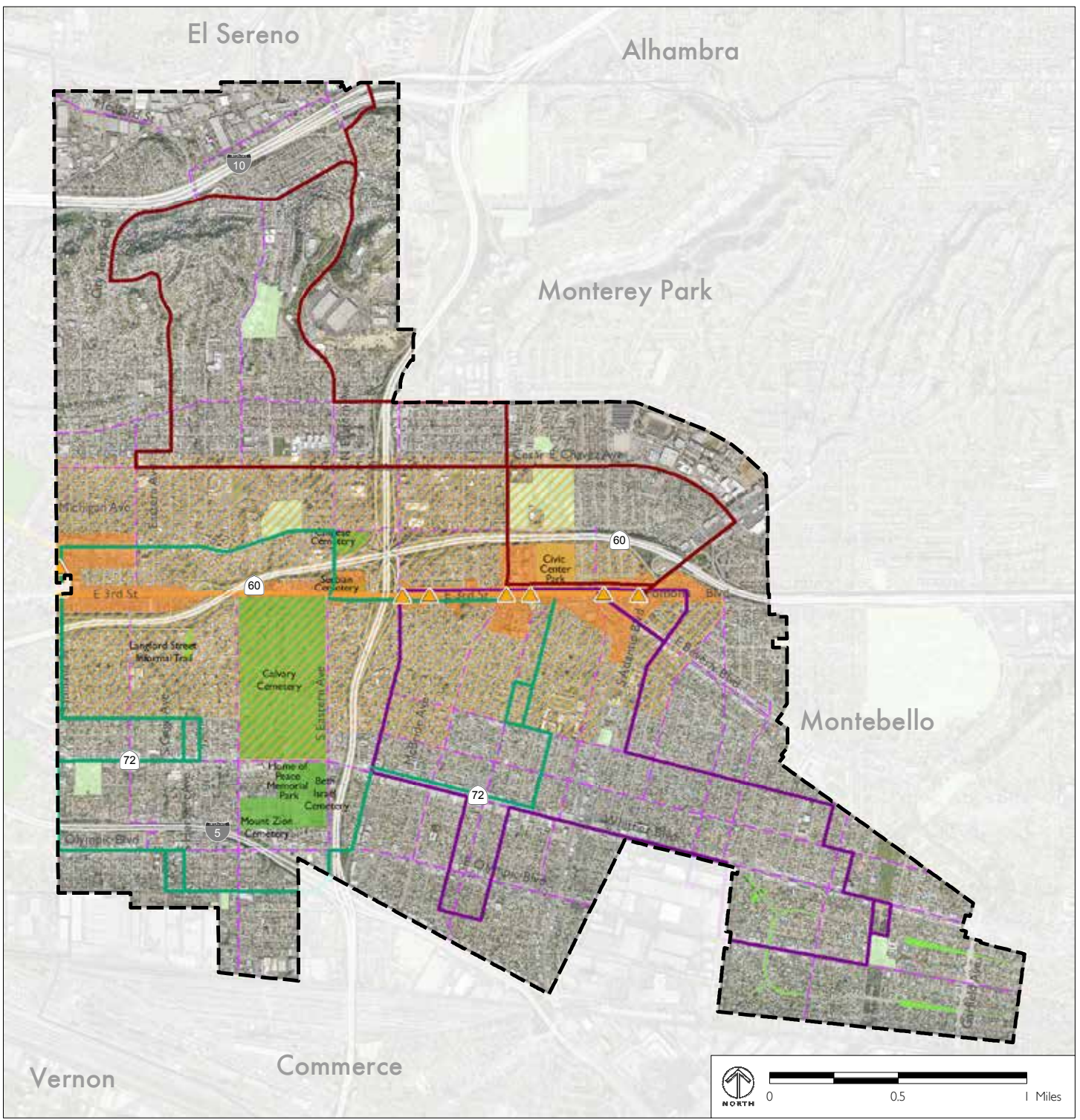
In 2009, Metro’s Gold Line was extended six miles from downtown Los Angeles. Eight new stations were constructed, including four in East Los Angeles. Assuming the public transit expansion would spur economic activity along the corridor, the County commissioned a transit-oriented design plan for the area surrounding the transit line. The Metro line runs predominately along Third Street through East Los Angeles. The plan incorporates recommendations for commercial and



Parklet at El Machin on Whittier Boulevard
 source: Pasadena Star News

FIGURE 2.13 OTHER GREEN SPACE AND PLANNING AREAS IN EAST LOS ANGELES

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Future Projects and Planning Areas

- ▨ Third Street Specific Plan Boundary
- ▨ Third Street Specific Plan - Major Change Area

Green Space

- Existing Los Angeles County Parks
- Other Parks
- Informal Open Space
- Cemeteries
- Private Community Garden

Public Transit Network

- ▲ Metro Rail Gold Line Station
- Metro Rail Gold Line
- - - Proposed Bike Routes
- El Sol Shuttle - City Terrace to East Los Angeles Community College
- El Sol Shuttle - Union Pacific Empowerment Center to Salazar Park
- El Sol Shuttle - Whittier Boulevard to Saybrook Park

Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013.

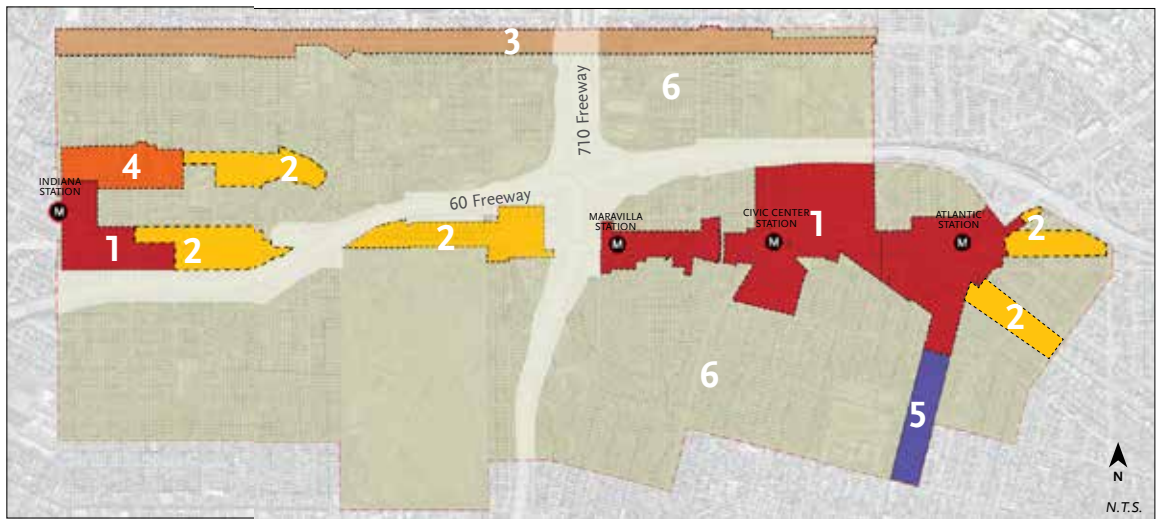
residential developments, as well as streetscape and open space improvements in the blocks on either side of the line. As seen in Figure 2.13, the entire plan area includes a large area around Third Street, but the area designated as “Major Change Area” by the plan is expected to be directly around the new line.

The public realm component of the plan incorporates specific recommendations greening in the Specific Pan area. The plan presents a comprehensive street tree palette for the area and streetscape improvements to both improve aesthetic quality and improve environmental services. The plan additionally calls for the additions of six types of park prototypes: Pocket Parks on small vacant lots, Super Block Inserts for empty open space located within a developed block, Freeway Caps over existing freeways, Freeway Forests along the buffer area, and Neighborhood Connections: Cascades, Alleys, and Pedestrian Crossings at existing informal trail areas.

FIGURE INT.C - PLAN FRAMEWORK

- Plan Boundary
- Metro Gold Line Station

Figure INT.C identifies the objectives for areas within the Plan area. Accordingly, this figure identifies the goals and policies, implementation measures and development regulations to implement the Plan over its 20-year planning horizon. The framework for each of the areas is discussed below:



1. TOD	2. Neighborhood Center	3. Cesar E. Chavez	4. 1st Street	5. Atlantic	6. Low Medium Residential
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish Indiana Station and Atlantic Station as western and eastern gateways b. Allow for mixed-use buildings that provide a range of goods, services, housing, and employment opportunities c. Provide a context-sensitive parking strategy, shared parking, and recognize non-motorized travel d. Enhance retail viability, walkability and safety on 3rd Street with an improved streetscape and open space strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maximize shallow parcels with mixed-use buildings in an effort to provide valuable ground floor retail space or business suites as well as upper floor apartments or condominiums b. Establish a safer pedestrian and bicycle network for north-south travel between the neighborhoods in and out of East Los Angeles c. Enable suitably-scaled infill development to reinforce the existing scale and historic resources d. Enable corridor development that is compatible and consistent with the scale and character of adjacent neighborhoods e. Provide varied housing options and resident-oriented service amenities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Reinforce the urban character of Cesar E. Chavez Avenue west and east of the 710 freeway b. Introduce mixed-use buildings that provide a range of goods, services, housing, and employment opportunities c. Maximize active, ground floor commercial frontages d. Enable infill development to reinforce an average two-to three-story scale of buildings and historic resources e. Provide a context-sensitive parking strategy to maximize on-street parking, shared parking, and recognize non-motorized travel f. Enhance retail viability, walkability and safety with an improved streetscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish 1st Street as the dominant “Main Street” within the planning area, providing a strong destination for local-serving shops and restaurants, and a safe and pleasant environment for shoppers b. Expand retail and restaurant activity later into the evening c. Enable infill development to reinforce an average two-to three-story scale of buildings and historic resources d. Provide a context-sensitive parking strategy to maximize on-street parking, shared parking, and recognize non-motorized travel e. Enhance retail viability, walkability and safety with an improved streetscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish a unique pattern of development that will reinforce the pedestrian character of this district and create a distinctive setting that will appeal to a wide variety of retailers, employers, and shoppers b. Reinforce the commercial fabric of Atlantic Boulevard, providing parking and services behind building c. Provide alternative high value uses and restore balance between residential and neighborhood-compatible industrial activity d. Maximize active, ground floor commercial frontage e. Enhance retail viability, walkability and safety on Atlantic Boulevard with an improved streetscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Preserve the scale and character of the existing neighborhood b. Restore balance between residential and neighborhood-compatible industrial activity c. Work with the school district to encourage improvement and increase access to school open space d. Address non-conforming uses and the ability to transition or remain e. Enhance walkability and safety with an improved streetscape and open space strategy

Third Street Specific Plan
source: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

URBAN FOREST INVENTORY

Trees are intricately connected to the quality of life in an urban landscape, and key components of most greening strategies. The benefits afforded by trees, when grouped together as a healthy urban forest, are extensive. Benefits can include improved public health, walkable streets and increased pedestrian activity, community safety, improved air quality, reduction of high temperatures in urban heat islands, stormwater management, and reduction in building heating and cooling costs, as well as an enhanced sense of community, serenity, and beautification. As such, understanding the extent, condition, benefits, and costs of the urban forest is essential to identifying greening opportunities and to making good management decisions regarding tree planting, maintenance, removal, and replacement.

EXISTING URBAN FOREST

The existing urban forest in East Los Angeles was examined based on tree canopy coverage data for the community as a whole, as well as an inventory of trees at each of the existing Los Angeles County Parks in East Los Angeles. The neighborhood-wide canopy analysis provides a big picture understanding of the overall urban forest in East Los Angeles, and sets a benchmark for increasing overall coverage. The inventory of the trees within the County parks provides an understanding of forest structure and forest benefits. In addition to presenting this analysis, this document provides summary of community input regarding East Los Angeles's urban forest in order to establish a more complete picture of the assets, limitations, and needs of the urban forest.

CANOPY COVERAGE AT THE COMMUNITY SCALE

EXISTING COVERAGE

Utilizing LIDAR³ images provided by the County of Los Angeles, it was possible to determine overall tree canopy coverage in East Los Angeles, including both publicly and privately maintained trees. Although this method does not allow for assessment of each individual tree, it provides a clear picture of the total coverage and reveals the areas that are well planted or areas to focus new plantings. Figure 2.14 shows the density of tree canopy coverage in East Los Angeles.

As shown in Figure 2.14, the major east-west corridors of E. Olympic Boulevard, Whittier Boulevard, and E. 3rd Street, as well as S. Atlantic Boulevard running north-south, have relatively low tree canopy surrounding them. These streets are predominately commercial, a land use that traditionally has low tree canopy. However, these streets are also highly used by pedestrians, which would benefit from increased plantings.

3 LIDAR, which stands for "Light Detection and Ranging", is a remote sensing technology that is used to examine the Earth's surface by using light beams from airborne lasers to measure distance, which provides a detailed group of elevation data points that can be used for mapping topography.

The map additionally displays the important role the parks and cemeteries play in providing urban trees, with almost all of these types of spaces displaying relatively high levels of tree canopy coverage.

A large portion of East Los Angeles' urban forest is located in the north, near City Terrace Park. This area is characterized by its change in elevation and some of the steeper sites are planted with trees to prevent erosion. Additionally, the area to the northeast of City Terrace Park is utilized for various municipal services and is planted as a means of increasing the overall greening of the community.

East Los Angeles has total tree canopy coverage of 10 percent. It is expected that the urban forest would differ based on land use. Table 2.3 provides a breakdown of the existing coverage in East Los Angeles based on land use. For simplification, similar land uses were combined for this analysis. The table also includes the list of land uses in each group. Streets and sidewalks serve as a primary location for urban forest trees. Street plantings can mitigate stormwater running off roadways, absorb vehicle emissions, and improve the pedestrian environment. Currently, East Los Angeles' roadways have minimal canopy coverage, suggesting that there is opportunity to increase street planting. These plantings would be most beneficial on the roadways that form connections between parks, cemeteries, and other open spaces, effectively creating a green network within the neighborhood.

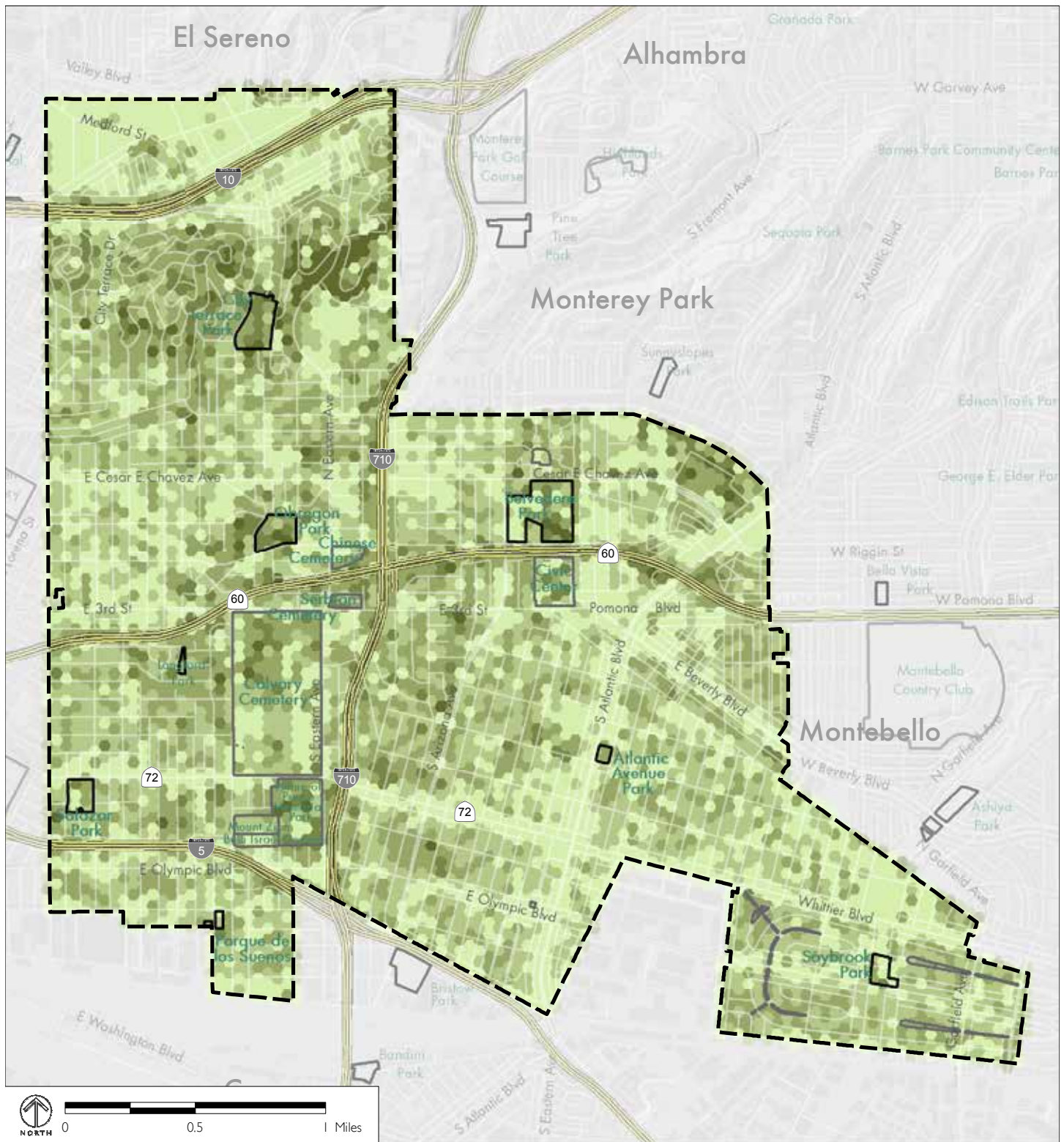
RELATIVE CANOPY COVERAGE

Research conducted by American Forests⁴ recommends an overall average canopy coverage of 25 percent as appropriate for urban areas in temperate and arid climates, such as East Los Angeles, based on recommended coverage for specific land uses of 35 percent for suburban residential, 18 percent for urban residential zones, and 9 percent for central business districts. Furthermore, the Los Angeles 1-Million Tree Canopy Cover Assessment found average canopy coverage of 21 percent within the City and set target coverage at 27.5 percent as an average for all land use types.⁵ The study additionally found existing coverage of 30.5 percent for low-density residential, 14.5 percent for medium/high density residential, 3.5 percent for industrial, 5.6 percent for commercial, 18.3 percent for institutional and 9.4 percent for unknown. East Los Angeles is currently lower than both the American Forest standard and the existing and target coverage for the City of Los Angeles. Table 2.2 demonstrates these differences.

4 American Forests is a nonprofit conservation organization that is recognized for their pioneering work in the science and practice of urban forestry.

5 McPherson, E. Gregory, James R. Simpson, Quingu Xiao, and Chuxia Wu. Los Angeles 1-Million Tree Canopy Cover Assessment. USDA. January 2008. http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr207/psw_gtr207.pdf.

FIGURE 2.14 EXISTING CANOPY COVERAGE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

Tree Canopy Coverage

Percent of Tree Canopy Coverage per Acre

- < 5%
- 5% - 10%
- 10% - 20%
- 20% - 30%
- > 30%

Parklands

- Park Included in Analysis (includes parks within 1/2 mile of Community boundary)
- Other Green Space (historical parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.)

TABLE 2.2 EAST LOS ANGELES TREE CANOPY COVERAGE COMPARISONS

Land Use	East Los Angeles Existing Tree Canopy Coverage	American Forest Recommended Tree Canopy Coverage	City of Los Angeles Existing Tree Canopy Coverage	City of Los Angeles Target Tree Canopy Coverage
Low Density Residential	13%	35%	31%	n/a
High Density Residential	10%	18%	15%	n/a
Commercial/Institutional	9%	9%	6% / 18%	n/a
Industrial	3%	n/a	4%	n/a
Open Space	14%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	11%	25%	21%	27.5%

TABLE 2.3 TREE CANOPY COVERAGE IN EAST LOS ANGELES BASED ON LAND USE

Land Use	Combined Land Use Groups	Total Area (Acres)	Total Canopy Area (Acres)	Tree Canopy Coverage
Low Density Residential	Single-family residence	2,631	336	13%
High Density Residential	Unlimited residence Limited multiple residence Two-family residence	676	68	10%
Commercial/Institutional	Unlimited commercial Commercial manufacturing Commercial planned development Commercial recreation Institutional Neighborhood business Parking restricted Restricted business	987	86	9%
Industrial	Heavy manufacturing Light manufacturing Restricted heavy manufacturing	338	9	3%
Open Space	Open space	409	58	14%
TOTAL		5,041	557	11%

TREE INVENTORY WITHIN LOS ANGELES COUNTY PARKS

Trees within East Los Angeles' County parks, or East Los Angeles' "Park Forest," were inventoried and assessed in 2013 with funding provided by a grant from CAL FIRE.⁶ This section provides an overview of the forest structure and benefits provided by the forest contained within parks. The inventory was utilized to create a database analysis tool called iTrees Streets. This free tool was developed by a team of researchers with the USDA Forest Service, Davey Tree Service, and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), which allows cities to analyze the benefit of their forest. ITrees Streets is a street tree management and analysis tool that uses tree inventory data to assign dollar values to energy savings, carbon dioxide reduction, air quality, stormwater control, and property value increase.

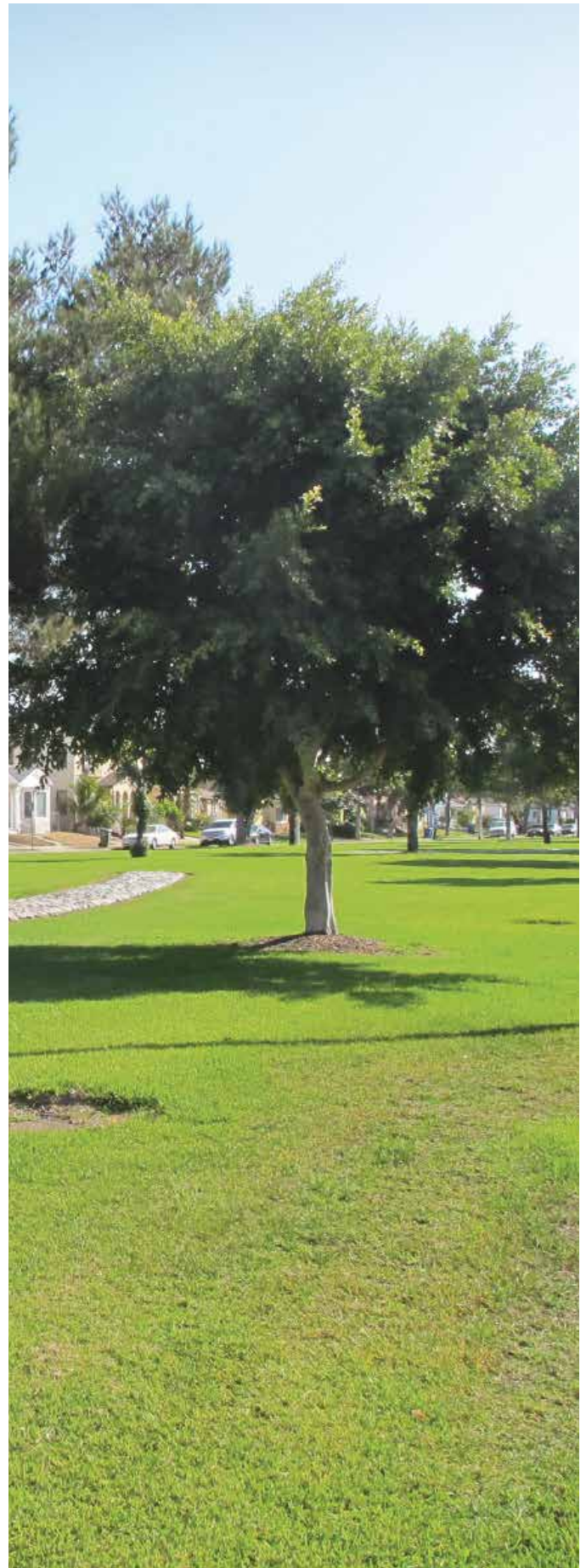
The 2013 inventory identified approximately 1,040 trees in East Los Angeles. East Los Angeles' trees are together referred to as the "Park Forest" in this section. This report summarizes the species composition, age composition, and estimated benefits provided by the forest in dollar value, as well as an overview of the general condition, necessary maintenance, and potential conflicts with existing infrastructure. The complete data set resulting from iTrees Streets analysis is provided in Appendix B. The number of trees per park and the related canopy coverage is provided in Figure 2.4. Canopy coverage per park was calculated using iTrees Streets rather than LIDAR data.

FOREST STRUCTURE

Studies suggest that a strong urban forest resource "possess a mix of species, sizes, and ages."⁷ This diversity ensures the longevity and resilience of the forest over time. Increasing tree species diversity reduces the risk that a single blight, disease, or pest can destroy the entire forest population, as many of these issues are species specific and spread more easily to related populations. Researchers additionally recommend using native trees wherever possible, as they are well-suited for the environment, have developed resilience to local pests, and provide habitat for native wildlife. Diversity in age and size ensures the long-term stability of an urban forest. As trees die and are replaced, there needs to be younger trees to offset the removal. Very young trees do not provide the same benefits as established trees, so simply replacing the tree will not achieve the same immediate effect. The Park Forest in East Los Angeles is described below with consideration to structural diversity.

6 A grant from the Statewide Prop 84 CAL FIRE Inventory Program was awarded to the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department in 2013 for the creation of a tree inventory, as well as an analysis of the trees' health, maintenance, and spatial needs, for the underserved areas within the community.

7 Clark, James R., Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross, and Victoria Wake. "A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability." *Journal of Arboriculture* 23(1): January 1997.



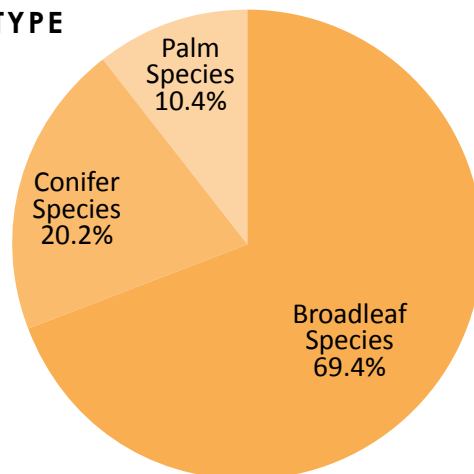
SPECIES COMPOSITION

Species composition affects the aesthetic character of a park and/or forest, as well as the benefits that the trees provides. For instance, palms and conifers (like pine trees) are generally tall and narrow and provide minimal shade. Broadleaf trees, like oak and sycamore, provide greater canopy coverage and shade, and therefore have greater measurable benefits. East Los Angeles' Park Forest is composed of 69.4 percent broadleaf species, 20.2 percent conifers, and 10.4 percent palm trees. Of the broadleaf species, 32.4 percent are deciduous and 37 percent are evergreen. Most of the forest (46 percent) is composed of large stature trees. Medium and small stature trees account for 22.7 percent and 31.3 percent of the forest, respectively.

Species diversity is also an important consideration to forest health, as diversity can buffer the impacts of pests and weather conditions. For this reason, it is widely recommended that no more than 10 percent of the forest be comprised of any one species (Clark Et al, 1997). East Los Angeles' Park Forest includes 91 unique species. The dominant species of the Park Forest include Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) (13.4 percent), Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) (7.4 percent), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) (6 percent), evergreen ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*) (4.8 percent), London planetree (*Platanus x acerfolia*) (4.6 percent), Brisbane box (*Tristaniaopsis conferta*) (3.8 percent), Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) (3.6 percent), Cajeput tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) (3.4 percent), and common crape-myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) (3.1 percent). While it is notable that Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) comprises more than 10 percent of the Park Forest, it is possible that if trees outside of parks were to be inventoried, the species diversity may be more balanced. However, the diversity within parks suggests that the County is maintaining a good balance of diversity in planting selection.

FIGURE 2.15 SPECIES COMPOSITION

TREE TYPE



DOMINANT SPECIES

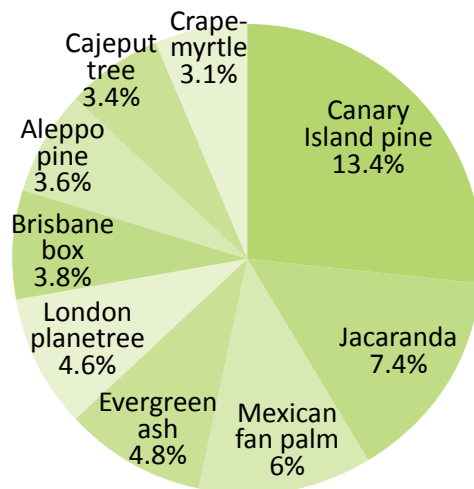


TABLE 2.4 OVERVIEW OF TREES PER PARK

	Total Trees	Total Park Acreage	Acres of Canopy Coverage	Tree Canopy Coverage (%)
Atlantic Avenue Park	21	1.96	0.12	6%
Belvedere Regional Park	303	30.74	4.27	14%
City Terrace Park	239	15.31	3.70	24%
Parque de los Sueños	86	1.61	0.74	46%
Obregon Park	175	10.94	3.22	29%
Salazar Park	154	7.92	1.42	18%
Saybrook Park	62	7.06	1.44	20%
TOTAL	1,040	75.54	14.91	Average: 23%

Inclusion of native species in the urban forest can be beneficial, as native species are well-suited to the local climate and provide valuable habitat. While native species are not always well-suited to the constraints of urban environments, such as small tree wells and clearance requirements along roadways, many species are highly suitable to park environments. It is notable that California native species within East Los Angeles’ Park Forest are limited to 39 individual trees, or 4.71 percent of the forest. These trees include 18 California sycamore trees (*Platanus racemosa*), ten white alder trees (*Alnus rhombifolia*), ten modesto ash trees (*Fraxinus velutina*), four Coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*), two Monterey pine trees (*Pinus radiata*), four California palm trees (*Washingtonia filifera*), and one Coast redwood tree (*Sequoia sempervirens*). While these species are native to California, not all of them are native to or appropriate for Los Angeles County.

The diversity within parks suggests that improving diversity, including the number of native species, should be a key consideration for additional plantings and/or replacement planting.

RELATIVE AGE DISTRIBUTION

Age distribution is an important consideration when assessing an urban forest since every tree has a limited life span and different considerations are necessary depending on the age of a tree. For instance, urban trees are often planted at the same time (such as during the construction of a new park or street) and will reach the end of their life span at the same time, making it challenging to preserve an area’s character while addressing safety issues and removing trees. It is beneficial to a forest’s health to have a varied age distribution.⁸ Studies suggest that the bulk of the tree population (approximately 40 percent) be composed of young trees in order to offset the loss of older and diseased trees.⁹

Given the difficulty of determining the age of each tree, diameter-at-breast-height (DBH), or 4.5 feet above ground level, is often used as an indicator of age distribution. East Los Angeles’ Park Forest has equal percentage of young and established trees. Approximately 40 percent of trees are relatively young, with DBH less than 12 inches; 40 percent are established trees with DBH of 12-24 inches; and 20 percent have DBH of over 24 inches.

CONDITION

The condition of a tree can help determine its health. In this analysis, each tree was evaluated as being dead, critical, poor, fair, or good, with consideration to both the structural condition (the woody components) and the functional conditions (the foliage). The Park Forest in East Los Angeles is relatively well

managed, with the majority of trees (99.8 percent) receiving a fair rating. There is only one tree receiving a dead rating and one tree receiving poor ratings. The dead tree is a Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) located at City Terrace Park. The tree in poor condition is a Desert Gum Eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus rudis*) located at Belvedere Regional Park.

MAINTENANCE NEED

As part of the tree inventory, maintenance needs were categorized for each tree based on CAL FIRE grant guidelines. Maintenance needs identified for East Los Angeles’ Park Forest are described below (Table 2.5).

TABLE 2.5 MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Needs	Description (Based on CAL FIRE Grant Guidelines)	Number of Trees
Priority 1 Removal	Trees that have defects that cannot be cost-effectively or practically treated, and pose hazards to people or property. These trees are the first to be removed.	16
Priority 2 Removal	Trees that should be removed but do not pose a liability as great as Priority 1.	5
Priority 3 Removal	Trees that should be removed but do not pose a liability as great as the Priority 2.	1
Priority 1 Prune	Trees that require priority 1 trimming to remove hazardous deadwood, hangers, or broken branches. Hazardous limbs or leaders are greater than 4 inches in diameter.	716
Priority 2 Prune	Trees that have dead, dying, diseased, or weakened branches between two and four inches in diameter and are potential safety hazards.	120
Training Prune	Young, large growing trees that require pruning to minimize future maintenance requirements.	181

8 Clark, James R., Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross, and Victoria Wake. “A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability.” *Journal of Arboriculture* 23(1): January 1997.

9 Richards NA. 1982/83. “Diversity and stability in a street tree population.” *Urban Ecology*. 7:159–171.

The identified maintenance needs indicate that two percent of the Park Forest's trees should be removed. In addition, 69 percent of the trees are identified as requiring Priority 1 prune, which indicates a high level of potential hazards need to be addressed and may indicate that maintenance has been deferred. Additional tree plantings will be an important consideration when addressing maintenance needs.

CONFLICTS WITH EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

Urban trees exist in close proximity to other features of the urban environment and can interfere with other systems. Common issues include sidewalk damage from tree roots and tree canopy interference with overhead utility lines.

The vast majority of East Los Angeles' Park Forest (95 percent) does not cause any sidewalk damage. This is primarily because many of the trees are planted on the interior of the park space and provide ample space for root growth. Although the overall Park Forest population does not pose a significant problem for sidewalks, certain tree species cause greater issues than others. Following is a list of problematic trees and the percentage of their total population where sidewalk damage was found:

- **Blue gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus globulus*):** 60 percent of species population
- **Cypress (*Cupressus spp.*):** 40 percent of species population
- **Chinese hackberry (*Celtis sinensis*):** 33.33 percent of species population
- **Rubiginosa ficus (*Ficus rubiginosa*):** 33.33 percent of species population
- **California coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*):** 25 percent of species population
- **Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*):** 25 percent of species population
- **Red gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*):** 25 percent of species population
- **Evergreen pear (*Pyrus kawakamii*):** 20 percent of species population
- **Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*):** 20 percent of species population
- **Chinese flame tree (*Koelreuteria bipinnata*):** 18.18 percent of species population
- **Green gem Indian laurel fig (*Ficus microcarpa 'Nitida'*):** 17.65 percent of species population

- **California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*):** 16.67 percent of species population
- **Evergreen ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*):** 14 percent of species population
- **Sugargum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*):** 11.76 percent of species population
- **Modesto ash (*Fraxinus velutina*):** 10 percent of species population
- **Afghan pine (*Pinus eldarica*):** 8.33 percent of species population
- **Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*):** 7.79 percent of species population
- **Kurrajong (*Brachychiton populneum*):** 7.14 percent of species population
- **Cajeput tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*):** 5.71 percent of species population
- **Fern pine (*Podocarpus gracilior*):** 5.26 percent of species population
- **California peppertree (*Schinus molle*):** 5 percent of species population
- **Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*):** 2.7 percent of species population
- **Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*):** 2.16 percent of species population

Similarly, the vast majority of East Los Angeles' Park Forest (96 percent) does not conflict with overhead utility lines. The only present or potential conflicts occur at Belvedere Regional Park (17 trees), Parque de los Sueños (17 trees), and Salazar Park (two trees)

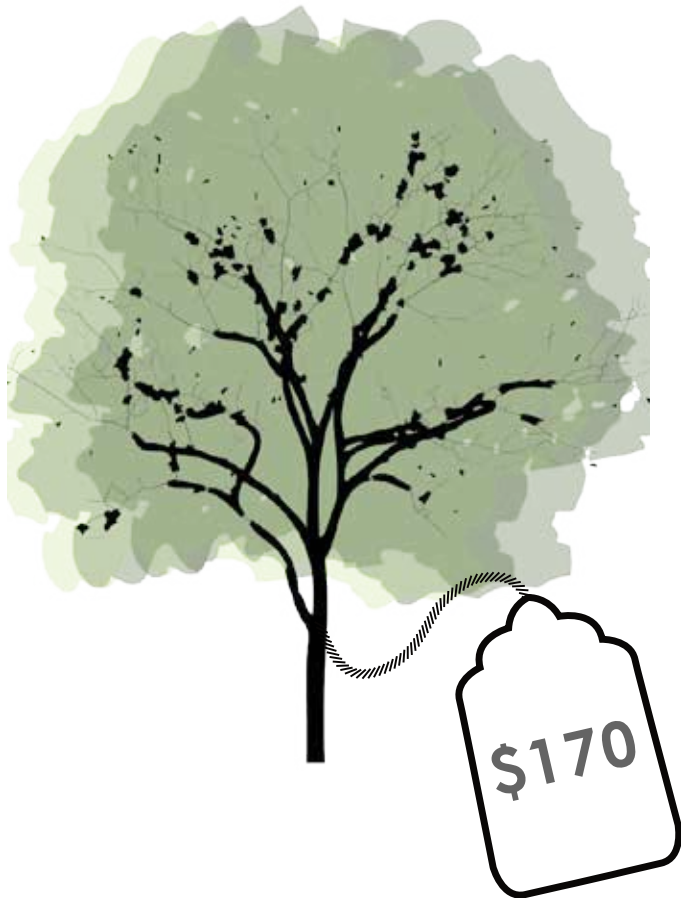
FOREST BENEFITS

The benefits of an urban forest can be measured both in environmental impacts and economic value. These benefits can be estimated and quantified based on tree size, type, and condition to provide a value for the urban forest. Following is a summary of both the environmental and economic benefits of East Los Angeles' Park Forest based on iTrees Streets analysis. As iTrees Streets was designed for analysis of street trees rather than park trees, the analysis assumes that trees are set along roadways and therefore the estimated benefits are likely somewhat overestimated for park trees. A full summary of the impacts of the individual tree species in East Los Angeles' Park Forest can be found in Appendix E.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Environmental benefits include the interception of stormwater runoff, improvement of air quality, and reduction of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Larger trees with more established canopies and roots tend to have greater benefits; however, as noted previously, it is important to maintain a young tree population by replacing dying or removed trees; thereby maintain continuous urban forest benefits. These benefits are summarized in Table 2.6.

*Average economic benefit of
one tree in East Los Angeles is
\$170 per year.*



ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Many of these environmental benefits also have economic value, although this value is difficult to quantify, since the services that trees provide are generally considered free. However, iTrees Streets can be used to quantify the economic value trees provide. Based on the analysis using this program, East Los Angeles' Park Forest currently has an estimated gross value of \$177,011, in the combined benefits related to energy savings, carbon dioxide sequestration, air quality, stormwater management, aesthetic, and other benefits.

- **Energy Savings.** Trees save energy by reducing the need to cool buildings. The value of energy savings is calculated by iTrees Streets based on assumptions for tree species regarding shading, canopy coverage, species size, and assumptions relating to regional climate and wind patterns.
- **Carbon Dioxide Reduction.** The value of reductions in carbon dioxide are calculated by iTrees Streets based upon costs associated with global warming. The amount of carbon dioxide sequestered depends upon tree size and species. Carbon dioxide released and generated by tree maintenance (use of chain saws, etc.) and by decomposition of trees are also considered by iTrees Streets.
- **Stormwater Runoff Reduction.** The implied value of stormwater reduction considers the amount of stormwater captured and the general cost of urban stormwater management.
- **Aesthetic and Other Benefits.** The fiscal value of beautification, shade, habitat, privacy, comfort, and great urban spaces is difficult to quantify. iTrees Streets estimates the fiscal value of these benefits based upon estimated property values. Research shows that buyers are willing to pay more for houses and properties with trees, and therefore trees increase property value.

Considering these benefits as a whole, the average annual economic benefit of a tree within East Los Angeles' Park Forest is \$170. As previously stated, estimates are based on benefits provided by street trees and therefore may be lower for park trees. These benefits are summarized Table 2.7.

TABLE 2.6 SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NET ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Park Name	Stormwater (Gallons of Stormwater Intercepted)	Air Quality (Pounds of Reduced Air Pollutants)*	Carbon Dioxide (Pounds of CO2 Sequestered per Year)
Atlantic Avenue Park	14,829	15	1,293
Belvedere Regional Park	519,751	470	45,320
City Terrace Park	471,833	425	36,602
Parque de los Sueños	61,062	79	5,467
Obregon Park	306,116	340	44,065
Salazar Park	134,906	153	11,500
Saybrook Park	215,116	161	8,719
TOTAL	1,723,612	1,643	152,967

* Air Quality pounds includes deposition of ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter (PM10) and sulfur dioxide (SO2) and avoidance of NO2, PM10, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and SO2, but does not take into account potential Biogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (BVOCs) emissions.

TABLE 2.7 SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NET ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Park Name	Energy	Stormwater	Air Quality*	Carbon Dioxide	Aesthetics	Total
Atlantic Avenue Park	\$173	\$82	\$43	\$6	\$1,335	\$1,639
Belvedere Regional Park	\$5,903	\$2,859	\$1,003	\$206	\$42,616	\$52,587
City Terrace Park	\$5,184	\$2,595	\$366	\$170	\$30,603	\$38,918
Parque de los Sueños	\$1,058	\$336	\$223	\$28	\$11,543	\$13,188
Obregon Park	\$4,283	\$1,684	\$871	\$186	\$31,998	\$39,022
Salazar Park	\$1,916	\$742	\$394	\$55	\$14,425	\$17,532
Saybrook Park	\$1,909	\$1,183	\$144	\$47	\$10,842	\$14,125
TOTAL	\$20,426	\$9,481	\$3,044	\$698	\$143,362	\$177,011

* Air quality includes deposition of ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter (PM-10) and avoidance of NO2, PM10, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and sulfur dioxide (SO2), as well as Biogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (BVOCs) emissions.



SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Existing community facilities and infrastructure, as well as community indicators, were mapped and evaluated in order to gain a better understanding of East Los Angeles' physical environment and to examine social factors such as a crime, safety, and public health.

This analysis provides insight on the issues and conditions relative to existing parks. In addition, it will inform the site evaluation and eventual selection for potential new parks and recreational projects.

This analysis includes six components:

- Park Access
- Population Density
- Vacant Lands
- Transit and Transportation
- Crime
- Health

PARK ACCESS

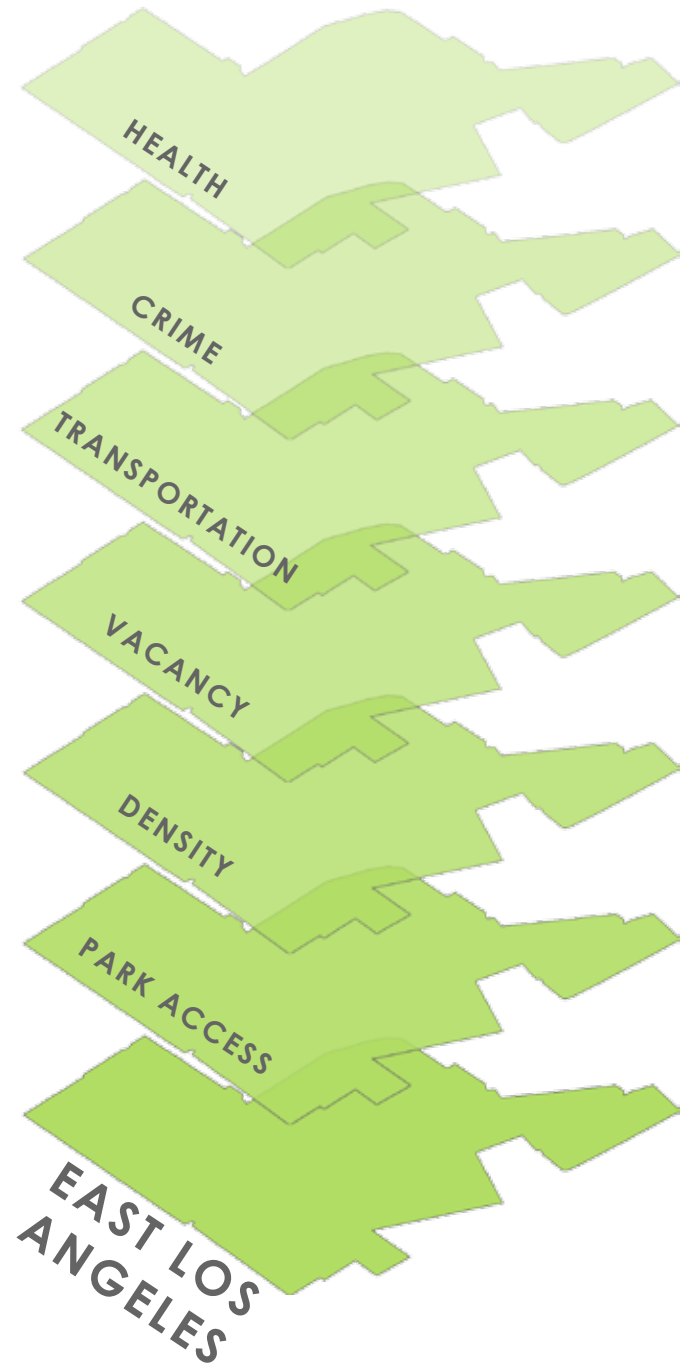
Traditionally, DPR considers a local park to be accessible to residents within half mile of the park. A half-mile radius is considered the distance a typical resident can walk to within ten minutes. Larger regional parks typically draw from a larger area, up to 25 miles away; however, park users may drive or use public transit to visit these facilities. These access boundaries for parks in and around East Los Angeles are shown in Figure 2.16.

Additional analysis, described below, suggests that park usage might be limited by the existing street network and pedestrian access conditions. For this study area, the half mile distance threshold was combined with street data and common pedestrian routes to determine if residents have walkable access to a park.

PARKLAND GAP AND WALKABILITY

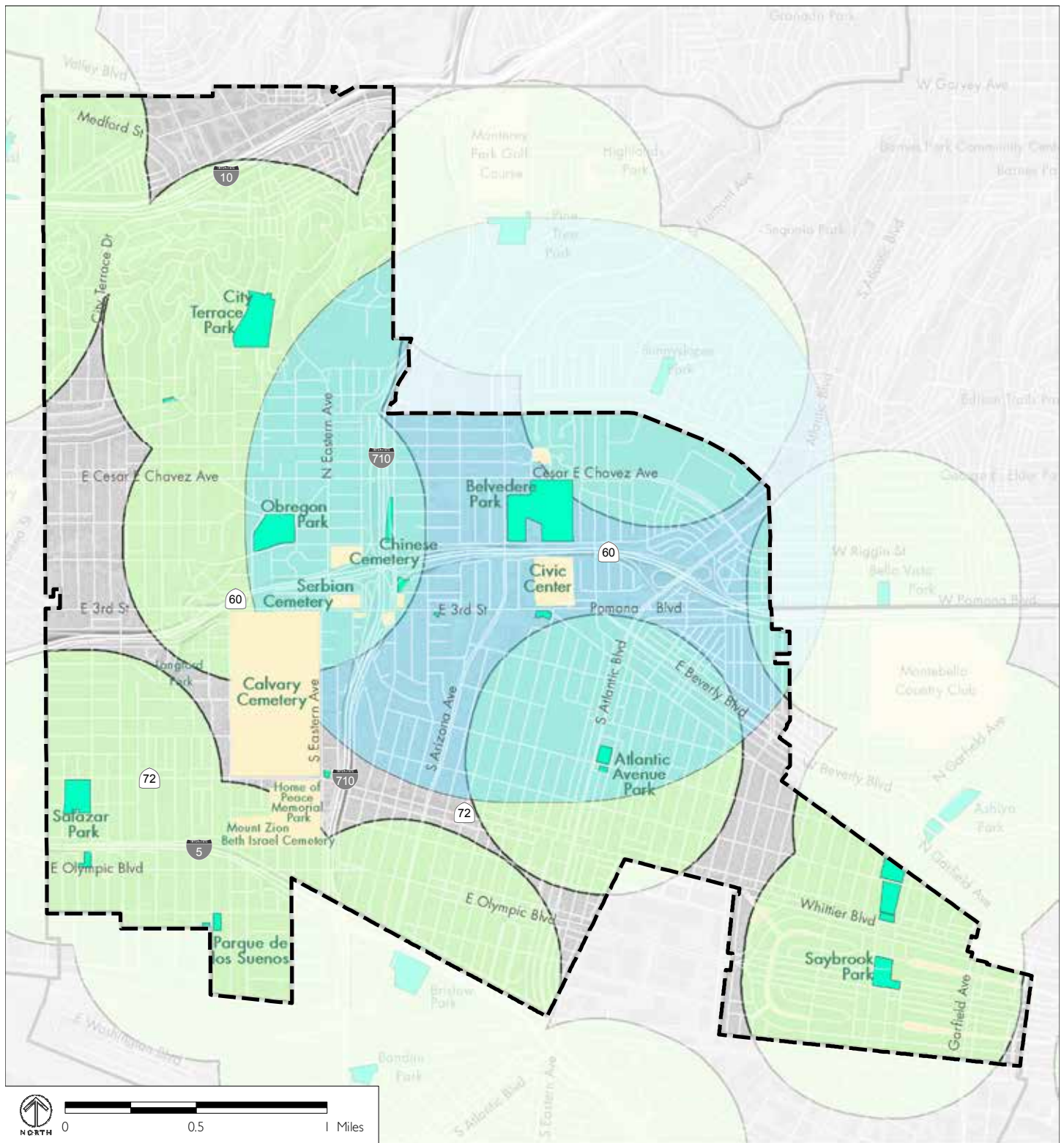
The parkland gap/walkability analysis was done using the Network Analyst tool in ArcGIS, as well as field visits, to identify areas with and without walkable access to parks. All parks within the community boundary were used in the analysis; along with parks up to a half mile outside the community boundary. Fieldwork was used to identify pedestrian access points to the parks, as well as additional barriers and connections affecting walkability. Residential and non-residential areas were differentiated using the Los Angeles County Assessor's parcel land use information.

As shown in the Figure 2.17, more than half of East Los Angeles' residents (56.1 percent) should be able to reach parks by foot. Areas below the I-60, around the 710 Freeway, and Whittier Boulevard, where cemeteries are concentrated, is where parks are located farther than 10 minute walking distance (about a half mile). Residents are known to use the pedestrian walkway around Calvary Cemetery as a walking/jogging path, but this is

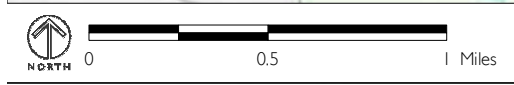


Spatial analysis includes a series of maps that provide a geographic assessment at the community scale. Together they help to create a comprehensive picture of neighborhood conditions, including opportunities and constraints, as well as the need for new parkland development.

FIGURE 2.16 SERVICE AREAS - LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARKS



EXISTING CONDITIONS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2013.

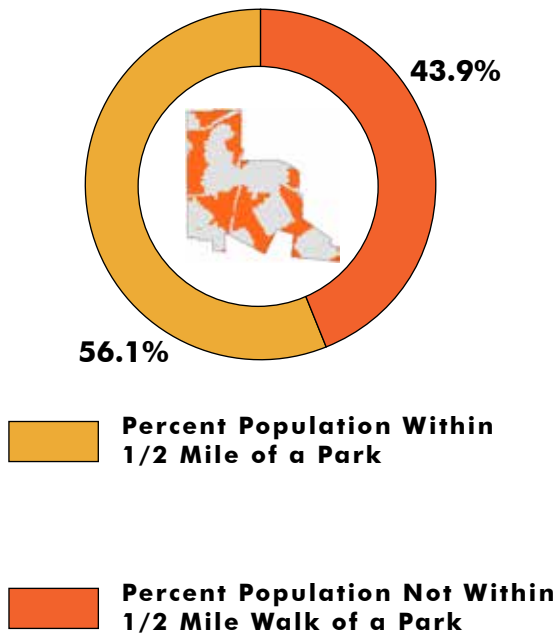
Park Access

- Area Not Within 1 Mile of a Regional Park
- 1 Mile Service Radius from Regional Parks
- 1/2 Mile Service Radius from Local Parks

Parklands

- Park Included in Analysis (includes parks within 1/2 mile of Community boundary)
- Other Green Space (historical parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.)

FIGURE 2.17 PERCENT POPULATION NEAR A PARK



not factored into the analysis. Another area lacking parkland is between the 10 Freeway and I-60, west of City Terrace and Obregon Parks. Also, a small area between Atlantic Avenue Park and Saybrook Park lacks walkable park access.

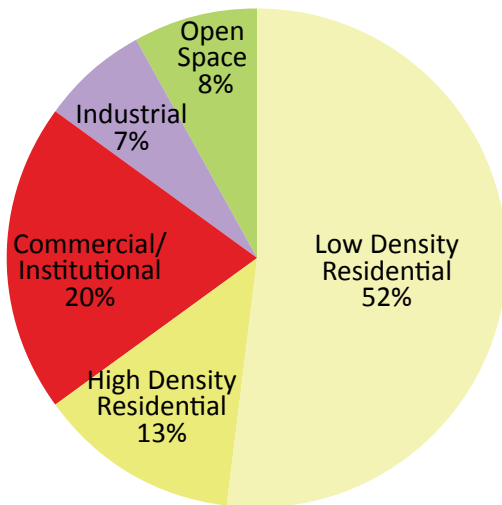
There are a few parks outside of the community that are accessible to East Los Angeles residents. The most notable of these is Bristow Park in the City of Commerce. In theory, this park serves approximately 3,500 East Los Angeles residents, who can gain access to this park via the pedestrian overpass at the foot of South Arizona Avenue. Henry Alvarez Memorial Park (Boyle Heights), Bella Vista Park, Ashiya Park (Montebello), and Sunnyslopes Park also serve East Los Angeles residents to some extent.

POPULATION DENSITY

East Los Angeles’ 126,496 residents are spread throughout the community. Figure 2.20 shows the population density patterns within the community, with the highly-populated western areas bordering Boyle Heights and the less dense residential neighborhoods bordering Montebello to the southeast. Some of the lighter pockets of low density are school campuses, including East Los Angeles Community College.

Parks and recreation facilities are public amenities and intended to be used by people, so facilities within close proximity to dense areas can provide service to large numbers of people. However, park development within these areas is especially challenging due to limited land availability and close proximity of neighboring properties. Over half of East Los Angeles (52 percent) is low-density residential, in the form of “one-to-two story” single-family homes. However, housing units are close together, which results in a low-height but laterally dense pattern of development across the neighborhood.

FIGURE 2.18 LAND USE TYPES



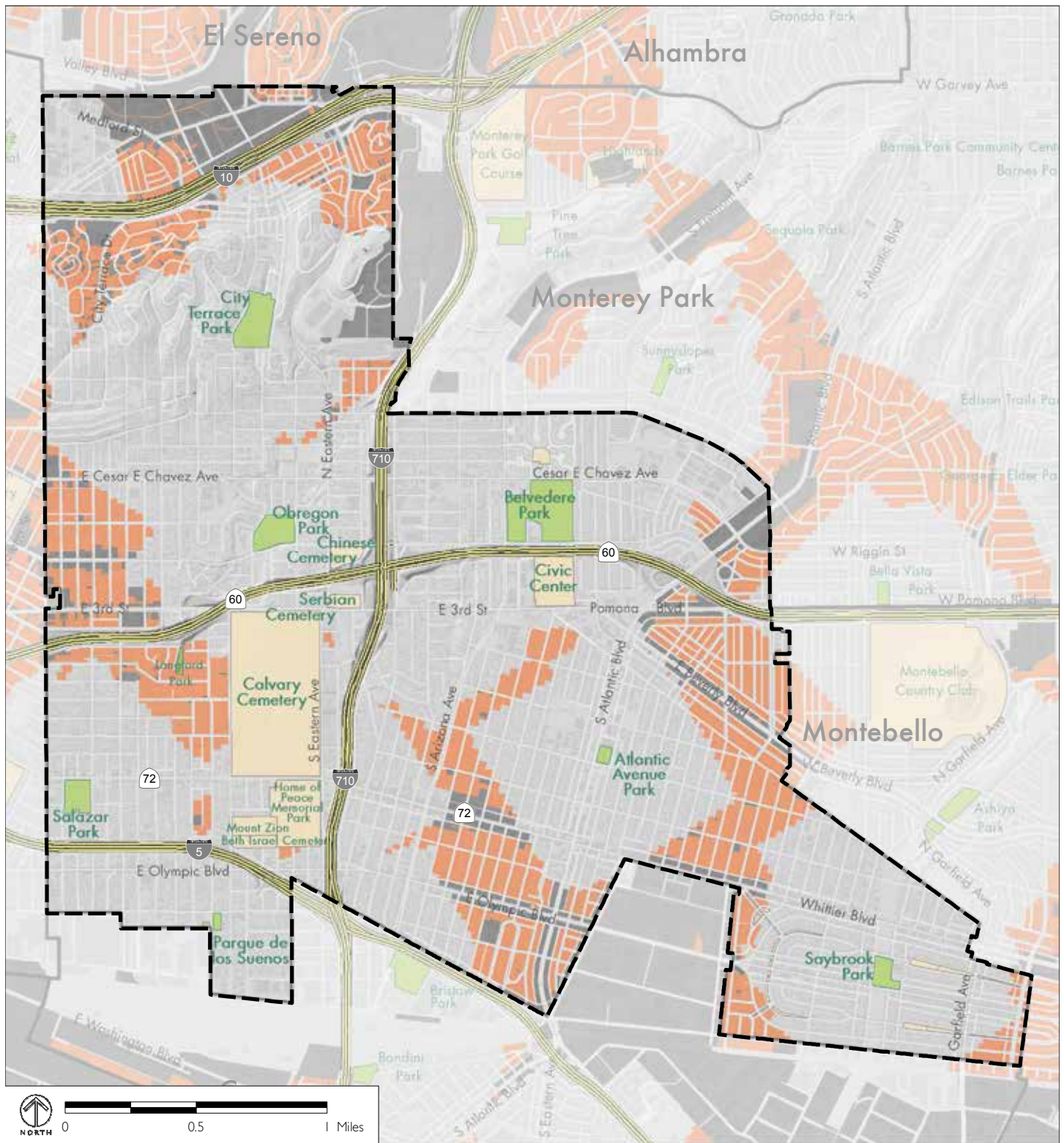
LAND USE

East Los Angeles is predominately residential; however, there are commercial corridors that connect East Los Angeles to other communities, including Whittier Boulevard, Third Street, Cesar Chavez Avenue, and Atlantic Boulevard. The commercial areas directly around Civic Center and the segment of Whittier Boulevard between Atlantic Boulevard and the 710 Freeway have walkable commercial businesses and an active pedestrian presence. However, outside of these areas, the commercial areas are more targeted towards vehicular access.

TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION

Figure 2.22 shows the existing transportation network, as well as the concentration of pedestrian and bicycle collisions in East Los Angeles between 2002 and 2010. Pedestrian and bicycle collisions are any collisions involving either pedestrians or bicyclists. The figure uses a gradient overlay to show areas with a high concentration of collisions, using a distance of 500 feet as the threshold for combining collisions into clusters. This summary provides a description of the most problematic areas and considers these areas as they relate to existing parks and open space in East Los Angeles.

FIGURE 2.19 PARKLAND GAPS/WALKABILITY



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

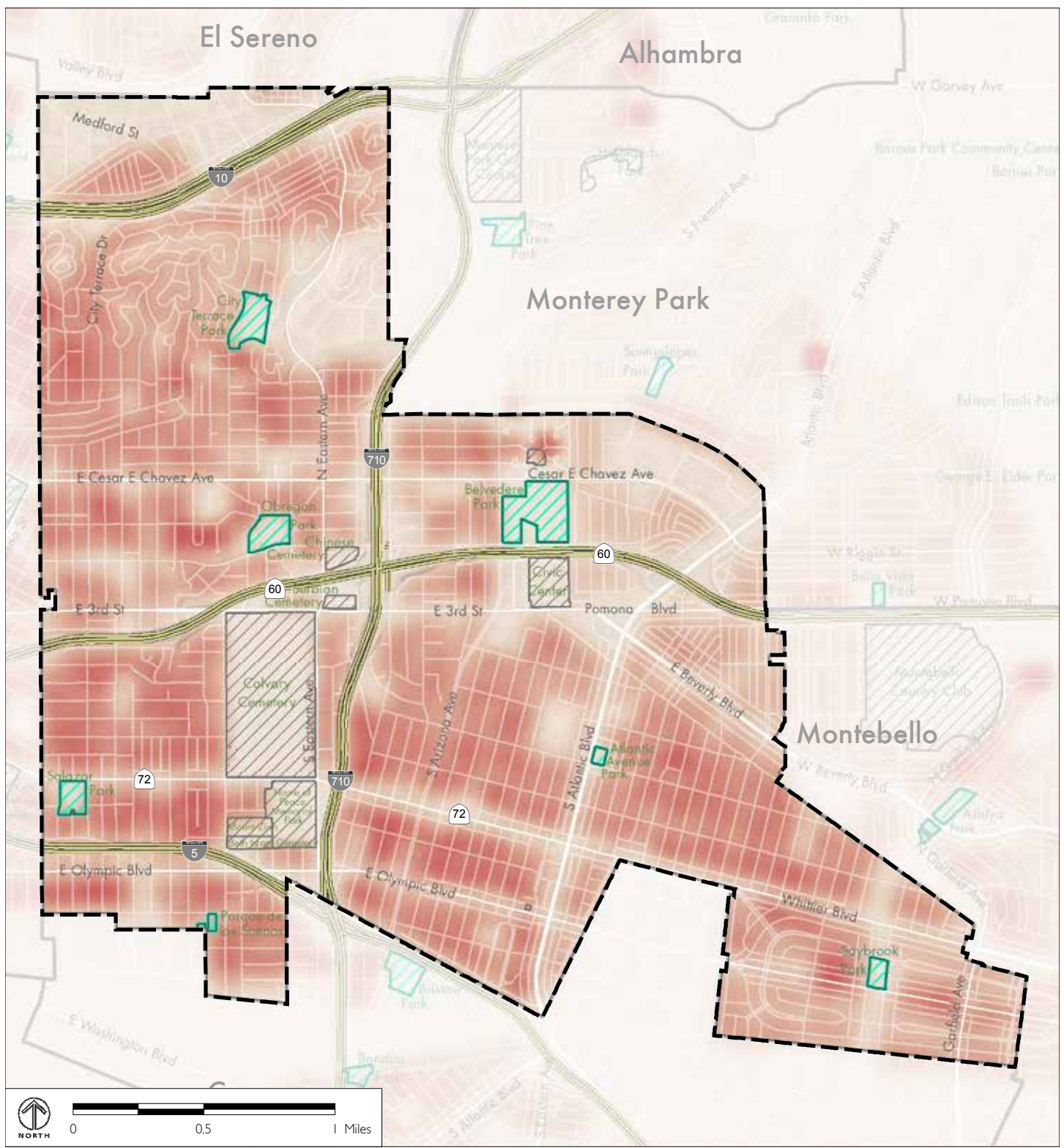
Park Access

- Residential Area Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park
- Non-Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park
- Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park

Parklands

- Park Included in Analysis
- Other Green Space

FIGURE 2.20 POPULATION DENSITY

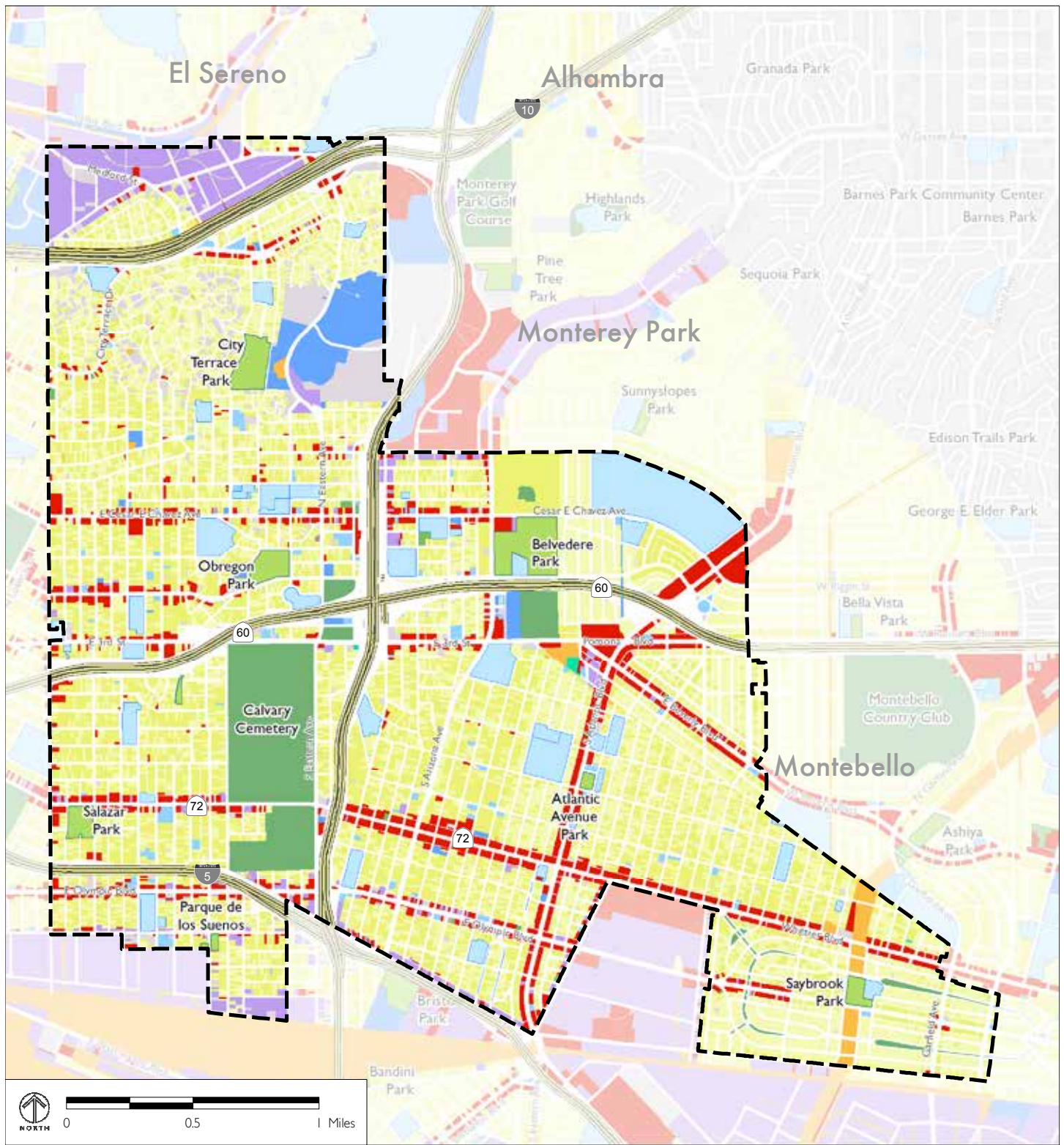


Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; United States Census Bureau, 2010; Los Angeles County Assessor, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.

Population Density (Persons per half square mile)
█ High
█ Low

Parklands
 Park Included in Analysis (includes parks within 1/2 mile of Community boundary)
 Other Green Space (historical parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.)

FIGURE 2.21 LAND USE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Assessor 2012; PlaceWorks, 2015.

East Los Angeles	Residential Single Family	Commercial	Miscellaneous
Green Space and Schools	Residential Multi Family	Industrial	Recreational
County Park	Residential Manufactured Homes	Institutional	Agriculture
Other Green Space	Residential Rooming/Boarding House	Government Owned	Vacant Land
Schools			

FIGURE 2.22 PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE COLLISIONS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

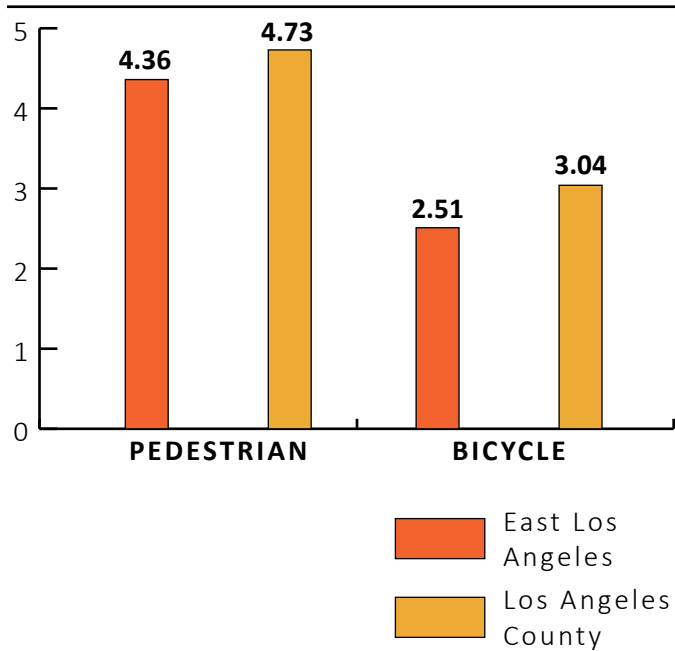


TABLE 2.8 PROBLEMATIC AREAS

Location ^A	Number of Collisions ^B
Atlantic Boulevard & Hubbard Street	60
Williamson Avenue & Hubbard Street	37
S Indiana Street & Sikiyou Street	36
Whittier Boulevard, between S Gage and S Herbert Avenues	31
Eastman Avenue, between Michigan Avenue and E 1st Street	30
Whittier Boulevard & McBride Avenue	29
Cesar E Chavez Avenue & Eastman Avenue	28

^AThe Location column describes the closest intersection near problematic areas

^BThe number indicates concentration collision locations within 500 feet from one another

PUBLIC TRANSIT OVERVIEW

The Metro Light Rail Service Gold Line runs through East Los Angeles, along with 13 Metro bus lines, including local, limited, and rapid services. Currently, East Los Angeles has only two bikeways: City Terrace Boulevard, near the northwestern corner of the community; and Gerhart Avenue, near the eastern border of the community. However, Los Angeles County is planning to install 28 more bikeways to meet demand and connect with other public transit networks.¹⁰

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Compared to Los Angeles County as a whole, East Los Angeles is less safe for pedestrians (5.94 collisions per 1,000 residents in East Los Angeles and 4.73 in Los Angeles County), but similar in the number of bike collisions (2.91 collisions per 1,000 residents in East Los Angeles and 3.04 in Los Angeles County). Pedestrian safety facilities should be considered in the community to alleviate pedestrian collisions in East Los Angeles.

Looking at the concentration of pedestrian and bicycle collisions between 2002 and 2010, most collisions are concentrated along Whittier Boulevard. The most problematic areas are shown on Table 2.8.

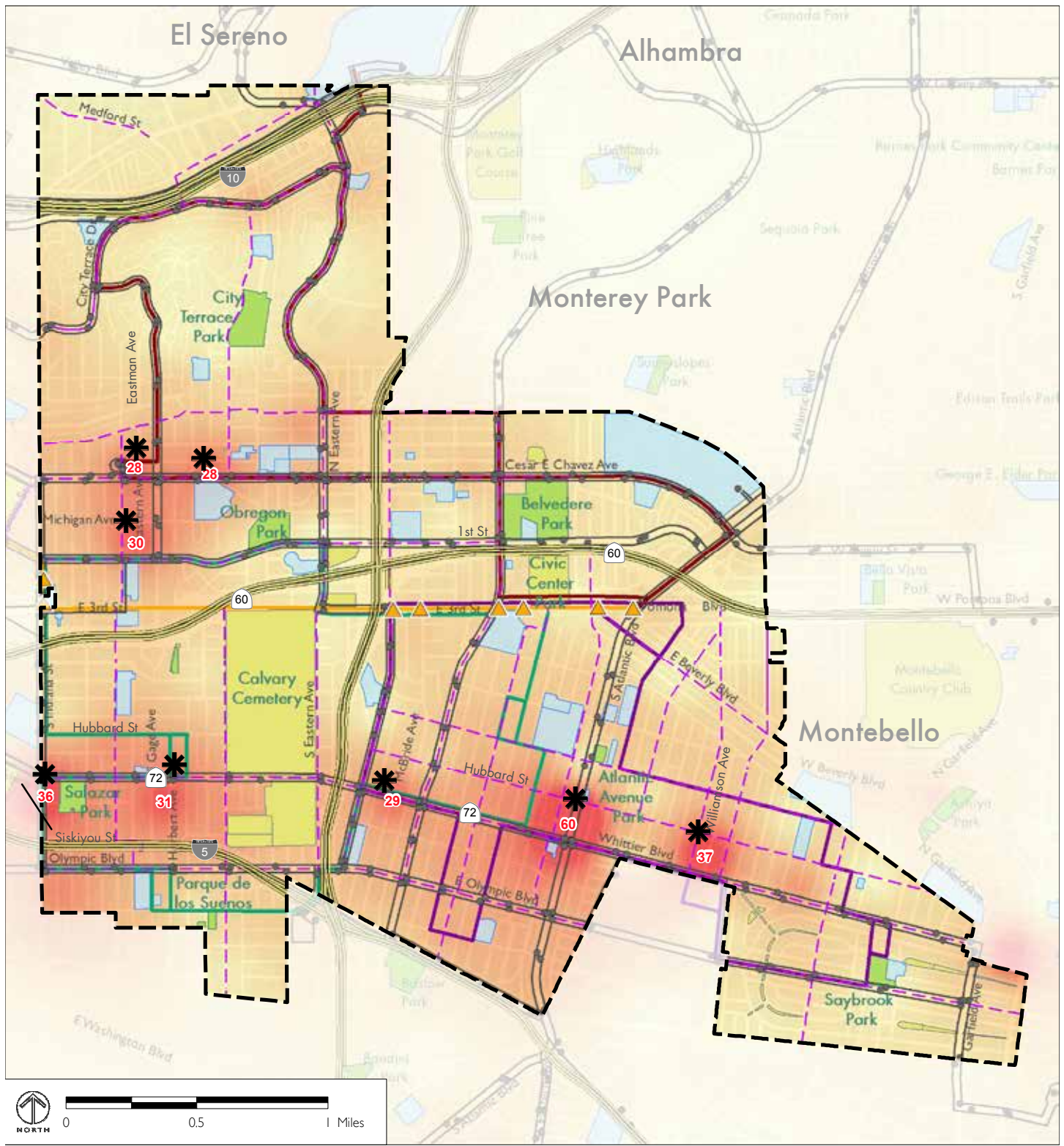
Accident hot spots are generally not located near parks in East Los Angeles, with the exception of Salazar and Atlantic Avenue Parks, which are located on Whittier and Atlantic Boulevards. A high number of collisions are concentrated near the intersection of these two major streets, Whittier and Atlantic Boulevards. There are numerous existing or planned transit networks to the south of East 3rd Street than to the north, as well as a higher number of collisions. Interestingly, this area also has few parks and recreational facilities.

CRIME AND SAFETY

This section summarizes the results from the crime analysis for East Los Angeles. For this study area, crime data analyzed spans from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. The analysis

¹⁰ Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan. Alta Planning + Design. County of Los Angeles, March 2012.

FIGURE 2.23 TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY, AND CONNECTIVITY



EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), 2002-2010; PlaceWorks, 2015.
- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Green Space | Public Transit Network | Bicycle Network | Pedestrian and Bicycle Collisions (2002-2010) |
| County Park | Metro Rail Gold Line Station | Existing Bike Route | High Concentration (67) |
| Other Green Space | Metro Rail Gold Line | Proposed Bike Route | Low Concentration (1) |
| School | Bus Stop | | Problematic Area |
| | Bus Route | | 37 Concentration of Collisions within 500 feet |
| | El Sol City Terrace ELAC | | |
| | El Sol Union Pacific Salazar Park | | |
| | El Sol Whittier Blvd Saybrook Park | | |

methodology used to identify high-and low-intensity crime locations is described below. The crime analysis was done using Esri’s Hot Spot Analysis Tool in ArcGIS to identify areas of crime concentration. This tool analyzed both the spatial clustering and intensity of each crime location. Each crime category was weighted differently in order to give greater importance to more violent crimes. Any crime that was viewed as being a major concern to public safety received a higher intensity ranking, from 300 to 600. Non-violent offenses were ranked from 0 to 200. Table 2.9 lists crime intensity ranking categories.

As shown in Figure 2.24, there are numerous crime hot spots throughout the community. Belvedere Park has a high concentration of crime along its northwestern border. This crime hot spot is centered around the intersection of East Chavez and South Arizona Avenues. Salazar Park also has a fairly high concentration of crime along its northern border. This concentration spreads linearly along Whittier Boulevard. Salazar Park also appears to have a higher level of gang activity than other parks throughout the community.

SAFETY RESOURCES

Law enforcement in East Los Angeles is provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, which is based in the East Los Angeles Station, centrally located in the East Los Angeles Civic Center. The East Los Angeles Sheriff’s Station, in addition to its regular duties, offers a seasonal civilian academy course to local stakeholders, with the goal of familiarizing them with law enforcement procedures. The local captain with the Sheriff’s Department regularly attends East Los Angeles meetings with well-established community groups, such as the Maravilla Advisory Council.

Law enforcement within park facilities is overseen by the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department’s Parks Bureau. Although existing resources do not allow Parks Bureau deputies to be present at all parks at all times, law enforcement provides local park employees with guidelines that allow them to be the “eyes and ears” of law enforcement. However, many East Los Angeles park users have grown accustomed to seeing Sheriff’s Department patrol vehicles stationed at County parks.

Although the East Los Angeles Station employs a variety of programs throughout the community, from neighborhood watch groups to safe streets initiatives, by far the most visible from park users’ standpoint is the Youth Activities League (YAL), an after-school program which often uses park facilities. In many cases, YALs, which operate free of charge to the community, are staples of a County park’s recreational programming.

Outside of uniformed law enforcement, the Parks After Dark (PAD) program also has a strong impact on park safety. Conceived as a violence-prevention strategy and modeled on Los Angeles’ Summer Night Lights program, PAD works to combine recreational and entertainment programming with public resources through festivals organized at parks in

TABLE 2.9 CRIME CATEGORY INTENSITY RATIO*

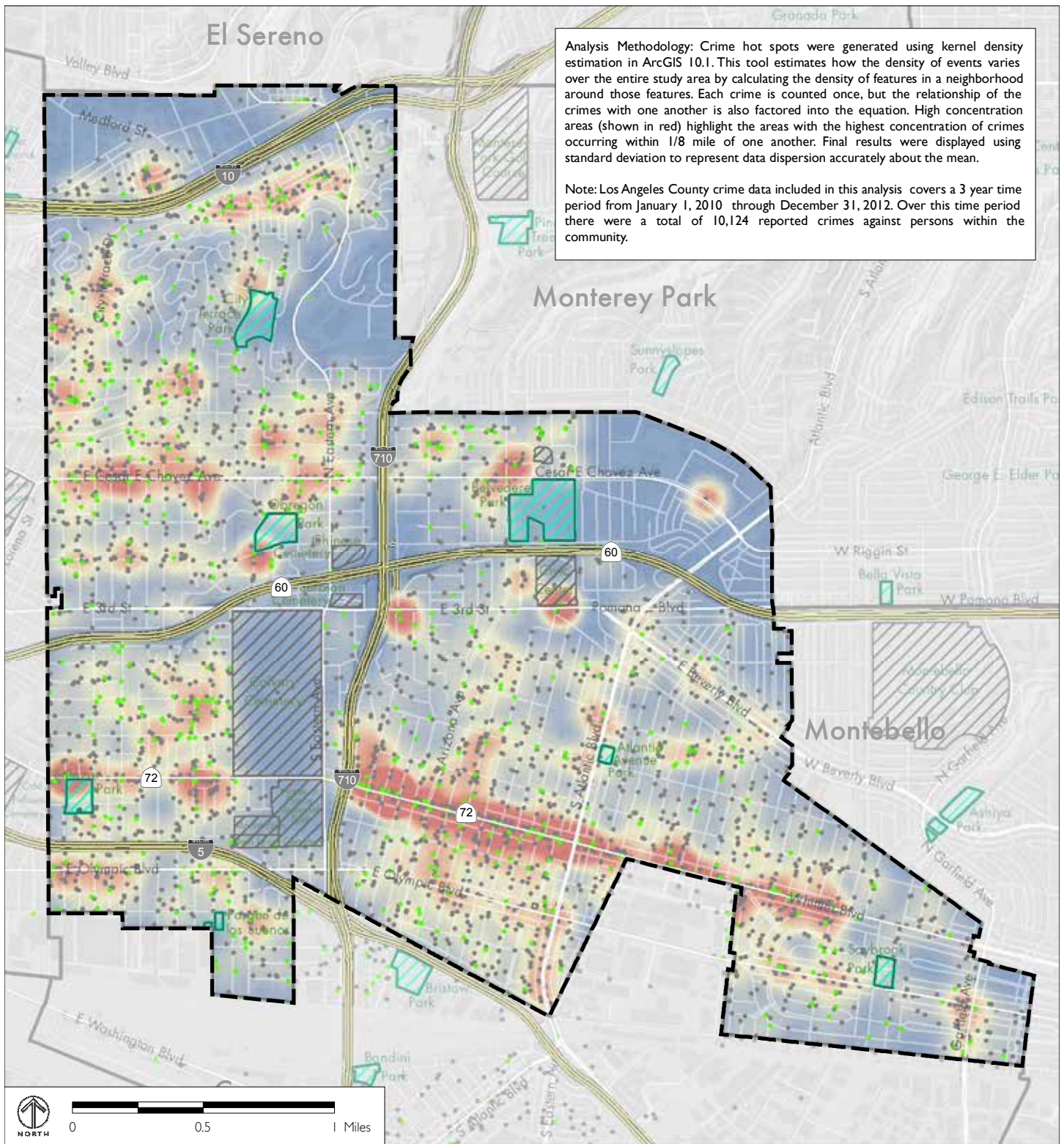
Intensity	Crime Categories
0	Accidents miscellaneous, accidents traffic/veh./boat, commitments, miscellaneous non-criminal, persons dead, suicide and attempt
100	Disorderly conduct, federal offenses w/o money, federal offenses with money, forgery, fraud and nsf checks, fraud and nsf checks, gambling, juvenile non-criminal, liquor laws, mentally ill, misdemeanors miscellaneous, offenses against family, persons missing, receiving stolen property, vagrancy, vandalism, vehicle / boating laws, warrants
200	Drunk / alcohol / drugs, narcotics, weapon laws
300	Burglary, drunk driving vehicle / boat, felonies miscellaneous, larceny theft, non-aggravated assaults, sex offenses misdemeanors
400	Grand theft auto, robbery
500	Arson, aggravated assault, forcible rape, sex offenses felonies,
600	Criminal homicide

*Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, 2012. Crimes were categorized and given an intensity ranking in order to give more weight to violent offenses.

high-crime neighborhoods, such as East Los Angeles, during the summer months. Communities like the East Los Angeles neighborhood of City Terrace, which hosts PAD festivities every summer, have seen a 32 percent decrease in violent crime.

PAD, along with other regularly-scheduled park programming, contributes to overall park safety by implementing a high-use, low-crime model. By attracting more park users and encouraging positive use of the park, programming not only adds more incidental supervision to a park but also builds a sense of community ownership that can prevent violence and vandalism.

FIGURE 2.24 CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS



Analysis Methodology: Crime hot spots were generated using kernel density estimation in ArcGIS 10.1. This tool estimates how the density of events varies over the entire study area by calculating the density of features in a neighborhood around those features. Each crime is counted once, but the relationship of the crimes with one another is also factored into the equation. High concentration areas (shown in red) highlight the areas with the highest concentration of crimes occurring within 1/8 mile of one another. Final results were displayed using standard deviation to represent data dispersion accurately about the mean.

Note: Los Angeles County crime data included in this analysis covers a 3 year time period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012. Over this time period there were a total of 10,124 reported crimes against persons within the community.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, 2010, 2011, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>Concentration of Crimes Against Persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Low | <p>Crimes Against Persons*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gang-related • Not Gang-related | <p>Parklands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Included in Analysis (includes parks within 1/2 mile of Community boundary) Other Green Space (historical parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.) |
|--|--|---|

*Crimes Against Persons includes the following crime categories; criminal homicides, forcible rape, both aggravated and non-aggravated assaults, sex offenses, and robberies.

AIR QUALITY

One of the community's most distinguishing features, the crisscross of multiple freeways, affects air quality at many local parks. According to one study, many of the air pollutants created by traffic are either "known or suspected" causes of "adverse health effects."¹¹ Only Saybrook, Atlantic, and City Terrace Parks are located at over 500 feet from a freeway.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) recommends that a minimum 500-foot buffer be maintained between freeways and new parks with active outdoor recreational facilities. Best practice mitigation measures are required for any new parks with active outdoor facilities if located within 1,500 feet of freeways.

In accordance with DPH's recommendations, 500-foot and 1,500-foot buffers from freeways were created added to analyze potential new park sites. These buffers are displayed in Figure 2.25.

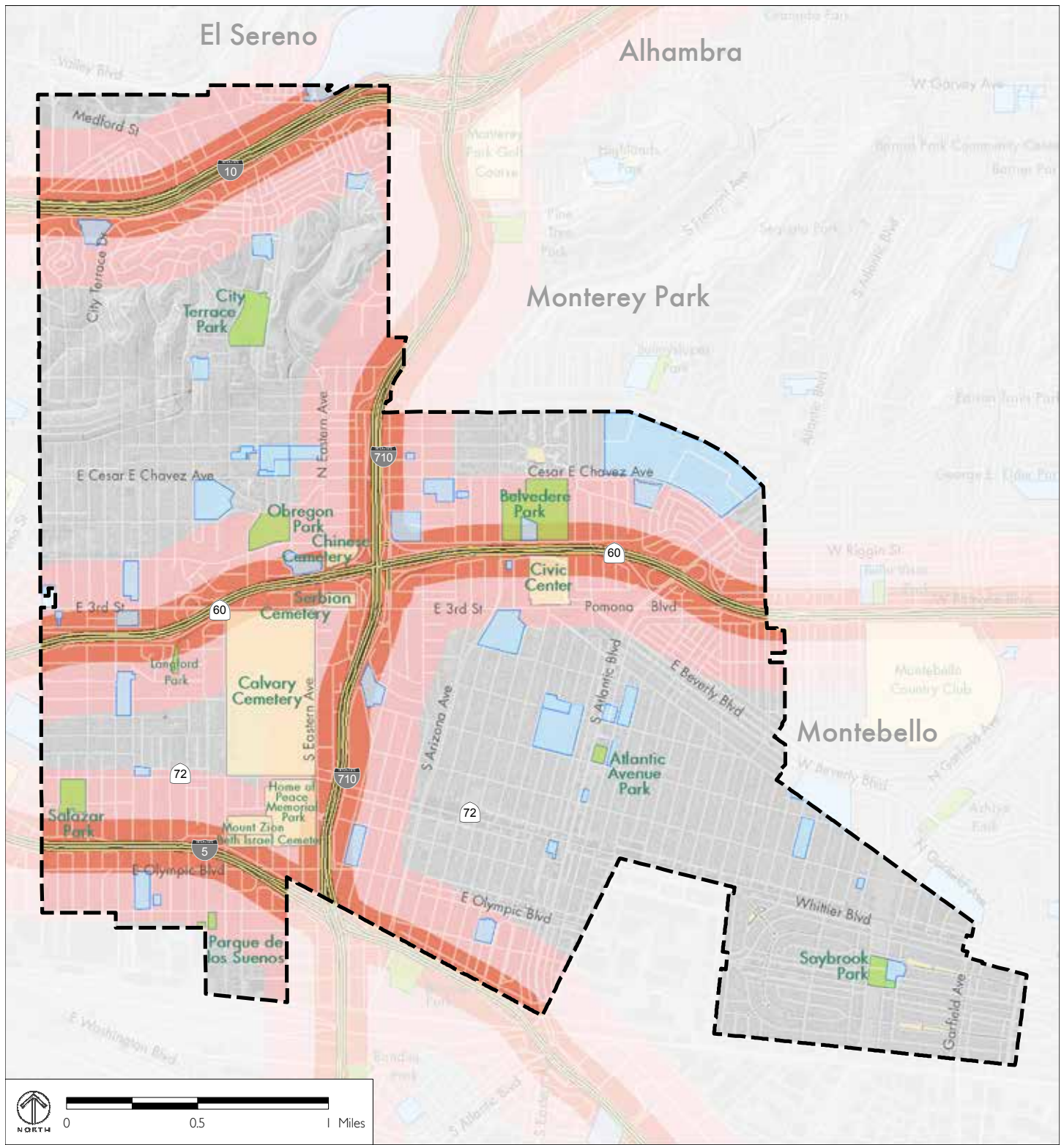
11 Boehmer, Tegan K., et al. "Residential Proximity to Major Highways." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. 22 November 2013. Web. <<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/su6203a8.htm>>.

Parks and recreational facilities provide great benefits to community residents including increased levels of physical activity, improved mental health, and opportunities to strengthen social ties with neighbors. However, siting parks and active recreational facilities near freeways may increase public exposure to harmful pollutants, particularly while exercising. Studies show that heavy exercise near sources of traffic pollution may have adverse health effects. However, there are also substantial health benefits associated with exercise. Therefore, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health recommends the following cautionary approach when siting parks and active recreational facilities near freeways:

- *New parks with athletic fields, courts, and other outdoor facilities designed for moderate to vigorous physical activity, should be sited at least 500 feet from a freeway. Consideration should be given to extending this minimum buffer zone based on site-specific conditions given the fact that unhealthy traffic emissions are often present at greater distances. Exceptions to this recommended practice should be made only upon a finding by the decision-making body that the benefits of such development outweigh the public health risks.*
- *New parks built within 1,500 feet of freeways should adhere to best-practice mitigation measures that minimize exposure to air pollution. These include the placement of athletic fields, courts, and other active outdoor facilities as far as possible from the air pollution source.*

- Air Quality Recommendations for Local Jurisdictions from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

FIGURE 2.25 AIR QUALITY



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | |
|---|---|
| Parklands and School | Air Quality Buffers |
| ■ County Park | ■ 500 feet from Freeways |
| ■ Other Green Space | ■ 1,500 feet from Freeways |
| ■ School | |

EXISTING CONDITIONS

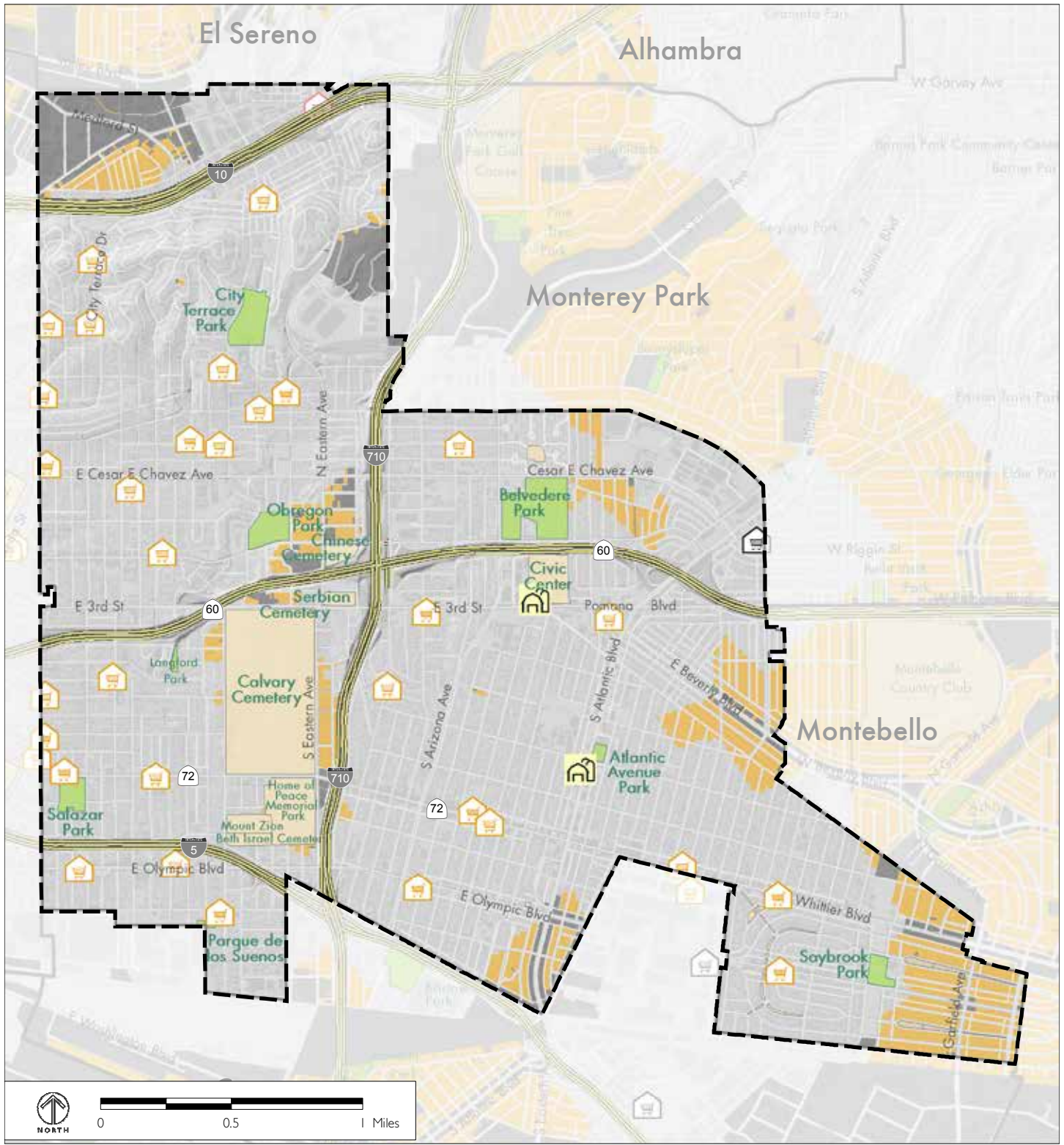
FOOD ACCESS

For this study area, a distance threshold of a half mile (10-minute walk) was used to determine if residents have walkable access to a food outlet selling fresh fruits, meats, and vegetables.

The healthy food access analysis was done using Esri's Network Analyst tool in ArcGIS to identify areas with and without walkable access to healthy food. Any food outlet selling fresh fruits, meats, and/or vegetables was categorized as healthy. This analysis only includes neighborhood markets, full-service grocery stores, and specialty/farmers markets inside the community and within one-half mile of its boundary. No restaurants were included in this analysis.

The map identifies walkable and non-walkable areas within a half mile to/from each food outlet. Residential and non-residential areas were differentiated using existing parcel-based land use information from the Los Angeles County Assessor. The results of this analysis is shown in Figure 2.26.





FIGURE 2.26 FOOD ACCESS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Esri, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- Supermarkets**
-  Farmers Market
 -  Neighborhood Market
 -  Full Service Grocery Store
 -  Specialty Market

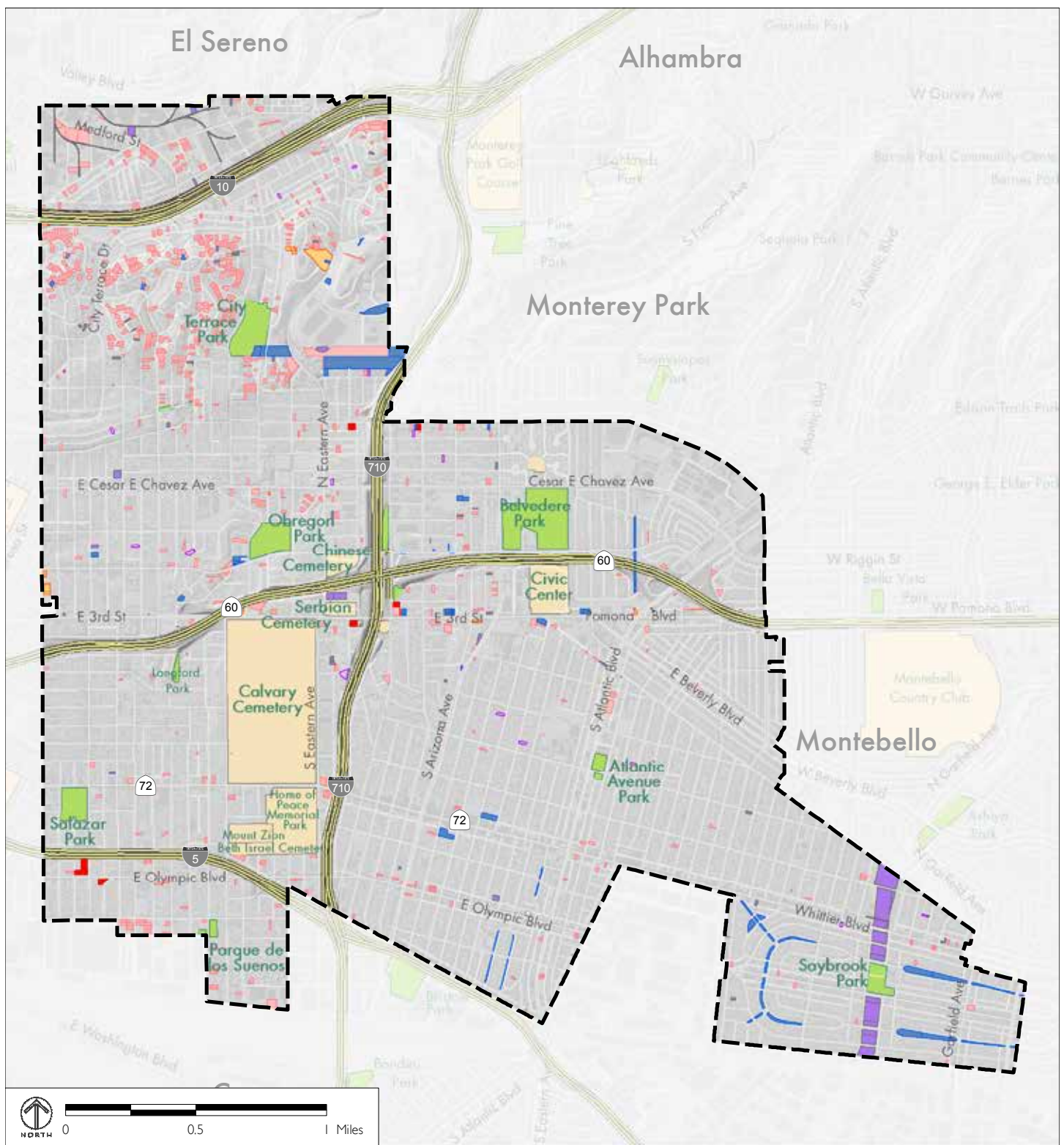
- Healthy Food Access**
-  Non-Residential Areas Not Within 1/2 Mile of a Grocery Store/Produce Market
 -  Residential Areas Not Within 1/2 Mile of a Grocery Store/Produce Market
- Parklands**
-  County Park
 -  Other Green Space

VACANT LAND

A vacant land analysis was used to preliminarily identify opportunity sites for new parks in East Los Angeles. Vacant land was identified using three different sources: Los Angeles County Assessor's vacant land data according to its use code; property lots with no improvement value; and input from community members, when provided. Once identified as vacant, the parcels were verified using aerial images to ensure that they were indeed vacant. Parcels were then categorized into vacant lands owned by Los Angeles County and by other public agencies. Additionally, tax-default properties were included in the analysis as they may serve as additional opportunities for parkland development. Figure 2.27 shows the location of vacant land in East Los Angeles.

Not all vacant land is equally valuable for use as parks. Many vacant parcels or buildings or tax default properties are located in unsuitable areas, such as mid-block locations or areas with site restrictions.

FIGURE 2.27 VACANT LANDS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Source: Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, 2013; Neighborhood Land Trust, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| Parklands | Vacant Land | Other Potential Sites |
| ■ County Park | ■ LA County Assessor's Data | ■ Tax Defaulted Properties |
| ■ Other Green Space | ■ County-Owned | |
| | ■ Other Publicly-Owned | |
| | ■ Identified by Community | |



3 - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

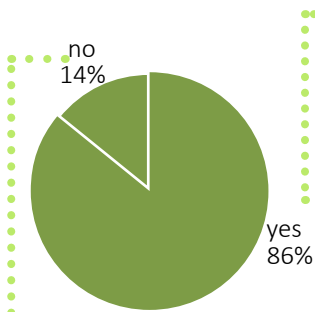
The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) led outreach efforts to gather information on resident preferences in green space development. The community outreach strategy was developed based on the project goals, as well as an understanding of the issues in the community. These efforts took place between May 2013 and March 2014, and included surveys, focus groups, stakeholder interviews, a community workshop, a youth activity, and a community tour. Key findings on desired park facilities, amenities, and programs are provided below. The events and results are described in more depth in the outreach summaries in Appendix C. Due to the variety of outreach events, responses varied from recommendations for specific projects, to more general requests for increased green space.

SURVEYS (MAY TO OCTOBER 2013)

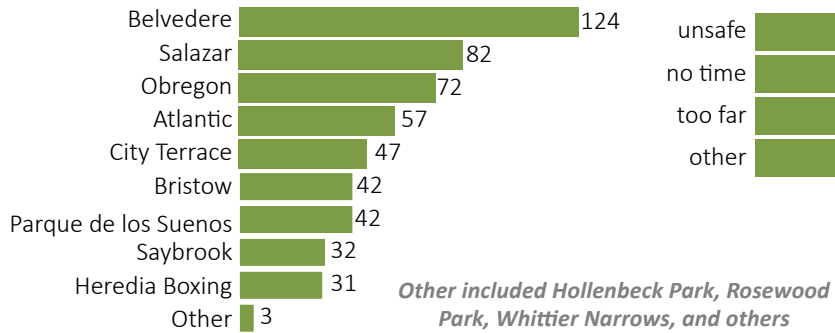
Two hundred (200) questionnaires were distributed while tabling at various community events, including but not limited to the East Los Angeles Farmers' Market, Bienvenidos Health Expo, and the local Boys & Girls Club. Results suggested that most park visitors are traveling only a short distance to parks within their community. Although safety was an issue

that prevented some residents from visiting parks in East Los Angeles, most respondents replied that they feel safe at County parks. The results show playground use and sports as the predominant activities in East Los Angeles parks. Youth sports programs are very popular and respondents would like to see these programs expanded. Respondents would also like new bike facilities, additional exercise equipment, and garden spaces.

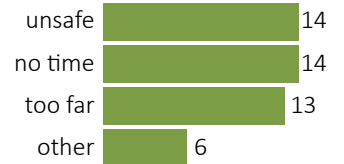
DO YOU GO TO PARKS OR OTHER GREEN/OPEN SPACE?



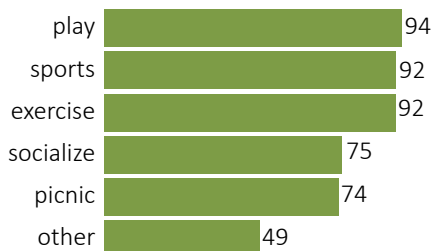
IF YES, WHICH PARKS DO YOU VISIT?



IF NO, WHY DON'T YOU VISIT?

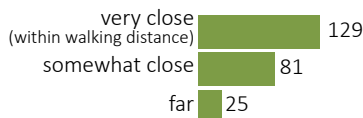


WHAT DO YOU DO THERE?

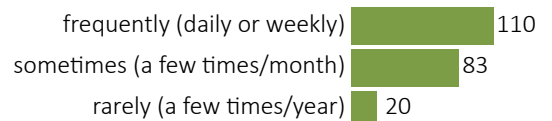


Other included walking, spending time with family, and farmers' market

HOW NEAR OR FAR IS THE CLOSEST PARK TO YOU?



HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO?

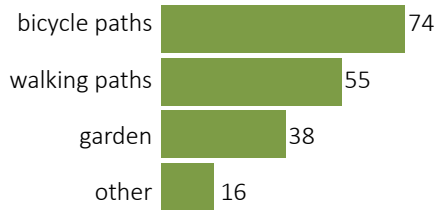


respondents could select more than one answer

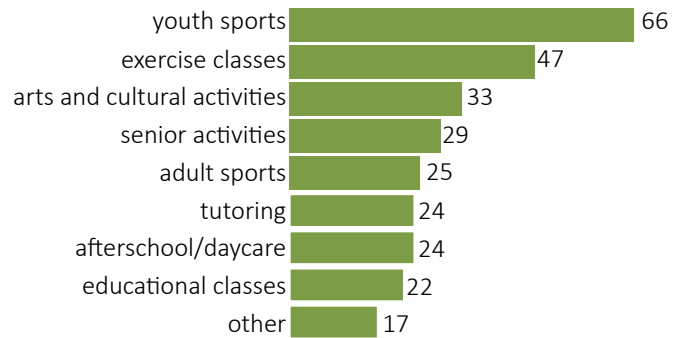
TABLE 3.1 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM SURVEY RESULTS

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN YOUR COMMUNITY?			
Program		Facility/Amenity	
Youth sports	91	Bike path	93
Exercise classes	61	Exercise facilities	90
Adult sports	59	Community gardens	86
Arts/cultural activities	56	Walking path	64
Senior activities	50	Other	20
Educational classes	49		
Afterschool daycare	42		
Tutoring/homework assistance	40		
Other			

DO YOU USE RECREATIONAL SPACES, OTHER THAN PARKS? IF SO, WHAT KIND?

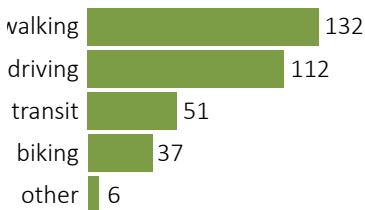


WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN?



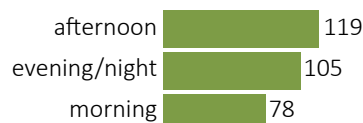
respondents could select up to two answers

HOW DO YOU GET THERE?

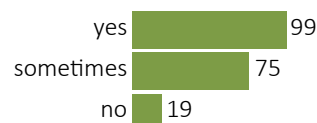


Other included running, skateboard, and scooter

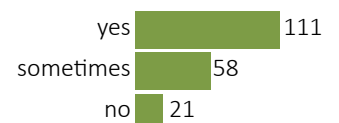
WHAT TIME OF DAY DO YOU USUALLY VISIT?



DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN PARKS?



DO YOU FEEL SAFE GOING TO PARKS?



respondents could select more than one answer

FOCUS GROUPS (MAY TO JUNE 2013)

In East Los Angeles, three (3) focus groups were held with key representatives from local schools, community-based organizations, and Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide insight on concerns and priorities within the constituencies identified as key parks and recreation users.

The participants identified a range of issues with regard to parks and green space in their community. Throughout the focus groups, the participants identified **health, crime, and the local park culture** as key community issues. Specific examples of programs/activities, events, and facilities/amenities/elements that the focus group identified are listed in Table 3.2.

The focus groups also brainstormed varying ideas on how partnerships between parks, organizations, community institutions, and the County could improve green projects and park plans in East Los Angeles. Participants suggested that partnerships should be formed with:

- **BUSINESSES.** To promote local growth and safer public spaces.
- **RESIDENTS.** To take interest in local parks.
- **SCHOOLS.** To open grounds to the public.
- **CHURCHES.** To establish connections with active population groups.
- **COMMUNITY GROUPS.** To support each other, share resources, and create strong networks that meet community needs.

Participants in Focus Groups

Youth/Schools

- Belvedere Middle School
- East Los Angeles Renaissance Academy
- Hilda Solis Academy
- Fourth Street Elementary
- Humphrey’s Elementary

Community

- Cleaner Greener, East Los Angeles
- Cali-Mex Tax and Business Services
- La C.A.U.S.A. YouthBuild
- Alma Family Services
- City Terrace Strikeouts
- Maravilla Community Advisory Committee

Parks & Recreation

- East Side Boxing Club
- Belvedere Park
- City Terrace Park

TABLE 3.2 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED BY FOCUS GROUPS

Programs/Activities	Facilities/Amenities/Elements
Programs for all ages	Provide inclusive and inviting green space
Exercise classes (not just Zumba)	Build community gardens at schools
Art classes	Design self-Sustaining projects
Picnics	Create outdoor gathering space (plazas or parklets)
Local job opportunities, especially for youth/teens	Construct new parks
	Improve existing facilities
	Add landscaping along sidewalks
	Increase lighting
	Plant large shade trees and street trees
	Create large banners to promote park events
	Build small parks in residential neighborhoods
	Connect neighborhoods with walking paths
	Introduce natural features to enhance biodiversity

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS (MAY 2013)

Eight (8) stakeholder interviews with leaders from local organizations were conducted in May 2013.

- Pan American Bank
- Bienvenidos
- East Los Angeles Women’s Center
- East Los Angeles Residents Association
- Sheriff’s Youth Foundation
- City Terrace Coordinating Council
- The Boys & Girls Club of East Los Angeles
- East Los Angeles Community Corporation

Stakeholders suggested numerous strategies for increasing recreational opportunities in the community, from better outreach for current programs, to collaborating with local organizations to provide new services. As the community struggles with both budgetary and public health concerns, the stakeholders expressed that they are ready and eager to collaborate with local park staff to offer services that would improve East Los Angeles. Specific examples of programs/activities, events, and facilities/amenities/elements identified in the stakeholder interviews are listed in Table 3.3.

Key Issues

- Service gaps were identified in terms of programming for youth and seniors
- The cost of attending existing programs was identified as a key obstacle for greater park accessibility
- There is an overall lack of green space.

Key Observations

- Local parks are overcrowded. Parks struggle to keep up with space demands.
- The cost of programming is one of the most important factors in determining use.
- There is still not enough programming for the large population of youth in East Los Angeles.
- Programming is one of the most successful services provided by County Parks, including summer camps, social services, and more.
- County Parks need to be better connected with the local community and engage in active outreach for their programs.
- County Parks enjoy a track record of success as event spaces.
- The popularity of Zumba classes and East LA’s weekly farmer’s market are signs that the community is working to become healthier.
- Local parks were described as an increasingly safe resource that is open to both residents and local organizations. Park safety is a product of park infrastructure and supervision.
- There needs to be a clear indication of management.

TABLE 3.3 NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Programs/Activities	Facilities/Amenities/Elements
More programming for seniors	More turf fields
More youth programming	More parking
Summer camps	More exercise equipment
Social services	Multi-purpose improvements on facilities
	More green space
Events	
Use parks as event spaces	

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP (JUNE 22, 2013)

A community workshop was held at Belvedere Park, where residents participated in activities that recorded their views on green space, indicated preferences for facilities and programs, and identified areas within the community where they would like to see new green space. In addition, residents pointed out where they currently go for recreation and areas that they consider dangerous or difficult to access.

During the workshop, facilitators took notes of community feedback regarding park and recreation needs. The workshop began with a large group presentation, after which residents participated in small group exercises and discussion. Within the small groups, facilitators started discussion by asking people for their vision of a “greener” East Los Angeles. The feedback ranged from precise projects and facilities, including public infrastructure improvements, such as sidewalk repairs, improved walking amenities, and increased landscaping; to broad concepts such as safety and park management. Programs/activities, facilities/amenities/elements, and management/operations identified at the community workshops are listed in Table 3.4.



TABLE 3.4 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM WORKSHOP

Programs/Activities	Facilities/Amenities/Elements
Youth sports, like skating and cycling	Seating areas
Activities for seniors	More walking paths and gardens, especially along sidewalks
Beautification programs	More trash cans
Fitness classes	Better accessibility for cyclists at local skate parks
Day camps	Greenery at Gold Line Station (particularly Civic Center)
Toddler programs	More communal spaces (e.g., plaza along Cesar Chavez)
Management/Operations	Expansion of both Obregon and Saybrook Parks
Greater supervision	Landscaping along major freeways
Security cameras, especially in bathrooms and by bike racks	Greater internal visibility; fewer hidden places within parks
Overall beautification and regular park maintenance	Trail around the Sheriff’s station on Eastern side of City Terrace Park
Better maintenance, especially at Belvedere tennis courts	Walking/running track around Calvary Cemetery
Stronger police presence and stronger restrictions on loitering	A dog park and/or dog-friendly parks

Dot-Voting Preference Exercise

Using images of typical parks and recreation facilities and programs, workshop participants identified the types of activities they currently do in East Los Angeles and voted on the types of amenities that they would like to see more of in East Los Angeles parks. Participants were given two stickers to vote with and asked to choose their highest priorities.

Current Activities:

- Exercise (15)
- Take kids to playground (9)
- Play organized sports (5)
- Picnic (5)
- Socialize (5)
- Watch wildlife (5)
- Swim (4)

What you want to see:

- Bicycling (15)
- Natural areas or features (12)
- Lighting and security (12)
- Walking paths (11)
- Play fields (4)
- Public art (4)
- Exercise facility (1)



- Flat areas for children with disabilities to play
- More community gardens
- More bike lanes
- More shade trees at exercise equipment and pools
- More ramps and sidewalks for disabled residents
- BMX-friendly facilities
- Rock climbing and skate parks
- Educational, directional, and informational signage
- More exercise equipment
- Greater interconnectivity among local parks
- Replacement of parking spaces with parklets
- More lighting
- Drought-resistant, seasonal landscaping

Community Mapping Exercise

The mapping exercise offered participants a chance to map their current sources of green space, current obstacles and accessibility issues, and where they would like to see future green development.

Using a map of East Los Angeles, workshop participants identified places where they currently recreate (both inside and outside of Los Angeles County Parks), areas they felt were dangerous or difficult to travel, and spaces where they would like to see new open space or recreation amenities. Residents indicated that County Parks are major providers of green space; Calvary Cemetery is a major site for exercise; infrastructure problems are major obstacles; and that vacant lots are important sites for future projects.



What parks or green spaces do you use?



First and foremost, participants identified County Parks — most notably Belvedere, Obregon, and Salazar — as green spaces in the community that they use. However, participants also pointed to other spaces and how they used them, such as the East LA Civic Center (for gathering), the sidewalk surrounding Calvary Cemetery (for walking and running), and the thoroughfare along Whittier Boulevard (for cycling).

Where is it hard to walk?



Participants identified a combination of security and infrastructure concerns as major obstacles to park use. They expressed an interest in greater police presence and more supervision for children at parks, such as Belvedere and City Terrace, as well as stronger restrictions on both loitering at Saybrook and the consumption of alcohol at soccer events. Two sidewalks were repeatedly identified as problematic: a stretch of 1st Street between Gleason and Woods Avenues, and the sidewalk surrounding Calvary Cemetery, which was described as being too narrow.

In addition to concerns, participants expressed a perception that park facilities were currently underutilized, with residents requesting more programming and events.

Where do you want new green space?



Certain recurring project ideas received wide support throughout the discussion groups. A walking/running track around Calvary Cemetery continues to be one of the most popular ideas in the community. Residents enthusiastically supported making East Los Angeles greener by planting trees along freeways, such as the 10 and the 60, and in vacant lots bordering freeway on- and off-ramps. Bike lanes also enjoyed wide support.

Discussion groups expressed an interest in more youth services at City Terrace Park and more events at the Civic Center.

Participants identified many vacant lots throughout the community. These are identified below according to the nearest intersection:

- Second Street and Floral Drive
- Ford Boulevard and Floral Drive
- McDonnell Avenue and Floral Drive
- Humphreys Avenue and Floral Drive
- Downey Road and Third Street
- Mednick Avenue and Cesar Chavez Avenue
- Arizona Avenue and Olympic Boulevard

YOUTH EVENTS

BIKE ACTIVITY

(JULY 26, 2013)

The youth activity involved students from a local youth organization participating in a workshop and bike tour to identify vacant lots for use as new open space. A team of six local students spent a Friday morning in a workshop on green space inequalities and community-based research before heading out on bikes to explore, catalog, and photograph the vacant lots. Through their research, the project team identified eight previously unidentified vacant lots, photographing them for inclusion on a map of such spaces in East Los Angeles. The eight vacant lots are at the following locations:

- Arizona Avenue and Olympic Avenue
- Olympic Avenue and Ditman Avenue
- 1255 S. Ditman Ave.
- Olympic Avenue and Townsend Avenue
- Eastern Avenue and Triggs Street
- Olympic Avenue and Downey Road
- Humphreys Avenue and Third Street
- Ford Boulevard and Eagle Street

COMMUNITY TOUR

(OCTOBER 16, 2013)

East Los Angeles Renaissance Academy (ELARA), an urban planning and design-centered high school, partnered with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust to lead forty-five high school seniors on an exploration of green and public spaces in Los Angeles. Students were led on guided tours of nine iconic sites, listed below, where the designers and architects involved in the projects spoke about their history and design elements.

- Grand Park
- Maguire Gardens
- Spring Street Park
- Pershing Square
- Japanese Village Plaza
- Unidad Park
- Vista Hermosa Park
- Natural History Museum Gardens

The tour also informed student feedback on park safety at a Healthy Eating Active Living focus group and prepared them to participate at the Community Design Workshop. ELARA students will use what they learned to inspire their own work to redesign parts of ELARA's campus.



SAFETY

Concurrently, with the planning process for the East Los Angeles Community Parks and Recreation Plan, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health worked with LANLT to conduct a study of safety in public spaces in the community.

RESEARCH CHRONOLOGY & METHODOLOGY

Three main partners contributed to the research process: a Technical Advisory Committee, the Community Steering Committee, and LANLT, which served as the main facilitator.

LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD LAND TRUST (LANLT)

Beginning in 2013, LANLT devised a Safety Assessment Framework, a collection of research tools designed to document a comprehensive picture of all community perspectives on park safety. These tools included:

- 200 community surveys
- Three focus groups with youth, seniors, and adults
- Interviews with local leaders, law enforcement, and County employees
- Workshops open to the entire community

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

To help guide and orient this safety research, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of policy experts, community voices, County agencies, law enforcement, and political representatives was formed to provide feedback on the Safety Assessment Framework and other areas of research and documentation.

COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE (CSC)

The East Los Angeles Community Steering Committee (CSC), formed in early 2014, consisted of parents, local activists, small-business owners, and park leaders. Members of the East Los Angeles CSC represented decades of experience, community knowledge, and activism.

The CSC's main task was to develop its own research project, centering on a survey that individually rated park users' perception of their parks. Despite the fact that all parks in East Los Angeles are operated by the same public agency, local differences stemming from community history, available programming, and even park design have resulted in a range of park experiences. With no two parks seemingly alike, the East Los Angeles CSC set out to find best safety practices that might be replicated across all East Agency parks. The CSC used many research tools for its own investigation, including:

- Over 600 distributed surveys
- Over 12 small, CSC-led meetings at local parks
- A student-led video project,
- A Community Safety Forum at Belvedere Park, with over 50 local participants

COMMUNITY SAFETY PROFILE

GENERAL FINDINGS

The vast majority of East Los Angeles park users feel safe at their local parks. Crime has fallen over 7 percent from 2013 to 2014, and over 14 percent in the past five years, according to data provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. When asked if their local parks offer a safe, family-friendly environment, 72 percent of park users said yes. For a variety of reasons, most residents who patronize local parks are frequent users, with approximately 65 percent of them stating that they visit parks at least once a week (43 percent visit several times a week).

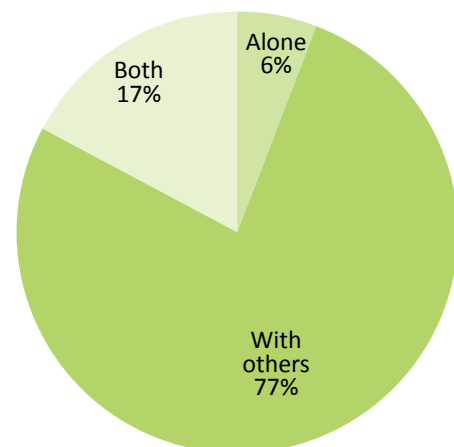
Although programming and events attract many park users, the single most-cited activity park users mention is use of the park as a space to socialize with family and friends, a common sentiment across those residents who also attend little league, zumba classes, or the playgrounds.

However, this community of largely older, family-oriented park users also described a series of similar safety concerns. Supervision — which many interpreted simply as security — was paramount both to youth visiting a park on their way home from school, or parents taking their young children to the park on the weekends. According to survey respondents, poor and insufficient lighting, at times inaccessible staff, and gaps in transportation infrastructure all contribute to safety problems.

However, the most important safety concern cited was the community itself, specifically its relationship and communication with local government. To many park users, increasing community involvement and ownership at local

FIGURE 3.1 SAMPLE QUESTION FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

IN GENERAL, DO YOU VISIT PARKS ALONE OR WITH OTHERS?



parks would most dramatically improve park safety. Future problems can be avoided or minimized by addressing the issues of supervision, poor lighting, communication, community involvement, park law enforcement, and park infrastructure in a way that builds community-staff relations.

SUPERVISION

For most East Los Angeles park users, and parents in particular, adequate supervision is the first line of defense for deterring unsafe behavior at the parks. Community members identified a variety of strategies that could result in increased supervision at parks, from more programming to increase foot-traffic, to community watch groups that can volunteer to patrol the park at certain hours. However, one of the most common recommendations the CSC encountered was to have park staff spend more time walking throughout the parks, rather than remain inside park facilities.

To many park users, the benefits of always having at least one visible member of a park’s staff were obvious. One focus group participant argued that without an adequate staff presence, certain park users have learned that posted park rules rarely go enforced. Other community members drew multiple anecdotal connections between supervision and littering, stating that everything from trash to urine are frequently found in parts of the park that staff rarely venture to. Overall, the East Los Angeles CSC recommended moving toward a policy at local parks where a part of park staffs’ duties include regular patrols of park grounds and bathrooms.

LIGHTING

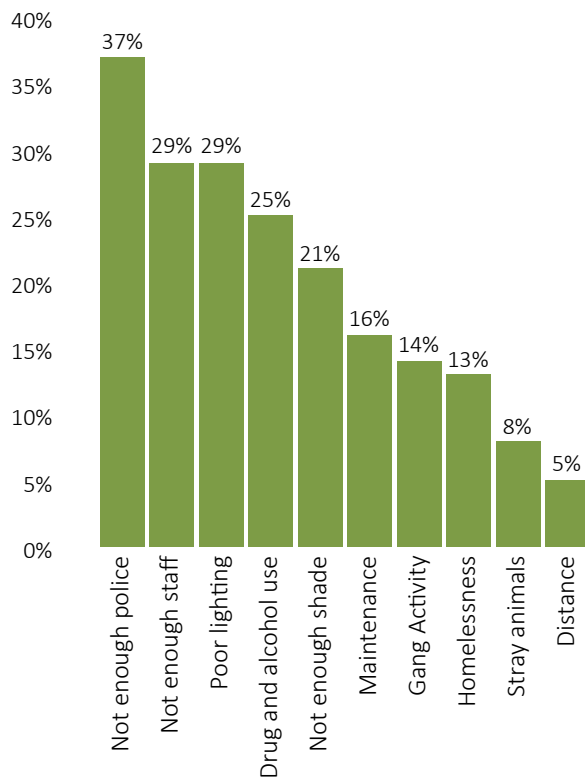
Lighting was also a commonly cited safety issue. A well-lit park welcomes the community, while deterring unsafe behavior. Park users have noticed this correlation after years of observing unsafe behavior occurring in park areas that are not well-lit. For many residents, the East Los Angeles Civic Center, with its longer light hours, is a model that other local parks should follow. The hours there were said to reflect the actual times people frequent the park, whereas many youth the CSC spoke to shared that they avoided Obregon and Belvedere Parks after a certain hour, due to the lack of adequate lighting. However, even where adequate lighting is present, such as at City Terrace Park, residents have noticed that when a light malfunctions, the County is not always responsive in getting it fixed. Additionally, even a well-lit park like City Terrace has areas, such as the parking lot, that are dark enough to invite criminal activity after a certain hour. CSC members themselves had their vehicles vandalized at the park during the course of an evening committee meeting in the evening.

COMMUNICATION

The East Los Angeles CSC found partnership between the community and park staff to have had a record of success, with opportunities for improvement. Many residents in East Los Angeles describe the constituent services offered by former Supervisor Gloria Molina’s office and Assembly member Jimmy Gomez as excellent, crediting the former for her work in

FIGURE 3.2 SAMPLE QUESTION FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

ARE THERE ANY SAFETY RELATED ISSUES THAT PREVENT YOU OR OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD FROM USING THE PARKS MORE OFTEN?



turning many East Los Angeles parks around from past periods of higher crime. Many CSC members also have good working relationships with East Agency park staff. However, most community members the CSC spoke to did not know of any system for reporting problems to authorities. Instead, many described encountering obstacles when seeking to resolve an issue, such as language barriers when trying to communicate with Sheriff’s deputies (for monolingual Spanish-speaking residents) and no follow-through with reported problems. At parks, only 40 percent of park users described park staff as satisfactorily answering their questions. Drawing on this feedback, the CSC recommended the implementation of a simple, visible suggestion or complaint box at every local park, particularly with a system that requires a call back from park staff within a reasonable amount of time.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Telling the story of City Terrace Park’s transformation from a crime-ridden park to the much safer space it is today, lifelong volunteers attributed this success to a variety of factors, the first of which was a sense of ownership neighbors developed over the site. In the words of one local leader, “when something affects this park, it affects me personally.” To many others, a major contributor to City Terrace’s success story is the presence of an independent board — the City Terrace Sports Association

— that helps run much of the park’s programming. In fact, one of the many things that East Los Angeles’ most successful parks have in common is the presence of a community-run group that aids in park programming, from the Sports Association in City Terrace, to Casa Cultural in Saybrook. The staff and volunteers who manage these small organizations are indispensable to their local communities, indispensable to the safe and inviting environment at their parks.

However, even those CSC members with decades of experience described the challenges the average park user is likely to encounter if they want to get involved at the park. CSC members point to a number of simple reforms that can make getting involved at a local park easier and more inviting for their neighbors. First, they recommend forming advisory councils at every park to be staffed by volunteers and active park users who can aid park employees in event and programming coordination, as well in communicating important news to their neighbors. Second, they recommended structuring the groups to be closely affiliated with each park, so that its members can serve as official park volunteers who are authorized to aid in supervision, event management, and more.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

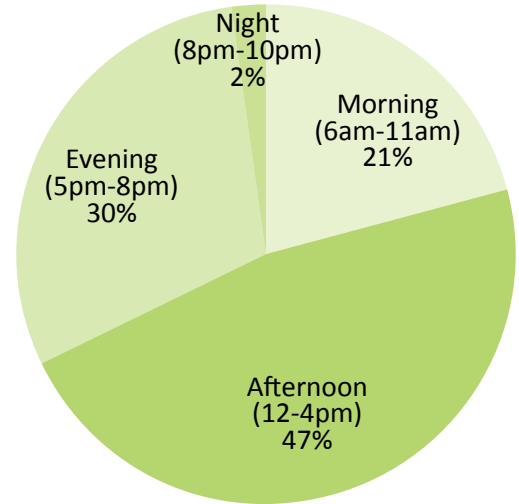
Most community members the CSC encountered would agree that there has been a noticeable improvement in park safety since the Parks Bureau of the Sheriff’s Department assumed responsibility for park security. When students were asked what made them feel safe at local parks, their first answer was the presence of law enforcement. Many park users pointed to the East Los Angeles Civic Center, with its close proximity to the Sheriff’s station, as being a model of regular police presence. However, that model is not always replicated at other parks. In the words of another student speaking about his local park, “you see the occasional cop once in a while, but you see more gang-related people than you see cops.” Many residents reference personal experiences or those of friends and family that highlight existing safety challenges. One participant cited the consistent level of drug-related activity at Parque de los Sueños, and another pointed the 2013 shooting at Salazar Park as experiences that still color the community’s perception of park safety. Still, the biggest recommendation most park users offered was simply improving the response time for park-related crimes, which many described as taking hours rather than minutes.

COMMUNAL AREAS

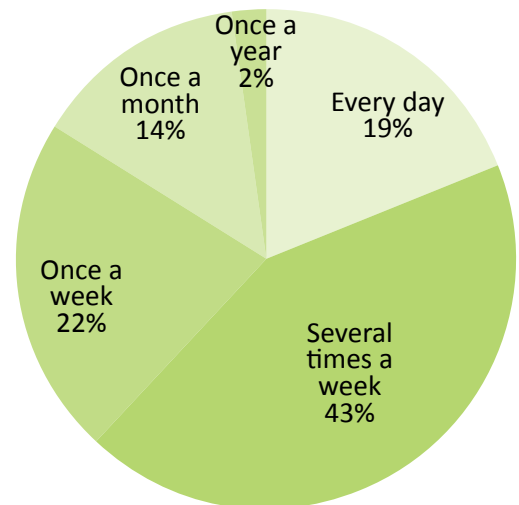
There is a strong community desire for more communal spaces at local parks. Currently, many park users see park infrastructure as overly programmed towards active recreation, such as organized sports. To many, local parks do not adequately support the community’s desire to relax, socialize, and celebrate. The few tables and chairs present at all parks are quickly monopolized by small groups for day long activities, such as illicit drinking and gambling. The community would like to see greater and more diverse communal spaces.

FIGURE 3.3 SAMPLE QUESTION FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

WHAT TIMES DO YOU TYPICALLY VISIT PARKS?



HOW OFTEN DO YOU VISIT THE PARK?



INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

The CSC and LANLT also heard many stories detailing the dangers that inadequate traffic signage and crosswalks pose to park users simply making their way to the park. Compared to other areas of Los Angeles County, East Los Angeles residents have less access to a personal motorized vehicle and must rely more on walking and public transportation, making the infrastructure that supports park access paramount. For example, a crosswalk adjacent to Parque de los Sueños lacks adequate lighting, resulting in reduced visibility of people walking to the park. Other park users point out that the hills surrounding Obregon Park obscure the upcoming crosswalk — a problem that might easily be remedied by installing signage that prepares motorists for the upcoming crosswalk. Many park users cited speeding vehicles near parks as a major safety concern.

COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

(MARCH 20, 2014)

After potential new parkland sites were identified, about 40 community members participated in a design workshop to envision what the spaces would look like and what they would include.

Community participants selected one site to work on from the following sites:

- **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON UTILITY CORRIDOR.** A site located within the utility corridor north of Whittier Boulevard.
- **FOLSOM STREET MINI PARK.** A small-sized vacant lot located in the City Terrace neighborhood.
- **CITY TERRACE COMMUNITY TRAIL.** A trail utilizing County-owned land adjacent to City Terrace Park.

Two groups focused on each site (including an English group and a Spanish group for ease of facilitation), with the exception of Folsom Street, which had only one group.

The groups began by brainstorming a vision and big ideas for the features and types of activities they wanted to see on the site. Following this discussion, each group began to draw features on the site map, using a scale bar and scaled reference objects to ensure a realistic understanding of what could fit in the site. Major site constraints were discussed and considered by each group, including the Southern California Edison design guidelines for the utility corridor and the slope restrictions for the steep topography at Folsom Street Mini Park and City Terrace Community Trail. Facilitators from DPR, PlaceWorks, and LANLT worked with the group members to lay out general circulation, major park features, and potential landscaping and material recommendations.

Youth who attended the event were asked to design a playground with a mix of realistic and fantastic site elements.

The concepts developed at this workshop form the basis for the site designs presented in Chapter Six, which also includes descriptions of the community's design concepts.



SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

KEY THEMES

NOT ENOUGH GREEN SPACE. Residents do not feel sufficiently served by existing open space.

WALK, RUN, EXERCISE, AND PLAY. Residents consider the major purpose of parks to be providing space for adult and youth fitness, including play spaces. There is significant community desire for more places to walk, run, exercise, and play.

GREEN GATHERING SPACES. Residents would like to see new types of park space that focus more on gathering and community events.

HISTORY OF FRAGMENTATION. Residents pointed out that East Los Angeles is divided by freeways and suffer separation between its various neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND OWNERSHIP. Residents have a strong interest in taking part in the planning and design process for projects in their community.

KEY ISSUES

OVERCROWDED PARKS. Available space is limited at existing parks due to their popularity and the high number of patrons using each park.

SECURITY. Residents believe that parks need more lighting and more supervision to feel safe.

SENIOR AND YOUTH PROGRAMS. More programs specifically designed for seniors and youth, particularly older youth, are needed in the community.

DIVERSITY OF LANDSCAPING. Native planting and wildlife habitat development are popular in nearby parks; but residents in East Los Angeles do not see these features at their parks.

IMPROVED COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARK STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY. Residents feel disconnected from DPR staff and would like to be able to communicate with them more directly.

COST OF PROGRAMMING. The cost is prohibitively high for some families, especially ones with several children.

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

1. Install a new running or walking track around Calvary Cemetery, which many residents already use for exercise.
2. Increase exercise options by adding new equipment and facilities, such as fitness stations and protected bicycle lanes, and creating new exercise options, such as additional exercise classes.
3. Develop green projects that are also communal places, such as plazas, *placitas*, and parklets.
4. Create more volunteer opportunities and community investment in local parks.
5. Allow for more open and frequent communication with park management.



4 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT



The East Los Angeles community-based needs assessment brings together existing conditions, recreational trends, community input, and spatial analysis. This chapter builds on the results presented in Chapters Two and Three of this Plan and incorporates recreational trends and standards, as well as spatial analysis, to present an overall picture of parks and recreational needs in East Los Angeles.

Community parks and recreation needs can be categorized as facility needs and spatial needs. Facility need refers to the types of facilities, amenities, and programs that East Los Angeles residents want to have in their parks and recreational spaces, or what is missing in the community. Spatial need addresses the question of where are parks most needed in East Los Angeles.

Facility need was identified through existing conditions analysis, review of existing trends and standards, and community outreach results, while spatial need was developed through a geographical analysis of existing green space and its service area considering the site size, adjacent population density, and walkability around these spaces.

The spatial needs analysis additionally identified potential parkland opportunity sites in East Los Angeles. These sites have potential for new green space development and serve as the basis for the green space vision presented in Chapter Five. These sites were further analyzed and ranked based on their park development potential and ability to meet need.

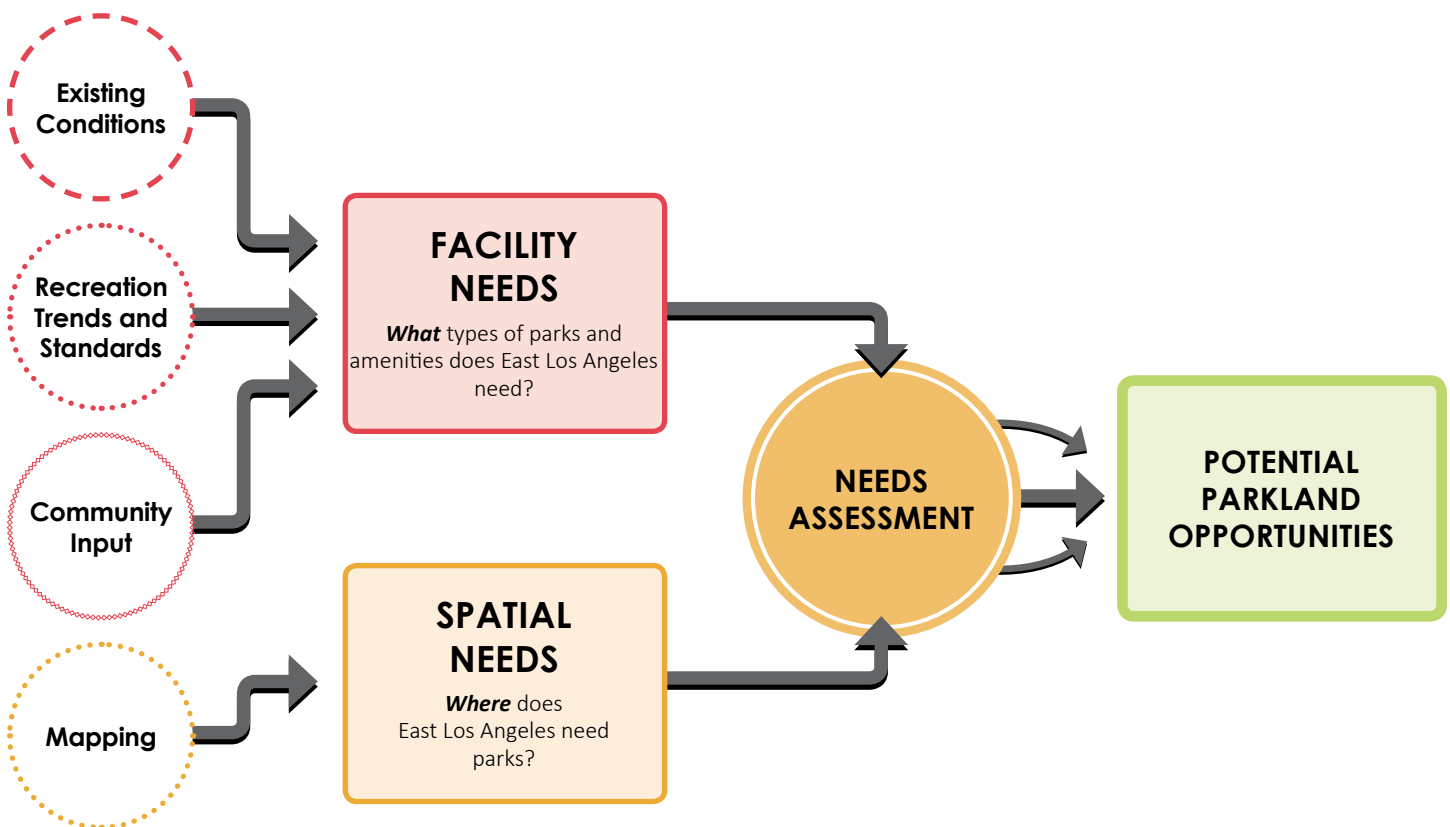
FACILITY NEEDS EXISTING CONDITIONS

As described in the parks inventory in Chapter Two, there are currently six local parks and one regional facility in East Los Angeles. Collectively, the local parks make up 44.8 acres of green space, intended for community use by residents within a half mile of the park. Belvedere Park, the only regional facility in East Los Angeles, is 30.74 acres in size and is intended to act as a regional gathering space for people living up to 20 miles from the park. The green space at Civic Center serves as an important central hub for large community events, like concerts, as well as small events, like farmers markets.

USAGE

The County Parks in East Los Angeles vary in size and amenity types and provide most of the common facilities found in parks throughout the County; however, based on the high demand on existing park spaces and the large population in the neighborhood, the community could support more parks and recreation facilities. Although most of the facilities at the parks

FIGURE 4.1 EAST LOS ANGELES NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND SITE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS



are in good condition, there are obvious signs of overcrowding and over-use at the parks. For example, the fields at Belvedere Park frequently need refurbishment due to the high use for soccer and other field sports.

Furthermore, nearly all available space within East Los Angeles’s parks are programmed with a specific activity, such as sports fields or picnic areas, and there is little space for additional facilities. In particular, since the parks are so heavily programmed, it is somewhat difficult to create a sense of nature within the parks, which could otherwise be enhanced through new planting areas or more passive recreational spaces.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In addition to providing recreational resources to East Los Angeles residents, County Parks also provide important ecological services, such as air quality improvements, stormwater runoff treatment, and wildlife habitat. As noted in Chapter Two, the trees in existing parks make up a large portion of East Los Angeles’ overall urban forest and provide significant environmental benefits. Improvements in existing parks and new parklands could incorporate more green infrastructure features, such as low-impact design strategies, to treat more stormwater runoff, provide potential habitat space, and sequester greenhouse gases. With the exception of Obregon Park, where solar panels were installed in 2010, most parks in East Los Angeles do not have on-site energy production, which could be accommodated in remnant spaces within the parks, such as parking lots and on existing rooftops.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Public health is a major priority for East Los Angeles residents and it is common to see residents exercising in their community or advocating for healthy food. The farmers market at Civic Center is a popular community event and serves as a venue for discussions on healthy lifestyle habits. The pathway around the lake at Civic Center park is also a popular walking and running loop for residents. However, the most popular walking and running destination is the perimeter sidewalk around Calvary Cemetery. Residents can be found exercising around this loop at nearly any time of day.

CONNECTIVITY

Most existing parks, with the exception of Civic Center, are located within residential neighborhoods and residents tend to use the park closest to their homes or schools. Sidewalk conditions and the lack of bicycle lanes make non-vehicular access to parks difficult for residents not living within close proximity to parks. Creating green corridors to parks and popular gathering spaces can improve access and promote non-vehicular travel to these spaces. The construction of planned bicycle routes would significantly improve connectivity in East Los Angeles. Placement of park nodes along these routes would provide both a recreational benefit and a safety improvement, as it provides space for cyclists to get out of vehicular traffic.



Condition of Multipurpose Field at Belvedere Regional Park

PARK USER DEMOGRAPHICS

Several demographic factors will have potential impacts on the types of facilities needed in East Los Angeles. This community is predominately Latino and has historically been a predominately Latino community.¹ Additionally, there is a growth in the number of adults approaching retirement and the number of households with children in this community (45 percent) is considerably more than the County overall (32 percent). The area around of the East Los Angeles Community College also has a high concentration of college-aged young adults.

Compared to the County as a whole, East Los Angeles has a higher percentage of residents who commute by public transit, as well as a higher percentage of residents without access to a vehicle, making pedestrian or non-motorized access to parks particularly important.

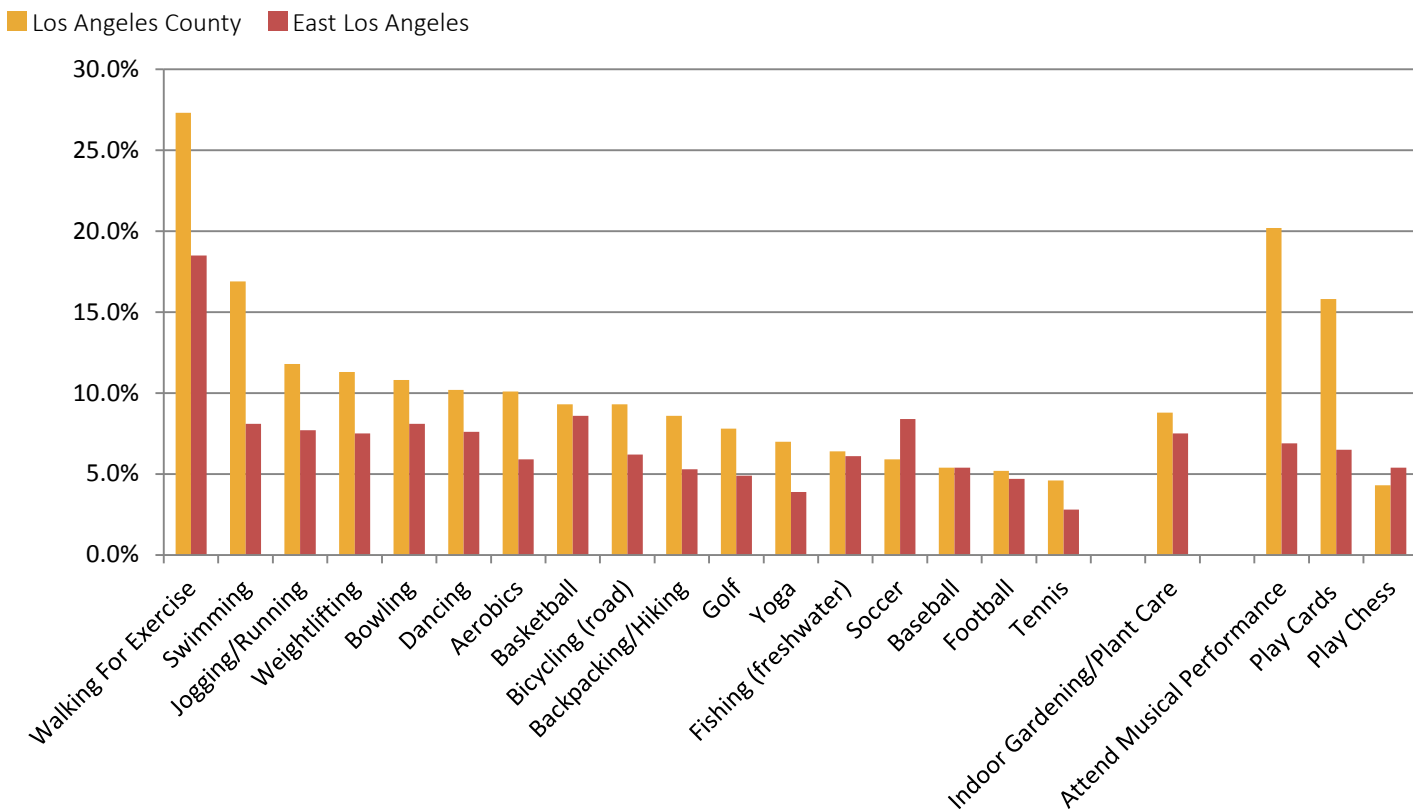
RECREATIONAL TRENDS AND STANDARDS ESRI BUSINESS ANALYST

ESRI’s Business Analyst software provides a breakdown of market potential for sports and leisure activities. Using this software, the report presents the percentage of the adult population in an area that currently participates in various sports and leisure activities. Figure 4.2 shows a sampling of high-ranking activities in East Los Angeles and Los Angeles County that impact parks and recreation development.

Walking for exercise is clearly the dominant form of physical activity for adults in East Los Angeles and the County. Soccer and basketball are the second most popular recreational sports activities in East Los Angeles. Although there are only five existing soccer fields in East Los Angeles, pick-up games can occur at any green space with space large enough to

1 The race and ethnicity categories used in this document are derived from the 2010 U.S. Census.

FIGURE 4.2 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION RATES FROM ESRI BUSINESS ANALYST



accommodate the sport. Additionally, there are basketball courts at all of the County Parks in this area, with the exception of Atlantic Avenue Park.

STATE AND NATIONAL TRENDS

Several State and national studies discuss the impact of population and demographic trends on outdoor recreation. An understanding of these trends and their most-likely implications is essential as the population increases and the rate of demographic change accelerates. Understanding the most likely direction of change may enable providers to position their services and respond more quickly to market changes.²

Studies by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and California State Parks report several trends and survey results which have implications for park and recreation planning in East Los Angeles.

- Recreation patterns will be greatly influenced by California’s rapidly increasing Latino population. When surveyed, many Latino residents indicated a desire for parks that feel safe, a preference for features and amenities that support day-long outings with extended family, and the need for parks nearby and in urban areas.³

- Future park users will have a greater range of physical abilities, speak a wider array of languages, and represent more diversified age groups.
- Park proximity plays an important role in promoting higher levels of park use and physical activity, particularly for youth. Youth who reside close to parks and open space were found to be approximately two to three times more likely to take a walk within a two-day period than their counterparts that had no parks near their homes. Similarly, adults who reside within a half-mile of a park were found to exercise five or more times a week more than those who reside further away from parks.
- Urban populations are typically associated with higher density, lower levels of vehicle ownership, and increased reliance on public transportation. As the urban population continues to increase over time, proximity to mass transportation should be considered when siting outdoor recreation areas.
- There are specific types of facilities that promote higher levels of physical activity than others. For example, park users engage in higher levels of physical activity in parks that have playgrounds, sports facilities, and trails, compared to those without these facilities. Walking is expected to continue to be the most popular activity for Californians; to support this, an expanded network of pedestrian facilities is needed to connect parks and green space.

2 California State Parks, 2005, Parks and Recreation Trends in California.

3 California Department of Parks and Recreation, December 2003, Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 2002: An Element of the California Outdoor Recreation Plan.

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

California State Parks released a statewide assessment of recreation in September 2015. As part of this process, the state completed a Survey of Public Opinions and Attitude on Outdoor Recreation (SPOA) in California.⁴ Through phone interviews and mail or online questionnaires with adults and youth, California State Parks compiled information on how residents were using park facilities and what they would like to use them. Although many California State Parks are not located in urban environments and provide significantly different services than Los Angeles County parks, the results of this survey can be beneficial in determining public perception on park use.

Adult responses were categorized by region and 29 percent were from the Los Angeles region.⁵ Youth responses were for the state as a whole. In both the mail or online questionnaires and phone surveys, adults were asked what types of activities they participated in at parks. Figure 4.3 illustrates findings from the phone survey. Similar to other recreational trends in the state, walking or hiking is by far the most popular use of parks. Other highly common activities include eating/picnicking, playing, sedentary activities, jogging/running, sports, and dog walking.

In the phone survey for adults, respondents were asked to evaluate the importance of various recreation facilities at park spaces. Figure 4.4 presents some of these findings. The complete list includes: outdoor areas and facilities, field sports, court sports, court sports, multipurpose buildings, play areas for young children, day youth camps, facilities for overnight camping, dog parks, swimming pools, skateboard parks, picnic sites, single use trails, multi-use trails, paved trails, RV facilities and sites, rustic lodging facilities, commercial visitor services, areas for dirt bikes and ATVs, areas for driving, wilderness areas, developed fishing areas, public hunting areas, boating facilities, water-side recreation facilities, and community gardens.

The survey engaged youth participants through online engagement and a youth-focused survey. In total, 410 youth were questioned about their use patterns in parks and preferences for facilities. Figure 4.5 illustrates the age groups that participated in the survey. In addition to responding about what they would like to do in parks (Figure 4.6), youth were asked about how they access parks, their thoughts about the purpose of parks and open space, why they spend time outdoors, and attitudes that they have about parks and nature.

The mail or online questionnaire for adults additionally asked respondents to evaluate the importance of various trail types, including paved trails, multi-use trails, and single-use

FIGURE 4.3 ADULT RESPONSES TO USUAL ACTIVITIES ENGAGED AT PARKS

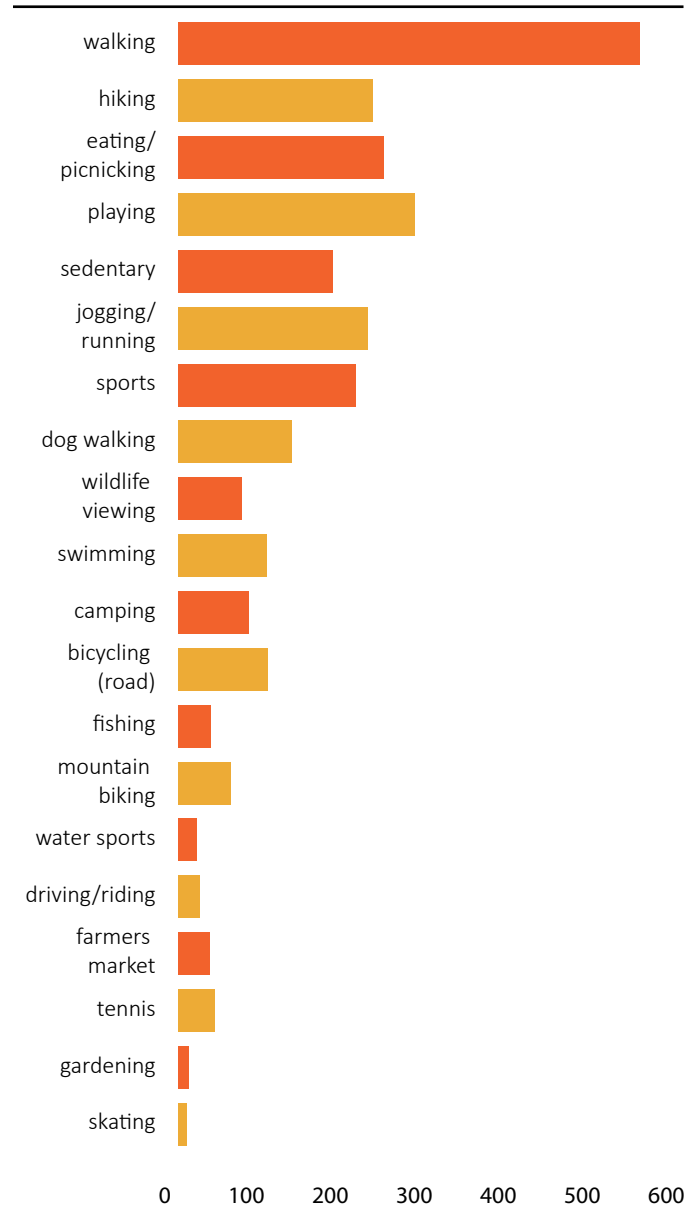
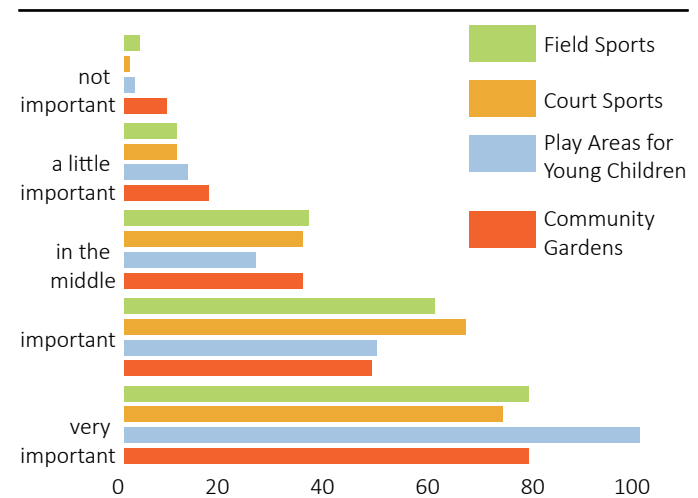


FIGURE 4.4 ADULT RESPONSES TO IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES



4 State of California. California State Parks. Natural Resources Agency. Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California 2012: Complete Findings. Sacramento, CA: California State Parks Office, 2014.

5 Responses are available at: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/SPOA>

FIGURE 4.5 AGE GROUPS OF YOUTH RESPONDENTS

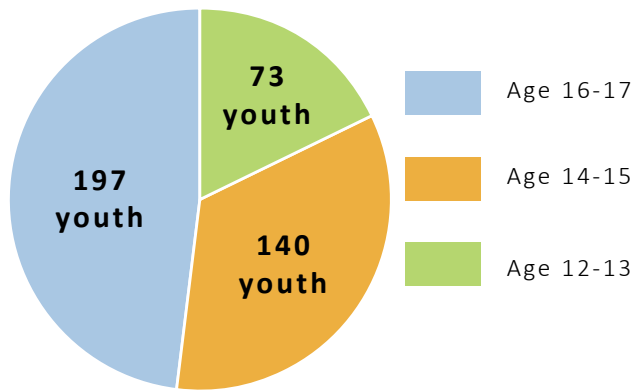
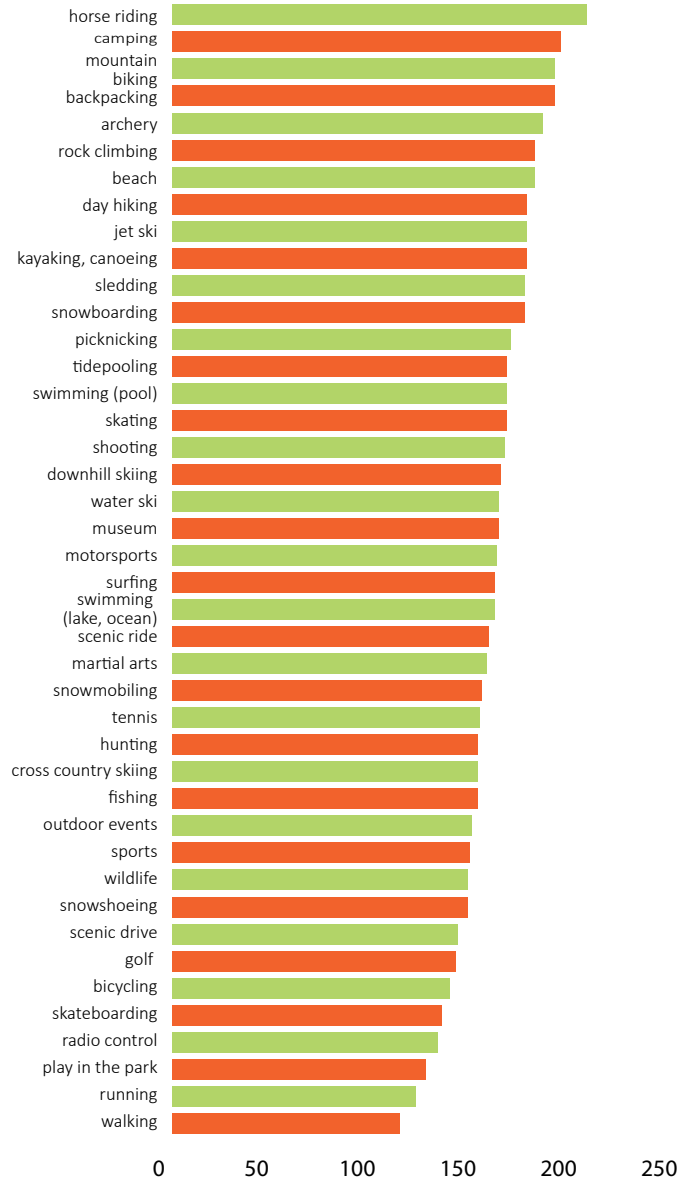


FIGURE 4.6 YOUTH RESPONSES TO WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO IN PARKS



trails. Most respondents indicated that all trail types were “important” to “very important.” Respondents could weigh the importance for all trail types, but were not asked to provide a preference, although single-use trails and paved trails received slightly higher “very important” scores than multi-use trails. The results suggest that the public both values trails and would like to see different types of trails.

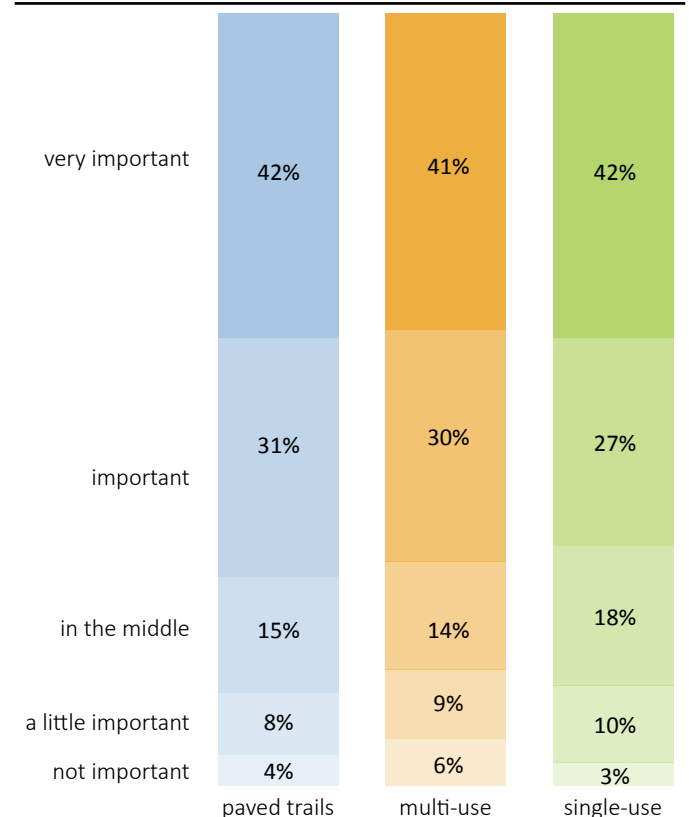
COMMUNITY INPUT

As described in Chapter Three, community outreach efforts gathered information on resident preferences in green space development. Due to the variety of outreach events, responses varied from specific recommendations for projects to more general requests for increased green space.

For purposes of the needs assessment, responses relating to needed activity spaces, facilities, or programs were accumulated and synthesized to provide a picture of the types of green space and public amenities that residents would like to see in Los Angeles County Parks, shown in Table 4.1.

- **PARKS AND RECREATION NETWORK** includes strategies for green space for the entire community.
- **URBAN GREENING** includes projects that go beyond potential park boundaries.

FIGURE 4.7 ADULT RESPONSES TO IMPORTANCE OF TRAILS



- **PARK ELEMENTS** include larger scale improvements that would require large development efforts.
- **PARK AMENITIES** include smaller scale improvements that could be incorporated into new developments or renovations.
- **ACTIVITIES/EVENTS** include suggestions for specific activities or events.
- **EXISTING PARKS** include recommendations to existing parks.

PROGRAM FEEDBACK

Community feedback at outreach events in East Los Angeles indicated that DPR could promote their programs in a more visible way and that they should continue their emphasis on youth programs at a low cost. Stakeholders appreciated the County's efforts to publicize their events and programs, and they pointed out Salazar Park as a model of effective program outreach with their large, highly visible signage displaying program information.

Stakeholders from organizations that offer programs indicated they had positive experiences using the parks for their activities, but would appreciate a more streamlined method for arranging use of the space, as well as more flexibility in how they can use the facilities. They also suggested that parents chose to send their children to their facilities instead of the programs at local parks because they offer more adult supervision and are perceived as being generally safer.

Stakeholders indicated that there is an obvious movement in the community towards healthier lifestyles. Programs targeting nutrition and fitness are appreciated and well-received. Many residents acknowledged that most County Park's recreational programs are for youth, but suggested that since the youth population is so high there is still a need for additional youth recreational programming, specifically sports groups, afterschool educational enrichment, toddler activities, and youth employment opportunities.

Community members who use Saybrook Park were proud of their arts and culture programs and desired space to expand their program offering, such as new classroom space, as well as space to display their work or present their performances.

The community noted the lack of senior programs outside of Salazar Park. They indicated that other parts of the neighborhood could benefit from some additional senior programs due to the limited mobility of older adults.

TABLE 4.1 COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

Parks and Recreation Network
Bike Paths
Walking Paths (specifically around Calvary Cemetery)
Construct Neighborhood Parks/Small Parks in Residential Areas
More Green Space in General
Greening and Gathering Places along Third Street
Parklets
Urban Greening
Landscaping and Trees along Freeways
Street Trees
Park Elements
Turf Fields
Exercise Equipment
Walking Path
Bike Park
Skate Park
Special needs playground
Community Gardens
Rock climbing
Dog parks
Facilities for older youth
Park Amenities
Nature Areas/Habitat Features
Water-efficient Planting
Play Fields
Large Shade Trees
Picnic Areas
Lighting and Security
Public Art
Decrease Potential Hiding Places with Parks
Activities/Events
Community-wide Events at Parks
Farmers' Market
Existing Parks
Expansion of Obregon Park
Expansion of Saybrook Park

SUMMARY OF FACILITY NEEDS

Facilities help define a park or recreational space. Based on the research presented earlier, the following is a summary of the facilities that East Los Angeles residents want to see in their parks and recreational spaces, as well as facilities that are currently missing or could add to the overall sustainability of the East Los Angeles park system.

1. Field Space with Durable Surface Material

Sports and multi-purpose fields in existing parks show significant signs of wear and there is continued demand for these facilities. Existing parks can be enhanced for improved wear resistance. New fields would alleviate some of the demand on existing ones.



2. Play Space

about 9 percent of East Los Angeles population is under five years of age and 23 percent is under eighteen. Safe places to play within close proximity to homes is a popular idea with the community and a important attribute of a park network.



3. Facilities for Teens

Recreational options for older teens and safe places for youth to spend time are important priorities for many East Los Angeles residents. Suggested facilities include skate parks, bike skills tracks, basketball courts, and dance centers.



4. Safe Walking/ Running Paths and Trails

Walking for exercise is a popular and growing trend. Additionally, trails are a good method of linking together green space.



5. Exercise and Fitness Opportunities

Parks in East Los Angeles are commonly considered places for exercise. New facilities can be integrated into parks to provide new opportunities to stay healthy.



6. Gathering Places

Park spaces in the community are considered gathering places. Additionally, East Los Angeles has a strong identity and a desire for places of cultural expression. New nodes for gathering can address both these needs.



7. Energy Conservation and Production

With the exception of Obregon Park, existing parks in East Los Angeles do not produce any energy on site through solar panels or other alternative means. New infrastructure could increase sustainability potential at parks and recreation spaces.



8. Green Infrastructure

Trees and planting can be used to provide vital ecological services throughout the community. These facilities are currently underutilized and could be significantly expanded.



9. Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space

Residents expressed an interest for more connection with nature in their parks and recreational spaces. Utilizing native plants, providing habitat space, and highlighting natural features, such as water pathways, can enhance a visitors experience with the natural world and provide opportunities for environmental education.



CONNECTING FACILITY NEEDS TO PARK SYSTEMS

The Parks and Recreation Element from the Los Angeles County General Plan defines the County’s classification for parks and recreation facilities, outlined in Table 4.2. Following are descriptions of the parkland facilities from the General Plan:

- **COMMUNITY PARKS** are typically 10 to 20 acres, and serve several neighborhoods within a one to two mile radius of the park. Community parks that are located in residential neighborhoods serve both the needs of the community park service radius and neighborhood park service radius. Community parks provide opportunities for a wide variety of active and passive recreation activities. The amenities programmed into a community park are focused on meeting the needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community. They allow for group activities and recreational opportunities that may not be feasible in neighborhood parks. Amenities for community parks can include informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, public restrooms, concession buildings, maintenance buildings, onsite parking and information kiosks.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** are typically 3 to 10 acres, and serve residents living within a half mile radius of the park. Neighborhood parks provide space, programs, and recreation activities to create healthy social networks within residential communities. The common objective of all neighborhood parks is to bring people together to recreate and socialize close to home. Ease of access and walking distance uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers are important factors in locating neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks should be well-connected to other public facilities, such as schools and libraries. Amenities for neighborhood parks can include informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, picnic tables, picnic shelters, barbecues, practice sports fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, public restrooms, information kiosks, recreation offices, and onsite parking.
- **POCKET PARKS** are less than three acres in size, and serve residential or business areas within a quarter mile radius or within walking distance. They are best used to meet limited or specialized recreational needs. Pocket parks can provide landscaped public use areas in industrial and commercial areas, scenic overlooks, linkage to a community pathway system, and urban infill sites in park poor communities. Pocket parks generally do not have onsite parking. Amenities for pocket parks can include both active and passive features, depending on the community’s setting and needs, such as children’s play apparatus, picnic areas, fountains, and seating areas. Due to the limited amenities included in pocket parks, they are typically not included in the service radius analysis.

- **PARK NODES** are small pieces of open space that serve as public destinations, connections, and community defining spaces. Nodes provide physical and visual breaks to the urban landscape and connect various spaces, such as waterways, streets, trails, and greenways. Park nodes are used as gathering and rest areas, and serve as opportunities for social and cultural exchange. Examples of park nodes include equestrian and hiking trail heads, bike rest stops and stations with lockers and repair areas, neighborhood focal points, and passive amenities, such as plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks, and public art installations.
- **COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARKS** are typically 20 to 100 acres, and have a service radius of 20 miles. Community regional parks protect and conserve natural resources, preserve open spaces, and provide recreational facilities that are not available in neighborhood or community parks. Amenities for community regional parks can include a jogging exercise course, informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, information kiosks, public restrooms, concession building, recreation offices, maintenance buildings, and onsite parking. Community regional parks may also have one or more of the following features: multiple sports facilities, aquatics center, fishing lake, community building and gymnasium, and scenic views and vistas.

TABLE 4.2 PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

System	Facility	Suggested Size/Width
Local Park Systems	Community Park	10-20 acres
	Neighborhood Park	3-10 acres
	Pocket Park	< 3 acres
	Park Node	1/4 acre or less
Regional Park Systems	Community Regional Parks	20-100 acres
	Regional Park	>25 acres
	Special Use Facility	Varies
Trails	Type A Urban/Suburban	6'-10' wide
	Type B Rural	4'-8' wide
	Type C Primitive	2' or less
	Type D Shared Pathway/Service Road	10'-12' wide
Other	Multi-Benefit Parks	varies
	School Sites	varies
	City Parks and Facilities	varies
	Private Recreational Facility	varies
	Greenways	varies

- **REGIONAL PARKS** are typically greater than 100 acres in size, and have a service radius of 25 miles or more. They include unique areas such as lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies, and campgrounds, in addition to the active recreational facilities offered in community and community regional parks. Many of the recreation activities are associated with experiencing the natural environment. A regional park may also perform important ecological and environmental functions, including serving as wildlife habitats. The connection of these parks to natural areas is often vital to ensuring a healthy ecological system. Amenities for regional parks can include picnic areas, nature centers, trail systems, scenic drives, campgrounds, water areas for swimming, fishing and boating, and in some cases, sport fields.
- **SPECIAL USE FACILITIES** are generally single purpose facilities that serve greater regional recreational or cultural needs. One notable example is the Hollywood Bowl. Special use facilities require adequate public access and sufficient buffers to protect adjacent residential users and to insulate the park from commercial or industrial development. Special use facilities can meet both passive (e.g., historic and cultural facilities, natural areas, habitat preservation areas, arboreta and botanical gardens, and nature centers) and active (e.g., golf courses and driving ranges, equestrian centers, off-highway vehicle parks, water parks) needs within the region. There are no size criteria or service radius areas associated with special use facilities.
- **TRAILS.** The County offers unique trail user opportunities that showcase its diverse scenery and provide connectivity to parks, open spaces, cultural resources, and wilderness areas. Los Angeles County has an ideal climate for trail user activities on most days of the year.

Typical trail uses range from hiking and walking, to mountain biking and horseback riding, with many users participating in more than one activity. The quality of the trail experience is directly proportional to the state of the visual, natural, and educational environment through which the trail passes. The wide variety of experiences, include but are not limited to: exercise, solitude, spiritual practices, physical and mental well-being, building social networks, testing athletic skills, and experiencing nature. The County strives to make all trails multi-use and accessible to all non-motorized users including pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists, where appropriate.










- **MULTI-BENEFIT PARKS** and open spaces are created through collaborative efforts among city, county, state, and federal agencies; private organizations; schools; private landowners; and industries. These parks are characterized as having more than one function and contributing to multiple program goals. There are a number of applications of multi-benefit parks including:

utility corridors and flood protection basins that can serve as areas for active or passive recreation; school sites located adjacent to parks that can share facilities, such as parking and park amenities; watershed areas that can protect critical wildlife habitats, preserve open space, provide trails for recreation, and contribute to water conservation objectives; and water districts, where trails can be located adjacent to flood protection channels and trailhead parks.

- **SCHOOL SITES.** The County works with school districts to organize, promote, and conduct joint recreational and educational programs. These community recreation agreements are a form of joint-use agreement, where either a school or park facility may be put to some recreational use by the other party in exchange for some facility improvement and/or maintenance. A park does not have to be adjacent to a school (i.e., share a common boundary) for an agreement to be viable.
- **CITY PARKS AND FACILITIES** that are located close to the borders of the unincorporated areas are enjoyed by city and County residents alike. Similarly, local County parks that are located within or close to the borders of cities provide recreational amenities for both populations. This overlap in local park service radius is an important factor to consider in the placement of new local County parks.
- **PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES** play an important role in meeting recreational needs. The network of private recreational facilities consists of churches, health and fitness clubs, and other organizations that offer a variety of programs and facilities. This plan does not include an inventory of private recreational facilities. Since the County does not control, maintain, or program private recreational facilities, these resources are not credited toward the County's acreage goals for public parks.
- **GREENWAYS** provide a linear area along natural corridors, and often follow features such as rivers, man-made waterways, drainage channels, and utility easements. Greenways can accommodate various modes of uninterrupted pedestrian travel on pathways, including walking, jogging, and bicycling, and can include recreation areas and natural landscape features.

Considering the needs identified through this process, Table 4.3 demonstrates which types of parklands are needed in East Los Angeles. In addition to the parkland classification types, the table also included existing park improvements, as some needs can be met within existing facilities. As shown in the table, many of the identified needs can be met through a variety of different parkland types, including partnership with schools, agencies, or private facilities to provide services.

TABLE 4.3 TYPES OF PARKLAND TO MEET NEED

		Existing Parks Improvements	Community Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Pocket Parks	Park Nodes	Trails	Multi-Benefit Parks	School Sites	City Parks and Facilities	Private Facilities	Greenways
Field Space with Durable Surface Material		•	•	•					•	•	•	
Gathering Places		•	•	•	•			•	•	•	•	•
Safe Walking/Running Paths and Trails		•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•
Play Spaces			•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
Facilities for Teens		•	•	•	•				•	•	•	
Exercise and Fitness Opportunities		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
Energy Conservation and Production		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Green Infrastructure		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Wildlife Habitat/Natural Space		•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SPATIAL NEEDS

The spatial analysis takes into account all land within East Los Angeles and identifies those areas with park development needs ranked from highest to lowest. These need areas were derived by calculating multiple factors within proximity of each land unit. A one-acre hexagon grid was used to capture all spatial relationships across the community. An example of this methodology for one grid cell can be found in Appendix D.

Population is the highest weighted factor for determining park needs. Population was calculated in two ways in order to best capture the need of each area. First, total population in East Los Angeles was summed for areas within one-half mile of each grid cell.

Second, the underserved population residing in the parkland gap areas in East Los Angeles was calculated using the same methodology. Parkland gap areas are the areas of the community that are not within a 10-minute walk of a park. This methodology utilizes the existing street network to calculate walking distance and takes into account any barriers to reaching the park, such as impassable freeway crossings or dead-end streets.

Ranking was determined using ArcGIS 10.3 to create five equally distributed ranking categories for both population measures. These categories were given rankings from 2 to 10, with 2 representing areas with the least population and 10 representing areas with the most population. This ranking was applied to each grid cell for both measures.

Healthy food access and urban forest cover were also factored into the park needs equation. Access to healthy food was similarly calculated but given less weight relative to other factors. If the grid cell has access to a full-service grocery store or farmers market it received a ranking of 0, if it does not have access it received a ranking of 2.

For urban forest cover, the percent of tree canopy coverage was calculated within one-quarter mile of each grid cell. A ranking value of 1 to 4 was given to each cell based on the percent of canopy coverage, with 1 representing areas with the most tree cover and 4 representing areas with the least.

The final need value was calculated by summing Total Population Rank, Total Unserved Population Rank, Healthy Food Access Rank, and Urban Forest Cover Rank. Higher values indicate higher need. Figure 4.9 shows the map resulting when the methodology is applied to the entire study area. Park need is displayed as a gradient of orange with the areas of the highest need displaying the darkest color.

Spatial factors that determine where the high parkland need areas are?

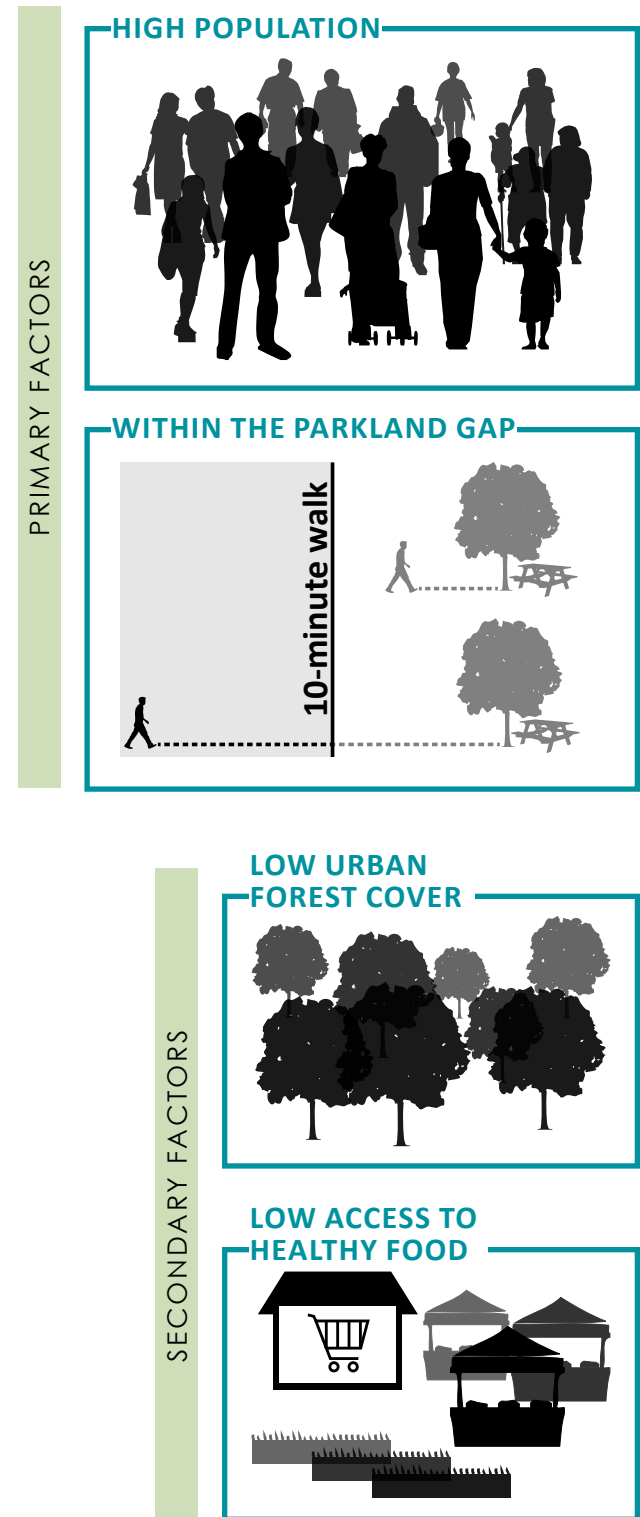
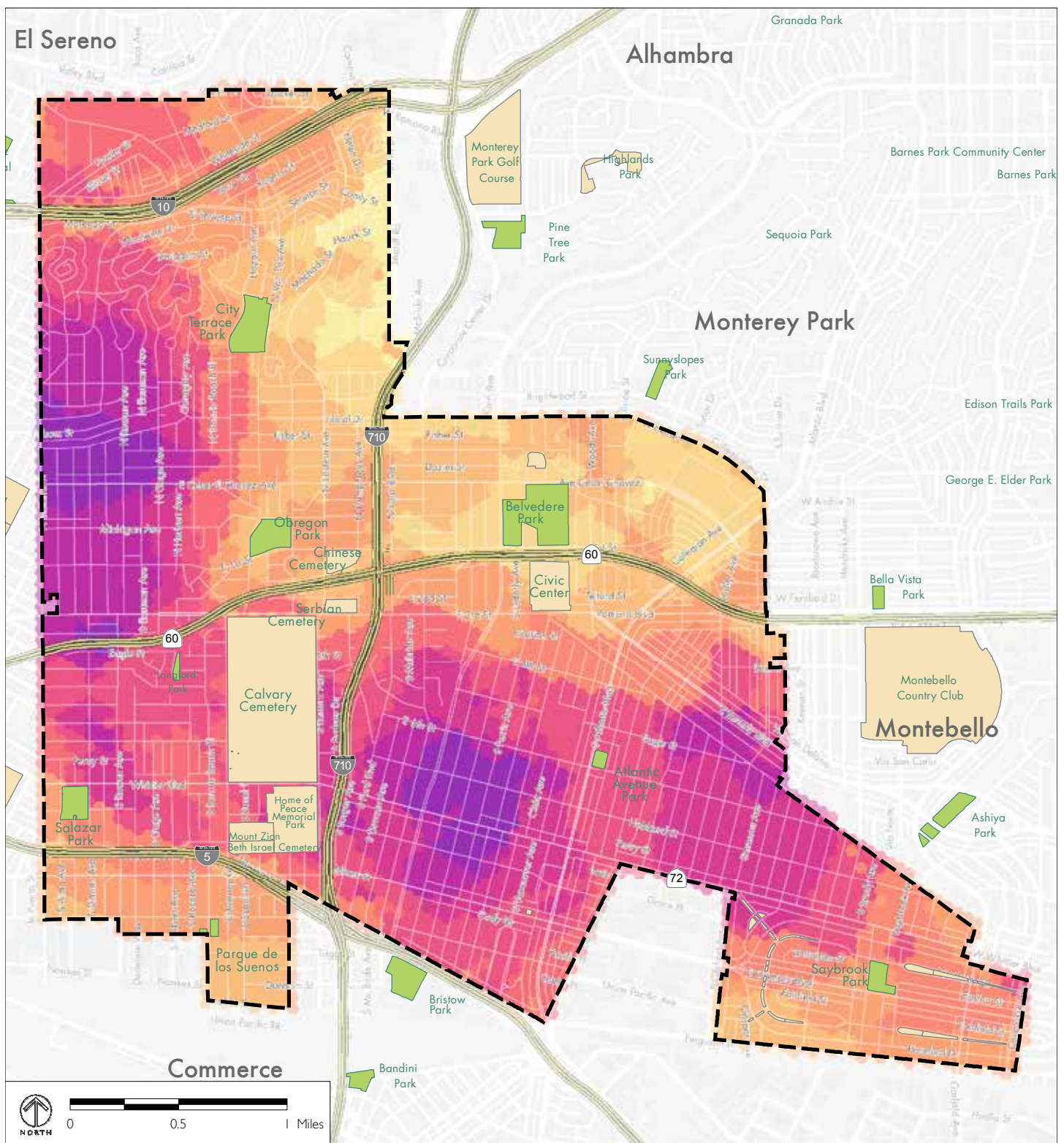
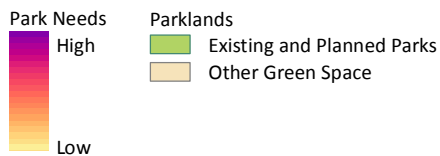


FIGURE 4.8 EAST LOS ANGELES SPATIAL NEEDS MAP



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.



POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES

A major factor limiting new park development in urban areas is the ability to acquire new land. There are limited opportunities in East Los Angeles available for new large park development. Following is a list of the opportunity types in East Los Angeles.

VACANT LAND

Properties classified as vacant by the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, as well as sites identified as vacant by the community were mapped in East Los Angeles. In total, there are 854 parcels of vacant land, equaling a total of 150 acres of vacant land. However, most of these sites are small parcels, each with an area less than 0.25 acres. Additionally, many of these sites are not usable due to their site condition or location, such as being too steep for development, or being located within an interior section of a block.

UTILITY CORRIDORS

Utility corridors contain overhead transmission towers and overhead utility lines. These spaces remain clear of development to allow the managing agency access to the lines and infrastructure surrounding them. In East Los Angeles, there is one utility line, composed of 10 parcels, owned and maintained by Southern California Edison (SCE). Saybrook Park is located within this utility corridor and other parcels are used for private nurseries. Sections of the corridor are vacant of other uses, in particular the area north of Whittier Boulevard.

FLOOD CONTROL CHANNELS

Flood control channels are used for the conveyance of water and managed by the Flood Control District. In urban areas, these channels are also commonly converted to green corridors integrating trails and green infrastructure into the waterway. There is one channel owned by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District in East Los Angeles. The channel begins at Robert Hill Lane Elementary School on Avenida Cesar Chavez and continues to the Pomona Freeway. The channel passes under the freeway and reemerges on the southern side for a small segment near the freeway off-ramp.

LANDSCAPE AND LIGHTING DISTRICT

Landscape and Lighting Districts are special districts where annual fees are paid into a fund to maintain landscape improvements. These districts are approved by the Board of Supervisors, which is responsible for levying the annual assessment of the district fee. There is one Landscape and Lighting District in East Los Angeles (District No. 2, Zone 35 Montebello) and it is located within the medians of Northside and Southside Drives on the east side of the community near the Montebello border. The project includes 11.24 acres of irrigated turf with 9,410 square feet of cobblestone path.

TABLE 4.4 POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO PARKLAND INVENTORY

Potential Parkland Opportunity Type	Parcels	Acres
Vacant Land	854	150
Utility Corridors	10	14
Flood Control Channel	4	1
Landscape and Lighting District	28	11
Public Agency Service Lands	20	115
Schools	32	145
Freeways	n/a	n/a
Sidewalks and Street Right-of-ways	n/a	n/a

*The acreage for Flood Control Channels and Schools include acreage to accommodate channel and school buildings, respectively.

PUBLIC AGENCY SERVICE LANDS

Service agencies, such as the Los Angeles County Fire Department, Internal Services, and water agencies, are located throughout the County. The Los Angeles County Fire Department headquarters is located within the Terrace neighborhood, in the northern part of East Los Angeles. The site is located at the highest point in the area and has offices, a training area, and emergency response center. The facility includes buildings, as well as areas of vacant land. Although the terrain is steep and there would be restrictions for development so as not to interfere with Fire Department use, this area could potentially be used for trails or other recreational uses. There are additional service lands near the Fire Department owned by Los Angeles County or private water agencies with portions of vacant area that could be explored for partnership with limited public access.

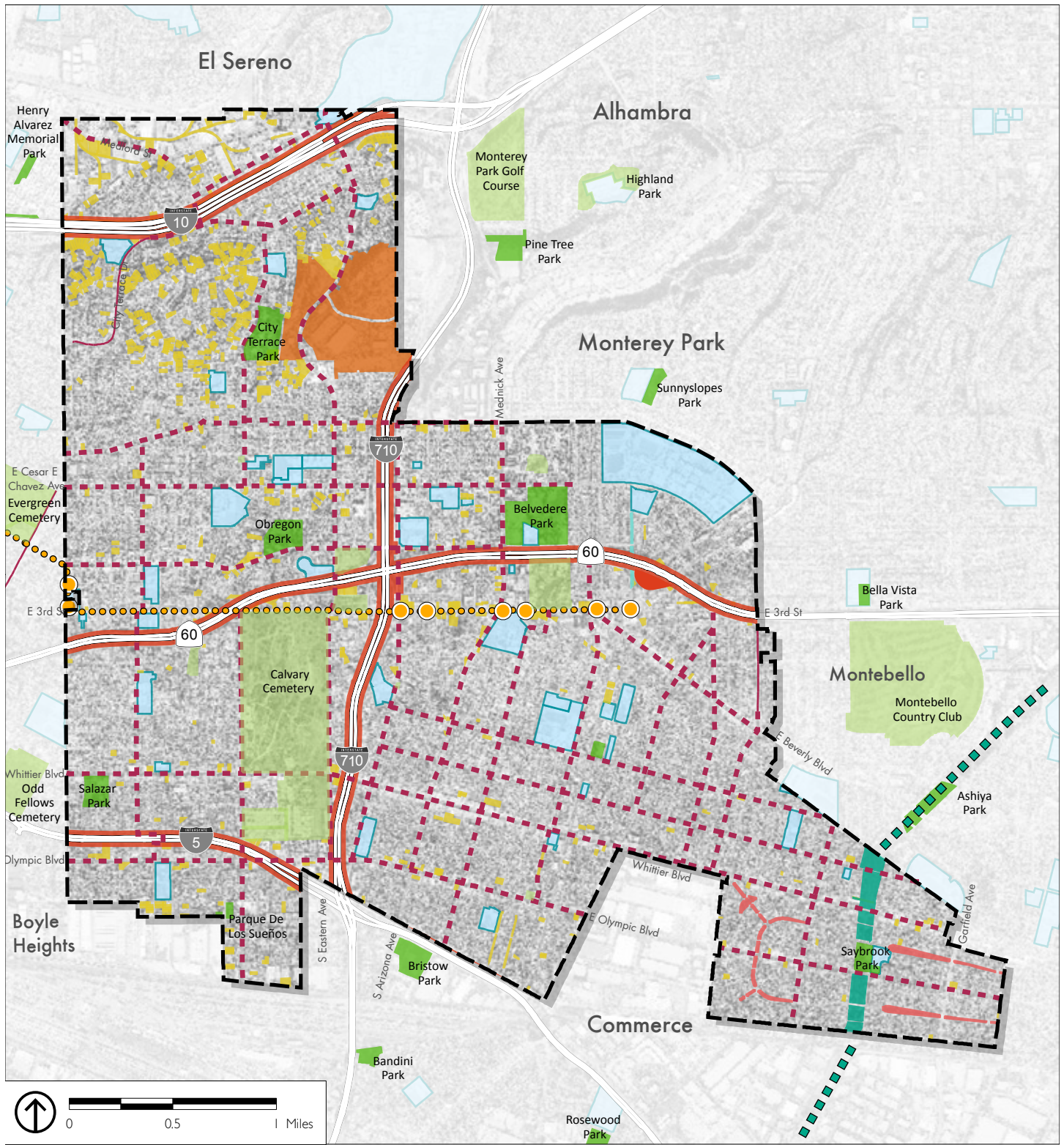
SCHOOL SITES

There are 20 public elementary schools, two public middle schools, and three public high schools in East Los Angeles. There are additionally seven private or charter schools. The East Los Angeles Community College campus is located at the northeastern edge of the community. Many of these facilities offer recreational programming outside of the typical school day and/or their grounds are unofficially used for recreational activities. There are no current joint-use agreements between DPR and any schools in East Los Angeles. Implementing joint use at other schools could expand recreational options to the greater community outside of the school population, through access to sports fields, courts, or gardens.

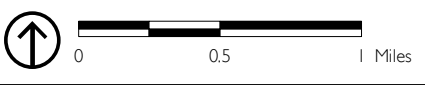
FREEWAYS

East Los Angeles is divided by freeways. Two major freeways run through the community and intersect near its center. At some instances there are vacant pieces of land near the freeways that could be utilized for greening purposes, or in the case of larger pieces, recreational uses. Additionally a freeway cap could be considered to address the division that the freeways have caused in the community.

FIGURE 4.9 POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITY TYPES



NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, Placemarks, 2013.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — East Los Angeles Existing Parks Other Green Space Schools GoldLine / Station | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed Bike Routes in East Los Angeles Proposed Bike Routes outside East Los Angeles Existing Bike Routes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacant Land Flood Control Channel Landscape and Lighting District Public Agency Service Lands Freeway Buffer Utility Corridor Continuation out of East Los Angeles |
|--|---|--|

SIDEWALKS AND STREET RIGHT-OF-WAYS

Public streets offer important greening opportunities through green infrastructure, such as street trees and stormwater retention facilities. Additionally, new trends in urban planning have emphasized the use of street space for community gathering and recreation, through the use of street furniture and semi-permanent installations, such as parklets. East Los Angeles recently installed three parklets on Whittier Boulevard, South Mednick Boulevard, and 1st Avenue. These spaces create gathering areas for local businesses and provide residents with small recreational opportunities.

In addition, there are parcels within East Los Angeles that are dedicated to become streets, but were not constructed. These “paper streets,” represent remnant land that could potentially be utilized for public space.

EVALUATION

To determine which sites would have the highest potential for parkland development, vacant and underutilized parcels were analyzed for their feasibility to become new green spaces. These spaces were scored based on their potential for meeting needs in terms of location and parkland type. Each site was evaluated based on nine criteria including:

PARKLAND GAP. Sites that are located within the high spatial need area were prioritized as opportunities to provide walkable parkland to residents who do not currently have green space near their residence.

POPULATION. Parts of East Los Angeles are more populated than others. Sites in denser areas were prioritized over areas that were less dense, in order to serve a greater population.

SIZE. Larger sites were prioritized over smaller ones based on the anticipated uses for the sites.

OWNERSHIP. Sites owned by public agencies were generally considered more desirable than privately owned sites due to the increased ease of acquiring these sites for park use.

VACANCY. Sites that were identified as vacant or underutilized were prioritized over ones with non-vacant land uses.

TRANSIT. Sites located in areas of high public transit ridership were considered more desirable than ones where public transit ridership was low.

AIR QUALITY. Sites outside of the 500-foot buffer from freeways were more desirable than ones inside the buffer area, although sites within the buffer area were considered for urban forestry or air quality improvement projects.

PROXIMITY TO SCHOOLS. Sites in closer proximity to schools were prioritized over ones that were farther away from schools.

PARCEL AGGREGATION. Some sites were composed of a number of adjacent lots. Sites composed of fewer parcels were prioritized over ones that were composed of many parcels.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The sites with the highest potential and the sites selected by the community were visited and further analyzed through research on ownership and historic uses. The resulting Parkland Opportunities Map, Figure 4.12, shows the recommended sites for park and trail development in East Los Angeles in the future. The map is accompanied by Table 4.5 and 4-6, which summarizes site conditions and identifies what type of parkland the site could be used for.

Sites were ranked using the same evaluation criteria as noted; however, additional preference was given to projects that could potentially be implemented in the short term, as well as those that could meet an identified facility need regardless of its location in the neighborhood. Sites were categorized as high, medium, or low priority. Potential uses at these sites are described more in depth in Chapter Five.

As shown in Figure 4.11, major factors impacting final prioritization included:

- **NEED.** Sites located in areas with the highest park need were prioritized over sites near existing facilities, as well as sites that could provide the facility needs identified earlier in this chapter.
- **SIZE.** Larger sites are preferred due to their ability to provide more green space resources. Even though the majority of the opportunity sites in East Los Angeles fit within the category of Pocket Parks, larger sites were still prioritized.

FIGURE 4.10 SITE SELECTION PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

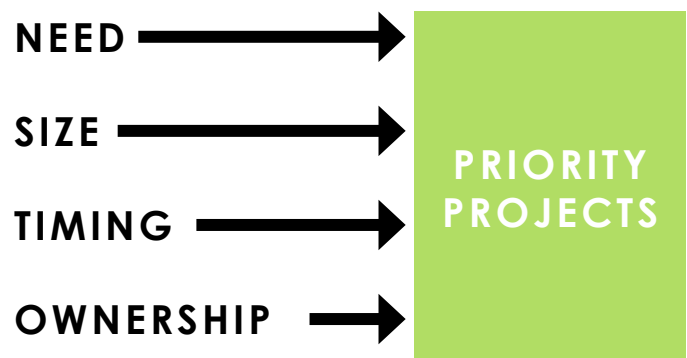
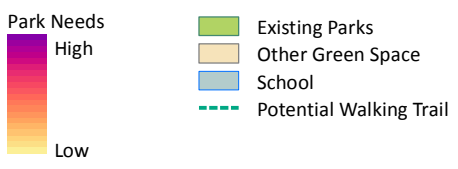
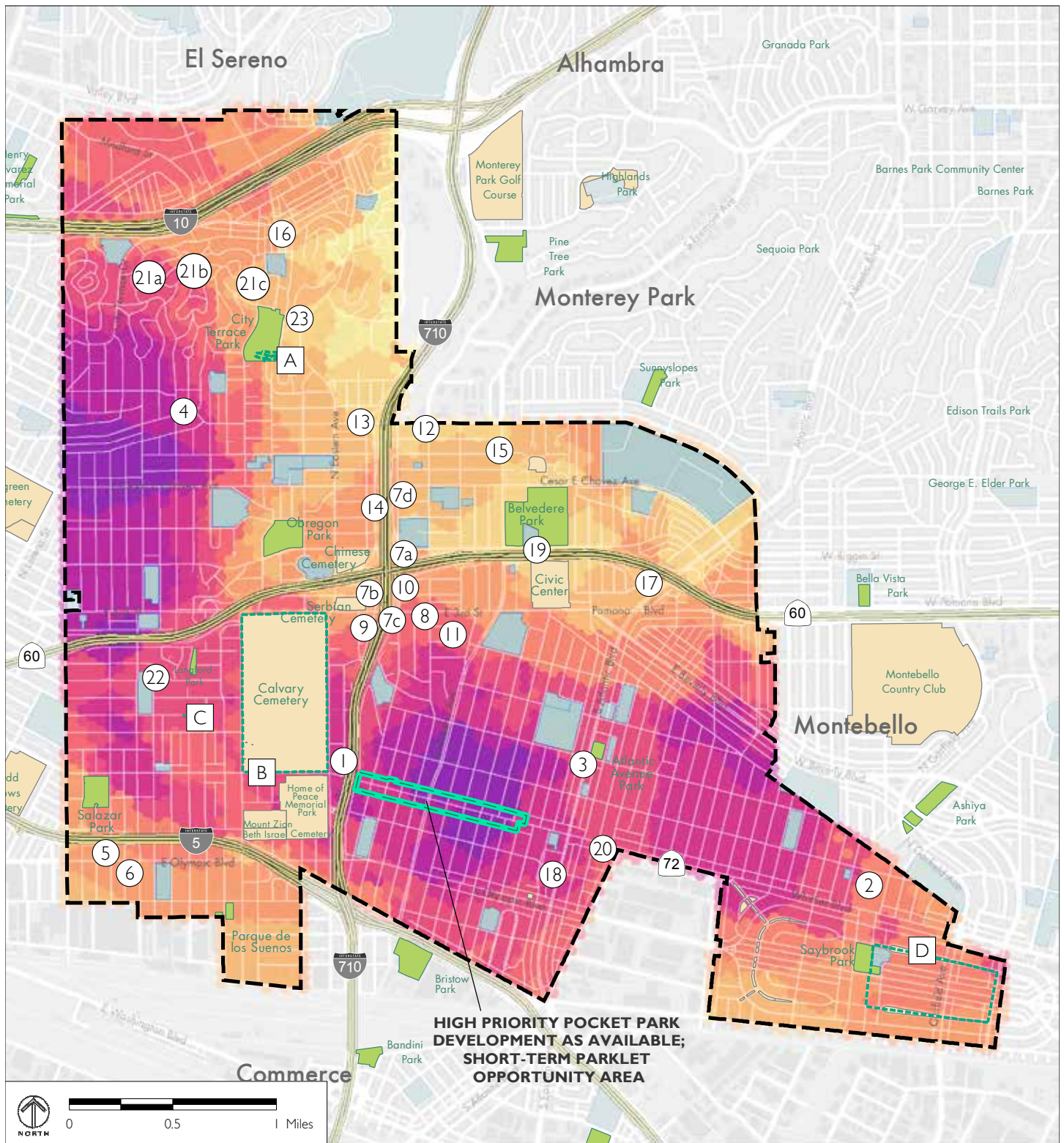


FIGURE 4.11 EAST LOS ANGELES POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES MAP



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, Placeworks, 2015.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TABLE 4.5 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EAST LOS ANGELES PARK OPPORTUNITIES

Priority Level	Site	Publicly Owned	Privately Owned	Size (acres)	Existing Parks Improvements	Community Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Pocket Parks	Park Nodes	Trails	Multi-Benefit Parks	School Sites	City Parks and Facilities	Private Facilities	Greenways
High	1		●	0.35				●							
	2		●	21.43			●			●					
	3		●	0.49				●							
	4	●		0.44				●							
	5		●	1.16				●							
	6		●	0.35				●							
	7a	●		2.62				●							
	7b	●		1.80				●							
	7c	●		1.23				●							
	7d	●		0.57				●							
	8	●		0.17				●							
Medium	9		●	0.6				●							
	10	●	●	1.25				●							
	11		●	1.20				●			●				●
	12	●	●	0.36				●							
	13		●	0.42				●							
	14	●		1.42				●							
	15		●	0.11										●	
	16		●	0.16										●	
	17	●	●	7.7					●	●	●				●
	18		●	0.49				●							
	19	●		9.95		●	●								
Low	20		●	0.05					●						
	21a		●	0.7							●				
	21b		●	0.43							●				
	21c		●	1.58							●				
In progress	22	●		1.26				●							
	23	●		36.0			●								

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TABLE 4.6 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL EAST LOS ANGELES TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Priority Level	Site	Publicly Owned	Privately Owned	Length (feet)	Type A Urban/ Suburban	Type B Rural	Type C Primitive	Type D Shared Pathway/ Service Road
High	A		●		●			
	B	●			●			
Medium	C	●				●		
	D	●			●			●
Low	E	●			●			
In progress	F	●			●			

- **TIMING.** Sites that could be developed sooner were prioritized over sites that had impediments to development, such as site contamination, existing structures, or use restrictions.
- **OWNERSHIP.** Sites owned by a public agency or utility company were prioritized over privately owned sites. Sites owned by a Los Angeles County agency were prioritized above all other sites.

Identified opportunities in East Los Angeles include new park spaces and trails, as well as sites for green infrastructure improvements. Vacant and underutilized parcels, as well as the Southern California Edison utility corridor, make up the majority of new park opportunities. Existing pedestrian routes within the neighborhood are highlighted for formal trail improvements. Green infrastructure, in the form of urban forestry and stormwater improvements, are proposed for areas near existing freeways.

Whittier Boulevard is an important commercial corridor through East Los Angeles. It has a large number of pedestrians and cyclists and would significantly benefit from a gathering place of small green space for residents to visit during their daily visits. This area is also a high-need park area. There are

currently not any vacant parcels for park development in this area, although there a few vacant or underutilized structures. This area should continue to be monitored for pocket park space opportunities to complement the new parklets.

There are some sites in East Los Angeles that were evaluated but not prioritized due to existing plans for the site. If these plans do not facilitate new development, these parkland and trail opportunities should be considered. This list includes both the pedestrian trail around Calvary Cemetery and upgrades to Langford Park. DPW has plans for both of these projects; both represent important partnership opportunities for DPR. Additionally, DPR should continue to communicate with the Los Angeles County Fire Department regarding use adjacent land near their headquarters in City Terrace. Use of this area for trails is currently being explored.



5 - GREEN SPACE VISION PLAN



Based on the needs assessment and parkland development opportunities in East Los Angeles, a community plan for new, near-term parkland development evolved. This chapter explores the vision and goals of the East Los Angeles Community Parks and Recreation Plan, a strategy for community-wide urban greening, and potential long-term benefits of implementing the projects identified here.



VISION AND GOALS

The open space vision and goals are driven by community needs and input. The theme of “A Park Every Day,” highlights the importance of integrating parks and recreation opportunities into the day-to-day fabric of the lives of East Los Angeles residents. Green spaces, of a variety of sizes, should be made available throughout the community and easily accessible in the everyday routine of residents’ lives.

The intrinsic value of nature on human health cannot be underestimated. Research has documented the multiple benefits from close proximity to tree canopies and green open space including reduced stress, improved attention span, decreased at-risk behavior among inner-city youth, and improved recovery from illness or injury.

As such, increased green space for exercise and recreation, expanded walking trails and the creation of a healthy urban forest, as described in this Vision Plan could improve the quality of life for East Los Angeles residents in multiple ways.

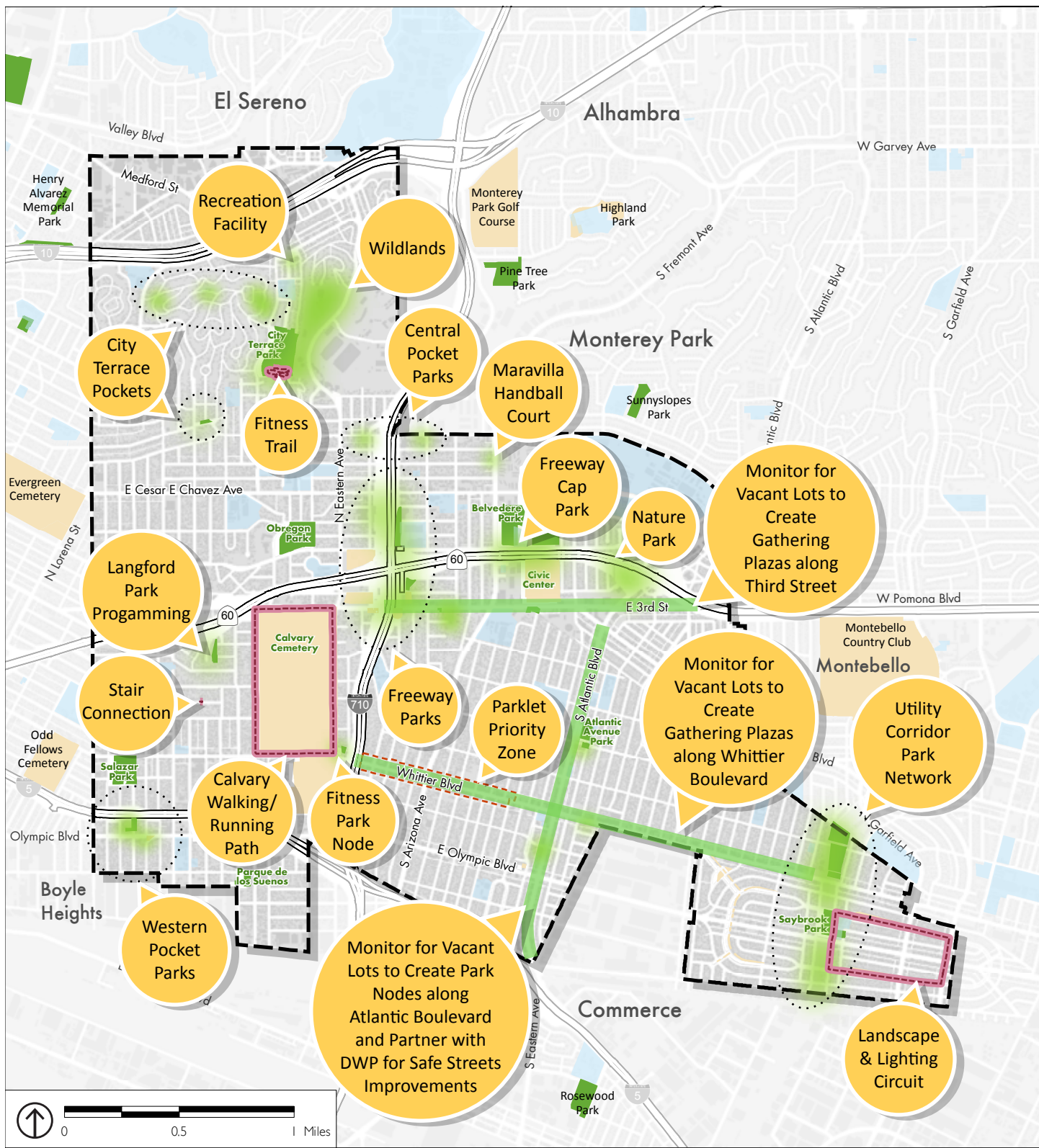
“This principle holds that a reconnection to the natural world is fundamental to human health, well-being, spirit, and survival.”

- Richard Louv,
The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the
End of Nature-Deficit Disorder

GOALS

1. Increase overall green space.
2. Integrate parks and healthy activities into the everyday lives of East Los Angeles residents.
3. Create new urban trails, walking paths and safe streets that connect residents to parks and open space.
4. Enhance public spaces that support community interaction and cultural identity.
5. Consider creative new green space types:
 - » Utility corridor parks
 - » Freeway underpass parks
 - » Freeway cap parks
 - » Parklets
6. Increase the sense of nature within the parkland system and among of East Los Angeles residents.
7. Maintain and enhance East Los Angeles’ urban forest.
8. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.

FIGURE 5.1 EAST LOS ANGELES GREEN VISION MAP



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- East Los Angeles
- Existing Parks
- Other Existing Green Space
- Schools
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Potential Trail Opportunities
- Potential Green Streets



Whittier Boulevard

The Vision Plan in Figure 5.1 shows a mix of potential new community parks, pocket parks, park nodes, and trails throughout the community. This range of sites could provide spaces to meet the needs identified in Chapter Four. There is limited opportunity for large-scale park development, with the exception of the Southern California Edison utility corridor along the west side of the community. However, through strategic placement of smaller pocket parks, park nodes, and green connectors, East Los Angeles residents could have greater access to parks and recreational amenities at a more local level. These spaces would not entirely duplicate the positive impacts of a large park, but they can add to the overall greening of East Los Angeles and create a greater public connection to green space.

GREEN CONNECTIONS

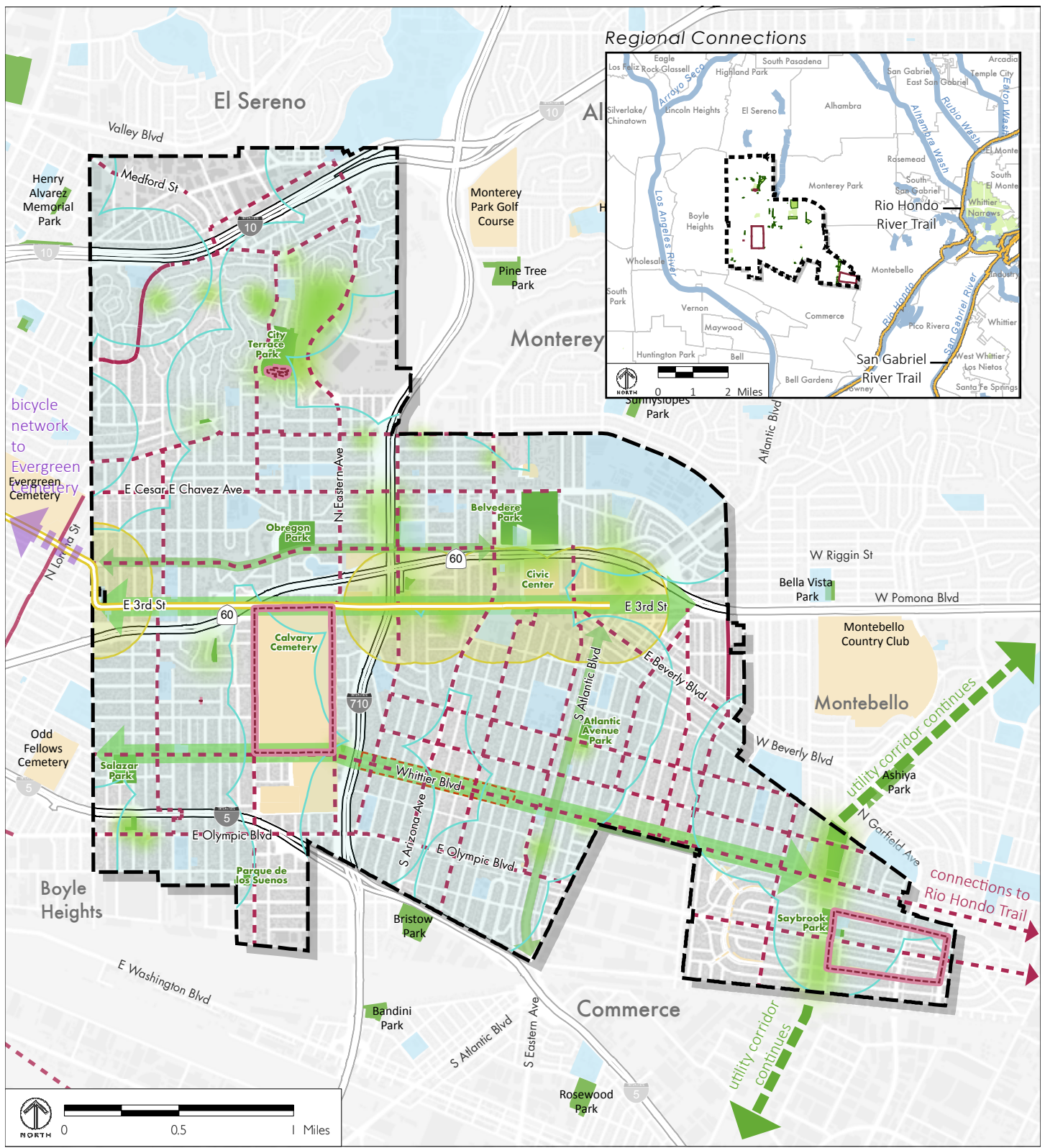
The Vision Plan includes new potential park and recreation sites throughout the community. Considered in tandem with other ongoing green infrastructure projects, such as the implementation of the Los Angeles County Bike Plan the Third Street Specific Plan, and Metro's East Side Access Project, these sites help form a green network of amenities within East Los Angeles, allowing residents to create stronger relationships with green spaces and corridor routes in their community. Figure 5.2 illustrates key connections and corridors for linking existing green space with potential future projects, both within the community and in the surrounding area.

Many sites are located along planned bicycle routes, including Olympic Boulevard, Whittier Boulevard and First Street, or within close proximity to Metro's Gold Line, making them easily accessible by transit. The bike routes within East Los Angeles also form connections with trail networks outside of the community. The proposed lanes along Whittier Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard could connect residents with the Rio Hondo River Trail and the existing trail network connecting through the Whittier Narrows Recreation Area. To the west, bike corridors and Metro's planned pedestrian improvements along the Gold Line could help create corridor connections to the Los Angeles River and planned trail improvements there.

The utility corridor along the east side of the community creates another green connection through the neighborhood, and to adjacent areas. The corridor continues in both directions, including linking up to Ashiya Park in Montebello. By creating parklands within this corridor, residents of East Los Angeles and the surrounding area could have a new, safe route to travel, within green space, through their communities.

Also shown in Figure 5.2, all of the potential parkland opportunity sites fall within a quarter mile of an existing school, suggesting that they could become resources for youth across the community. In particular, these sites may serve as important environmental education centers. Through strategic intervention in conjunction with other planned efforts, new parklands can have the intended impact of saturating the community with green space and green infrastructure.

FIGURE 5.2 CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE CONNECTIONS



VISION PLAN

- East Los Angeles
- Existing Parks
- Schools
- 1/4-mile Buffer from Schools
- Existing Bike Lanes
- - - Proposed Bike Lanes
- Metro Eastside Access Project
- Metro Gold Line
- 1/4 mile buffer from Metro Stations
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- - - Potential Trail Opportunities
- Key Corridors

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.



*Playground Parklet
76th Street Park, South Los Angeles
source: City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, 50 Parks Initiative Gallery*



*Creative Use of Site Conditions
Bayview Park, Australia
source: Weekend Notes (<http://www.weekendnotes.com/display-image/2/23236/alamanda-boulevard-point-cook211.JPG>)*



*Park in Utility Corridor
Salud Park, Paramount, CA*

VISION PLAN FEATURES

The Vision Plan shows a variety of potential parks and recreation opportunities including:

- **POCKET PARKS / PARK NODES / PLACITAS.** The vision identifies three key areas for potential pocket parks: Western, Central, and City Terrace.

The Western pocket parks are characterized by the industrial conditions of the surrounding area. Although Parque de los Sueños is nearby, it is primarily a children's playground and there is limited green space and opportunities for other types of recreation in this part of the community. Pocket parks along Olympic Boulevard could provide opportunities for public gathering, picnicking, community art presentations and installations, and small fitness and sports activities, as well as bring trees and vegetation into this area.

The Central pocket parks are near office spaces along Floral Drive. Small parks in this area could be used for lunchtime gathering or small community garden spaces for residential properties west of the 710 Freeway.

The City Terrace pockets are distinctive in their dramatic steepness, making them not viable for other types of development. These small spaces could be used for habitat creation, stairway connections, or small vista plazas for local residents.

Pocket park development is dependent on the availability of properties, which changes rapidly. Three commercial corridors present good opportunities for potential pocket parks and park nodes: Third Street, Whittier Boulevard, and Atlantic Boulevard. Creating green spaces along these routes could help promote pedestrian activity, aid in greening the streets overall, and help develop a sense of place. There are some currently vacant lots identified along these routes; however, additional opportunities could be explored to create green corridors, such as parklets, bulb outs, and stormwater planters. Third Street, in particular, is in transition due to the Third Street Corridor Plan, discussed in Chapter Two. Green spaces along Third Street should be integrated as part of the implementation of this plan.

- **UTILITY CORRIDOR PARK NETWORK.** The Southern California Edison utility corridor offers the greatest potential parkland opportunities in East Los Angeles. Saybrook Park was developed within this corridor and extending it to the north and south could create a green network along the eastern edge of the community. There are limitations to development within the corridor; extending around the existing

towers, including restrictions on the development of formal sports fields; however, multi-purpose fields could help alleviate some of the non-programmed use in other facilities in the community. Furthermore, play space and community walking paths in the corridor could help meet the demand for these types of amenities.

- **FREEWAY PARKS.** There is limited undeveloped space in East Los Angeles. However, vacant parcels of land adjacent to freeways could be re-purposed for small park development. In particular, there are parcels under the 710 Freeway and I-60 interchange that could potentially be used as pocket parks and park nodes. Similar sites in other cities have used remnant spaces like these as bike skills parks, skate parks, play spaces, and art walks utilizing pylons as a medium for murals. Although it is preferable not to provide recreation facilities near the exhaust from freeways, potential particulate deposition can be managed through increased planting of street trees and the installation of barriers to limit particulates and sound.

- **COMMUNITY TRAILS.** Potential trail opportunities include formalizing existing exercise routes, such as the Calvary Cemetery path and the Landscape and Lighting District Circuit; creating new walking and exercise routes in City Terrace; and enhancing existing connections at existing pedestrian stairways. Improving pedestrian routes could provide East Los Angeles residents with opportunities to walk for exercise, an activity that is highly popular in the community.

- **NATURE PARKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FACILITIES.** Two potential opportunities for nature spaces are the California Department of Forestry and Fire (CALFIRE) site near City Terrace Park, labeled Wildlands in Figure 5.1, and the channelized creek near Civic Center. The wildlands offers a partnership opportunity with CALFIRE to open up the steep area surrounding their facilities for community walking trails with a more rugged quality. The channelized creek near Civic Center goes underground near a freeway buffer, creating space for a small creek side nature park on the south side of the freeway and a channel trail on the north side, connecting to Robert Hill Lane Elementary School.

- **RECREATION FACILITY ENHANCEMENT.** Two existing facilities, the Maravilla Handball Court and Langford Park, offer potential opportunities for Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to enhance existing facilities through programming and site improvements. The handball court is an historic recreational amenity, which could



*Repurposing of Freeway Underpass for Park Activities
Underpass Park, Toronto, Canada
source: WATERFRONToronto*



*Freeway Pylon Art Walk
Chicano Park, San Diego, CA
source: flickr user kellinahandbasket; Creative Commons license CC BY 2.0*



Simulated Image of New Park over 101 Freeway in Downtown Los Angeles
source: Park 101



Community Jogging Path Evergreen Cemetery, Boyle Heights
source: Kris Fortin; StreetsblogLA



Fitness Station in Spring Street Parklet Downtown Los Angeles
source: People Street; photo by LADOT/Jim Simmons

be restored and used as a handball court or converted to an arts center for older youth. Additionally, Langford Park is currently developed as a pocket park, which could host programming for local residents, such as yoga, dance, or other exercise classes .

- **FREEWAY CAP PARK.** Creating a freeway overpass park to connect Civic Center Park and Belvedere Park could significantly add to overall green space and expand the connection between the two existing green spaces currently linked only via a narrow pedestrian bridge. This could be an expensive expansion; however it is being considered a possible way of increasing overall green space in other parts of the County, such as the proposed Park 101 project in Downtown Los Angeles.

Although there is potential to develop new field space along the utility corridor, restrictions on formal sports fields within the corridor and location suggest that it will not be able to meet the total need for field space in East Los Angeles. To meet the greater need for new sports fields, DPR should continue to seek acquisition opportunities of large sites able to accommodate these uses, within East Los Angeles and in unincorporated areas adjacent to the community.

The Vision includes parklets along Whittier Boulevard and a walking path around Calvary Cemetery. As noted in Chapter Two, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) has implemented a parklet program in East Los Angeles that includes three new parklets. Additionally Metro is currently planning a path around Calvary cemetery. This path may also include small fitness nodes with exercise equipment. To accompany these projects, DPR could consider vacant lots near Calvary Cemetery to use as fitness stations for people running and walking around the new path, as well as pocket parks in vacant lots along Whittier Boulevard.

URBAN GREENING

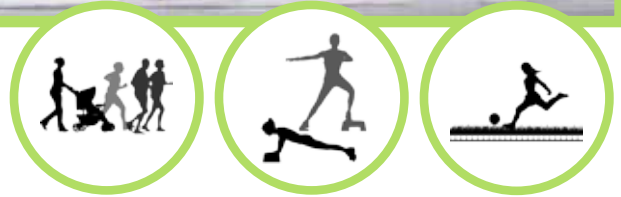
Parks and trails serve the public not only as recreational amenities, but also as valuable ecological services through the landscape elements and infrastructure they contain. These “green” features can significantly benefit urban areas by improving air and water quality, providing habitat area for wildlife, and improving comfort levels for local residents. For example, trees in parks absorb carbon dioxide, pollutant gases, and filter out particulates. In addition to urban forestry, urban greening can include efficiency measures, such as energy and water use reductions, stormwater treatment, and transportation initiatives to increase walking and biking to reduce vehicular emissions and increase health.

It is important that parks serve as a model for urban greening in the community where they are located, utilizing efficient technologies, maximizing ecological potential, and advocating for sustainable actions community-wide. The existing parks in East Los Angeles have excellent tree coverage and a substantial amount of pervious surfaces. However, to maximize benefits,

Vacant lots and street spaces provide spaces for play and gathering, and can be designed to include space for exercise or older youth activities.



Utility corridors provide opportunities for unprogrammed field space. Walking paths and fitness equipment can be added for exercise opportunities.



Park nodes with nature elements provide environmental education opportunities, as well as multi benefit green infrastructure, such as stormwater management and wildlife habitat.



additional measure could be implemented at existing parks, as well as in potential new parks and trails. Partnerships with other agencies, non-profits, and residents could expand the greening potential for the community as a whole. Following are areas where change could be implemented to improve urban greening in East Los Angeles:

WATER

Water in California is valuable and limited. As of 2015, the State is in the fourth year of an extreme drought, considered to be one of the most severe in the last 30 years. Actions are being taken across the State to conserve and protect water resources. Local actions include both water conservation to prevent overuse, as well as water treatment and management to protect water quality.

WATER CONSERVATION

In April 2015, Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency throughout the State due to severe drought conditions and issued an Executive Order, requiring a 25-percent reduction in water use through February 2016. East Los Angeles' water is provided by the California Water Service Company of East Los Angeles, which was placed in Tier 1 from the State Water Board, and mandated to reach a 10 percent reduction.

WATER QUALITY

Limited water capacity, stormwater capture and aquifer recharge are important services. Furthermore, soil and plants filter pollutants out of stormwater, reducing the amount of polluted runoff into creeks and waterways. Such capture and treatment can be achieved through implementation of bioretention basins and swales.

AIR QUALITY

Greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas can have negative human health, including cancer and respiratory disease, and negative environmental impacts, such as increased heat island effect or plant growth stagnation. East Los Angeles is located within the South Coast Air Basin, which has some of the most polluted air in the nation. Pollutants typically come from two sources: ozone and particulate matter (PM). Ozone is created by chemical reactions and sunlight. Pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are called "ozone precursors." They combine in the presence of hot, stagnant, sunny weather to create ozone (or smog). Ozone precursors in Los Angeles County come from cars and trucks traveling along the freeways, as well as industry, petroleum production, and waste disposal in other nearby communities.

Parks and recreation facilities in East Los Angeles can improve air quality by reducing the need for vehicular access to these spaces, increasing tree canopy within the community, and maintaining healthy soil ecosystems.

ENERGY

Although significant progress has been made to increase renewable sources of energy, the majority of electricity in California comes from fossil fuels, with natural gas making up 44 percent of the total power supply.¹ Energy needs at parks can be substantial, including lighting for sports fields, walkways, and indoor facilities; irrigation meters; heating and cooling systems; computer labs and technical equipment; as well day-to-day use of electrical equipment by office and program staff.

In 2010, DPR initiated a pilot project to install solar panels at Obregon Park. The project reduced electricity consumption by 20 percent at the park and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 40,000 pounds. This is currently the only park in East Los Angeles that produces energy onsite through solar panels or other alternative means.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Parks, green space, and other pieces of green infrastructure serve as sanctuaries for birds, animals, reptiles, amphibians and insects living within an urban area. These species add life to a green space and give residents the opportunity to engage with creatures outside of the human race. Connected spaces serve best for habitat as it expands the species' range and increases mobility. This is particularly important in urban areas where there is limited green space and species can be trapped. For many species, these spaces do not need to be extremely large and small elements, such as street trees, can provide valuable foraging and habitat resources.

Connections between East Los Angeles' parks can serve as both corridors for humans, as well as urban wildlife. Additionally, modifications to existing parks, including more native plants, can enhance habitat potential within the green features in East Los Angeles.

PUBLIC HEALTH

In addition to being beneficial for the environment, clean air and water benefit humans living nearby. Urban conditions, such as high levels of vehicle exhaust and low levels of trees and landscape, can be difficult on human respiratory and neurological systems, as well as detrimental to their psychological health. Parks and green infrastructure can help offset these negative physiological and psychological impacts.

Furthermore, people are more likely to exercise when there are safe places to do so near their homes. Increased exercise can help reduce or prevent obesity and related diseases. Additionally, exercise is important for cardiovascular health and can help counteract the impacts of stress on the body.

1 2013 Total Electricity System Power. Energy Almanac. California Energy Commission. <http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/total_system_power.html>

URBAN FORESTRY

The urban forest represents a significant component of urban greening and its quality and diversity can affect how the public perceives the environmental quality of their community. Specifically, residents of East Los Angeles considered addressing the urban forest as an important phase in developing the Community Parks and Recreation Plan. In particular, many residents indicated that urban forestry is important in locations near the freeways that cut through East Los Angeles, both as a visual buffer for the community and an environmental buffer to gather particulates.

The vision for East Los Angeles' urban forest is to increase existing canopy coverage throughout the community by creating greener streets that encourage people to walk and exercise, establishing green buffers from the freeways that divide the community, and focusing on other multi-benefit greening opportunities. Within existing parks, the goal is to increase the canopy coverage while maintaining visibility and existing park uses, and to transition the park forest into one which provides optimal benefits for the community.

Realization of urban greening targets, described at right, could maximize environmental, social and economic benefits associated with the urban forest, thereby enhancing the quality of life and the public health enjoyed by the East Los Angeles community.

CANOPY TARGETS

As discussed in Chapter Two, while coverage within East Los Angeles' parkland is approximately 23 percent, the community as a whole has an overall canopy coverage of 11 percent, due to low coverage within street corridors, residential areas and other land uses. This is far less than the 21 percent coverage maintained within the City of Los Angeles or the 25 percent recommended by American Forests as appropriate for urban areas in temperate and arid climates.

It is recommended that DPR maintain or increase the current canopy coverage at parks, and work with other departments, organizations, and agencies towards a 24 percent community-wide canopy coverage target, with the understanding that increases will be incremental and the target represents a long-term goal. This target is based on American Forests' recommendations and adjusted based on existing land uses within the community. Reaching this target would require doubling the number of trees in the community. As it is not feasible or desirable for parkland to support all new planting, community-wide efforts are needed to increase canopy in non-park areas, including residential areas and along streets.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE URBAN FOREST WITHIN PARKS

Within all parkland, replacement of existing trees and planting of new trees are central to enhancing the forest. Trees in existing parks that are either unhealthy or do little to contribute to the urban forest should be replaced with species

URBAN GREENING TARGETS

1. Provide at least **15 percent** canopy coverage within new parks.
2. Work with other jurisdictions, agencies, and property owners to increase tree plantings outside of parks, working towards a community-wide canopy coverage target of **24 percent**.
3. Reduce water usage at all existing parks by **25 percent** of 2013 use levels.
4. Capture **100 percent** of stormwater runoff onsite at existing and future parks.

that provide greater urban forestry benefits, such as trees with larger and fuller canopies. New trees should be located where they could have the most benefit in existing parks. For example, trees should be planted around gathering areas to provide ample shade or in open areas where the tree canopy is lacking, but be mindful to arrange trees so they do not conflict with programming, such as sports fields. Additionally, the development of new parks provides great opportunity for new trees. The amount of trees and location depends on the programming and design of the site. Gathering places, plazas, playgrounds and pathways all benefit from the shade provided by trees.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE URBAN FOREST BEYOND PARK BOUNDARIES

There are numerous opportunities to plant trees in non-park areas such as spaces adjacent to freeways, in vacant lots, and along utility corridors. Although such areas are typically beyond the jurisdiction of DPR, the County can plant new trees in partnership with other land owners, such as Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), Caltrans, and Southern California Edison (SCE), and can also encourage private property owners to plant trees on their respective properties.

Areas that were identified as having a high need for additional street tree planting and specific opportunity sites are shown in Figure 5.3. The Preferred Tree List in Appendix E identifies species that are appropriate for each of the opportunity types identified.

- **STREET CORRIDORS.** Increasing canopy coverage on urban streets can significantly improve pedestrian conditions by creating a cooler and more aesthetically pleasing walking and cycling environment. In particular, increase street tree planting should occur along the streets in high need or urban canopy (identified in Figure 5.3); along the corridors that connect parks, cemeteries, and other green space; and along key commercial streets, such as Third Street and Whittier Boulevard to potential increase commercial vitality.
- **FREEWAY BUFFERS.** East Los Angeles is divided by major freeways running through the community. Planting trees or enhancing existing plantings along the space adjacent to these freeways could offset the noise and pollution from the freeway, and beautify the area. Trees that are known for pollution reduction and that have high canopies should be selected for these spaces. See trees designated as suitable for freeways in the preferred tree list in Chapter Seven.
- **UTILITY CORRIDORS.** Utilizing the Southern California Edison utility corridor as a park could expand the overall park acreage within East Los Angeles. Providing tree canopy within the corridors could significantly enhance the users experience and encourage residents to use these parks both for recreation and for connections between this section of the community. Height restrictions should be considered for the utility corridor to prevent interference with overhead utility lines.



- **POCKET FORESTS.** There are various vacant parcels in the steeper sections of East Los Angeles that are not suitable for development. These sites could be planted with trees to create mini-forests with the hill communities, such as City Terrace. In addition to providing aesthetic benefit, trees can potentially stabilize steep slopes with their roots, providing erosion control, as well as provide habitat opportunities for local fauna.
- **RIPARIAN CORRIDORS.** Riparian species should be planted along drainage areas and along trails that follow flood control district channels. Additionally if the concrete channel is removed, riparian trees should be planted within the flood plain. Trees designated as suitable for riparian areas are listed in the preferred tree list in Appendix E.
- **RESIDENTIAL YARDS.** Private individuals can have a significant impact on the public urban forest. Educational resources and incentive programs can encourage residents to plant trees on their property or request planting from their landlord.

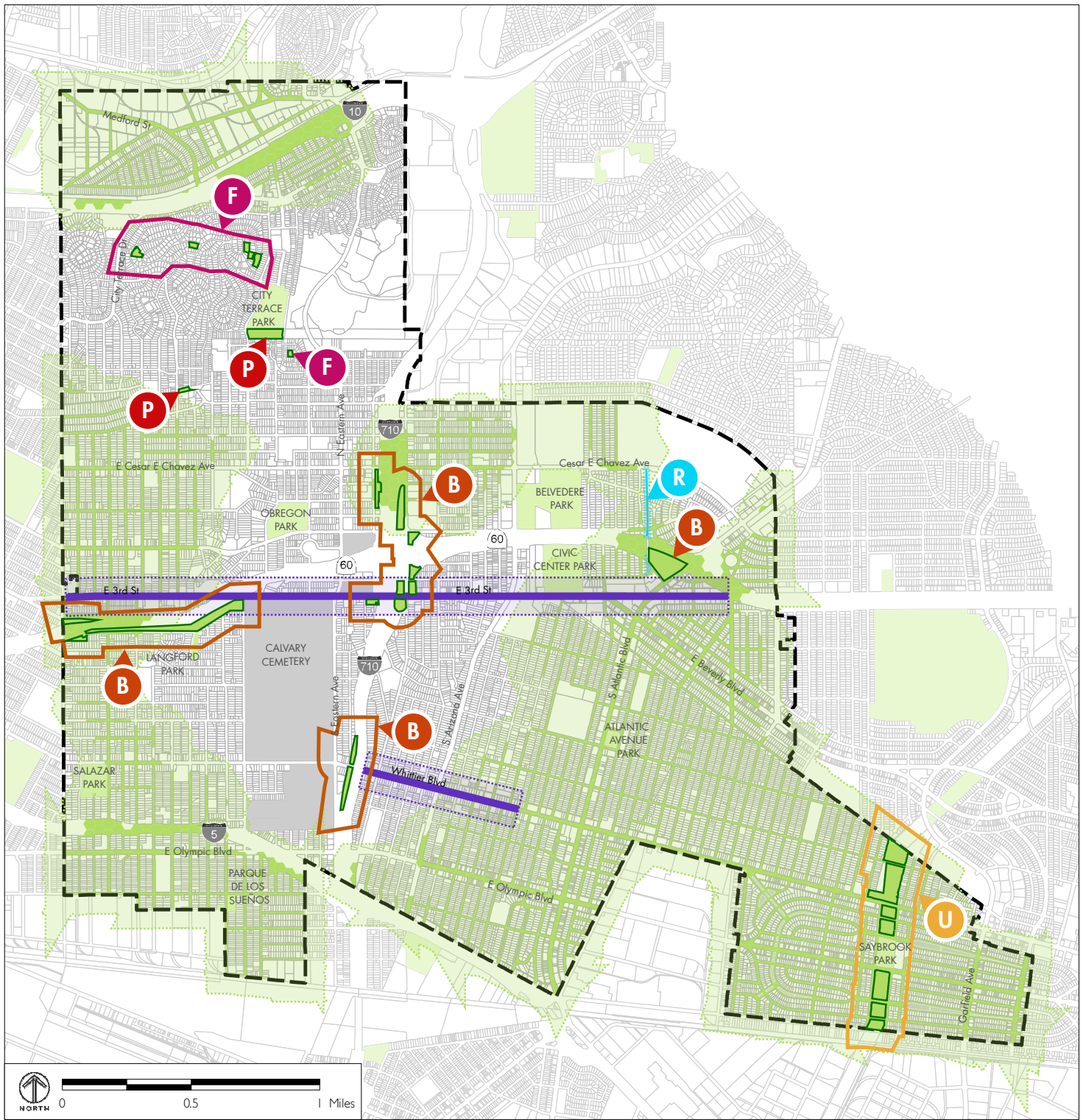
MEETING THE NEEDS

As noted in Chapter Four, East Los Angeles is in significant need of new green space. Following are diagrams of how adding new park space identified in the vision and making improvements at existing parks could help meet the identified need within the community. These conceptual renderings demonstrate where various facilities or amenities could be constructed and how parks and urban greening can be used throughout the neighborhood to create corridors and connections of green spaces.

Although site-specific layout and design would need to be considered for each new project, the conceptual plans presented in Chapter Six serve as guides for potential design of sample parkland opportunity spaces in East Los Angeles. These designs emphasize opportunities for health and fitness; spaces for children to play and older youth to recreate; ecological design elements; and iconic community gathering places.

Through community outreach and site assessment, certain deficiencies in the park network were identified, including amenities that could strengthen East Los Angeles' park network. These needs, presented in Chapter Four, were considered in developing the Vision Plan and this approach aims to ameliorate current needs. To this end, potential new parks within the high need area are included in the Vision Plan. Additionally, parks that could provide the amenities needed by the community are included. Figures 5.4 to 5.6 illustrate conceptually which sites could meet the needs identified in Chapter Four.

FIGURE 5.3 POTENTIAL URBAN FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN EAST LOS ANGELES



Source: Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- East Los Angeles
- Existing Parks
- Street Opportunities (street corridors with low existing tree canopy)
- Commercial Corridor Opportunities
- Riparian Corridors
- Site Opportunities
- B** Freeway Buffer
- P** Future Park
- F** Pocket Forest
- U** Utility Corridor (Future Park)
- R** Riparian

FIGURE 5.4 THIRD STREET CORRIDOR



Exercise and Fitness Opportunities



Facilities for Teens



Fields with Highly Durable Surface Material



Alternative Energy Production



Green Infrastructure



Safe Walking and Running Paths/ Trails



Play Spaces



Gathering



Fields with Highly Durable Surface Material



Wildlife Habitat/ Natural Space

VISION PLAN

FIGURE 5.5 CITY TERRACE AND CENTRAL POCKET PARKS



Wildlife Habitat/
Natural Space



Alternative
Energy
Production



Safe Walking and
Running Paths/
Trails



Gathering



Play
spaces



Exercise
and Fitness
Opportunities



Safe Walking and
Running Paths/
Trails



Gathering

VISION PLAN

FIGURE 5.6 WHITTIER BOULEVARD CORRIDOR AND EASTERN POCKET PARKS



Facilities for Teens



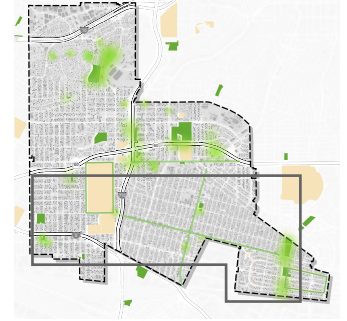
Fields with Highly Durable Surface Material



Play Spaces



Safe Walking and Running Paths/Trails



Gathering



Exercise and Fitness Opportunities

POTENTIAL IMPACT OF IMPLEMENTATION

The park projects proposed in the Vision Plan are intended to provide a variety of options to enhance and expand green space opportunity in East Los Angeles. “On-the-ground” factors, such as limited space availability, require creativity in site development. The plan reflects these issues through the integrated development of numerous small sites, partnerships with other agencies to maximize underutilized parcels, and creation of less conventional recreation spaces.

Together, these projects increase overall exposure to green space for East Los Angeles residents in their everyday life. Small plazas, placitas, and park nodes help to provide small-scale places for recreation and overall community beautification, as well as provide space for community branding and installations that honor cultural history. Re-purposing of freeway parcels and utility corridors transforms unpleasant site conditions into valuable community resources. Community trails and walking paths could provide more opportunities for residents to exercise. Through these interventions, strategic parks and recreation improvements, and actions presented in the following urban forestry plan, the neighborhood as a whole can begin to operate as green space, and can potentially improve the overall perception of green space availability in the community.

GREENSCORE

Achieving the vision and expanding East Los Angeles’ parks and recreation system will take time, long-term investment and political will. There are a wide range of project types and site conditions with different levels of feasibility. As noted in Chapter Four, projects with the highest potential for park development and could meet the most need were prioritized for consideration and possible implementation in the short-term.

Parks with high priority were used in the Greenscore analysis to examine the potential impact of new parkland and trail development. The high priority projects used in the analysis are shown in Figure 5.7. Although both of the eastern potential pocket park sites are shown on the map, it is unlikely that both would be developed at the same time, and thus for purpose of analyzing impacts, only one of sites was selected. Similarly, although there are multiple sites identified among the freeway parks, it is likely only one could be constructed in the short term.

Following are discussions and illustrations of the impact that the creation of these potential parks and trails could have on service areas, spatial need, and population served. Additionally, described are the greening impacts of the development of new parks, as well as meeting the target canopy coverage of 24 percent and other urban greening goals community-wide.

IMPACT ON SERVICE AREAS

Figure 5.8 displays the service areas of existing parks and potential future parks identified as high priorities, based on DPR’s standard service area buffers. As seen in the figure, almost all of the area within East Los Angeles is within 1/2 mile of a local park or 1 mile from a regional facility.

IMPACT ON PARKLAND GAP AND WALKABILITY METHODOLOGY

Using ESRI ArcGIS’s network analyst, the service areas for potential park sites were calculated. The threshold used was an average 10-minute walking distance (1/4 mile radius). The existing street network and pedestrian conditions, as well as potential trails proposed, were used to calculate the distance and create the service area to determine each potential future park site’s walkable service areas. The US Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, 2012 5-Year Estimate data, was used for the community characteristics analysis. The community characteristics data needed to be adjusted due to the irregular shape of the walkable service area, which did not correspond with the block group polygons. The ratio of the block group acreage and clipped block group acreage was calculated which then applied to the demographics data to estimate population served by the park.

PARKLAND GAP

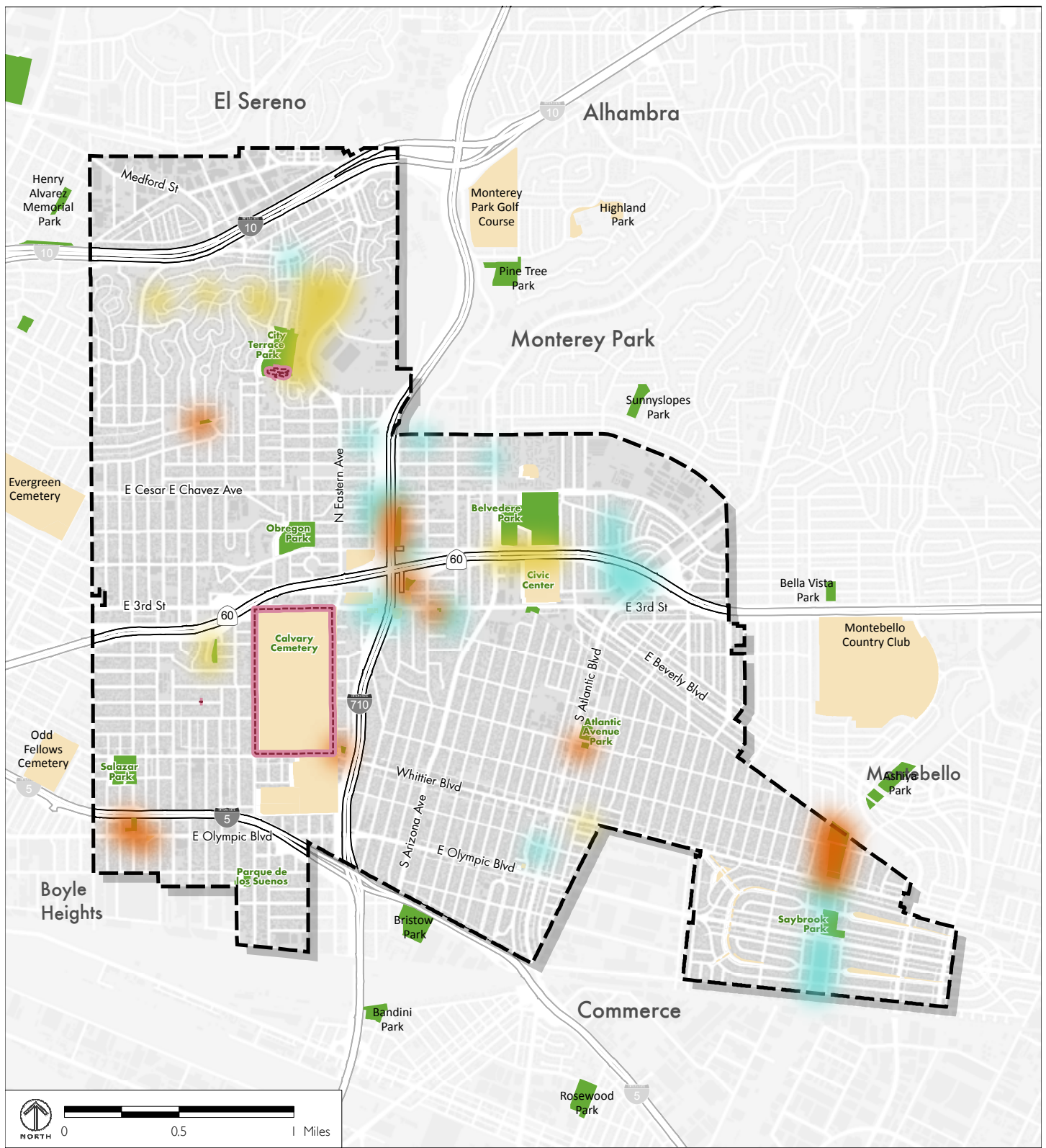
As a result of the walkability analysis (analyzed with both existing and potential future park sites to determine the overall population served) some of the parkland gaps have been reduced. The area east of the two cemeteries in the center of the community and the area near E Cesar Chavez Avenue, east of the 710 Freeway, were the areas that showed a significant decrease of parkland gap by addition of potential future park sites, as shown in Figure 5.9. Other parkland gap areas were not as significantly impacted with the potential future park sites.

IMPACT ON SPATIAL NEED

With the size of its current population, the East Los Angeles community needs approximately 506 acres of local parkland to fulfill the General Plan standard of four acres of parklands per 1,000 residents; however, the community only has 75.54 acres of parklands. The development of the identified high priority sites could add 18.91 acres of parklands, which could reduce the parkland needs from 430 acres to 412 acres.

Although there would still be need for new parks and recreation facilities, overall community need could decrease with the addition of the recommended new parkland. As seen in Figure 5.11, areas of highest need continue to be the densely developed area around Whittier Boulevard and areas with steep topography near City Terrace.

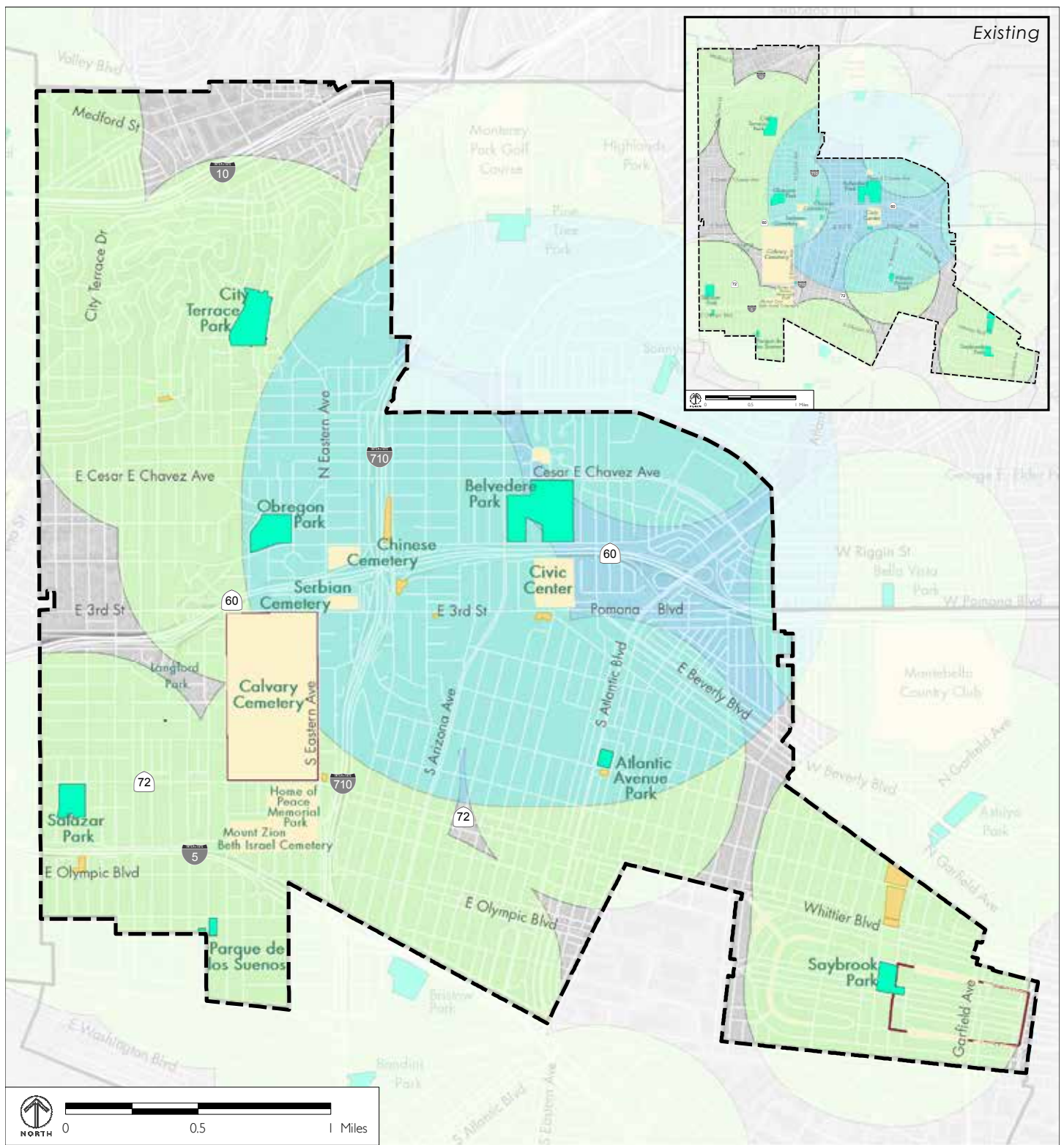
FIGURE 5.7 PRIORITIZATION OF EAST LOS ANGELES POTENTIAL OPPORTUNITY SITES



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- East Los Angeles
- Existing Parks
- Other Existing Green Space
- High Priority Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Medium Priority Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Low Priority Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Potential Trail Opportunities

FIGURE 5.8 SERVICE AREAS - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

Park Access

- Area Not Within 1 Mile of a Regional Park
- 1 Mile Service Radius from Regional Parks
- 1/2 Mile Service Radius from Local Parks

Parklands

- Potential Future Park Included in Analysis
- Existing Park Included in Analysis
- Other Existing Green Space
- Potential Trail

FIGURE 5.9 PARKLAND GAPS/WALKABILITY - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.

Areas Not Within 1/2 Mile of a Park

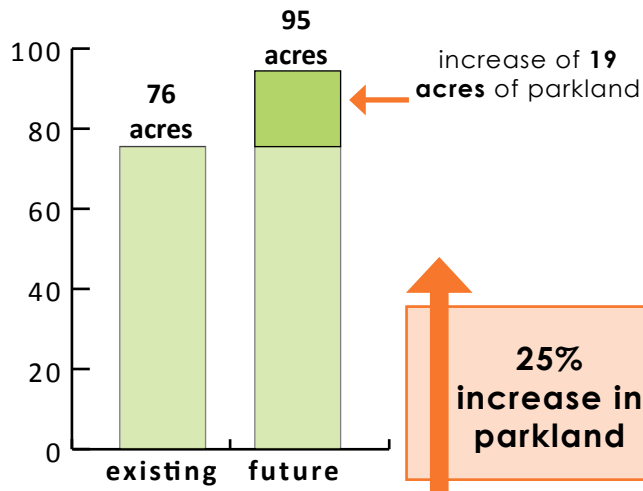
- Area Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park
- Non-Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park
- Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park

Parklands

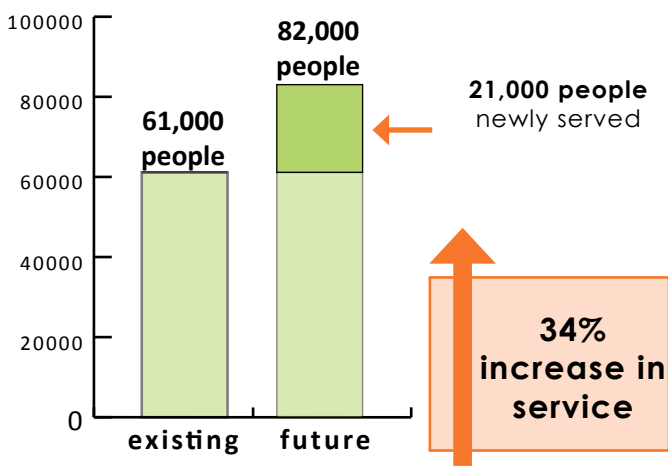
- Existing Park Included in Analysis
- Other Existing Green Space
- Potential Future Park Included in Analysis
- Potential Trail

FIGURE 5.10 SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE ADDITION OF POTENTIAL NEW PARKS

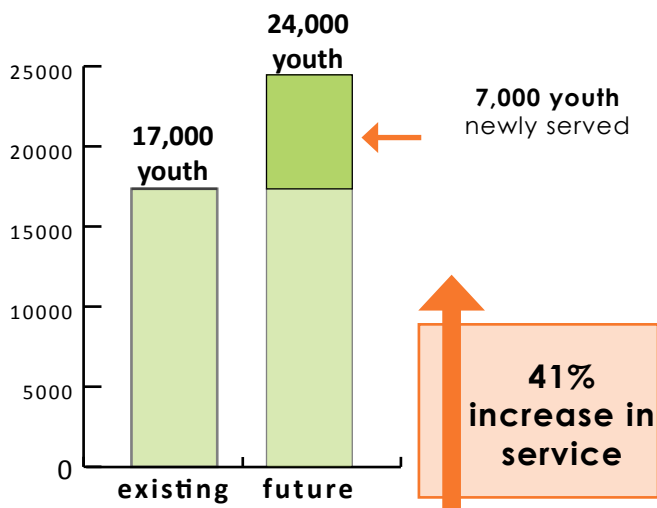
Parkland Acres



Total Population Served



Youth Population (Under 18) Served



Graphs show improvements based on the addition of high priority park projects.

POPULATION SERVED WITH POTENTIAL NEW PARKLAND

Meeting overall park need in East Los Angeles is challenging due to limited availability of vacant land and the high level of need. However, the addition of nearly 19 acres of parkland could have a noticeable impact on parks and recreation service to East Los Angeles residents, as shown in Figure 5.10.

With the addition of future park sites, the population within walking distance of any parks could increase approximately 36 percent; from approximately 61,000 to 82,000 residents. Within that group, the population under 18 years old could increase from approximately 17,000 to 24,000, which represents a 41 percent jump from the existing population. This indicates that the additions of potential future park sites could increase the possibility of providing more access to the parks and green spaces to overall population, and especially for residents under 18 years old.

IMPACT ON STORMWATER INTERCEPTION

Utilizing Low Impact Development (LID) technologies, such as stormwater swales, bioretention basins, or green roofs to intercept water runoff within existing parks and in future parks could provide significant benefit to water storage and improvement to water quality running into nearby waterways. Additionally, increasing the community-wide tree canopy to 24 percent could store and treat significant quantities of stormwater outside of the parks' boundaries, reducing impacts to existing stormwater infrastructure.

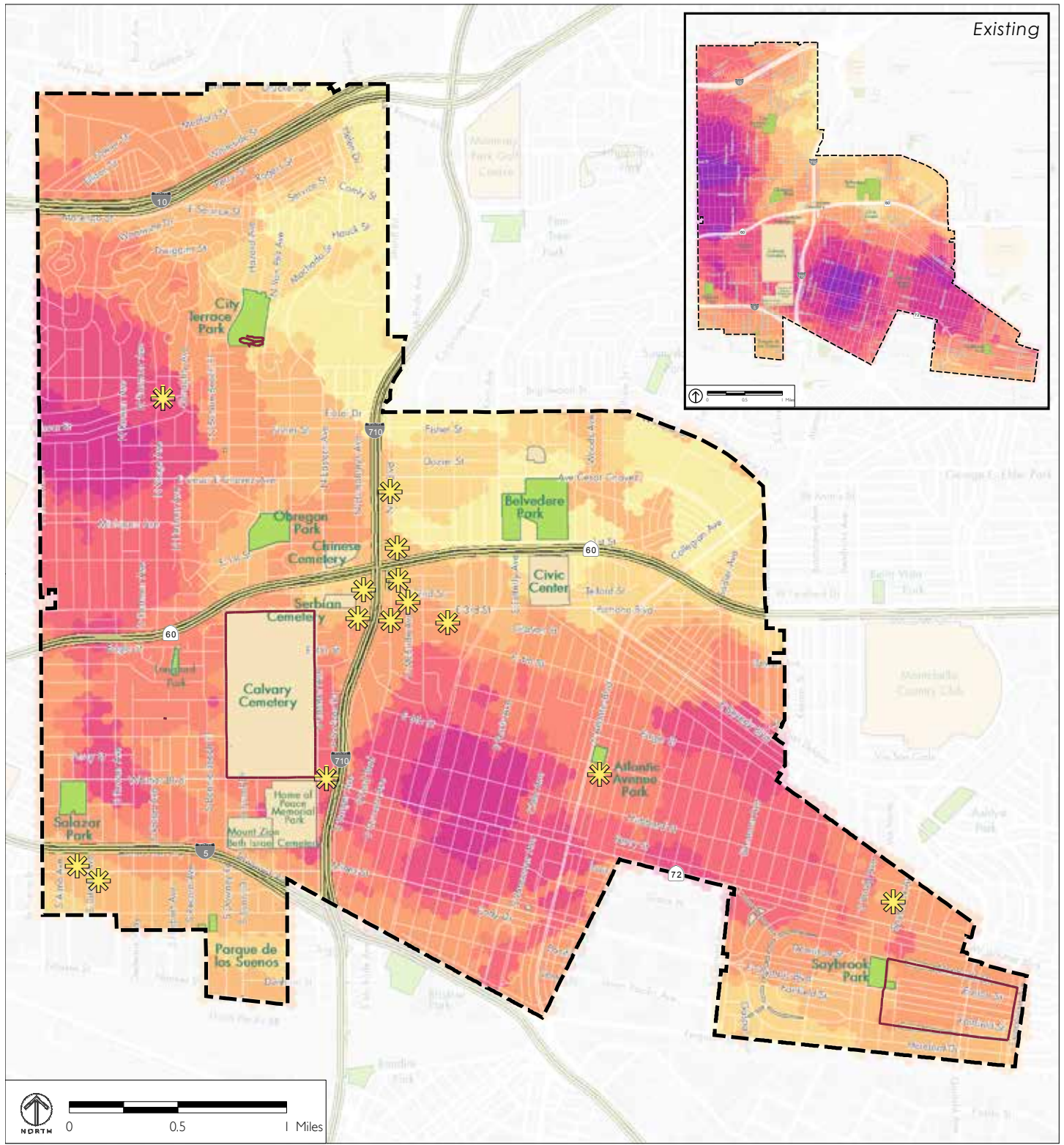
Although current rain levels are below normal, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates the average rainfall for downtown Los Angeles is be 14.93 inches per year. Utilizing this estimate for the 19 acres of additional parkland in East Los Angeles, annual rainfall on these areas could equal nearly 8 million gallons. A significant amount of this volume could infiltrate into the parks' pervious surfaces; however, a presumed runoff of 10-20 percent is expected in the typical park or open space, resulting in approximately **1.5 MILLION GALLONS** that could be intercepted and treated with LID.

IMPACT ON WATER CONSERVATION

Changes to maintenance and landscape installation within existing and future parks can provide dramatic water conservation. Key water saving strategies include:

- Utilizing **DRIP IRRIGATION** instead of spray heads (estimated 16% water savings)
- Planting **LOW WATER-USE PLANTS** and replacing high water use ones (estimated 62 percent water savings)

FIGURE 5.11 SPATIAL NEED - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- Park Needs**
- High
 - Low
- Existing Park Included in Analysis
 - Other Existing Green Space
 - Potential Future Park Included in Analysis
 - Potential Walking Trail

TABLE 5.1 SAMPLE PARK PROJECT WATER SAVING

Project Size	10,000-square feet
Project Description	conventional high water use lawn with spray
Estimated Water Use (gallons per year)	349,994

Action	Estimated water use (gallons per year)	Estimated Water Savings (gallons per year)
Switch spray heads to drip irrigation	292,348	57,646
Switch high water use plants to low water use plants	131,248	218,746
Add 3.5% or 5% organic matter content compost	307,995	41,999
Add 3 inches of mulch to planting areas	279,995	69,999

- Applying **COMPOST** in planting areas and in turf areas (estimated 10-13 percent water savings)
- Utilizing **MULCH** regularly to retain soil moisture (estimated 20 percent water savings)

Table 5.1 demonstrates how these savings could be applied to a 10,000 square foot sample park project in East Los Angeles.

IMPACT ON GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION

Implementing the Vision Plan Goals and Urban Greening Targets in East Los Angeles could include many actions that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration.

- Improving the pedestrian network to encourage more people to walk could **DECREASE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED** and reduce emissions.
- Utilizing **ON-SITE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PRODUCTION**, could limit dependence on fossil fuels for energy needs.
- Increasing **TREES** in the urban environment could improve capacity to “sequester” carbon by removing it from the atmosphere and storing it in their wood and in the soil.

It is also possible to quantify the impact of new trees in East Los Angeles. As described in Table 5.2, it is estimated that the current forest sequesters 2,651 Metric Tons of carbon dioxide per year, and that approximately 5,730 Metric Tons could be sequestered by the target canopy.

It is important to consider that the planting of trees along streets, at parks, and throughout communities can contribute to greenhouse gas reduction in other ways than carbon sequestration, including but not limited to: providing shade for buildings, thus reducing air conditioning usage; reducing the urban heat island effect; and creating streets and paths that encourage people to walk or bike, thus reducing vehicle trips.

Maintaining or increasing current canopy coverage for existing parks (23 percent for all parks combined) and ensuring coverage of at least 15 percent for new parks could ensure sustained or increased carbon sequestration by the Park forest. In addition, selecting trees that have high capacity for carbon sequestration, especially for sites near freeways and other sites that have high levels of air pollution, can improve the contribution of the urban forest to greenhouse gas reduction. Trees that are highly effective at sequestration are identified in the Preferred Tree List in Appendix E.

TABLE 5.2 EAST LOS ANGELES CARBON SEQUESTRATION UNDER EXISTING AND TARGET CANOPY COVERAGE

Land Use ¹	EXISTING CANOPY		TARGET CANOPY	
	Canopy Coverage (acres)	Annual Carbon Sequestration (CO ₂ Metric Tons)	Canopy Coverage (acres)	Annual Carbon Sequestration (CO ₂ Metric Tons) ²
Low Density Residential	336	1,599	921	4,386
High Density Residential	68	325	122	580
Commercial/Institutional	86	409	89	423
Industrial/Utilities/ Transportation	9	44	10	48
Open Space ¹	58	275	61	292
Total	557	2,652	1,203	5,729

- 1 Land use areas are based on land use of tax parcels and adjacent streets and canopy coverage was calculated using LIDAR data from 2006. The land use designation of “Open Space” was applied to was applied to all parks and cemeteries in East Los Angeles and adjacent streets. Canopy coverage estimates are higher than data collected through iTrees sample, which only inventoried trees at the parks in East Los Angeles.
- 2 Increase in carbon storage resulting from increased canopy coverage at existing parks was estimated using the following assumptions: (1) 150 pounds stored/tree/year, based on the average iTrees estimates for existing trees in East Los Angeles’ parks; (2) 70 trees per acreage of cover, assuming approximate spacing of 25 feet between trees. Based on these assumptions, it is estimated that 10,500 pounds of carbon could be sequestered for each additional acre of canopy coverage.



6 - CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGNS

New parks and recreation amenities in East Los Angeles should consider the vision set forth in this plan and incorporate the feedback of community members who participated in the planning process. To begin to illustrate the vision, conceptual site designs and implementation strategies were created for four sample sites. These conceptual ideas are intended to help move the vision forward into realization and a greener, more park accessible East Los Angeles.

CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGNS

Four sites, shown in Figure 6.1, were selected as conceptual projects in East Los Angeles based on their high potential to be developed as new parks or trails and/or to meet identified community needs. If these sample projects are not implemented, concepts and amenities from these designs may be incorporated into different projects at other appropriate locations.

Conceptual site designs were completed for the following projects:

- **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON UTILITY CORRIDOR.** This section of the corridor is located north of Whittier Boulevard and intersected by N. Hubbard Street on the eastern edge of the neighborhood. The site was selected due to its large size and opportunity to display how to utilize utility corridors for park use.
- **FOLSOM STREET MINI-PARK.** This site is located at the end of Folsom Street to the west of N. Gage Avenue in City Terrace. The site was selected due to its location in a high need area and ownership by Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The vacant parcel is considered a “paper street,” according to the Department of Public Works, which means that the site is a public right-of-way, but the street was never constructed.
- **LINEAR BIKE SKILLS PARK.** This project is a conceptual site design for a bike skills park, which could potentially be located on a vacant lot identified in this plan for a site identified in the future.
- **CITY TERRACE TRAIL.** This project is located at the southern edge of City Terrace Park. Its site was selected due to its ownership by DPR and its potential to serve as a demonstration community fitness trail project.

COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

As described in Chapter Three, three of the four sites were presented to the community, with exception of the site for the Linear Bike Skills Park. Workshop participants worked with the consultant team to develop a programmatic approach to each of the sites and design each conceptual park.

Bike skills parks and other activity spaces for older youth were facilities recommended by the community; however, this project was not designed during the community design workshop. A representative from a regional bicycle group, the

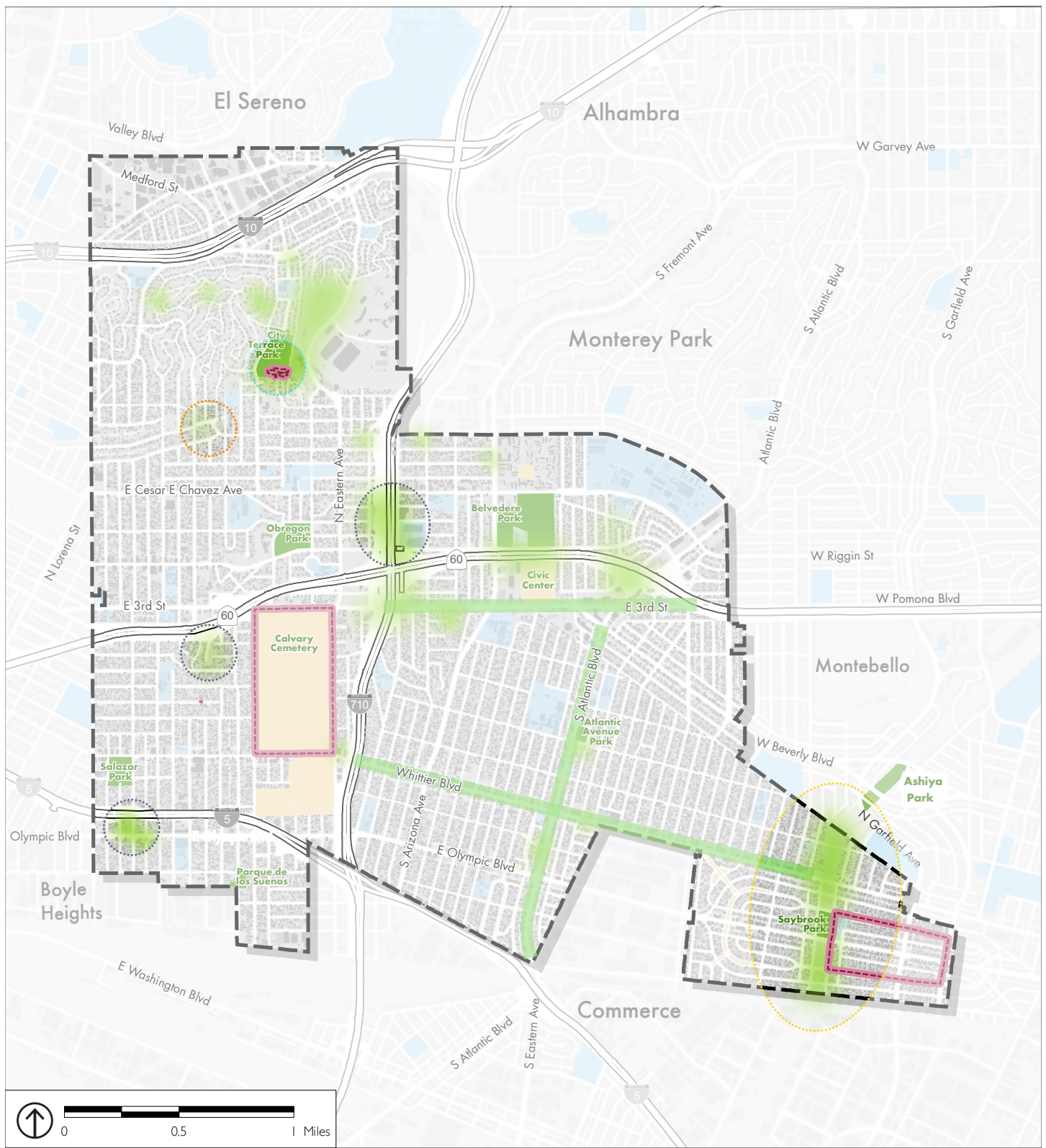
Concerned Off Road Bicyclists Association (CORBA), attended the community design workshop and provided design guidance on the project following the event.

Following the workshop, these ideas were compiled into the designs described in this chapter. Some elements were eliminated from the design based on infeasibility or other site constraints; however, where possible, designs reflect the community’s vision for the sites.



Community Design Workshop

FIGURE 6.1 CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGN SAMPLE PROJECTS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- East Los Angeles
- Existing Parks
- Other Existing Open Space
- Schools
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Potential Trail Opportunities
- Potential Green Streets
- Potential Southern California Edison Corridor Park
- Potential Folsom Street Mini-Park
- Potential Linear Bike Skills Park
- Potential City Terrace Trail

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CORRIDOR

SITE SUMMARY

Southern California Edison (SCE) owns and manages the utility corridor. Other parks, including Saybrook Park in East Los Angeles, have been developed in utility corridors. Projects in these corridors must obtain SCE's approval for development. The site provides an excellent opportunity to expand overall green space in East Los Angeles, as well as provide alternative open field space to alleviate the need for unprogrammed use at other parks in the community.

SITE CONDITIONS

The proposed park space is divided into two spaces by East Hubbard Street and three large utility towers on each segment, for a total of six. There are development restrictions requiring that areas around these towers remain clear and accessible. These restrictions are addressed on the following page. SCE additionally created the *Transmission Line Right of Way Constraints and Guidelines* to direct development in its corridors. Key considerations for park development include the following:

- *Buildings and other permanent structures, both above ground and underground, are prohibited within SCE's right-of-way.*
- *No plant species protected by federal or State law shall be planted within SCE's right-of-way.*
- *All new trees and shrubs proposed on SCE's right-of-way's shall be slow growing and not exceed 15 feet in height.*
- *Groundwater or storm water infiltration or recharged will not be allowed.*

COMMUNITY VISION

During the community workshop, two groups developed design vision plans for the park in the utility corridor.

Group 1 prioritized the need of an open play area, as well as walking for exercise and a place to display community art. The group pointed out that the area is very hot in the summer and that there should be ample opportunity for shade. The group included community members active in the arts programs at Saybrook Park. They identified the need for more places to display the community's art projects, as well as a need for additional facility space for creative and performing arts. The group's design included a perimeter trail that encircled both segments of park. Inside the park, there is a multipurpose field for sports, a playground, a picnic area with barbecues, a community garden, and a community art space with an outdoor art garden and exhibition area.

Group 2 considered the park to be a key opportunity to create activity space for older youth, such as sports fields and courts. Group members also thought this would be a good location

SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS

Size: 8.37 ACRES

ownership: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON

Potential park type: COMMUNITY PARK

for a playground for children with special needs since there is not such a play space in this part of the neighborhood. The group was concerned about the two streets in the park vicinity and suggested a tall fence along the arterial of Whittier Boulevard and a safe passage at E. Hubbard Street, such as raised crosswalks or a pedestrian bridge overpass.

Similarly to Group 1, this group envisioned a large perimeter trail with as much space as possible provided for multi-use field activity at the center. They would like a central path to provide an alternative shorter route for users not wanting to complete the full perimeter trail, as well as a smaller circuit with exercise equipment near the playground space for parents to exercise while their children play. The group indicated they would like a smooth path surface, such as a rubberized material, that was not bumpy like the exposed large aggregate pathway along the medians in the southeast part of the neighborhood.



Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop (Group One)

FIGURE 6.2 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON UTILITY CORRIDOR PARK CONCEPT

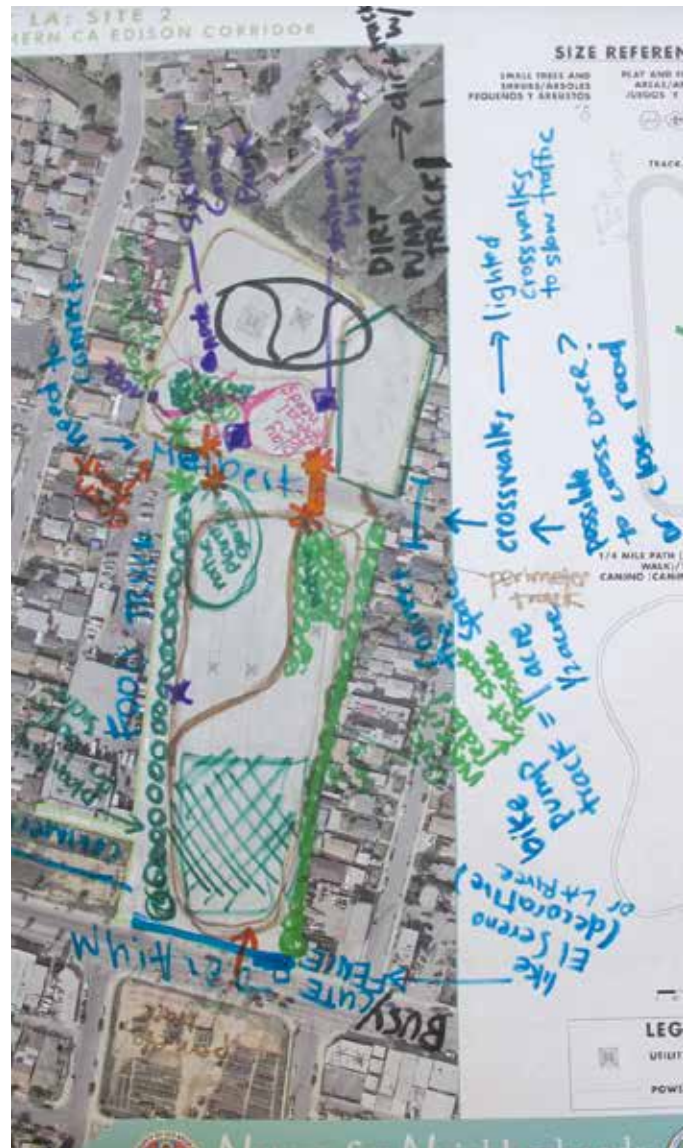


Group members expressed significant interest in utilizing native and drought-resistant plants to create a natural planting area and space for habitat. They want to utilize planting areas along the trails to create a pleasant walking experience. El Sereno Arroyo Park in El Sereno and Debs Park in Los Angeles were identified as good examples of the aesthetic of the landscape.

A stakeholder from the bicycling community outside of East LA was part of the group and expressed interest in a bicycle pump track on the site. A bicycle pump track facility is a continuous loop of berms, jumps and paths typically constructed from dirt, and provides activity space for older youth and adults. Other members of the group were interested in the type of facility but were not familiar with it.

SITE DESIGN

The site design reflects the community’s desire for open fields surrounded by walking paths. Since formal sports fields are not permitted in the space, the fields would serve as multipurpose field space. Exercise equipment would be placed around the walking circuit to allow for additional fitness opportunities. A nature-based play space would be located in the area of the corridor with no overhead utility lines. A small, native plant garden would be located near the back of the site to create a destination in this area and allow people to get the sense of “being away.” The areas surrounding the towers would be kept free of development, although the path passes through the space to continue around the site. The site would be separated from residential properties with low planting and a wall, which creates an opportunity for public art, such as murals. A small gathering plaza on the lower section of the site along E. Hubbard Street could be used as outdoor exhibition space for community art projects. The site design also draws inspiration from other utility corridor parks, including Salud Park in the City of Paramount, shown below.



Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop (Group Two)

FIGURE 6.3 PRECEDENT IMAGES FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON CORRIDOR



Utility Corridor Park
Salud Park, City of Paramount, CA



Public Art Plaza
El Sereno Arroyo Park, El Sereno
source: City Parks Alliance

FIGURE 6.4 THEMATIC ZONES AND UTILITY ACCESS



THEMATIC ZONES



Nature Play and Exploration Zone

- play equipment
- fitness nodes for parents
- meandering experience through garden
- open field



Community Gathering and Art Zone

- opportunities for community art exhibits
- nodes for art installation
- picnic and gathering space




Health and Wellness Zone

- active running track with mile markers
- fitness nodes for exercise
- open field



UTILITY ACCESS

 drivable utility service

engineered steel poles (dead end)
(north of Hubbard Street)
decomposed granite/gravel area (16')
clear area (100')

suspension towers
(south of Hubbard Street)
decomposed granite/gravel area (16')
clear area (50')



Fields with Highly Durable Surface Material. Multipurpose field space would provide residents with new opportunities for unprogrammed uses. Field surfaces should be constructed for high use.



Safe Walking and Running Paths/Trails. The periphery path will provide new opportunities for walking and jogging.



Exercise and Fitness Opportunities. Fitness stations can enhance exercise value of the walking track.



Play spaces. Informal and formal play spaces within the corridor would provide new play opportunities.

FIGURE 6.5 CONCEPTUAL VISUAL SIMULATION OF UTILITY CORRIDOR PARK





Facilities for Teens.
Multipurpose sports fields can be used by older youth for unprogrammed activities.



Gathering. Picnic areas and art demonstration spaces provide opportunities to gather as a community.



**Wildlife Habitat/
Natural Space.**
Enhanced native planting and pathways through these areas provide residents with opportunities to engage with nature.



FOLSOM STREET MINI-PARK

SITE SUMMARY

The Folsom Street Mini-Park site is a “paper street,” which means that the property is considered a street for zoning purposes, but the right-of-way was never constructed. The site is owned by Los Angeles County and is managed by DPW. This space is currently vacant, and used as unofficial pedestrian route from North Gage Avenue below to Herbert Avenue above. By formalizing the pathway and creating a gathering space with play equipment, the space could transform into a valuable green space for the surrounding neighbors and provide a small scale alternative to City Terrace Park.

SITE CONDITIONS

Folsom Street Mini-Park is very steep, with an elevation difference of 44 feet between the top and bottom of the site. The top of the site provides views of the neighborhood below and has a small, relatively flat area before dropping steeply to the street below. The flat area is currently used for parking and driveway access to neighboring properties, which would be retained in the park design. There is a large storm drain at the top of the site that collects stormwater from this area to prevent erosion of the slope. However, due to frequent use as a path, the site exhibits signs of significant erosion.

COMMUNITY VISION

Participants in this group prioritized the need for accessibility through the site and creation of a gathering space at the top of the site. The group identified stairs as an opportunity for exercise and quick access through the site, but desired a ramp with handrails for ADA accessibility. The level area at the higher elevation was envisioned as a plaza area and buffer from the surrounding residential properties. A fence with an entry gateway feature provides a barrier to the street and driveway access. The group emphasized the importance of including lighting on the site as a safety measure, and one member of the group suggested incorporating lighting in the play structure as a creative way of providing light on the site. The group envisioned landscaping the steep slope and including large trees for shade.

SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS

size: 0.36 ACRES

ownership: LOS ANGELES COUNTY

potential park type: POCKET PARK

The group envisioned a relatively flat gathering plaza at the top of the site (eastern side) with play equipment, shade structures, and picnic tables. The steeper area to the west would include a stairway and an accessible ramp with benches for residents with disabilities.

SITE DESIGN

In line with the community’s vision, the site design includes a large gathering area at the top of the site and a landscaped area on the west side. The stairway and retaining walls were envisioned as an opportunity for public art, a place to create a painted mural or mosaic artwork. The landscaped slope includes a meandering stormwater swale to move water through the site and provide an opportunity for nature play along the hillside. The stairway includes a resting point that opens onto the hillside to allow residents to access the boulders and stormwater planting area. Due to site constraints, a ramp was deemed infeasible. However, a stairway connects the upper and lower portions of the site.



Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop

FIGURE 6.6 FOLSOM STREET MINI-PARK CONCEPT





Gathering. Residents could use the upper area to gather for small community events or small parties. The site provides nice views as well as a sense of good lines of site across the park.



Exercise and Fitness Opportunities. Residents could use the stairs for exercise, as well as use the site to create a loop walk around the block.



Wildlife Habitat/Natural Space. The landscaped area could provide a natural experience. By providing a break in the stairs, residents, and particularly children, would be encouraged to move out into the space and play along the features.



Green Infrastructure. The site could treat stormwater on site. Additionally, since much of the site is not paved, it could also potentially treat stormwater from the streets along the upper edge.



Play spaces. The upper terrace includes some play equipment that references the site's topography, allowing children to climb up for better views of the neighborhood. Residents also wanted to include play equipment with lighting for a more vibrant play experience.

Existing



FIGURE 6.7 VIEW UP FROM N. GAGE AVENUE (DAY)



FIGURE 6.9 SECTION THROUGH FOLOM STREET MINI-PARK

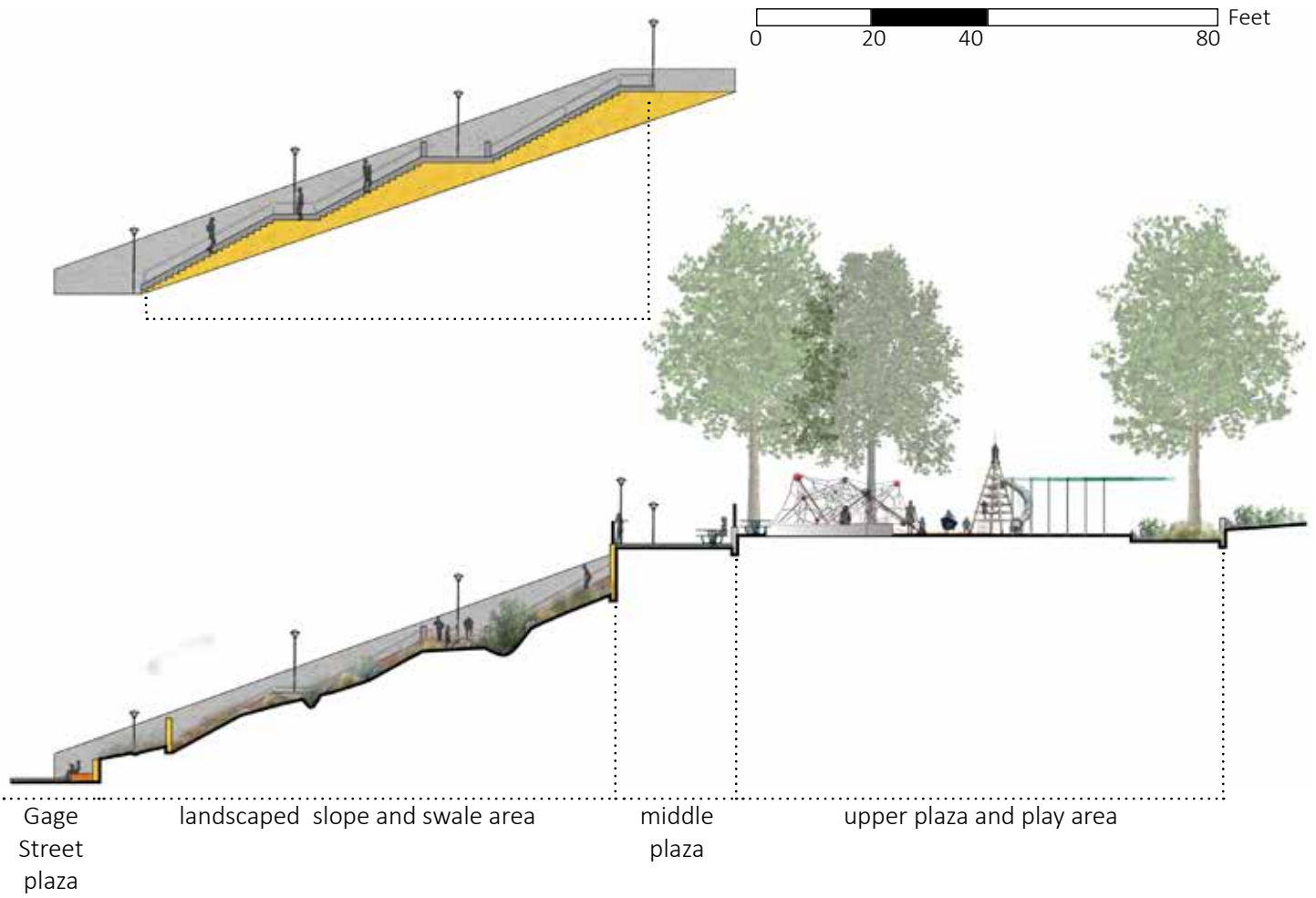


FIGURE 6.8 VIEW UP FROM N. GAGE AVENUE (NIGHT)



LINEAR BIKE SKILLS PARK

PROJECT SUMMARY

Recreational activities for older youth is extremely important to East Los Angeles residents. Skate parks and bike skills parks are considered to be a potential high-adrenaline activity that can be attractive to older youth, providing space for exercise and socializing. In the greater Los Angeles area, there are active members of the biking community that would like to see more bike skills parks constructed within urban areas and in close proximity to mass transit. Some of the vacant parkland opportunity sites in East Los Angeles could be used for this purpose. Although the concept presented is for a linear site, the concept could be modified to fit an existing footprint.

SITE DESIGN¹

The site design includes an 11-foot wide circuit track that circumnavigates the entire site, and delineates three distinct bike skills areas. These areas are divided by skill level: an expert area (approximately 10,000 SF), an intermediate area (approximately 7,000 SF), and a kids' area (approximately 1,600 SF). Each area includes features such as progressives (side-by-side features used for gaining speed) that are appropriate for each skill level and made of ramps, dirt mounds, and boulders. Biofiltration pockets for collecting stormwater are included throughout site. Features on the outside of the circuit track curves provide additional bike skills opportunities for all ages and experience levels. Trees provide shade, and native planting and fencing buffer the noise and view of adjacent streets. Entrances to the park include seat walls, signage, and bike racks. Near the southern entrance, small grass mounds and boulders provide nature play and informal seating opportunities. The site is illuminated at night, and public art could potentially be incorporated into the bike skills features.

1 This conceptual project was not included at the Community Design Workshop but the Concerned Off Road Bicyclists Association, CORBA, provided guidance on the site selection and conceptual design.



Facilities for Teens. A bike skills park would provide an opportunity for older youth to exercise and get together to participate in popular recreation.



Play Spaces. By creating separated spaces, the park can provide opportunities for youth of many ages.

FIGURE 6.10 LINEAR BIKE SKILLS PARK CONCEPT

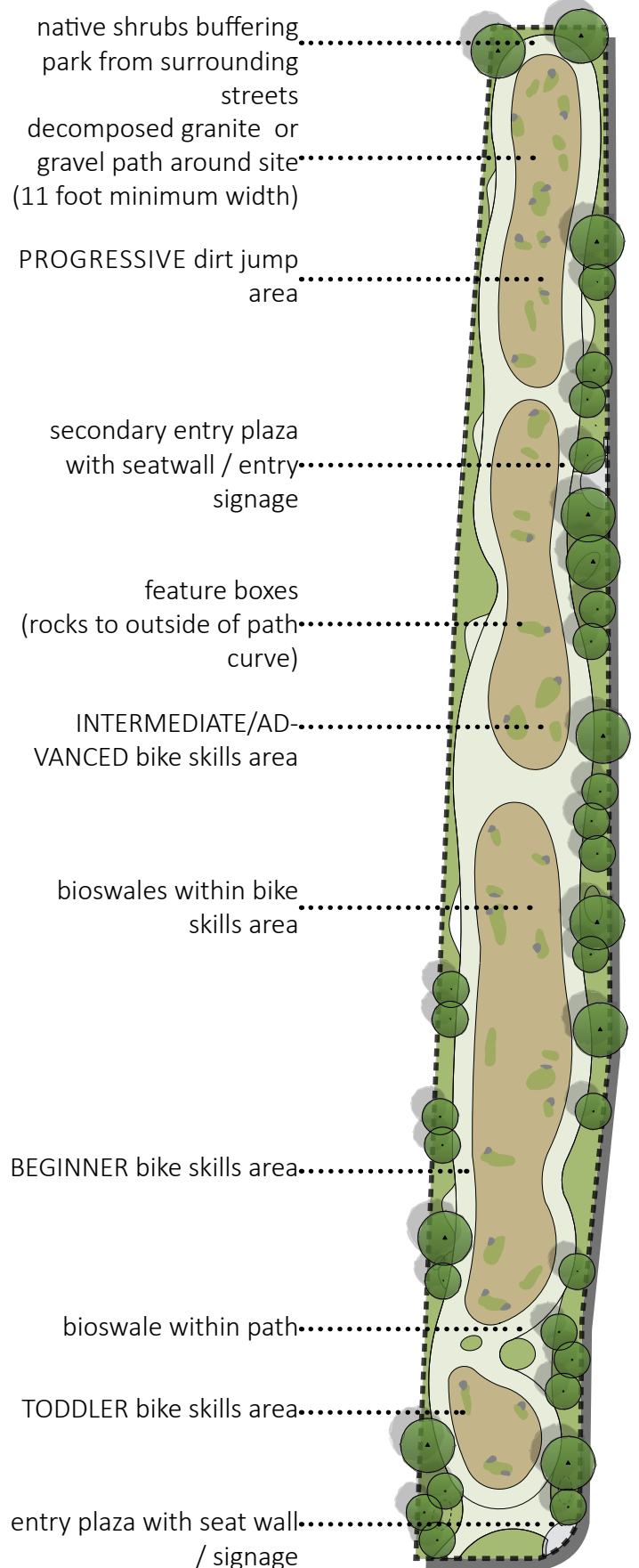







FIGURE 6.11 AREAS AND CIRCULATION

SKILL ZONES

-  Progressive Dirt Jump Area
-  Intermediate/Advanced Pump Tracks
-  Beginner
-  Toddler Play
-  Periphery Path

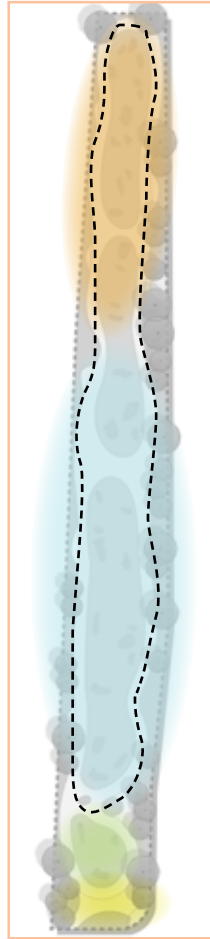


FIGURE 6.13 PRECEDENT BIKE SKILLS PARKS



*Havemeyer Park
Brooklyn, New York
source: Sarah Goodyear, 2013, Citylab website*



*Pumptrack
Luxemburg, Germany
source: hashbmx website*

FIGURE 6.12 CONCEPTUAL VISUAL SIMULATION OF LINEAR BIKE SKILLS PARK



CITY TERRACE TRAIL

SITE SUMMARY

This project could create a new facility within City Terrace Park, providing new opportunities for walking, jogging, and exercising.

SITE CONDITIONS

This steep portion of City Terrace Park is currently separated from the rest of the park with a chain link fence. The site drops dramatically to Miller Avenue and the surrounding residential properties in a bowl-like shape. The hillside is predominately planted with Eucalyptus species and affords views of the neighborhood below.

COMMUNITY VISION

During the community workshop, two groups developed design vision plans for the park in the utility corridor.

Group One named the project, “Terrace Trails,” and envisioned the site as a long switchback trail with new planting along the slope. They wanted to create a plaza space at the eastern edge, supported by a retaining wall, which could be painted with art. There would be benches at each turn of the trail for resting along the route. The group designed the plaza space to include exercise equipment, as well as portable police trailers for security outposts to monitor the park and the trail. For the entry from Miller Avenue, the group envisioned using logs to create stairs.

Group Two also created a switchback trail with two sets of stairs connecting at various places along the route. They emphasized heavy lighting along the trail, as well as trash cans and exercise equipment. The group desired a seating area at the top of the trail with a picnic space. The group also wanted the area around the trail to be planted with native planting that would be easy to maintain but provide trail users with a green experience.

SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS

size: 1.15 ACRES

ownership: LOS ANGELES COUNTY

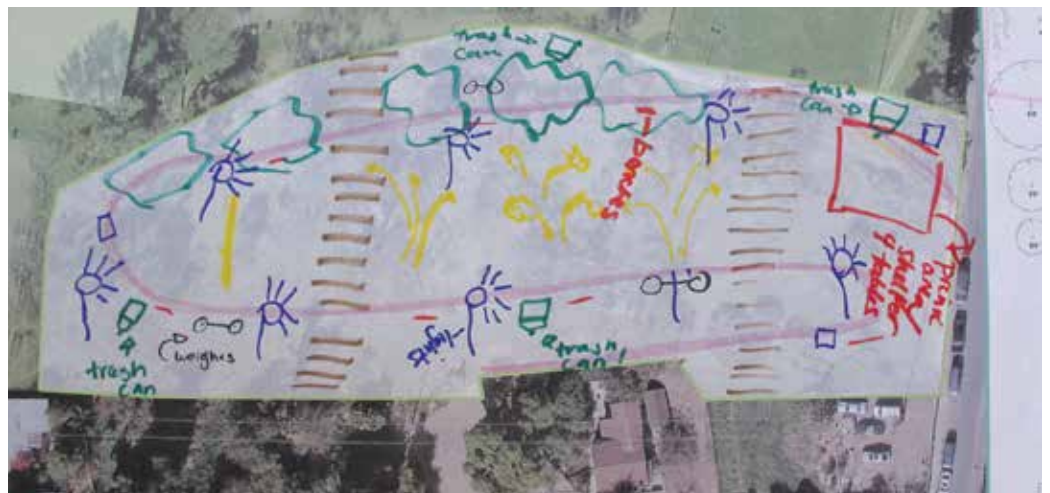
potential park type: COMMUNITY TRAIL

SITE DESIGN

The design for City Terrace Trail includes an accessible trail from the top of the site, a resting point approximately halfway down the hillside, and stairs leading to Miller Avenue. A small portion of the site, near Miller Avenue, is not owned by the County. Therefore, an easement from the neighboring landowner would be required to complete the connection. Stairs connect the trail to create a loop circuit for users who want to use the trail for fitness training. Consistent with the community vision, the staging area includes and outdoor space for exercise classes. The plaza is slightly below the existing trail along the edge of City Terrace Park. A fence will be placed along the edge of the path to prevent injury from baseballs.



Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop (Group One)





Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop (Group Two)

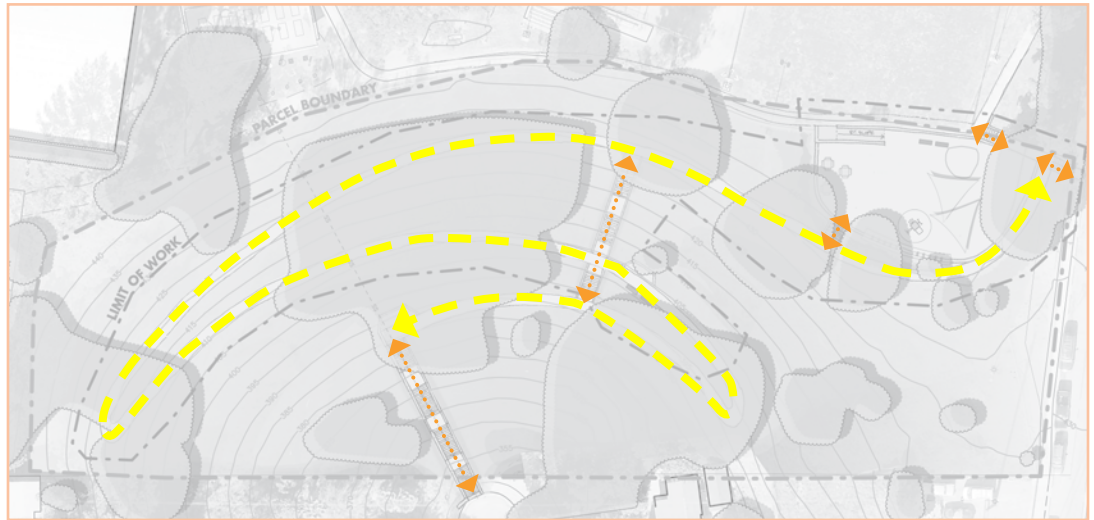
FIGURE 6.14 CITY TERRACE TRAIL CONCEPT




FIGURE 6.15 CITY TERRACE TRAIL CONCEPT DIAGRAMS

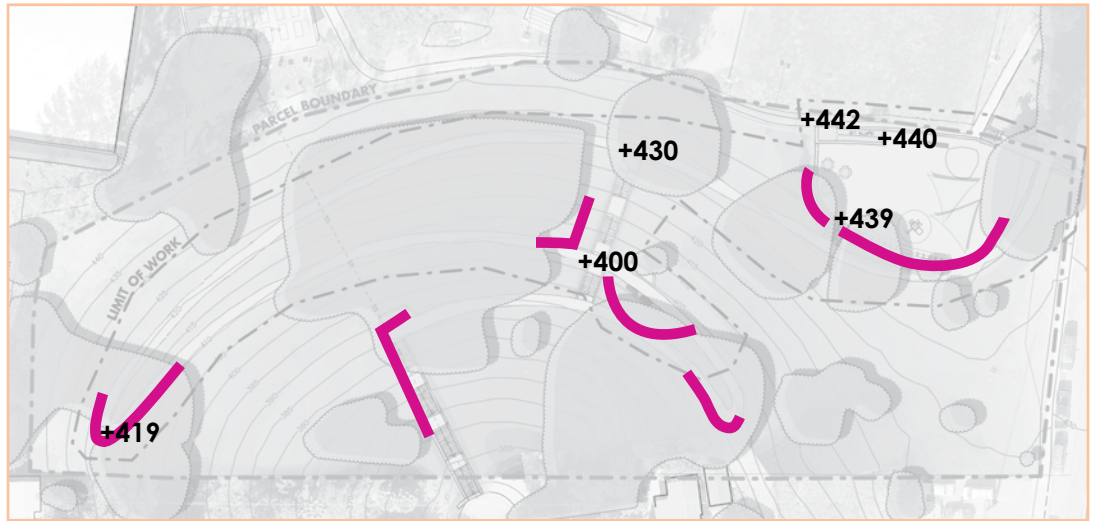
ACCESS AND CIRCULATION

-  Path
(4.9% max. slope)
-  Stairs




ELEVATION

- +376** Spot elevation (ft)
-  Retaining wall issue areas



PARK FEATURES

-  Public art
-  Fitness

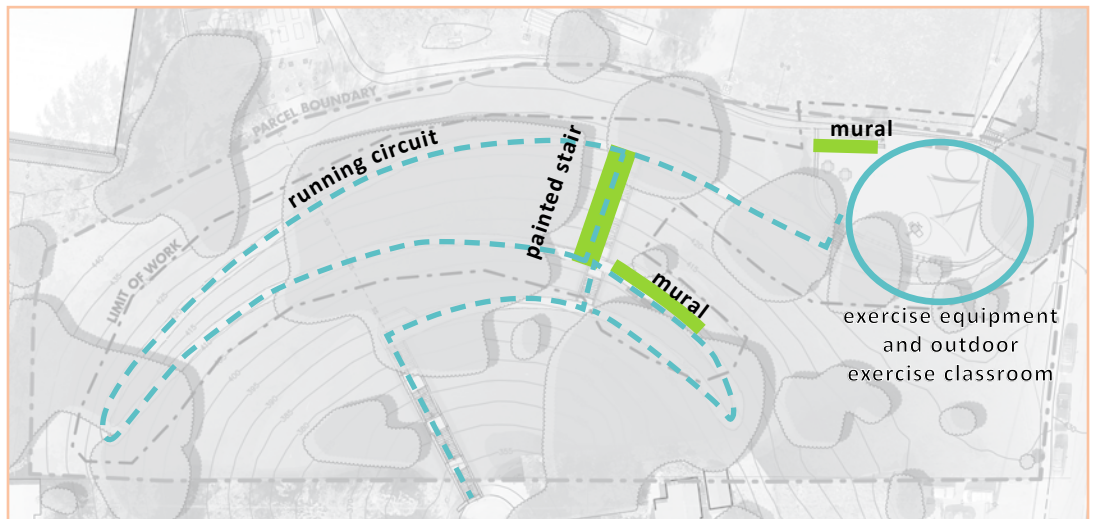


FIGURE 6.16 PRECEDENT IMAGES FOR CITY TERRACE TRAIL



Mosaic Stairs

San Francisco, CA

source: flickr user margaretglin; Creative Commons license CC BY 2.0



Vegetated Retaining Walls

source: Specto Civil Technology



Outdoor Fitness Area

source: Outdoor Design Source



Wildlife Habitat/Natural Space.
Development of the trail can be used to additionally enhance the existing hillside by removing the eucalyptus and replacing with native tree species.



Safe Walking and Running Paths/Trails.
The walking trail would expand exercise options at City Terrace Park by creating a pleasant circuit for walking and running.



Exercise and Fitness Opportunities.
In addition to walking, the trail and fitness plaza can provide outdoor equipment and classes to enhance exercise experience.



7 - IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the East Los Angeles Community Parks and Recreation Plan will require long-term financing and strategic administrative policies for construction, acquisitions, and maintenance. This chapter recommends strategies and implementation actions, funding resources and partnership agreements for achieving “A Park Every Day” in East Los Angeles.

SUMMARY OF GOALS

As presented in the Vision Plan in Chapter Five, goals for improving parks and recreation and overall greening in East Los Angeles include:

1. *Increase overall green space.*
2. *Integrate parks and healthy activities into the everyday lives of East Los Angeles residents.*
3. *Create new urban trails, walking paths and safe streets that connect residents to parks and open space.*
4. *Enhance public spaces that support community interaction and cultural identity.*
5. *Consider creative new green space types:*
 - » *Utility corridor parks*
 - » *Freeway underpass parks*
 - » *Freeway cap parks*
 - » *Parklets*
6. *Increase the sense of nature within the parkland system and among of East Los Angeles residents.*
7. *Maintain and enhance East Los Angeles’ urban forest.*
8. *Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.*

These goals are achievable through new park development, updates to existing facilities, and partnerships with other agencies and community groups.

STRATEGIES

Strategic policy and development action at various places throughout East Los Angeles would be necessary to achieve these goals. Below is a summary of the key strategies to implement this project. Importantly, these strategies work together to achieve the vision of this plan and many of the strategies address multiple goals.

1. **CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT EXISTING PARKS TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SUPPORT DPR’S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS.** In general, parks in East Los Angeles are well maintained and well used. However, specific improvements to existing facilities can ensure that the spaces continue to be valuable community assets.
2. **STRATEGICALLY ACQUIRE VACANT LOTS FOR GREENING THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.** Existing and underutilized parcels could be transformed into new open space for recreational and green infrastructure use.
3. **DEVELOP COMMUNITY PARKS, PARK NODES, AND COMMUNITY PATHS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY’S DESIRE FOR EXERCISE AND FITNESS.** New wellness opportunities need to be explored at existing facilities and at new locations. These interventions could include new walking paths, exercise equipment, or spaces for outdoor wellness events
4. **EMPHASIZE GREENING ALONG THE THIRD STREET CORRIDOR.** With recent plans to create a walkable commercial core along Third Street and the Metro Gold Line, there is increased potential for small park nodes and pocket parks along this route. Importantly, Third Street also connects Calvary Cemetery and Civic Center, two extremely popular recreation destinations in the area. In addition, there is opportunity to improve the 710 Freeway underpass area along Third Street
5. **USE PARK NODES TO ENHANCE COMMERCIAL VITALITY.** In addition to Third Street, other commercial corridors, such as Whittier Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue could be improved through community greening efforts, in the form of enhance streetscape planting or parklet development.
6. **CREATE TRAILS AS COMMUNITY CONNECTORS.** New trails provide new opportunities to walk, by creating connections between open space facilities, could bring more people into parks, as well as creating new opportunities to have a “nature” experience.
7. **USE CURRENTLY UNDERUTILIZED SPACES AND DEVELOP FOR OPEN SPACE.** East Los Angeles is relatively “built out,” with minimal opportunities to create new open space. There are remnant undeveloped parcels that could be used for new open space. Examples of this type of opportunity include utility corridors, remnant street parcels, or freeway parks, and underutilized land adjacent to freeways.

8. PROVIDE NATURE SPACES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION THAT PROVIDE ECOLOGICAL SERVICES AS WELL AS PUBLIC ACCESS TO NATURAL PROCESSES.

There are few opportunities within East Los Angeles to experience natural processes and residents expressed interest in sites with a naturalistic aesthetic. New sites and existing projects should incorporate ecological features, such as wildlife habitat, California native plants, and hydrologic processes to allow residents to learn about these phenomena.

9. MAXIMIZE URBAN FORESTRY POTENTIAL. The urban forest is a valuable ecological resource. Throughout East Los Angeles there are opportunities to expand and enhance the existing urban tree canopy. Within park boundaries, DPR must ensure that the tree population is healthy and well-maintained. Other local agencies, community groups, and local residents can also work to improve the overall urban forest in the community.

10. IMPROVE SAFETY AND PERCEPTION OF SAFETY WITHIN EXISTING EAST LOS ANGELES PARKS AND IN FUTURE PARK SPACES. Concern for safety is a potential impediment to using parks and open space. A strong commitment to public safety will ensure that park facilities are enjoyable and accessible to all residents.

11. CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH COMMUNITY ABOUT PARK NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN PARK ADMINISTRATION. The planning process for the East Los Angeles Community Parks and Recreation Plan started an important community outreach relationship between DPR and local residents. Participants in outreach events expressed interest in continuing to work on parks and recreation issues in their community and should be considered valuable advocates for implementation of this plan.

12. SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT INCREASE ACCESS TO PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND REGIONAL DESTINATIONS. The East Los Angeles park network can be enriched through improved pedestrian and bicycle amenities in the community, as well as shuttle services to bring residents to green spaces. Programs to take residents to regional open space destinations throughout the County will further expand the reach of parks and recreation in the community.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

Following are lists of implementation actions to carry out the strategies outlined above. These actions provide specific direction and are categorized as short, medium, or long-term.

Short-term actions represent items that DPR and/or partner agencies could begin to explore in the next five years. Medium-term projects require more coordination and could be pursued within five to ten years. Long-term actions require extensive coordination, planning, and long-range strategies appropriate for ten to fifty years in the future. In addition, some actions are ongoing, and require interim monitoring or progress. These actions are detailed in the following tables.



STRATEGY 1: Continue to maintain and make improvements at existing parks to meet community needs and support DPR’s sustainability goals.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	<p>1.1 Formalize strategy to ensure long term integrity of sports fields.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct soil study of existing fields. If needed, apply amendments to improve drainage. • Apply organic mulch to turf areas to restore soil integrity. 	•	•		
	<p>1.2 Install new bike racks at existing parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two (2) at Atlantic Avenue Park • Two (2) at Belvedere Park • One (1) at City Terrace Park • Five (5) at Obregon Park • Two (2) at Salazar Park • Two (2) at Saybrook Park 	• • • • • •			
	<p>1.3 Find opportunity for a new arts facility at Saybrook Park.</p>		•		
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	WATER CONSERVATION				
	<p>1.4 Ensure all existing parks meet requirements set forth in Executive Order B-29-15 to address State drought actions.</p>	•			
	<p>1.5 Perform a preliminary water audit of all existing County parks and perform additional audits biannually.</p>	•			•
	<p>1.6 Install smart controllers at existing parks and any new parks, or implement maintenance schedule to adjust irrigation frequency monthly to reflect evapotranspiration rate expected in the next month.</p>	•			•
	<p>1.7 Replace all high water use plumbing fixtures with low water use ones and use only low water use fixtures in new County parks and recreation facilities.</p>	•			
	<p>1.8 Monitor regularly for potential leaks in plumbing and replace quickly when leak is identified.</p>				•
<p>1.9 Ensure that all planting areas are provided with a two-inch (2”) layer of organic mulch (free of weed seed), consistent with plant palette in DPR’s Park Design Guidelines and Standards. At minimum, replenish mulch once per year in November.</p>	•			•	

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	<p>1.10 Use California native and drought tolerant plant species, consistent with plant palette in DPR's Park Design Guidelines and Standards, in existing and new County parks.</p>				●
	<p>1.11 Explore opportunities for demonstration spaces that highlight water efficient planting and irrigation.</p>		●		
	<p>1.12 Introduce recycled water for irrigation at existing and new County parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) and water purveyors in connecting County parks to recycled water lines where available. Participate in meetings and discussions on expansion of service areas for recycled water. • Systematically replace plants unsuitable for reused water irrigation with suitable species with higher salt tolerance, identified in the "Preferred Plan List- Recycled Water" from DPR's Park Design Guidelines and Standards. • Research replacing active turf grass areas with drought tolerant, high salt tolerant turf grass, such as <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> (seashore paspalum or platinum paspalum) and research replacing cool turf areas with drought and salt tolerant utility groundcovers, such as <i>Lippia nodiflora</i> (Kurapia). 		●		●
	WATER QUALITY				
	<p>1.13 Increase stormwater management potential at existing parks and ensure that new parks maximize stormwater retention onsite.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the design of new parks, use the standards of a "designated project" outlined in Chapter 12.84 of the Los Angeles County Code: Low Impact Development Standards, requiring either 100-percent stormwater retention on-site or low-impact design strategies to mitigate whatever is not retained onsite. • Research capacity to utilize park spaces as urban sponges for street runoff by integrating curb cuts along park edges and creating stormwater basins along parks. • Replace existing paving with permeable paving in parking lots and use pervious surfaces in new County parks. 				● ● ●

Smart controllers were installed at seven Los Angeles County Parks, which resulted in 219 million gallon water reduction over a 12 month monitoring period, signifying a 23% reduction of water usage.

Source: Los Angeles County DPR

The California State Water Resources Control Board proposed that California Water Service Company of East Los Angeles reduce usage by 10% to achieve mandatory statewide conservation goal of 25% reduction.

Source: State Water Resources Control Board

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREEN BUILDINGS				
	1.14 Install solar panels in exposed parking lots or on roofs at existing and new County parks.		●		
	1.15 Utilize paving materials with low albedo to reduce surface temperatures.				●
	1.16 Construct all new County park buildings and park building remodels to meet U.S. Green Building Council LEED Rated Silver, as directed in the Park Design Guidelines and Standards and ensure that all new buildings on County parks properties in conformance with the County’s Green Building Ordinances.				●
	1.17 Pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification (or other equivalent energy certified ratings) for all new building of 5,000 square feet or more on County Park properties.				●
	1.18 Select buildings in existing parks to pursue LEED EB (Existing Building) certification for existing buildings on park properties by addressing whole-building cleaning and maintenance issues (including chemical use), recycling programs, exterior maintenance program, and systems upgrades; and implement certification.	●			
	CARBON SEQUESTRATION				
	1.19 Maintain and enhance park forest following the recommendations set forth in the urban forestry implementation actions below.				●
	1.20 Utilize an organic approach to soils management to improve organic matter content, which will in turn increase carbon sequestration in the soil. See “Healthy Soil” below.				●
	HEALTHY SOIL				
1.21 Perform soils analysis of existing multipurpose fields to assess drainage, compaction, and organic matter content. Test shall include recommendations to increase soil organic matter content to 5% using quality green-waste compost. If needed, implement recommendations to improve soil tilth, drainage, and carbon sequestrering potential.		●		●	
1.22 Turf maintenance shall include grasscycling and topdressing turf with finely screened quality compost after aeration and/or 1-4 times per year to maintain a healthy, living soil profile.				●	

DPR’s Energy and Water Efficiency Program seeks to further reduce energy and water consumption at County Parks by establishing specific reduction targets and a formal reporting system process to measure DPR’s progress towards these targets.

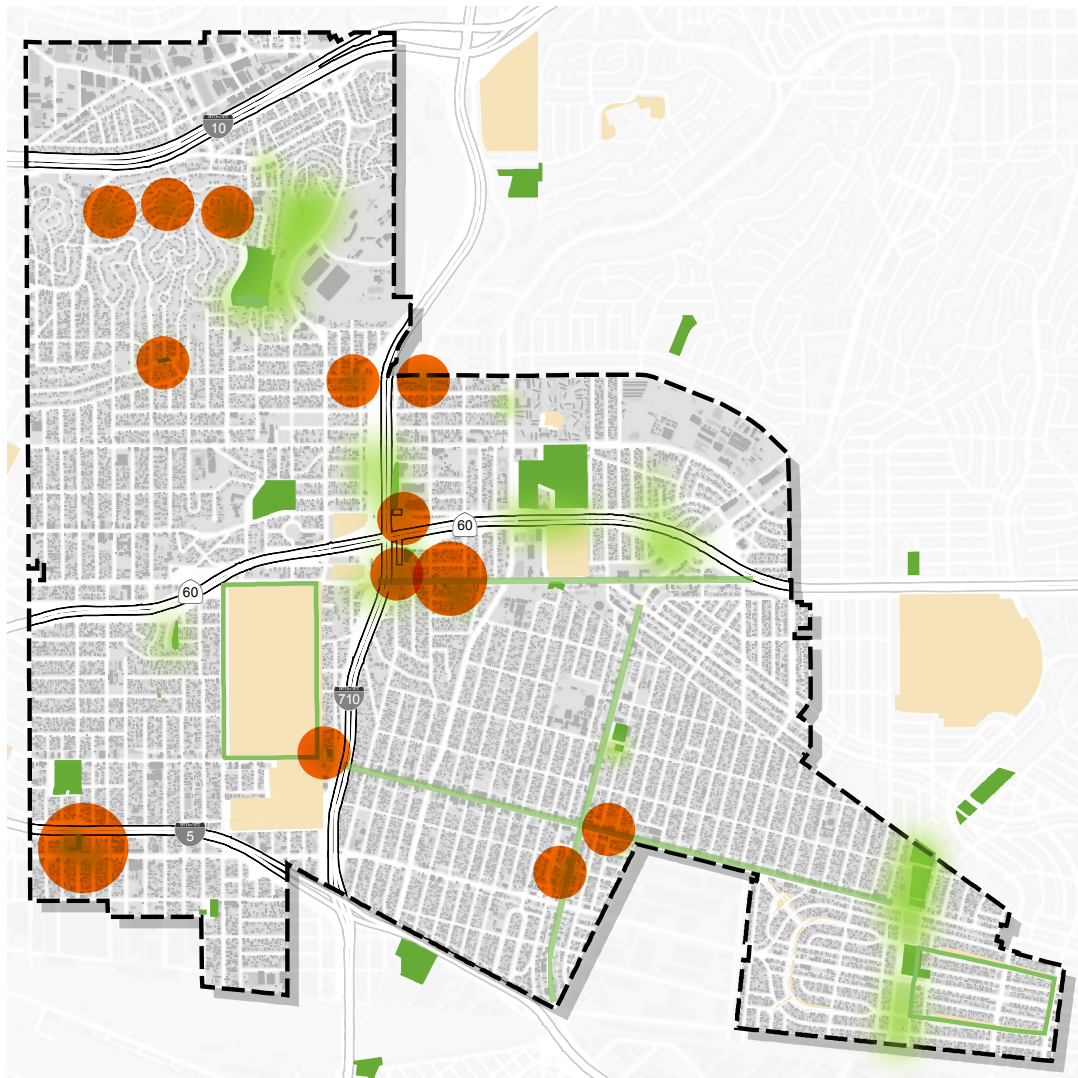
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	<p>1.23 All landscaped areas shall receive a regular reapplication of organic mulch, preferably shredded tree/shrub trimmings, to a minimum depth of 3 inches for all exposed soil to minimize evapotranspiration, protect against compaction and maintain overall soil health.</p>				●
	<p>1.24 Plant and soil amendments for maintenance shall be specified as compost, compost tea, or other naturally occurring and non-synthetic fertilizers for all landscaped areas.</p>				●
	ADMINISTRATIVE PROTOCOLS				
	<p>1.25 Establish and implement guidelines for operation, design, and development of existing and new park facilities that will meet the needs of the East Los Angeles community while minimizing impact on the natural environment. The guidelines will address a variety of issues including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems designs which promotes efficient use of water and energy • Landscape design which uses drought tolerant and native plants where appropriate • Use the construction material with recycled content • Reduce generations of waster during construction and occupancy • Use of construction material with reduced or no release of harmful gases • Building design and operation which promotes indoor air quality and users’ comfort level and productivity. • Installation of efficient plumbing fixtures to reduce potable water use and lower production of waste water • Purchase of sustainable cleaning materials and building maintenance products. 				●
	EXISTING INITIATIVES				
<p>1.26 Implement the County’s Energy and Environmental Policy at County Parks in East Los Angeles, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and Water Efficiency Program • Environmental Stewardship Program • Sustainable Design Program 				●	

Environmental Stewardship Program aims to reduce DPR’s environmental footprint through a series of environmental impact actions.

Sustainable Design Program provides integration of sustainable, green building technologies into the design of park improvement and refurbishment projects. The program seeks to extend the life cycle or useful life of building on County parks and maximize energy and water use efficiency.

STRATEGY 2: Strategically acquire vacant lots for greening throughout the community.

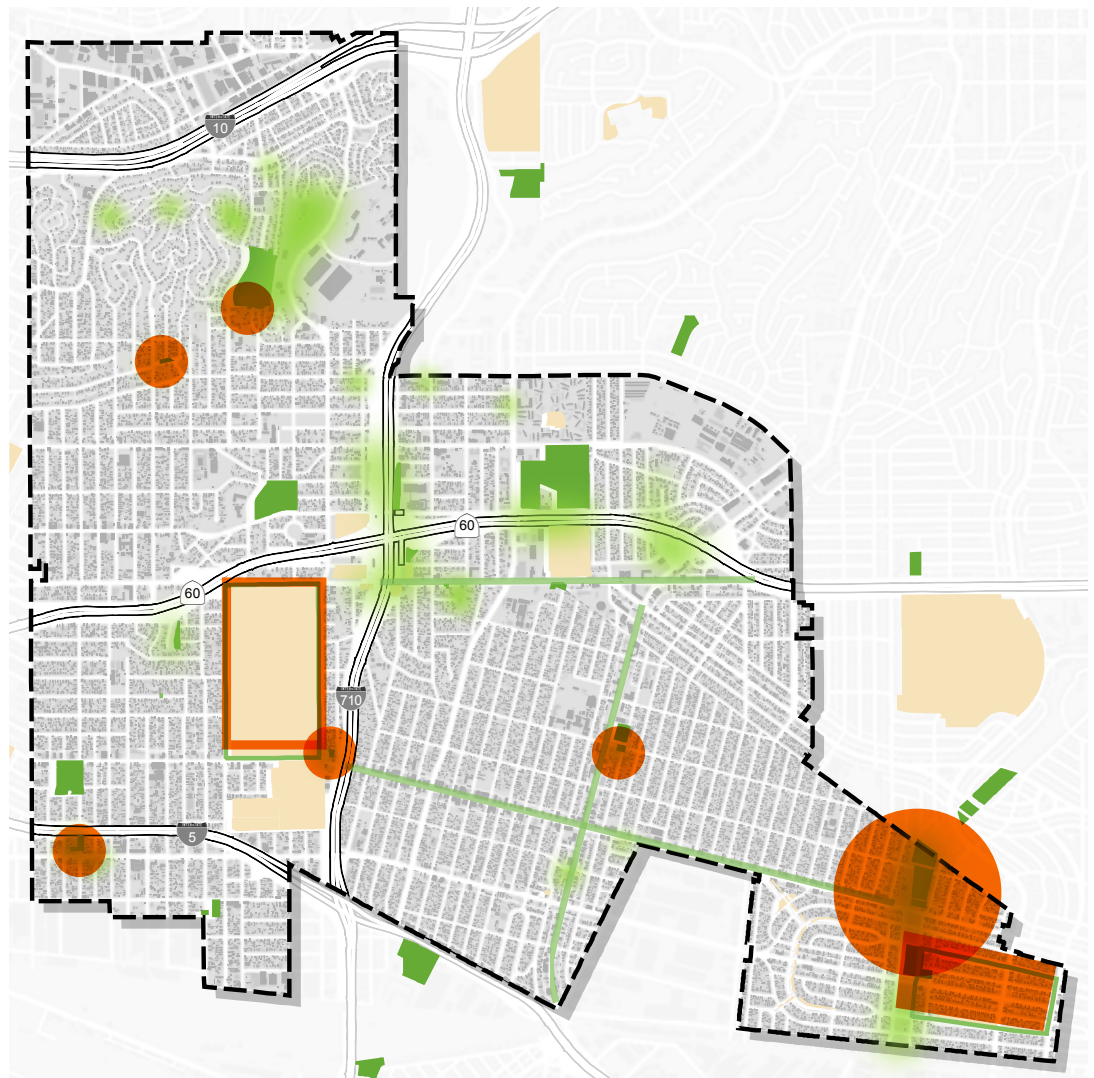
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	2.1 Reach out to owners of currently vacant lots, identified in this plan for potential acquisition.	●			
	2.2 Conduct an annual review of vacancies along key corridors to identify potential new acquisitions, including vacant buildings and foreclosed properties.				●
	2.3 When pursuing new acquisitions and potential projects on vacant lots, focus on opportunities for fitness and exercise, nature experiences, and potential for places to gather and promote cultural identity.				●



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 3: Develop community parks, park nodes, and community paths to support the community’s desire for exercise and fitness.

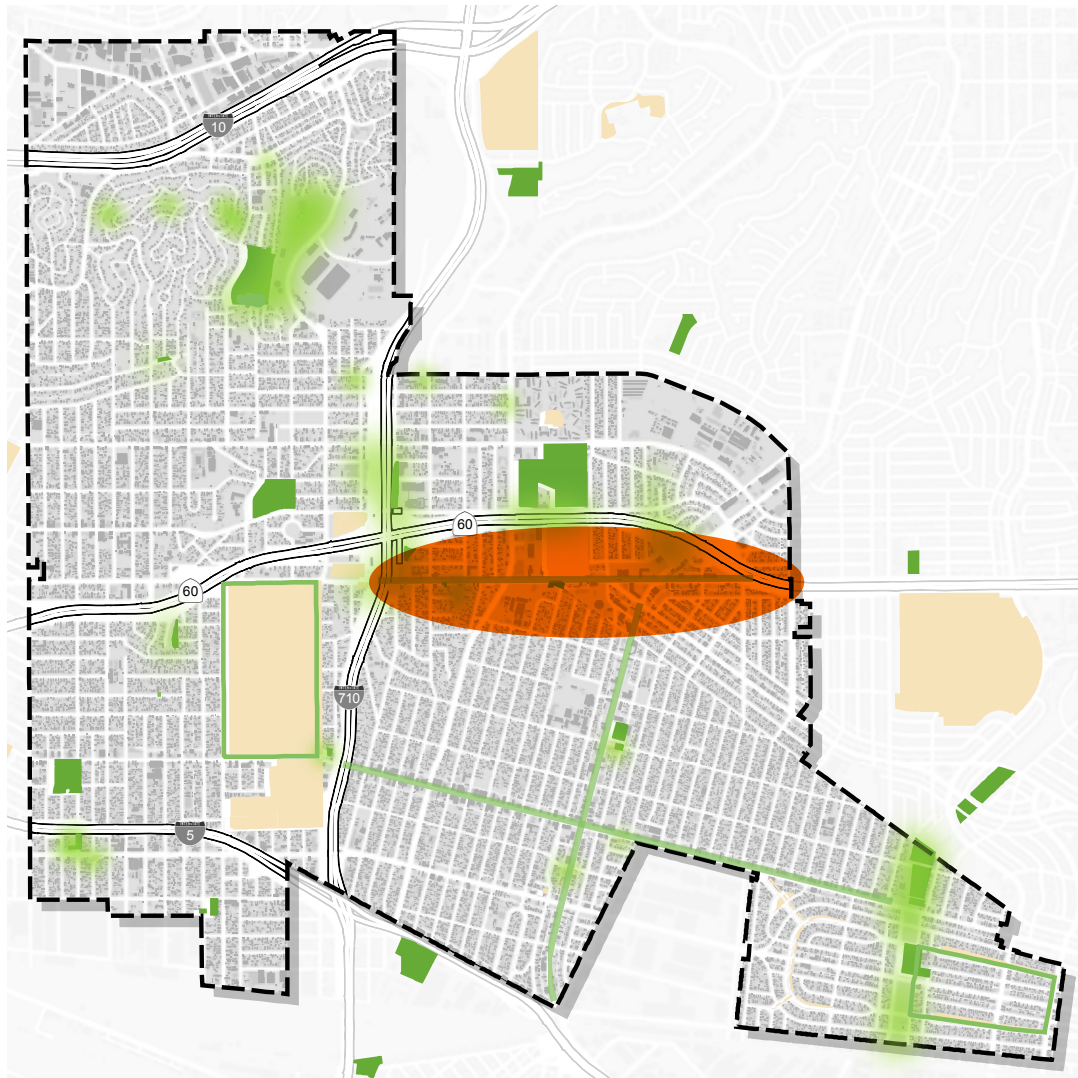
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	<p>3.1 Partner with SCE to create a park network along the utility corridor on the west side of East Los Angeles.</p>	●			
	<p>3.2 Partner with the landscape and lighting district in the southeast section of the neighborhood to improve path in median for walking and jogging.</p>		●		
	<p>3.3 Add fitness stations in new parks and along edges of existing parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop City Terrace Trail as a fitness pathway and outdoor exercise classroom. • Create fitness nodes near Calvary Cemetery and partner with Metro to create exercise stations along their planned trail. 	●	●		



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 4: Emphasize greening along the Third Street corridor.

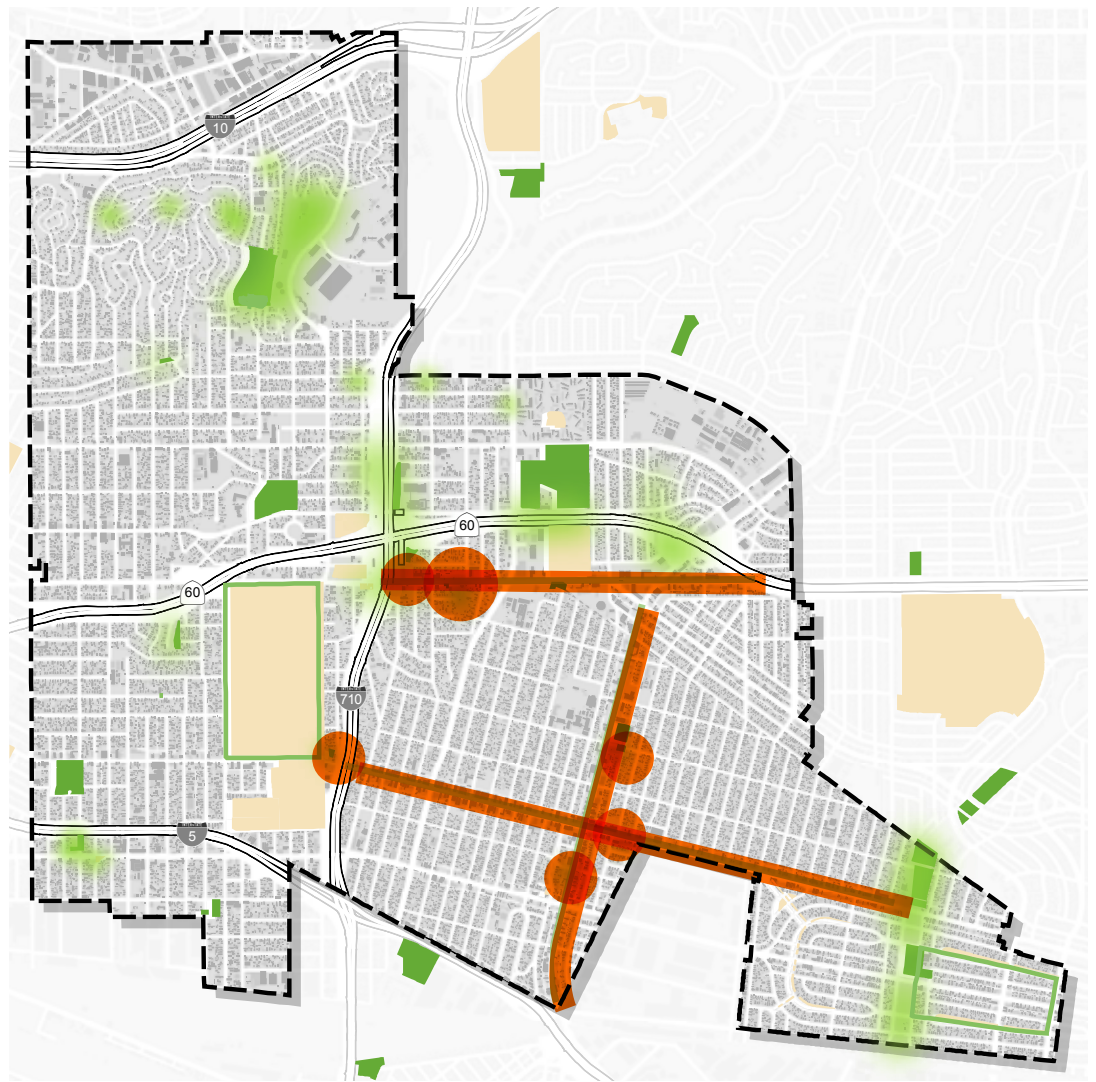
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	4.1 Partner with Caltrans to create park nodes under the 710 and Pomona Freeway interchange.	●			
	4.2 Work with the Department of Regional Planning to implement parks and recreational elements of the Third Street Specific Plan.				●



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 5: Use park nodes to enhance commercial vitality.

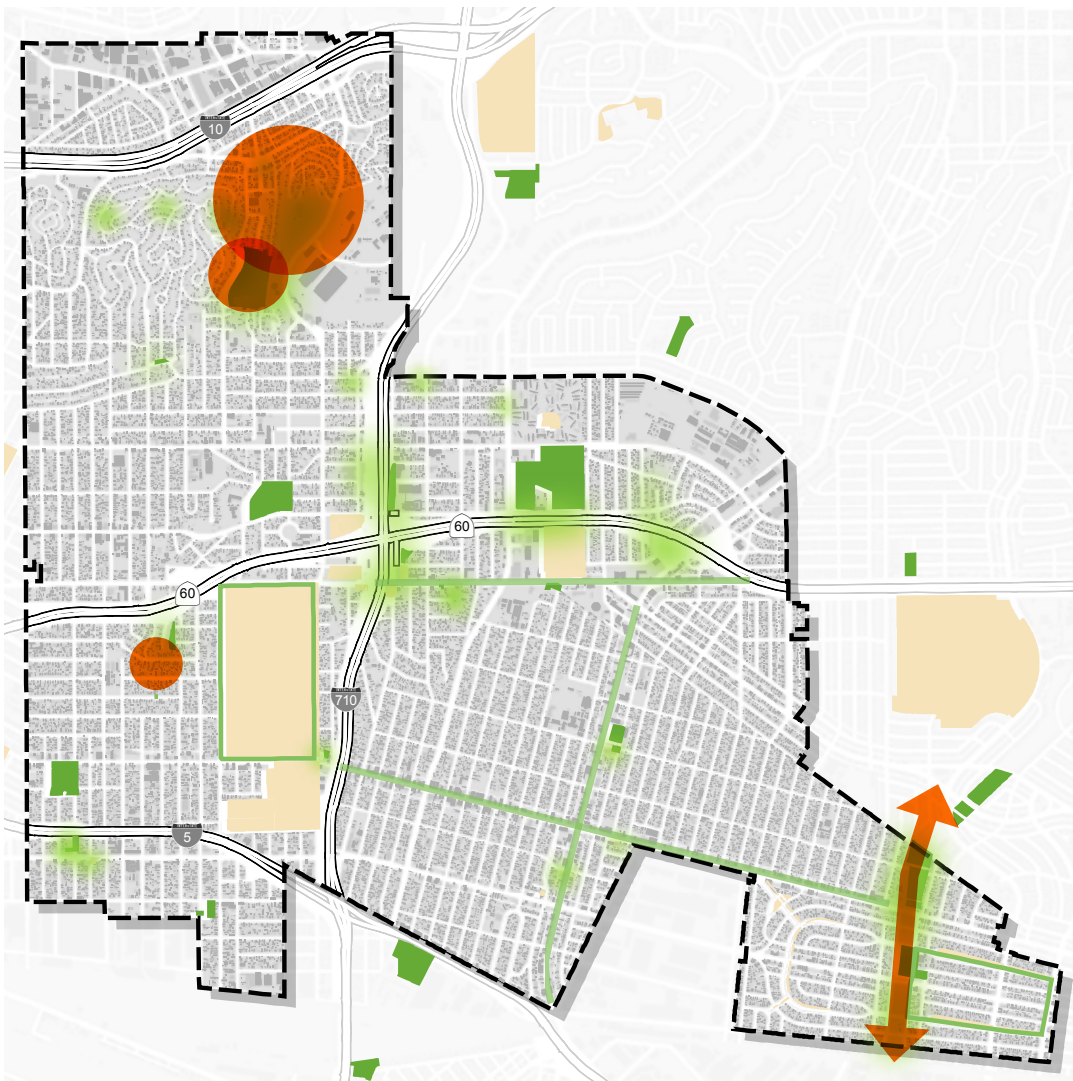
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	5.1 Work with Department of Public Works on the development of additional parklets along Whittier Boulevard to create dynamic streetscapes that fill community needs for gathering.	●			
	5.2 Monitor key corridors of Whittier Boulevard, Third Street, and Atlantic Boulevard for pocket park, placitas, and parklet opportunities, and encourage DPW to consider traffic calming measures along these routes to create safe green corridors.				●



IMPLEMENTATION

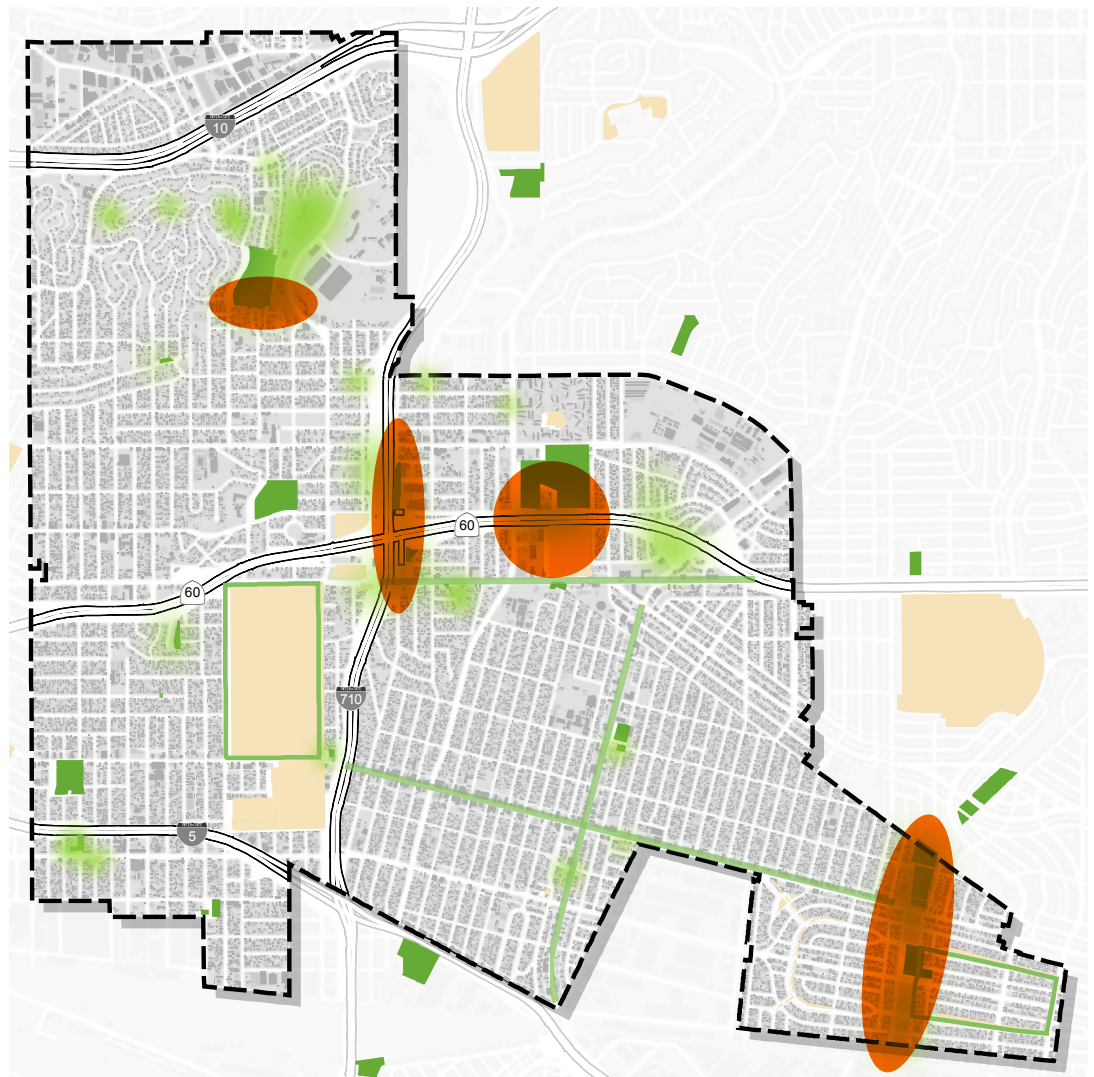
STRATEGY 6. Create trails as community connectors.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	6.1 Partner with Los Angeles County Sheriff's department to create trails through the County-owned lands in City Terrace.			●	
	6.2 Partner with Department of Public Works to improve stairways in steep areas to facilitate pedestrian access through the neighborhood.				●



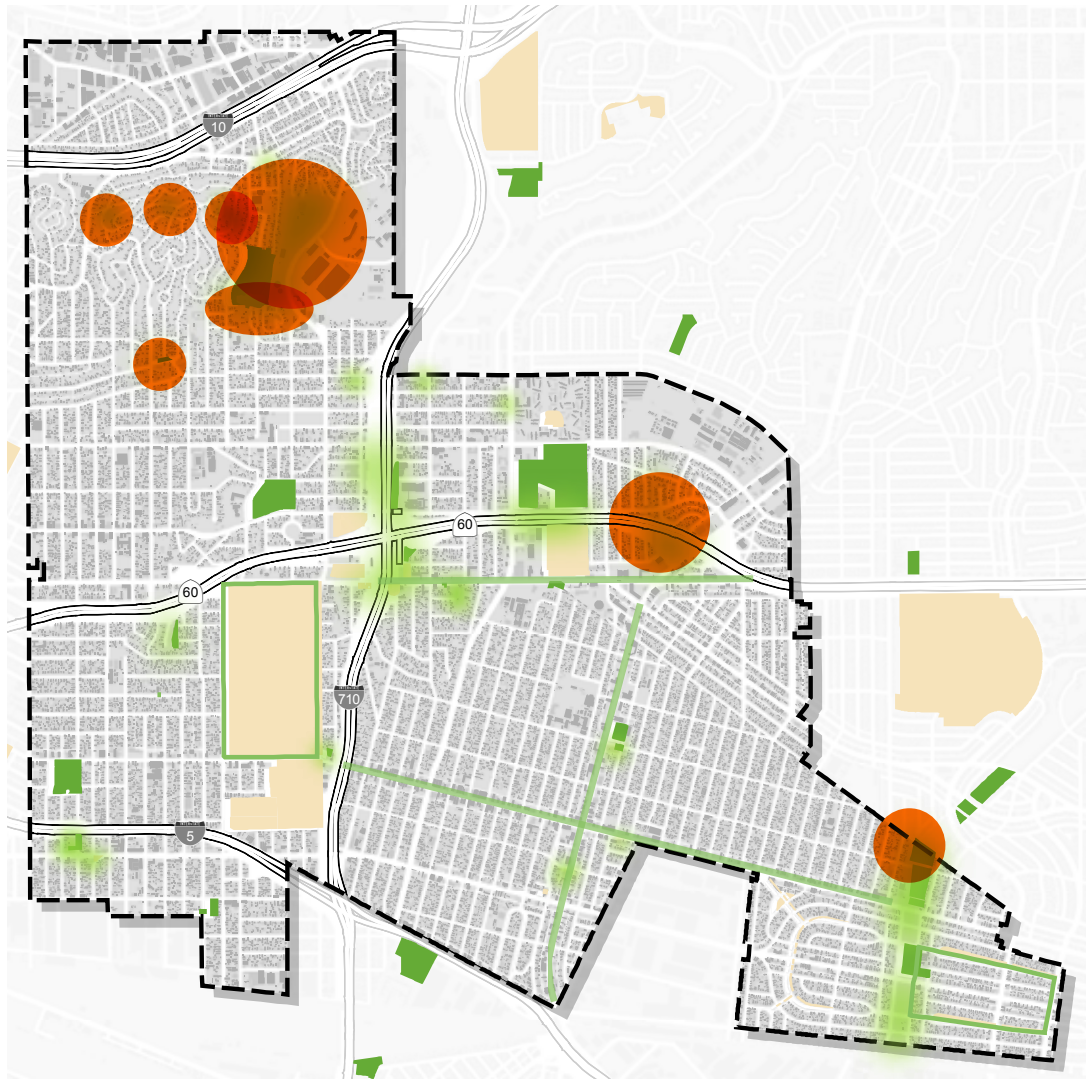
STRATEGY 7: Use currently underutilized spaces and develop for open space.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	7.1 Coordinate with Caltrans to create a bike skills park under the 710 Freeway.	●			
	7.2 Partner with Department of Public Works to create the Folsom Street Mini Park.	●			
	7.3 Coordinate with Caltrans and the Department of Regional Planning to further the vision of a Freeway Cap Park between Civic Center and Belvedere Park, as presented in the Third Street Specific Plan.			●	
	7.4 Partner with Los Angeles County Flood Control District to create nature spaces along existing channelized waterways.		●		



STRATEGY 8: Provide nature spaces and Opportunities for environmental education that provide ecological services as well as public access to natural processes.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	<p>8.1 Integrate California native plants and informational signage into site designs of new parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create nature walk within proposed park space in the Southern California Edison corridor. 	•			•
	<p>8.2 Utilize park nodes at vista points, such as the proposed Folsom Street Mini Park, as learning opportunities about the surrounding region.</p>	•			



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 9: Maximize urban forestry potential.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
EXISTING PARKS	<p>9.1 Enhance and maintain forest in existing parks. Monitor and replace trees as needed</p>	●			●
	<p>ATLANTIC AVENUE PARK 1.96 Acres 21 Existing Trees 6% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 15%</p> <p>Plant new trees in the following areas to increase overall coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Street trees within the Park along S. Atlantic Boulevard would help buffer the park from the active street. Large canopy trees in the lawn area on the west side of the park along S. Atlantic Avenue would improve picnic space by providing shade and seating diversity. Additional trees could be planted around the playground at the corner of Hastings Street and Amalia Avenue to shade the playground and parents waiting for children using the play equipment. <p>Mature trees along Amalia Avenue provide nice shade for walking along this edge and should be pruned for upright growth to keep the sidewalk clear and usable for walking.</p>	●			●
	<p>BELVEDERE REGIONAL PARK 30.74 Acres 303 Existing Trees 14% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 15%</p> <p>Plant new trees along N. Mednick Avenue to create a buffer between the park and the street.</p> <p>Belvedere Regional Park has a high percentage of Canary Island pine (<i>Pinus canariensis</i>) in its urban forest (17.16% of population). Avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.</p>	●			●
	<p>CITY TERRACE PARK 15.31 Acres 239 Existing Trees 24% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 24%</p> <p>The steep hillside to the south of the park is planted predominately with Eucalyptus. If City Terrace Trail is developed along this hillside, select species with less litter and fire potential to replace existing Eucalyptus species. Trees with high, wide canopies are preferable to provide clear lines of site along hillside and shade the trail.</p> <p>City Terrace Park has a high percentage of Canary Island pine (<i>Pinus canariensis</i>) in its urban forest (14.64% of population). Avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.</p>	●			●
	<p>PARQUE DE LOS SUEÑOS 1.61 Acres 86 Existing Trees 46% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 46%</p> <p>Parque de los Sueños has a high percentage of Canary Island pine (<i>Pinus canariensis</i>) and London Planetree (<i>Platanus × acerifolia</i>) in its urban forest (43.02% and 38.37% of population, respectively). Avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.</p>				●

Implementation Actions		Phasing				
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing	
EXISTING PARKS	<p>OBREGON PARK 10.94 Acres 175 Existing Trees 29% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 29%</p>	<p>Obregon Park has a high percentage of Brisbane box (<i>Lophostemon confertus</i>) and Evergreen Ash (<i>Fraxinus uhdei</i>) in its urban forest (25.14% and 22.29% of population, respectively). Avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.</p>				●
	<p>SALAZAR PARK 1.42 Acres 154 Existing Trees 18% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 18%</p>	<p>Mexican fan palm (<i>Washingtonia robusta</i>) is planted along the Whittier Boulevard edge of the park and helps define the edge of the park and distinguish it from other parts of the street. However, Mexican fan palm makes up a large part of the urban forest at the park (33.77% of population). Although they could be replaced and enhanced along Whittier, it is recommended that DPR replace this species throughout the park to enhance overall tree diversity.</p> <p>Consider utilizing more large shade trees to cool gathering and picnicking spaces.</p>				●
	<p>SAYBROOK PARK 1.44 Acres 62 Existing Trees 20% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 20%</p>	<p>Located within the Southern California Edison (SCE) utility corridor, the park must maintain an urban forest population consistent with SCE's guidelines.</p> <p>Saybrook Park has a high percentage of cajeput tree (<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>) in its urban forest (25.14% of population). Avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.</p>				●
NEW	<p>9.2 Ensure maximum of 15% urban forest cover at new County parks.</p>					●
	<p>9.3 Partners with other agencies and groups to enhance urban forest throughout the community.</p>					●
Flood Control District	<p>Riparian Corridors</p>	<p>Utilize riparian trees along Flood Control District channel. Opportunities include the creek right-of-way and vacant lots along the channel.</p> <p>Use riparian trees for stormwater collection or natural drainage areas with high levels of water.</p>	●			●
SoCal Edison	<p>Utility Corridors (Future Parks)</p>	<p>Plant trees within utility corridors, where appropriate, to provide shade for people moving through the corridor and beautify the community.</p>				●

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
County DPW	<p>Street Corridors</p> <p>Add street trees, particularly along the street corridors in high need areas (see Figure 5.3).</p> <p>Trees should be planted along corridors that connect parks, cemeteries (including Calvary Cemetery), and other open space. This will help to address residents’ desire for increased walking and exercise opportunities.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to bury utility lines to increase planting opportunities.</p>		●		●
Caltrans	<p>Freeway Buffers</p> <p>Create buffers from freeways by planting trees along remnant parcels and vacant lots along the 105.</p> <p>Actively collaborate with Caltrans regarding projects within the Caltrans right-of-way.</p>		●		●
Property Owners	<p>Vacant Lots (Pocket Forests)</p> <p>Create “pocket forests,” or small forested areas that do not have other programming, within vacant parcels where other uses are not compatible. Explore opportunities in hillside lots as these are often unsuitable for development, but are great opportunities for expanding the urban forest.</p> <p>Strategically select and plants trees to stabilize hillsides. Trees will stabilize slopes with their roots, providing erosion control.</p> <p>Coordinate with property owners regarding potential pocket forests. For instance, there is potential to create pocket forests on CAL FIRE land, such as the hillside parcels across from City Terrace Park, through partnerships with CAL FIRE.</p> <p>Consider fire management when selecting trees for these sites.</p>			●	●
	<p>Residential Yards</p> <p>Educate residents about benefits of tree planting and offer tools to encourage and inspire residential projects, including through community involvement in Park Urban Forest projects.</p> <p>Encourage development of programs for utility companies to provide shade trees to home owners to increase community forest canopy and reduce residential energy use (HR2454 appropriated funds from the DOE to local utility companies for strategic tree planting).</p> <p>Encourage the use of Preferred Tree List in Appendix E.</p>				●

STRATEGY 10: Improve actual and perceived safety within existing East Los Angeles parks and in future park spaces.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
PROGRAMMING	<p>10.1 Expand the Parks After Dark program to other parks in East Los Angeles beyond City Terrace Park, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belvedere Park • Obregon Park • Salazar Park • Saybrook Park 		•		
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION	<p>10.2 Develop a suggestion system at local parks, such as a drop-box for community feedback. Ensure that questions and concerns receive a follow-up call in a timely manner.</p>				•
	<p>10.3 Recruit a group of community volunteers at each park who can help with communication, programming coordination, and event staffing by offering space for regular meetings and a park staff representative who can provide information and solicit input.</p>				•
	<p>10.4 Prioritize the development of more communal areas, such as picnic Ss, shaded benches, and terraced seating areas, particularly in parks residing in high-density areas such as Atlantic and Salazar Parks.</p>	•			
SUPERVISION	<p>10.5 Direct park staff to conduct regular walking patrols throughout the park, including regular passes through restrooms, interacting with park users, informing them of any events or updates, and answering any questions they may have.</p>				•
	<p>10.6 Direct Parks Bureau deputies to patrol outside of their vehicle, within parks, and develop first-name relationships with local park stakeholders such as coaches, volunteers, and park staff.</p>				•
LIGHTING	<p>10.7 Extend current lighting hours at local parks to better reflect actual times of use, which typically lasts until 8:00pm throughout the year, and reach out to community members for their input on where new lighting is needed.</p>		•		

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
EXISTING PARK UPGRADES	10.8 Belvedere Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allow cyclists access to the skate park, or develop bicycle-appropriate facilities nearby. 		●		
	10.9 City Terrace Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add more lighting to the City Terrace Park parking lot. Regularly maintain baseball fields, where gopher holes present a danger to running children. 	●			●
	10.10 Obregon Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add signage along 1st Street announcing streetlight at the bottom of the hill. Develop more communal areas, with some specifically dedicated for family use. 	●	●		
	10.11 Parque de los Sueños <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build either a stop light or a lighted crosswalk on Union Pacific. Partner with the nearby YWCA Union Pacific Empowerment Center to encourage more positive use of the space. Increase supervision and lighting at the basketball court directly across from the park's main grounds. 	●			● ●
	10.12 Salazar Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add more lighting to walkway just north of the tennis courts. 	●			
	10.13 Saybrook Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the supervision and maintenance of park bathrooms. 				●



Gopher Holes in Baseball Fields at City Terrace Park



Hidden, unlit area at Salazar Park

STRATEGY 11: Continue dialogue with community about park needs and opportunities to be involved in park administration.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	11.1 Develop a suggestion and/or complaint system at local parks, such as a drop-box for community feedback. Ensure that questions and concerns receive a follow-up call in a timely manner. Invest in additional “relationship building” training for park staff and Parks Bureau deputies.	●			
	11.2 Create ombudsperson for East Los Angeles to serve as community liaison between DPR and community members who want to participate in park events and volunteer with the department.	●			

STRATEGY 12: Support initiatives that increase access to parks, recreational facilities, and regional destinations.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATIONAL ACTIONS	12.1 Provide more year-round programming at existing parks.				●
	12.2 Partner with DPW to ensure that El Sol shuttle provides service to any new parks developed in East Los Angeles.				●
	12.3 Create mobile program unit to travel to provide programs, such as exercise classes, yoga, and dance at small pocket parks, including Langford park or any new parks.				
	12.4 Create shuttle program to regional recreational open spaces, such as the Whittier Narrows Recreational Area and Mount Baldy at the Angeles National Forest.		●		

PARTNERSHIP

Another key strategy will include partnerships with other agencies and non profits. Many of the identified potential parkland opportunity sites are managed by other agencies and will require partnership action to move forward. Furthermore, much of the community feedback received during the planning process included a desire for more streetscape and pedestrian improvements. Although these actions are outside of DPR's typical jurisdiction, they can help to improve park access and public perception of the overall greening of the neighborhood.

Additionally, one of the best strategies for building support for an open space and keeping it safe is to have community support. Community-based partners can build momentum for a greening project and will have greater ownership over the project moving forward.

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Joint use agreements are one tool to help implement park and greening projects. A review of other joint use policies related to parks and greening in the County is included in Appendix A. In East Los Angeles, joint use agreements could be developed with Los Angeles Unified School District and Montebello Unified School District. In addition, a joint use agreement with Southern California Edison (SCE) would enable the development of the Southern California Edison corridor park described in this plan. Such an agreement would be developed through coordination with SCE regarding the design of the proposed project, which would need to conform to SCE's Transmission Line Right of Way Constraints and Guidelines.

DPR has been working with Caltrans through lease agreements to develop recreation amenities on their property. In East Los Angeles, DPR should continue to explore lease agreements with Caltrans in order to develop the projects in the plan near the 710 Freeway and I-60.

Agreements with other Los Angeles County departments would also enable the development of projects described in this plan. Specifically, an agreement with the County Sheriff's Department could allow the development of walking trails on County lands in City Terrace. Other agreements could be developed with the Department of Public Works and the County Flood Control District to develop greening projects, including the Creekside nature park near Civic Center on Telford Street and the channel on the other side of the Pomona Freeway connecting to Robert Hill Lane Elementary School. DPW is currently developing parklets in East Los Angeles in partnership with local business leader. DPR could work with DPW to enhance the recreational capacity of these spaces.

Potential partners for projects in East Los Angeles include (but are not limited to):

- » Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
- » Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- » Los Angeles Metro
- » Southern California Edison

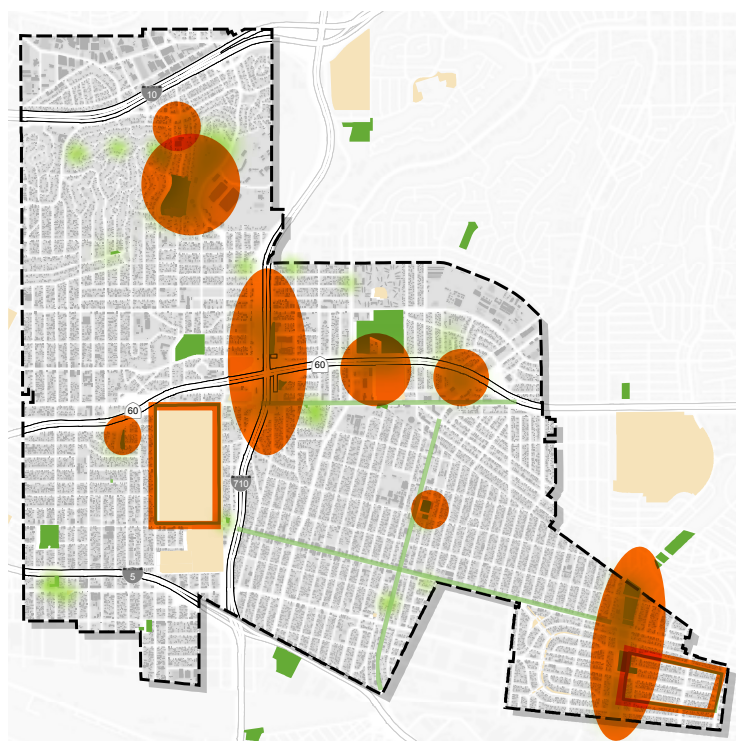
- » Los Angeles County Flood Control District
- » Los Angeles Unified School District
- » Montebello Unified School District
- » Sheriff's Department Youth Activity League (YAL)

COMMUNITY-BASED NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Partnership agreements with community-based organizations are another tool for development of projects. DPR currently has such agreements in other communities. In these instances, an organization agrees to assist with the design and construction of a park, with the County accepting to own, operate and maintain the park. Such agreements would enable the development of a number of the pocket park and greening projects identified in this plan. A number of community-based organizations have entered into partnerships with public agencies to develop park and greening projects in the Los Angeles area.

Potential partners for projects in East Los Angeles could include (but are not limited to):

- » Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- » Los Angeles Parks Foundation
- » Los Angeles Community Garden Council
- » Boys and Girls Club of East LA
- » YWCA Union Pacific Empowerment Center
- » St. Lucy's Catholic Church
- » Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority
- » Restore Neighborhoods LA
- » Trust for Public Land
- » Amigos de los Rios



FUNDING SOURCES

There are consistent sources of funding for developing new parks and renovating existing parks. However, this funding is typically in short supply in relation to the need. While funds from California's Proposition 84 have facilitated new parks over the past several years, these funds have largely been expended.

The following sources of parks construction funds are divided into traditional funding sources, financing and other revenue-raising mechanisms, partnerships and other creative solutions, and grants. It may take more than one of these sources to build or renovate a park. Because there are many grants available that may apply to parks in Los Angeles County, the bulk of this section describes those grants.

CONVENTIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

The primary traditional sources of parks funding are the County's General Fund and developer dedication of land or in-lieu fees.

QUIMBY ACT FEES

Since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act,¹ cities and counties have been authorized to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for parks. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.² A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or park land, and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Cities and counties with a high ratio of park space to inhabitants can set a standard of up to 5 acres per thousand persons for new development. Cities with a lower ratio can only require the provision of up to 3 acres of park space per thousand people.

In Los Angeles County, in order to determine the local park space obligation for a subdivision, a formula is used which considers the number of dwelling units in the subdivision, the average household size by Park Planning Area (PPA) (which differs for single family, multifamily, mobile home developments, and by PPA), and the adopted ratio of 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, per the Quimby Act. However, it should be noted that in accordance with the County's General Plan parkland dedication standards, as a condition of zone change approval, General Plan amendment, Specific Plan approval, or Development Agreement, the County may require a subdivider to provide 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas, and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents in the county as a whole.³

It should also be noted that East Los Angeles has very limited Quimby funding because there have been very few new residential subdivisions in the community.

GENERAL FUND

The County's General Fund is primarily comprised of revenues from property taxes, and a portion is allocated annually to parks to address existing needs. In 2013-2014, recreation and cultural functions cost \$722 million, or 3 percent of Los Angeles County's budget, with parks and recreation receiving \$112 million.⁴

FINANCING AND REVENUE MECHANISMS

To raise new sources of revenue, DPR can consider various mechanisms. These include relying on private development to finance parks, privatizing parks services, or developing parks services that charge a fee to users.⁵

BONDS AND LEVIES

Taxpayer-approved measures to issue a bond or levy a tax are commonly used financing tools, but they require significant political support. Proposition A, approved in 1992, provided \$52 million per year through a tax levy of an average of \$13 per year per homeowner in the County to fund parks. Proposition K, passed in 1996, provides \$28 million per year and will expire in 2019. A new bond or tax levy would need to be approved in order to continue this source of funding for parks in the County.

LEASE FINANCING

Lease-purchase agreements allow an agency to lease a facility while purchasing it in order to obtain a facility with a smaller investment up front. Cities have used the sale of Certificates of Participation to finance park improvements and the purchase of open space. Lease-purchase financing does not require voter approval.⁶

RAISING REVENUES

There are several ways to raise revenues by using existing parks infrastructure. Some strategies tend to be controversial, such as privatizing or outsourcing services, while others are more common, including soliciting business sponsorships of facilities or events. Charging a fee to use facilities is another controversial source of revenue. However, many parks and recreation departments already do this with some services, such as swimming pool use. The most profitable fee-for-service facilities include golf courses, tennis courts, and event facilities.⁷ To reduce inequitable access to parks facilities, many parks departments will provide subsidies for low-income users.

4 <http://ceo.lacounty.gov/pdf/budget/2013/2012-13%20Recommended%20Budget%20Charts.pdf>

5 <http://www.pps.org/reference/financeparks1/>

6 <http://ceres.ca.gov/planning/financing/chap6.html>

7 <https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe-localparks-localfinancingvol2-textonly.pdf>

1 [California Government Code §66477](#)

2 [Westrup, Laura, 2002, Quimby Act 101: An Abbreviated Overview, Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation. \(http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/quimby101.pdf\).](#)

3 [Draft 2035 General Plan, Policy P/R 3.1.](#)

Another option is to charge voluntary annual fees, allowing residents to choose whether to donate or fill out a form in order to receive a membership card.

GRANTS

Grants are available for parks and parks-related construction. In addition to grants intended to build parks, specialized grants that may apply to various Los Angeles County Parks include environmental, trails, community development, waterways, urban forestry, or landscaping funds. The grants described below are organized by these categories. Grants may require a local match in either funds or volunteer labor.

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

- **EXCESS FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM.** These grants were established through the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 and are intended to provide funding for “high priority” parks and recreation projects in Los Angeles County. Competitive grants can be received for projects that include urban tree planting, restoration of natural land, and at-risk youth recreation, among others.⁸
- **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION PARK ENRICHMENT GRANTS.** These grants are small, suitable for programming or small repair/restoration projects. Only State Parks are eligible.⁹
- **LISC/NFL FOUNDATION GRASSROOTS PROGRAM.** Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the National Football League (NFL) provide grants to restore or build football fields as gathering places and recreational facilities to support the development of young people and their parents, particularly in poorer communities.¹⁰
- **LISC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM.** The Los Angeles branch of LISC has a Youth Development Recreation component of their Health & Environment program, listing recreation facilities in addition to football fields.¹¹
- **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.** This provides technical assistance only, offering a National Park Service employee to help recipients organize, strategize, build capacity and public participation, and implement a conservation or recreation project. Examples include parks and trails, conservation and access improvements to rivers

and natural areas, and creation of recreation opportunities through locally led partnerships.¹²

- **US FOREST SERVICE BALTIMORE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP.** The US Forest Service (USFS) recently implemented a unique commitment between the USFS and the City of Baltimore to foster partnered attention on the sustainability and social-ecological restoration of its inner-city neighborhoods. While this agreement currently exists only in Baltimore, the County of Los Angeles could explore the innovative partnerships the USFS might be open to in order to support Los Angeles’ disadvantaged neighborhoods.¹³
- **URBAN PARK AND RECREATION RECOVERY (UPARR) PROGRAM.** The federal UPARR program was designed to offer matching grants and technical assistance for rehabilitation to economically distressed urban communities. However, UPARR has not been funded since 2002.¹⁴
- **CORPORATE GRANTS.** Many small-scale grants and sponsorships are available to support the development and revitalization of parks and recreation. Some of these are through established corporate giving programs such as PowerBar’s Direct Impact on Rivers and Trails program, which has provided funds up to \$5,000 to create, maintain, improve, or restore access to valued recreational areas. While smaller companies are less likely to have established programs, local businesses often designate funds for donation to their community and can be tapped for sponsorships of local projects that support the community.¹⁵

ENVIRONMENTAL

- **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD.** The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) provides public access funding and can enter into cooperative project agreements with local agencies or nonprofit organizations for the development of facilities for “public access for hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation,” such as wildlife viewing and bird watching. The WCB may fund the construction of project elements such as trails and interpretive facilities. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.¹⁶

8 http://file.lacounty.gov/dpr/cms1_196810.pdf

9 <http://www.calparks.org/whatwedo/grants/park-enrichment.html>

10 http://www.lisc.org/docs/resources/ydr/2014_NFL_Grassroots_Program_Description.pdf

11 http://www.lisc.org/los_angeles/programs/health_&_environment.php

12 <http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

13 [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/prc/home/?cid=stelprd3804156&width=full#Baltimore Restoration Partnership](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/prc/home/?cid=stelprd3804156&width=full#Baltimore%20Restoration%20Partnership)

14 <http://www.nps.gov/uparr/>

15 <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/funding/DIRTfund.html>

16 <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/>

- **URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP.** This partnership between federal agencies and nonprofit organizations is intended to improve water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits. The Urban Waters small grants give \$40-60k to support activities that improve water quality while supporting community revitalization and other local priorities. The Los Angeles River Watershed is one of the designated Urban Waters locations. Both Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability received grants for education and engagement in the 2013-2014 funding round.¹⁷
- **HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND.** This State fund provides support for nature interpretation programs, protection of plant and animal species, and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails. These funds require a 50 percent match.¹⁸
- **FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF).** This fund can be used by cities and counties to reimburse development costs for outdoor recreation areas and facilities. These are matching funds and will cover up to 50 percent of project costs.¹⁹
- **TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL REVOLVING LOAN FUND.** The Department of Toxic Substances Control Revolving Loan Fund provides subgrants or loans for the redevelopment of brownfields to municipalities, nonprofits, or developers who are bona fide purchasers, innocent land owners, or contiguous property owners.²⁰
- **CA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORPHAN SITE CLEANUP FUND (OSCF) PROGRAM.** The OSCF program provides grants to clean vacant sites in urban areas contaminated by a petroleum underground storage tank. Such abandoned sites, upon cleanup, might become available for recreation.²¹
- **CA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD PETROLEUM UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND.** This State fund reimburses the cost of remediation for underground petroleum storage tanks. Such abandoned sites, upon cleanup, might become available for recreation.²²
- **EPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANTS.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides funds to clean and reuse former toxic and industrial sites. California recipients have included the City of Brea, which received \$200,000 to clean a former railroad row, the City of Los Angeles, which received \$200,000 to clean a former industrial site in South Los Angeles for use as a natural wetlands park, and Nevada City, which received \$600,000 for three mine cleanup grants to incorporate the areas into a trail system.²³
- **EPA FINANCIAL TOOLS AND FUNDING SOURCES.** The EPA has a web page where it announces information about existing and upcoming financial tools and funding.²⁴
- **US EPA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.** The EPA Environmental Justice program is available to fund partnerships and programs. While these grants are not used for construction or implementation of projects, partnerships and programs are a key aspect of developing and operating successful parks and recreation facilities.²⁵
- **CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT.** These State funds support cleanup or abatement of a condition of pollution when there are no viable responsible parties available to undertake the work.²⁶
- **CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM.** This State program of the Wildlife Conservation Program provides grants for protecting, restoring, and enhancing riparian habitat systems.²⁷
- **HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM.** This California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) program provides funds for restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife resources. Eligible projects include native fisheries restoration; restoration of wetlands; and restoration of coastal, tidal, or fresh water habitat. Other native habitat restoration projects include coastal scrub oak, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitats, in-stream restoration projects, including removal of fish passage barriers and other obstructions, and other projects that improve the quality of native habitat throughout the State.²⁸

17 <http://www.urbanwaters.gov/>

18 http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21361

19 <http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/index.htm>

20 https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields/Loans_Grants.cfm

21 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/oscf.shtml

22 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/

23 http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/cleanup_grants.htm

24 <http://www2.epa.gov/envirofinance/tools>

25 <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html>

26 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/caa/

27 <http://rlch.org/funding/california-riparian-habitat-conservation-program>

28 <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Habitat-Enhancement>

HEALTH

- **PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT.** These are federal funds available for State use. The California Department of Public Health’s Project Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition (LEAN), has used this funding.²⁹
- **NATIONAL NATURE SACRED AWARDS PROGRAM.** This program is unique in that it supports projects that combine the creation of tranquil, restorative spaces in urban environments with rigorous study of their impact on users’ well-being and resilience. Recent research has shown that careful design and maintenance of urban greening facilities can also provide human health and well-being benefits, such as stress recovery, improved mental health, faster healing, and improved community situations. This program is designed to both facilitate such facilities and support further research into their impacts.³⁰

TRAILS

- **FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM.** These federal transportation funds are administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The 2013 California apportionment was over \$5.7 million. The funds are intended to benefit recreation, including hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles. The program requires at least a 12 percent local match and encourages applicants to develop cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps to perform trail construction and maintenance.³¹
- **NATIONAL TRAILS FUND.** The American Hiking Society provides micro-grants to trail crews to support hiking trails. Grants are available in amounts between \$500 and \$5,000 to members of the American Hiking Society’s Alliance of Hiking Organizations for projects that have hikers as the primary constituency; are seeking to secure trail lands; and build and maintain trails resulting in visible and substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, or avoidance of environmental damage. Higher preference is given to projects with volunteer labor.³²

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM.** These federal funds are intended to stabilize communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. The Housing and Community Investment Department of the

City of Los Angeles (HCIDLA) was awarded \$13.7 million and is using these funds to acquire, rehabilitate, and resell foreclosed homes. City Recreation and Parks partnered with the Housing Department to establish neighborhood parks where the rehabilitation of a foreclosed possible is not reasonable (see Consolidated Plan). As of 2014, Quarter 2, \$10.1 million of the funds had been expended.³³

- **PROPOSITION 1C. HOUSING RELATED PARKS PROGRAM.** The Housing Related Parks Program is funded by Proposition 1C, the \$2.85 billion affordable housing bond component of California’s Strategic Growth Plan, which invests \$2.85 billion for housing and infrastructure programs to produce an estimated 118,000 housing units, 2,350 homeless shelter spaces, and infrastructure projects that help infill housing development such as water, sewer, parks, and transportation improvements. Run by the California office of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the program offers housing-related park grants in urban, suburban, and rural areas, expected to result in over 52,000 housing units. As of June 2013, there was \$163.6 million left of \$200 million designated from Proposition 1C.³⁴
- **INFILL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM.** The Infill Infrastructure Grant Program is administered by HCD and funded by Proposition 1C. Grants are for the development of public infrastructure projects that facilitate or support infill housing construction estimated to result in about 32,000 housing units. Projects could include water, sewer, and transportation improvements; traffic mitigation; brownfield cleanup; and up to an additional \$200 million for parks. As of June 2013, there was \$80 million left of \$850 million.³⁵
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a locally-administered federal program that addresses capital construction needs in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. Parks and playground improvements are an allowed use of CDBG funds under Public Facilities & Improvements. Both the City and County of Los Angeles are granted annual entitlements.

The Community Development Commission runs the County program. According to the County’s Consolidated Plan, Community Development and Housing Needs, the highest need reported by survey respondents total was for parks and recreational facilities.³⁶

29 <http://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/index.htm>

30 <http://naturesacred.org/our-approach/overview/>

31 http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/

32 <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-fund/>

33 http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg

34 <http://www.bondaccountability.hcd.ca.gov/>

35 <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/iig/>

36 http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/

WATER AND WATERWAYS

- **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS.** The California Department of Boating and Waterways has grants available for recreational boating facilities with public access. Grants are restricted to qualifying public agencies to fund boat launching ramps, boarding floats, and associated parking areas, restrooms, and lighting.³⁷
- **FLOOD CORRIDOR PROGRAM.** The California Department of Water Resources' Flood Corridor Program is intended to protect and restore floodplains and preserve or enhance wildlife habitat and agriculture.³⁸
- **URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION PROGRAM.** This California Department of Water Resources program funds stream restoration projects that reduce flooding or erosion; restore, enhance, or protect the natural environment; and promote community involvement, education, and stewardship in urban streams.³⁹
- **PROPOSITION 1 WATER BOND.** This Statewide bond measure, passed in 2014 to fund investments in California's aging water infrastructure, includes \$1.89 billion for habitat and watershed programs. It also includes \$810 million for water reliability, including stormwater capture. It is not yet clear how these funds will be made available.⁴⁰
- **U.S. FOREST SERVICE OF CALIFORNIA ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION WITH POWER AND WATER UTILITIES INITIATIVE.** Half of all surface water in California originates from national forest watersheds, with downstream consumers realizing an estimated value of nearly \$10 billion every year. This partnership brings together beneficiaries of these watersheds to support ecological restoration and reduction of wildfire threat in critical headwaters and near key utility transmission lines. They also strive to maintain the biomass infrastructure needed to increase the pace and scale of restoration activities in California's forests.⁴¹

comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs

37 <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Funding/>

38 <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/fpo/sgb/fpcp/>

39 <http://www.water.ca.gov/urbanstreams/>

40 <http://www.acwa.com/spotlight/2014-water-bond>

41 <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/prc/home/?cid=stelprd3804156&width=full#California%20Ecological%20Restoration%20with%20Power%20and%20Water%20Utilities>

- **THE COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM.** The California Coastal Conservancy is the lead agency for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP, pronounced "kelp"), a program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that provides matching funds up to \$1 million to state and local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements. To be considered, the land must be important ecologically or possess other coastal conservation values, such as historic features, scenic views, or recreational opportunities. These matching funds require an equivalent amount of non-federal funds, and that the general public has appropriate access to the subject property. The funds cannot be used for development of active recreation facilities.⁴²

URBAN FORESTS/LANDSCAPING

- **CALFIRE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS.** CALFIRE provides several urban and community forestry grants to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG), ranging from \$200,000 to \$1.5 million. Each of these grants requires a 25 percent local match. The following CALFIRE grants all fall under this category of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grants.⁴³
- **CALFIRE GREEN TREES FOR THE GOLDEN STATE PROGRAM.** Grants are available for urban tree planting projects, including years of tree establishment care, with preference to communities identified as environmental justice communities using CalEnviroScreen 2.0. Preference is given to the planting of trees to optimize the multiple benefits of urban forests in environmental justice communities, with special attention given to GHG sequestration and avoided GHG emissions.⁴⁴
- **CALFIRE WOODS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM.** The woods in the neighborhood program offers funds ranging from \$200,000 to \$1.5 million to assist local entities with purchasing and improving unused, vacant urban neighborhood properties in environmental justice communities or to serve such communities for purposes consistent with the Urban Forestry Act. These projects must demonstrate how GHG emissions will be reduced.⁴⁵

42 <http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/landconservation/?redirect=301ocm>

43 http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php

44 http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php

45 http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php

- **CALFIRE GREEN INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM.** The Green Innovations program offers grants to further AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, by reducing GHG emissions and improving greening in urban areas. These projects should be unique and forward-thinking and not fit one of the other CALFIRE greening grants. Projects must show how GHG emissions will be reduced. Selection will be strongly focused on environmental justice communities.⁴⁶
- **U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE NATIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CHALLENGE COST-SHARE PROGRAM.** This grant program of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council provides funding to help enhance urban forest stewardship, support new employment opportunities, and help build resilience in the face of a changing climate. Categories in 2014 included: making urban trees and forests more resilient to the impacts of natural disasters and the long-term impacts of climate change, green infrastructure jobs analysis, and utilizing green infrastructure to manage and mitigate stormwater to improve water quality.
- **CALIFORNIA WELLNESS FOUNDATION.** The California Wellness Foundation’s program includes a grantmaking portfolio focused on promoting healthy and safe neighborhoods, which include access to safe parks, open spaces, and recreational activities to improve fun opportunities and social cohesion. The target population for these grants is low-income communities of color.⁴⁷
- **CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (CCF).** The CCF provides grants in a range of priority areas to serve low-income or underserved communities in Los Angeles County. While parks are not one of the priority areas, elements of parks and recreation projects may be eligible for funding in one of the areas such as arts and culture.⁴⁸



46 http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php

47 http://www.calwellness.org/grants_program/

48 <https://www.calfund.org/page.aspx?pid=742>

