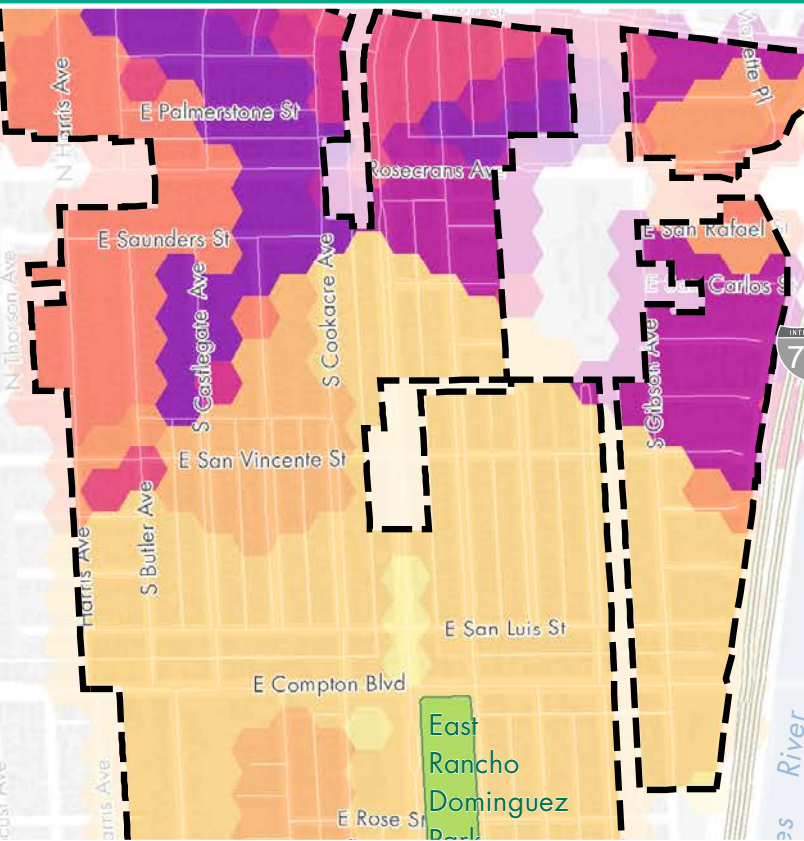


FEBRUARY 2016

EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



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Funding for the East Rancho Dominguez Community Parks and Recreation Plan was provided by the Strategic Growth Council through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant program, funded by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006.

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Special thanks to the residents of East Rancho Dominguez 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
Demographics	2-2
Community Layout	2-5
Parks Inventory	2-5
East Rancho Dominguez Park	2-7
Recreational Programs	2-10
Other Green Spaces	2-12
Urban Forest Inventory	2-13
Spatial Analysis	2-20

CHAPTER 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

3-1

Surveys	3-2
Focus Groups	3-4
Stakeholder Interviews	3-5
Community Workshop	3-6
Youth Activity	3-8
Community Tour	3-9
Safety	3-10
Summary of Community Outreach	3-13

CHAPTER 4: NEEDS ASSESSMENT

4-1

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

CHAPTER 5: OPEN SPACE VISION PLAN

5-1

Vision and Goals	5-2
Parklands	5-4
Connections and Corridors	5-9
Safe Parks and Safe Communities	5-11
Creative Strategies to Increase Recreational Opportunities	5-13
Urban Greening	5-14
Urban Forestry	5-15
Greenscore	5-18

Summary of Goals	6-2
Strategies	6-2
Implementation Actions	6-3
Partnership	6-17
Funding Sources	6-19

FIGURES

Figure 1.1	Location of East Rancho Dominguez in Region	1-3
Figure 1.2	East Rancho Dominguez	1-5
Figure 2.1	Race and Ethnicity	2-3
Figure 2.2	Population by Age	2-3
Figure 2.3	Households with children	2-3
Figure 2.4	Income Groups	2-4
Figure 2.5	Unemployment Estimates (2013)	2-4
Figure 2.6	Population Without Access to Vehicles	2-4
Figure 2.7	Location of East Rancho Dominguez	2-6
Figure 2.8	East Rancho Dominguez Park Snapshot	2-8
Figure 2.9	East Rancho Dominguez Park Expansion Plan	2-9
Figure 2.10	Timing of Programs at East Rancho Dominguez Park	2-11
Figure 2.11	Existing Canopy Coverage	2-15
Figure 2.12	Species Composition	2-17
Figure 2.13	Service Areas- Local and Regional Parks	2-21
Figure 2.14	Population Near a Park	2-22
Figure 2.15	Parkland Gaps/Walkability	2-23
Figure 2.16	Land Use Types	2-24
Figure 2.17	Land Use	2-25
Figure 2.18	Population Density	2-27
Figure 2.19	Pedestrian, Bicycle Collisions per 1,000 Residents	2-28
Figure 2.20	Transportation, Safety, and Connectivity	2-29
Figure 2.21	Crimes Against Persons	2-31
Figure 2.22	Vacant Lands	2-33
Figure 2.23	Food Access	2-35
Figure 2.24	Air Quality	2-37
Figure 3.1	Survey Results	3-2
Figure 4.1	East Rancho Dominguez 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	Spatial Factors that Determine Areas of High Parkland Need?	4-12
Figure 4.9	East Rancho Dominguez Spatial Needs Map	4-13
Figure 4.10	Potential Parkland Opportunity Types	4-15
Figure 4.11	Site Selection Prioritization Criteria	4-16
Figure 4.12	East Rancho Dominguez Potential Parkland Opportunities Map	4-17

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Figure 5.1	East Rancho Dominguez Green Vision Map	5-3
Figure 5.2	Conceptual Youth and Teen Pocket Park	5-5
Figure 5.3	Precedent Project: Willowbrook Community Walking Path at George Washington Carver Park in Willowbrook, CA	5-6
Figure 5.4	Conceptual Fitness Trail at East Rancho Dominguez Park	5-7
Figure 5.5	Current and Potential Future Connections	5-8
Figure 5.6	Conceptual Midblock Crosswalk	5-9
Figure 5.7	Conceptual Signage Directing Users to Crosswalks	5-9
Figure 5.8	Conceptual Signage Directing Users to Los Angeles River	5-10
Figure 5.9	Precedent Pop-up Features	5-13
Figure 5.10	Potential Urban Forestry Opportunities in East Rancho Dominguez	5-17
Figure 5.11	Potential New Parkland	5-18
Figure 5.12	East Rancho Dominguez Priority Parkland and Trail Opportunities	5-19
Figure 5.13	Service Areas- Existing and Potential Future Parks	5-20
Figure 5.14	Parkland Gaps/Walkability - Existing and Potential Future Parks	5-21
Figure 5.15	Service Improvements with the Addition of Potential New Parks	5-22
Figure 5.16	Spatial Need- Existing and Potential Future Parks	5-23
Figure 5.17	Sample Park Project Water Saving	5-24
Figure 6.1	Partnership with Public Agencies	6-17
Figure 6.2	Partnership with Community Groups and Private Owners	6-18

TABLES

Table 2.1	Matrix of Park Elements in East Rancho Dominguez	2-7
Table 2.2	Summary of Programs at East Rancho Dominguez Park	2-10
Table 2.3	Tree Canopy Coverage in East Rancho Dominguez Based on Land Use	2-16
Table 2.4	East Rancho Dominguez Tree Canopy Coverage Comparisons	2-16
Table 2.5	Overview of Trees at East Rancho Dominguez Park	2-17
Table 2.6	Maintenance Needs	2-18
Table 2.8	Summary of Annual Net Economic Benefits	2-19
Table 2.7	Summary of Annual Net Environmental Benefits at East Rancho Dominguez Park	2-19
Table 2.9	Problematic Areas for Pedestrians	2-28
Table 2.10	Crime Category Intensity Ratio*	2-30
Table 3.1	Summary of Needs Identified From Survey Results	3-3
Table 3.2	Summary of Needs Identified from Focus Groups	3-4
Table 3.3	Needs Identified from Stakeholder Interviews	3-5
Table 3.4	Summary of Needs Identified During Group Discussions	3-6
Table 3.5	Summary of Needs	3-8
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 East Rancho Dominguez Potential Parkland Opportunities	4-18
Table 4.6	Summary of East Rancho Dominguez Potential Trail Opportunities	4-19
Table 5.1	East Rancho Dominguez Carbon Sequestration Under Existing and Target Canopy Coverage	5-25

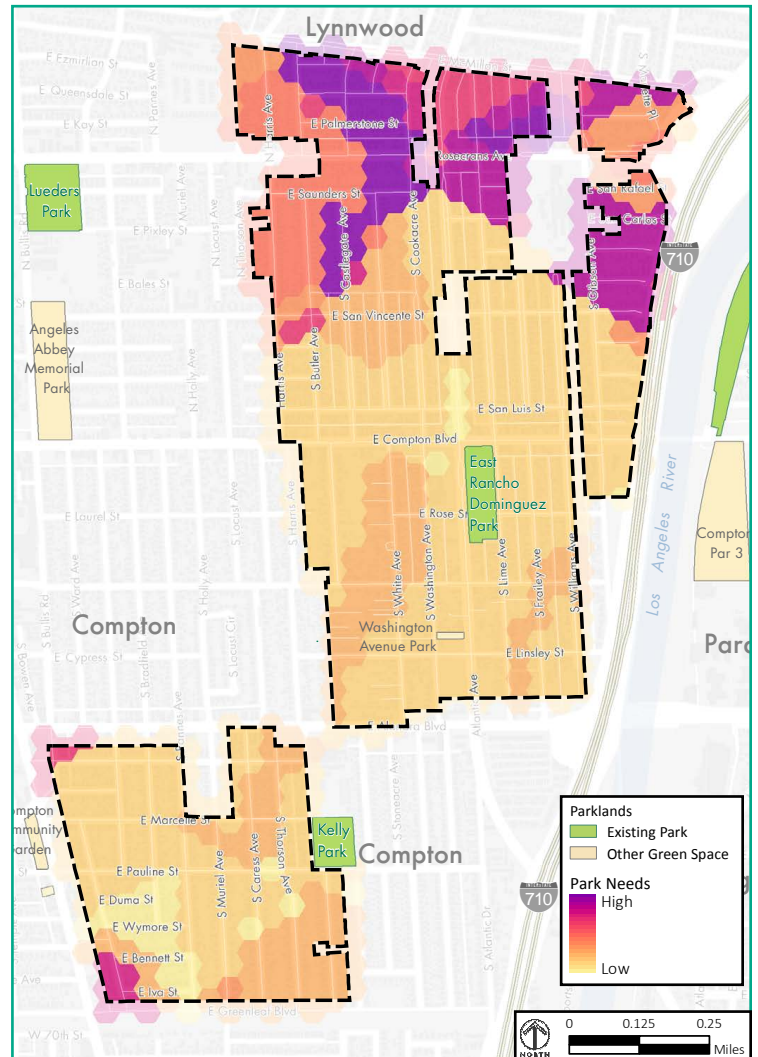
EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ

Community Parks & Recreation Plan

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a vision and roadmap for a greener and healthier East Rancho Dominguez, including a more extensive network of publicly-accessible green spaces and recreational facilities, as well as environmental enhancement projects. The Plan provides specific implementation actions to be taken by the County in order to achieve the vision of improved public and environmental health in the community. These include acquiring space for new parks, enhancing existing recreational facilities and programs, and establishing and strengthening partnerships – all with an emphasis on enhanced community health and safety. The Plan builds on growing momentum within East Rancho Dominguez and neighboring areas to improve green space and access to exercise and healthy food. The Plan includes a summary of community needs and documents the call for additional greening in East Rancho Dominguez.

Where are parks most needed in East Rancho Dominguez?



ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EXISTING PARK

139,000
gallons of
stormwater
intercepted
annually

112
pounds of
reduced air
pollutants
annually

13,000
tons of CO₂
sequestered
annually

PARKS AND GREENING PROFILE

East Rancho Dominguez has a severe deficit of parkland and significant public safety issues. East Rancho Dominguez Park, the only existing County Park in the community, is approximately 5.5 acres in size. The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a goal of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. With a population of approximately 15,000 residents, East Rancho Dominguez only has approximately **0.4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents**, a figure significantly below the General Plan standard. This leaves many residents with limited access to recreational opportunities or dependent on parks outside their community for green space.

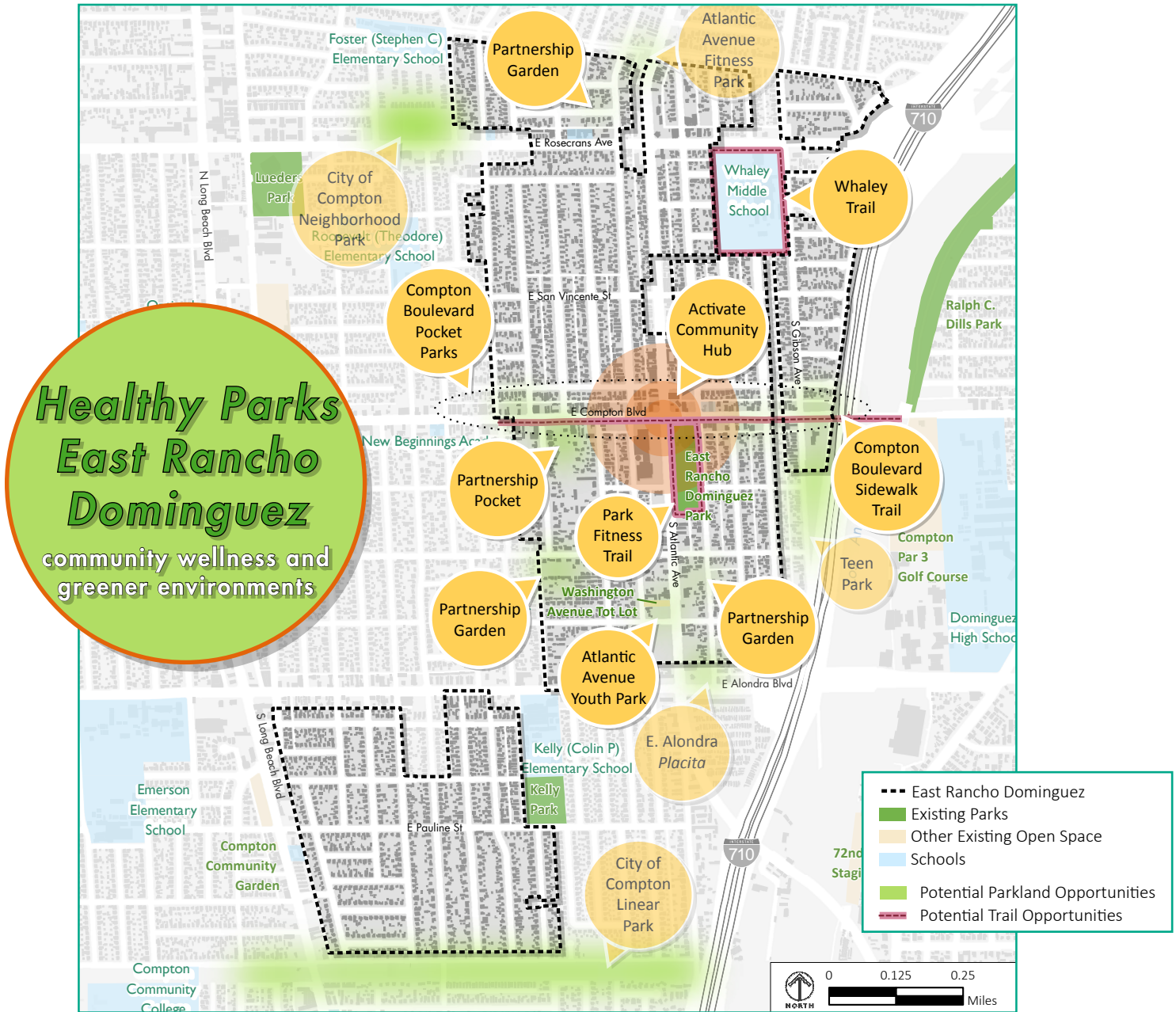
Additional issues, such as **unsafe street conditions** and **high levels of crime**, affect the ability of residents to connect to parks and other public amenities, including the nearby Los Angeles River bikeway and trail. Coupled with other local **environmental issues**, including low urban tree canopy and emissions from the nearby 710 freeway, these issues create a **high community need** for increased parks and green spaces.



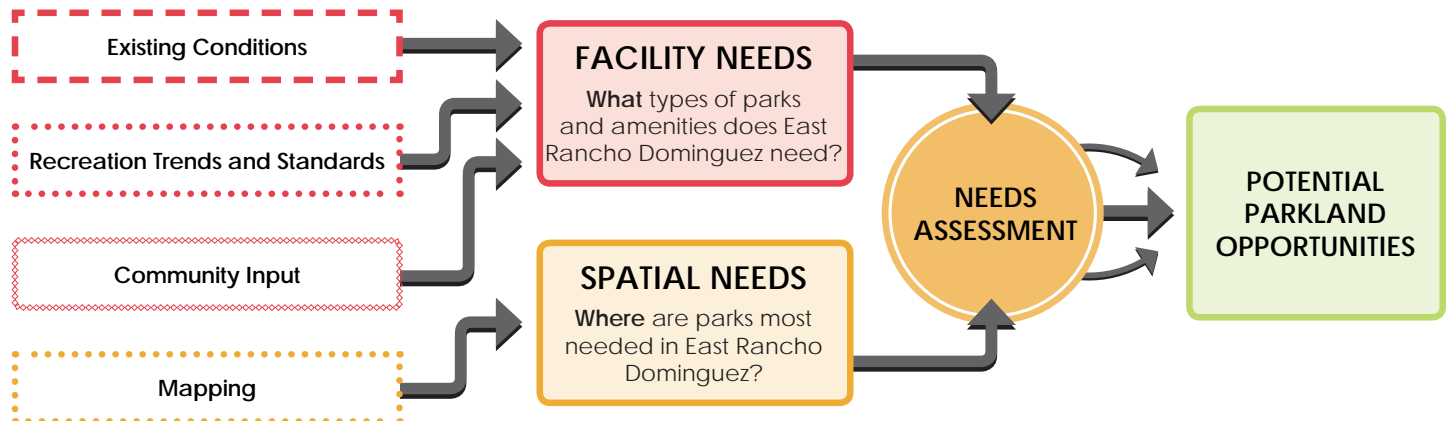
Community Members at the Outreach Workshop.

EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ 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 Rancho Dominguez.



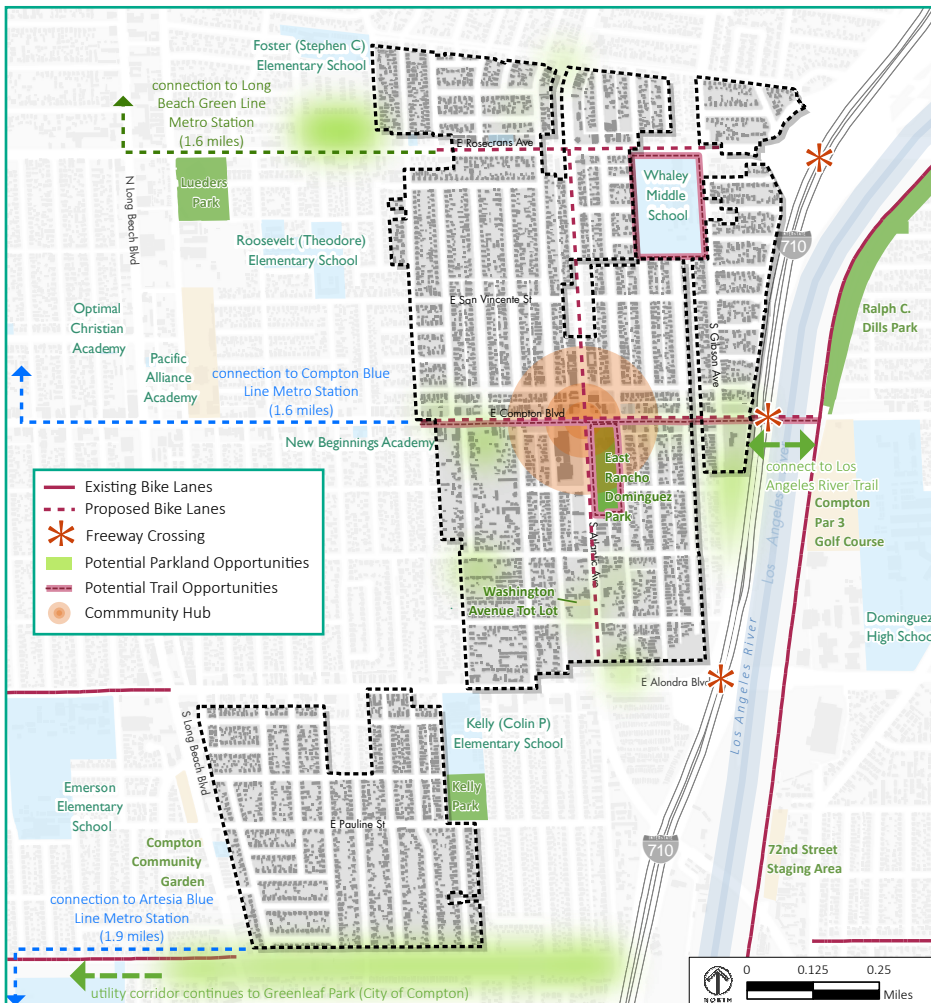
SITE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS



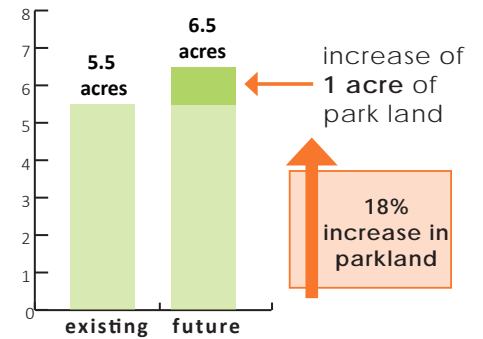
GOALS FOR EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ

1. Increase overall green space and create new recreational opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles.
2. Provide new places for active recreation and safe places to walk and exercise.
3. Partner with community groups to develop small green spaces to fill the need for healthy food and exercise.
4. Ensure that residents feel comfortable in existing and future park spaces.
5. Promote activities and projects that enhance the community heart near Compton Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue.
6. Support community identity by providing space for public art, events, and commercial enterprise.
7. Increase the sense of nature within East Rancho Dominguez Park and future parks and create connections to the Los Angeles River watershed.
8. Maintain and enhance East Rancho Dominguez's urban forest.
9. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.
10. Foster public participation in park projects and ensure that the community is included in decision-making processes.

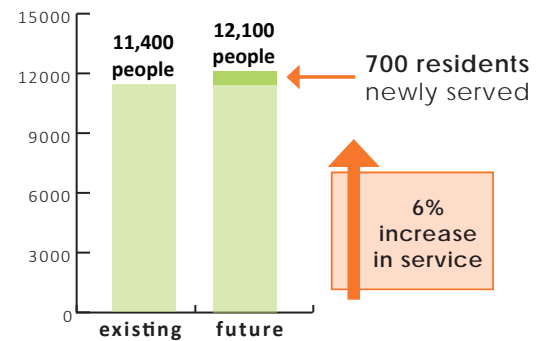
CURRENT AND FUTURE CONNECTIONS



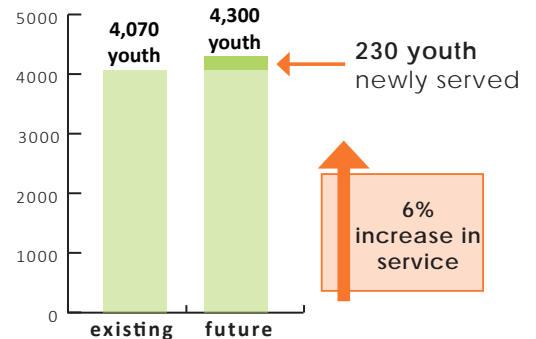
Service improvements (with the addition of potential new parks) Parkland Acres



Total Population Served



Youth Population (Under 18) Served

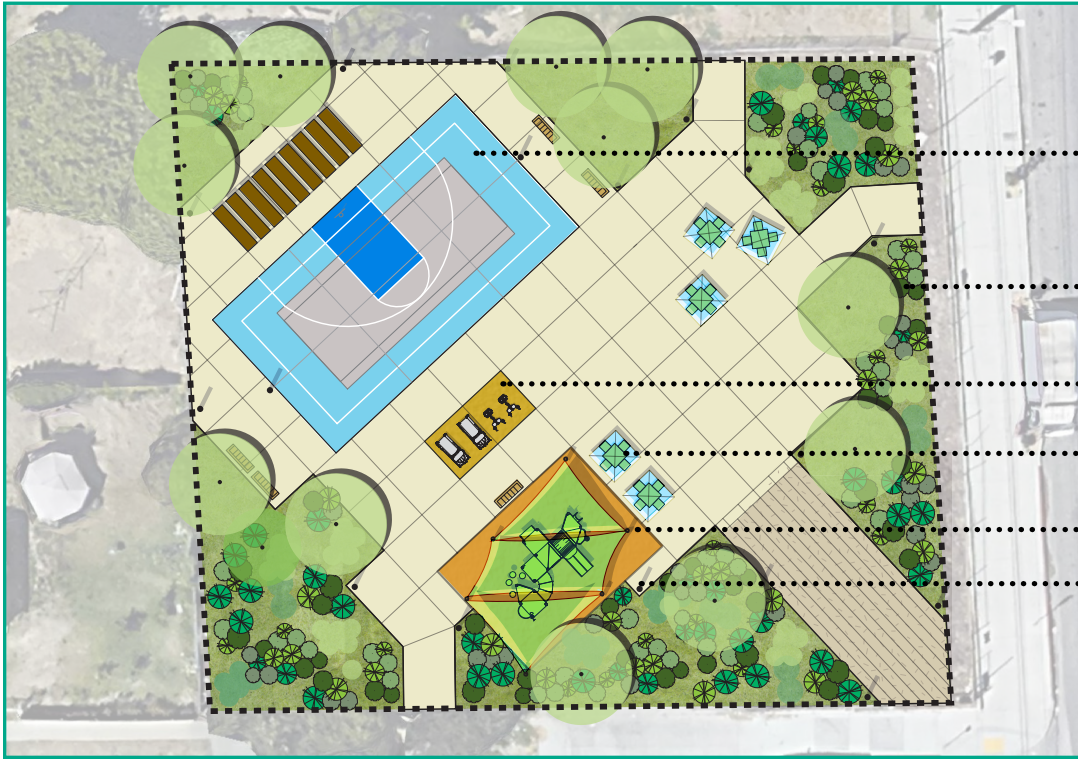


Graphs show improvements based on the addition of high priority park projects.



Feedback Board from Community Outreach Fair.

CONCEPTUAL YOUTH AND TEEN POCKET PARK



multipurpose sports court

landscape buffer from street

fitness equipment

shaded picnic tables

play area

lighting throughout the site

CONCEPTUAL DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE TO THE LOS ANGELES RIVER



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

CONCEPTUAL FITNESS TRAIL AT EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK

fitness node integrated into senior center plaza

trail to follow sidewalk to avoid large trees

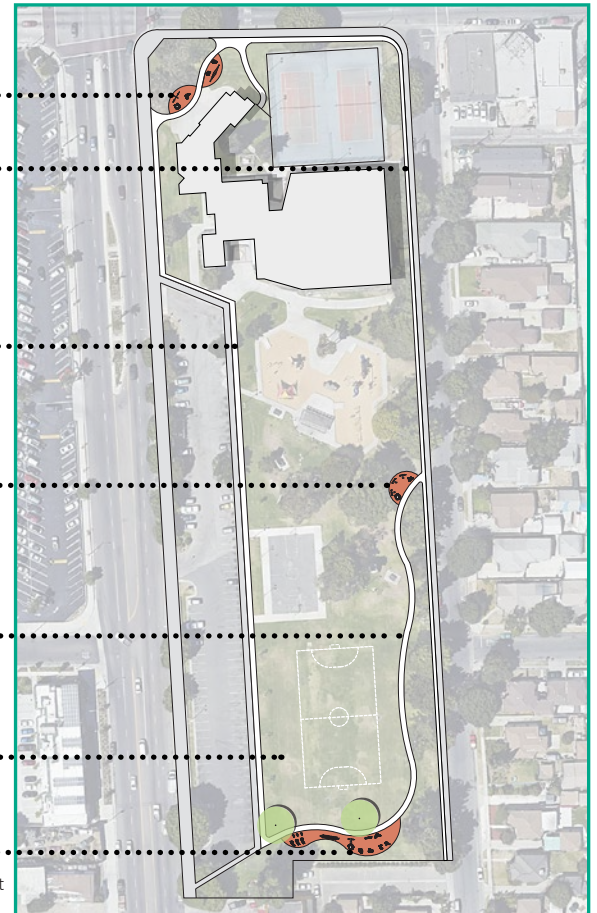
6-foot wide perimeter walking path

fitness node for parents watching children in play area

trail to meander to avoid large trees

trail alignment should allow space for soccer

main fitness area



0 5 10 20 Feet

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 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 RANCHO DOMINGUEZ?

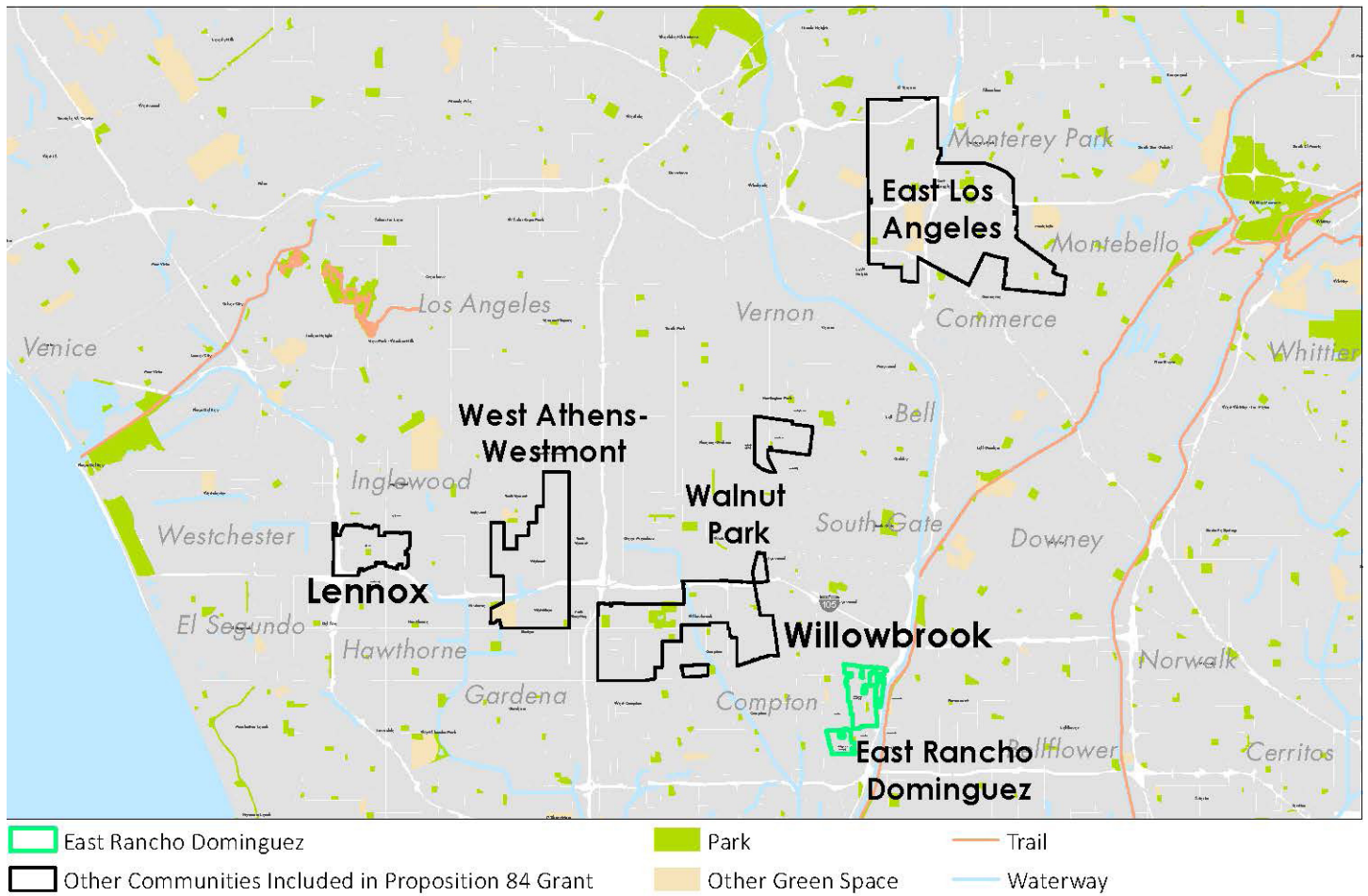
East Rancho Dominguez has one County park, East Rancho Dominguez Park, which is well used and serves the community through diverse programming. However, the community needs additional green space and recreation facilities. The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a goal of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. With a population of just over 15,000 residents, East Rancho Dominguez only has 0.4 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. To meet the General Plan goal, East Rancho Dominguez would need to have 55 acres of parkland. East Rancho Dominguez Park is only 5.51 acres in size.

East Rancho Dominguez is a small community and lacks available land for new park creation. East Rancho Dominguez is predominately a residential community with some key corridors of commercial activity. However, it is relatively “built-out,” meaning nearly all the land in the community is occupied by some type of development. The community is only approximately 530 acres (0.8 square miles) in size. If East Rancho Dominguez was to meet the General Plan standard, more than 10 percent of the community would be dedicated to parkland, which poses a significant challenge.

There are few parks outside of the community boundary that serve East Rancho Dominguez residents, such as Kelly Park and Lueders Park in the City of Compton and Ralph C. Dills Park in the City of Paramount. Additionally, the community is directly adjacent to the Los Angeles River and the County trail and bikeway that runs along it. However, access to the river and parks in other communities is limited by unsafe pedestrian and bicycle environment and high levels of crime in East Rancho Dominguez and adjacent communities. New parklands and recreational facilities within the community and improved access ways are necessary to accommodate other facilities and add more green space in East Rancho Dominguez.



FIGURE 1.1 LOCATION OF EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ IN REGION



Furthermore, the intersection of S. Atlantic and E. Compton Boulevard is at the “heart” of East Rancho Dominguez with the park, the local library, and the community’s largest grocery store located in close proximity. However, there are very few pedestrian connections or connectivity to key community amenities outside of these areas. Pedestrian and cyclists would benefit from safer park corridors that protect users from vehicular traffic and crime.

In addition to a lack of park space, East Rancho Dominguez has a number of other environmental issues. Public health is a major priority for East Rancho Dominguez residents and the community is particularly concerned about childhood obesity and cycles of declined public health. Although much of the community has access to the central grocery store, there is limited attention on healthy eating and active lifestyles within the community. Additionally, due to the shortage of park space and a difficult pedestrian environment along many streets, residents are also limited in their exercise options.

East Rancho Dominguez is also lacking in resources such as urban forests and habitat areas. The community has a lower urban tree canopy (15 percent community-wide) than the recommended standard of 25 percent. East Rancho Dominguez is also close to the 710 freeway, which directly impacts air

quality. Parks and urban greening could be excellent green infrastructure and amenities in the community, providing environmental services and public health benefits.

Currently, community members are aware of the issues in East Rancho Dominguez and are enthusiastic about developing parks and programs that strengthen community health. This document intends to define that vision by building on previous planning efforts, documenting parks and recreation needs, and exploring various opportunities in the community.

HOW DID THE EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ 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 Rancho Dominguez, community parks and recreation plans were developed for East Los Angeles, 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 open space are a valuable piece of meeting the goals of the program.

The grant provided 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 Rancho Dominguez Community Parks and Recreation Plan, utilizing a variety of strategies, from stakeholder interviews and interactive community workshops including youth activities, and a survey. The goal of the outreach was not only to gain information about existing usage of parks and preferred facilities or amenities, but to also facilitate a dialogue with community members about parks and recreation in East Rancho Dominguez. This feedback helped shape the vision for the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

Community feedback was supported by spatial analysis and a review of existing conditions to create a robust picture of existing parks and recreation needs. Opportunity sites within the community were identified and reviewed for potential parkland development. Strategies to address the identification needs were developed, along with illustration of potential parkland ideas, to move the vision forward to an implementable plan.



Resident Presenting Map at Outreach Workshop

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, including:

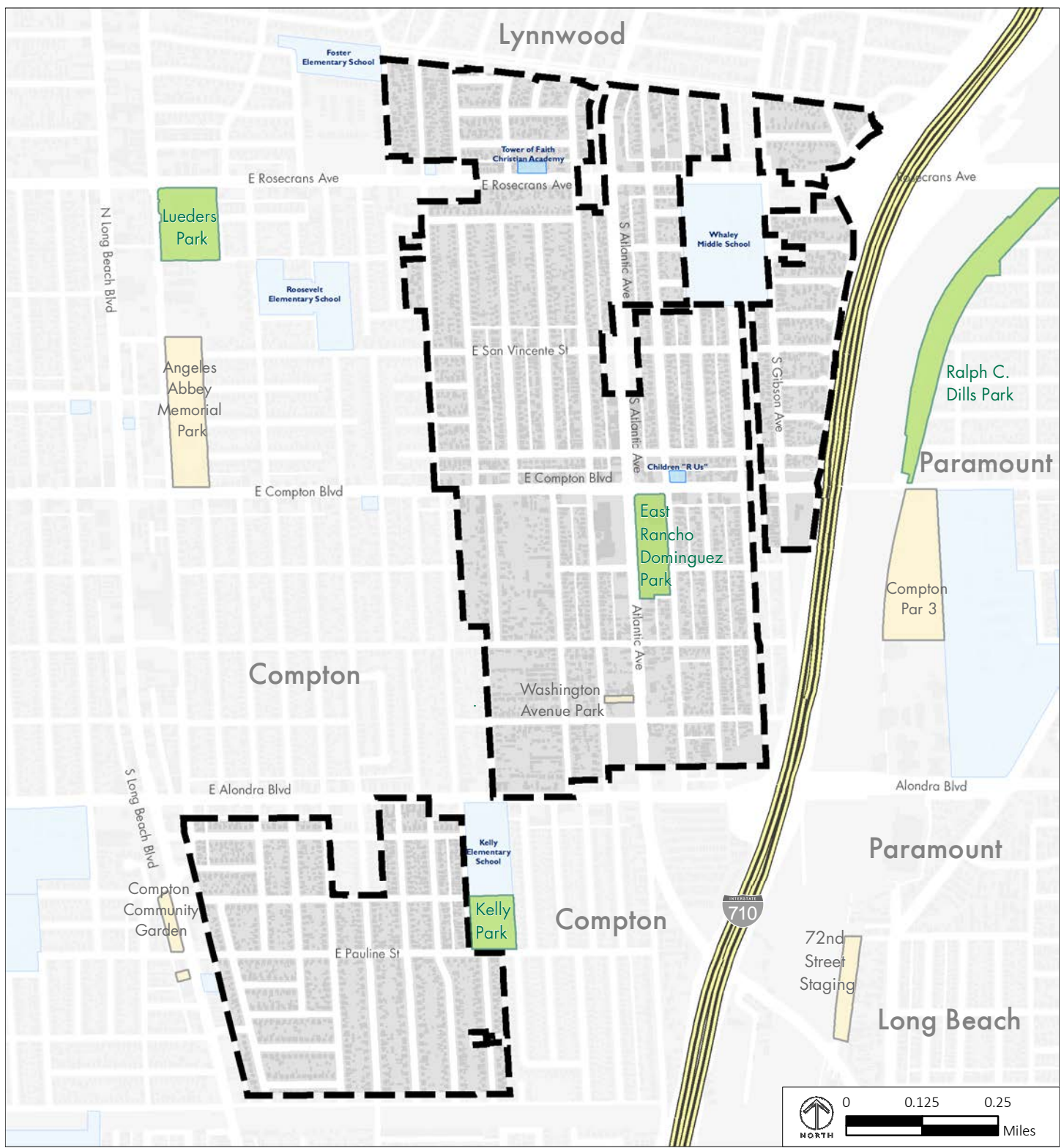
SOCIAL

- **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 creates 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 humans.

FIGURE 1.2 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; GreenInfo, 2015; PlaceWorks, 2015.

-  East Rancho Dominguez
-  Park
-  Other Green Space
-  School

- **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.

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 Rancho Dominguez.
- Documents community input on parks and recreation planning issues in the community.
- Formalizes a vision for parks and recreation in East Rancho Dominguez 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 Rancho Dominguez, including a demographic profile of the community, an inventory of existing parks and recreation 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 Rancho Dominguez, based on findings from existing conditions, community outreach, and spatial analysis.

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

Chapter 6. Implementation recommends potential actions and funding sources for carrying out the vision presented in the plan.

Case
Atla



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2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS



East Rancho Dominguez is a 0.8-square mile, unincorporated community in Los Angeles County. East Rancho Dominguez is bordered City of Lynwood to the north and the City of Compton to the east, west, and south. Previously known as East Compton, the community was renamed East Rancho Dominguez in 1990. This chapter includes an overview of the policy context for developing new parks in East Rancho Dominguez, presents a community profile of the existing population, and provides a snapshot view of the status of parks and recreation in the community.

POLICY CONTEXT

There are various 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 guides and plans for 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 the General Plan's parks and open space guidelines. The SAMP includes an assessment of existing parks and recreation resources and sets five-, ten-, and twenty-year priorities for identified needs per the 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 Rancho Dominguez 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 Rancho Dominguez Community Parks and Recreation Plan can be found in Appendix A.

DEMOGRAPHICS

East Rancho Dominguez is a small island of unincorporated Los Angeles County within the City of Compton with a name and boundaries that have changed in recent years. In 2001, Los Angeles County redistricted this area resulting in slight changes to the community's boundaries, which altered the accuracy of 1990 and 2000 U.S. Census data.¹ Although the redistricting did not yield significant changes, the following profile is based on 2010 U.S. Census data.

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 Rancho Dominguez was home to nearly 15,135 residents in 2010 and currently has 5.5 acres of local parkland, amounting to approximately 0.4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents. This represents a significant deficiency of local parks in the community.

¹ County of Los Angeles. (June 4, 2001). Redistricting Supervisorial Districts: Report on Benchmark Redistricting Plan. A1: pg. 29.

RACE AND ETHNICITY²

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 majority of the population in East Rancho Dominguez is Latino (82 percent) followed by African American (15 percent).

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.

East Rancho Dominguez's median age in 2010 was 26 years, noticeably younger than the Los Angeles County median age of 35. The age groups making up the largest percentage of the East Rancho Dominguez population include the 25 to 44 year-olds (28 percent), followed by the 5 to 17 year-olds (25 percent) and the 45 to 64 year-olds (23 percent). Since no single age group significantly dominates in East Rancho Dominguez, there is still a need for a variety of park and recreational amenities that can support all age groups, in addition to seniors. Trends county-wide indicate that an increase in seniors over the next decade is likely to occur as more residents age in place. Therefore, it will be important to include more passive recreational amenities when planning new parks and recreational facilities.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

The percentage of households with children under age 18 in East Rancho Dominguez was 68 percent in 2010, significantly higher than the County at 32 percent. It is important to continue to plan for park amenities that support families with children.

INCOME

The median income of East Rancho Dominguez is \$46,400, noticeably lower than the County's median income of \$56,200. In general, lower income populations have few opportunities to engage in physical activity and have poorer health outcomes than the average population. 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 other income levels. For example, lower income residents are much more likely to rely on public parks for recreation; many lower income families

² 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 RACE AND ETHNICITY

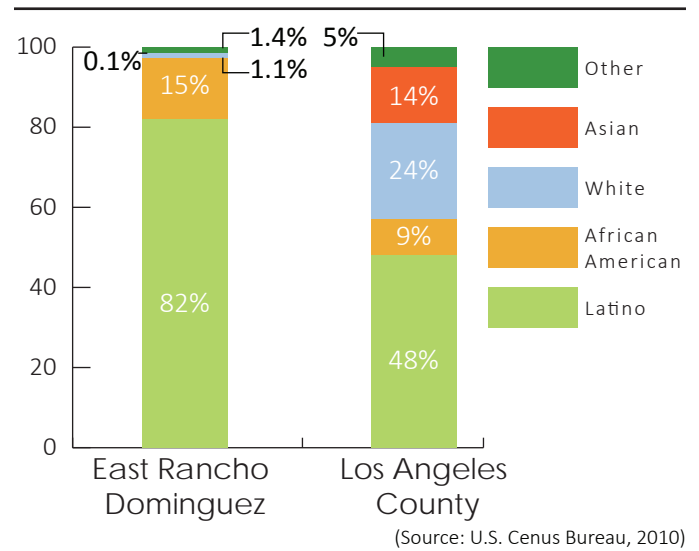


FIGURE 2.2 POPULATION BY AGE

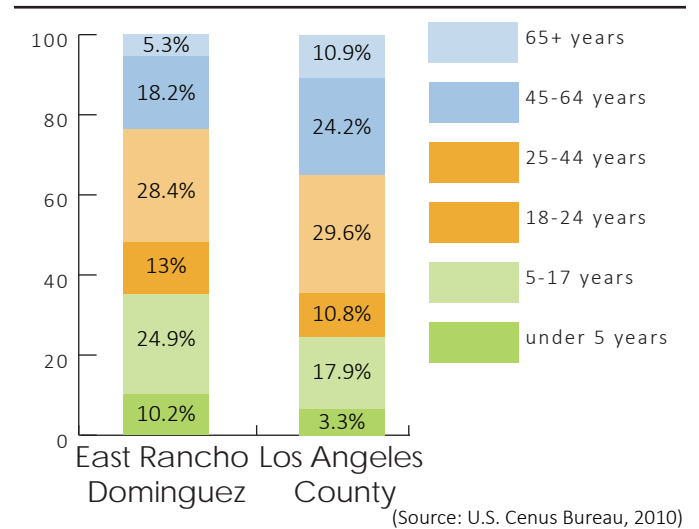


FIGURE 2.3 HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

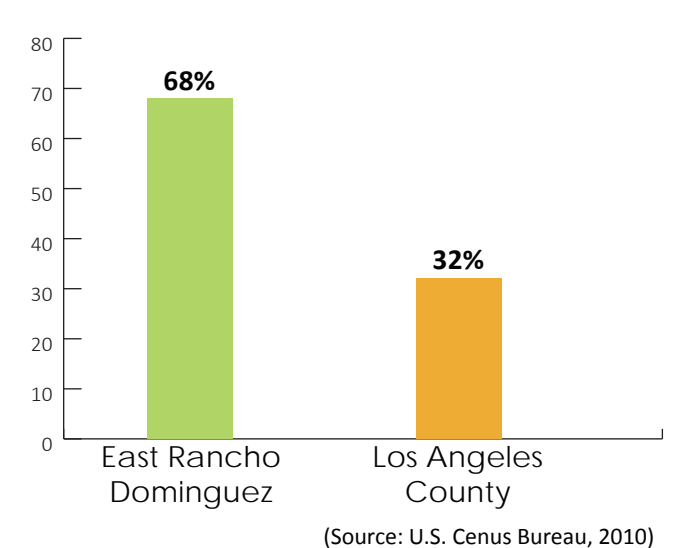
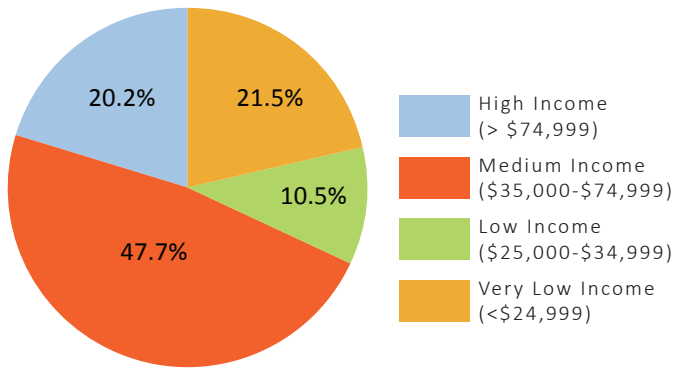
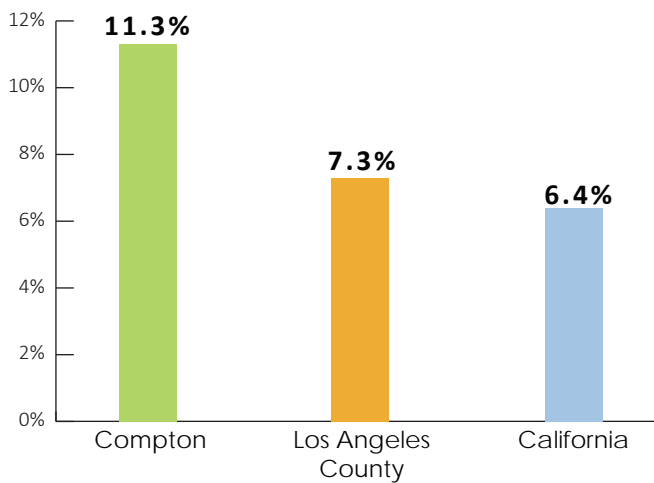


FIGURE 2.4 INCOME GROUPS



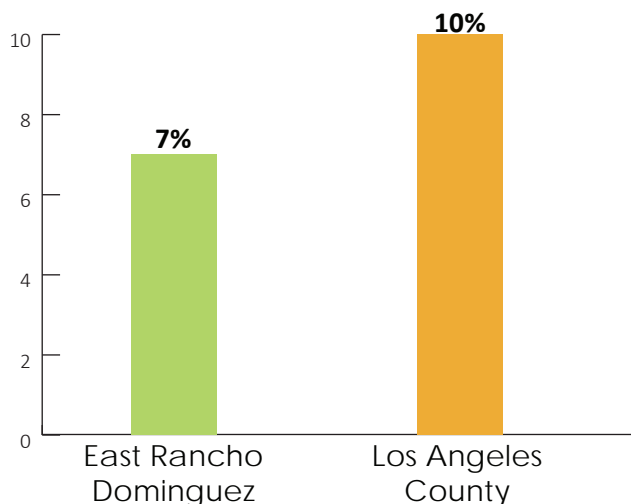
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

FIGURE 2.5 UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES (2013)



(Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder, 2013)

FIGURE 2.6 Population Without Access to Vehicles



(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

have little or no money to spend on recreational facilities and programs offered by alternative providers such as private gyms and the YMCA.

East Rancho Dominguez is a predominately middle class community, with approximately 43 percent of the population belonging to this income bracket. Compared to other urban unincorporated communities in the County, a much higher percentage of residents in East Rancho Dominguez are in the medium- and high-income. However, about 32 percent of the population in East Rancho Dominguez is very low or low income, meaning their income is less than \$35,000 annually. Thus, there is still a need to provide additional opportunities for lower income residents in East Rancho Dominguez to engage in physical activity.

EMPLOYMENT

According to the 2013 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census, most of the employed East Rancho Dominguez workforce are in the manufacturing industry (20.1 percent). A slightly smaller percentage of the workforce are in the retail trade (13.6 percent); educational services health care, and social assistance (12.9 percent); or professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management service (11.4 percent) industries.

The State of California Employment Development Department estimates from May 2015 indicate that the unemployment rate in Compton³ (11.3 percent) is significantly higher than the County (7.3 percent) and State (6.4 percent) averages. Although it is likely that the enclave of East Rancho Dominguez has a lower unemployment rate than the City of Compton, the community is likely impacted by the high levels of unemployment in the adjacent area.

VEHICLE ACCESS

Understanding transportation needs is important when considering access to parks and trails. Approximately 7 percent of households in East Rancho Dominguez have no vehicle access compared with 10 percent for County households. 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 higher levels of vehicle access, residents can travel to recreational facilities outside of their immediate neighborhood, including beaches, arts and cultural facilities, regional parks, State parks and national parks. Their reduced reliance on public transportation affords residents of East Rancho Dominguez greater opportunities to access parks and recreational facilities.

³ The State did not estimate unemployment for East Rancho Dominguez as a separate CDP.

COMMUNITY LAYOUT

East Rancho Dominguez is located in south central Los Angeles County directly east of the City of Compton. As shown in Figure 2.7, the community is composed of four isolated segments of unincorporated Los Angeles County land, resulting in somewhat vague community boundary lines. The County has put effort into creating community identity through unique street signs (pictured at right).

Generally, East Rancho Dominguez is bounded to the west by the 710 Freeway, to the south and west by the City of Compton, and to the north by the City of Lynwood. In this area, the Los Angeles River and trail runs adjacent to the 710 Freeway. There is an access to the trail from E. Compton Boulevard; however, East Rancho Dominguez residents must cross over the 710 overpass to reach this access point. E. Compton Boulevard, along with S. Atlantic Avenue, are the major commercial corridors within East Rancho Dominguez, connecting the community to adjacent areas. Rosecrans Avenue is another major road that runs through the northern part of East Rancho Dominguez. Although it is a commercial corridor in other communities in Los Angeles County, the Rosecrans corridor in East Rancho Dominguez is predominately residential. Similarly, E. Alondra Boulevard, the east-west corridor, divides East Rancho Dominguez into a northern section and a southern section. There are pockets of commercial activity along E. Alondra Boulevard, but the corridor is predominately residential in this area.

The only park in East Rancho Dominguez is located directly in the heart of the community at a key activity center for residents. The park sits at the intersection of E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue. The local branch of the County Library is located across S. Atlantic Avenue, as well as the largest grocery store in the community. The 2012 Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan proposed bike lanes along E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue. As a result of this plan, the bike “sharrows” along S. Atlantic Avenue, as well as median planting and signage, have been installed. “Sharrows” are markings within the street right-of-way that indicate to drivers that they need to share the road with bicyclists.

There are no public schools within East Rancho Dominguez, although there is one private elementary school and one private preschool. East Rancho Dominguez is located within the Compton Unified School District and children in the community attend schools within this district.

PARKS INVENTORY

There is only one County park in East Rancho Dominguez, although there are other parks managed by adjacent cities that are within close proximity to the community, and one park project recently developed by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT), a non-profit green space advocacy group that also served to direct community outreach for this plan. However, the 2004 SAMP suggests that by the year 2020, the Recreation Planning Area in which East Rancho Dominguez is



Street Signs in East Rancho Dominguez
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



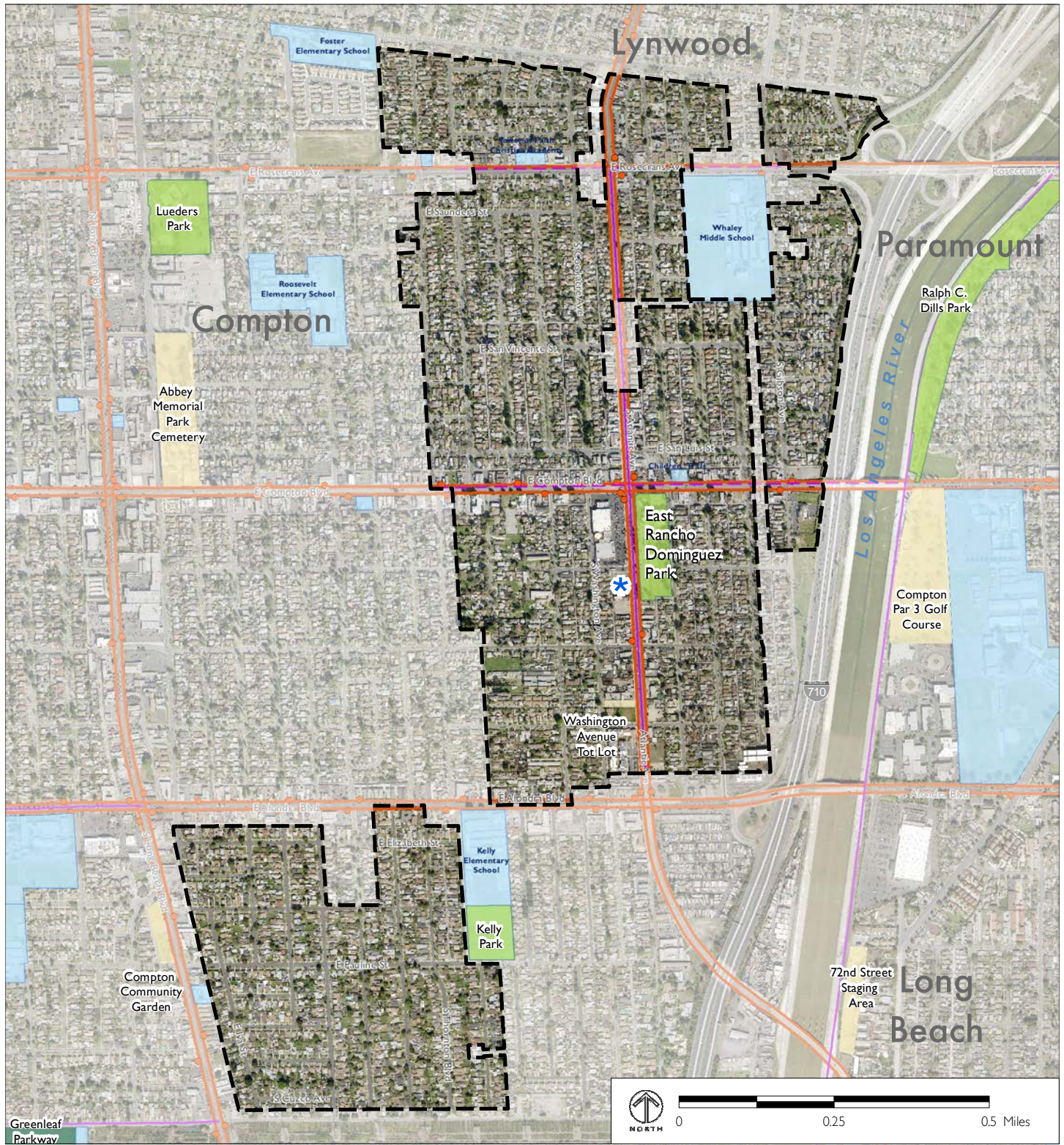
Welcome Sign in S. Atlantic Avenue Median
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



Sharrows along S. Atlantic Avenue
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

FIGURE 2.7 LOCATION OF EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ

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 | Schools | Public Transit Network | Bicycle Network | East Rancho Dominguez Library |
| County Park | | Bus Stops | Existing Bike Route | |
| City Park | | Bus Routes | Proposed Bike Route | |
| Other Green Space | | | | |

located (Recreational Planning Area 3 of Supervisorial District 2) will be deficient in providing space for walking, bicycle riding, fishing, hiking, roller skating, running, and skate boarding, as well as places to play basketball, softball or baseball, volleyball, soccer, football, tennis, and racquetball or handball.

These estimates are based on the national statistics for participation in different types of recreation. Although they show a general projected deficiency in recreational amenities, it will be important to incorporate the community preferences presented in the community outreach component of this plan in making future decisions about how to distribute recreational spaces.

EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK

PARK USE

Table 2.1 provides an overview of the facilities and amenities at East Rancho Dominguez Park. The park is 5.51 acres and located on the southeast corner of the intersection of E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue. The park can accommodate social gatherings, active and passive use activities, and indoor and outdoor programs. Picnic tables and barbecue grills are scattered throughout the park, and there is one covered picnic shelter. These tables are used frequently by residents, predominately older men, at nearly all times of day.

There are two tennis courts and one outdoor basketball court, as well as a large open green lawn which serves as a soccer field but does not have permanent goals. There is a gymnasium with an indoor basketball court, restrooms, and a community room for events. There is one playground for children of all ages with swings, a play structure, and large climbing boulders in the shape of natural rocks. There is also a section of the play area designated as a tot lot for children under five; however, it is not separately enclosed from the play area for older children. Both play spaces have bark mulch as the surface material beneath the play equipment.



People hanging out in East Rancho Dominguez Park

TABLE 2.1 Matrix of Park Elements in East Rancho Dominguez

Size	Park Amenities										Play			Recreation Amenities					Buildings/Structures												
(acres)	Restrooms	Group Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Barbecues	Splash Pad	Fitness Zone	Outdoor Stage	Vending Machine	Drinking Fountain	Art / Monuments	2-5 years	5-12 years	2-12 years	Softball Field	Multipurpose Field	Soccer Field	Football Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Skate Park	Walking Paths or Trails	Swimming Pool	Community Building	Senior Center	Offices	Gymnasium	Multi-purpose Room	Computer Lab	Security Lighting	Parking
5.51																															

FIGURE 2.8 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK SNAPSHOT

EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

- sports
- play
- social outdoor
- indoor rec



1 basketball courts



1 soccer field



2 tennis courts



1 playground (2-12 yr olds)



1 picnic shelters



bbq's and picnic tables



1 gymnasium



1 senior center (with kitchen)



1 computer lab



1 community room



1 game room



5 offices

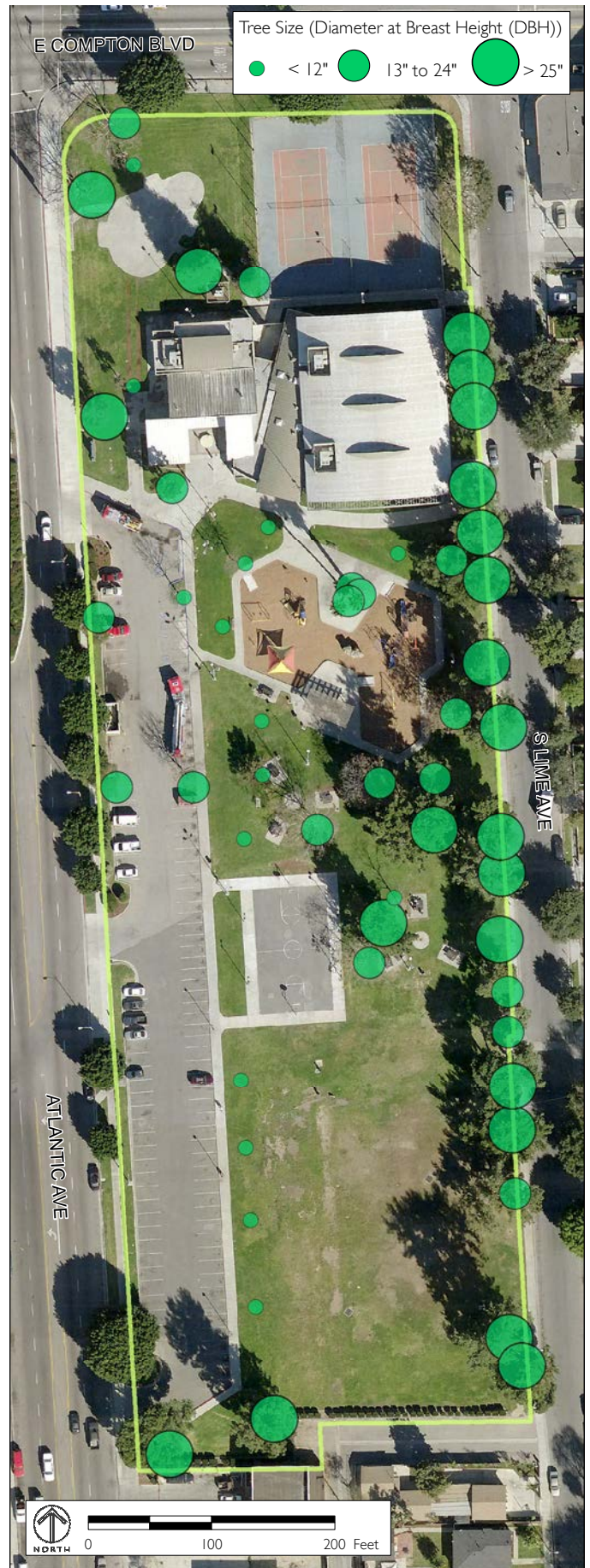
ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING

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

TRANSPORTATION

- 0 bike racks
- 49 car parking spaces



ACCESS

East Rancho Dominguez Park is accessible from its east, north, and western sides. The eastern side is residential and provides a more naturalistic edge with street trees and lawn spaces. The northern side faces E. Compton Boulevard and has few observable entrance paths, although park visitors can enter through the lawn area in the northwest corner. The western side of the park along S. Atlantic Avenue provides the main entry and parking lot. The East Rancho Dominguez Public Library is directly across the street from the park on S. Atlantic Avenue; however, the street is busy and difficult to pass. Currently there is one crosswalk across S. Atlantic Avenue at E. Compton Boulevard but no crosswalks between the main entrances of the library and the park.

There are no bike racks at East Rancho Dominguez Park. The County’s bike survey from April 2012 indicated that it would be feasible to install two new bike racks near the gymnasium. In addition to street lights around the perimeter of the park, there are security lights at many of the major use areas, including the playground, basketball and tennis courts, and picnic areas. The parking lot has lighting and was considered well lit according to the 2012 bike survey.

PARK CONDITION

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in good condition with moderate use in all areas with the exception of the field in the southern part of the park. The play area is in excellent

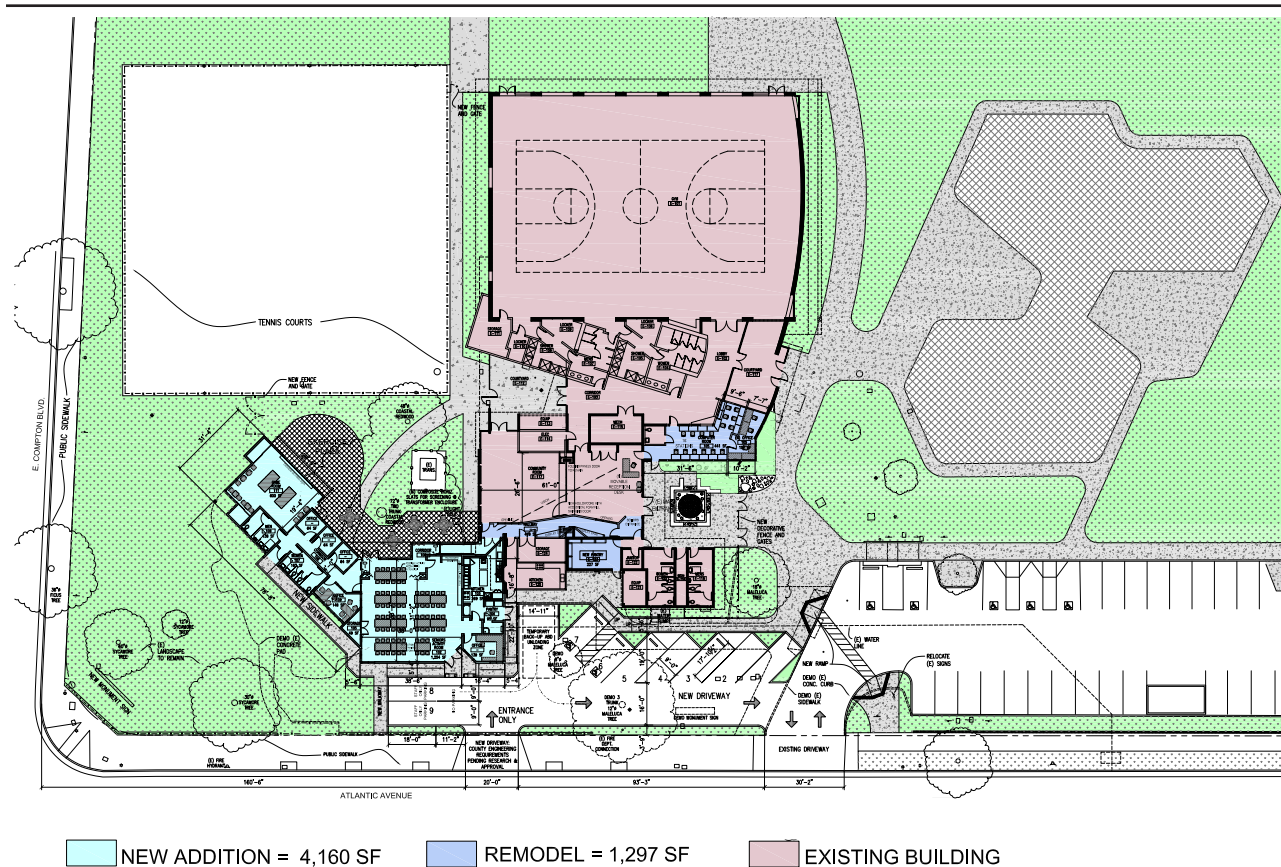
conditions and the picnic area shows minimal signs of wear. The turf throughout the park is patchy and is particularly worn in the southern area, which is predominately used for soccer.

East Rancho Dominguez Park has a high percentage of pine species in its urban forest. *Pinus halepensis* (Aleppo pine) and *Pinus eldarica* (Afgan pine) make up 29.1 percent and 12.7 percent of the population, respectively, for a total of 41.8 percent of the overall population. Furthermore, these are some of the largest and oldest trees in the park. As discussed further in the urban forestry section, limited diversity in park trees can be less than ideal for the overall population.

PARK RENOVATION

In 2015, DPR began a park renovation project at East Rancho Dominguez Park to expand the recreational potential of the buildings at the park. The expansion, shown in Figure 2.9 includes a new senior center with a kitchen and game room, new offices, and a computer lab. The renovation also expand the parking lot on the west side from 40 to 49 spaces, including two new handicapped parking spaces. These facilities are included in the list of amenities at the park; however, at the time of writing and during the community outreach phase of this plan, they were still under construction. These facilities will likely expand the recreational program options for the park, especially for seniors.

FIGURE 2.9 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK EXPANSION PLAN



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 focus on 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.

TABLE 2.2 SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS AT EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK

Youth		
Enrichment	Sports/Wellness	Social
afterschool program	basketball	teen club
free afterschool snack	karate	Team Ridley-Thomas Club
summer day camp		
free summer lunch		

Adults	Seniors
Sports/Wellness	Sports/Wellness
aerobics	aerobics

PROGRAMS AT EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK

East Rancho Dominguez Park offers an afterschool and snack program for youth during the school year, as well as a summer program with lunch. There are adult and senior aerobics classes year round, as well as an open gym for basketball. At the time of writing, the senior center was undergoing construction. The new facility will offer additional programming to seniors once it opens.

The summer day camp is a major program for youth at East Rancho Dominguez Park, utilizing the entire park for most of the day during the summer months. The camp provides a place for young children to go during the summer recess from school. The afterschool program at East Rancho Dominguez Park also helps to alleviate some of the burden on working parents to find supervision for their children outside of school hours. This program utilizes the park until 5:00 p.m. on school days.

Additionally, the park runs a youth social club for teens three days a week and hosts a family night for people of all ages every other Friday night. Adults can participate in aerobics at the park. East Rancho Dominguez Park also offers a number of social events and fitness programs for seniors through the East Rancho Dominguez Senior Center, which is located in the park.

Also, since East Rancho Dominguez Park acts as a community hub within the neighborhood, it is the center of major seasonal festivities. The park hosts a community event nearly every month of the year, including movie nights; concerts, cultural events like Cinco de Mayo, Halloween, and Easter celebrations.

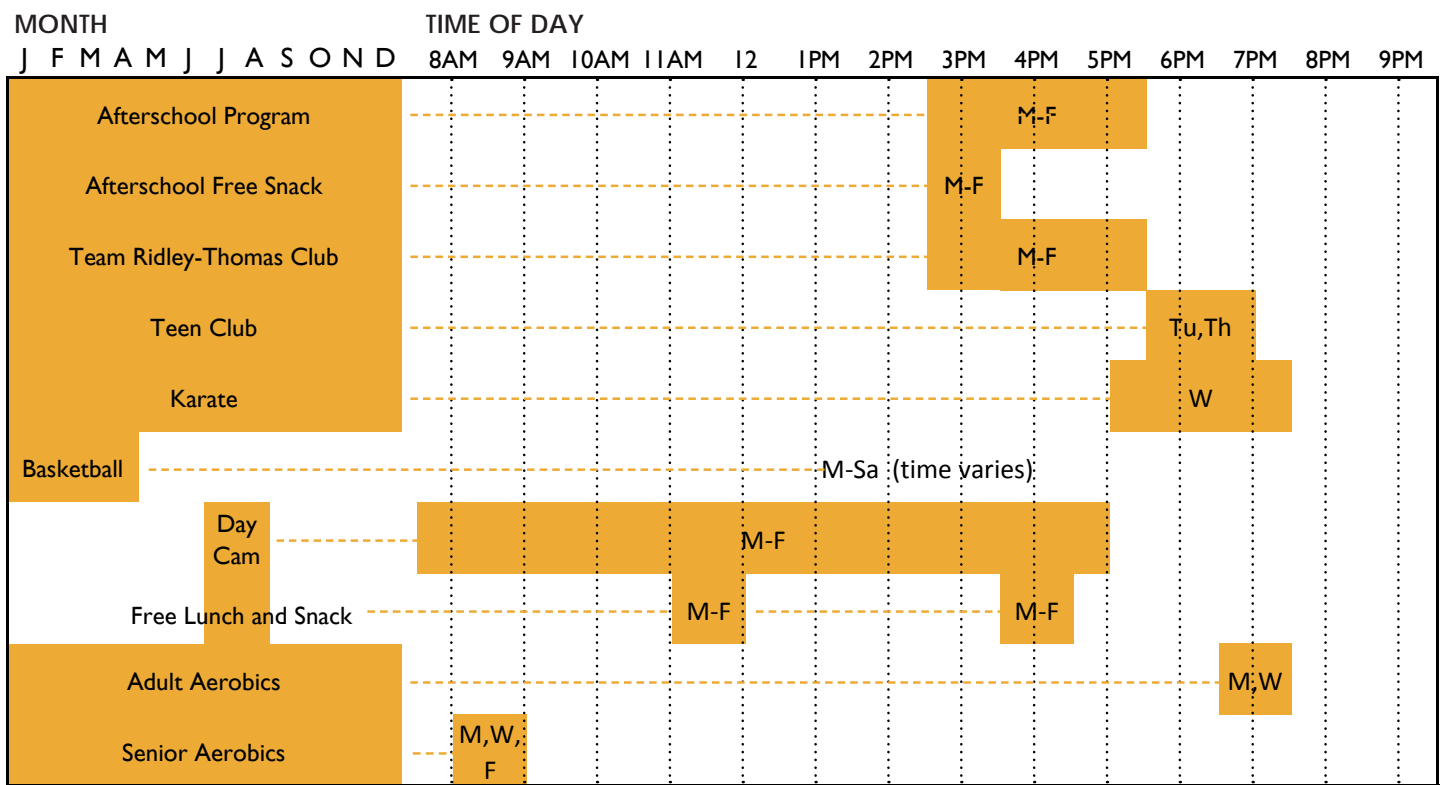
OTHER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

YOUTH PROGRAMS

There are no public schools within the East Rancho Dominguez neighborhood boundary. However, Foster Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Kelly Elementary and Whaley Middle schools are all located just outside of the border. All of these schools are within the **COMPTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT** and offer an afterschool program to youth at the schools, which run until 6pm during the academic year.

THE SHERIFF’S YOUTH ACTIVITY LEAGUE (YAL) offers programming to East Rancho Dominguez youth through their Youth Center located in Compton at 700 N. Alameda Street. The Compton Youth Center is open daily and offers computer training, dance, tutoring, boxing, basketball, and soccer programs. The center also runs a “BEAR” (Bicycle Education and Registration) program to educate youth on bicycle maintenance and safety. Youth participants are given a bicycle donated to or confiscated by the county and work with YAL staff to fix it up for safe riding. Compton YAL ran a pilot summer lunch program in 2013 providing healthy midday meal for participating youth.

FIGURE 2.10 TIMING OF PROGRAMS AT EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK



EXISTING CONDITIONS

COMPTON JR. POSSE is another unique program for youth in East Rancho Dominguez, although their facility is located in Compton to the west of the East Rancho Dominguez community. This equestrian group teaches youth about horsemanship and riding as a means of providing alternatives to gang or drug culture.

The facility includes stables and a riding ring on-site. The group additionally takes riding field trips into nearby wilderness areas. The intent of the program is to give youth a rare opportunity to work with horses in an urban setting, providing them with skills in discipline and organization that they can use in other parts of their lives. The group also works to provide educational scholarship funding for their members through participation in advanced equestrian competitions.



East Rancho Dominguez Park

EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ LIBRARY

The East Rancho Dominguez Library, part of the Los Angeles County public library system, offers various programs and events focused on youth and adult literacy. The library provides free Wi-Fi internet access and on-line educational classes, as well homework assistance and enrichment programs for youth. Each week, the library offers a number of “storytime” events for younger children and a teen day every Wednesday. The library also offers periodic workshops for adults and serves as a good gathering space for public events.



View of East Rancho Dominguez Library from East Ranch Dominguez Park across S. Atlantic Avenue

OTHER GREEN SPACES

WASHINGTON AVENUE TOT LOT

As of the writing of this plan, LANLT is developing a park project in East Rancho Dominguez. The park will be located south of East Rancho Dominguez Park along S. Atlantic Avenue near the intersection with E. Linsley Street with an additional frontage on Washington Avenue. The project is approximately 4 acres in size and will serve predominately as a tot lot and play area. As shown in LANLT's plan below, the park will consist of three play areas, one splash pad, a fitness area, a small lawn, and a picnic area with shade.

CITY OF COMPTON PARKS

The City of Compton operates three parks in close proximity to East Rancho Dominguez Park: Kelly Park, Lueders Park, and Greenleaf Parkway. Kelly Park and Lueders Park were historically characterized as being dangerous parks with high levels of gang activity, although recent efforts in gang intervention throughout South Central Los Angeles has helped to reduce violence across the communities there.

Kelly Park is located adjacent to the southern section of East Rancho Dominguez Park, directly to the south of Kelly Elementary School. The park includes a baseball diamond, a play areas, an outdoor basketball court, a multi-purpose field, and a community building.

Lueders Park is located E. Rosecrans Boulevard to the east of East Rancho Dominguez. The park contains a public pool, a play area, two tennis courts, a number of picnic areas, and a large community center.

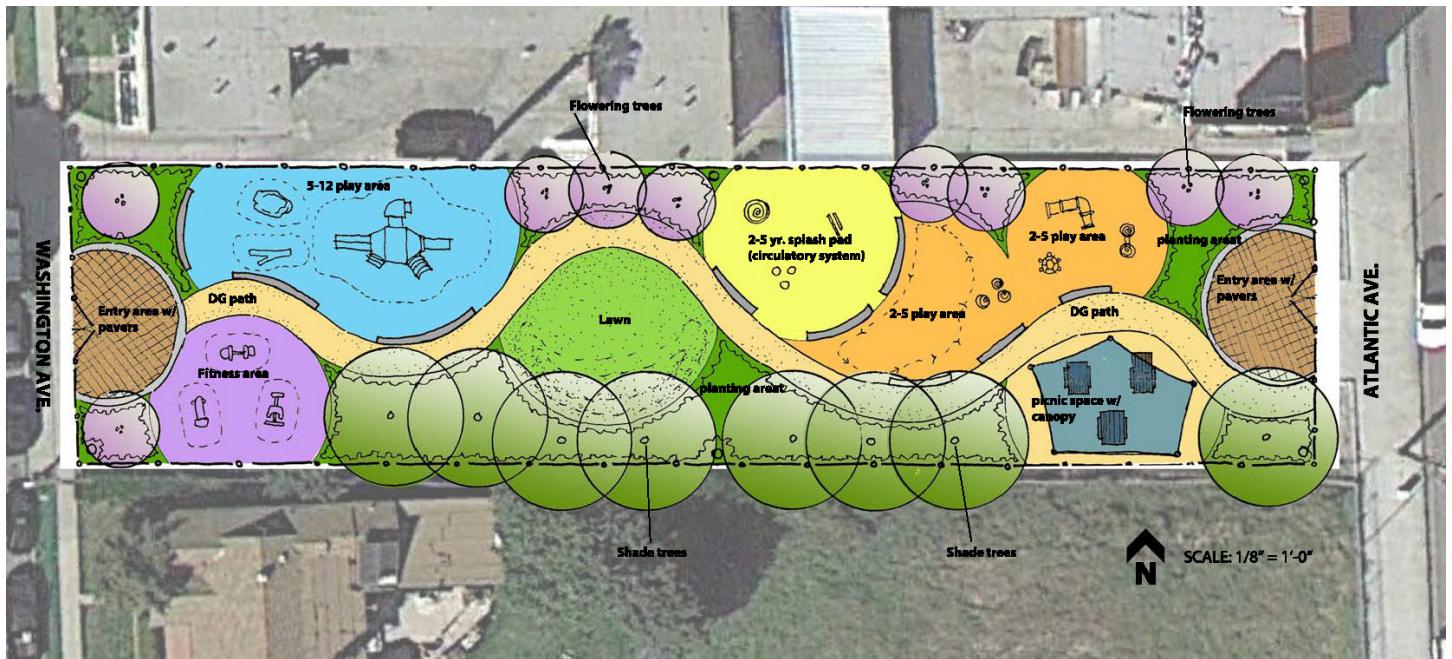
Greenleaf Parkway is located in a utility corridor owned by Southern California Edison and directly adjacent to El Camino College along Greenleaf Boulevard to the south of East Rancho Dominguez. The facility includes walking paths and fitness equipment and was built to respond to community requests for more exercise and fitness spaces.

CITY OF PARAMOUNT PARKS

The City of Paramount also operates parks that are in close proximity to East Rancho Dominguez. In particular, the City operates Ralph C. Dills Park, commonly referred to as "Dills Park," and located along the Los Angeles River to the northeast of East Rancho Dominguez. The park was built in partnership with the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. The park includes a segment of the Los Angeles River Bikeway and includes picnic tables, a playground, a walking and jogging path, a basketball court, restrooms, and lawn areas. Many of the plants selected for Dills Park were native and drought tolerant, providing an excellent example of this type of landscaping for residents of the area.

LOS ANGELES RIVER TRAIL AND 72ND STREET STAGING AREA

The Los Angeles River runs adjacent to the 710 Freeway along the eastern edge of East Rancho Dominguez. In this area, DPR manages a multi-use trail along the bank for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians. The 72nd Street Staging Area is a 3-acre equestrian center located south of East Rancho Dominguez along the Los Angeles River in the City of Long Beach. In addition to being a staging area for accessing the trail, the 72nd Street Staging Area includes a corral and bleacher area and is used for equestrian events in the area.



Washington Avenue Tot Lot Concept Plan
source: LANLT

SEASONS OF COMPTON FITNESS TRACK

The Seasons of Compton Senior Housing complex is located at the East Rancho Dominguez border with the City of Compton near the 710 Freeway and E. Linsley Street. The facility includes a small walking track with fitness equipment for its residents. The facility is entirely enclosed with a fence and although it is a visible green space it is not accessible for all East Rancho Dominguez residents. Seasons of Compton also has a community garden that is accessible for residents in the complex.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

COMPTON COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDEN

The Compton Community Garden is located directly outside the southwestern boundary of East Rancho Dominguez along S. Long Beach Boulevard. The garden was developed by Metro Community Development Corp., a faith-based community development program operating in the City of Compton. The garden includes 62 raised beds which are rentable by residents for 6-month or year-long rentals. The garden is only open during daylight hours and only gardeners with plots are intended to use the facility. The organization is planning to offer healthy cooking classes in the future.

WHALEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Whaley Middle School, located outside of the East Rancho Dominguez but serving youth from the area has a school-based community garden. The school is within the Compton Unified School District and the garden is intended to serve students, teachers, and parents at the site.

URBAN FOREST INVENTORY

Trees are intricately connected to the quality of life in an urban landscape and are 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, reduced temperatures in urban heat islands, stormwater management, reduced building heating and cooling costs, and an enhanced sense of community, serenity, and beautification.⁴⁵ As such, understanding the extent, condition, benefits and costs of the urban forest is essential to identifying greening opportunities and making good management decisions regarding tree planting, maintenance, removal, and replacement.

4 Southern Center for Forest Benefits and Benefits of Urban Trees, USDA Tree Benefits brochure, <http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org/resources/library/benefits-of-urban-treesbooklet>, accessed March 23, 2010.

5 Alliance for Community Trees, Benefits of Trees and urban Forests (Resource List), http://www.actrees.org/files/Research/benefits_of_trees.pdf, accessed February 25, 2014.



Ralph C. Dills Park
Paramount, CA



Seasons of Compton Fitness Track

EXISTING URBAN FOREST

The existing urban forest in East Rancho Dominguez was examined based on tree canopy coverage data for the neighborhood as a whole, as well as an inventory of trees at East Rancho Dominguez Park. The neighborhood-wide canopy analysis provides a big picture understanding of the overall urban forest in East Rancho Dominguez 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 Rancho Dominguez'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 LIDAR⁶ images provided by the County of Los Angeles, it was possible to determine overall tree canopy coverage in East Rancho Dominguez, including both publicly and privately maintained trees. Although this method does not allow for the 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 2.11 shows the density of tree canopy coverage in East Rancho Dominguez.

As the map in Figure 2.7 demonstrates, S. Atlantic Avenue and E. Rosecrans Avenue 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.

East Rancho Dominguez has total tree canopy coverage of 14 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 Rancho Dominguez 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.

In addition to parks, 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 Rancho Dominguez's roadways contain minimal canopy coverage, suggesting that there is opportunity to increase street planting. These plantings would be most beneficial on the roadways that form connections to East Rancho Dominguez Park, schools, and other future green space in the community, effectively creating a green network within the neighborhood.

6 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.

RELATIVE CANOPY COVERAGE

Research conducted by American Forests⁷ recommends an overall average canopy coverage of 25 percent as appropriate for urban areas in temperate and arid climates, such as East Rancho Dominguez, 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 an average canopy coverage of 21 percent within the City and set a target coverage of 27.5 percent as an average for all land use types.⁸ The study additionally found an 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 uses.

East Rancho Dominguez is currently lower than both the American Forest standard and the existing and target coverage for the City of Los Angeles. Table 2.4 demonstrates these differences.

TREE INVENTORY WITHIN COUNTY PARKS

Trees within East Rancho Dominguez Park were inventoried and assessed in 2013 with funding provided by a grant from CALFIRE.⁹ 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 United States Department of Agriculture (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.

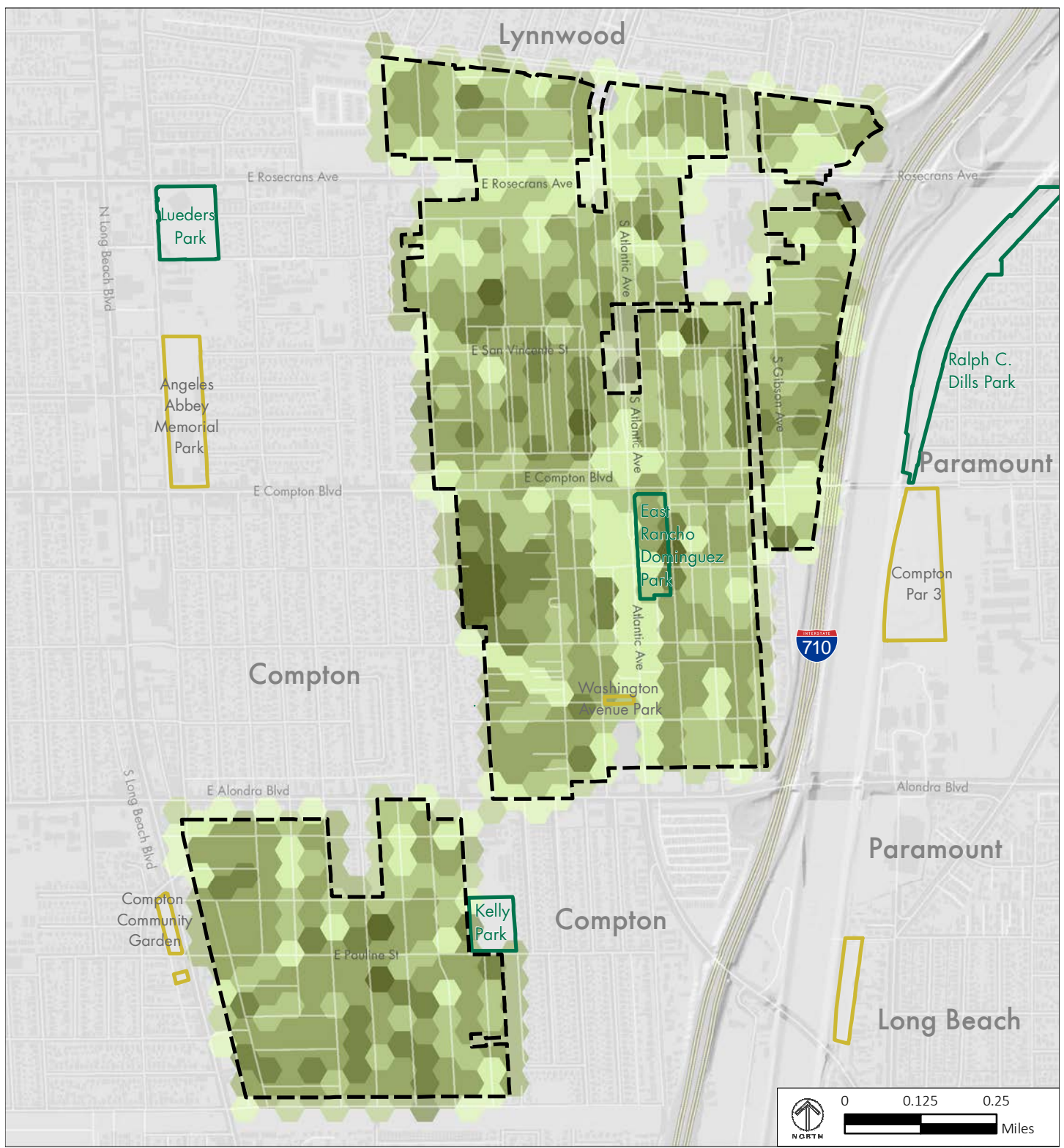
The 2013 inventory identified 55 trees in East Rancho Dominguez Park. East Rancho Dominguez's park trees are together referred to as the "Park Forest" in this section. This report summarizes the species composition, age

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

8 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.

9 A grant from the Statewide Prop 84 CALFIRE 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.

FIGURE 2.11 EXISTING CANOPY COVERAGE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| Tree Canopy Coverage | Parklands |
| < 5% | Parks Included in Analysis |
| 5% - 10% | Other Green Space |
| 10% - 20% | |
| 20% - 30% | |
| > 30% | |

TABLE 2.3 TREE CANOPY COVERAGE IN EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ 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	441	72	16%
High-density Residential	Unlimited residence Limited multiple residence Two-family residence	33	4	12%
Commercial/ Institutional	Unlimited commercial Commercial manufacturing Commercial planned development Commercial recreation Institutional Neighborhood business Parking restricted Restricted business	45	1	2%
Industrial	Heavy manufacturing Light manufacturing Restricted heavy manufacturing	1	0	0%
Open Space*	Open space	8	2	19%
TOTAL		528	79	15%

*Open Space includes East Rancho Dominguez Park, Washington Avenue Tot Lot, and adjacent streets.

TABLE 2.4 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ TREE CANOPY COVERAGE COMPARISONS

Land Use	East Rancho Dominguez 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	16%	35%	31%	n/a
High-density Residential	12%	18%	15%	n/a
Commercial/Institutional	2%	9%	6% / 18%	n/a
Industrial	0%	n/a	4%	n/a
Open Space*	19%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	15%	25%	21%	27.5%

*Open Space includes East Rancho Dominguez Park, Washington Avenue Tot Lot, and adjacent streets.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

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 A. The number of trees at East Rancho Dominguez Park and the related canopy coverage is provided in Table 2.5. Canopy coverage per park was calculated using iTrees streets rather than LIDAR data.

FOREST STRUCTURE

Studies of urban forests suggest that a strong urban forest resource “possess a mix of species, sizes, and ages.”¹⁰ 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 an entire forest population, as many of these issues are species-specific and spread more easily to related populations. Researchers additionally recommend utilizing native trees wherever possible, as they are well-suited for the environment and have developed resilience to local pests, and providing 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 Rancho Dominguez is described below with consideration to structural diversity.

SPECIES COMPOSITION

The species composition of a forest affects the aesthetic character of a park and/or forest, as well as the benefits that it provides. For instance, palms and conifers (like pine trees) are generally tall and narrow trees and provide minimal shade. Broadleaf trees, like oaks and sycamore, provide greater canopy coverage and shade and therefore have greater measurable benefits.

East Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest is composed of 38 percent broadleaf species, 56 percent conifers, and 5 percent palm trees. Of the broadleaf species, 24 percent are deciduous and 15 percent are evergreen. Most of the forest (76 percent) is comprised of large stature trees. Medium and small stature trees account for 9 percent and 15 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 on the forest. For this reason, it is widely recommended that no more than 10 percent of the forest be comprised of any one species.¹¹

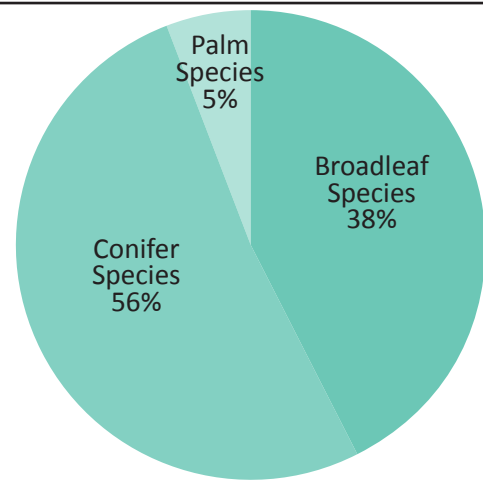
10 Clark, James R., Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross, and Victoria Wake. “A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability.” *Journal of Arboriculture* 23(1): January 1997.

11 Clark, et al. 1997.

TABLE 2.5 OVERVIEW OF TREES AT EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK

Total Trees	Total Park Acreage	Acres of Canopy Coverage	Tree Canopy Coverage (%)
55	5.51	0.98	18%

FIGURE 2.12 SPECIES COMPOSITION



East Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest includes 13 unique species. The dominant species of the Park Forest include Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) (29.1 percent), Afgan pine (*Pinus eldarica*) (12.7 percent), London plane tree (*Platanus x acerfolia*) (10.9 percent), sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) (9.1 percent), Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) (7.3 percent), cajeput tree (*Melaleuca quinquenervia*) (5.5 percent), coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) (5.5 percent), Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) (5.5 percent), lemon bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*) (3.6 percent), and wilga (*Geijera parviflora*) (3.6 percent). While it is notable that Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) comprises a significant portion of the Park, 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 diversity should be a key consideration for additional plantings and/or replacement planting.

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 Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest are limited to 3 coast redwood trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*), or 5.45 percent of the forest. While coast redwoods are native to California, they are native to or well-adapted for Los Angeles County.

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 thus will reach the end of their life span at the same time. This makes 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 an uneven age distribution.¹² 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.¹³

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 with a smaller DBH representing younger trees and a larger DBH representing more established trees. East Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest has a near-equal distribution of young to established trees, with slightly more larger trees. Approximately 27 percent are relatively young with a DBH less than 12 inches; 33 percent are established trees with a DBH of 12 to 24 inches; and 40 percent have a DBH of over 24 inches.

12 Clark, et al. 1997.

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

TABLE 2.6 MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Maintenance Need	Description (Based on Calfire Grant Guidelines)	Number of Trees
Priority 1 Pruning	Trees that require priority 1 trimming to remove hazardous deadwood, hangers, or broken branches. Hazardous limbs or leaders are greater than four inches in diameter.	43
Priority 2 Pruning	Trees that have dead, dying, diseased, or weakened branches between two and four inches in diameter and are potential safety hazards.	3
Training Pruning	Young, large growing trees that require pruning to minimize future maintenance requirements.	9

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 the structural condition (the woody components) and the functional condition (the foliage).

The Park Forest in East Rancho Dominguez is relatively well-managed, with all of the trees (100 percent) receiving a fair rating.

MAINTENANCE NEED

As part of the tree inventory, maintenance needs were categorized for each tree based on CALFIRE grant guidelines. Maintenance needs identified for East Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest are described in Table 2.6.

While there are no trees recommended for removal, 78 percent of the trees are identified as requiring Priority 1 pruning, which indicates a high level of potential hazards need to be addressed and may indicate that maintenance has been deferred.

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 majority of East Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest (91 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. The following is a list of problematic trees and the percentage of their total population where sidewalk damage was found:

- Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*): 40 percent of species population
- Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*): 33.33 percent of species population
- Afghan pine (*Pinus eldarica*) : 28.57 percent of species population

Similarly, the majority of East Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest (100 percent) does not conflict with overhead utility lines. There are no major utility lines passing over East Rancho Dominguez Park.

FOREST BENEFITS

The benefits of an urban forest population 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 Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest, based on iTrees Streets’ analysis. As iTrees Streets was designed for the analysis of street trees rather than park trees, the analysis assumes that trees are set along roadways, and therefore the estimated benefits are likely on the high side for park trees. A full summary of the impacts of the individual tree species in East Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest can be found in Appendix B.

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 impacts. It is important to maintain a young population, as well as to replace dying or removed trees, thereby maintaining continuous urban forest benefits. These benefits are summarized in Table 2.7.

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 Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest currently has an estimated gross value of \$13,430, 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 heat and 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 Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest is \$244. As previously stated, estimates are based on benefits provided by street trees and therefore may be higher for park trees. These benefits are summarized Table 2.8.

TABLE 2.7 SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NET ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AT EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK

Stormwater (Gallons of Stormwater Intercepted)	Air Quality (Pounds of Reduced Air Pollutants)*	Carbon Dioxide (Tons of CO2 Sequestered per Year)
138,828	112	12,796

* Air Quality pounds includes deposition of Ozone (O3), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Particulate Matter (PM10) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) and avoidance of NO2, PM-10, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), and SO2, but does not take into account potential Biogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (BVOCs) emissions.

TABLE 2.8 SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NET ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Energy	Stormwater	Air Quality*	Carbon Dioxide	Aesthetics	Total
\$1,332	\$764	\$197	\$55	\$11,082	\$13,430

* 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 Rancho Dominguez’s physical environment and 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 informs 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

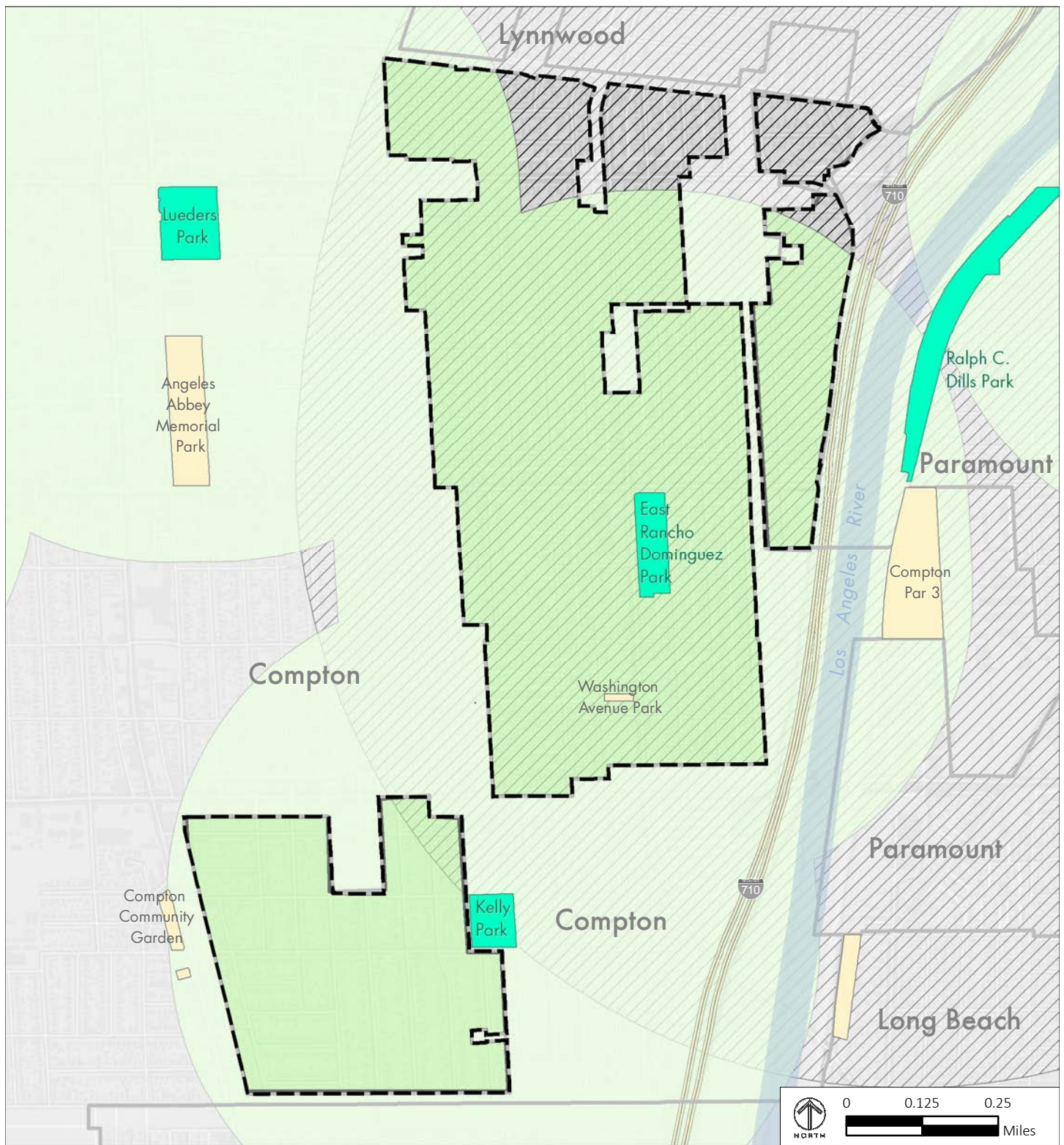
Traditionally, DPR considers a local park to be accessible to residents within a half-mile of the park. Half of a mile is considered a distance residents can typically walk to within ten minutes. Larger regional parks generally draw from a larger area, up to 25 miles away; however, park users may drive or use public transit to visit these facilities. These access boundaries for parks in and around East Rancho Dominguez are shown in Figure 2.13.

Additional analysis 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.



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 need, for new parkland development.




FIGURE 2.13 SERVICE AREAS - LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARKS





EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Park Access

-  Areas Not Within the Service Radius of a Park Included in Analysis
-  1/2 Mile Service Radius from Neighborhood Parks
-  1 Mile Service Radius from Community Parks

Parklands

-  Parks Included in Analysis
-  Other Green Space

PARKLAND GAP AND WALKABILITY

The parkland gap/walkability analysis was completed 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 park, barriers, and connections affecting walkability. Residential and non-residential areas were differentiated using Los Angeles County’s Assessor parcel land use information.

As shown in Figures 2.14 and Figures 2.15, with the exception of the northern portion of East Rancho Dominguez, nearly all (76 percent) of residents can reach parks comfortably by foot within 10 minutes. Three parks in or near the community, East Rancho Dominguez Park, Lueders Park, and Kelly Park – have multiple points of entry that make the parks more widely accessible to the residents of East Rancho Dominguez.

The small portion of East Rancho Dominguez’s population (24 percent) that lack parks accessible by foot are generally concentrated north of San Vicente Street. The same pattern of park inaccessibility continues beyond the northern border of East Rancho Dominguez. Ralph C. Dills Park is located close to the community’s eastern border, however it is considered inaccessible due to the 710 freeway and Los Angeles River interrupting pedestrian route. Only a few households directly adjacent to Rosecrans Avenue have access to this park.

There are a few parks outside of the community boundary that serve East Rancho Dominguez’s residents to some capacity. The most notable of these is Kelly Park in the City of Compton. This park serves almost the entire disconnected southern portion of the community (approximately 3,600 residents). Lueders Park, also in the City of Compton, serves a small portion of residents in the far northwest quadrant of the community.

FIGURE 2.14 POPULATION NEAR A PARK

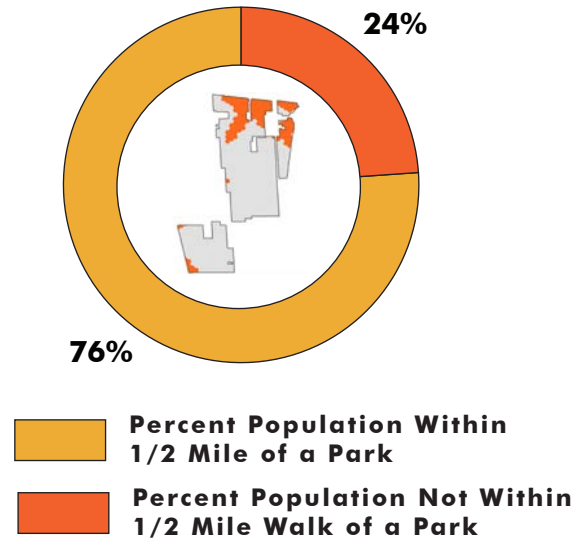
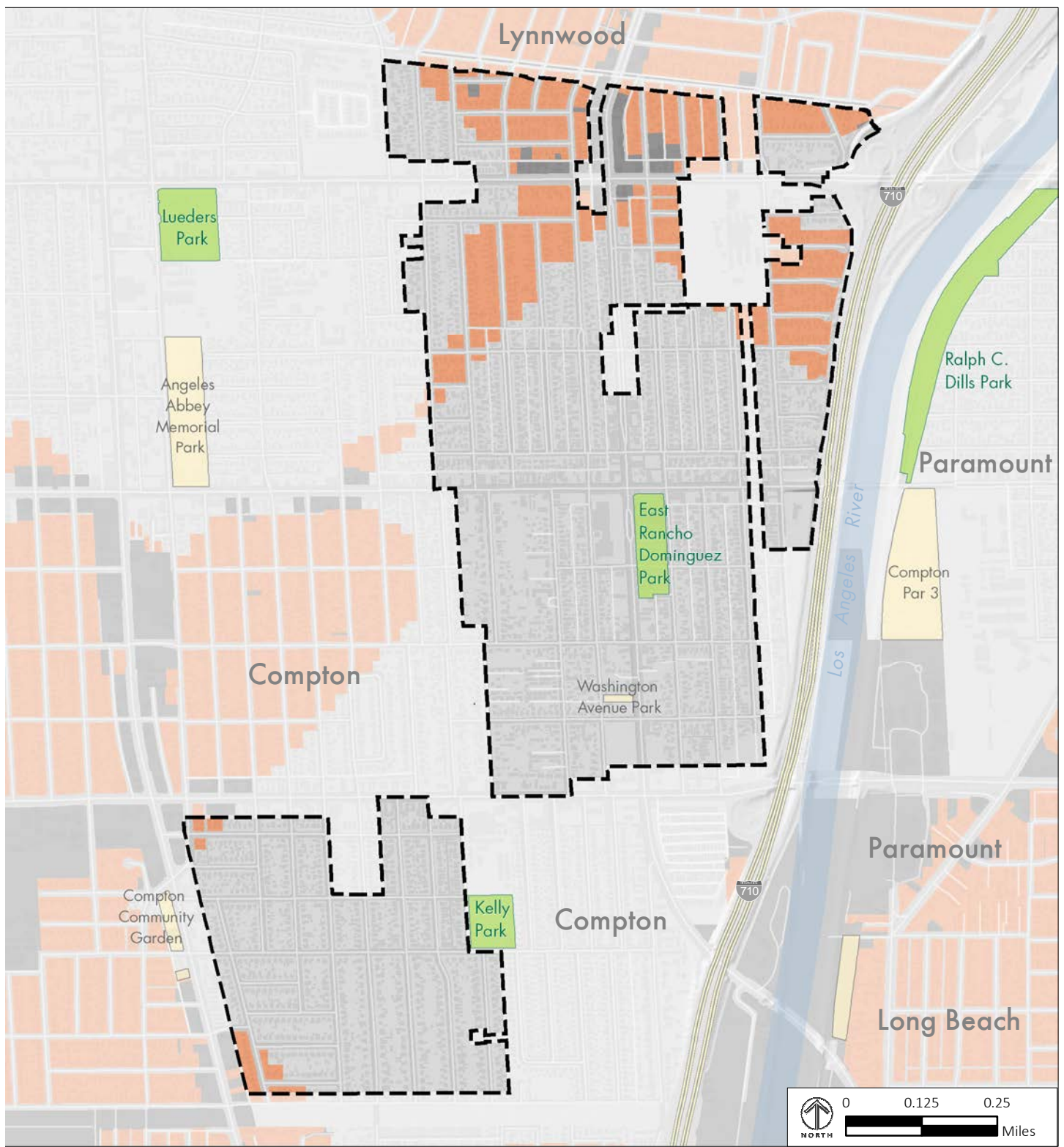


FIGURE 2.15 PARKLAND GAPS/WALKABILITY



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

Park Access

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

Parklands

- Parks Included in Analysis
- Other Green Space

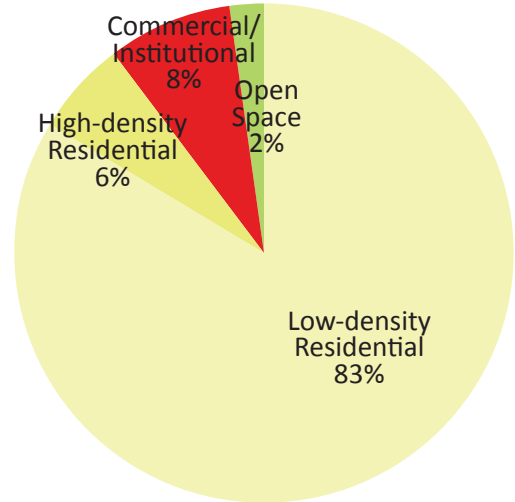
LAND USE

As shown in Figures 2.16 and Figures 2.17, East Rancho Dominguez is predominately a residential neighborhood. The vast majority of the community (83 percent) is low-density residential and 22 percent is high-density housing. The majority of “high-density” residential are also typically small in number with five to ten units rather than large structures common to dense downtown areas. Generally, housing units are located on small lots, which produce a low but dense pattern of development across the community.

Commercial uses are concentrated on S. Atlantic Avenue and E. Compton Boulevard. E. Alondra Boulevard along the southern border of East Rancho Dominguez and E. Rosecrans Boulevard along the northern border, are commercial streets, but within the community boundary are predominately residential. Businesses along these corridors are typically low-density and cater more directly to vehicular traffic that park along the wide streets or in parking lots associated with the businesses. There are numerous small chain and “mom and pop-”style restaurants, as well as small delis and grocery stores. There are a significant number of vehicle sales or repair businesses throughout the neighborhood, as well as service businesses, like barber shops and salons, and general retail stores, like dollar marts and mini-markets.

Many of the commercial streets are characterized by buildings that are entirely vacant or in significant disrepair. There are few new developments, with the exception of new public facilities around E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue.

FIGURE 2.16 LAND USE TYPES

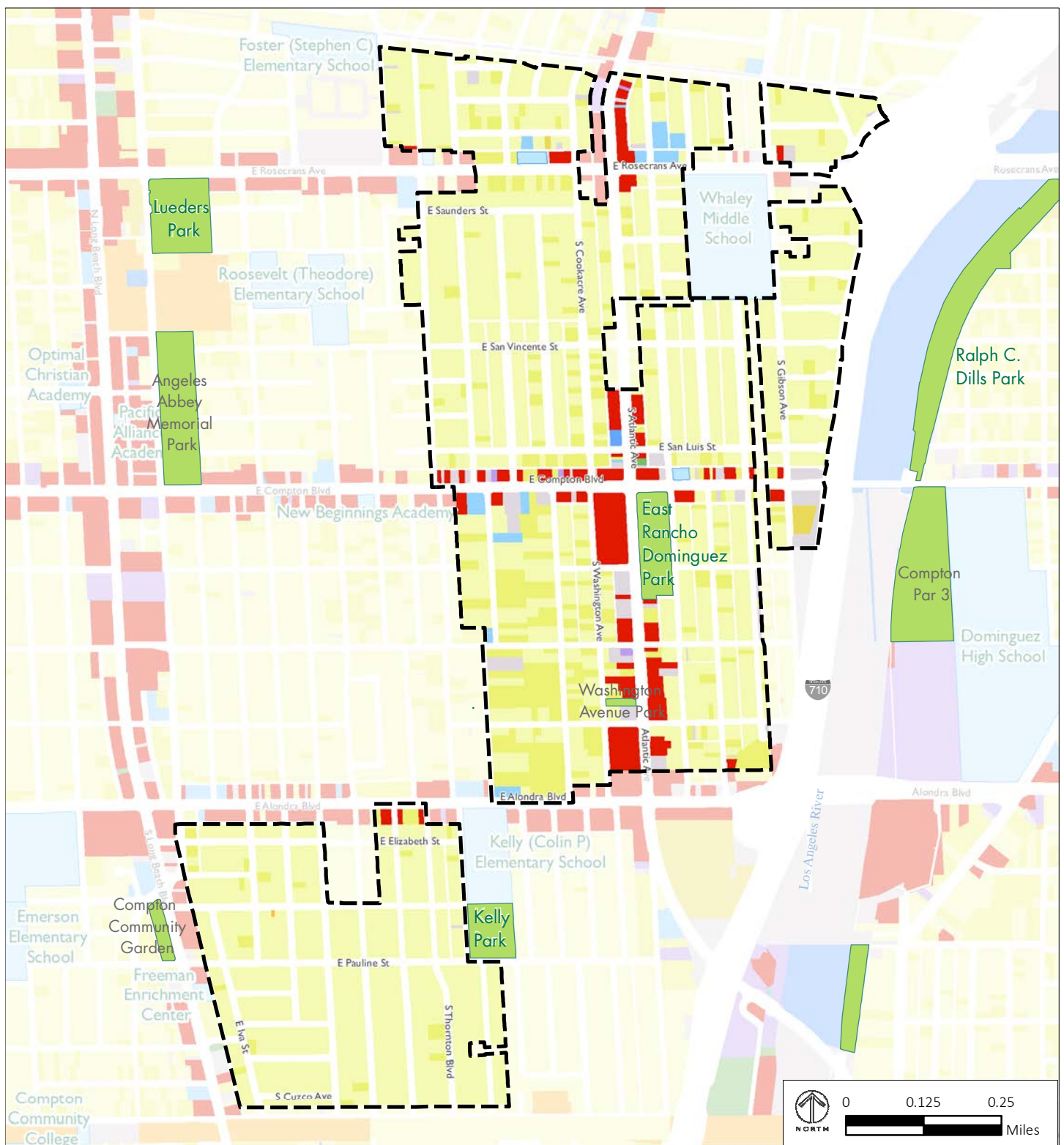


Auto Repair along S. Atlantic Avenue
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



Commercial business along E. Compton Boulevard

FIGURE 2.17 LAND USE



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

- East Rancho Dominguez
- Green Space and School
- County Park and Other Green Space
- School

- Land Use**
- Residential Single Family
 - Residential Multi Family
 - Residential Manufactured Homes
 - Residential Rooming/Boarding House
 - Commercial
 - Industrial
 - Institutional
 - Government Owned
 - Miscellaneous
 - Recreational
 - Agriculture
 - Vacant Land

EXISTING CONDITIONS

POPULATION DENSITY

East Rancho Dominguez’s population patterns directly correspond with land use within the community. Since the community is predominately low-density residential, population is generally evenly distributed throughout the community, with the exception of the area the commercial center at E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue. Even in commercial areas within E. Rancho Dominguez, there are a number of residential units, typically multi-unit structures, mixed in with commercial space. Figure 2.18 shows the population density patterns within the community.

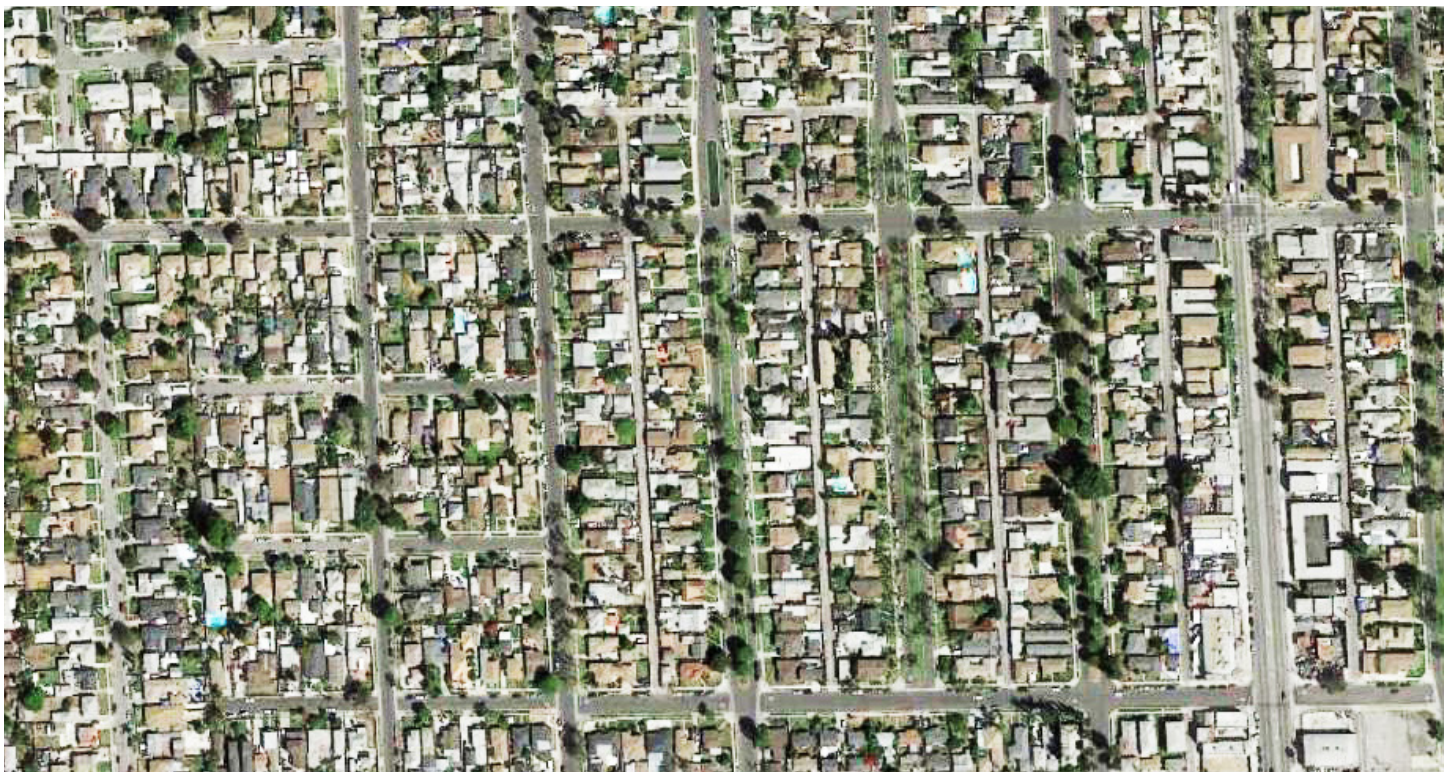
Parks and recreation facilities are public amenities and intended to be used by people, so facilities within close proximity to dense areas can provide service to large numbers of residents. However, park development within these areas is especially challenging due to limited land availability and close proximity to neighboring properties.



Typical Low-density Residential in East Rancho Dominguez
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

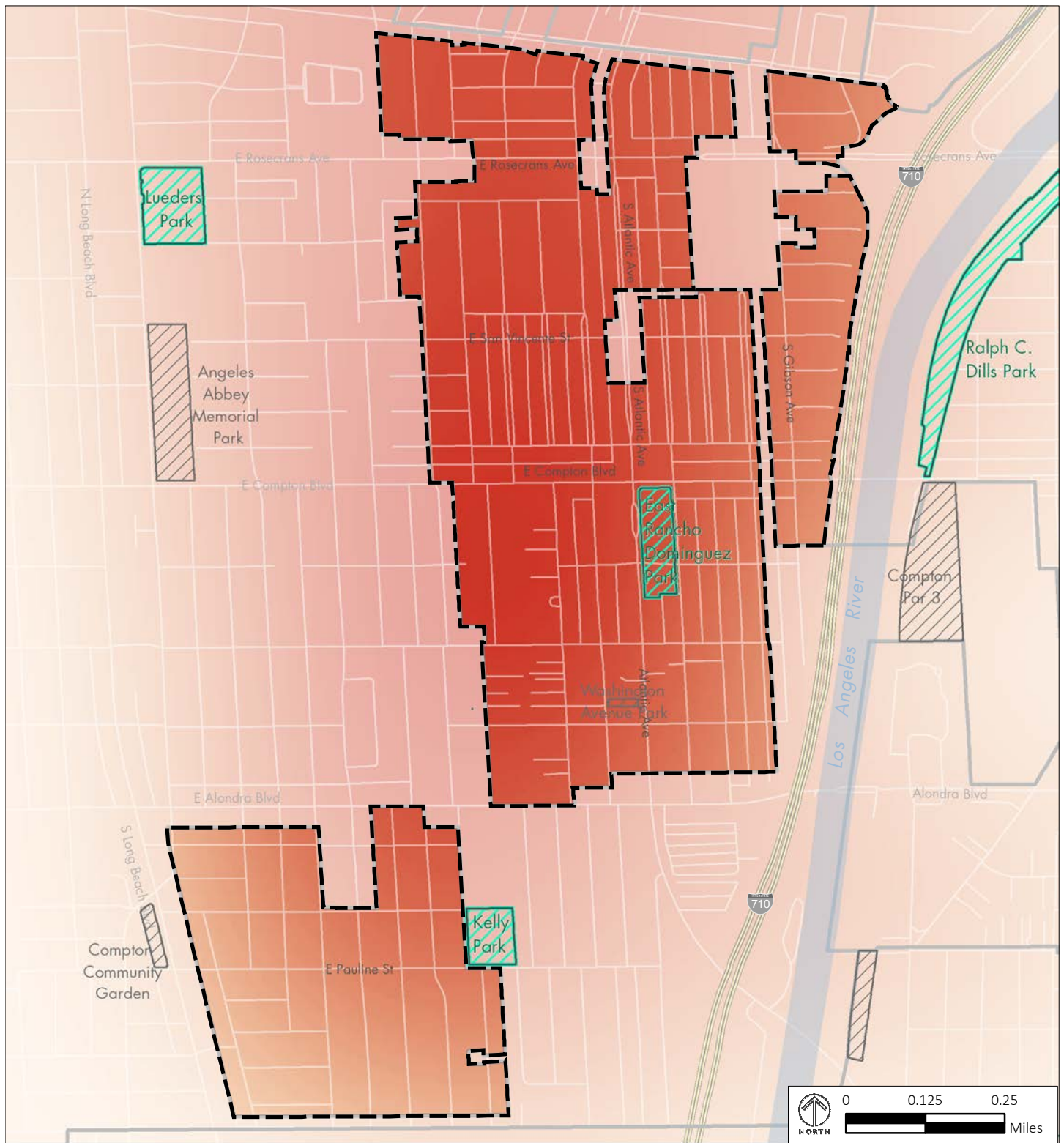


Residential and Commercial Units on E. Compton Boulevard
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



Typical Density Pattern in East Rancho Dominguez
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

FIGURE 2.18 POPULATION DENSITY



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

Parklands

- Parks Included in Analysis
- Other Green Space

Population Density (Persons per half square mile)

- High : 26,780
- Low : 0

TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION

Figure 2.20 shows the existing transportation network and the concentration of pedestrian and bicycle collisions in East Rancho Dominguez between 2002 and 2010. Pedestrian and bicycle collisions represent 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 East Rancho Dominguez Park and other community spaces in East Rancho Dominguez.

OVERVIEW

East Rancho Dominguez has fewer transit options available to its residents and visitors, compared to other communities. Four Metro local bus lines serve the community. There is a shared bike lane along S. Atlantic Avenue and in the immediate vicinity, there is one bikeway (trail) available along the Los Angeles River. One local bus service serves the southern portion of East Rancho Dominguez, along South Long Beach Boulevard, near the southern part of the East Rancho Dominguez community. The County of Los Angeles County is planning to install two additional new bikeways in East Rancho Dominguez. These are planned for streets with Metro local bus services: East Rosecrans Avenue and E. Compton Boulevard. While the Los Angeles River Trail is close by, only one connection from East Rancho Dominguez to the Trail is planned. An extension of the proposed bikeway along East Compton Boulevard to the east would create an additional connection to the Los Angeles River Trail.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

East Rancho Dominguez has fewer pedestrian and bike collisions compared to Los Angeles County as a whole. East Rancho Dominguez has 4.36 pedestrian collisions and 2.91 bike collisions per 1,000; Los Angeles County has 4.73 pedestrian collisions and 3.04 bike collisions per 1,000 residents. Collisions in East Rancho Dominguez do not deviate much from the County's collision data.

Looking at the data on concentration of pedestrian and bicycle collisions between 2002 and 2010, high concentration areas are along the major streets in East Rancho Dominguez. The most problematic areas are listed in Table 2.9.

FIGURE 2.19 PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE COLLISIONS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

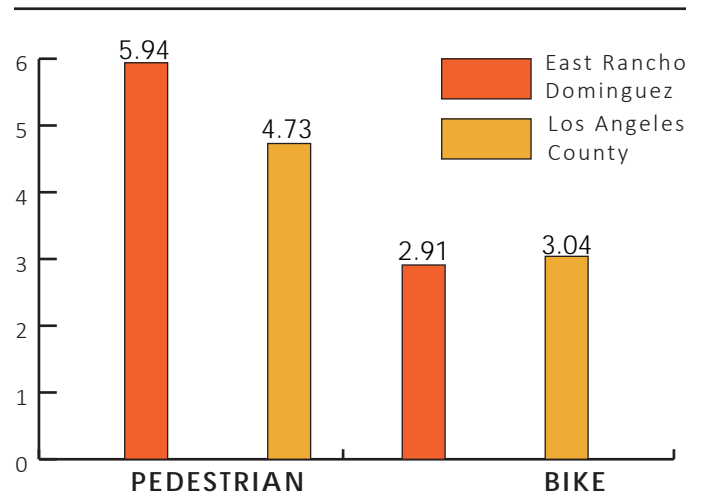


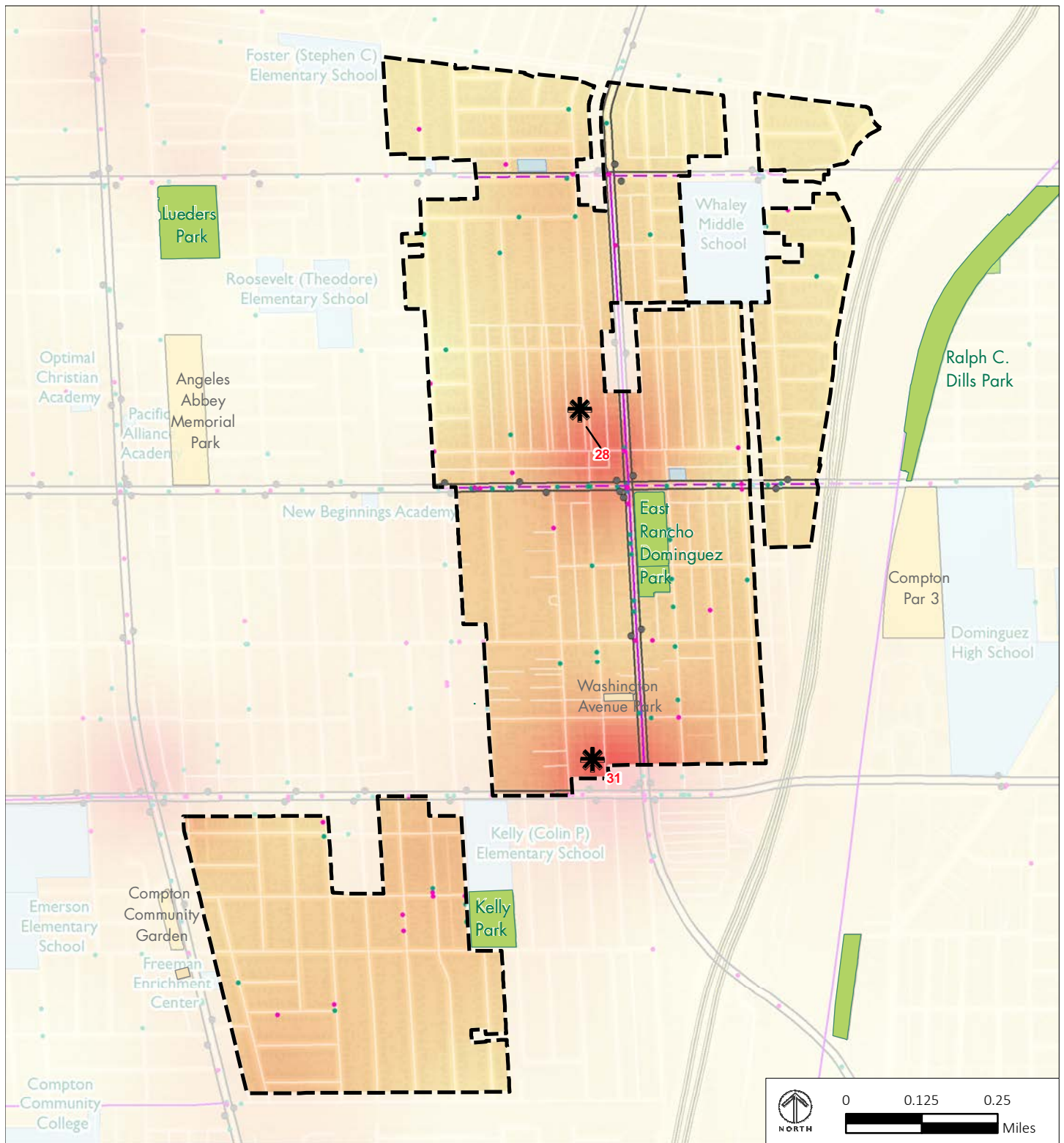
TABLE 2.9 PROBLEMATIC AREAS FOR PEDESTRIANS

Location ^A	Number of Collisions ^B
E Alondra Boulevard & S Washington Avenue	31
E San Luis Street, between S Cookacres and S Atlantic Avenues	28
E. Elizabeth Street & S. Thornon Avenue	17
E. Iva Street & S Cuzco Avenue	17
E Sauncers Street & S Cookacre Avenue	15

^AThe Location column describes the closest intersection near problematic areas

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

FIGURE 2.20 TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY, AND CONNECTIVITY



Sources: Los Angeles County, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), 2002-2010; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Green Space | Bicycle Network | Pedestrian and Bicycle Collisions | Collisions involving Pedestrians |
| Existing Park | Existing Bike Route | High Concentration (67) | Collisions involving Bikes |
| Other Green Space | Proposed Bike Route | Low Concentration (1) | Collision Concentration w/in 500ft |
| School | | Problematic Area | |
| Bus Stop | | | |
| Bus Route | | | |

CRIME AND SAFETY

For this study, the crime data analyzed spans from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. The crime analysis used 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 2.10 lists crime intensity ranking categories.

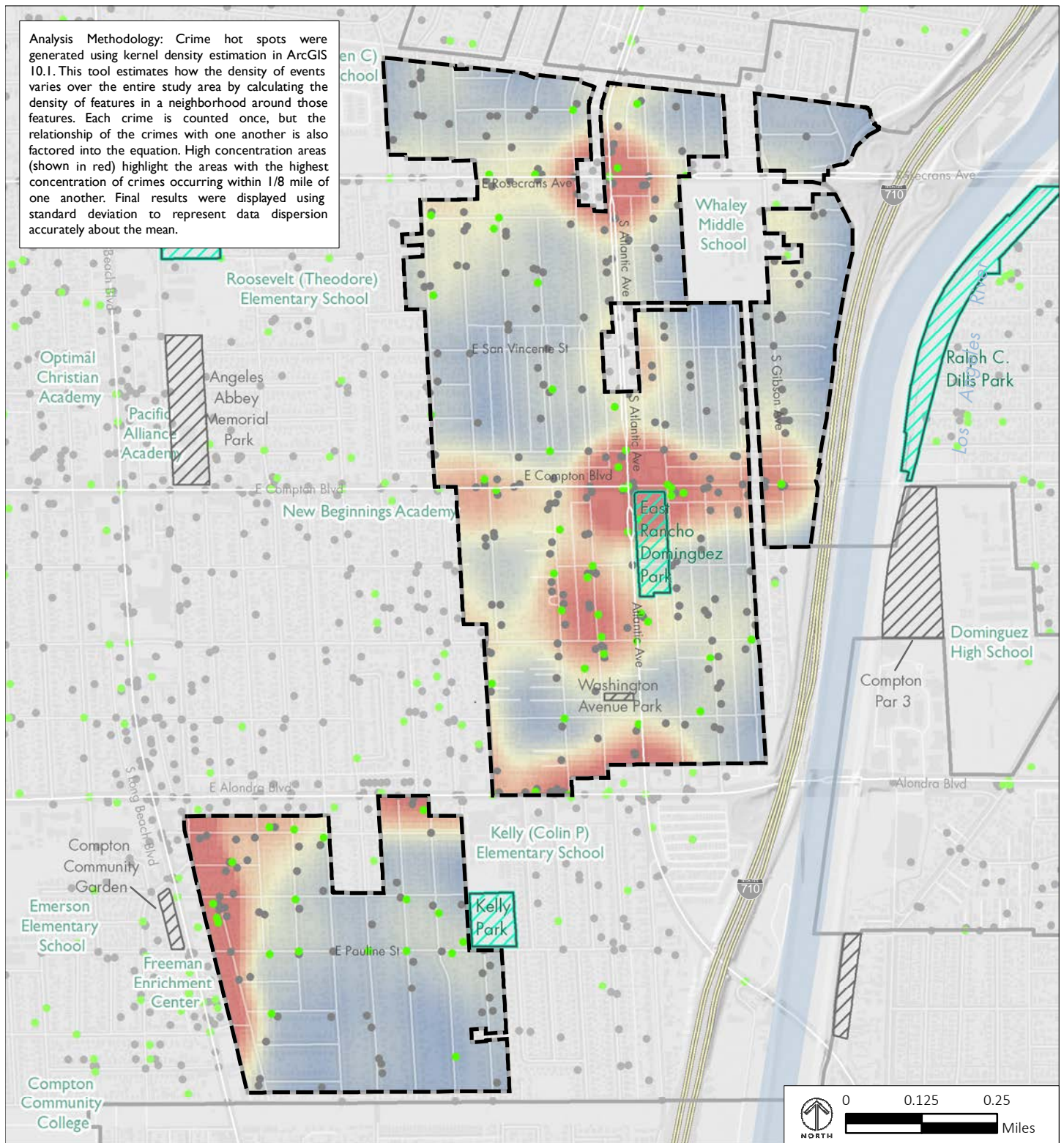
As shown in Figure 2.21, there are a few crime hot spots throughout the community, but this report focuses on hot spots occurring near existing parks. East Rancho Dominguez Park has a high concentration of crime cutting across the northern portion of the park. This crime hot spot appears to be centered along East Compton Boulevard and fans out north/south along South Atlantic Avenue. The area surrounding East Rancho Dominguez park also appears to have a slightly higher level of gang-related crime than the rest of the community.

TABLE 2.10 CRIME CATEGORY INTENSITY RATIO*

Intensity	Crime Categories
0	Accidents miscellaneous, accidents traffic/vehicle/boat, commitments, miscellaneous non-criminal, persons dead, suicide and attempt
100	Disorderly conduct, federal offenses without money, federal offenses with money, forgery, fraud and not sufficient funds 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.

FIGURE 2.21 CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

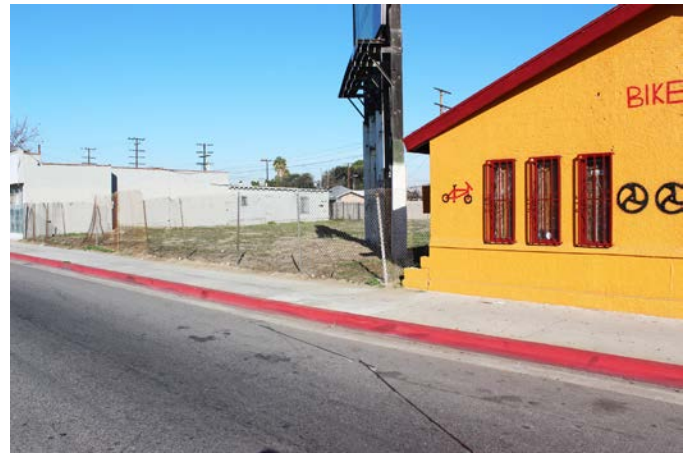
- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Concentration of Crimes Against Persons | Parklands | Crimes Against Persons* |
| High (Red) | Parks Included in Analysis | Gang-related |
| Low (Blue) | Other Green Space | Not Gang-related |

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 484 reported crimes against persons within the community.
 *Crimes Against Persons includes the following crime categories; criminal homicides, forcible rape, both aggravated and non aggravated assaults, sex offenses, and robberies.

VACANT LAND

Vacant land was used to preliminary identify opportunity sites for new parks in East Rancho Dominguez. 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 2.22 shows the location of vacant land in East Rancho Dominguez.

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.

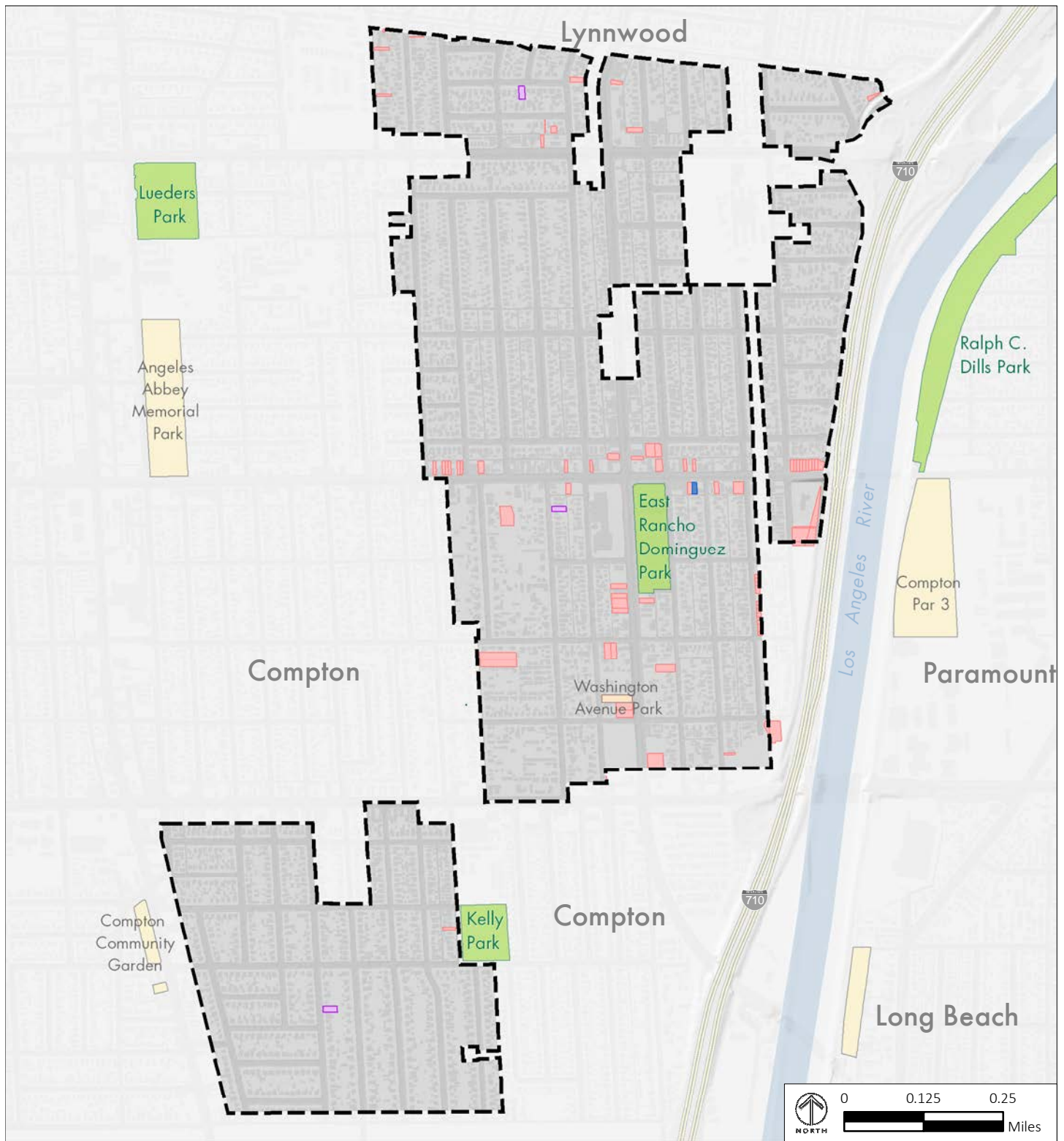


Vacant Lot on E. Compton Boulevard



Vacant Lot on S. Atlantic Avenue

FIGURE 2.22 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.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Vacant Land | Other Potential Vacant Lands | Parklands |
| Assessor's Data | Tax Defaulted Properties | County Park |
| County-Owned | | Other Green Space |

FOOD ACCESS

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

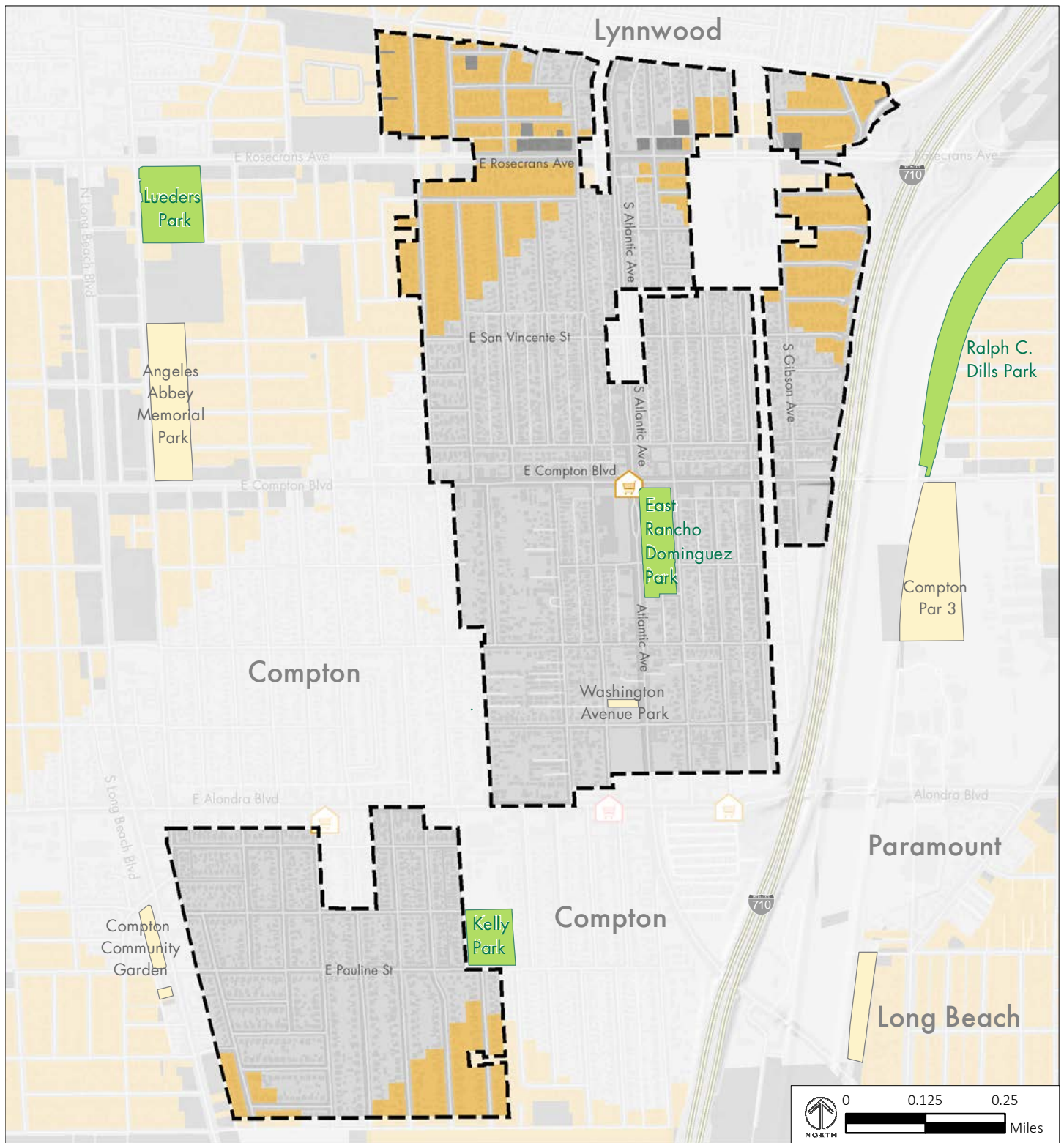
The healthy food access analysis was completed using Esri's Network Analyst tool in ArcGIS to identify areas with and without walkable access to healthy food. Any food outlet selling fresh fruits, meats, and/or vegetables was categorized as healthy. This analysis only includes neighborhood markets, full-service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

Figure 2.23 identifies walkable and non-walkable areas within a half mile to/from each food outlet. Residential and non-residential areas were differentiated using Los Angeles County Assessor parcels' existing land use information.



Northgate Market at corner of E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

FIGURE 2.23 FOOD ACCESS



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

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

EXISTING CONDITIONS

AIR QUALITY

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 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 for analyzing new potential park sites. These buffers are displayed in the air quality map in Figure 2.24.



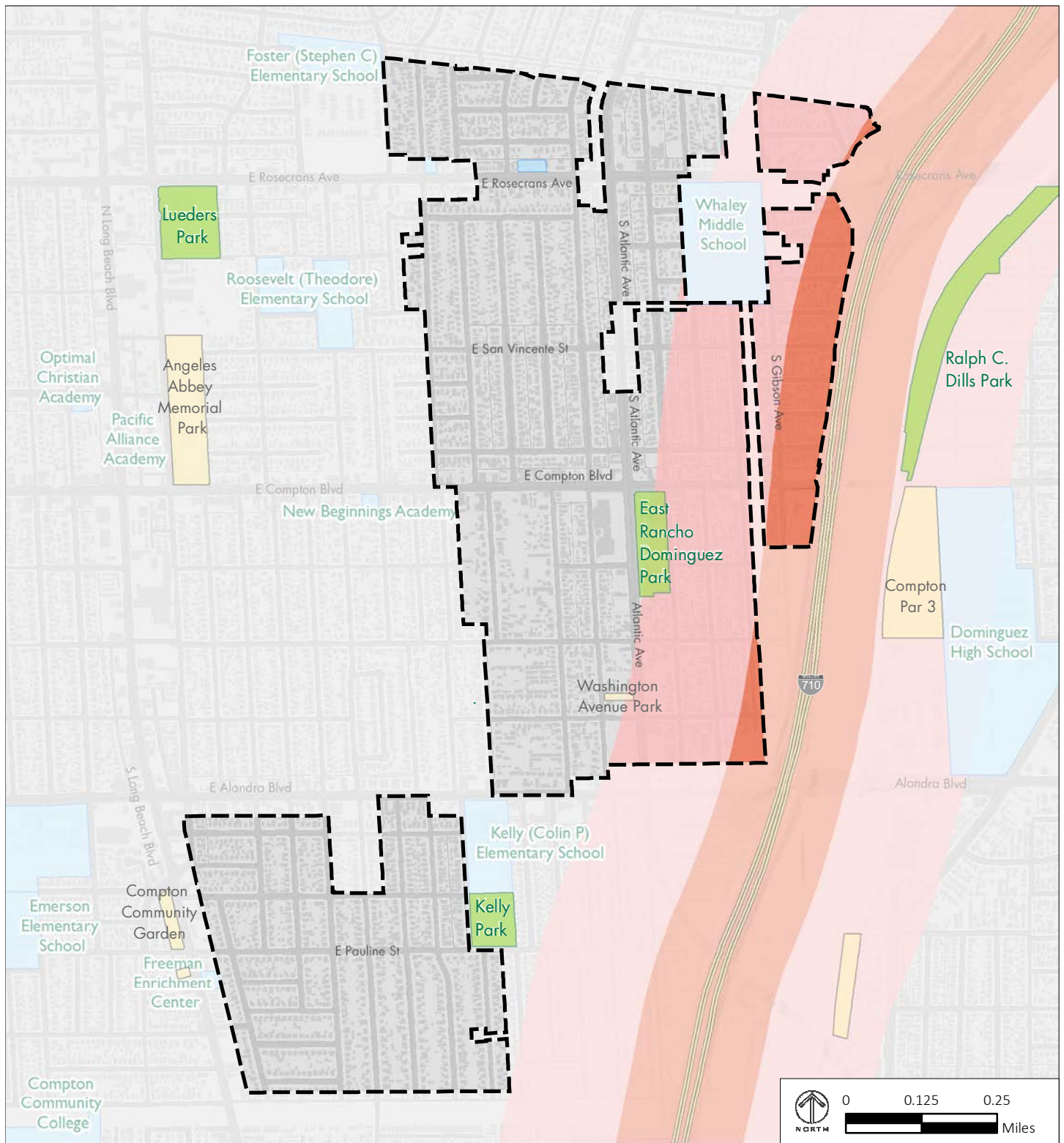
View of 710 Freeway from E. Compton Boulevard

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 2.24 AIR QUALITY



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

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



3 - COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Community outreach is at the heart of this planning process. The community outreach strategy was developed based on the project goals, as well as an understanding of the issues in the community. The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) facilitated the outreach process in East Rancho Dominguez. These efforts took place between October 2013 and February 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 described below. Descriptions of the events and results are described more in 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

(2013)

194 questionnaires were distributed in East Rancho Dominguez during key community events. Results show that most people visit East Rancho Dominguez Park. Other popular parks in nearby communities include Kelly Park and Wilson Park. Survey responses suggest that people visit parks for the playgrounds more than any other amenity or activity. Other activities, listed in order of popularity, include socializing, sports, exercise and picnics. As far as recreational facilities, walking paths and

bicycling paths are used more than community gardens. Most people walk or drive to their local park, while fewer people bike or take transit. In addition, the parks are visited in the afternoon more frequently than in the evening and morning. Some residents feel unsafe in parks because there is not enough security. Residents expressed concerns about men smoking, gambling, and drinking and gang activity.

FIGURE 3.1 SURVEY RESULTS

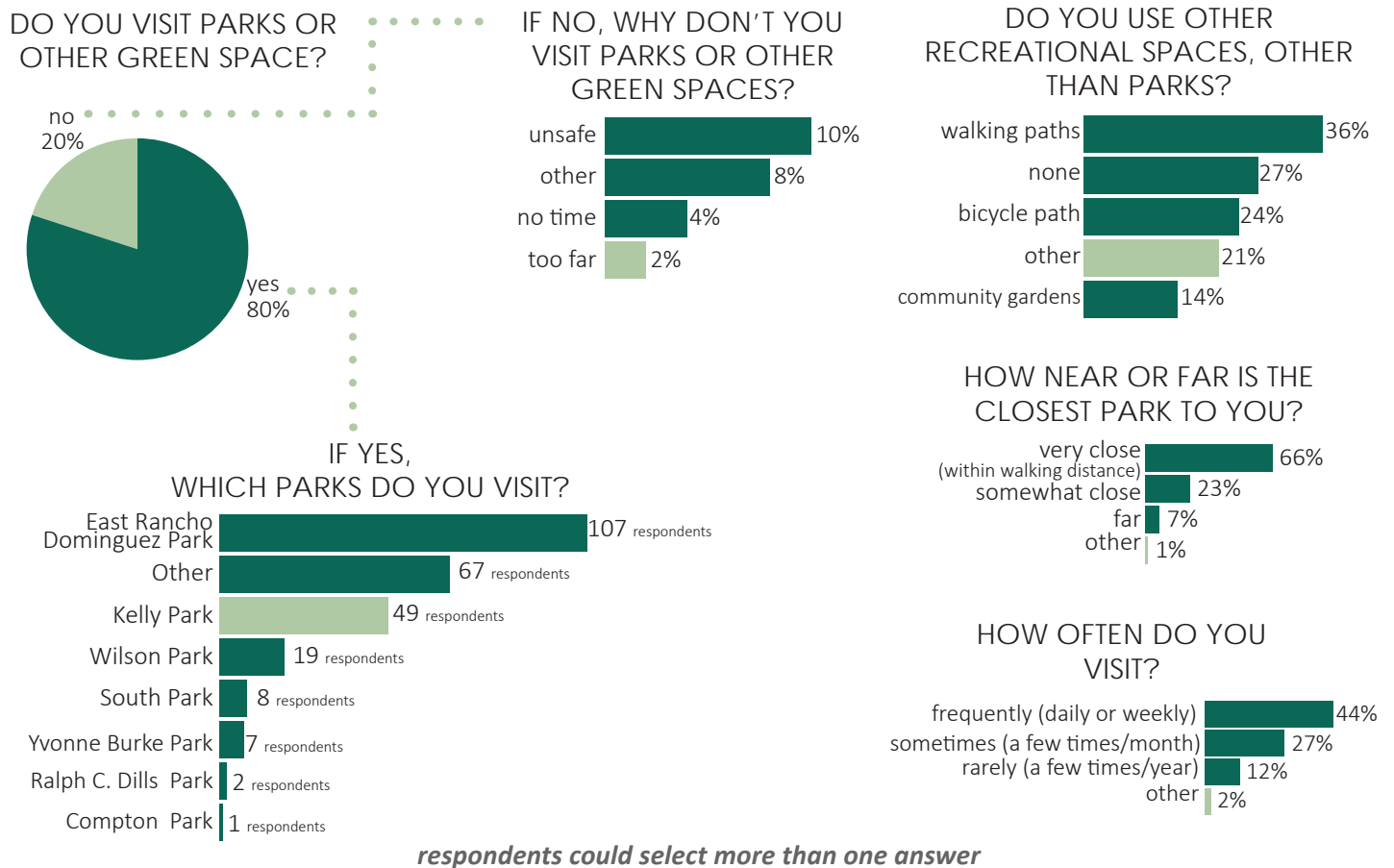
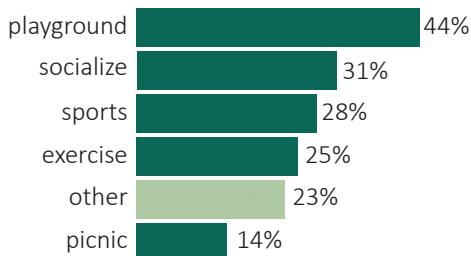


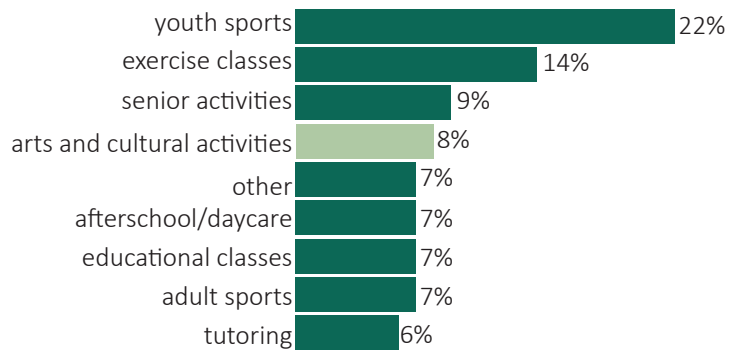
TABLE 3.1 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM SURVEY RESULTS

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN YOUR COMMUNITY?			
Programs		Facilities	
Youth Sports	43%	Exercise Facilities	52%
Exercise Classes	32%	Community Gardens	34%
Arts/Culture	23%	Walking Paths	32%
Educational Classes	21%	Bike Paths	18%
Adult Sports	18%	Other	11%
Senior Activities	18%		
Tutoring	17%		
Other	14%		
Day care	13%		

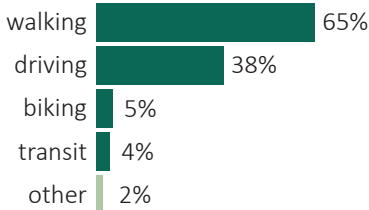
WHAT DO YOU DO THERE?



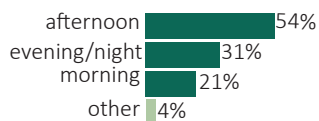
WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN?



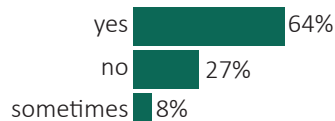
HOW DO YOU GET THERE?



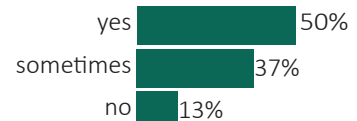
WHAT TIME OF DAY DO YOU USUALLY VISIT?



DO YOU FEEL SAFE GOING TO PARKS?



DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN PARKS?



respondents could select more than one answer

FOCUS GROUPS

Three (3) focus groups were conducted in East Rancho Dominguez with park staff at East Rancho Dominguez Park, parent volunteers and faculty at Kelly Elementary School, and seniors at East Rancho Resident Association.

Focus group participants identified key concerns and requests

- Need for increased recreational programming at nearby parks for all age groups including exercise stations
- Interest in projects that will increase the community's access to healthy, local food
- Residents often visit parks outside the community due to safety concerns at East Rancho Dominguez Park
- Community members want a larger law enforcement presence at parks and in the community.

Some community members reported visiting East Rancho Dominguez Park regularly for recreational activities, but most of the focus group reported using parks outside the community, such as Mayfair Park in Lakewood, or Paramount Park. Community members at East Rancho Dominguez Park did not feel fully informed about programs offered in the park. Participants also agreed that more recreational programming is needed. Recreational programming suggestions included line dancing classes for seniors, youth sports, more arts and craft classes for children and more fitness programs for adults. Staff at Kelly Elementary School would like Kelly Park to provide an after school program in partnership with the school, and expressed interest in partnering with the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Participants also wanted improved park facilities and new amenities. Park staff expressed the need for exercise equipment at East Rancho Dominguez. Other suggestions included a need for updated playground equipment at Kelly Park, as well as a place for soccer games and practices. Park staff and park participants mentioned that they would like to see a community garden in East Rancho Dominguez. Senior participants were hesitant and expressed concerns about maintenance; however, seniors did want more local, healthy food options and expressed interest in a farmer's market.

CBO Focus Group Representatives:

- East Rancho Dominguez Resident Association
- Kelly Elementary School
- Department of Parks and Recreation

Some community members mentioned the lack of community involvement as a problem. Residents of East Rancho Dominguez also brought up attempts by Compton to annex their community, and expressed that the City of Compton struggles with the upkeep of its own facilities, which suggests that the City might not be able to maintain East Rancho Dominguez Park if it was annexed.

Parent participants brought up prostitution as a concern in the East Rancho Dominguez and surrounding areas. Many do not allow their children to walk near Long Beach Boulevard. Homelessness was also discussed in all three focus groups. Park go-ers mentioned that the homeless presence in East Rancho Dominguez is a factor for visiting parks outside their community. However, many expressed this as a difficult issue mainly because the homeless have nowhere else to go.

In terms of safety, there was support for more police patrolling of parks and community, as many people, particularly the parents, do not feel safe at East Rancho Dominguez Park citing that illegal activity and gang violence occurs at nearby intersection of Compton Boulevard and Lime Street. Participants feel that more police vigilance will curb prostitution and prevent gang activity. In addition to police patrol, participants requested more staff at parks to serve as authority figures in case of an emergency. In terms of infrastructure, participants wanted more lighting in and around the park including in the playground, playing fields and near parking lots. Parent participants would like to see more crosswalks provided on wide, high traffic boulevards. Overall, participants prefer parks, such as Mayfair Park, where the authorities have more of a presence as well as parks such as Banana Park that are set aside from high traffic streets.

TABLE 3.2 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM FOCUS GROUPS

Facilities	Recreational Programming
Exercise equipment	Farmer's market
Updated playground equipment	Dancing classes for seniors
Outdoor exercise equipment	Youth sports
Amenities/Elements	
Community garden	
More crosswalks	
Comprehensive security lighting	

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Six (6) stakeholder interviews were held with leaders from local organizations:

1. East Rancho Dominguez Neighborhood Association
2. East Rancho Dominguez Library
3. South Bay Center for Counseling
4. Compton Jr. Posse Equestrian
5. El Nido Family Services
6. Community Lawyers

With their local knowledge, the stakeholders identified the three primary concerns with regards to recreation and green space for East Rancho Dominguez as:

- **Lack of recreational programming:** More recreational programming, especially fitness-focused program, are needed. There is also desire for a soccer field.
- **Insufficient green space for the population:** East Rancho Dominguez Park is being used to its maximum.
- **Accessibility to parks is an issue for low income families:** Community leaders identified the lack of transportation as a barrier to park use.

Overall, stakeholders stated that East Rancho Dominguez Park is being used to its maximum due to the density of the neighborhood and limited space for recreation. Community leaders identified some vacant spaces and lots that could transform these spaces as useful recreational facilities for the community. Stakeholders mentioned the need for a soccer field as many of the current fields are experiencing overuse from soccer activity. There was also strong support for a community garden project, a walking trail, and more fitness programs. Many expressed concerns over childhood obesity and think families would benefit from exercise programs. There was strong support for more youth programs. There was also a common desire to see parks in the area become sites for guest speakers, education, creative projects and community building.

Community leaders identified transportation as a barrier to access for many residents who are unable to walk to a park. Many stakeholders want parks to be built near locations that are visited often by families such as schools, hospitals, and grocery stores. Other accessibility issues were discussed such as the cost of recreational programming. Stakeholders explained that groups would make use of green space if there was more collaboration allowing residents a greater variety in recreational programming.

Key Issues and Concerns:

- More recreational programming and facilities are needed especially around fitness.
- East Rancho Dominguez Park is at maximum capacity.
- A number of local issues were identified including crime.

TABLE 3.3 NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Facilities
Soccer field
Community garden
Fitness station
Walking trail
Amenities/Elements
Law enforcement patrols in areas near park
New parks near neighborhood facilities

Stakeholders expressed a number of local issues, including unemployment, teen pregnancy, lack of youth activities, lack of community pride, public health concerns, law enforcement problems and perceived tensions between Latino and African American residents. Stakeholders want more programs that help to unite neighbors across racial lines. Many East Rancho Dominguez residents are not aware of the community’s boundaries and think that they live in the City of Compton leading to a lack of community pride and identity. Projects that foster a sense of community cohesion are necessary. Another issue is the lack of property owners, which creates a challenge for engaging community members to address neighborhood concerns and issues.

Stakeholders identified crime as an issue in their community, and mentioned that although the crime rate has decreased, the history of gang violence continues to affect the sense of safety. One stakeholder mentioned that if more people were at parks, there would be “more eyes” on the park, and the community’s crime rate would be lower. There was a desire for more sheriff patrol in East Rancho Dominguez. Stakeholders indicated that officers from the Sheriff’s Department have large patrol areas that include areas within the City of Compton and East Rancho Dominguez. Stakeholders feel that law enforcement officers would be more accountable if there are dedicated officers only patrolling East Rancho Dominguez. Other safety issues included homelessness, loitering, and illegal activities, such as illegal street vending. Some expressed concerns about a group of older men gathering to gamble, making some young mothers feel uncomfortable bringing their children there to play.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP (OCTOBER 12TH, 2013)

Approximately 20 community members attended a workshop. Participants engaged in collaborative planning activities that recorded their views on both current and future green space. In the first activity, **Activity Dots**, participants identified the types of activities they do at local parks, as well as what they would like to see. In the second activity, **Group Discussions**, residents described their vision for a greener and safer East Rancho Dominguez. In the third activity, **Input Mapping**, stakeholders drew on a map of East Rancho Dominguez to show their current sources of green space, obstacles and accessibility issues, and locations where they would like to see future green space. Approximately twelve children attended the workshop and participated in the dot-activity as well as designing their ideal park through a group collage activity.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

TABLE 3.4 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED DURING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>Crosswalks connecting park to library and senior center</p> <p>Park rules displayed prominently</p> <p>Vacant lots provide opportunities for garden projects</p>	<p>Recreational Programming</p> <p>Senior recreational programming</p> <p>Essential in maintaining activity and safety in green spaces</p> <p>Separation between senior activity space, and youth activity space</p>
<p>Safety</p> <p>Police patrol of the park and surrounding areas</p> <p>Concern of men loitering at park picnic tables making some users feel unsafe</p> <p>Homelessness in and around East Rancho Dominguez Park</p>	<p>Projects</p> <p>More places for peaceful walks, exercise or picnic</p> <p>Cited Dill Park and Salud Park as models of communal space for activities</p> <p>Interest in spaces for community gardens</p> <p>Focus should be on floral landscapes that will brighten and beautify the area</p>
<p>Lots</p> <p>Large lot at intersection of South Gibson Avenue and East Compton Boulevard</p> <p>Creating green spaces in abandoned areas will improve safety and reduce vandalism</p>	

Activity Dots Exercise

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

Activities You Do:

- **Take kids to playground (11)**
- **Picnic (10)**
- **Play organized sports (8)**
- **Exercise (8)**
- **Swim (7)**
- **Socialize (4)**
- **Read (2)**
- **Watch wildlife (0)**

Things You Would Like To See:

- **Exercise facilities (12)**
- **Bicycling (10)**
- **Lighting and security (11)**
- **Play fields (9)**
- **Walking Paths (8)**
- **Public art (5)**
- **Natural areas or features (5)**

Residents wrote-in the following miscellaneous park needs and opportunities in the space provided on the boards:

- A track around the current green space at East Rancho Dominguez Park
- Handicap accessible equipment and a special needs friendly park
- More security
- Sports programs for youth

Input Mapping Exercise

Using a map of East Rancho Dominguez, workshop participants identified places where they currently recreate, areas they felt were dangerous or difficult to travel, and spaces where they would like to see new open space or recreation amenities. Residents identified parks outside the community as sources of green space in addition to East Rancho Dominguez Parks. They identified speeding along routes and roads near parks as a key obstacle to use. Vacant lots were identified as important sites for future projects.

Where is it hard to walk?



The majority of participants pointed to surrounding pedestrian safety and traffic concerns. Many residents mentioned needing a safe crossing from East the East Rancho Dominguez Library to East Rancho Dominguez Park with flashing lights, or other measures to alert drivers of pedestrian activity. Groups also mentioned poor lighting and a lack of security as a barrier to using parks.

What parks or green spaces do you use?



Many residents of East Rancho Dominguez mentioned school grounds as providing green space for family use. Apart from East Rancho Dominguez Park, residents visit parks in Paramount, Kelly Park, Lueders Park and Burton Park.

Where do you want new green space?



There was strong support for crosswalks connecting the library with the senior center at East Rancho Dominguez Park. A number of vacant lots were identified, including at the intersection of South Gibson Avenue and East Compton Boulevard, as well as a lot on the northeastern corner of Atlantic Avenue and East Linsley Street. Other locations included a lot on East Myraah Street, and South Butler Avenue, and the northwest corner of East Compton Boulevard and South Cookacre Avenue where a fire destroyed an old skate park.

YOUTH ACTIVITY (OCTOBER 30TH, 2013)

Eleven (11) high school students at College Bridge Academy participated in a youth activity with three separate activities. The goal of the activity was to capture feedback and opinions concerning safety and recreational areas in their community.

In the first activity, **Safety/Mobility Mapping Activity**, participants identified the parks that they visit regularly, indicated any areas that they do not walk or bike through because of barriers such as sidewalks, traffic, or not enough lighting, and indicate any other areas that they do not walk through because of other safety issues. In the second activity, **School Design Activity**, students worked in pairs to re imagine their school campus and create designs for recreational and athletic areas. In the third activity, **Plant Potting Activity**, students created an individual pot and filled it with soil and planted seeds.

In the safety/mobility mapping activity, the majority of students said they visited Lueders Park on a regular basis. They also reported visiting a park nicknamed Banana Park. Students reported that the walkways along the riverbed near the 710 freeway are very dim at night. The students were concerned about threatening or unknown people who congregated in certain areas of the community. Some reasons for avoiding certain streets, including Long Beach Boulevard, or parks such as Lueders Park and East Rancho Dominguez Park, were discussed including drugs, violence, prostitution and the fear of pedophiles.

During the school design activity, most students wanted a running track, a turf field for soccer and football and a volleyball court. Students also want adequate lighting around these facilities. Other suggestions include more landscaping and benches near their school.

In the plant potting activity students learned about plant management and how to grow food at home.



TABLE 3.5 SUMMARY OF NEEDS

Amenities and Design Features
Running track
Turf field for soccer and football
Volleyball court
More lighting near sports facilities
Grass, trees, and flowers near their school
More benches near school
Safety Concerns
Walkways near riverbed are dim at night
Concerned about threatening or strange people at night
Avoid Long Beach Boulevard, and Lueders Park and East Rancho Dominguez Park because of drugs, violence, prostitution and the fear of pedophiles



COMMUNITY TOUR (FEBRUARY 1, 2014)

Ten (10) residents went on community tours of vacant lots in their community that could become public spaces. Tour sites were selected by community residents in previous workshops, focus groups and stakeholder interviews. At each site, community members answered a questionnaire about safety concerns and offered recommendations for potential uses of the site.

Site A refers to East Rancho Dominguez Park, the starting point of the tour, and was not included in the questionnaire activity.

Site B: 4337 East Palmerstone Street. Residents expressed concerns about gang activity in the area, but the benefit of the site is that it is located in a residential area, with a church across the street. This site could be transformed into a day care center if the house is renovated.

Site C: 12823 South Gibson Avenue. Residents expressed concerns about lack of lighting at this location. However, it has the benefit of being near a middle school and accessible to neighborhood children. The site could be turned into a community garden space or a dog park.

Site D: 4116 East Compton Boulevard. Residents expressed concerns about the high traffic in the area, and a lack of parking. Because of the proximity to East Rancho Dominguez Park, this site could be used as part of a walking route to the park or a rest area for people en route to the park. This site could also be used as a tot lot or a pocket park.

Site E: 4713 East Compton Boulevard. Residents expressed concerns about drug activity and crime in the area. However, some of the benefits included its adjacency to an apartment complex without green space and could be a community garden or tot lot.

Site F: 15518 Lime Avenue. Residents were concerned about the auto body shop next door, but it is near East Rancho Dominguez Park and could be used as part of a walking route to the park and Washington Avenue Tot Lot. A potential use for the site is a community garden.



SAFETY

Concurrently with the planning process for the East Rancho Dominguez Parks and Recreation Plan, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health worked with LANLT to conduct a study of health and safety in public spaces in the community. Following is a summary of the findings from this study relevant to parks and recreation planning in East Rancho Dominguez.

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 project’s 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
- 3 focus groups with youth, seniors, and adults
- Interviews with local leaders, law enforcement, and County employees
- Community workshops open to the entire community

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

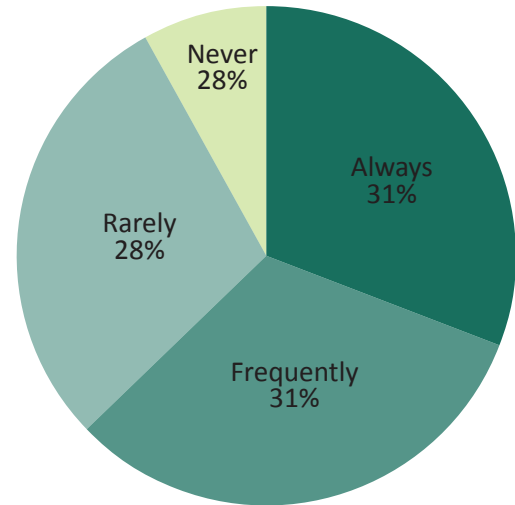
To help guide and orient this safety research, a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of policy experts, community voices, County agencies, law enforcement, and political representatives was formed to provide feedback on the Safety Assessment Framework and other areas of research and documentation. TAC members provided invaluable feedback on survey questions, research implementation, and important community contacts for moving the work forward. TAC members also provided context to initial research findings and provided feedback on early drafts of the Safety Chapter.

COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE (CSC)

The East Rancho Dominguez Community Steering Committee (CSC), formed in early 2014, consisted of parents, local activists, religious leaders, and park users. Members of the East Rancho Dominguez CSC have decades of experiences, community knowledge, and activism. As a starting point, the East Rancho Dominguez CSC reviewed the Land Trust’s research findings. The CSC then took a leadership role in the implementation and facilitation of surveys and focus groups.

The CSC’s main task was to develop its own research project, centering on a survey of local neighborhood’s preferences in regards to park recreational programming. Teaming with local

DO YOU FEEL SAFE WHEN YOU VISIT YOUR LOCAL PARK?



youth, CSC members filled out hundreds of surveys at local parks, schools, and neighborhoods. Throughout the course of their entire project, the CSC accomplished:

- Community-wide youth training and workshops
- Successful grants for additional recreational programming in the community

COMMUNITY SAFETY PROFILE

GENERAL FINDINGS

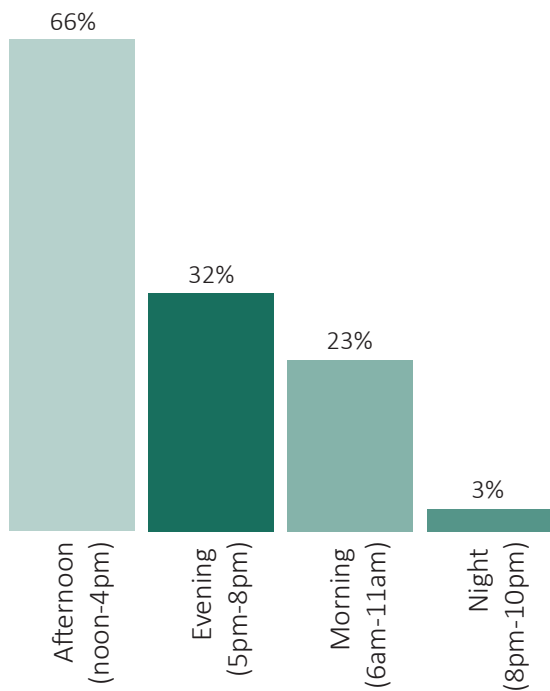
The majority of East Rancho Dominguez park users feel safe at their local park, with only 28% of respondents claiming to never feel safe. Approximately two-thirds (66%) also say they visit the park at least once a week, with about half of that number (32%) stating that they visit several times a week.

According to the survey, the most popular activities were some form of exercising and socializing. For example, 43 percent of respondents said they go to the park to walk, and 36 percent mentioned some other form of exercise. About 42 percent said they went to the park to socialize, have picnics (30 percent), events (20 percent), and private parties (19 percent).

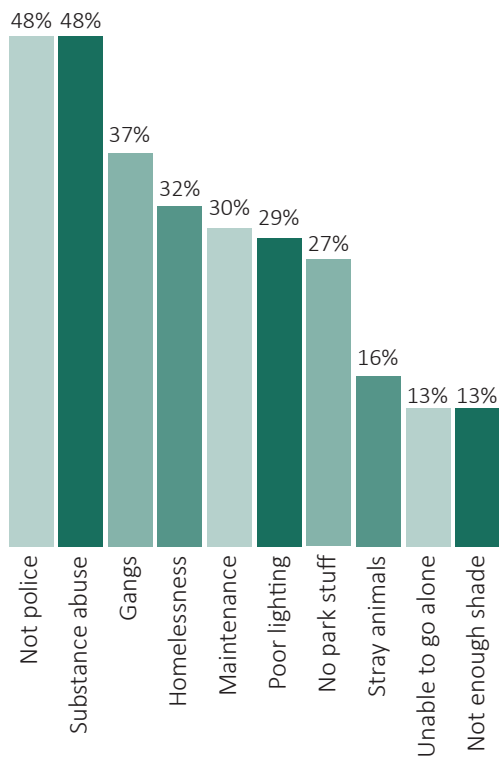
However, park users also described a series of similar safety concerns. Supervision – which many interpreted simply as security, either by park staff or other personnel – was paramount. However, just as important were incidents of substance abuse and gangs; many residents suggested that the overall lack of supervision is a major issue.

Along with supervision and illicit behavior, respondents also cited the presence of stray animals and homeless individuals as major deterrents to increased park use. For many, infrastructure problems were of high concern, such as bathroom maintenance, poor lighting, and the lack of shade.

WHAT TIMES DO YOU TYPICALLY VISIT?



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



SUPERVISION

A wide variety of park users reported that supervision is tied to park safety, and that there is not enough of it at East Rancho Dominguez Park. Although the CSC encountered many community members who recognized that they themselves had an important role to play in park safety and supervision, much of the community’s feedback centered on the latent potential in existing resources that can be marshalled to increase supervision at the park. Specifically, most park users described feeling safer when park staff are visibly “manning the facility” and available in case of an emergency. One parent in particular pointed to nearby Mayfair Park as feeling “safer” due to the consistent presence of law enforcement.

LIGHTING

One park user said, “as soon as it gets dark, everyone clears out of the park because of the poor lighting and what goes on there.” Although many other community voices do not describe themselves as necessarily leaving at sunset, the comment does reflect the community’s wider belief that a well-lit park is a safe park. Participants from one of the focus groups indicated that adequate lighting would make the park feel more welcoming and safe, even going so far as to prioritize increased lighting over added landscaping. When asked to describe major obstacles to using the park more often, almost half of all survey respondents cited poor lighting, and increased lighting was one of the most popular recommendations survey respondents wrote in when asked for general suggestions to improve park safety. Specifically, many park users requested additional lighting around areas that they would like to use after sunset, such as the communal areas and the basketball courts.

COMMUNICATION

Currently, there are not enough venues for park users to communicate with authorities about park safety questions and concerns. Sheriff’s deputies attend the monthly Neighborhood Association meetings, where they announce upcoming changes and answer questions. However, there is no regular meeting where Parks Bureau deputies, park staff, and community members can discuss park-specific issues. To that end, the CSC heard many community members request a regular “park stakeholders” meeting.

One of the most common complaints from park users is their own self-perceived lack of knowledge about park rules, management, and resources. Asked by a CSC survey if they had ever spoken to a park employee, the vast majority (63%) of park respondents said “no.” A regular, standing meeting of park stakeholders can be an important stepping-stone in overcoming this problem and beginning the important relationship-building necessary for park safety. So important was improving communication to the CSC that members developed their own survey to ask their neighbors how they would like to hear about new recreational programming and other park updates.

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

One of the concerns local park users are most vocal about center around Atlantic Avenue and its related safety issues for pedestrians and motorists. A food truck that regularly parks just south of East Rancho Dominguez Park on Atlantic Avenue is large enough that it obstructs the vision of oncoming northbound drivers to those exiting the parking lot. Extending the red curb south along Atlantic Avenue would, in the view of many park users, eliminate the problem.

The jaywalking problem along the same street, on the other hand, offers no easy solution. However, many community members firmly believe that it is only a matter of time until a pedestrian is hurt attempting to cross Atlantic Avenue while traveling between East Rancho Dominguez Park and the new library. Although some are familiar with the specific challenges of creating a crosswalk to connect these two facilities, many in the community are not. Thus, there continues to be demands for a lighted, pedestrian crosswalk. Ultimately, the CSC sees this as an issue that needs to be addressed soon.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Although park users acknowledged that patrolling increased after the Sheriff’s Department assumed responsibility for park security, an increased police presence was one of the most popular demands that the CSC heard from the community. About one-third (33%) of survey respondents claimed to have personally witnessed illegal activity at the park. Many of the community members the CSC talked to recalled positive experiences with local law enforcement, from youth who had been given rides home after park events to seniors who credited police with putting an end to interracial drug disputes which used to plague the park. However, the community still felt that response times could be faster, with some focus group participants stating that in many cases deputies do not show up until hours after a call is made. A group of students even cited the lack of responsiveness as a reason that they themselves did not rely on law enforcement when they witnessed a crime. In addition to increased patrols, the community specifically requested more of an evening presence by law enforcement. When asked about safety issues that deter park use, the highest response (48%) was the lack of a police presence.

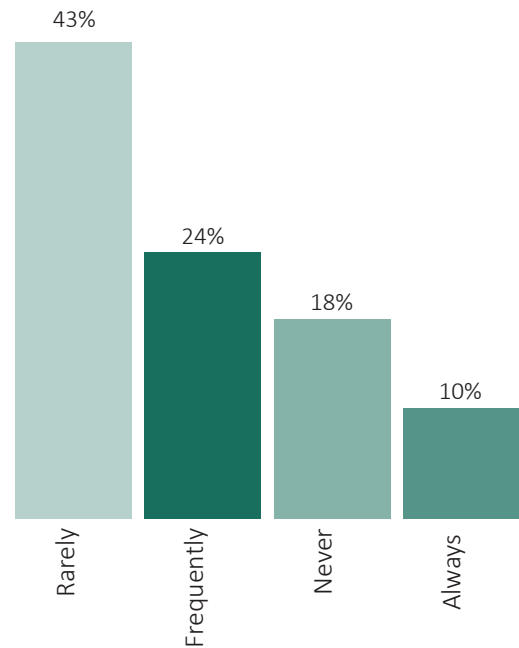
RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The overall lack of recreational programming in East Rancho Dominguez is a major concern. Unfortunately, East Rancho Dominguez Park is one of very few resource providers in the neighborhood. According to the survey created and distributed by the CSC, most residents who participate in programs do so at the park, mostly in organized sports. However, the CSC found a deep desire in the community for more diverse forms of recreational programming, particularly exercise classes, arts programming, and programs that would increase the community’s access to healthy food.

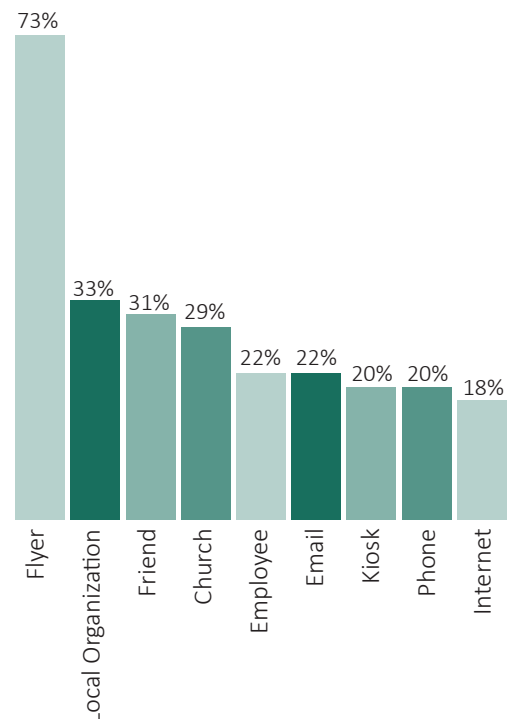
As part of its own investigation, the East Rancho Dominguez CSC discovered that the two largest obstacles to park users using existing recreational programming are safety concerns

(43%) and affordability (43%). While the CSC has independently secured resources for more recreational programming at the park in 2015, they would also like to see more resources come from the park itself, a desire that may be fulfilled with the current expansion of the park’s facilities. By bringing in more recreational programming that is relevant to the community and building off improved community relations, East Rancho Dominguez Park can increase in use and safety at the same time.

DO YOU SEE POLICE PATROLLING?



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT FUTURE RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING?



SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

KEY ISSUES

LACK OF GREEN SPACE. East Rancho Dominguez is the only significant park space in the community and access is limited.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING. Residents would like to see a more diverse array of park programs that respond to the community's needs and desires especially focusing on fitness and exercise.

LACK OF SPACES FOR YOUTH, SENIORS AND FAMILIES. There is a strong interest in creating spaces for all types of user groups, especially youth, seniors, and families.

SAFETY. Residents are interested in issues that address community safety, such as speeding vehicles, prostitution, and homelessness.

PEDESTRIAN CROSSWALKS. Residents would like to see more crosswalks, and pedestrian connections between the library, the senior center, and East Rancho Dominguez Park.

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

1. Increase green space in East Rancho Dominguez.
2. Develop recreational spaces that are more readily accessible to the public and in locations frequented by the public.
3. Add more outdoor exercise equipment and create new spaces for community fitness including soccer fields, and walking paths.
4. Enhance streetscapes to improve the pedestrian experience by increasing green space and calming traffic.
5. Install additional lighting to allow for night-time use of East Rancho Dominguez Park.
6. Increase Sheriff's presence in the community, especially near East Rancho Dominguez Park.
7. Promote additional recreational programming opportunities for youth, seniors, and families.
8. Include spaces for community gardens and farmers markets to promote healthy eating.

A person is playing basketball on an outdoor court. The person is in the center of the frame, wearing a dark tank top and shorts, and is holding a basketball. The court is surrounded by trees and a building in the background. A tall light pole is visible on the right side of the court. The scene is captured in a wide-angle shot, showing the court's boundaries and the surrounding environment.

4 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The East Rancho Dominguez community-based needs assessment builds on the existing conditions analysis presented in Chapter Two and community outreach results presented in Chapter Three of this plan. Additionally, it incorporates recreational trends and standards, and spatial analysis to present an overall picture of parks and recreational needs in East Rancho Dominguez.

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 Rancho Dominguez 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 Rancho Dominguez.

Facility need was identified through analysis of existing conditions, trends and standards in parks and recreation, and community outreach, while spatial need was developed through a geographical analysis of existing parks and green space and how easily they can be accessed by the community.

The spatial needs analysis additionally identified potential parkland opportunity sites in East Rancho Dominguez. These sites have potential for new park 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 identified need.

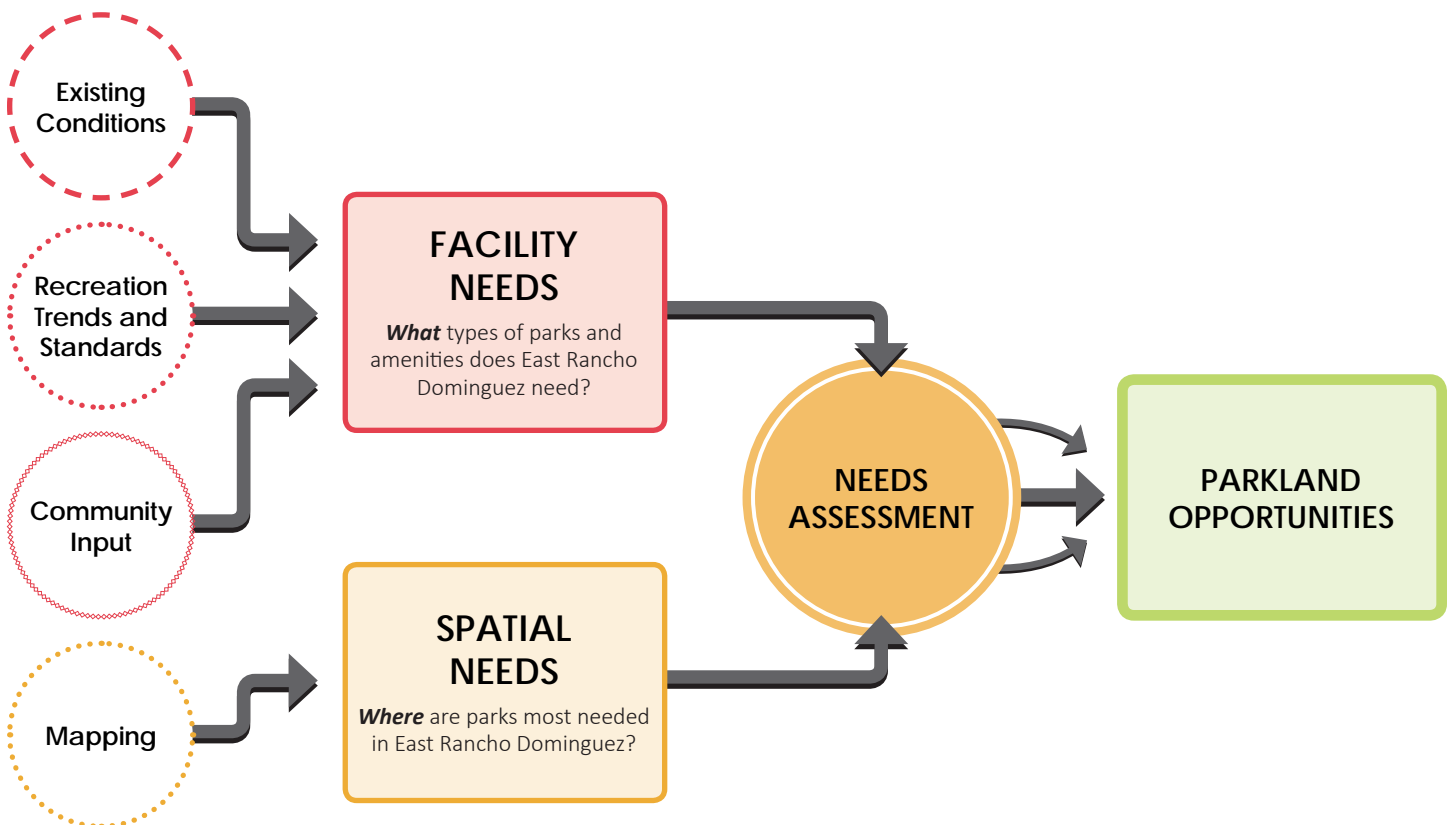
FACILITY NEEDS EXISTING CONDITIONS

As described in Chapter Two, East Rancho Dominguez Park is the only County Park located in East Rancho Dominguez. The park is approximately 5.51 acres in size and the population of East Rancho Dominguez is approximately 15,135 people. This translates to slightly more than 0.4 acres per 1,000 residents, which is significantly lower than the Los Angeles County General Plan goal of 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 people.

PARK AMENITIES

East Rancho Dominguez Park is a heavily used facility and it is not sufficient in size to meet the demand for parks and recreational spaces in the community. In addition to not providing enough recreational space for the resident population, East Rancho Dominguez Park is missing some key facilities that are common in parks throughout the County, such as **splash pads, fitness zones, stage or performance space, art or monuments, softball fields, football fields, volleyball court, skate park, walking paths, swimming pool, or computer lab.** East Rancho Dominguez Park cannot accommodate all of these additional

FIGURE 4.1 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND SITE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS



uses, although park renovation, such as new fitness stations and a walking path along the perimeter might allow for expanded use. The multipurpose field shows significant signs of wear, mostly from informal soccer games. Field renovation, and the installation of new sports amenities, such as movable soccer goals, could improve this facility and increase recreational opportunities. New parklands and recreational facilities will likely be necessary to accommodate other uses.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Public health is a high priority for East Rancho Dominguez residents and it is common to hear residents advocating for healthy food options. Many residents who live in the northern part of the community are not within a half mile of a grocery store or produce market. Incorporating more outdoor exercise facilities and opportunities for healthy eating, such as community gardens and farmers markets, may further improve the health of community members.

COMMUNITY HUB

The intersection of S. Atlantic Avenue and E. Compton Boulevard is at the “heart” of East Rancho Dominguez. The park, the library, and the community’s main grocery store make this a central hub for residents. However, having stronger infrastructure connections, and recreational programming options could increase this feeling of a community hub. Programs at East Rancho Dominguez could be advertised at the library, or programs at the library could be advertised at East Rancho Dominguez Park. Public events, such as street fairs, could be held within this area.

Pedestrian connection to the library on S. Atlantic Avenue and East Rancho Dominguez Park are just as important as creating new recreational programming. Currently, there are no crosswalks from the library to East Rancho Dominguez Park and many users of the park report having to cross heavy traffic. The park is located between the two areas with the highest concentrations of collisions in the community. Having a crosswalk or directed signage to the existing crosswalk, or directed signage to the existing crosswalk with a lighted pedestrian sign could encourage safe passage from these important community facilities.

CONNECTIVITY

E. Compton Boulevard is an important commercial corridor within East Rancho Dominguez. However, E. Compton Boulevard is dedicated to vehicles with wide lanes and fast moving traffic. Greening and infrastructure improvements, such as bicycle lanes, a sidewalk trail, traffic calming, benches, street trees, median plantings, and public art along this route could increase pedestrian activity to key community amenities including East Rancho Dominguez while expanding overall tree and shrub planting in the community.

While the Los Angeles River Trail is close by, there is only one proposed bike trail from East Rancho Dominguez Park to the Los Angeles River Trail. Connection to Los Angeles River is important as it could serve as an important connection to a

walking and bicycling trail, and further serve as a connection to more green space.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In addition to providing recreational resources to residents, East Rancho Dominguez Park provides important ecological services, such as air quality improvements, stormwater runoff treatment, and wildlife habitat. In particular, as noted in Chapter Two, the trees in East Rancho Dominguez Park provide significant environmental benefits. Improvements in East Rancho Dominguez Park 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. Some parks throughout the County are utilizing green techniques, such as reduced irrigation strategies, energy production through solar panels, or water conservation facilities. East Rancho Dominguez Park currently does not have any of these features.

The 710 Freeway is located to the east of East Rancho Dominguez, and some areas of the community are within 500 feet of the freeway. These conditions directly impact air quality in the community. Urban greening initiatives, such as planting new trees, could potentially mitigate some of these issues.

SAFETY

There are few crime hot spots throughout the community, but East Rancho Dominguez Park has a high concentration of crime in the northern portion of the park. The crime hot spot is centered along E. Compton Boulevard and fans out north/south along S. Atlantic Avenue. The area surrounding East Rancho Dominguez park also appears to have a slightly higher level of gang-related crime than the rest of the community.

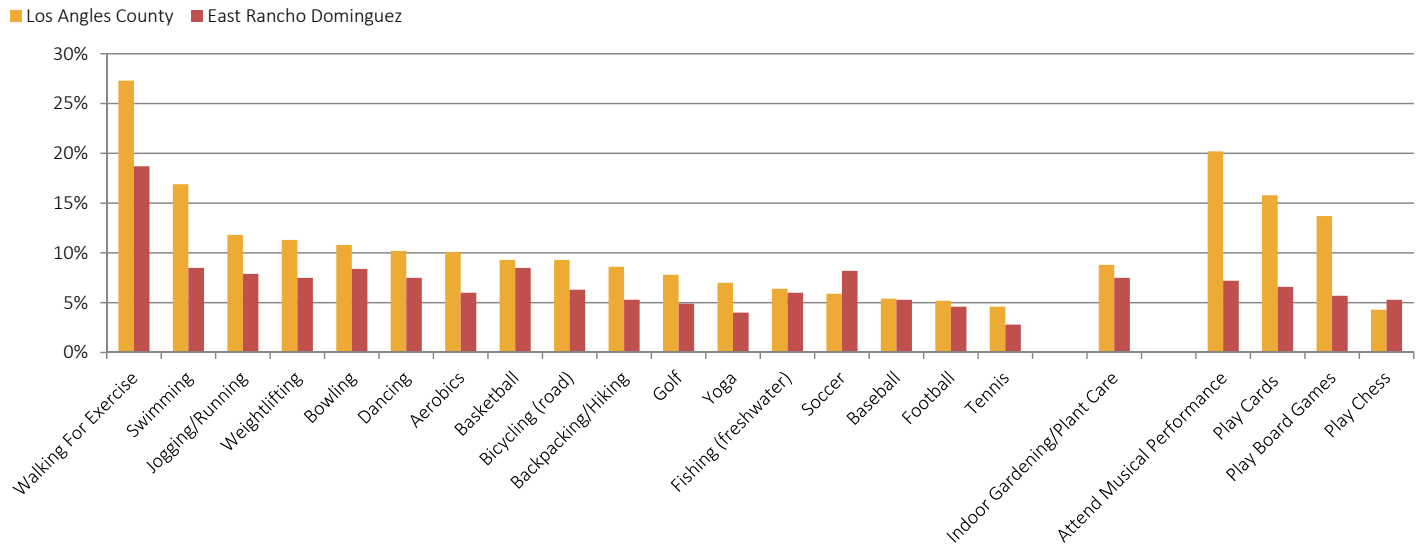
Higher crime rates near East Rancho Dominguez Park discourage some residents from using the park, or limits the time that residents use the park. Facilities that emphasize public safety and facilitate community gathering could potentially decrease crime levels. East Rancho Dominguez Park does not have a Parks After Dark Program and could benefit from this active evening recreational programming.

PARK USER DEMOGRAPHICS

Several demographic factors have potential impacts on the types of facilities needed in East Rancho Dominguez. According to US Census data this community, has a significantly larger Latino population (82%) as compared to the rest of Los Angeles County (48%), and African American population (15%) as compared to the rest of Los Angeles County (9%).

East Rancho Dominguez has more households with children under 18 (3%) compared to Los Angeles County (21%). This demonstrates a particularly strong need to plan for park amenities that support families with children. The median income of East Rancho Dominguez is \$46,400, noticeably lower than the County’s median income of \$56,200, indicating a need for public or other subsidized recreational programming.

FIGURE 4.2 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION RATES FROM ESRI BUSINESS ANALYST



**RECREATIONAL TRENDS AND STANDARDS
ESRI BUSINESS ANALYST**

ESRI’s Business Analyst software provides a breakdown of market potential for sports and leisure activities. This report presents the percentage of the adult population of an area that currently participates in these types of activities. Figure 4.2 shows high ranking activities in East Rancho Dominguez and Los Angeles County that impact parks and recreation development.

Walking for exercise is the dominant form of physical activity for adults in East Rancho Dominguez and Los Angeles County. This is consistent with current trends in the State of California and was also evident in the results from the community outreach. Basketball is the second most popular recreational activity in East Rancho Dominguez, although there is only one basketball court in the community. This further suggests a need for more basketball courts in the community. Bowling and soccer are also popular activities in East Rancho Dominguez.

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.¹

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 Rancho Dominguez.

- Recreation patterns will be greatly influenced by California’s rapidly increasing Latino population. When surveyed,

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

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.²

- 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 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.³ 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.⁴ 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, 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.

3 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.

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

FIGURE 4.3 ADULT RESPONSES TO USUAL ACTIVITIES ENGAGED AT PARKS

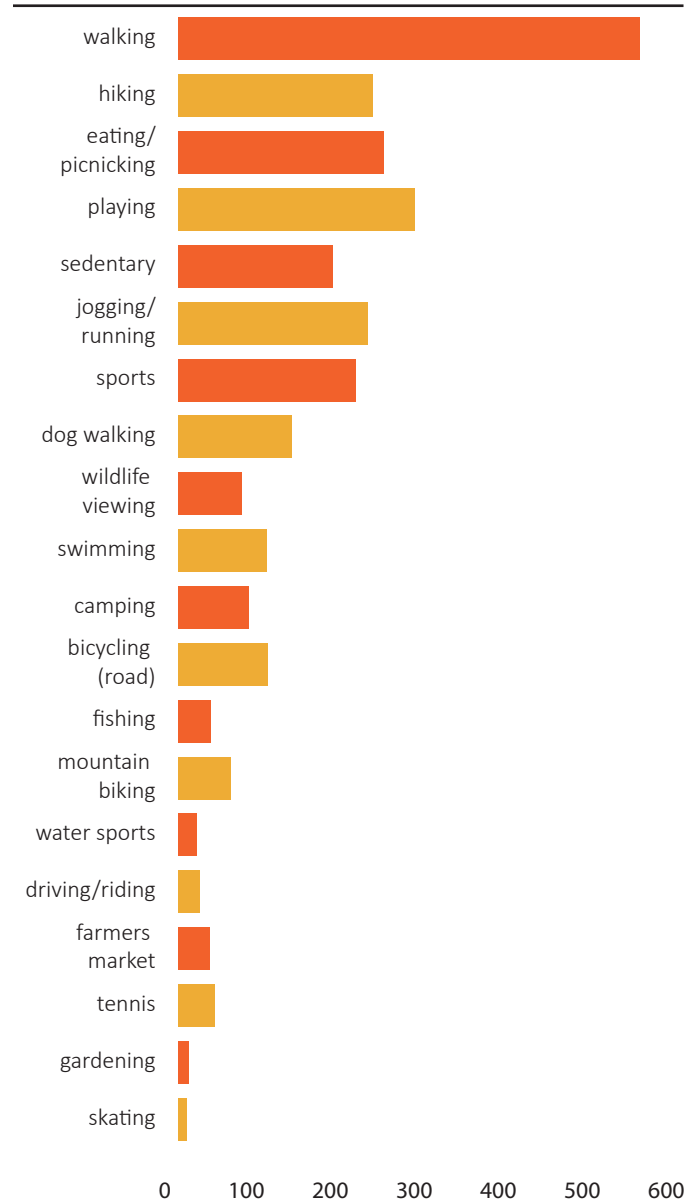


FIGURE 4.4 ADULT RESPONSES TO IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES

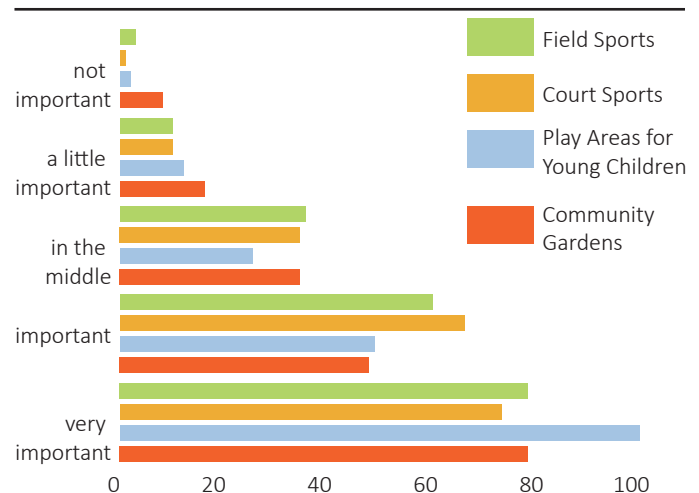


FIGURE 4.5 AGE GROUPS OF YOUTH RESPONDENTS

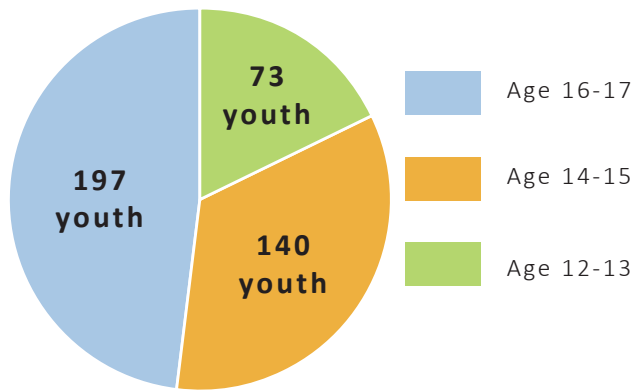
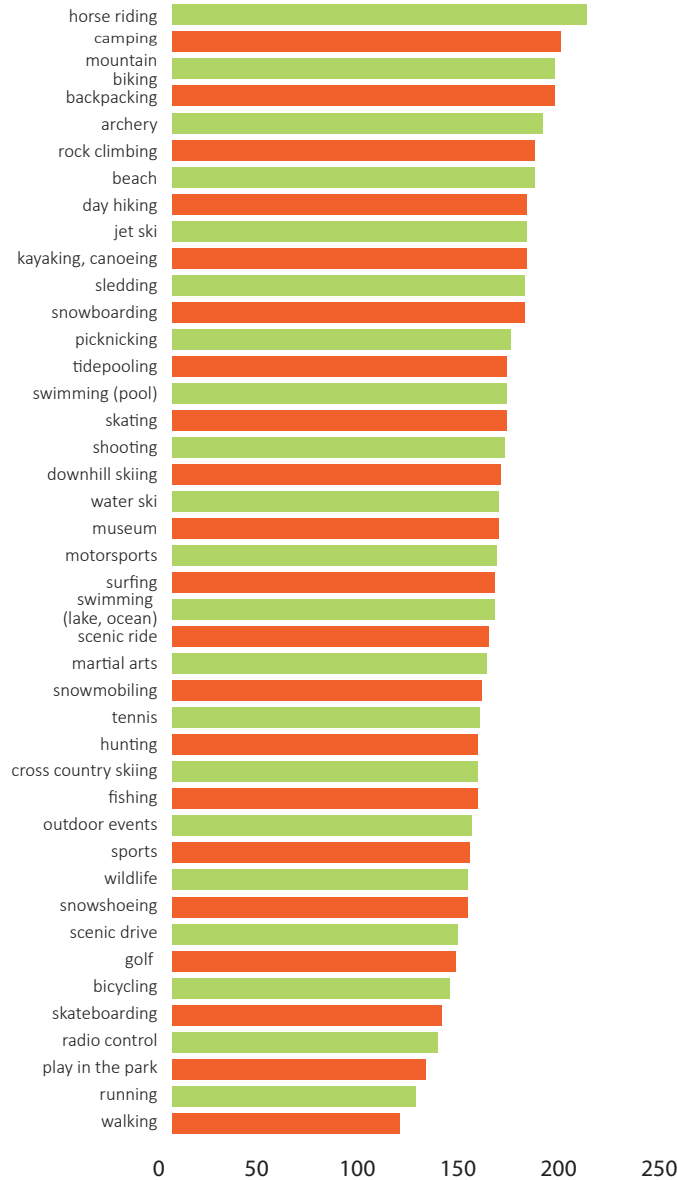


FIGURE 4.6 YOUTH RESPONSES TO WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO IN PARKS

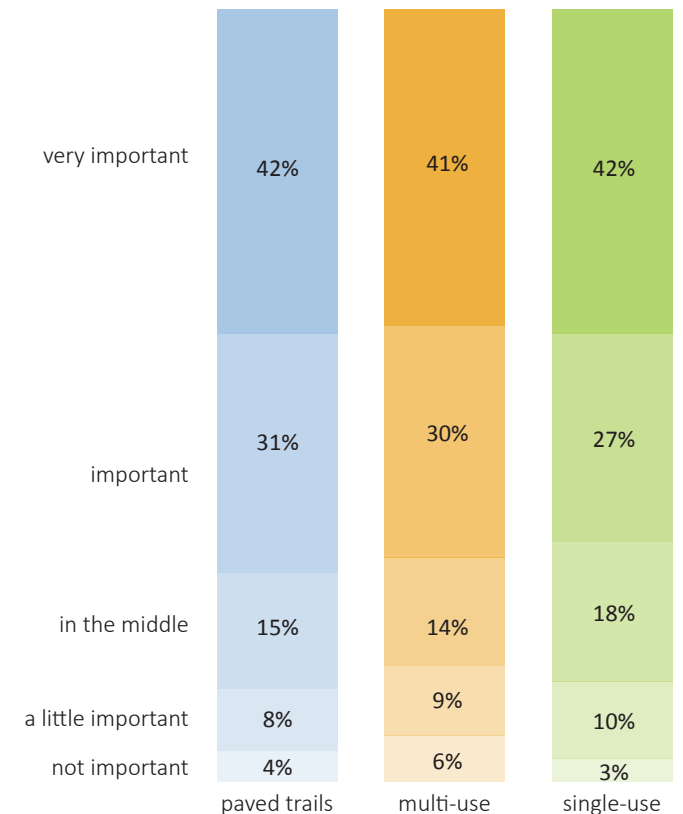


The mail or online questionnaire for adults additionally asked respondents to evaluate the importance of various trail types, including paved trails, multi-use trails, and single-use trails. Most respondents indicated that all trail types were “important” to “very important.” Respondents could weigh 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

East Rancho Dominguez residents recognize that there is a need for more parks in their community, as East Rancho Dominguez Park is being used to its capacity. Many of the facilities, including the multipurpose field, are overused. Participants specifically expressed a desire for exercise stations and equipment at East Rancho Dominguez Park. In particular, East Rancho Dominguez community members expressed a concern for child obesity, and there was strong support for more exercise facilities and a walking trail.

FIGURE 4.7 ADULT RESPONSES TO IMPORTANCE OF TRAILS



Community members also identified the need for more police patrolling of parks and the community. Many people, especially parents, do not feel safe at East Rancho Dominguez Park due to homelessness and loitering. Some mothers mentioned that they do not feel safe in the park while watching their children play. Community members expressed issues of competing uses, such as too many people sitting idle at picnic tables, while families wanted a place to watch their children play. Some suggestions were to have more Sheriff deputies patrolling the area near the park. Other suggestions included having more comprehensive security lighting. Youth in particular felt unsafe at night in East Rancho Dominguez Park.

Another concern that local park users expressed was having more crosswalks that connect East Rancho Dominguez Park to the library. Residents explained that cars often speed down E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue, and they are concerned about accidents.

Outreach responses relating to activity spaces or facilities needed were accumulated and synthesized to provide a picture of the types of green space and public amenities that residents would like to see in their community; these are shown in Table 4.1. Community input focused on four topics:

- **COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENING** includes strategies to approach greening for the entire community or high priority areas.
- **PARK ELEMENTS** include features that residents would like to see in park spaces or other places in the community.
- **ACTIVITIES/EVENTS** include suggestions for specific activities or events.
- **PARK MANAGEMENT AND SAFETY NEEDS** include suggestions for specific safety interventions or elements.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAM FEEDBACK

Community residents indicated that there is a significant lack of recreational programming in East Rancho Dominguez. The over arching theme was a desire for fitness programs. Residents would like to see more senior programs, as well as adult recreational programming with a specific focus on exercise classes. The senior center might meet some of this need.

Residents expressed a number of issues specific to youth, including teen pregnancy and a lack of recreational programming for older youth. Teen participants in the community outreach events expressed interest for more arts programming, as well as exercise classes and programs that would increase the community's access to food. Many residents expressed interest in a community gardens program as well as opportunities for more farmers markets. Community members also wanted to see guest speakers, education events, and creative projects. In addition, residents supported community-building events, which would help to promote community identity and cohesion.

TABLE 4.1 COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

Community-wide Greening
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green spaces that people can be proud of • More green spaces near popular facilities • Safer streets • Walking paths and pedestrian connections from parks to community facilities
Park Elements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running track • Turf field for soccer and football • Volleyball court • More lighting near sports facilities • More benches • More grass, trees and flowers near schools • Community garden • Outdoor fitness equipment • Exercise equipment • Public art • Natural areas or features • Updated playground equipment • Walking track
Activities/Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer's market • Senior recreational programming • Youth sports • Fitness classes • Nutrition education and gardening education • Arts programming
Park Management and Safety Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheriffs patrolling area near park • Park rules displayed prominently • Comprehensive security lighting • Crosswalk connecting library and senior center • Organize a standing meeting of park stakeholders to build a more robust relationship around safety

SUMMARY OF FACILITY NEEDS

Facilities help define a park or recreational space. Based on the research described above, the following is a summary of the facilities that East Rancho Dominguez 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 Rancho Dominguez park system.

1. Field Space with Durable Surface Material

East Rancho Dominguez Park shows significant signs of wear and there is continued demand for field spaces, especially soccer fields. This park can be enhanced for improved wear resistance. New fields would alleviate some of the demand on existing ones.



2. Exercise Facilities, Sports Courts and Opportunities to Walk

East Rancho Dominguez residents would like to see more opportunities to exercise in their community. Additional exercise facilities could be provided including outdoor exercise equipment, and new walking and running paths. Walking is popular in the community, and an expanded trail network is a good method of linking green space and other facilities near East Rancho Dominguez Park. Residents also expressed a desire for new basketball courts and a volleyball court.



3. Healthy Food

Access to fresh fruits and vegetables makes a dramatic impact on public health. The community is concerned about obesity and having new gardens or regular farmers markets could bring new sources of healthy produce into the community.



4. Safe Facilities and Safe Corridors

Safe routes to parks and community space improve access and provide new opportunities for exercise. Residents also need to be confident that they will be safe visiting and traveling to parks in their community. Safe places are well supervised, well maintained, and well lit. Safe routes are pedestrian friendly, free of violence, and easy to travel. All new projects in East Rancho Dominguez should include strategies to improve community safety and avoid creating unsafe conditions.



5. Play Spaces, Tot Lots, and Spaces for Teens

Approximately 10 percent of the East Rancho Dominguez population is under five years of age, and approximately 35 percent is under eighteen. Safe places to play within close proximity to homes is an important attribute of a park system. East Rancho Dominguez Park has one tot lot, and the community could benefit from more so that all households with children are within walking distance of a playground. The community does not have facilities that are dedicated to teens. This is particularly valuable, as these spaces are safe places for older youth to spend time in a supervised environment.



6. Gathering Places and Event Spaces

Park spaces in the community are considered important gathering places. Currently, picnic areas at East Rancho Dominguez Park are often crowded. In addition, outdoor event facilities such as amphitheaters or outdoor movie areas would provide important opportunities to bring people into public space.



7. Energy Conservation and Production

East Rancho Dominguez Park does not produce any energy on-site through solar panels or other alternative means. New infrastructure could increase the sustainability potential at parks and recreation spaces.



8. Green Infrastructure

Trees and plants provide vital ecological services throughout the community. These facilities are currently underutilized and could be significantly expanded.



CONNECTING FACILITY NEEDS TO PARK TYPES

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 1 to 2 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 areas 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.

TABLE 4.2 PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

System	Facility	Suggested Size/Width
Local Park Types	Community Park	10-20 acres
	Neighborhood Park	3-10 acres
	Pocket Park	< 3 acres
	Park Node	¼ Acre or less
Regional Park Types	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'
Other	Multi-Benefit Parks	Varies
	School Sites	Varies
	City Parks and Facilities	Varies
	Private Recreational Facility	Varies
	Greenways	Varies









- **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.
- **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.
- **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 Rancho Dominguez. In addition to the parkland classification types, the table also includes existing park improvements, as some needs can be met within existing facilities.

TABLE 4.3 TYPES OF PARKLAND TO MEET NEED

		Improvements to East Rancho Dominguez Park	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		•	•	•					•	•	•	
Exercise Facilities, Sports Courts and Opportunities to Walk		•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•
Healthy Food			•	•	•				•	•	•	
Safe Facilities and Safe Corridors		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Play Spaces, Tot Lots and Spaces for Teens			•	•	•	•	•		•	•		•
Gathering Places and Event Space		•	•	•	•	•			•	•		•
Energy Conservation and Production		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Green Infrastructure		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The spatial need analysis takes into account all land within East Rancho Dominguez 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 spatial park need in East Rancho Dominguez. Population was calculated in two ways in order to best capture the need of each area. First, total population in East Rancho Dominguez was summed for areas within one-half-mile of each grid cell. Second, unserved population residing in the parkland gap areas in East Rancho Dominguez was calculated. 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.

FIGURE 4.8 Spatial Factors that Determine Areas of High Parkland Need?

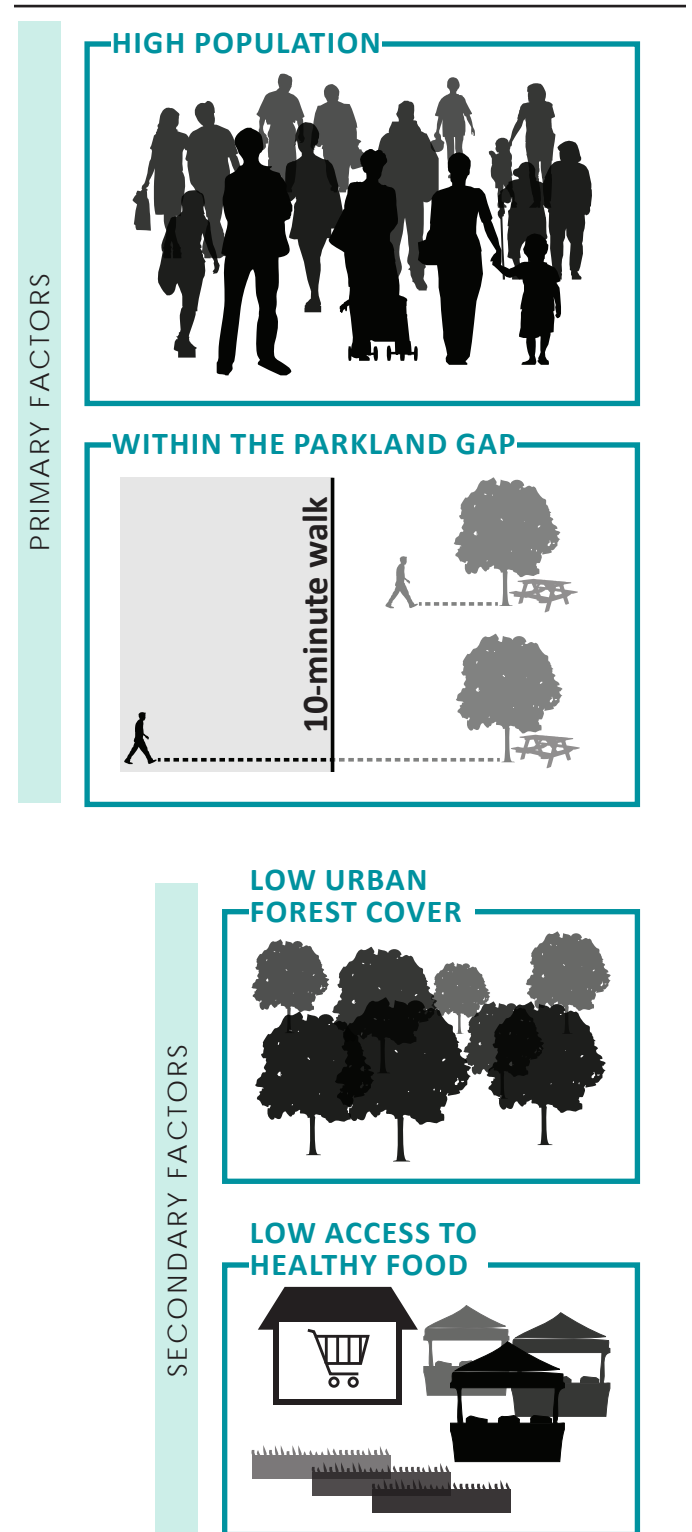
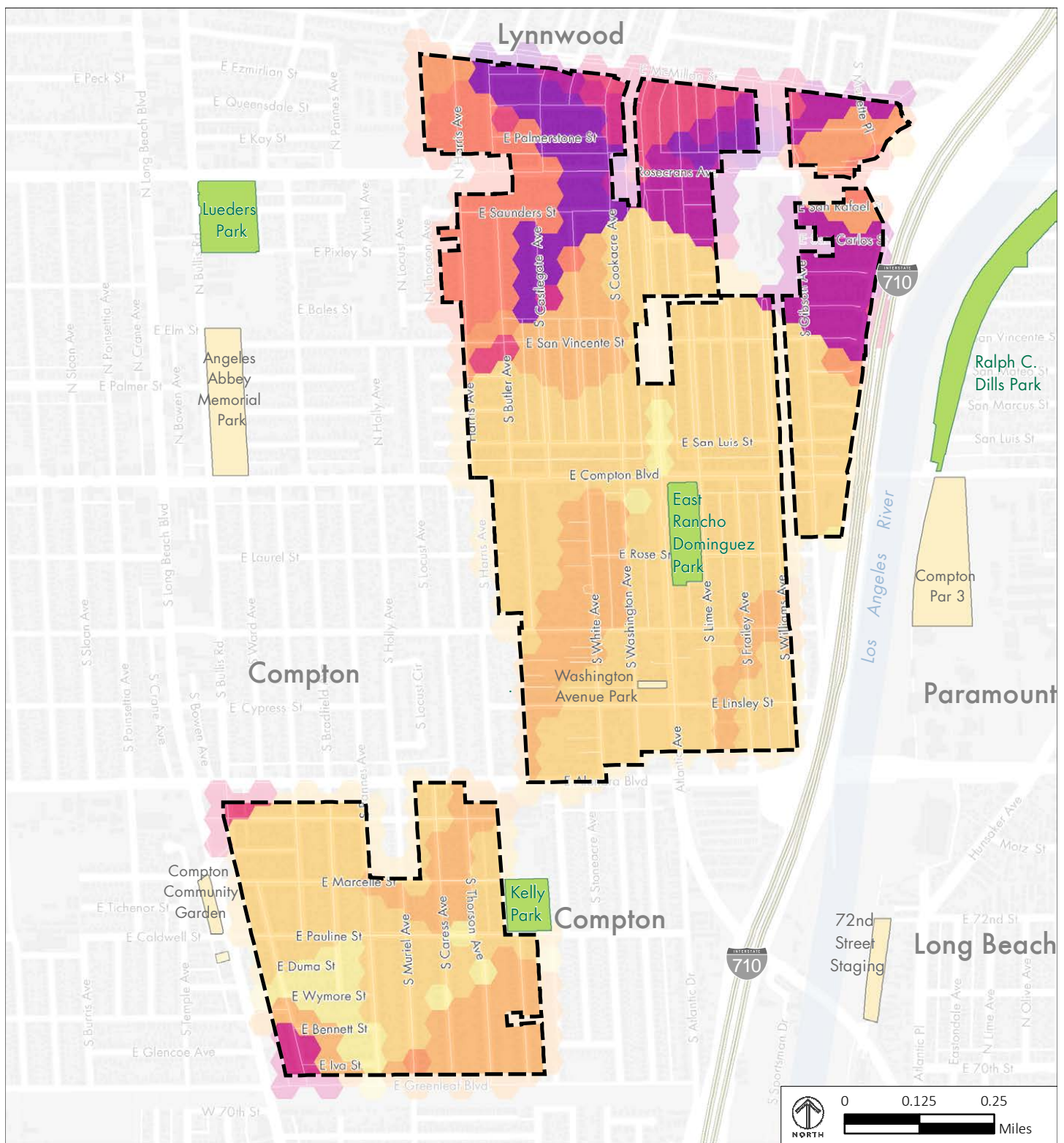
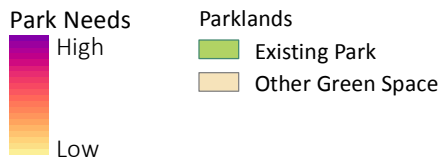


FIGURE 4.9 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ SPATIAL NEEDS MAP



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



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 Rancho Dominguez available for new park development. Following is a summary of the opportunity types in East Rancho Dominguez or within close proximity to the community. Table 4.4 lists the opportunity types and quantifies their size where possible.

VACANT LAND OR BUILDINGS

Properties classified as vacant by the Los Angeles County Assessors Office, and sites identified as vacant by the community, were mapped in East Rancho Dominguez. Some of these sites are located on the street corners, which are more desirable for park development than interior parcels, as corner lots are easier to access and patrol for law enforcement. In total, there are 88 parcels of vacant land, equaling 15 acres, and of those, 47 parcels are located on corners. However, most of these sites are small parcels, individually with an area of less than 0.25 acres. Most of these parcels are located on the commercial corridors of E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue. The vacant land or buildings could potentially be used to create a network of green spaces.

SCHOOL SITES

There are two private school facilities located entirely within East Rancho Dominguez, Tower of Faith Christian Academy, and Children “R” Us. Whaley Middle School and Kelly Elementary School border East Rancho Dominguez Park and have been included in the calculations shown in Table 4.4. Whaley Middle School and Kelly Elementary School are larger schools that offer more opportunities for shared community use. Whaley Middle School has two large multi-purpose fields, basketball courts, and blacktop areas for other sports or active recreation. Kelly Elementary School has several basketball courts, and two playgrounds along with other court space. Kelly Elementary School is also adjacent to Kelly Park. There are no current joint-use agreements at any schools. Implementing joint-use agreements could expand recreational options to the greater community outside of the school population through access to sports fields, courts, or gardens.

UTILITY PROPERTIES

Utility corridors contain transmission towers and overhead utility lines. The space underneath remains clear of development, allowing the managing agency access to the lines and towers. Directly outside the borders of East Rancho Dominguez, there is one utility line, that is owned and maintained by Southern California Edison (SCE). A portion of the site contains large towers with overhead lines, which could limit potential park use, although with proper fencing and signage other sections of the site could potentially be transformed into a park. A section of the corridor in Compton became a park called Greenleaf Park.

TABLE 4.4 POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO PARKLAND INVENTORY

Parkland Opportunity Type	Parcels	Acres
Vacant Land or Buildings	88	15
Vacant Land or Buildings on Corner	47	7
School Sites*	5	34
Utility Corridors and Sites**	18	25
Freeways	n/a	n/a
Sidewalks and Street Right-of-ways	n/a	n/a

*The acreage for schools includes both Whaley Middle School and Kelly Elementary School

**The acreage for utility corridor includes an area just outside the boundary of East Rancho Dominguez.

FREEWAYS

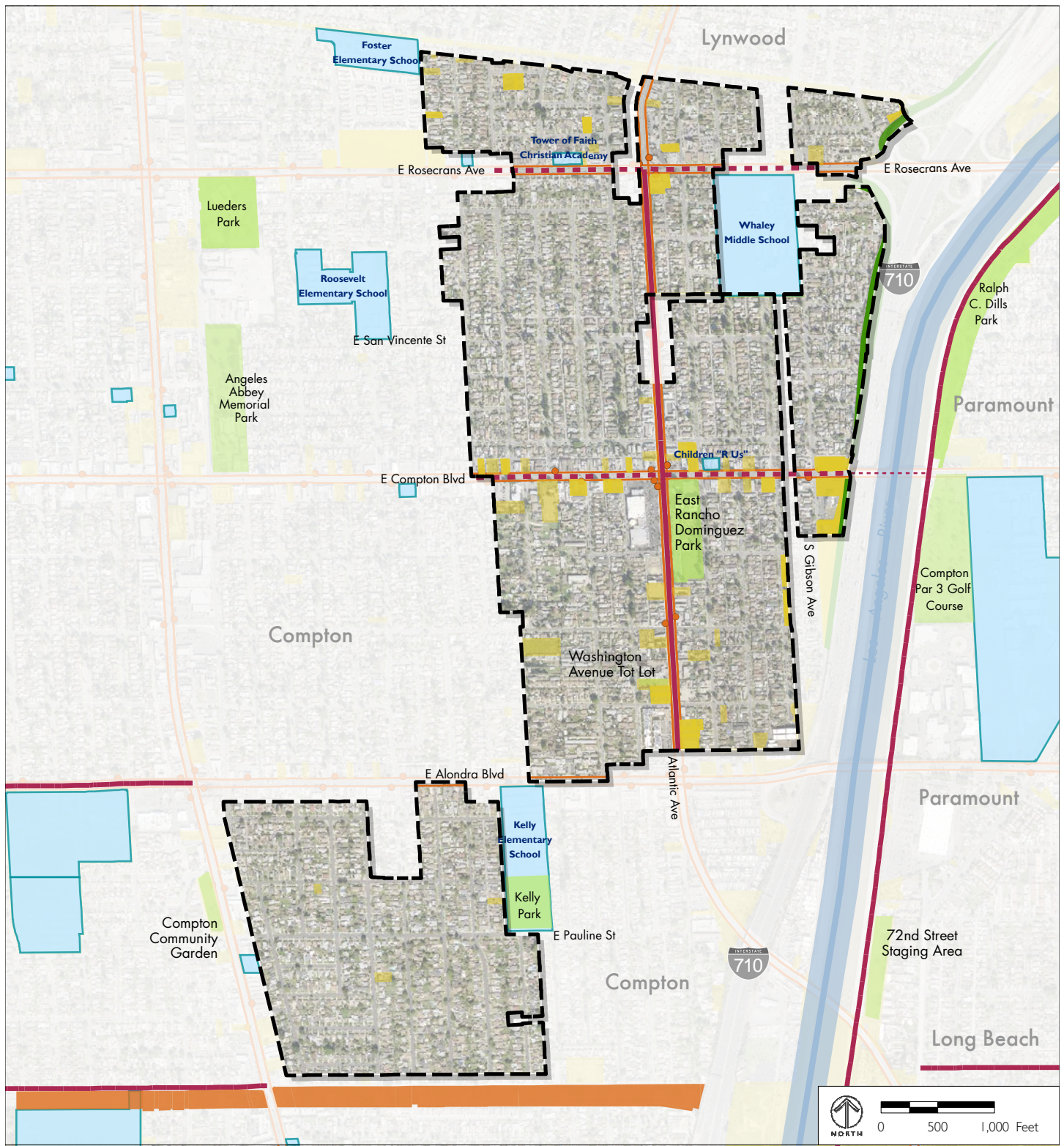
The 710 Freeway passes along the eastern boundary of East Rancho Dominguez. This freeway is separated from the community by a landscaped buffer. These areas could potentially be used for expanded green infrastructure, such as stormwater runoff mitigation and urban forestry. Furthermore, the Los Angeles River Trail is on the eastern side of the 710 freeway. A landscaped buffer could add more green space to the existing river trail.

SIDEWALKS, STREET RIGHT-OF-WAYS, AND ALLEYS

Public streets offer important opportunities for green infrastructure, such as street trees and stormwater retention facilities. Additionally, safe and comfortable sidewalks can significantly increase a resident’s desire to walk in their community. Improvements could include wayfinding and sidewalk surface enhancement, street furniture to promote community gathering, or exercise equipment to create fitness circuits within neighborhoods. Residents expressed interest in integrating public art into the community and street right-of-ways can also provide space for this use.

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan serves as a guide for improving bicycle connectivity. There are planned bikeways along E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue. Beyond planned bike routes, E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Avenue are also excellent opportunities for pedestrian improvements, and creative public space, such as parklets or “pop-up parks.”

FIGURE 4.10 POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITY TYPES



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

- East Rancho Dominguez
- Existing Parks
- Other Green Space
- Schools
- Los Angeles River
- Proposed Bike Routes in East Rancho Dominguez
- Proposed Bike Routes outside East Rancho Dominguez
- Existing Bike Routes
- Metro Bus Line
- Metro Bus Stop
- Vacant Land or Building
- Vacant Land or Building on Corners
- Utility Corridor
- Freeway Buffer

EVALUATION

To determine which sites could 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 Rancho Dominguez 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 according to the Los Angeles County Assessor 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 or trail development in East Rancho Dominguez in the future. The map is accompanied by Tables 4.5 and 4.6, which summarizes site conditions and identifies the type of parkland or trail that could be created.

Sites were ranked using the same evaluation criteria above; 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.

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 Rancho Dominguez fit within the category of pocket parks, larger sites were still prioritized.
- **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.

FIGURE 4.11 SITE SELECTION PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

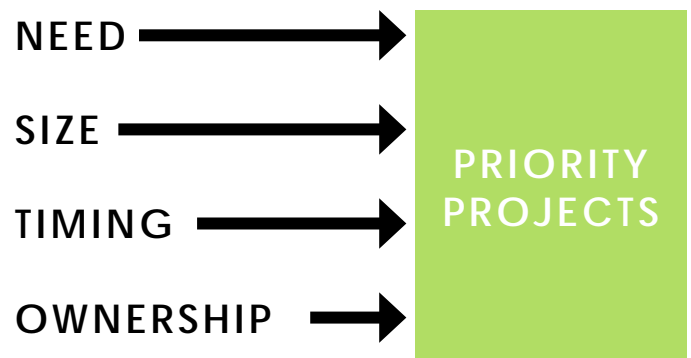
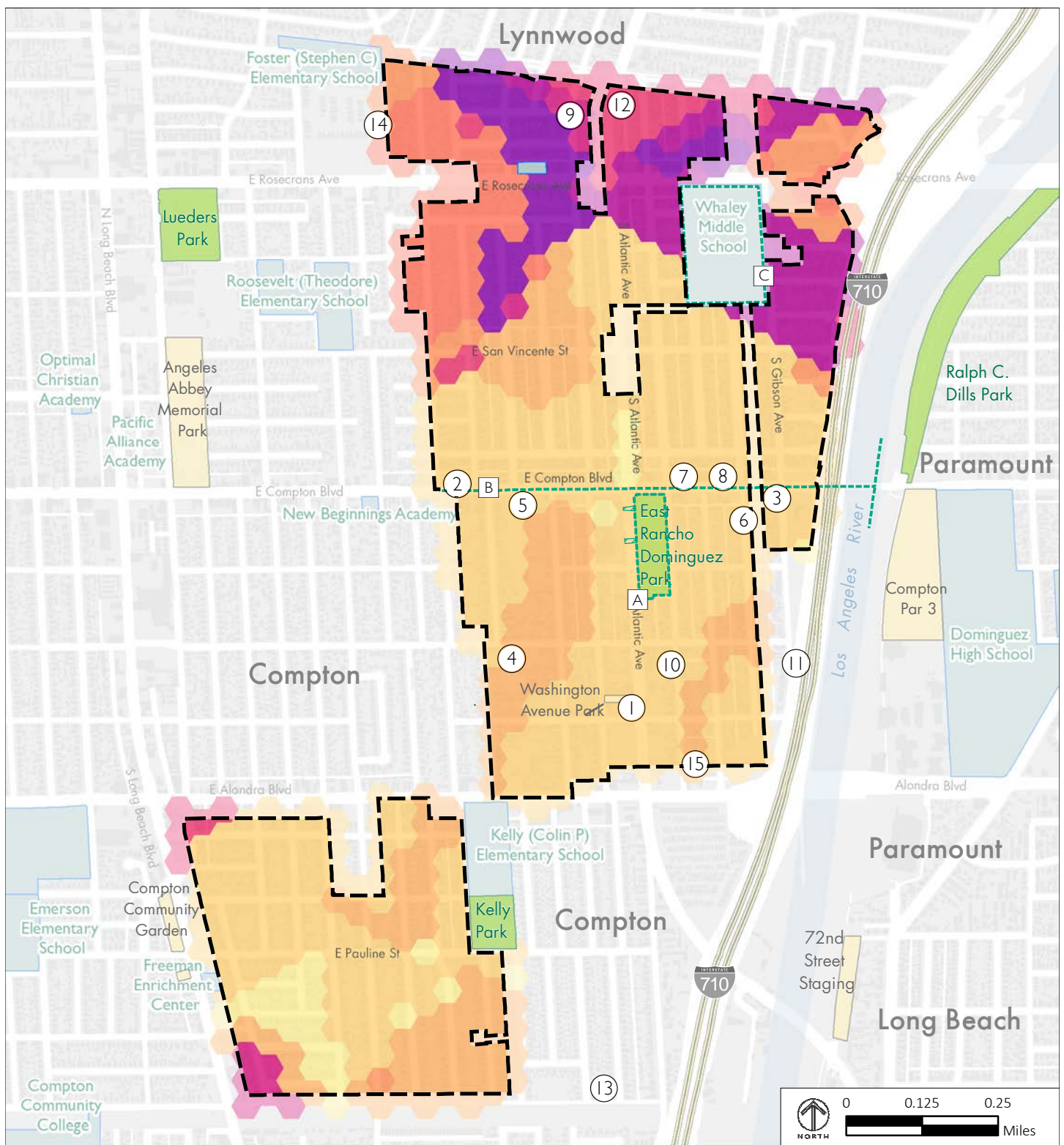
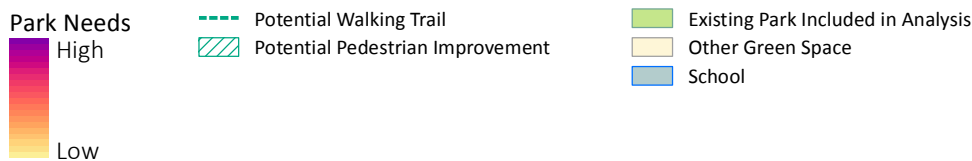


FIGURE 4.12 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES MAP



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



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TABLE 4.5 SUMMARY OF EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ POTENTIAL PARKLAND 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		●	0.4				●							
	2		●	0.4				●							
	3		●	0.6				●							
Medium	4		●	0.9				●							
	5		●	1										●	
	6		●	0.2					●						
	7	●		0.1					●						
	8		●	0.1					●						
	9		●	0.1					●						
	10		●	0.2				●							
	11*		●	2.8				●							
	12**		●	0.4				●					●		
	13**	●		18.9		●	●						●		●
Low	14**		●	5			●						●		
	15**		●	0.65				●					●		

* Site 11 is partially located in unincorporated land within Los Angeles County and partially located within the City of Compton.

** Sites 12, 13, 14, and 15 are located in the City of Compton but would serve residents of East Rancho Dominguez.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

TABLE 4.6 SUMMARY OF EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ POTENTIAL TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Priority Level	Site	Publicly Owned	Privately Owned	Length (miles)	Type A Urban/ Suburban	Type B Rural	Type C Primitive	Type D Shared Pathway/ Service Road
High	A	●		0.4	●			
	B	●		1*	●			
Low	C**		●	0.6	●			

* Trails B runs along Compton Boulevard, which continues beyond the East Rancho Dominguez boundary. The length shown above is for the section of the trail within the community.

** Trail C around Whaley Middle School is located within the City of Compton but would serve residents of East Rancho Dominguez.



5 - VISION PLAN

Based on the needs assessment and parkland development opportunities in East Rancho Dominguez, a community plan for new, near-term parkland development evolved. This chapter explores the vision and goals of the East Rancho Dominguez Community Parks and Recreation Plan, conceptual site designs that illustrate this vision, a strategy for community-wide urban forest enhancement, and potential long-term benefits of implementing the projects identified here.



VISION AND GOALS

The green space vision and goals are driven by community needs and input. The theme of “Healthy Parks East Rancho Dominguez,” emphasizes the community’s significant lack of parks and urban greening and resident’s desire to improve public health in their community through new exercise opportunities and access to healthier food.

Parks and urban greening should be ubiquitous throughout East Rancho Dominguez. The intrinsic value of nature to human health cannot be underestimated. Research has shown the multiple benefits from close proximity to tree canopies and green space, which include reduced stress, improved attention span, decreased at-risk behavior among inner-city youth, and improved recovery from illness or injury. Therefore, increased open space for exercise and recreation, expanded walking trails, and the creation of a healthy urban forest, as described in this Vision Plan, will improve the quality of life for East Rancho Dominguez residents in multiple ways.

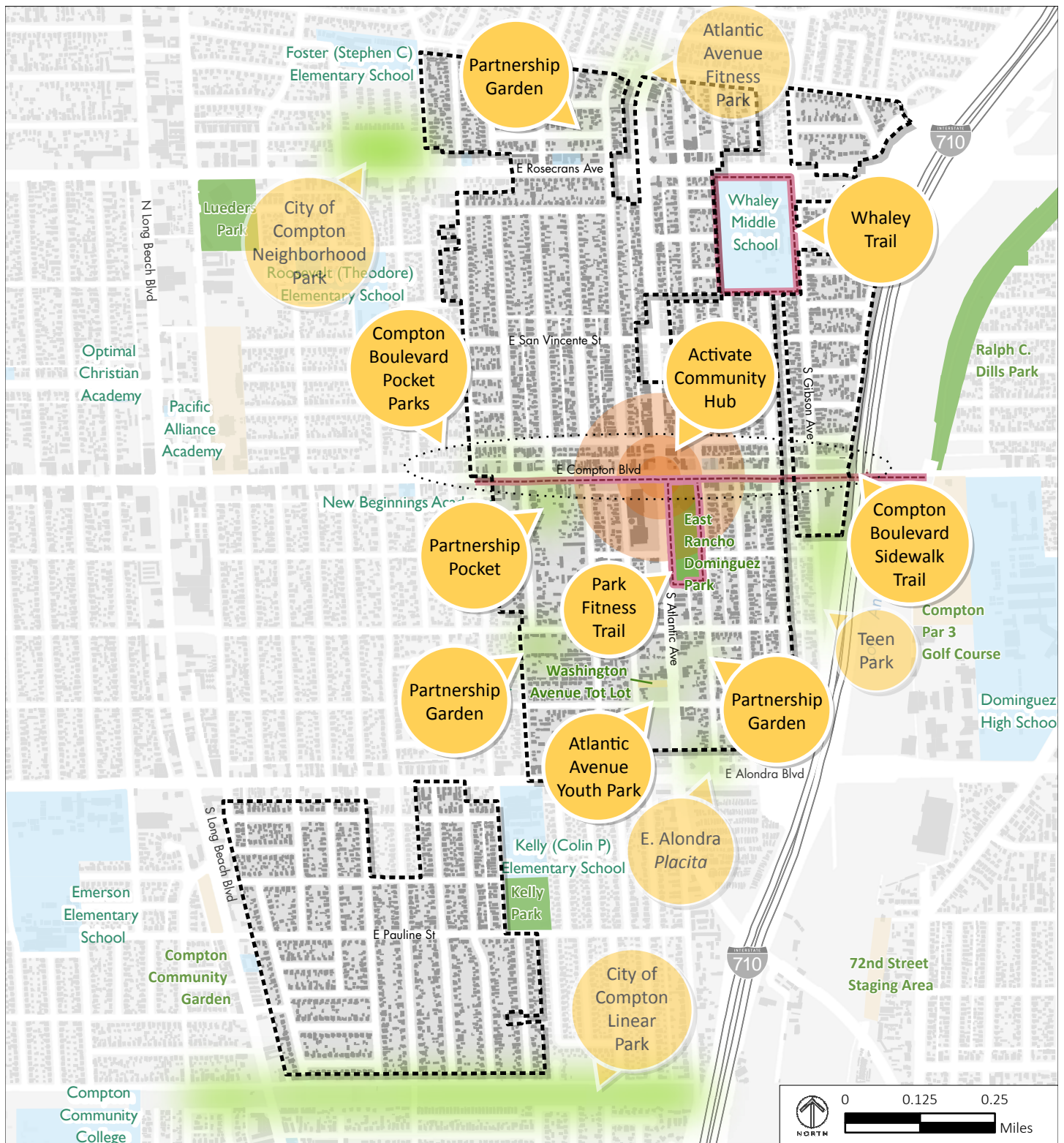
“This principle holds that a reconnection to the natural world is fundamental to human health, well-being, spirit, and survival.”

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

GOALS

1. Increase overall green space and create new recreational opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles.
2. Provide new places for active recreation and safe places to walk and exercise.
3. Partner with community groups to develop small green spaces to fill the need for healthy food and exercise.
4. Ensure that residents feel comfortable in existing and future park spaces.
5. Promote activities and projects that enhance the community heart near Compton Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue.
6. Support community identity by providing space for public art, events, and commercial enterprise.
7. Increase the sense of nature within East Rancho Dominguez Park and future parks and create connections to the Los Angeles River watershed.
8. Maintain and enhance East Rancho Dominguez’s urban forest.
9. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.
10. Foster public participation in park projects and ensure that the community is included in decision-making processes.

FIGURE 5.1 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ GREEN VISION MAP



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

- East Rancho Dominguez
- Existing Parks
- Other Existing Open Space
- Schools
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Potential Trail Opportunities



MLK Fitness Garden
Willowbrook , CA



Nature Play Area
El Sereno Arroyo Park, El Sereno
source: Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiative



Artistic Play Equipment
Benito Juarez Park, Maywood, CA
source: Edison International on Trust for Public Land website



Multipurpose Basketball, Volleyball, and Tennis Court
source: Wikimedia

The Green Vision Map in Figure 5.1 shows a mix of new parks, gardens, and trails throughout East Rancho Dominguez and in nearby areas within the City of Compton. The figure also shows key areas for activation and recreational events. This range of sites could help to meet the variety of needs identified in Chapter Four and could potentially accommodate the community’s desire for new healthy spaces.

PARKLANDS

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

- **POCKET PARKS.** The Green Vision Map identifies potential pocket parks at various sites throughout the community. These green spaces would help to distribute park resources throughout the community and provide small spaces to exercise, experience nature, and allow children to play. Typically, these spaces would have one central element, such as a playground, picnic area, or garden space. Although the program for these sites can be determined through a future design process, the Green Vision Map identifies some potential areas for pocket park creation.
 - **Compton Boulevard Pocket Parks.** Compton Boulevard is a commercial corridor running through the center of East Rancho Dominguez and connecting to the Los Angeles River Trail. There are numerous community assets located along its route, including East Rancho Dominguez Park. New pocket parks along this corridor could create a green connection to the River and create a diverse array of green space options. Many of the sites are very small, but could include exercise or play facilities. These parks could utilize a common River theme to connect them along the route and teach park users about the larger Los Angeles River watershed, such as natural play features that incorporate water elements.
 - **Youth and Teen Pocket Parks.** Residents are concerned about the lack of recreational options for youth in East Rancho Dominguez. Youth who participated in community outreach events wanted to see new spaces for active recreation within their community or other places where they could go to feel safe and hang out. Potential new pocket parks for children and teens need to be well-supervised and safe for youth. Although small, these pocket parks could provide a variety of recreational activity through creating multi-use facilities, such as sports courts that accommodate multiple activities. The parks could also provide interesting features that draw youth to the park. Public art can be beneficial in creating a unique space and partnering with a youth group to create a work can help them to take ownership in a site. These spaces could also be utilized for youth-focused activities, such as movie nights or dance classes.

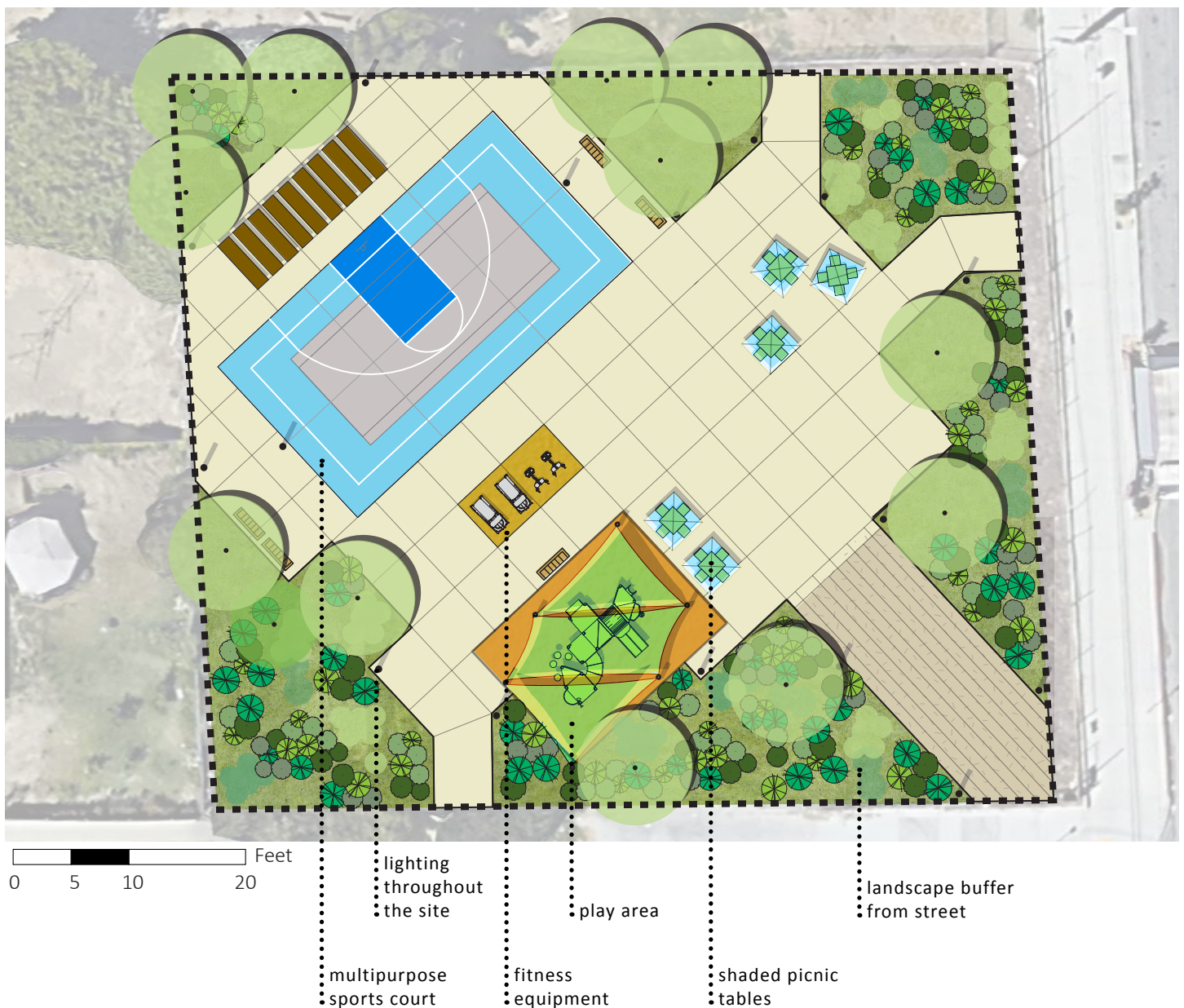
- PARTNERSHIP GARDENS.** Lots located on the interior of a block, not on a corner, are difficult to develop for park space because they have significantly lower pedestrian traffic and potentially less use. However, in East Rancho Dominguez, many of the few available vacant lots are located in these interior areas. These spaces are potentially good opportunities for partnerships with community garden groups or other green space advocacy groups. These groups work with community residents and ensure that the park would have an active user base. For some facilities, such as community gardens, quiet spaces are actually quite beneficial, and internal block spaces might be preferred.
- CITY OF COMPTON PARKS.** The Green Vision Map identifies potential parklands located just outside of East Rancho Dominguez within the City of Compton.

The facilities are located within close proximity to East Rancho Dominguez and could potentially ameliorate the significant need for parks within the community.

There are larger parcels of vacant land located outside of the northern part of the community that could be used for larger park spaces. East Rancho Dominguez residents expressed concern with traveling to Lueders Park due to gang activity in this area. These concerns about whether or not the area is safe may apply to any new project there.

Another key opportunity in the City of Compton near East Rancho Dominguez is the Southern Pacific Edison utility corridor running along Greenleaf Boulevard to the south of East Rancho Dominguez. The City of Compton converted a section of this corridor into a park with meandering walking paths and fitness stations.

FIGURE 5.2 CONCEPTUAL YOUTH AND TEEN POCKET PARK





Greenleaf Parkway
Compton, CA

source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

FIGURE 5.3 PRECEDENT PROJECT:
WILLOWBROOK COMMUNITY
WALKING PATH AT GEORGE
WASHINGTON CARVER
PARK IN WILLOWBROOK, CA



source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

There are additionally small lots located along the East Rancho Dominguez border that could be utilized as small pocket parks, plazas, or *placitas*.¹ Along commercial corridors, small plaza spaces create concentrated places for community gathering. These spaces can also enhance a commercial area by improving the retail experience and increasing foot traffic. These spaces are typically integrated into commercial businesses and provide public amenities, such as places to sit and landscaping. Some plazas and *placitas* are further expanded as community spaces with places for children to play, areas for exercise, or space for outdoor vendors.

FITNESS TRAILS. Trails are excellent spaces for community exercise and require limited space. Sections of existing public facilities within East Rancho Dominguez could be utilized to create trails that provide residents with places to walk for exercise, including the park and nearby schools.

East Rancho Dominguez Park could potentially accommodate a perimeter walking path and fitness stations. Figure 5.4 provides a conceptual design for the trail, which includes a perimeter trail and three fitness areas. The perimeter trail should be wide enough to accommodate two people walking alongside one another. It is recommended that it be approximately 6 feet wide. The trail could use a low-impact material, such as decomposed granite (DG) or rubber. Along the east side of the park, trees are planted near the sidewalk, which could require that the trail run along the sidewalk.

In the conceptual design, the largest fitness zone, located near the south of the park, could help create more activity in an area that is perceived as unsafe due to groups of men gathering there. New trees could be located along the path to separate it from activities on the multipurpose field. Trail signage could help inform residents about the trail and suggest exercises to trail users. Similar trails have been built at other existing parks, including George Washington Carver Park in nearby Willowbrook. Images of the fitness stations at this park are shown in Figure 5.3.

Similarly, a perimeter trail around Whaley Middle School could be a community exercise resource. The school is located in the City of Compton; however, it is also located directly adjacent to the highest park need area in East Rancho Dominguez. Residents living in this area have significantly limited options for exercise, which suggests that a fitness trail could provide an important resource for this area.

1 *Placita* is the Spanish word for plaza and signifies a central gathering place.

FIGURE 5.4 CONCEPTUAL FITNESS TRAIL AT EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK

fitness node integrated into senior center plaza

trail to follow sidewalk to avoid large trees

6-foot wide perimeter walking path

fitness node for parents watching children in play area

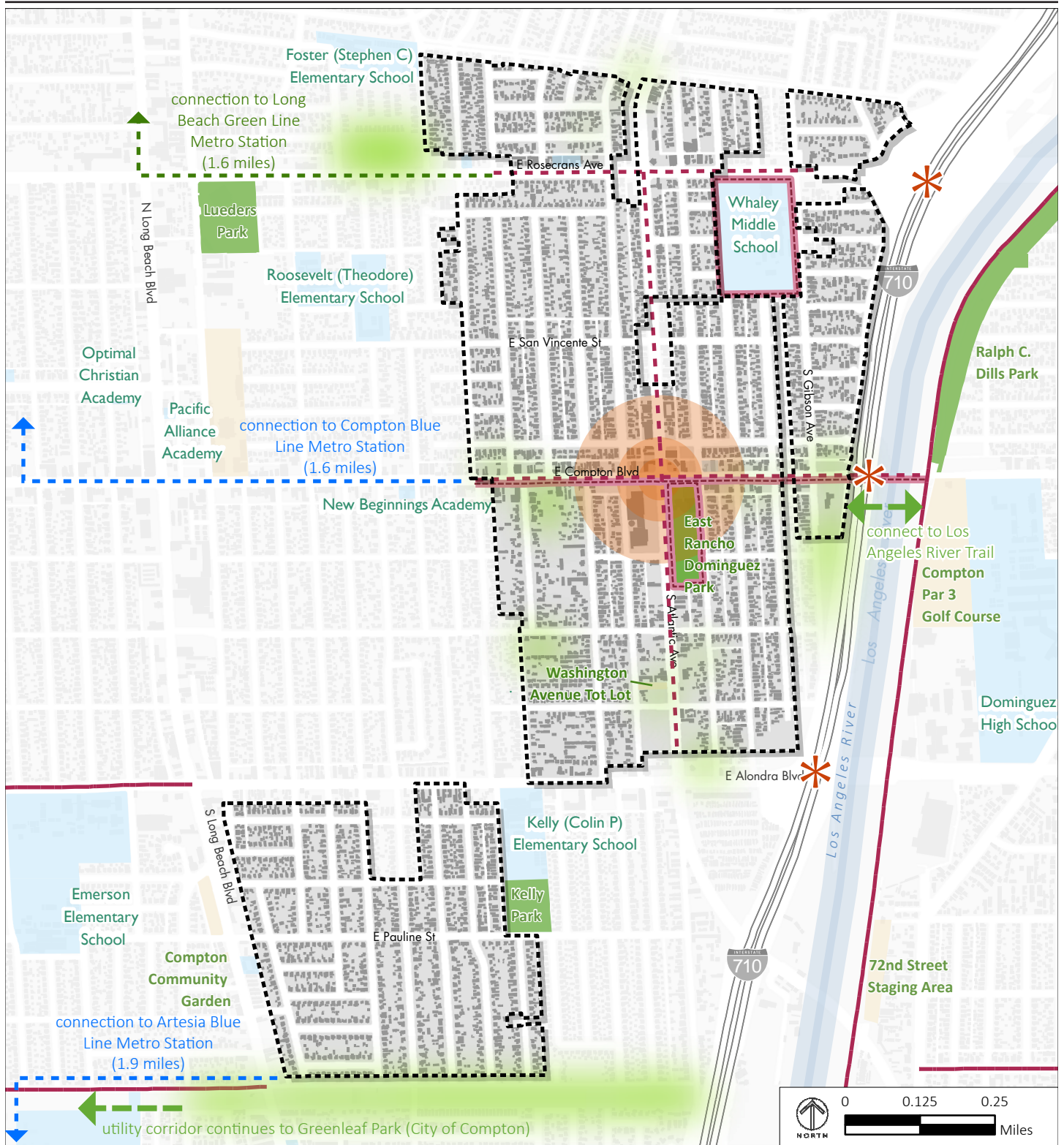
trail to meander to avoid large trees

trail alignment should allow space for soccer

main fitness area



FIGURE 5.5 CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE CONNECTIONS



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

- East Rancho Dominguez
- Existing Parks
- Other Existing Green Space
- Schools
- Existing Bike Lanes
- - - Proposed Bike Lanes
- * Freeway Crossing
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- - - Potential Trail Opportunities
- Community Hub

CONNECTIONS AND CORRIDORS

With limited available land for new park development, some of the environmental and recreational benefits of parks will need to be created outside of park boundaries. Key opportunities include the enhancement of city streets and the development of new trails. These linear spaces can expand greening potential throughout the community and create new recreational options for residents. Figure 5.5 illustrates key connections and corridors in East Rancho Dominguez. These connections build off previous planning efforts and on-going infrastructure development projects.

- COMMUNITY HUB AT COMPTON BOULEVARD AND ATLANTIC AVENUE.** This intersection is at the heart of East Rancho Dominguez. Key community amenities, including East Rancho Dominguez Park and senior center, the East Rancho Dominguez Library, and the community's main grocery store are all located near this intersection, all of which bring people to the area. This is also one of the areas in the community with the highest crime rates and highest levels of both pedestrian and bicycle collisions. Transforming this area into a more vibrant, pedestrian-friendly core could potentially decrease accidents and also activate the area to prevent crime.

FIGURE 5.7 CONCEPTUAL SIGNAGE DIRECTING USERS TO CROSSWALKS



FIGURE 5.6 CONCEPTUAL MIDBLOCK CROSSWALK



NOTE: This concept proposal is intended to highlight potential from an urban greening and park access perspective. Exact layout of features would require future engineering study and partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

Residents would like to see a midblock crosswalk between the library and the park. A conceptual vision for this crosswalk is shown in Figure 5.6. Residents believe this would prevent dangerous jaywalking along this busy street. Another potential safety initiative could include signage to direct people to use the crosswalk. A conceptual sign is shown in Figure 5.7.

Other new improvements, such as street trees, landscape planting, plaza space, and public art, could help to create a sense of place in this core space. Additionally, partnering with other agencies and community groups to create and promote events within the core could help bring people to the area.

- **COMPTON BOULEVARD GREEN STREET.** As noted in the summary of pocket parks along Compton Boulevard, this roadway is an important commercial corridor within East Rancho Dominguez, which also creates a connection to the Los Angeles River and the trail that runs along it. Currently, Compton Boulevard is predominately a vehicular street, although pedestrian activity is higher here than in other areas in the community due to the commercial businesses located here. However, in its current state, E. Compton Boulevard offers little value to pedestrians and cyclists as there is little vegetation, minimal shade, and fast moving vehicles. Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) improved the crosswalks at major intersections, including Atlantic Avenue as a way to increase pedestrian activity along the street. DPW additionally plans to install a bike lane along Compton Boulevard, which will significantly expand the modal capacity of the street.

FIGURE 5.8 **CONCEPTUAL SIGNAGE DIRECTING USERS TO LOS ANGELES RIVER**



Other amenities could be implemented to transform Compton Boulevard into a “Green Street.” Green Street improvements include increased plantings along a street through the addition of street trees and stormwater treatment basins, as well as traffic calming elements such as bulb outs and lane width reductions. Although these types of improvements would require partnership with DPW, improving pedestrian and bicycle amenities along East Rancho Dominguez Boulevard could significantly affect access to East Rancho Dominguez Park and the Los Angeles River Trail. With these improvements, residents could also choose to walk or ride their bike to businesses along this corridor, creating a new place for exercise and reducing vehicular emissions.

Signage to the Los Angeles River could help people from outside of the community find the river trail and also help remind residents of the nearby amenity. Figure 5.8 shows a conceptual sign for the East Compton Greenway along the way to the River. The sign could be placed along a sidewalk trail and help brand the project as a unique experience.

New pocket parks along this route would also benefit from the higher levels of pedestrian and bicycle travel as this would increase the number of passersby who could watch the parks and visit them as part of their daily routine.

- **FREEWAY CROSSINGS.** In order for East Rancho Dominguez residents to access the Los Angeles River and associated amenities, they must cross the 710 Freeway 105 Freeway. Partnership with DPW to improve this crossings could improve pedestrian mobility to this regional asset and also potentially bring people from the trail into the East Rancho Dominguez business district.

SAFE PARKS AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Existing crime levels and community concerns for public safety require that new park and recreation projects thoroughly consider community safety as part of the development and implementation process. The following are design strategies that can be incorporated into future site designs and programs and partnerships to ensure that spaces are active and well-supervised. These strategies should be considered, implemented, and enhanced for any new project in East Rancho Dominguez.

DESIGN

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a crime prevention philosophy based on the theory that the proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, as well as an improvement in the quality of life. CPTED emphasizes understanding and changing the physical environment in an effort to reduce crime at particular locations.

DEFENSIBLE SPACE

CPTED is effective because of the concept of “**defensible space**.” This concept suggests that all space in the human environment is defensible; a guardian can take responsibility for the space and take action to defend it from non-legitimate, criminal, or unintended use. Alternately, space can be undefended; when there is no one who takes responsibility for the space, it is left exposed to criminal use.

CPTED works because criminals avoid committing crime in the presence of legitimate users. Properly defended property suggests to a criminal that a legitimate user (guardian) may be near to witness the crime and call the police. Undefended property communicates to the criminal that no one is watching and it is safe to commit a crime. Undefended places that are safe for criminal activity are unsafe for legitimate users. Alternately, places that are defended and safe for legitimate users cause the criminal to fear detection.

STRATEGIES

To help defend a location, there are four overlapping CPTED strategies that need to be employed: 1). Natural Surveillance, 2). Territorial Reinforcement, 3). Access Control, and 4). Maintenance. Each strategy employs a slightly different method of sending a clear message to criminals that a responsible person is nearby and criminal activity is not welcome. These strategies are not exclusive. They may be applied concurrently and will provide greater crime prevention potential as a result.

- **NATURAL SURVEILLANCE.** Natural surveillance is the design of an area that places physical features, activities, and people in locations that maximize the ability to see what is occurring in a given space.

Examples of natural surveillance are:

- *A properly trimmed and maintained landscaping, which allows visibility and use of appropriately scaled lighting, which highlights the pedestrian environment.*

- **TERRITORIAL REINFORCEMENT.** Territorial reinforcement is the design of an area that clearly defines its boundaries and ownership. All space can be defined as public, private, or semi-public/semi-private. The underlying principle of territorial reinforcement is that the transition between spaces should be clearly identifiable for both the user and others in the area. Territorial reinforcement allows legitimate users to develop a sense of ownership over a space and act as guardians against criminals and criminal acts.

Examples of territorial reinforcement are:

- *Having proper signage that communicates the ownership of the park, hours of entry, and various rules and regulations of its facility.*

- **ACCESS CONTROL.** Access control is the physical guidance of movement to and from a space by the placement of entrances, exits, fencing, landscaping, locks, and other barriers. This CPTED strategy not only limits and guides movement, but it also causes improper access to be noticed more readily.

Examples of access control are:

- *Well-marked pedestrian pathways near parking lots close to the park, which give direction to its users and create a safer path of travel by alerting drivers to the concentrated presence of pedestrians.*
- *Bollards placed near the entrance of a park to prevent vehicle entry but allow pedestrian entry.*

A component of access control is to deny access to a protected area. This is accomplished through physical or mechanical means, such as fences, gates, locks, or alarms. Access control has mistakenly been thought of as only denying access. Unfortunately, this mistake can result in the creation of a “fortress” mentality in communities that rely on gates and fences to deny access to parks completely. It is important to balance territorial reinforcement with proper access control so that parks do not become spaces where users feel “trapped” or fenced in from the rest of the community. During outreach events, community members acknowledged that fenced spaces do not inherently make them feel safer in the space.

- **MAINTENANCE.** Maintenance refers to the upkeep of an area. It demonstrates that someone cares about a space, is watching, and will defend the property against crime. A property near a park that is run-down or in disrepair is likely to attract non-legitimate activities. Routine maintenance or clean-up of a park can have a great deal of impact in making an area unattractive to offenders.

This strategy works because it is based on what is known as the “Broken Windows Theory.” The theory suggests that a neglected space will bring additional mistreatment and crime while a maintained space will bring proper treatment. This strategy can reduce fear of crime in a community by creating perceptions of responsibility and caring in neighborhoods.

Examples of maintenance are:

- Some examples include ensuring that park amenities such as benches, playgrounds, and sports facilities, are not broken. Also it is important to ensure that sidewalks in the park and leading to the park are in good condition, and not full of trash.

PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Public agencies and community organizations throughout Los Angeles County and around the United States are implementing violence prevention programs to improve public safety and ensure the safe use of public spaces. Following are key initiatives that could be implemented in new projects

GANG INTERVENTION GROUPS

There are many gang intervention programs that provide training, and support for formerly gang-involved and previously incarcerated men and women. These programs help to redirect the lives of those who were involved in illicit, dangerous activities. Recidivism among youth offenders is extremely high, and these programs help to make sure these crimes are not repeated again. A Better LA is an umbrella organization that helps to organize gang intervention programs throughout Los Angeles and could serve as an important liaison for partnership opportunities with local groups.

SHERIFF YOUTH ACTIVITIES LEAGUE (YAL)

“The Sheriff’s team of deputies, civilian employees and volunteers help at-risk youth throughout the country to grow, be healthy and develop the necessary tools to become successful adults.”² The Youth foundation has seven different programs including 999 for kids, bear, share, star, start, Vida and YAL.

Program goals include teaching bicycle safety, providing educational supplies, teaching respect, educating youth on the dangers of drugs, gangs and violence, providing education to at risk-teens, and organizing youth activities leagues focused on homework help, and a safe haven.

NIGHT-TIME PROGRAMMING

Programs and spaces that provide members a safe place to be at night have the potential of reducing at-risk-behaviors by providing youth and families with recreational activities in their communities. Having programs, staff, and visitors who are involved and active at night in and around these parks deters criminal activity from taking place because there are more eyes watching the streets and more people are aware of their surroundings.

Parks after Dark (PAD) is a program run by DPR, in partnership with the Department of Public Health. PAD focuses on youth and families and offer surrounding communities extended park hours and activities on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. These programs have the potential of reducing at-risk-behaviors by providing youth and families with recreational activities in their communities. As a component of the County’s Gang Violence Reduction Initiative, this program transform areas that have been affected by gang activity into community centers that provide health resources in places where residents feel safe and welcome.

PAD has been successful at reducing violent crime. Serious violent crime in the communities surrounding the original three parks declined 40 percent during the summer months between 2009 and 2012. This compares to a 5 percent increase in serious and violent crime during the period in nearby communities with parks who did not have participants in the PAD program. Having programs, staff, and visitors who are involved and active at night in and around these parks deters criminal activity because there are more eyes watching the streets and more people are aware of their surroundings.



Soccer Game at Parks After Dark Event
source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

2 “South Los Angeles YAL - Sheriff’s Youth Foundation.” Sheriff’s Youth Foundation. Web. 10 Sept. 2015. <<http://sheriffsyouthfoundation.org/programs/youth-activities-league/south-los-angeles-station/>>

CREATIVE STRATEGIES TO INCREASE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

East Rancho Dominguez’s parks and recreational needs are significantly larger than the space available in their community. In addition to new park and trail developments in East Rancho Dominguez, DPR could expand their capacity in East Rancho Dominguez by developing new initiatives to bring temporary recreational activities into the community.

- POP-UP PARKS.** A “Pop-up Park” is a temporary park space that occupies a site for a period of time. These types of events have taken place within private lots, public vacant spaces, and within public street right-of-ways. Sections of S. Atlantic Avenue and E. Compton Boulevard within the “community hub” could be excellent opportunities for “pop-up parks.” Partnerships with DPW and other managing agencies would be required but DPR could potentially utilize the space for recreational activities, such as sports days, mobile exercise stations,

concerts, or farmer’s markets, for a day or short period of time. This activity would expand the recreational capacity of East Rancho Dominguez Park and increase the activity in the “community hub” area.

- GREEN SPACE SHUTTLES.** In many communities in Los Angeles County there are free and reduced-price shuttles to provide access to public spaces for residents without vehicles. Additionally, some communities have shuttles connecting them to larger recreational destinations outside of their community, such as the Beach Bus that shuttles residents of Altadena, Castaic, Charter Oak, Duarte, East Los Angeles, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Lancaster, Palmdale, and Topanga Canyon to the beach in Santa Monica. However, none of these shuttles pass through or make stops in East Rancho Dominguez and most residents are dependent of Metro buses for public transportation. DPR could potentially partner with DPW to expand their service to include pickup locations in East Rancho Dominguez. Alternatively, routes to other recreational locations, such as the Santa Monica Mountains or the Hollywood Bowl, could be considered.

FIGURE 5.9 PRECEDENT POP-UP FEATURES



Mobile Exercise Stations
source: David Garza, CyclingInspired™



Play Pieces
source: Stefano Giovanni, Brooklyn Paper Community News Group



Movable Street Furniture and Surface Paint
Bradley Avenue Plaza
source: Los Angeles Department of Transportation People Street



Movie Screenings
source: Elizabeth Bernstein, East Bay Express

URBAN GREENING

Parks and trails serve the public not only as recreational amenities, but also provide 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 areas 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 improve 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. East Rancho Dominguez Park has good tree coverage and a substantial amount of permeable surfaces. However, to maximize benefits, additional measures could be implemented at East Rancho Dominguez Park, as well as in potential new parks and trails. Partnerships with other agencies, local 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 Rancho Dominguez:

WATER

Water in California is valuable and limited. As of 2015, the State is in the fourth year of an extreme drought, which is 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 Rancho Dominguez’s water is provided by the Park Water Company and Compton Water Department, both of which are close to meeting the goal of 25 percent reduction of 2013 levels and only required to reduce water consumption by an additional 8 percent.

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 impacts on human health, including cancer and respiratory disease, and negative environmental impacts, such as increased heat island effect or plant growth stagnation. East Rancho Dominguez 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 (or smog) 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, trucks, ships, buses, petroleum production, and waste disposal. East Rancho Dominguez is additionally located directly adjacent to the 710 Freeway, which adds emissions to the community’s air.

Parks and recreation facilities in East Rancho Dominguez can affect 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 to 44 percent of the total power supply.³ 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; and 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 in East Los Angeles. The project reduced electricity consumption by 20 percent at the park and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 40,000 pounds. Currently, East Rancho Dominguez Park does not produce energy on site 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 a 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 even small elements, such as street trees, can provide valuable foraging and habitat resources.

3 2013 Total Electricity System Power. Energy Almanac. California Energy Commission. <http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/total_system_power.html>

Green connection within East Rancho Dominguez can serve as both corridors for humans as well as urban wildlife. Additionally, modifications to East Rancho Dominguez Park, including more native plants, can enhance habitat potential.

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 and detrimental to their psychological health. Parks and green infrastructure can help offset these negative physiological and psychological conditions.

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.

URBAN FORESTRY

The urban forest represents a significant component of urban greening and its quality and diversity has a direct effect on how the public perceives the environmental characteristic of their community. Specifically, residents of East Rancho Dominguez considered addressing the urban forest as an important phase in developing the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

The vision for East Rancho Dominguez's 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 vision 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 this vision would maximize environmental, social and economic benefits associated with the urban forest there by enhancing the quality of life and public health enjoyed by the East Rancho Dominguez community. Potential benefits of the urban forest are identified next based on research by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Alliance for Community Trees.^{4,5}

4 Southern Center for Forest Benefits and Benefits of Urban Trees, USDA Tree Benefits brochure. <<http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org/resources/library/benefits-of-urban-treesbooklet>> accessed March 23, 2010.

5 Alliance for Community Trees, Benefits of Trees and Urban Forests (Resource List), http://www.actrees.org/files/Research/benefits_of_trees.pdf, accessed February 25, 2014.

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 **31 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 potential future parks.

CANOPY TARGETS

As discussed in Chapter Two, while coverage within East Rancho Dominguez Park is approximately 19 percent, the community as a whole has an overall canopy coverage of 15 percent due to low coverage within street corridors, residential areas and other land uses. This is 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. Furthermore, American Forests sets higher standards for areas with predominately residential land uses: up to 35 percent. Since the majority of East Rancho Dominguez is residential, it is expected that the overall canopy coverage target for the community should be higher.

It is recommended that DPR minimally increase the canopy coverage at East Rancho Dominguez Park to 20 percent and work with other departments, organizations, and agencies to increase overall canopy coverage. Based on American Forests' standards, the target canopy coverage for existing land uses and coverage in East Rancho Dominguez, including a high percentage of residential properties, is approximately 31 percent. Since it is not feasible or desirable for parkland to support all new plantings, 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

Tree canopy coverage at East Rancho Dominguez Park is high and could only be minimally expanded due to the need for field and court space for recreational uses. If the fitness trail

discussed previously is installed, new trees along this path could provide shade to trail users. The trail should avoid damaging or displacing any existing trees in the park. Additionally, there is limited shade in the parking lot area of East Rancho Dominguez Park. New trees could be planted along the edge of the parking area or some spaces could be shortened to add trees within the area.

Around the edges of East Rancho Dominguez Park, there are a number of mature trees serving as a valuable urban forestry asset. They should be monitored and maintained as a resource for the community and continue to act as a buffer for the park from neighboring streets.

The development of new parks provides great opportunity for new trees. The number of trees and their location depends on the programming and design of the site. Gathering places, plazas, playgrounds and pathways all benefit from shade provided by trees. For other types of programming, such as community gardens and sports fields, trees would need to be located away from these uses so as not to shade garden beds or interfere with sports activity.

Within East Rancho Dominguez Park and any new parks, the replacement of existing trees and planting of new trees are central to enhancing the trees within the “Park Forest.” Trees in existing parks that are either unhealthy or do little to contribute to the urban forest should be replaced with species that provide greater urban forestry benefits, such as trees with larger and fuller canopies. New trees should be located where they would have the most benefit in existing parks. For example, planting trees around gathering areas or in open areas where the tree canopy is lacking to provide ample shade, trees should be arranged so that they do not conflict with programming such as sports fields.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE URBAN FOREST BEYOND PARK BOUNDARIES

Due to the low canopy coverage throughout the neighborhood, expansion of the park forest would not be sufficient to improve the overall urban forest. Some opportunity sites to plant trees in non-park areas include along public street right-of-ways or sidewalks, on land adjacent to freeways, and in vacant lots. Although these are areas typically beyond the jurisdiction of County Parks, DPR can plant new trees in partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) and Caltrans, 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 plantings and specific opportunity sites are identified in Figure 5.10 and described below. 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, increased street tree planting should occur along the streets with high priority of better urban canopy (identified in Figure 5.10) and along the corridors that connect parks and major community amenities, such as a schools, grocery stores, and recreational facilities.
- **FREEWAY BUFFERS.** The 710 Freeway passes along the eastern edge of East Rancho Dominguez. Planting trees or enhancing existing planting along the spaces adjacent to these freeways would 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 Appendix E.
- **MEDIANS.** There are two underutilized street medians in East Rancho Dominguez that could be planted to increase overall canopy in the neighborhood. Utilize tree species appropriate for street corridors, identified in Appendix E in medians.
- **RESIDENTIAL YARDS AND PRIVATE PARKING LOTS.** Private individuals can have a significant effect on the public urban forest. Educational resources and incentive programs can encourage residents or property owners to plant trees on their property or request planting from their landlord.

FIGURE 5.10 POTENTIAL URBAN FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ



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

- East Rancho Dominguez
- Street Opportunities (street corridors with low existing tree canopy)
- Existing Parks
- Pocket Park Corridor Opportunities
- Site Opportunities
- B Freeway Buffer
- M Median

GREENSCORE

Achieving the vision and expanding East Rancho Dominguez’s 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 that 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 effect of new parkland and trail development. The high-priority projects used in the analysis are shown in Figure 5.12. The potential high-priority trails are also shown in Figure 5.12; however, these projects do not increase total acreage of parkland in the community.

Following are discussions and illustrations of how these new potential parks and trails would affect service areas, spatial need, and population served. Additionally described are the greening benefits of the development of new parks as well as urban greening goals community-wide, such as meeting the target canopy coverage of 31 percent.

IMPACT ON SERVICE AREAS

Figure 5.13 displays the service areas of existing parks and new 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 Rancho Dominguez is within a half mile of a local park or quarter mile of a pocket park. Some areas are served by multiple facilities, increasing recreational options for residents.

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 (quarter-mile radius). The existing street network and pedestrian conditions as well as potential trails proposed were used to calculate distance and create the service area to determine each potential future park site’s walkable service areas. The U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey’s 2012 5-Year Estimate data was used for the community characteristics analysis. The community’s characteristics data needed to be adjusted due to the irregular shape of the walkable service area. The ratio of the block group acreage and clipped block group acreage were calculated and applied to the demographics data to estimate the park served population.

PARKLAND GAP

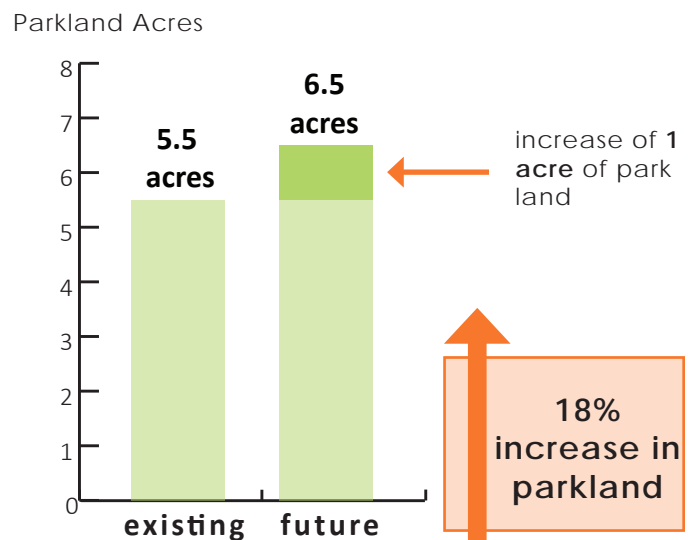
As shown in Figure 5.14, the parkland gap area would be significantly reduced with the implementation of the high-priority park projects. Only a small portion of East Rancho Dominguez would not be within a 10-minute walk to a park. Additionally, when potential trail opportunities are added to the street network, pedestrian access routes to existing and potential future parklands are increased.

IMPACT ON SPATIAL NEED

With the size of its current population, East Rancho Dominguez needs approximately 55 acres of local parkland to fulfill the General Plan standard of 4 acres of parklands per 1,000 residents; however, East Rancho Dominguez Park, the only existing park in the community, is only 5.5 acres. Due to the small size of the community, in order to meet the General Plan standard, nearly 10 percent of the community would need to be dedicated, which is challenging in a relatively built out community like East Rancho Dominguez.

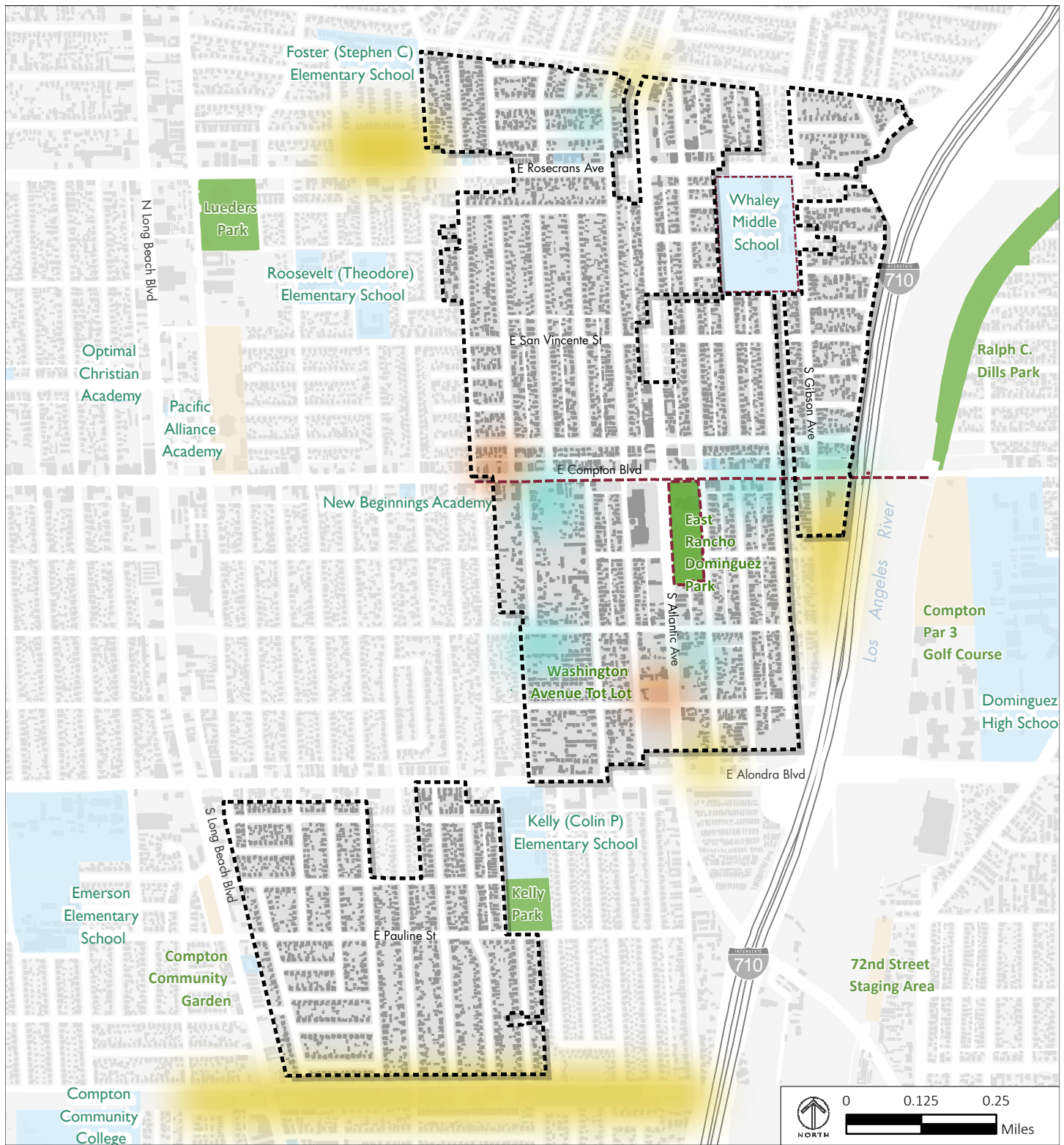
The development of the identified high-priority sites would only add approximately 1 acre of new parkland, which would signify only a minor improvement in park acreage needs. Although there is still need for additional acres of parks and recreation facilities, the overall community need, particularly in the central part of East Rancho Dominguez, could be lessened with the addition of the recommended new parkland. Figure 5.16 illustrates the change in spatial need with the potential creation of the high priority projects.

FIGURE 5.11 POTENTIAL NEW PARKLAND



Graph show increase based on the addition of high priority park projects only.

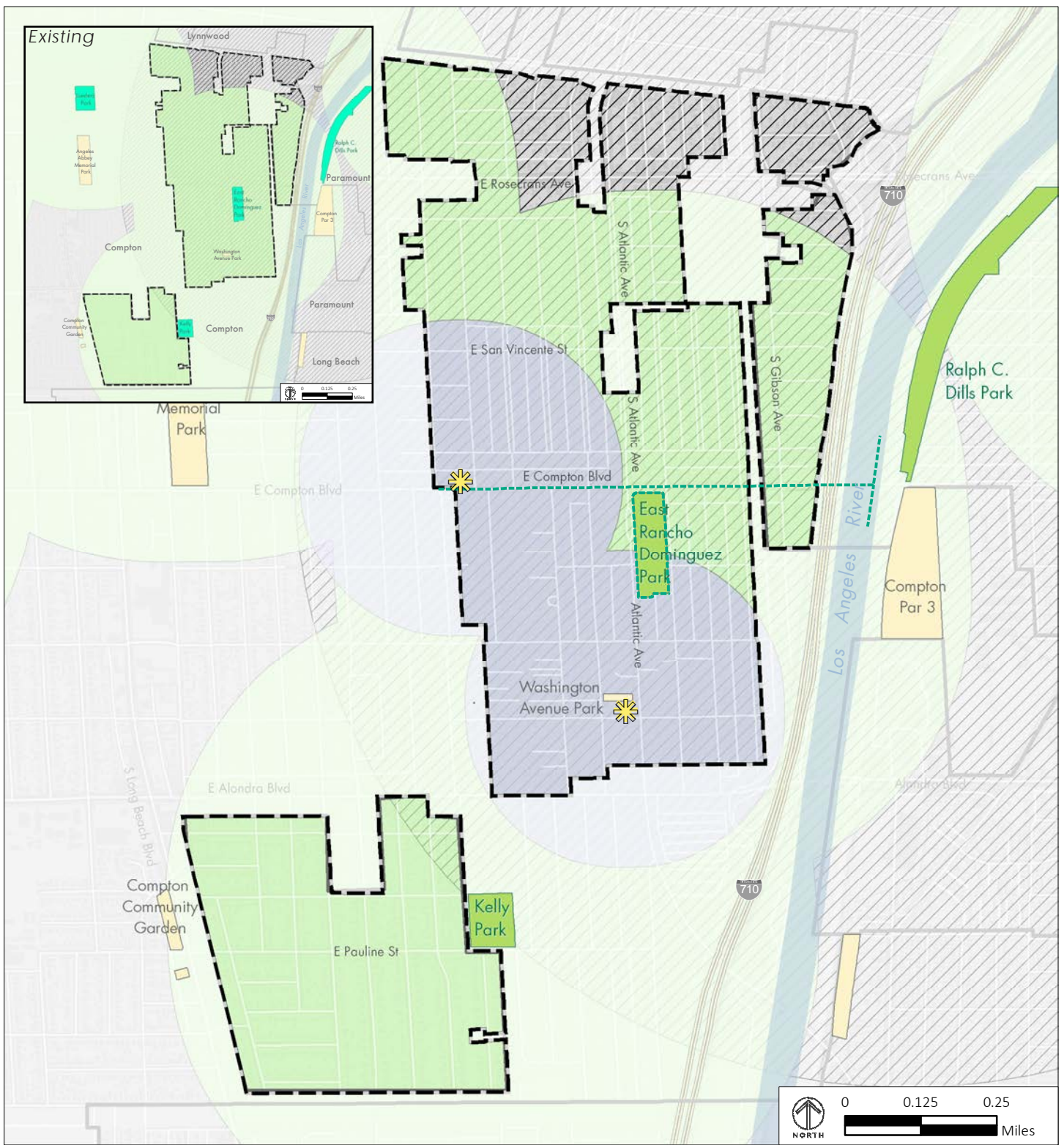
FIGURE 5.12 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PRIORITY PARKLAND AND TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES



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

- East Rancho Dominguez
- Existing Parks
- Other Existing Green Space
- Schools
- High Priority Parkland Opportunities
- Medium Priority Parkland Opportunities
- Low Priority Parkland Opportunities
- High Priority Trail Opportunities
- Low Priority Trail Opportunities

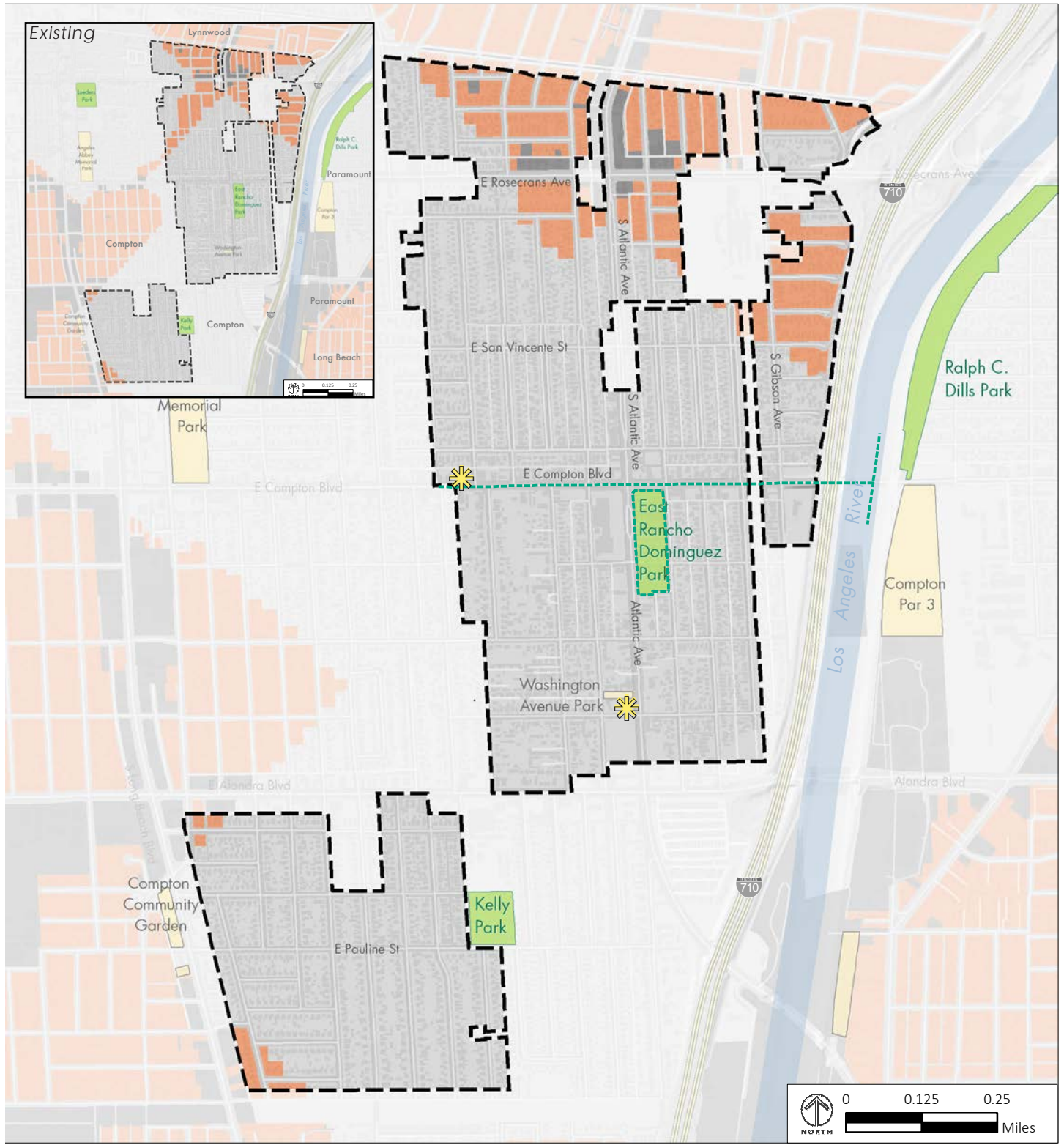
FIGURE 5.13 SERVICE AREAS - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



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

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Park Included in Analysis Other Green Space ✦ Potential Future Parkland Included in Analysis Potential Walking Trail | <p>Park Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Areas Not Within the Service Radius of a Park Included in Analysis 1/4 Mile Service area for Pocket Parks 1/2 Mile Service Radius from Neighborhood Parks 1 Mile Service Radius from Community Parks |
|---|--|

FIGURE 5.14 PARKLAND GAPS/WALKABILITY - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



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

Park Access

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

Parklands

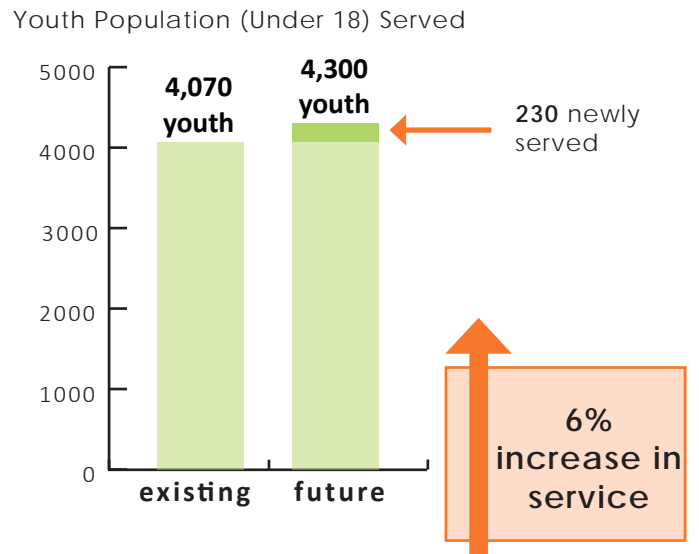
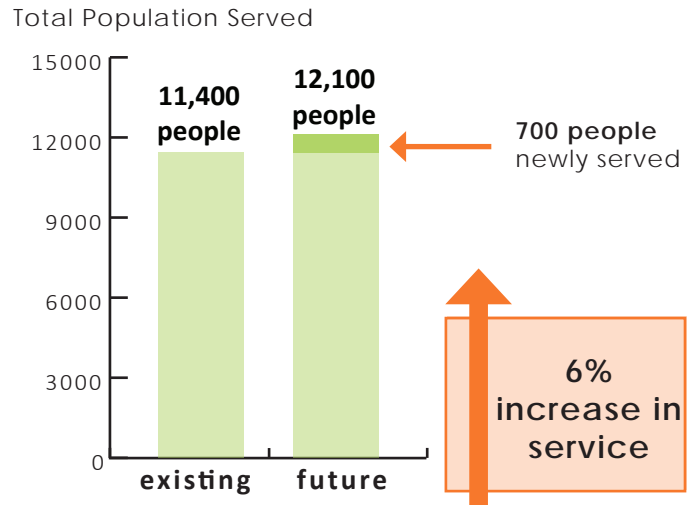
- Existing Parks Included in Analysis
- Other Existing Green Space
- Potential Future Parklands Included in Analysis

POPULATION SERVED WITH NEW PARKLAND

Meeting the overall park need in East Rancho Dominguez is challenging due to the limited availability of vacant land and the high level of need. However, the addition of even one acre of parkland would have a noticeable effect on parks and recreation service to East Rancho Dominguez residents, as shown in Figure 5.15.

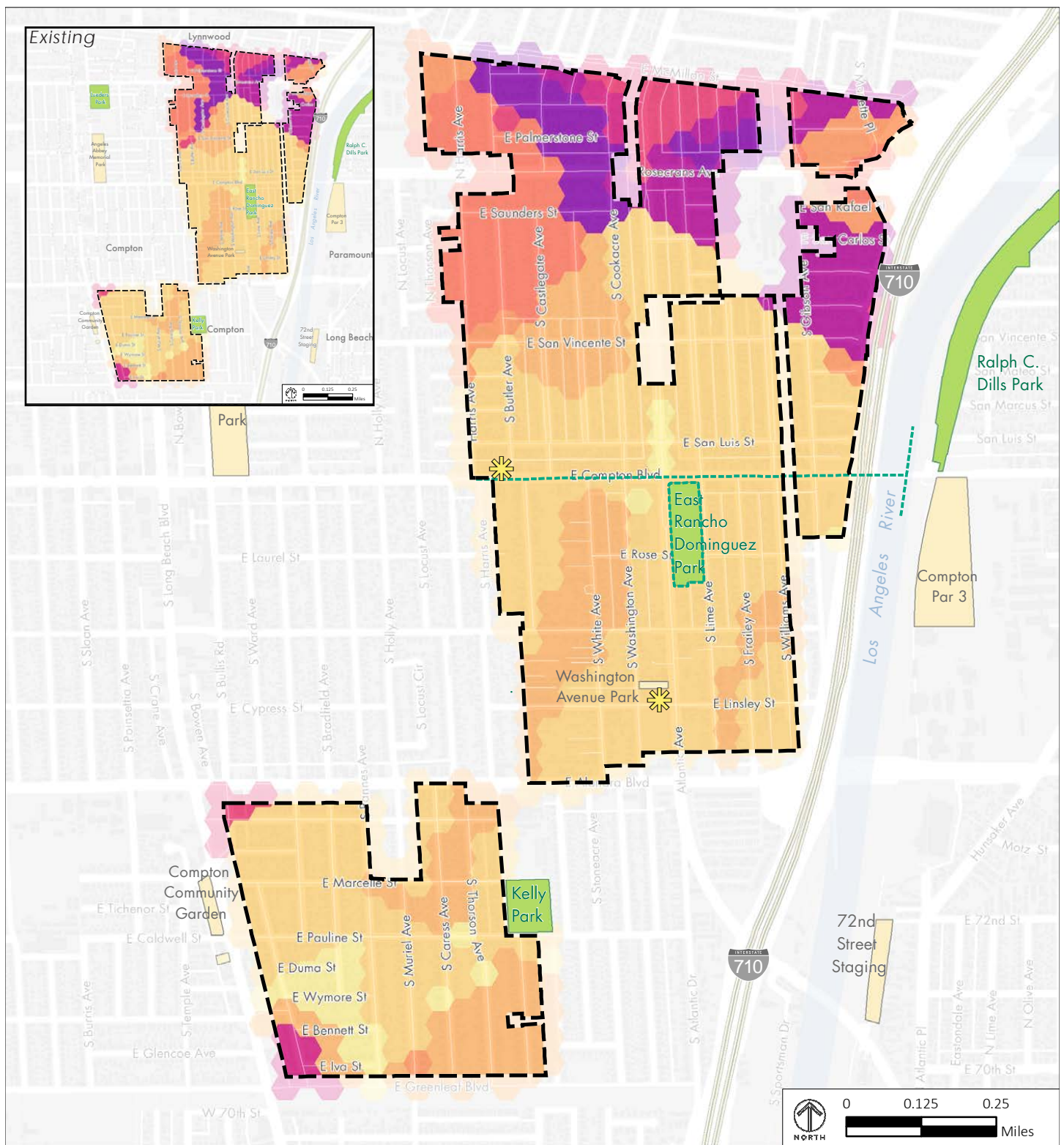
With the addition of potential future park sites, the population within walking distance of any park would increase by 6 percent from approximately 11,400 to 12,100 residents. Within that group, the population under 18 years old would increase from approximately 4,070 to 4,300, representing a 6 percent increase from the existing population served. This indicates that the additions of potential future park sites would increase the possibility of providing more access to the parks and green spaces to the overall population and especially for residents under 18 years old.

FIGURE 5.15 SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE ADDITION OF POTENTIAL NEW PARKS

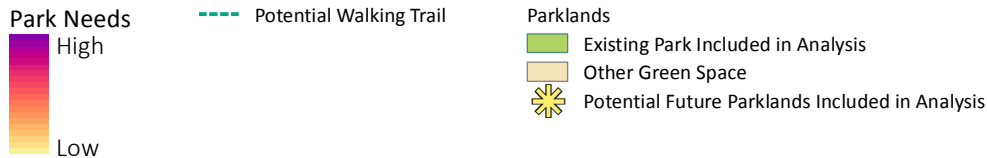


Graphs show improvements based on the addition of high priority park projects only.

FIGURE 5.16 SPATIAL NEED - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



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



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 potential future parks, would provide significant benefits to water storage and improve water quality running into nearby waterways. Additionally, increasing the community-wide tree canopy to 31 percent would 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 to be 14.93 inches per year. Utilizing this estimate for the 1 acre of additional in East Rancho Dominguez, annual rainfall in these areas could equal more than 400,000 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 **80,000 GALLONS** that could be intercepted and treated with LID.

FIGURE 5.17 **SAMPLE PARK PROJECT WATER SAVING**

<i>project size</i>	<i>10,000-square feet</i>
<i>project description</i>	<i>conventional high water use lawn with spray</i>
<i>estimated water use (gallons per year)</i>	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

IMPACT ON WATER CONSERVATION

Changes to maintenance and landscape installation within existing and potential 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% water savings)
- Applying **COMPOST** in planting areas and in turf areas (estimated 10-13% water savings)
- Utilizing **MULCH** regularly to retain soil moisture (estimated 20% water savings)

Figure 5.17 demonstrates how these savings could be applied to a 10,000 square foot sample park project in East Rancho Dominguez.

IMPACT ON GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION

Implementing the vision plan and urban greening goals in East Rancho Dominguez would include many actions that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration.

- Improving the pedestrian network that encourage more people to walk more would **DECREASE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED** and reduce emissions.
- Utilizing **ON-SITE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PRODUCTION**, would limit dependence on fossil fuels for energy needs.
- Increasing **TREES** in the urban environment would 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 benefits of new trees in East Rancho Dominguez. As described in Chapter Two, East Rancho Dominguez’s Park Forest (existing trees with parks only) is estimated to sequester 12,796 pounds (5.8 Metric tons) of carbon annually. There is limited opportunity to increase tree canopy and carbon storage at East Rancho Dominguez Park. Adding more parks with healthy urban canopy coverage is one to increase the overall carbon stored by the park forest. However, the complete benefits of the urban forest are best understood at the neighborhood scale rather than limited. As Shown in Table 5.1, it is estimated that the current forest sequesters 373 Metric Tons of carbon dioxide per year and that approximately 788 Metric Tons would 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 ways other than carbon sequestration, including 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.

Minimally increasing canopy coverage at East Rancho Dominguez Park to 20 percent and ensuring coverage of at least 15 percent for new parks will 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 the 710 freeway, 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 5.1 EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ CARBON SEQUESTRATION UNDER EXISTING AND TARGET CANOPY COVERAGE

Land Use ¹	CANOPY COVER		ANNUAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION (CO ₂ METRIC TONS) ²	
	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
Low Density Residential	72	154	342	733
High Density Residential	4	6	18	28
Commercial/Institutional	1	4	6	19
Industrial/Utilities/ Transportation	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Open Space ¹	2	2	7	9
Total	79	166	373	789

- 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 East Rancho Dominguez Park, East Rancho Dominguez Community Garden, and adjacent streets. Canopy coverage estimates are higher than data collected through iTrees sample (described above), which only inventoried trees at East Rancho Dominguez Park.
- 2 Increase in carbon storage resulting from increased canopy coverage 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 (East Los Angeles was selected as the sample measurement due to the diversity of the existing park forest in that community); (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 would be sequestered for each additional acre of canopy coverage, regardless of land use.



6 - IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the East Rancho Dominguez Community Parks and Recreation Plan will require long-term financing and strategic administrative policies for construction, acquisitions, and maintenance. This chapter includes recommendations of strategies, implementation actions, funding resources, and partnership agreements for achieving “Healthy Parks East Rancho Dominguez.”

SUMMARY OF GOALS

As presented in the Vision Plan in Chapter Five, goals for improving parks, recreation, and greening in East Rancho Dominguez include:

- 1. Increase overall green space and create new recreational opportunities that promote healthy lifestyles.*
- 2. Provide new places for active recreation and safe places to walk and exercise.*
- 3. Partner with community groups to develop small green spaces to fill the need for healthy food and exercise.*
- 4. Ensure that residents feel comfortable in existing and future park spaces.*
- 5. Promote activities and projects that enhance the community heart near Compton Boulevard and Atlantic Avenue.*
- 6. Support community identity by providing space for public art, events, and commercial enterprise.*
- 7. Increase the sense of nature within East Rancho Dominguez Park and future parks and create connections to the Los Angeles River watershed.*
- 8. Maintain and enhance East Rancho Dominguez’s urban forest.*
- 9. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.*
- 10. Foster public participation in park projects and ensure that the community is included in decision-making processes.*

These goals are achievable through new park development, updates to existing facilities, and partnerships between Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and other agencies and community groups.

STRATEGIES

Strategic policy and development action at various places throughout East Rancho Dominguez would be necessary to achieve these goals and increase overall parkland in East Rancho Dominguez. 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 IMPROVE EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ PARK TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SUPPORT DPR’S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS.** East Rancho Dominguez Park is a key community asset that is well-used by residents. Ongoing improvements to the park would ensure that the park operates efficiently and continues to meet the needs of the local community.
- 2. STRATEGICALLY ACQUIRE VACANT AND UNDERUTILIZED LOTS FOR GREENING THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.** Vacant and underutilized parcels could be transformed into new green space for recreational and green infrastructure use. Transforming these spaces could increase overall green space and improve public perception of environmental health and recreation options in the community. Disinvestment in East Rancho Dominguez has left behind some lots that may require cleanup and remediation. Typically, these spaces are not deemed desirable for park development, but in urban areas with built-out conditions, they could be considered and remediated where appropriate. Furthermore, cleaning a contaminated site could provide important public and environmental health benefits.
- 3. DEVELOP POCKET PARKS, PARK NODES, AND WALKING PATHS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY’S DESIRE FOR EXERCISE AND FITNESS.** New wellness opportunities need to be explored at existing facilities and new locations. These interventions could include new walking paths, exercise equipment, or spaces for outdoor fitness events.
- 4. SUPPORT PLANNING EFFORTS AND EVENTS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT ACTIVATE THE COMMUNITY HUB AND IMPROVE THE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE ENVIRONMENT.** The intersection of E. Compton Boulevard and S. Atlantic Boulevard sits at the heart of the community and holds many of the key community amenities, including the park, the library, and the community’s largest grocery store. It is also one of the more dangerous areas in the

community. Events that increase activity in this area should be promoted as a way of discouraging unsafe behaviors. Additionally, implementation of the Los Angeles County Bike Master Plan would improve bicycling conditions in the community. In addition to providing new exercise opportunities, improving the bicycle infrastructure and increasing bicycle ridership could improve non-vehicular access in the community and decrease emissions on roadways.

- 5. CREATE A GREEN CORRIDOR ALONG COMPTON BOULEVARD.** Compton Boulevard is a major commercial corridor. In addition to planned bicycle lane improvements on this street, other “Green Streets” improvements, such as increased street tree planting, crosswalk improvements, stormwater infrastructure, and public art, as well as the development of park projects along these corridors, could dramatically shape the landscape of East Rancho Dominguez.
- 6. ESTABLISH A SAFE PARKS AND SAFE STREETS STRATEGY FOR EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ.** East Rancho Dominguez residents are extremely concerned about the safety within East Rancho Dominguez Park and along their streets. They consider public safety as a major impediment to park use. A strong commitment to public safety would ensure that park facilities and public amenities are enjoyable and accessible to all residents.
- 7. UTILIZE “POP-UP” INTERVENTIONS TO CREATE RECREATIONAL AND GATHERING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE SHORT TERM.** There is limited available space for new parkland development in East Rancho Dominguez. Partnering with local businesses, non-profits, and public agencies to temporarily utilize space could provide some relief to recreational needs in the short term. Potential locations include parking lots and public streets that could be closed for a limited time. Creative programs, such as mobile sports and exercise clinics, outdoor movie nights, and food truck events, among others, could help alleviate the community’s concern for a lack of recreational options and events, particularly for youth, in the East Rancho Dominguez.
- 8. CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH.** Healthy and safe recreation options for young people in East Rancho Dominguez is important, as it provides an alternative to more dangerous activities such as gang activity. Youth-focused programs and facilities ensure that young people have places within the community where they can recreate in a fun and safe way. In particular, East Rancho Dominguez has an active and engaged teen population who want greater recreational options for their demographic within the community.

- 9. MAXIMIZE URBAN FORESTRY POTENTIAL AND UTILIZE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.** Green infrastructure, such as urban forests, stormwater swales, and pervious planting areas, can provide valuable ecological services and provide aesthetic benefits to a community. Throughout East Rancho Dominguez, there are opportunities to expand and enhance the existing urban tree canopy and implement green infrastructure interventions. Within East Rancho Dominguez Park and other potential future parks, DPR must ensure that the tree population is healthy and well-maintained and that water and soil systems are well managed. Other local agencies, community groups, and residents can also work to improve the overall urban forest and expand ecological services in the community.
- 10. CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH COMMUNITY ABOUT PARK NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN PARK ADMINISTRATION.** The planning process for the East Rancho Dominguez 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.
- 11. SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT INCREASE ACCESS TO PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND REGIONAL DESTINATIONS.** The East Rancho Dominguez park network can be enriched through improved pedestrian and bicycle amenities in the community and shuttle services that bring residents to green spaces and community centers. Programs that take residents to regional open space destinations throughout the County would further expand the reach of parks and recreation facilities in the community.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The following 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 improve East Rancho Dominguez park to meet community needs and support DPR’s sustainability goals.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION	1.1 Install two (2) new bike racks at East Rancho Dominguez Park near the gymnasium.	●			
	1.2 Create a fitness trail around the perimeter of East Rancho Dominguez Park.	●			
SUSTAINABILITY	WATER CONSERVATION				
	1.3 Ensure all existing parks meet requirements set forth in Executive Order B-29-15 to address State drought actions.	●			
	1.4 Perform a preliminary water audit of all existing County parks and perform additional audits biannually.	●			●
	1.5 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.	●			●
	1.6 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.	●			
	1.7 Monitor regularly for potential leaks in plumbing and replace quickly when leak is identified.				●
	1.8 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.	●			●
	1.9 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.				●
	1.10 Explore opportunities for demonstration spaces that highlight water efficient planting and irrigation.		●		

Smart controllers were installed at seven Los Angeles County Parks, which resulted in a 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 Park Water Company and Compton Water Company, which provides water to East Rancho Dominguez, reduce usage by an additional 8% to achieve mandatory statewide conservation goal of 25% reduction.

Source: State Water Resources Control Board

Implementation Actions		Phasing				
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing	
SUSTAINABILITY	<p>1.11 Complete planned improvements to connect recycled water lines for irrigation at East Rancho Dominguez Park and utilize recycled water at 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>1.12 Increase stormwater management potential at existing parks and ensure that new parks maximize stormwater retention on-site.</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 on-site. • 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. 				• • •	
	ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREEN BUILDINGS					
	<p>1.13 Install solar panels in exposed parking lots or on roofs at existing and new County parks.</p>		•			
	<p>1.14 Utilize paving materials with low albedo to reduce surface temperatures.</p>				•	
	<p>1.15 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 conform with the County’s Green Building Ordinances.</p>				•	
<p>1.16 Pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification (or other equivalent energy certified ratings) for all new buildings of 5,000 square feet or more on County Park properties.</p>				•		

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY	<p>1.17 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.</p>	●			
	CARBON SEQUESTRATION				
	<p>1.18 Maintain and enhance park forest following the recommendations set forth in the urban forestry implementation actions below.</p>				●
	<p>1.19 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.</p>				●
	HEALTHY SOIL				
	<p>1.20 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 percent using quality green-waste compost. If needed, implement recommendations to improve soil tilth, drainage, and carbon sequestering potential.</p>		●		●
	<p>1.21 Turf maintenance shall include grass recycling and topdressing turf with finely screened quality compost after aeration and/or 1-4 times per year to maintain a healthy, living soil profile.</p>				●
	<p>1.22 All landscaped areas shall receive a regular reapplication of organic mulch, preferably shredded tree/shrub trimmings, to a minimum depth of three inches (3”) for all exposed soil to minimize evapotranspiration, protect against compaction, and maintain overall soil health.</p>				●
<p>1.23 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>				●	

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY	ADMINISTRATIVE PROTOCOLS				
	<p>1.24 Establish and implement guidelines for operation, design, and development of existing and new park facilities that will meet the needs of the East Rancho Dominguez 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 promote efficient use of water and energy. • Landscape design which uses drought tolerant and native plants where appropriate. • Use of 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>1.25 Implement the County's Energy and Environmental Policy at East Rancho Dominguez Park, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and Water Efficiency Program • Environmental Stewardship Program • Sustainable Design Program 				•

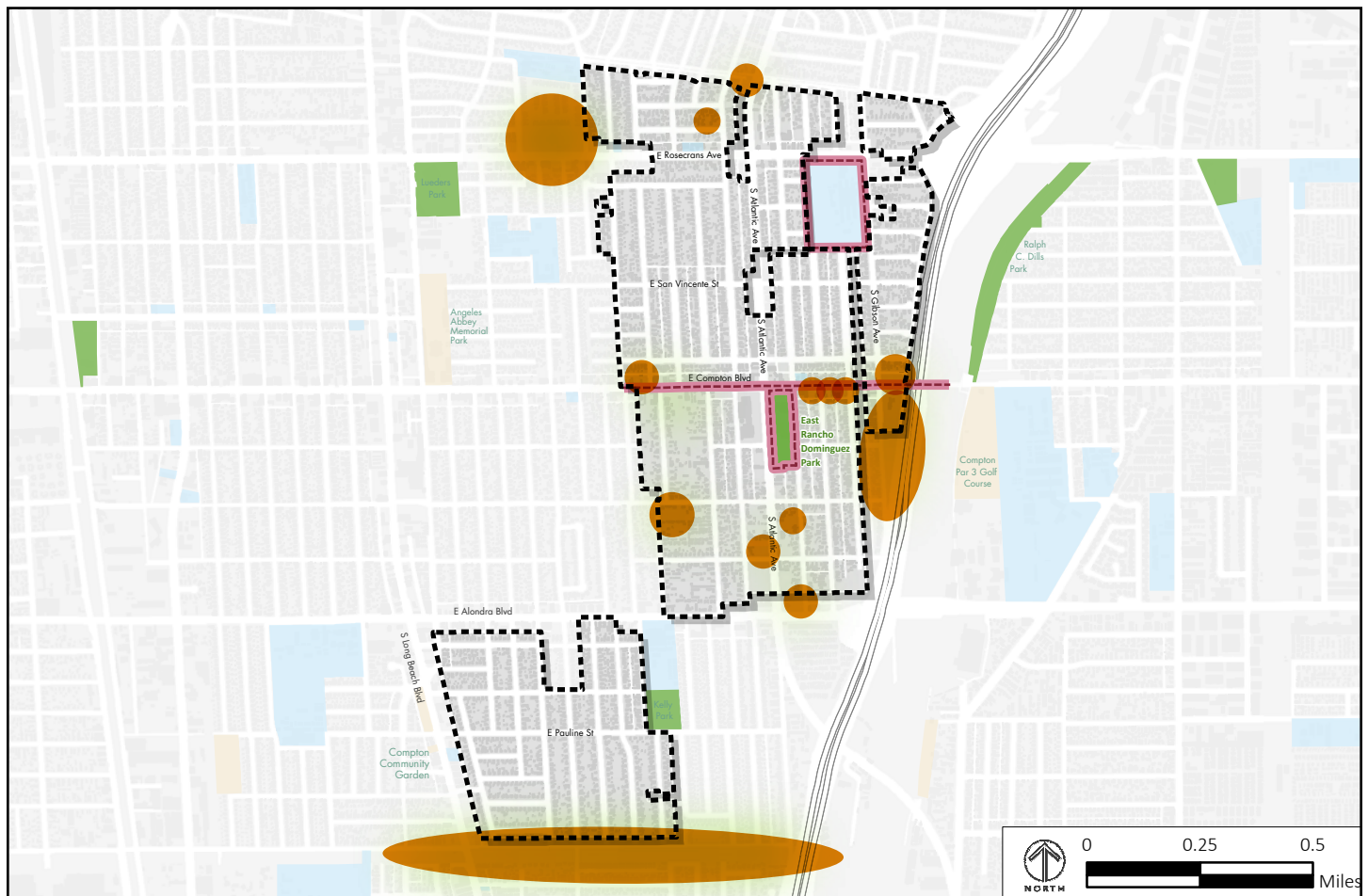
The Environmental Stewardship Program aims to reduce DPR's environmental footprint through a series of environmental impact actions.

The 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 buildings in County parks and maximize energy and water use efficiency.

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.

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

Implementation Actions	Phasing			
	Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
<p>2.1 Reach out to owners of currently vacant lots identified in this plan for potential acquisition.</p>	●			●
<p>2.2 Conduct an annual review of vacancies along key corridors to identify potential new acquisitions, including vacant buildings and foreclosed properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize search for high need areas of the community, including the northeast area. 				●
<p>2.3 Consider applying to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for brownfield remediation grants to develop a new park with known contamination issues, or investigate parkland opportunity site with suspected contamination due to previous use.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a site to investigate as a test case for remediation and park creation. 		●		●
<p>2.4 Coordinate with Southern California Edison and City of Compton to transform utility corridor into a linear park.</p>			●	

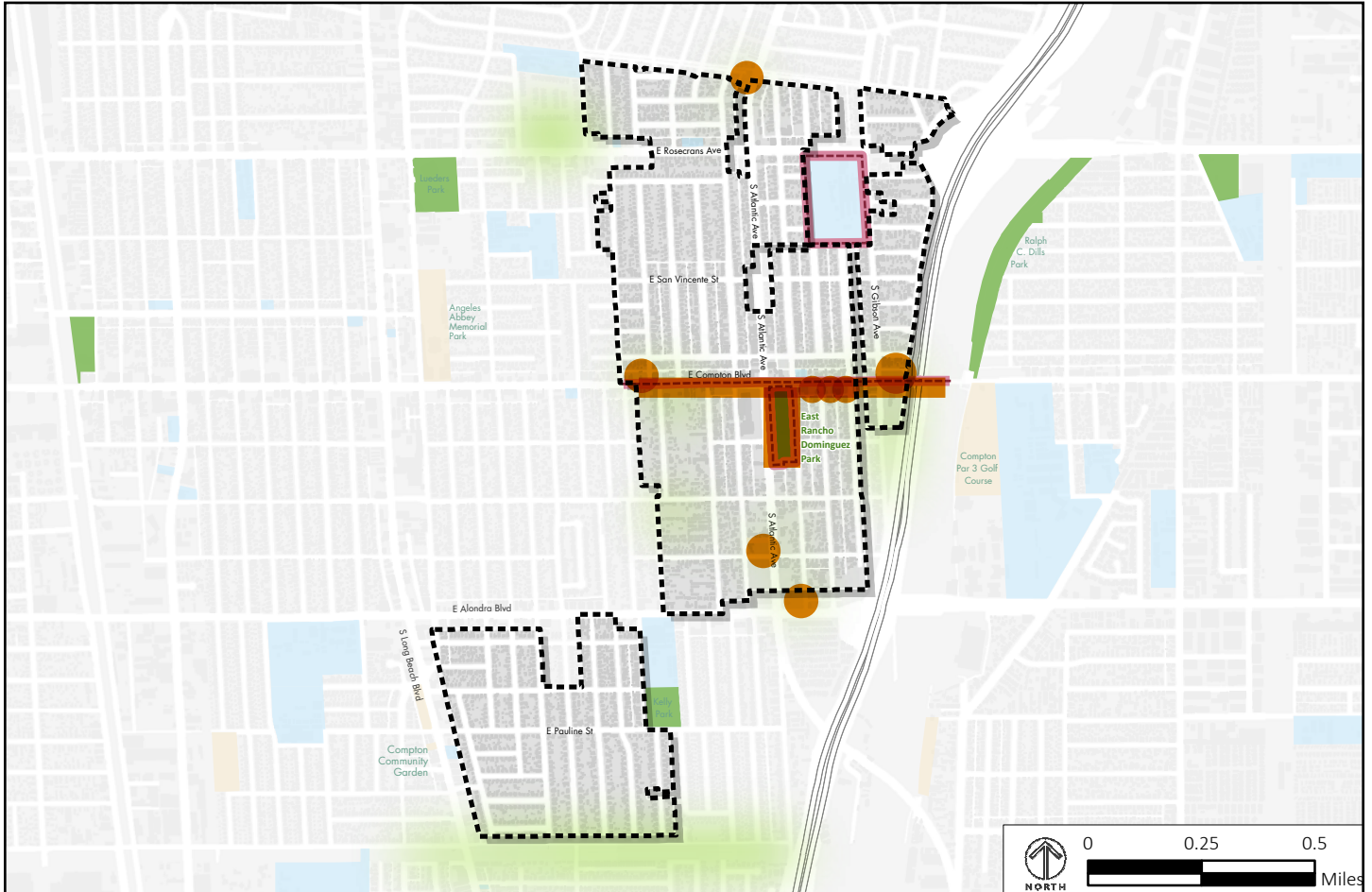


IMPLEMENTATION

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

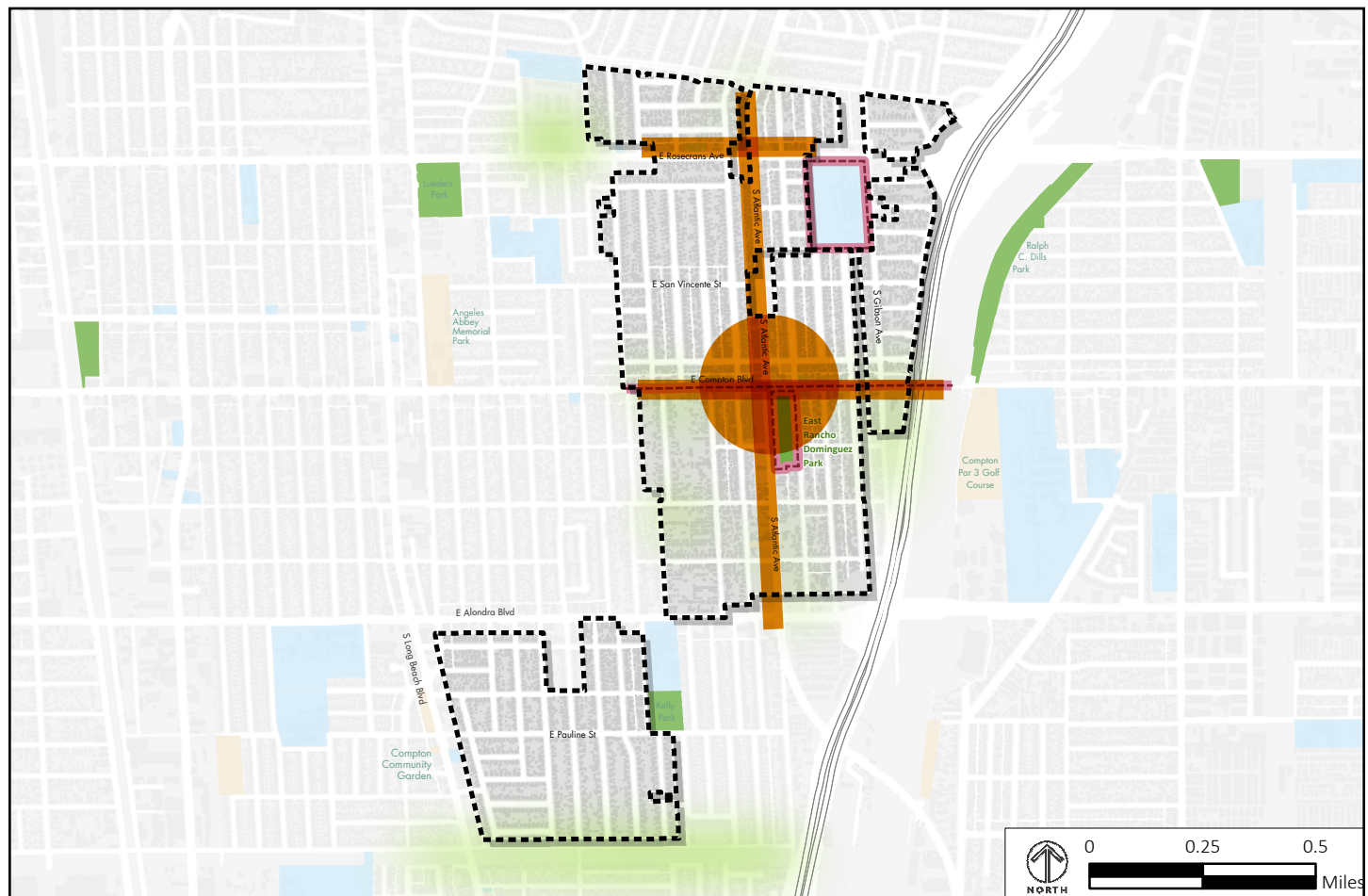
Implementation Actions	Phasing			
	Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
3.1 Create a fitness trail around the perimeter of East Rancho Dominguez Park.*		●		
3.2 Create a sidewalk trail along Compton Boulevard.		●		
3.3 Install park nodes with exercise equipment along walking paths, popular pedestrian routes, and near schools.		●		
3.4 Create mobile program unit to travel to provide programs, such as exercise classes, yoga, and dance, at small pocket parks and at “pop-up” events.		●		
3.5 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) to implement pedestrian improvements and street tree planting throughout the community to encourage walking along sidewalks.	●			●

* Strategy 3.1 is also listed as strategy 1.2 since it proposes an improvement to East Ranch Dominguez Park.



STRATEGY 4: Support planning efforts and events in the community that activate the community hub and improve the pedestrian and bicycle environment.

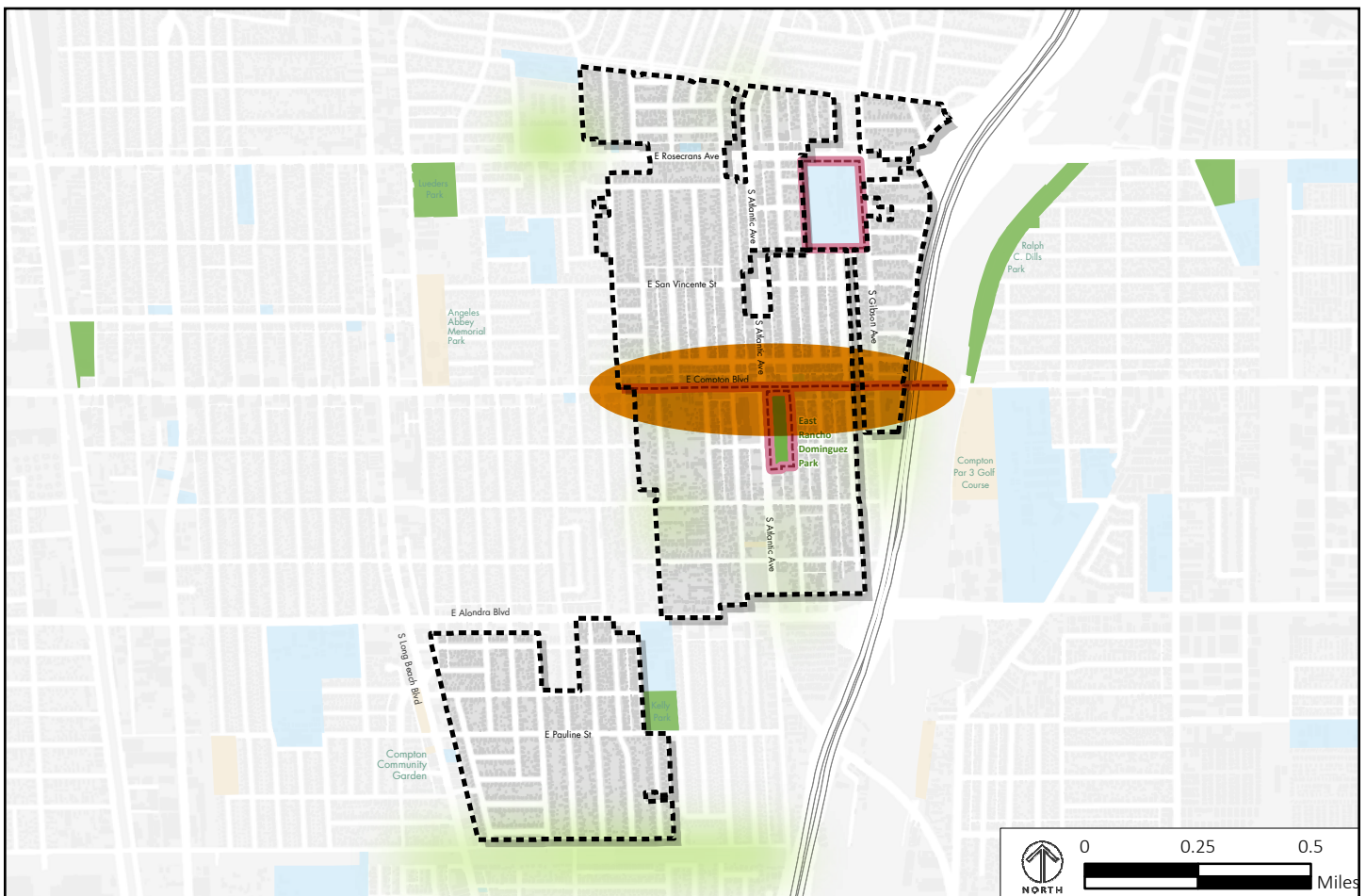
Implementation Actions	Phasing			
	Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
4.1 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Los Angeles County Public Library to do “pop-up” events on Atlantic Avenue.	●			
4.2 Coordinate with DPW to install a crosswalk between the East Rancho Dominguez Public Library and East Rancho Dominguez Park.	●			
4.3 Support the completion of the proposed bicycle lanes in East Rancho Dominguez from the Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan.				●



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 5: Create a Green Corridor along Compton Boulevard.

Implementation Actions	Phasing			
	Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
5.1 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) to implement green street concepts along Compton Boulevard, including new street tree plantings, sidewalk enhancements, and stormwater treatment basins.	●			●
5.2 Create a series of pocket parks along Compton Boulevard to complement plans for greening the street.		●		
5.3 Develop and install wayfinding signage to direct residents to Los Angeles River Trail and the greater trail system.	●			

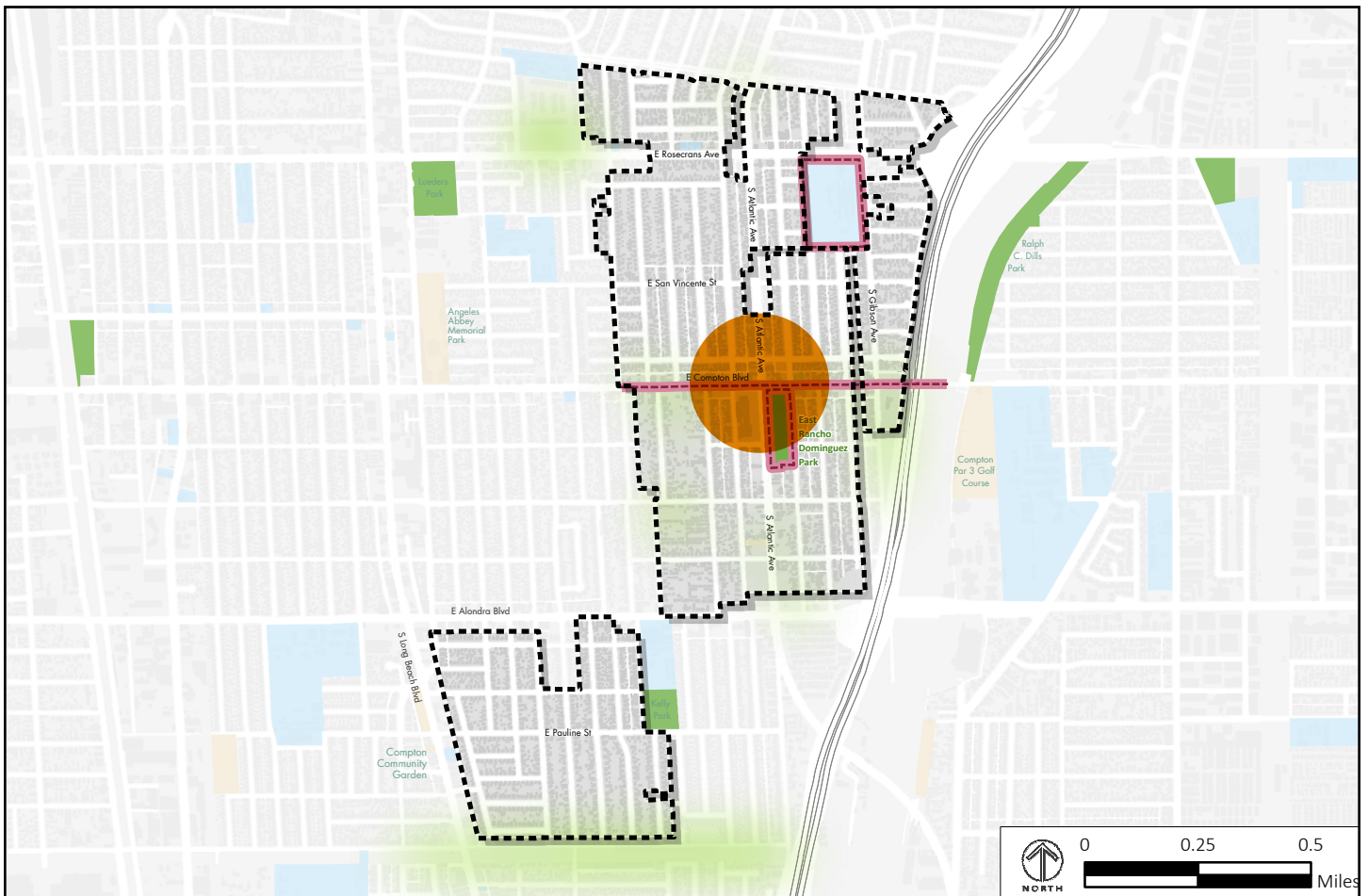


STRATEGY 6: Create a safe streets and safe parks strategy For East Rancho Dominguez.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
PARKS	6.1 Expand the Parks After Dark program into East Rancho Dominguez Park and any new parks in East Rancho Dominguez.		●		
	6.2 Contract with the Parks Bureau of the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department to conduct regular walking patrols through East Rancho Dominguez Park and new parks, including regular passes through restrooms and interactions with park users, informing them of any events or updates. Focus patrols at East Rancho Dominguez Park along Compton Boulevard border and encourage positive use of the basketball and soccer facilities.				●
	6.3 Add more lighting to the basketball court and multipurpose field areas of East Rancho Dominguez Park.		●		
	6.4 Ensure that new parks incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate CPTED strategies as part of the design review for any new parks projects. • Ensure that a strong preventive maintenance program is developed for each new park. 	●			●
STREETS	6.5 Paint a red curb along the East Rancho Dominguez’s southern entrance on Atlantic Avenue so that food trucks no longer block visibility of oncoming traffic.	●			
	6.6 Work with the Sheriff’s Department and DPW to implement pedestrian streetscape and safety improvements throughout the community.		●		
COMMUNITY	6.7 Hold annual job fairs at local parks, including resources such as mental health and housing	●			
	6.8 Utilize local organizations that help at-risk populations find for new positions in parks and for local construction.				●

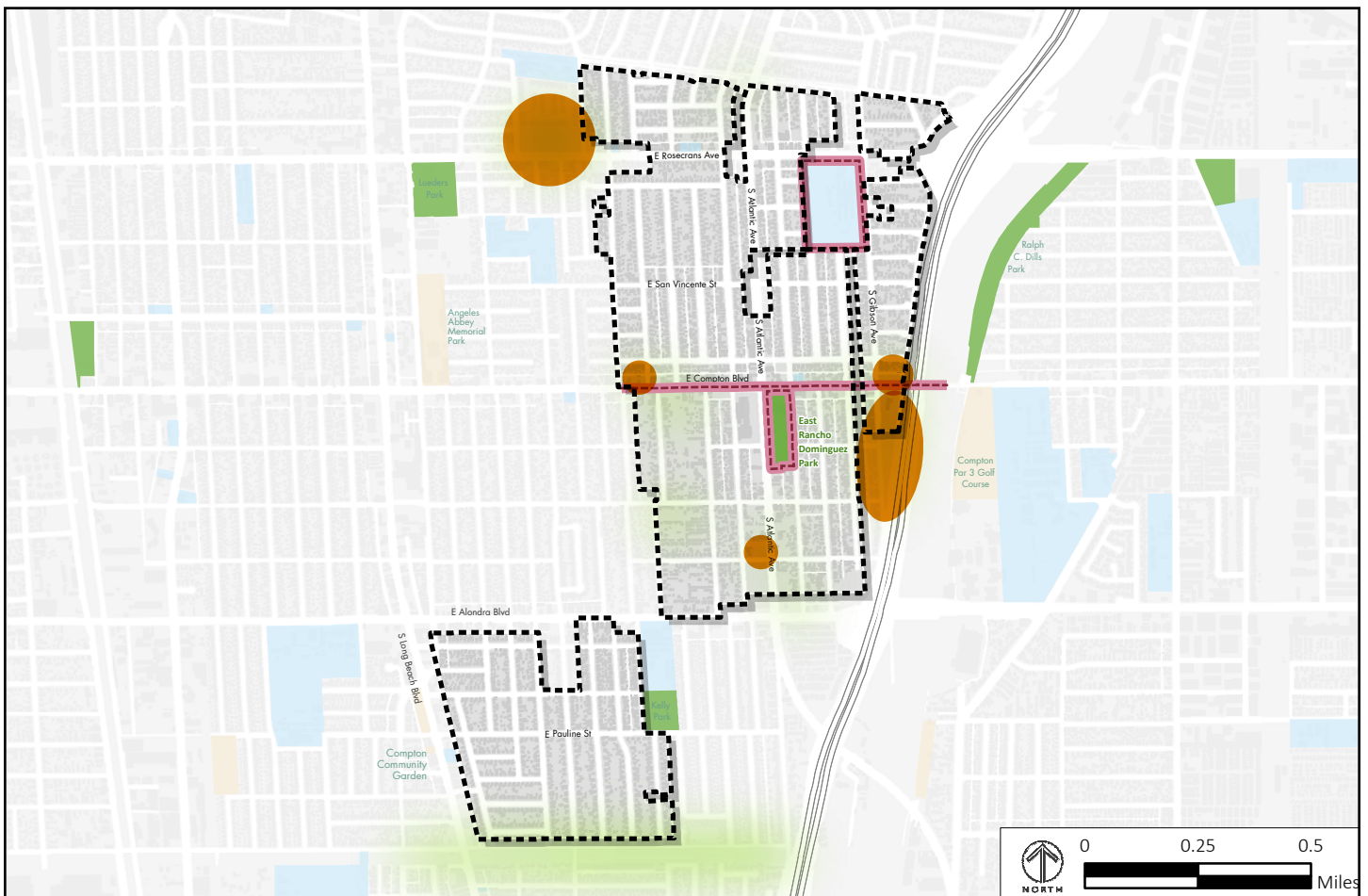
STRATEGY 7: Utilize “pop-up” interventions to create recreational and gathering opportunities in the short term.

Implementation Actions	Phasing			
	Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
<p>7.1 Coordinate with DPW to temporarily close segments of streets for “pop-up” park events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop pilot project to close a section of S. Atlantic Avenue between the park and the library for a “pop-up” sports and fitness day. 	●	●		
<p>7.3 Partner with local businesses with large parking lots for “pop-up” park events.</p>		●		



STRATEGY 8: Create new opportunities for children and youth.

Implementation Actions	Phasing			
	Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
8.1 Create new pocket parks with central play area or splash pad for younger children or more active area, such a skate park or bike skills park for older youth.				●
8.2 Partner with Compton Unified School District and the Los Angeles County Public Library to expand arts-centered programs and develop new events, such as community performances or movie screenings.	●			
8.3 Integrate amenities for teens into site designs for new parks.				●
8.4 Partner with local schools and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to create public art projects.	●			



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 9: Maximize urban forestry potential and utilize green infrastructure.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
EXISTING PARKS	9.1 Enhance and maintain forest in East Rancho Dominguez Park. Monitor and replace trees as needed.	●			●
	<p>5.5 Acres 55 Existing Trees 19% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 20%</p> <p>Opportunities to enhance the existing park forest include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In or around parking lot. • Along proposed fitness trail. 	●	●		
NEW	9.2 Ensure maximum of 15 percent urban forest cover at new County parks.				●
	9.3 Partner with other agencies and groups to enhance urban forest throughout the community.				●
County DPW	Street Corridors				●
	<p>Add street trees, particularly along the street corridors in high need areas (see Figure 5.10).</p> <p>Trees should be planted along E. Compton Boulevard to create a green corridor between East Rancho Dominguez Park and the Los Angeles River Trail.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to bury utility lines to increase planting opportunities.</p>	●		●	
Caltrans	Freeway Buffers		●		
	<p>Create buffers from freeways by planting trees along remnant parcels and vacant lots adjacent to the 710 Freeway.</p> <p>Actively collaborate with Caltrans regarding projects within the Caltrans right-of-way.</p>				●
Private Property Owners	Residential Yards				●
	<p>Educate residents about benefits of tree planting and offer tools to encourage and inspire residential projects, including through community involvement in 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 (The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (HR2454) appropriated funds from the US Department of Energy to local utility companies for strategic tree planting).</p> <p>Encourage the use of Preferred Tree List in Appendix E.</p>				●

STRATEGY 10: Continue dialogue with community about park needs and opportunities to be involved in park administration.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
10.1	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.	●			

STRATEGY 11: Support initiatives that increase access to parks, recreational facilities, and regional destinations.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	11.1 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) to expand The Link shuttle to provide service to East Rancho Dominguez.		●		
	11.2 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) to create Beach Bus service during summer months.	●			
	11.3 Create shuttle program to regional recreational destinations, such as Kenneth Hahn State Recreational Area and the Santa Monica Mountains.		●		

PARTNERSHIP

Partnering with other agencies, local non-profit groups, and individuals is key to improving parks and recreation in East Rancho Dominguez. Most of the identified potential parkland opportunity sites are privately-owned or managed by other agencies and require acquisition or collaboration to move forward. Furthermore, one of the best strategies to build support for a green space and keep it safe is community support. Community-based partnerships could build momentum for a greening project with greater ownership moving forward.

PUBLIC AGENCIES LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (DPH)

Public health and access to exercise options and nutritious food is a major priority for East Rancho Dominguez residents. Partnership with DPH for exercise programs and public awareness campaigns could be well received in the community. In particular, the Choose Health LA program has a large number of resources for staying active and making healthy lifestyle choices that could be utilized to build a strategy for East Rancho Dominguez. Potential partnership opportunities, including events at East Rancho Dominguez Park, future parks, and other public facilities, signage and community outreach products at new fitness trails, and healthy eating workshops at gardens in and around East Rancho Dominguez.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

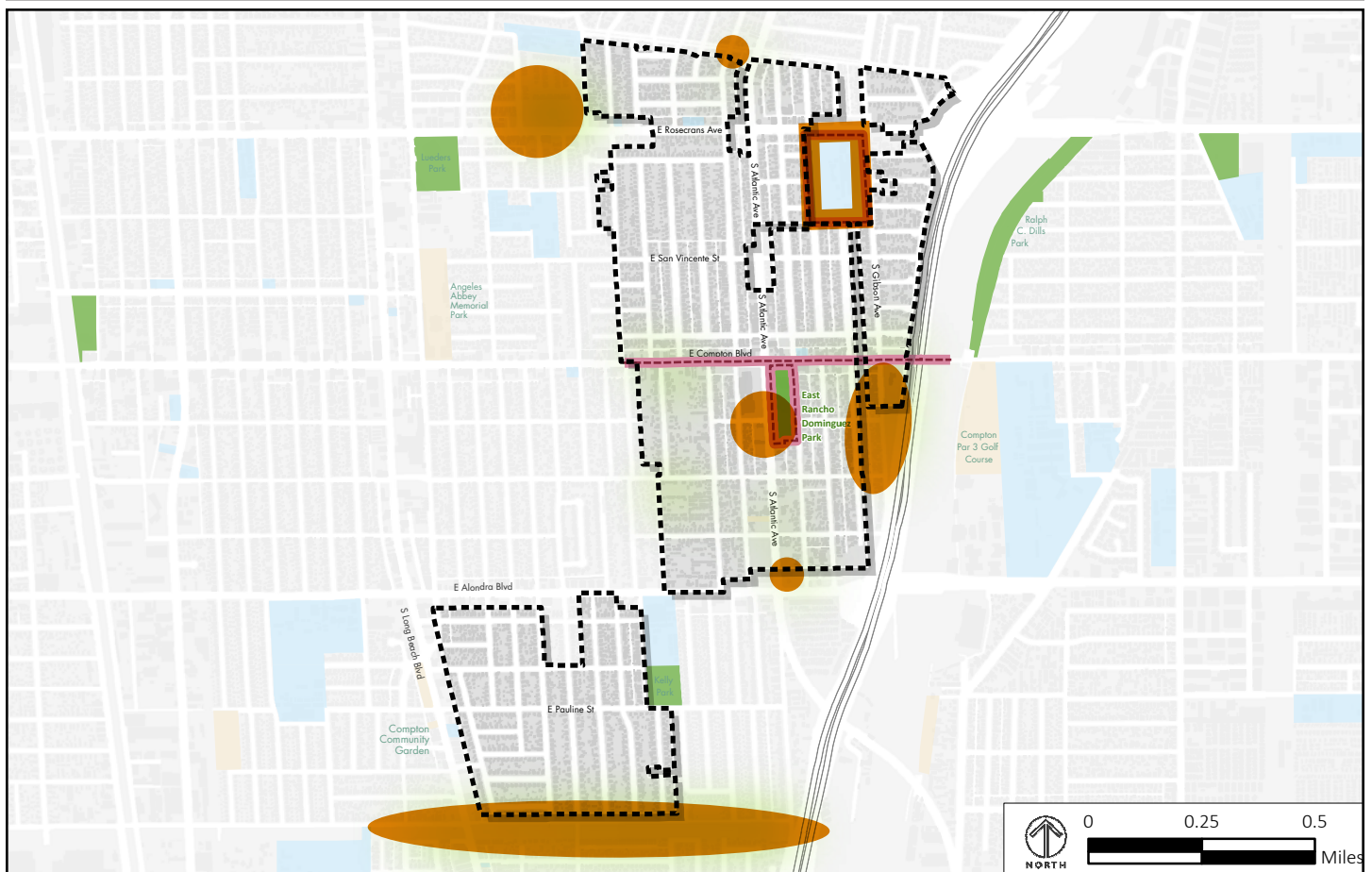
Community safety is especially important to the development and enhancement of East Rancho Dominguez park system. Residents need to feel safe in parks and partnership with park deputies from the Sheriff's Department to patrol new parks and respond to community concerns could potentially help to alleviate security issues.

Currently, the County Sheriff's Youth Activity League (YAL) does not operate at East Rancho Dominguez Park. However, these programs are popular in other areas and could potentially be expanded into East Rancho Dominguez through partnership with the Sheriff's department.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

Although streetscape and pedestrian improvements are typically outside of DPR's jurisdiction, they can help improve park access and public perception of the environmental condition of the neighborhood. In particular, DPW could expand street tree planting in East Rancho Dominguez, increasing overall tree canopy. Additionally, pedestrian improvements, such as traffic calming and pedestrian amenities along S. Atlantic Avenue and E. Compton Boulevard, could address some of the safety concerns of residents and improve walking along these routes.

FIGURE 6.1 PARTNERSHIP WITH PUBLIC AGENCIES



LOS ANGELES COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The East Rancho Dominguez branch of the Los Angeles County Public library system is located within the community hub area of East Rancho Dominguez, directly adjacent to the park. Collaboration for events and programming could be an important partnership to activate this area. The library hosts a number of community events, including health and wellness programs such as mobile clinics and free flu shots. These events are important opportunities to engage residents about park programming and other wellness opportunities within their community.

COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION

Some community members, particularly youth, expressed interest in seeing public arts projects in their community and consider art to be an important factor in making public spaces unique. The Los Angeles County Arts Commission helps create public art projects throughout the County. Partnership with the Arts Commission could be beneficial in developing new plaza areas as well as creating new arts programming or events.

ADJACENT CITIES

Some of the sites identified in the plan are located outside the community boundary within the City of Compton, but if developed, they would serve residents of East Rancho Dominguez as well as residents of Compton. Partnering to create these projects could create new resources for both communities.

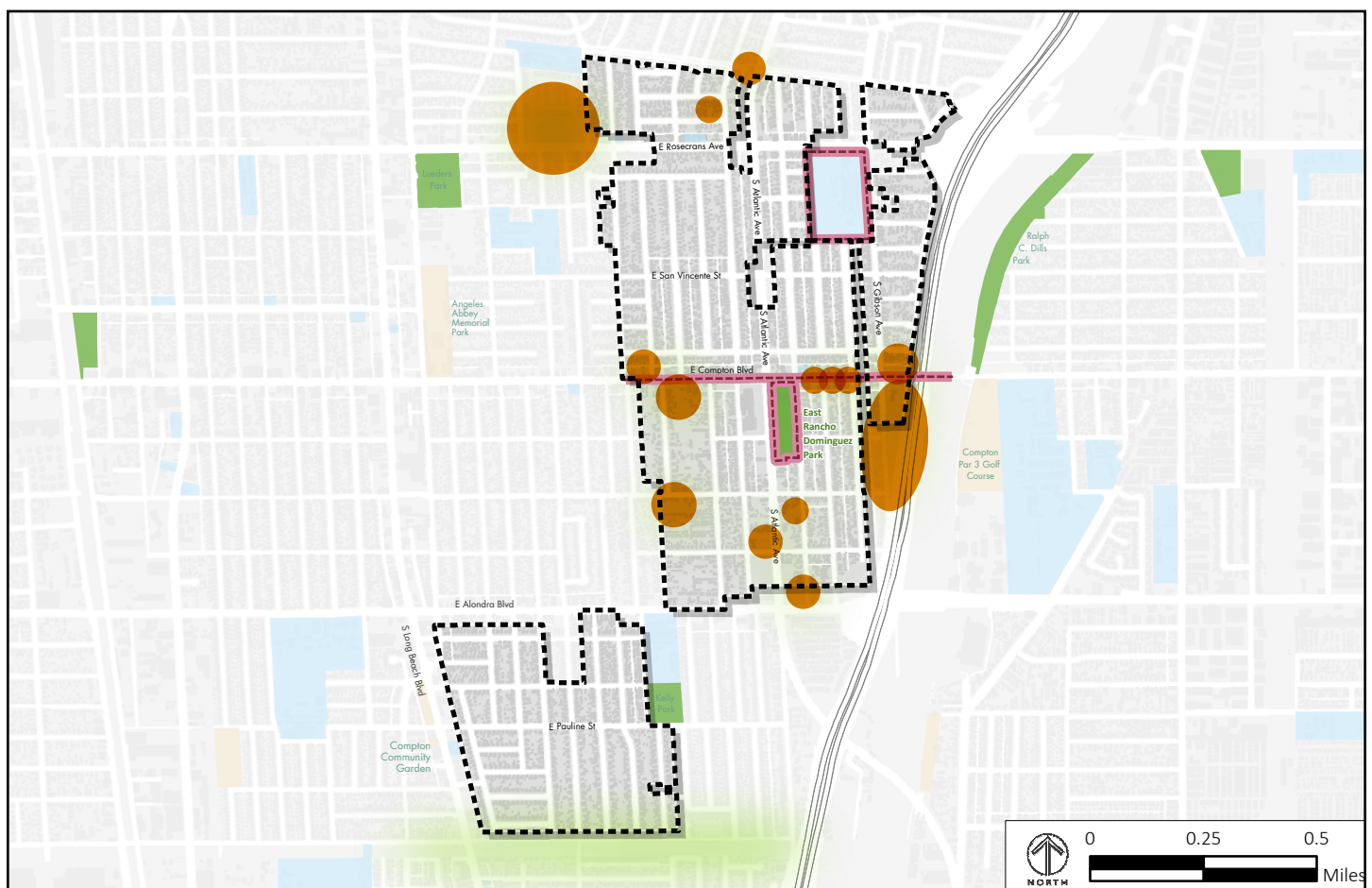
SCHOOLS

There are currently no public schools within East Rancho Dominguez; however, joint use or partnership with schools within the Compton Unified School District could potentially add new recreational amenities for East Rancho Dominguez residents, such as new walking paths that are described in the plan.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON (SCE)

Another resource in the City of Compton is the SCE corridor which runs outside the southern border of East Rancho Dominguez. Partnership with the city and a multi-benefit lease agreement with SCE could enable the development of the utility corridor as a linear park. Similar to the development of the Greenleaf Parkway project within the corridor, coordination with SCE regarding the design of the proposed project and long-term lease of the spaces would be necessary.

FIGURE 6.2 PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PRIVATE OWNERS



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Partnership agreements with community-based organizations are another tool for development. The Washington Avenue Community Garden was constructed by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) and the Compton Community Garden, located just outside the East Rancho Dominguez boundary, was constructed by Metro Community Development Corporation. The sites met a need that the community identified, and non-profit groups continue to be active in improving the environmental quality of their neighborhood.

Partnership with LANLT, Metro Community Development Corporation, or other green space advocacy groups could broaden the range of green space opportunities, including sites located on the interior of blocks, and may ensure that there is community investment. This could be especially important in developing sites located away from central activity zones where it would be important in terms of safety to have “eyes on the park.”

Additionally, some of the identified parkland opportunities require partnering with local businesses or land owners to utilize a portion of their land, such as a parking lot or adjacent green space. Creating privately owned public space could be another method of creating new parkland and urban greening.

Potential community partners for projects in East Rancho Dominguez include (but are not limited to) :

- East Rancho Dominguez Neighborhood Association
- Metro Community Development Corporation
- South Bay Center for Community Development
- Compton Jr. Posse
- El Nido Family Services
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Los Angeles Parks Foundation
- Los Angeles Community Garden Council
- Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority
- Trust for Public Land
- Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition
- Youth Build
- Torre Fuerte Apostolic Church

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 Rancho Dominguez 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

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.](#)

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

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. 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.

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>

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

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

- **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

- **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

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
- **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

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

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

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

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/oscfshtml

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

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

- **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

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

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>

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

- **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

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
- **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

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/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>

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

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
- **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

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

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>

