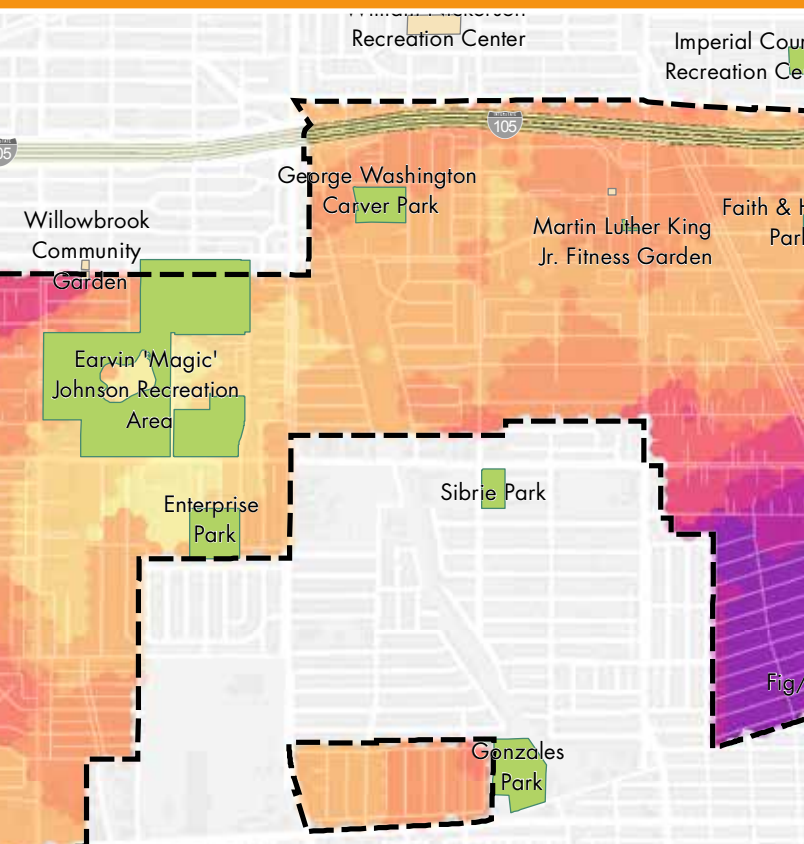


FEBRUARY 2016

WILLOWBROOK COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



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Funding for the Willowbrook 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.

This document was prepared by:



Acknowledgements

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Transportation and Community Development
Ron Fisher Assistant Deputy

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Norma E. Garcia Deputy Director- Planning and Development Agency
Joe Mendoza Deputy Director- South Community Services Agency
Jim Smith Chief of Development
Kathline King Chief of Planning
Blake Warner Supervising Landscape Architect
Clement Lau Departmental Facilities Planner II

CONSULTANT TEAM

PlaceWorks
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

Special thanks to the residents of Willowbrook 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.

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WILLOWBROOK

Community Parks & Recreation Plan



PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The Willowbrook Community Parks and Recreation Plan provides a vision and road map for a greener Willowbrook, including a key focus on the revitalization of Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area at the heart of the community and the development of a more extensive network of publicly-accessible pedestrian corridors, green spaces, and recreational facilities. The plan includes recommendations for increasing access to parks and enhancing existing recreational facilities to meet community-identified needs. The plan builds on previous planning efforts and includes specific implementation actions to be taken by the County to improve parks and recreation in the community.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EXISTING PARKS

3.3 million gallons of stormwater intercepted annually

3,000 pounds of reduced air pollutants annually

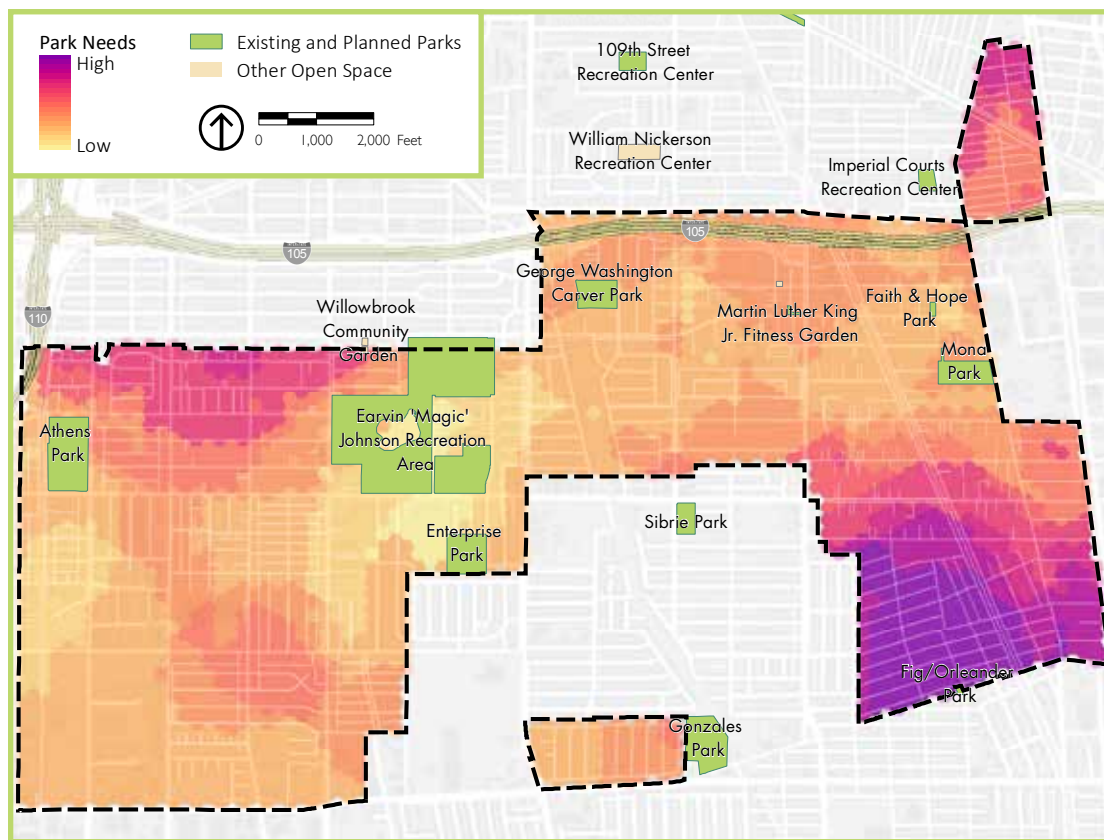
340,000 tons of CO₂ sequestered annually

PARKS AND GREENING PROFILE

Willowbrook has seven parks, totaling 142 acres of parkland. However, 98 acres are within Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area, which is a regional facility designed to accommodate use by County residents up to 20 miles away. The other six parks in the community are intended to serve more local park needs. The Los Angeles County General Plan sets a standard of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. Willowbrook currently has a population of nearly 36,000 residents and approximately 44 acres of local parkland, which translates to **1.23 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents**, a figure below the General Plan standard.

Access to existing parkland in Willowbrook is not consistent throughout the community. **About 46 percent of the Willowbrook population is not within walking distance (1/2 mile) of a park.** Due to various socioeconomic conditions, including relatively low incomes, low levels of car ownership, and high crime, as well as a challenging pedestrian and bicycle environment, Willowbrook is in high need of a community-based vision and master plan for parks and urban greening.

Where are Parks Most Needed in Willowbrook?



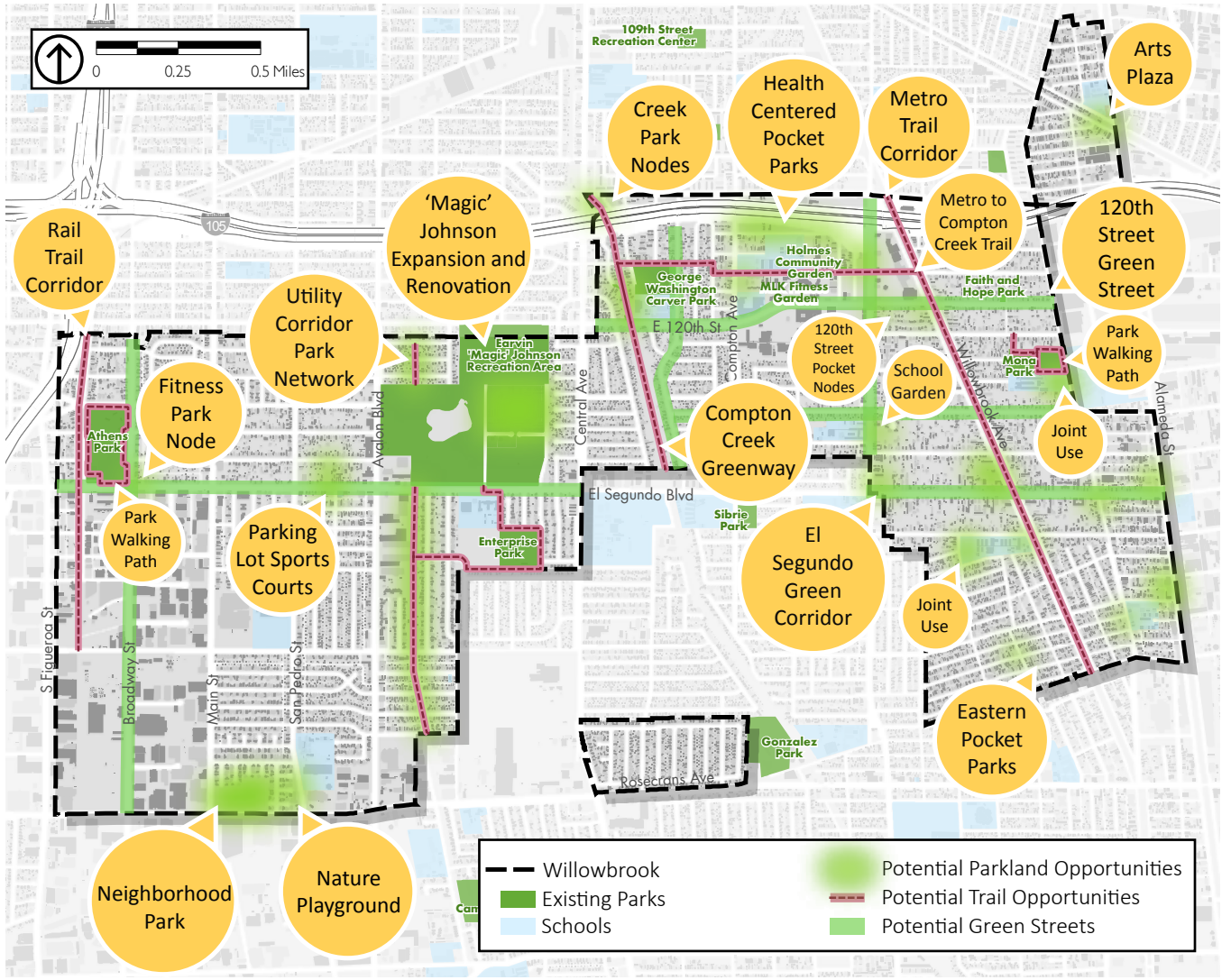
Community Bike Tour.



Priority Voting at Outreach Fair.

WILLOWBROOK GREEN VISION MAP

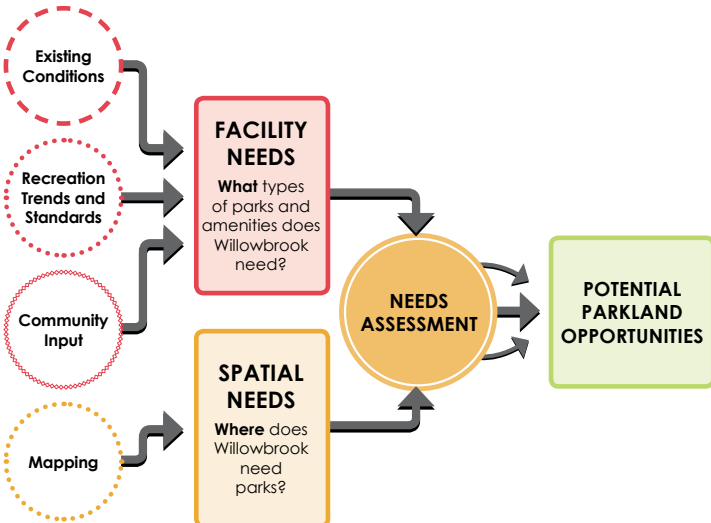
This map identifies potential park, trail, and greening projects that may be implemented in the short, medium, and/or long term to meet the needs of Willowbrook.



CURRENT AND FUTURE CONNECTIONS



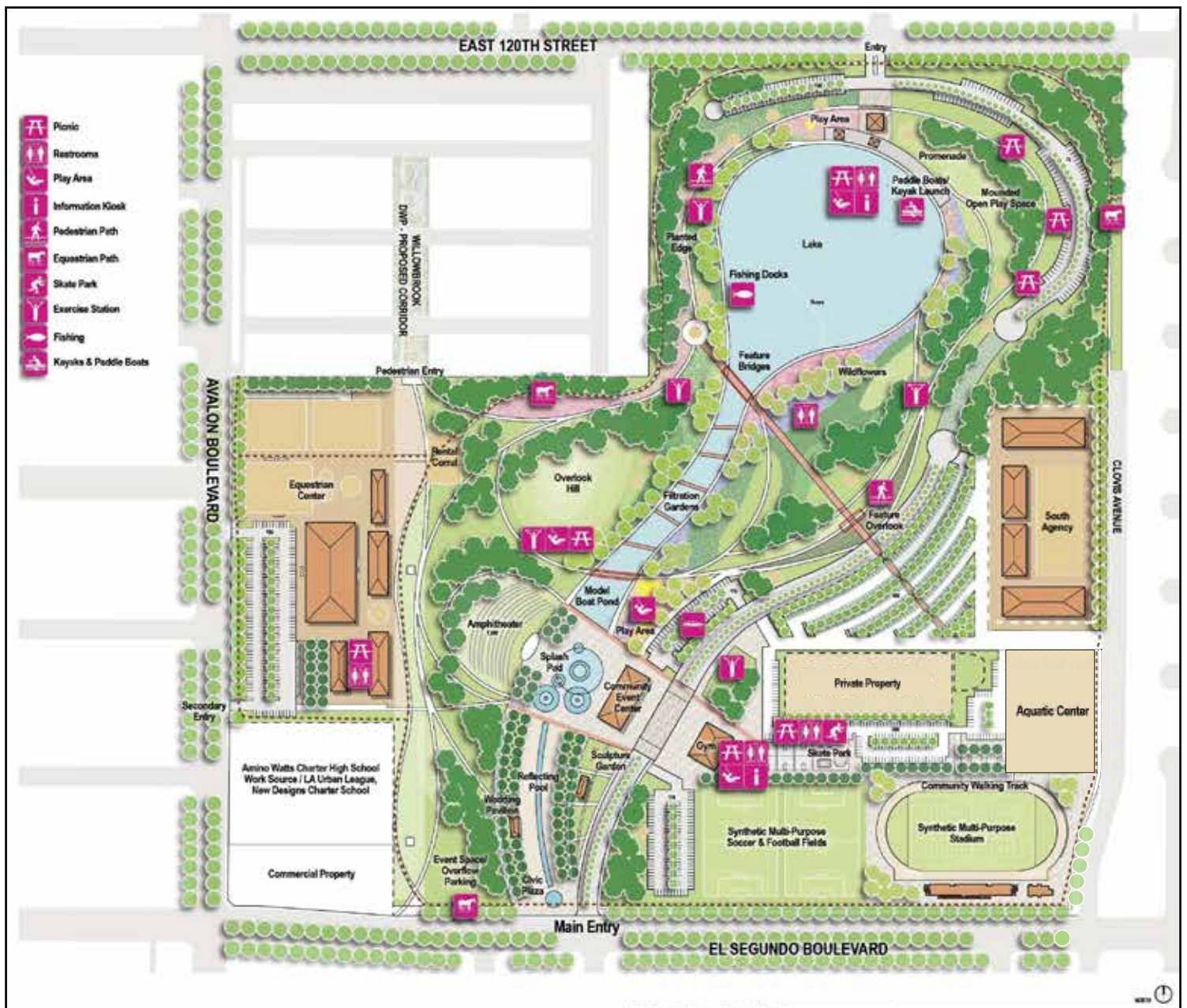
SITE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS



GOALS FOR WILLOWBROOK

1. Create a regional and local hub at Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area.
2. Improve access to existing parkland system by creating safe corridors for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians, and developing a greenway network.
3. Provide all residents with safe places to walk for exercise.
4. Ensure that recreational facilities and programs meet community needs and that residents are included in the decision-making process.
5. Improve actual and perceived safety of Willowbrook's parkland system.
6. Expand the recreational opportunities within Willowbrook's park system to incorporate more arts and cultural activities, as well as healthy food and lifestyle amenities.
7. Increase the sense of nature within the parkland system and in the everyday lives of Willowbrook residents.
8. Maintain and enhance Willowbrook's urban forest.
9. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.

Proposed Master Plan for Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area



A VISION FOR WILLOWBROOK'S WALKING PATHS AND TRAILS

Rail and Trail Corridors



Compton Creek Corridor



Utility Corridor



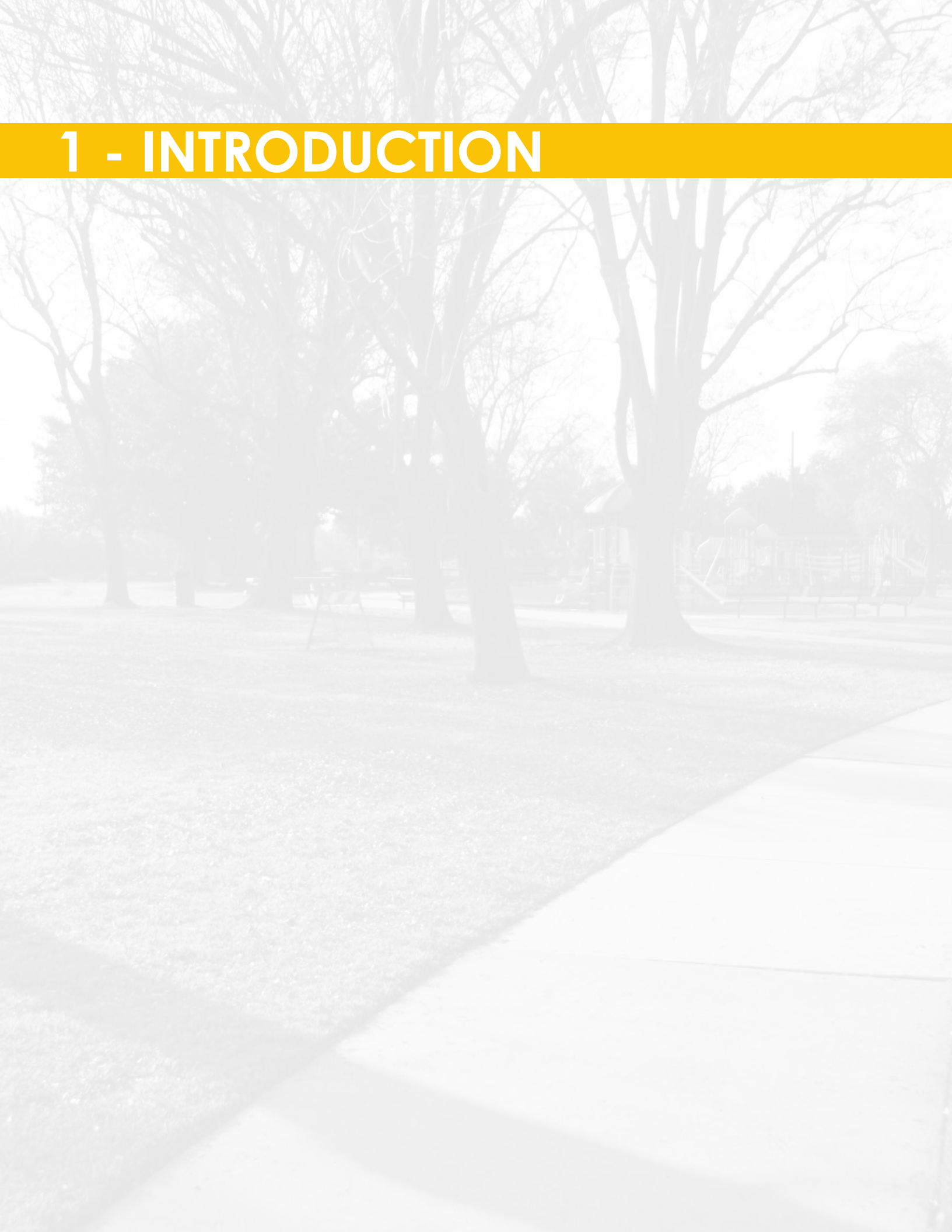
Sidewalk Trails



For more information, contact:

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

1 - INTRODUCTION



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

- Los Angeles County General Plan, Parks and Recreation Element

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN?

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

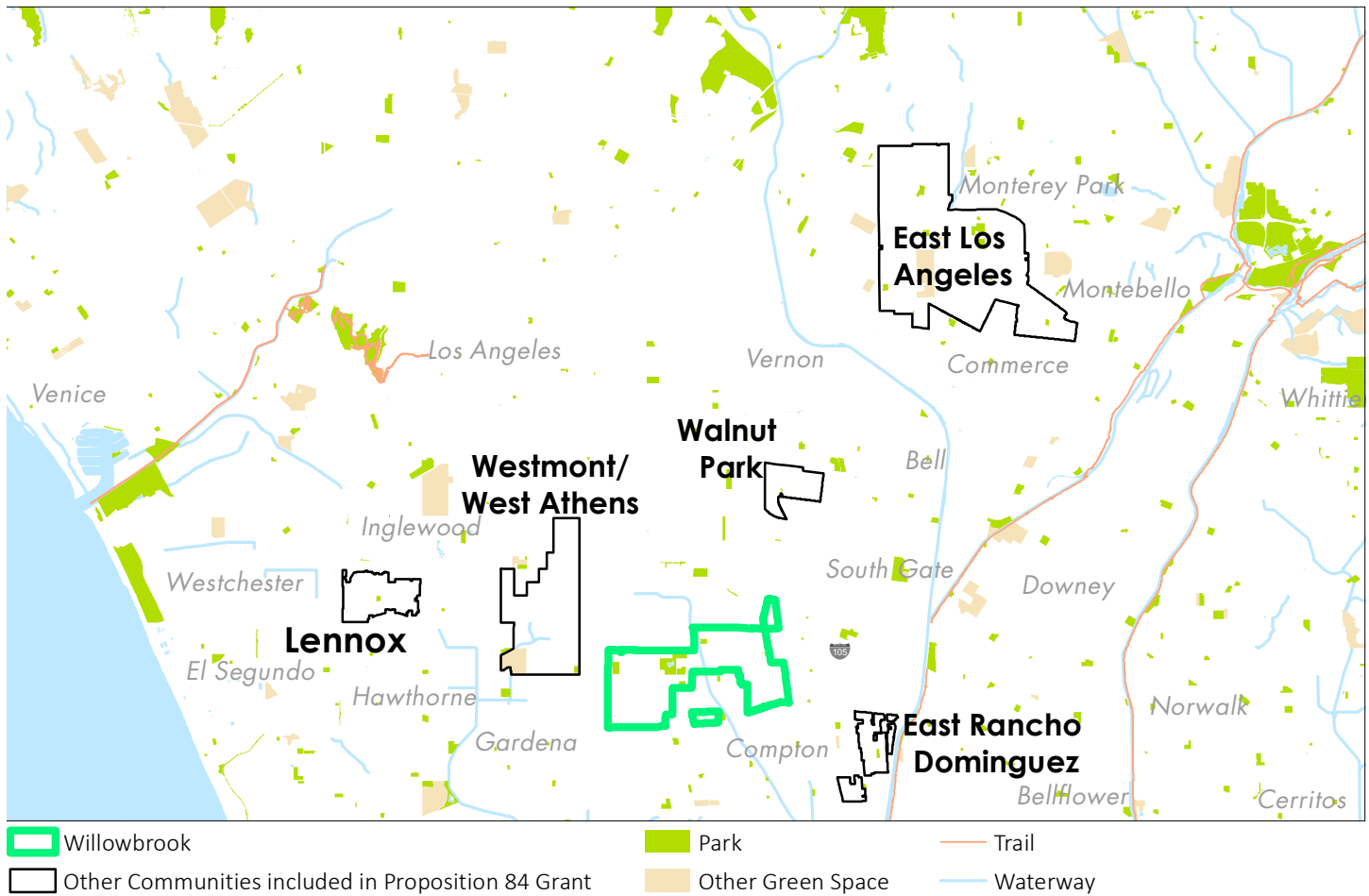
WHY WILLOWBROOK?

Willowbrook has a number of quality parks, including 46 acres of local parks and a 98 acre regional facility. Including both local and regional parks, Willowbrook is only 12 acres short of meeting the Los Angeles County General Plan goal of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. Although Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area, the regional facility, provides service to Willowbrook residents, it is intended to serve County residents up to 20 miles away, a distance which includes many other communities that are significantly lacking in parkland. This suggests that while this park is extremely beneficial to Willowbrook residents, it does not entirely replace the local park need. With about 36,000 residents, Willowbrook has approximately 1.23 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents and 2.7 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents.

In addition to total acres of parks, spatial equity of parkland is also key in Willowbrook where nearly 46 percent of the population are not within walking distance of a park. As noted, parkland is extremely concentrated in the regional facility, which is not within close proximity to all residents. Furthermore, socioeconomic conditions, including low incomes, low levels of car ownership, and high crime, as well as limitations of the built environment, including a challenging pedestrian and bicycle environment, present challenges to park access. While some residents currently fill the recreational gap by using non-traditional open spaces or by traveling outside of the community, it is likely that most residents prefer to have additional parks and recreation opportunities within walking distance of their homes.



FIGURE 1.1 LOCATION OF WILLOWBROOK IN REGION



Community activism and County initiatives are bringing change to Willowbrook with new pocket parks, community gardens, and infrastructure improvements. However, a guiding vision that incorporates the many projects has not been developed. This plan intends to define that vision for the existing parks, the recently developed projects, and those projects currently underway. It assesses community need according to this baseline, and proposes various strategies to achieve the vision. This includes a proposed approach to meeting the overall need for parkland in Willowbrook. Just as importantly, it proposes strategies to give the residents of Willowbrook better access to parks and green spaces as part of everyday living, emphasizing community connections, safety, and a diversity of park and recreation opportunities.

HOW DID THE WILLOWBROOK 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

Willowbrook, community parks and recreation plans were developed for East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Lennox, Walnut Park, and West Athens-Westmont, outlined in black in Figure 1.1.

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

The grant 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 Willowbrook Community Parks and Recreation Plan, utilizing

a variety of strategies, from stakeholder interviews and interactive community workshops to interactive surveys and a youth-led bicycle trip through the community. The goal of the outreach was not only to gain information about existing usage of parks and preferred facilities or amenities, but to also facilitate a dialogue with community members about parks and recreation in Willowbrook. This feedback helped shape the vision for the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

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

WHY PARKS AND URBAN GREENING MATTER?

Parks make significant impacts on the everyday lives of urban residents. They provide valuable places for recreation and social engagement, as well as important ecological services. Together with community-wide urban greening, this plan proposes a vision with wide-reaching impacts, 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 create a healthy setting for learning. Access to green space and opportunities to exercise can help students concentrate and focus in school.
- **Community Safety.** Violence and crime rates are lower in areas with nearby trees and landscaping than areas without trees. Furthermore, research has indicated that neighbors have better relationships with each other and that communities are stronger and more cohesive where there is green space, perhaps because people like where they live and feel safer.
- **Community Building.** The presence of a healthy park network and community-wide efforts to improve park spaces can empower communities to work together to protect and/or expand the network, and to build community identity.
- **Walkable Streets.** Shaded paths and trees offer pedestrians a buffer from nearby vehicles, respite from the hot sun, and colorful scenery to enjoy. In addition, trees can provide dramatic view corridors and, when properly planned, facilitate way-finding within an urban area.

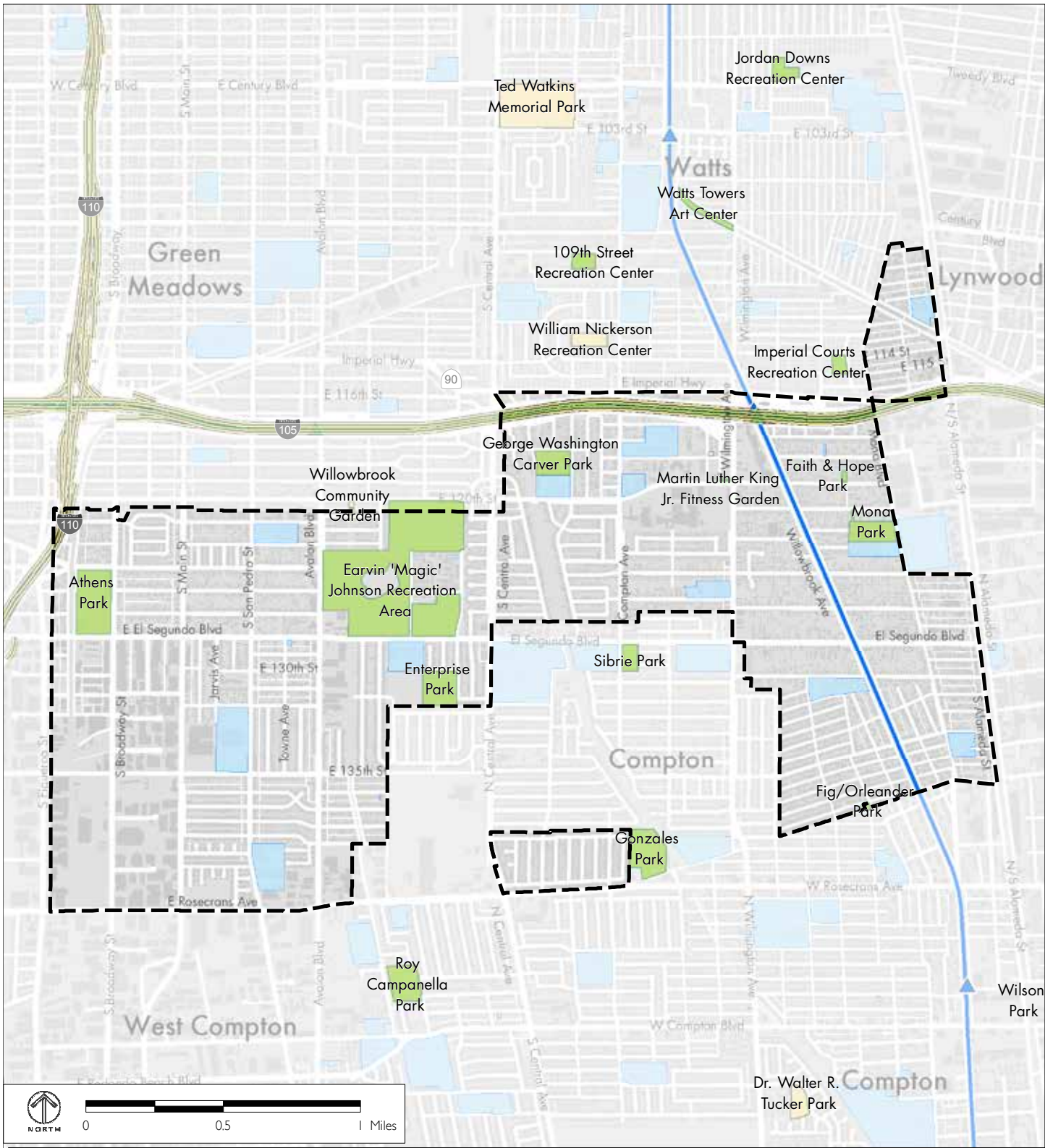
ENVIRONMENTAL

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

ECONOMIC

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

FIGURE 1.2 WILLOWBROOK



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

- Willowbrook
- Park
- Other Green Space
- School
- Public Transit Network**
- ▲ Metro Rail Blue Line Station
- ▲ Metro Rail Green Line Station
- Metro Rail Blue Line
- Metro Rail Green Line

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN?

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

- Provides a guide toward developing new green spaces and enhancing existing recreational amenities in Willowbrook.
- Documents community input on parks and recreation planning issues in the community.
- Formalizes a vision for parks and recreation in Willowbrook 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 Willowbrook, 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 Willowbrook, based on findings from existing conditions, community outreach, and spatial analysis.

Chapter 5 Open Space Vision Plan describes the goals and vision of open space in Willowbrook, including opportunities for new open space development and enhancement of existing facilities. This chapter additionally provides a vision for urban forestry in Willowbrook.

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

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





2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS



Willowbrook is a 3.7-square mile, unincorporated community in the Second Supervisorial District in Los Angeles County. It is home to Martin Luther King Jr. Harbor Hospital and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. It is bordered by the community of Watts to the north; the unincorporated community of West Rancho Dominguez and the City of Compton to the south; the unincorporated community of West Athens and the City of Gardena to the west; and the City of Lynwood to the east. This chapter presents an overview of the policy context for developing new parks in Willowbrook, presents a community profile of existing population, and provides a snapshot view of the status of parks and recreation in the community.

POLICY CONTEXT

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

- PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES GENERAL PLAN 2035 (ADOPTED OCTOBER 2015).** The Parks and Recreation Element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan 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 General Plan parks and open space guidelines. The SAMP includes an assessment of existing parks and recreation resources and sets five-year, ten-year, and twenty-year priorities for identified needs per Supervisorial District within the County.
- FLORENCE-FIRESTONE COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN (DRAFT OCTOBER 2010).** The Florence-Firestone Community Parks and Recreation Plan plans for services that meet the parks and recreation needs of residents in the unincorporated Florence-Firestone area. While this plan applies exclusively to Florence-Firestone, it contains examples of best practice policies reflective of a community process that could be replicated for establishing new parks in Willowbrook 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 parks and recreational facilities. Locally, the Quimby Act is implemented through the Los Angeles County Quimby Code in Title 21 (Subdivision Code), which details how it is applied in the unincorporated areas of the County.
- THE SAFE NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS PROPOSITIONS OF 1992 AND 1996.** These propositions were approved by voters of Los Angeles County and established a grant program for special parks and recreation projects in the County. The Excess Funds Grant Program specifically targeted “high priority” projects, including projects along the Los Angeles River and its tributaries. Compton Creek, a section of which runs through Willowbrook, is included in the list of Los Angeles River tributaries eligible to receive funds.

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



EXISTING JOINT-USE AGREEMENTS

There is currently one joint-use agreements in effect in Willowbrook.

- **GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARK COMMUNITY RECREATION AGREEMENT**

Willowbrook School District (now Compton Unified School District) and County of Los Angeles (1966). This community recreational agreement established a long-term (99-year) lease by the County of Los Angeles of an approximate 35,000 square foot portion of the George Washington Carver School property, owned by the Willowbrook School District, now Compton Unified School District, and located adjacent to the County-owned George Washington Carver Park. In exchange for use of the land, the County agreed to construct, operate, and maintain a swimming pool on the property.

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

This agreement allows for the development of recreation facilities by DPR on FCD properties, however, a written request to FCD is required before any improvements can take place. In Willowbrook, this agreement was utilized to develop the existing trail along Compton Creek and will be considered in any future development along this corridor.

EXISTING PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS

DPR may partner with non-profit organizations or public agencies to develop new facilities or amenities within existing parks. Following are existing partnership agreements in Willowbrook.

- **FAITH AND HOPE PARK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**
Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) and the County of Los Angeles (2012).

This partnership agreement between the County of Los Angeles and LANLT is for the development and construction of a “pocket park” located at 2247 East 119th Street in accordance with the provisions of an associated State Park Program Grant Agreement (“Grant Agreement”). The 0.46 acre park site is a County-owned, unimproved parcel in a residential neighborhood in Willowbrook. LANLT agreed to design and construct the park improvements in exchange for the County to accept the obligations of the Grant Agreement, including future operations and maintenance.

- **AGREEMENT FOR ATHENS PARK IMPROVEMENTS**
LANLT and the County of Los Angeles (2014).

Through this partnership agreement, LANLT gained permission to construct a tot lot at Athens Park, an existing regional park in Willowbrook. LANLT received a grant from First 5 LA for the installation of the project. The non-profit group managed the design and construction of the project, while DPR retained long-term ownership of the tot lot and will maintain it along with other amenities at Athens Park. The partnership expanded capacity at Athens Park to provide play amenities to young children.

DEMOGRAPHICS POPULATION

Population is an important indicator for assessing parks 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. Willowbrook was home to nearly 36,000 residents in 2010 and has 26 acres of local parkland and 106 acres of regional parkland, amounting to approximately 0.7 acres of local parkland and 3 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents. The presence of the Regional Facilities in Willowbrook contributes substantially to helping exceed the minimum park standard for this area with a total of 3.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents.

Over the past two decades, this area has undergone consistent growth, increasing by 4 percent from 1990 to 2000, and by 5 percent from 2000 to 2010. Los Angeles County as a whole has also experienced growth in the past two decades: 7 percent between 1990 and 2000, and 3 percent between 2000 and 2010. A steady growth in population in Willowbrook reflects the need to continue providing new recreational facilities and services to adequately serve the residents.

RACE AND ETHNICITY¹

The racial and cultural profile of a community often influences recreational preferences and is important to consider along with other demographic trends. Numerous studies have shown that parks and recreation needs, preferences, and perceptions vary by race/ethnicity, place of origin, and length of residence in the U.S. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of the population in Willowbrook is Latino, while 34 percent is African American. From 2000 to 2010, the Latino population in Willowbrook increased by approximately 10 percent, while the African American population decreased by 10 percent. Growth in the Latino community in particular is a trend that is being seen countywide and reflects the need to consider the Latino community’s preferences in the planning of future parks and recreational programming. It is important to provide recreational amenities and programming that meet the unique and diverse preferences and needs of community residents.

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

FIGURE 2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY

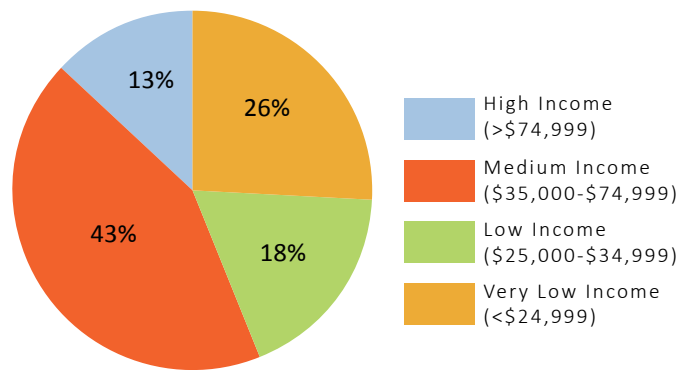
POPULATION CHANGE

	1990	2000	2010
WILLOWBROOK	32,772	34,138	35,983
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	8,863,164	9,519,338	9,834,410

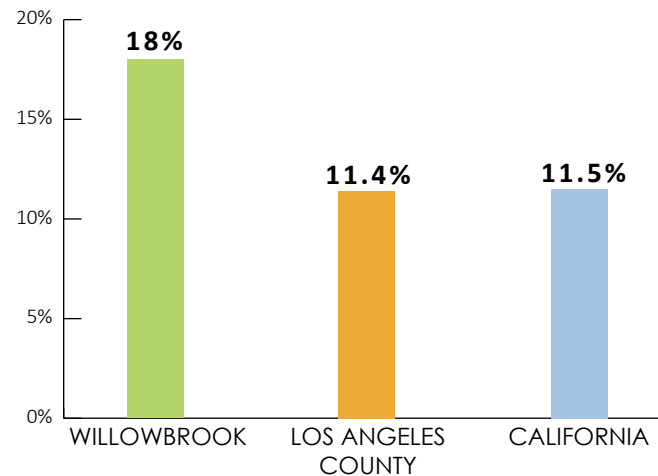
RACE AND ETHNICITY

	Percent of 2000 Pop.	Percent of 2010 Pop.	Percent Change 2000-2010
LATINO	54%	64%	10%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	44%	34%	-10%
WHITE	<1%	<1%	<1%
ASIAN	<1%	<1%	<1%
OTHER	<1%	<1%	<1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	--

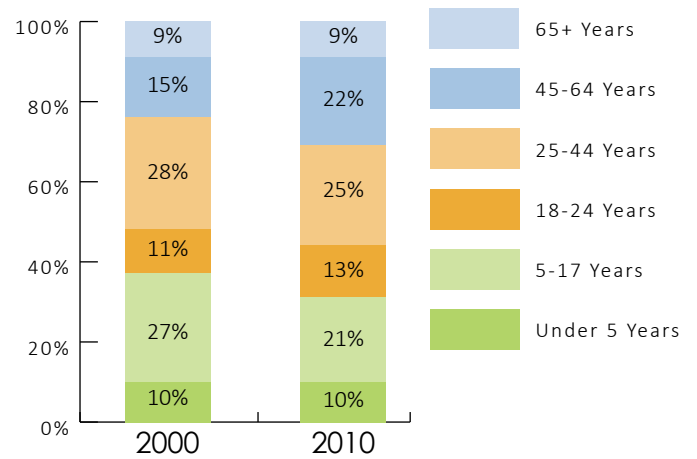
INCOME GROUPS



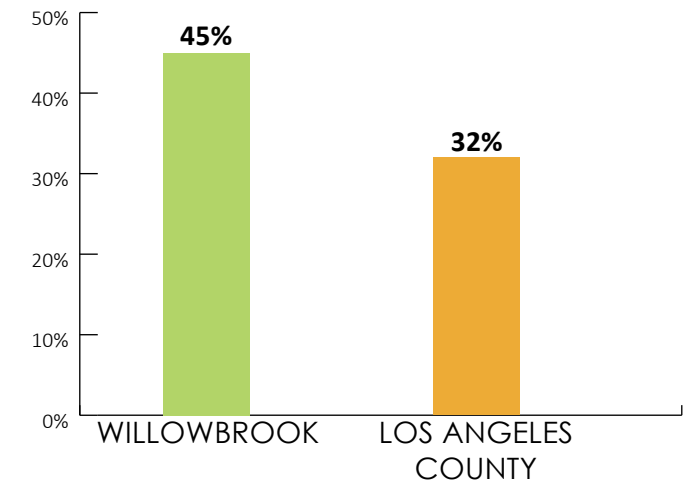
UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES



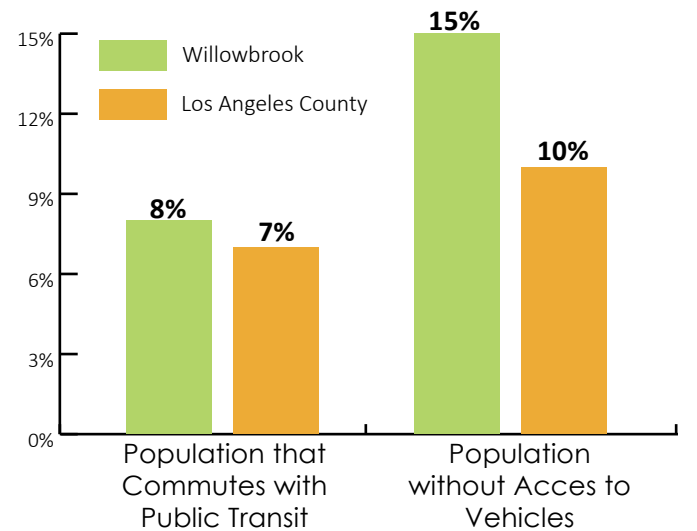
POPULATION BY AGE



HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN



VEHICLE ACCESS & PUBLIC TRANSIT USE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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.

Willowbrook's median age increased slightly from 26 years in 2000 to 28 years in 2010, but is still noticeably younger than the County's median age of 35. The increase in median age is due to the significant growth in the 45- to 64-year old age group, which increased from 15 percent in 2000 to 21 percent in 2010 in their share of the population, while all other groups remained even or declined in their share. A noticeable 5 percent decline was seen among the 5- to 17-year old age group, from 27 to 21 percent of the total population. The decrease in the younger population is evident countywide and is likely to continue as the limited supply and high cost of housing in the region becomes increasingly prohibitive for young families with children. However, Willowbrook continues to have a large number of youth residents under age 18 (31 percent) as compared to the Los Angeles County average (24.5 percent).

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of households with children under age 18 in Willowbrook decreased from 48 to 45 percent. Yet the community has significantly more households with young children compared with the County at 32 percent. This is consistent with the age profile described above and suggests that it is important to continue to plan for park amenities and recreational services that support families with children in Willowbrook.

EMPLOYMENT

According to the 2007-2011 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census Bureau, most of the employed Willowbrook workforce are in manufacturing (18 percent) or educational services, health care, and social assistance (22.1 percent) industries. Smaller percentages of the workforce are in the construction (6.7 percent), retail trade (9.6 percent), or professional, scientific, administrative and waste management service industries (11.5 percent). Unemployment estimates from the 2013 American Community Survey indicates that the unemployment rate in Willowbrook (18 percent) is noticeably higher than the County (11.4 percent) or State (11.5 percent).

INCOME

The median household income of Willowbrook is \$37,600, significantly lower than the County's median income of \$56,200. In general, lower income populations have fewer opportunities to engage in physical activity and have poorer health outcomes than the average population.² This is due in part to the fact that low-income groups often face social and environmental barriers to physical activity and may have fewer means by which to overcome these obstacles than higher income groups. For example, lower income residents are more likely to rely on public parks for recreation; as they have little or no money to spend on recreational facilities and programs offered by alternative providers such as private gyms and the YMCA. About 44 percent of the population in Willowbrook is very low or low income, meaning they make less than \$35,000 annually. This is a significant percentage of the population and emphasizes the need to focus on the needs of lower income residents in the planning of new parks, trails, and open space, in order to improve their access and opportunities for physical activity.

VEHICLE ACCESS

Understanding transportation needs is important when considering access to parks and trails. Approximately 15 percent of households in Willowbrook have no vehicle access, compared with 10 percent for all County households. The relationship between automobile ownership and access to parks is not often discussed, but car ownership offers people mobility and options. With cars or some form of transportation, residents can travel to recreational facilities outside of their immediate neighborhood, including beaches, arts and cultural facilities, regional parks, state parks, and national parks.

Willowbrook residents are slightly more dependent on public transportation than other residents in the County. Approximately 8 percent of working residents commute to work via transit, compared with 7 percent of workers countywide. To serve residents without cars and whom rely on public transit, new neighborhood and community parks should be within walking or biking distance to residents and/or in close proximity to public transportation lines wherever possible.

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

PARKS INVENTORY

This inventory provides a summary and analysis of existing parks and recreational facilities operated by DPR, as well as a brief overview of other green spaces managed by other groups in Willowbrook and future projects planned for the area. This section builds on the park inventory information presented in the 2004 SAMP and incorporates new information from site visits. The intention of the chapter is to provide a snapshot view of the current state of the parks and green space to be used as a tool to identify what assets currently exist and what new improvements could be added to the community.

There are six local parks and one regional facility in Willowbrook. As seen in the map in Figure 2.2, these parks vary in size, although most are located north of El Segundo Blvd. The City of Compton manages Gonzales Park and Sibrie Park to the south of Willowbrook, which also provide open space amenities to the community.

Table 2.1 provides an overview of the facilities and amenities at each park in Willowbrook. All of the parks, with the exception of Martin Luther King Jr. Fitness Garden, have opportunities for gathering and picnic areas. Martin Luther King Jr. Fitness

Garden is a unique park space located within the larger Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MLK-MACC) and serves primarily as an outdoor wellness and fitness space to complement the surrounding public health facility.

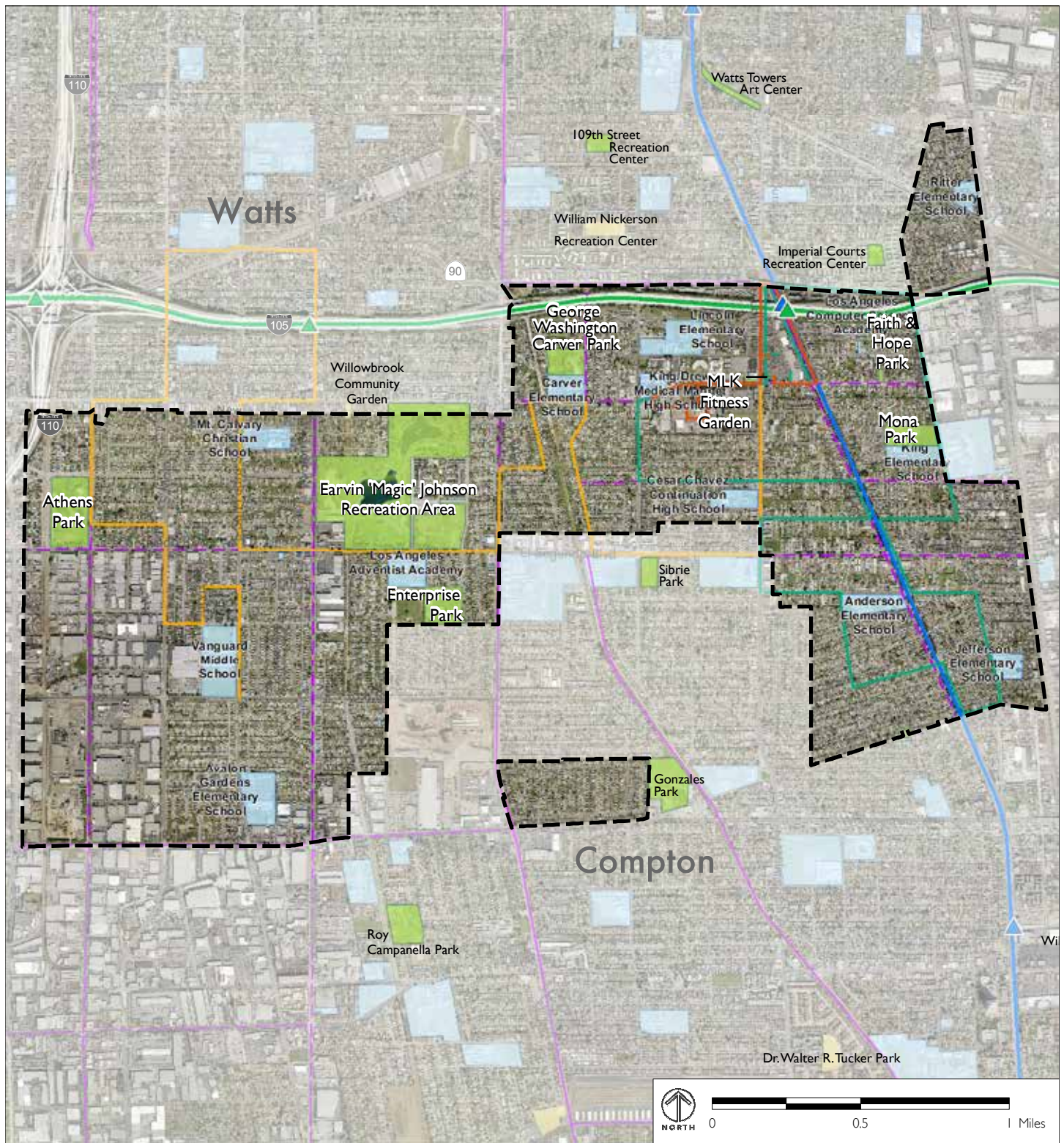
The other parks in Willowbrook offer a wider variety of recreational amenities and have a more traditional mix of designated sports facilities and passive recreational spaces. There are soccer fields at Enterprise Park and Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area; basketball courts at Athens Park, Enterprise Park, George Washington Carver Park, and Mona Park; and volleyball courts at Athens Park and Enterprise Park. Athens Park is the only park with tennis courts or with a skate park. There are swimming pools and accompanying pool houses at Athens Park, Enterprise Park, George Washington Carver Park and Mona Park. Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area has two large lakes, which are used for fishing, but swimming is not allowed. There are exercise circuits at Athens Park, Enterprise Park, Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area, George Washington Carver Park, and Martin Luther King Jr. Fitness Garden. Enterprise Park, George Washington Carver Park, Mona Park, and Faith and Hope Park include public art projects.

TABLE 2.1 MATRIX OF PARKS AMENITIES IN WILLOWBROOK

	Size (ac)	Park Amenities									Play			Recreation Amenities					Buildings/Structures												
		Restrooms	Group Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Barbecues	Splash Pad	Fitness Zone	Outdoor Stage	Drinking Fountain	Art	Fishing Lake	2-5 years	5-12 years	2-12 years	Softball Field	Multipurpose Field	Soccer 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
LOCAL PARKS																															
Athens Park	18.7																														
Enterprise Park	10.0																														
Faith and Hope Park	0.46																														
Carver Park	7.1																														
MLK, JR. Fitness Garden	0.14																														
Mona Park	8.0																														
REGIONAL FACILITIES																															
Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area	98*																														

*87.5 acres of Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area is located within Willowbrook. The remaining 10.5 acres are located in Watts.

FIGURE 2.2 LOCATION OF EXISTING COUNTY PARKS IN WILLOWBROOK



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; The Planning Center | DC&E, 2013.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Green Space and Schools | Bike Network | Public Transit Network | The Link Shuttle |
| Park | Existing Bikeways | Metro Rail Blue Line Station | Willowbrook Route A |
| Other Green Space | Proposed Bikeways | Metro Rail Green Line Station | Willowbrook Route B |
| School | | Metro Rail Blue Line | King Medical Center |
| | | Metro Rail Green Line | |

EXISTING CONDITIONS

ATHENS PARK



PARK USE

Athens Park is 18.7 acres in size and located at 12603 South Broadway Avenue. Picnic tables and barbecue grills are placed throughout the park. There are two restrooms and two covered picnic shelters for events. Open green lawns and tree covered areas may also be used for gatherings or other types of passive recreation. Two softball fields, one basketball court, two tennis courts, one volleyball court, and one swimming pool provide opportunities for organized sports or flexible active recreation.

There are two fitness stations with exercise equipment at Athens Park, one near the corner of El Segundo Boulevard and Athens Way and the second near the parking lot on Broadway. The open lawn space may also be used for less organized active recreation, such as yoga, running, or frisbee. There are two playgrounds at Athens Park for children between the ages of five and twelve. Additionally, DPR partnered with LANLT to construct a tot lot for children 2-5 years old between the two playgrounds for older children. Construction of the project was funded through the First 5 LA Program and includes play elements for young children, new seating and pathways, a decorative garden wall, and accessible entry ways into the play area.

Athens Park is accessible from all surrounding streets and the main activity area near the community building at the Broadway entrance. There are two parking lots with a total of 150 parking spaces. There are no bike racks or spaces for formal bike parking at the park. In addition to lights for sports fields, there are lights around the perimeter of the park and in the central activity area. Trees are well distributed throughout the park to provide areas of shade while maintaining free space for field play.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

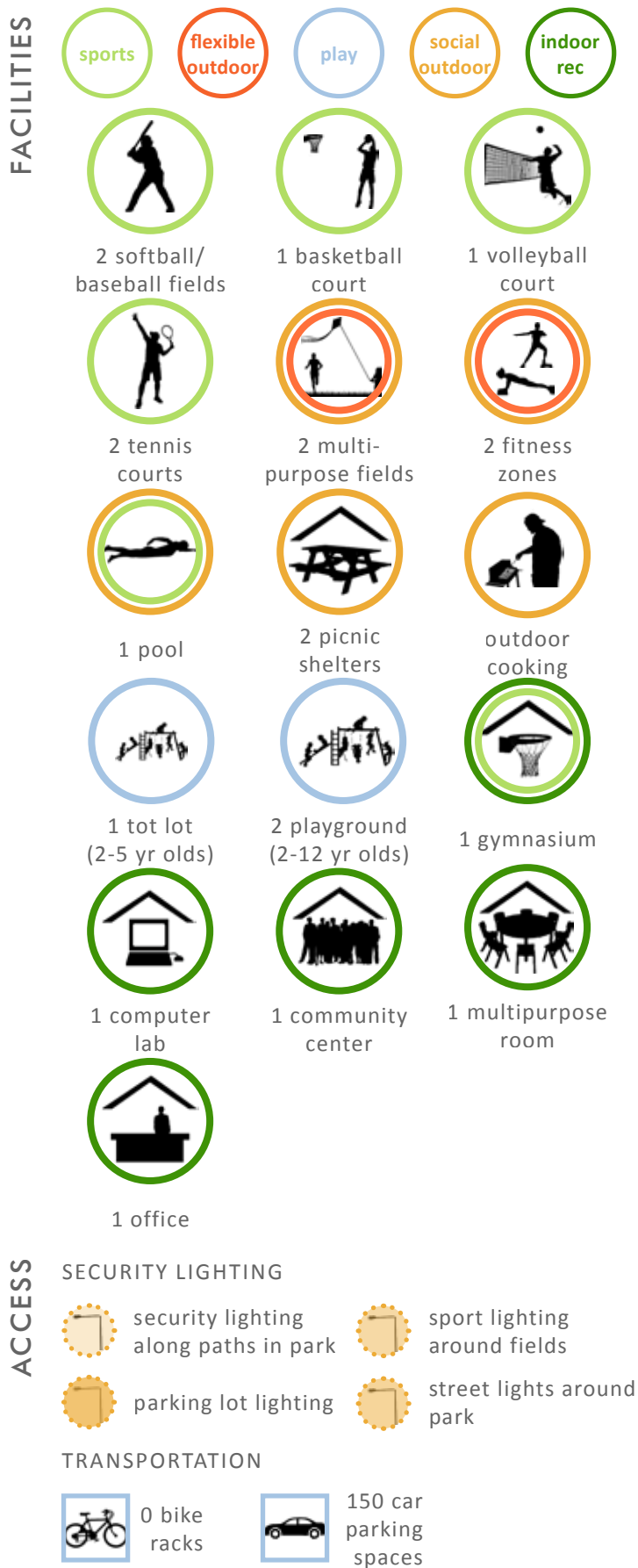
Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition and is moderately used. There are some underutilized areas of the park at the northeastern and southwestern edges that could be opportunities for future park improvements.

PROGRAMS

Programs at the park focus on youth and include youth baseball teen club, karate club, and Tiny Tots program all year and a camp and lunch program in the summer. There is additionally a senior meal program from April to September. There is a park office, gymnasium, computer lab, and multi-purpose room in the park for recreational program needs.

Athens Park is also the location of numerous community events, including an annual Christmas Party that brings out hundreds of residents, organized by BAFTA-LA, A Better LA, and local gang prevention groups. These events were established as a means of reducing violence in the community and providing youth with safe recreation alternatives.

FIGURE 2.3 ATHENS PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

EARVIN 'MAGIC' JOHNSON RECREATION AREA

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Existing Park Photos



Proposed Master Plan for Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Park
source: RBF Consulting and ABHE

PARK USE

Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area is 98 acres (87.5 acres are located within Willowbrook) in size and located at 905 East El Segundo Boulevard. This large facility can accommodate numerous social gatherings as well as a wide variety of active and passive recreational uses. There are picnic tables and barbecue grills throughout the park, as well as three restrooms and two covered picnic shelters for events.

Much of the park is open lawn or lawn with trees, which is typically used for gatherings or other passive recreation. The main landscape elements are two large fishing lakes and the walking path around them. The path includes exercise stations with fitness equipment which is heavily used, although the equipment is in somewhat poor condition. Walkers utilize the space both as a fitness area and a space to socialize while exercising around the path. There is one playground for children between the ages of two and twelve.

Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area is accessible from its northern and southern edge. There are two parking lots with a total of 229 spaces. There are four uncovered bike racks at the park. The County's April 2012 bike survey indicated a recommended number of four new bike racks to be installed near the lake and central walking circuit. There are lights around the perimeter of the park as well as along the interior walking path. The main southern parking lot has lighting, but it was considered poorly lit according to the survey.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in good condition with moderate to high use. The County of Los Angeles is currently developing a Master Plan and the associated environmental review document to redesign Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area which will expand the park into an adjacent area.

PROGRAMS

Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area does not offer programs and does not have any accompanying buildings or structures. Nearby schools, however, use the space for physical education classes.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS

DPR is currently in the process of developing a master plan for Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area with the intention of upgrading the facilities and responding to community needs for new facilities. The master plan, illustrated in the adjacent graphic, would include community gathering facilities, a sports complex, and an equestrian center, as well as create new access to the central water feature at the park.

FIGURE 2.4 EARVIN 'MAGIC' JOHNSON RECREATION AREA SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

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

- 3 soccer fields
- 2 fishing lakes
- exercise nodes around walking path
- 1 playground (2-12 yr olds)
- 2 picnic shelters
- outdoor cooking

ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING

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

TRANSPORTATION

- 4 bike racks
- 229 car parking spaces

ENTERPRISE PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS



PARK USE

Enterprise Park is ten acres in size and located at 13055 Clovis Avenue. Picnic tables and barbecue grills are placed throughout the park. There is one restroom and one covered picnic shelter for events. Open green lawns and tree covered areas may also be used for gatherings or other types of passive recreation. The park has one softball field, two basketball courts, and one swimming pool. There are multiple exercise stations with fitness equipment throughout the park. The open lawn space and paved walking path may also be used for flexible active recreation. Enterprise Park has one playground to accommodate children between the ages of two and twelve. The park has a public pool, which is colorfully tiled as a piece of public art. The tiles on the bathhouse building create a mural of children in the water, creating a bold aquatic site at the center of the park. The artist, Robin Strayhorn, completed the project 2008 with funding from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Enterprise Park is only accessible from its north and east edges. Park access is restricted by residential development to the south and school property to the west. There is one parking lot with 30 spaces near the facilities located at the southern edge of the park. There is one uncovered bike rack near the gymnasium. The County's April 2012 bike survey indicated that it would be desirable to install new bike racks at the park. In addition to lights for sports fields, there are lights around the perimeter of the park, along the interior pathways, and in the central activity area. The parking lot has lighting and was considered well lit according to the 2012 bike survey. With 29 percent tree canopy coverage, Enterprise Park has the highest canopy cover percentage of all the parks in Willowbrook.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition. There are some underutilized areas within the large lawn areas that could be opportunities for future park improvements. Additionally, there may be opportunities to open up connections to the school yard area directly to the west of the park.

PROGRAMS

Enterprise Park offers a youth camp and lunch program in the summer. There is a park office, gymnasium, and multi-purpose room in the park for recreational program needs.

FIGURE 2.5 ENTERPRISE PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

- | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
- 1 softball/baseball field 2 basketball courts 1 pool 1 fitness zone 1 picnic shelter
- 1 multi-purpose field outdoor cooking 1 playground (2-12 yr olds) 1 office 1 gymnasium 1 multipurpose room

ACCESS

- | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| | security lighting along paths in park | | sport lighting around fields | | 1 bike rack | | 30 car parking spaces |
| | parking lot lighting | | street lights around park | | | | |

FAITH AND HOPE PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS



PARK USE

Faith and Hope Park opened in November 2015, and at the time of this report, is the newest park in Willowbrook. The park was constructed in partnership with LANLT, who worked with community members to design the small space into a park that the community would want to use. The park is designed with three irregularly-shaped lawn spaces at the center and native planting and habitat space along the edge. A decomposed granite pathway wraps around the park and through the lawn areas. Within the three lawn spaces, the one closest to the park entrance has a low bowl space and the one closest to the back of the park has a high berm. There is an oak tree planted in each of these features. At the grand opening of the park, these spaces were very popular for seating as they were shaded and were sloped to provide comfortable seating. The center lawn space is flat and could accommodate small turf games but is not large enough to accommodate larger activities like soccer.

There is public art with an emphasis on ecology and community empowerment throughout the park. The native plants along the edge are intended to serve as butterfly habitat. Throughout this area, there are metal signs that inform the public about native butterfly species and the stages in a butterfly's life cycle. The signs match the style of the decorative fence that surrounds the park on sides that have street frontage. There is a large archway at the park's entrance on 119th Street that displays the park's name. Cutouts in the curb spell out inspirational messages, such as "hope" and "compassion," in both English and Spanish.

For safety, the park can be completely closed and the gate can be locked. Additionally, there are solar powered lights around the perimeter, which illuminate the park at night.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

As the park was recently completed, the facilities are in excellent condition.



source: LANLT

FIGURE 2.6 FAITH AND HOPE PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

sports
flexible outdoor
play
social outdoor
indoor rec

walking path 3 small multi-purpose fields

ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING

security lighting along paths in park
 street lights around park

TRANSPORTATION

0 bike racks 0 car parking spaces

CARVER PARK



PARK USE

Formally named George Washington Carver Park, but typically called Carver Park by the community, this park is seven acres and located at 1400 East 118th Street. There are picnic tables and barbecue grills throughout the park. There is one restroom and one large covered picnic shelter for events. Tree-covered areas and the edges of sports fields may also be used for gatherings or passive recreation. The park also has two softball fields, two basketball courts, and one swimming pool. Exercise equipment and some lawn space at the edge of the sport fields provide for less organized active recreation, as well as a walking circuit around the perimeter of the park. Carver Park has one playground to accommodate children between the ages of two and twelve. Carver Park is only accessible from the north, east, and part of the west edges. Park access is partially restricted by residential development to the east and school property to the south. There are two parking lots with a total of 40 spaces. There are no bike racks or formal bike parking at the park. The County's April 2012 bike survey indicated that it would be desirable to install new bike racks near the pool or ball fields at the park. In addition to lights for sports fields, there are lights around the perimeter of the park, along the interior pathways, and in the playground area. The parking lot has lighting and was considered well lit according to the 2012 bike survey. A tiled mosaic representing an underwater ocean scene occupies an exterior wall around the pool house.

The flowering *Jacaranda mimosifolia* (Jacaranda) in front of the swimming pool entrance provides a colorful addition to the park when in bloom and the dramatic branching above the building creates a unique and pleasant entryway. The play area and basketball court receive little shade from adjacent trees.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition but has low use except for program use. Park staff indicated that the new walking path has increased exercise use at the park. Most of the park is utilized for specific designated uses, so there is little space for future large park improvements.

PROGRAMS

Most of the programs at Carver Park are for youth. These include sports programs, such as youth baseball; academic programs, such as homework help and computer club; and health programs, such as summer free lunch programs. There is also a day camp at the park in the summer and a toy loan year round. Carver Park offers adult exercise classes, including aerobics, ballroom dance, and African dance classes. The park office, community building, and multi-purpose room in the park provide for recreational program needs. The park is adjacent to the Watts-Willowbrook Boys and Girls Club, which also offers recreational programming out of their clubhouse.

FIGURE 2.7 CARVER PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

- sports
- flexible outdoor
- play
- social outdoor
- indoor rec
- 2 softball/baseball fields
- 2 basketball courts
- 1 pool
- exercise nodes around walking path
- 1 playground (2-12 yr olds)
- 1 picnic shelter
- outdoor cooking
- 1 office
- 1 multi-purpose room
- 1 community center

ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING

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

TRANSPORTATION

- 0 bike racks
- 40 car parking spaces

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FITNESS GARDEN



PARK USE

Martin Luther King, Jr. Fitness Garden is 0.14 acres in size and located adjacent to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Public Health on East 120th Street. This small park serves to complement the overall mission of public health on the MLK Medical Center Campus.

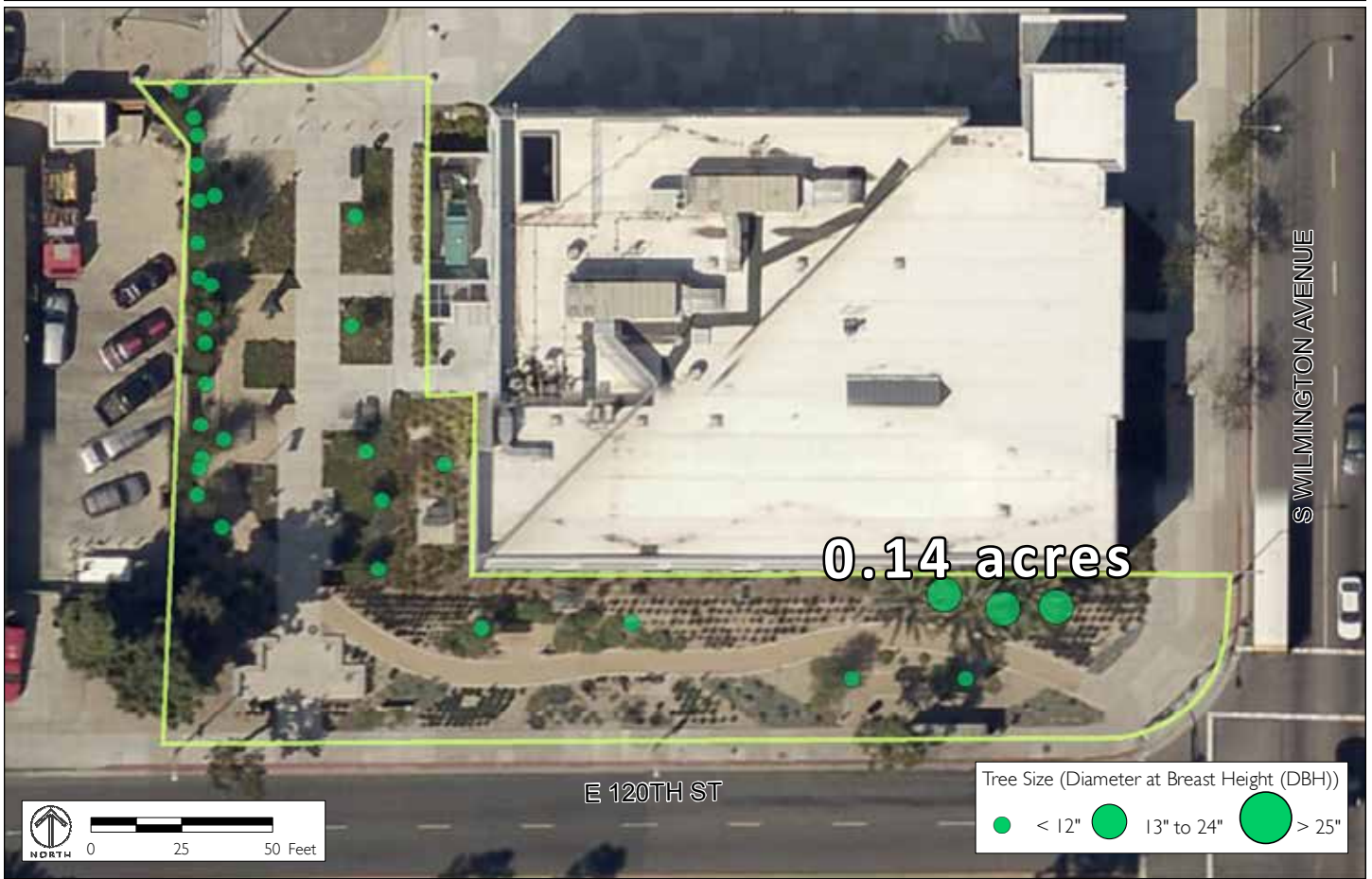
The park is organized around one main path that connects from the corner of the Center for Public Health on S. Wilmington Avenue along 120th Street and around the west side of the building. The section of the park facing 120th Street is planted with drought tolerant species that help create a soft edge to the public health complex. There are two benches and a bus stop along this segment, as well as a low seat wall where the park turns to go behind the building. This area is designated for physical activity, with two multipurpose fitness stations. There is additional seating and a picnic table for resting, but is limited for larger gatherings. This area is planted with more trees, which will grow to provide significantly more shade.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Fitness Garden occupies space that was previously the right-of-way for Bandera Street. This street now terminates to the north of the park.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition but has low to semi-moderate use, although this will likely increase as new facilities within the MLK Medical Center Campus are constructed.

FIGURE 2.8 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FITNESS GARDEN SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

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



exercise nodes around walking path

ACCESS

SECURITY LIGHTING

- security lighting along paths in park (bollard lighting)
- street lights around park

TRANSPORTATION

- 1 bike rack
- 0 car parking spaces

MONA PARK



PARK USE

Mona Park is eight acres in size and located at 2291 East 121st Street. There are picnic tables and barbecues throughout the park. There are two restrooms and one covered picnic shelter for events. Open green lawns and tree covered areas may also be used for gatherings or other types of passive recreation. The park has one softball/baseball field, which was installed through the Dodger Dreamfield program in 2011 and included funds for field amenities, a solar score board and lawn sprinklers. The park also includes one outdoor basketball court, one indoor basketball court in the gymnasium, and one swimming pool. There are two playgrounds at Mona Park, one tot lot for children between the ages of two and five and one play space for children between the ages of five and twelve. The public pool at Mona Park also serves as piece of public art. The interior wall facing the pool is tiled with painted brick that creates an ocean scene with waves and a colorful setting sun. Artist Dakota Warren completed the project in 2008 with funding from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.

Mona Park is accessible from its west and east edges. There is a school directly adjacent to the park to the south and a school across Mona Boulevard to the east. There is one parking lot with 50 spaces near the park buildings located at the western side of the park and no parking along Mona Boulevard to the east. There are two uncovered bike racks near the gymnasium at the park. In addition to sports field lighting, there are lights around the perimeter of the park, along the interior pathways and in the central activity area. The parking lot has lighting and was considered well lit according to the County's 2012 bike survey. Overall tree canopy at Mona Park is lower than other parks in the area. Although acceptable considering the need for field space, it could be increased along the street edges.

PARK CONDITION AND RATING

Based on site visits in May 2013, the park is in excellent condition but has low to semi-moderate use. The softball field dominates the eastern half of the park. The other facilities are tightly confined in a grid pattern near the main park entrance to the west. There is some opportunity to introduce new site organization to accommodate future park improvements and encourage park users to move through the site. Also, the dominant view from the western edge of the park is the outfield fence. This view could be improved to invite more users to enter the park from this edge.

PROGRAMS

Mona Park offers both youth and adult programs. There is a youth baseball and toy loan program all year, as well as a day camp and lunch program in the summer. Adults may participate in exercise classes. Additionally, the Sheriff's Youth Foundation of Los Angeles County runs a Youth Activity League (YAL) program from Mona Park. The park office, gymnasium, community building, and multi-purpose room provide for recreational programs.

FIGURE 2.9 MONA PARK SNAPSHOT



EXISTING CONDITIONS

FACILITIES

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

- 1 softball/
baseball field
- 1 basketball
court
- 1 pool
- 1 multi-
purpose field
- 1 tot lot
(2-5 yr olds)
- 2 playground
(5-12 yr olds)

- 1 picnic
shelter
- outdoor
cooking
- 1 office
- 1 gymnasium
- 1 multi-purpose
room
- 1 community
center

ACCESS

- SECURITY LIGHTING

 - parking lot lighting
 - street lights around park
 - sport lighting around fields

- TRANSPORTATION

 - 2 bike
racks
 - 50 car
parking
spaces

The County parks in Willowbrook serve as the main sites for sports and fitness in the community and have generally excellent facilities. Additionally, the parks' flexible active spaces provide valuable dynamic health and community space where people can both exercise and socialize with friends. Similarly, the parks' community pools are highly valued both for the health benefits of swimming, as well as the social opportunity of a gathering and play space during the hottest part of the year.

The 2004 SAMP suggests that by the year 2020, the Recreation Planning Area in which Willowbrook is located (Planning Area 3 of Supervisorial District Two) 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 recreation 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 and where to distribute recreational spaces.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

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

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

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

DPR PROGRAMS

Unlike park structures and facilities, park programs are somewhat more fluid and can respond more rapidly to park user demand. Figure 2.10 shows an overview of the programs currently provided at the County parks in Willowbrook. These programs are provided at various times throughout the year. Figures 2.11 presents a diagrammatic breakdown of the program offerings by month and time.

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

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

There are limited programs for adults and seniors. Carver Park provides the most adult programming with dance and aerobics classes. Additionally, Carver Park and Mona Park hold community events throughout the year, such as the Juneteenth celebration and community potlucks, which bring residents of all ages to the parks.

OTHER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

YOUTH PROGRAMS

The **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** in Willowbrook provide much of the youth programming outside of the public parks. All of the public schools in Willowbrook offer afterschool programming managed by the school district. Some schools in Willowbrook are part of the Los Angeles Unified School District while others are part of the Compton Unified School District, so the afterschool programs vary somewhat depending on the district. Both districts' programs focus on academic enrichment and health, and run afterschool until 6:00pm.

THE ROY W. ROBERTS, II - WATTS/WILLOWBROOK BOYS & GIRLS CLUB provides additional recreational programming in Willowbrook. Located on the campus of Carver Elementary School at 1339 East 120th Street, the center offers numerous youth programs ranging from sports and wellness to education and arts, as well as field trips to regional cultural and recreational destinations around Los Angeles. The center has a small outdoor facility at their site with a sports court, however it is not sufficient for outdoor sports or large events. Most activities are played indoors. The Center is also home to the Watts-Willowbrook Conservatory, a music education program that teaches youth to play instruments and understand musical theory.

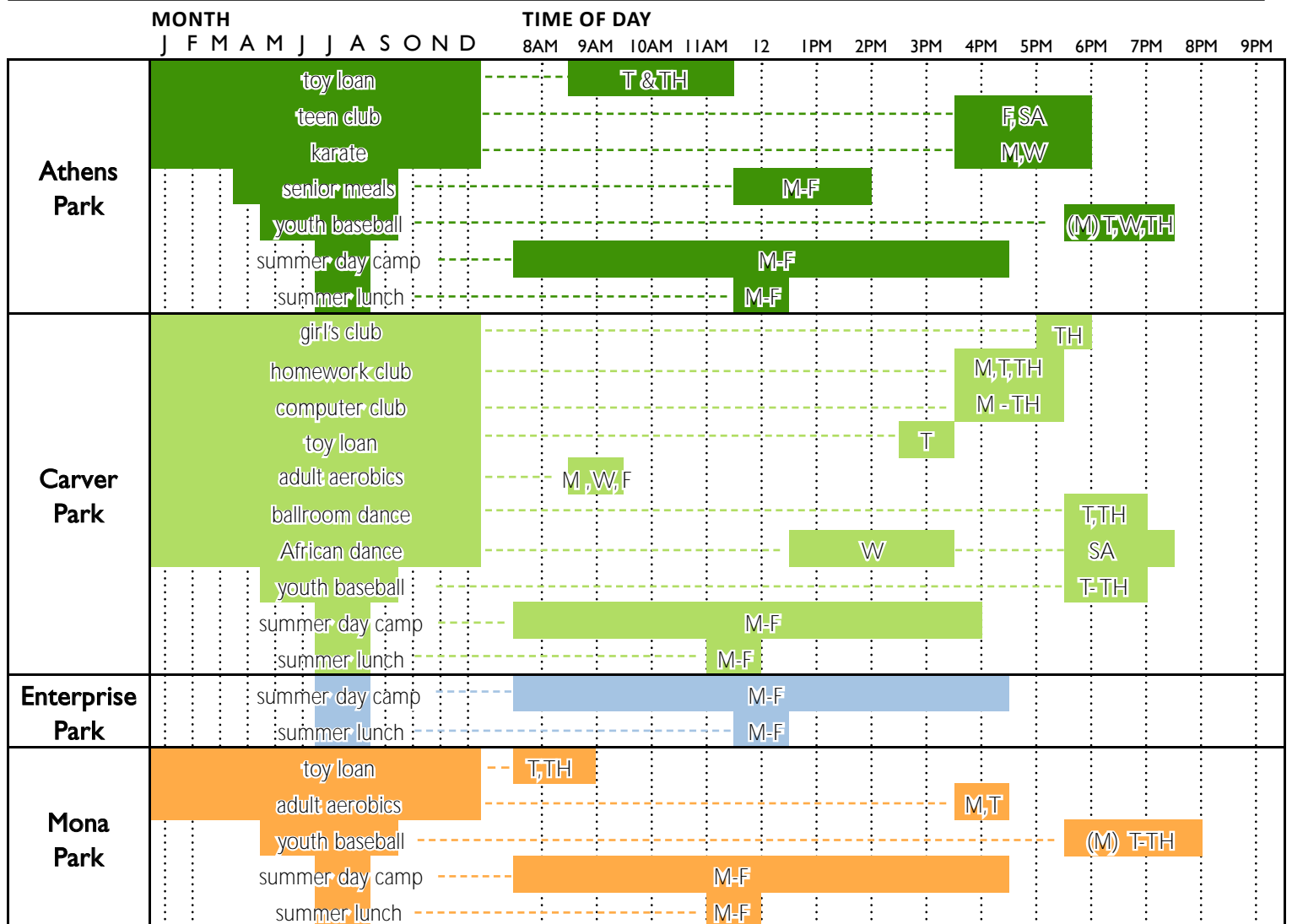
THE SHERIFF'S YOUTH ACTIVITY LEAGUE (YAL) offers programming to Willowbrook youth through their station at Mona Park and through the Youth Center located in Compton at 700 N. Alameda Street. At Mona Park, YAL provides a variety of programming for youth, hosts special events, and leads field trips to locations throughout the County, including regional park and environmental education destinations. The program here is focused primarily on drug prevention and academic enrichment. YAL activities at Mona Park have been extremely

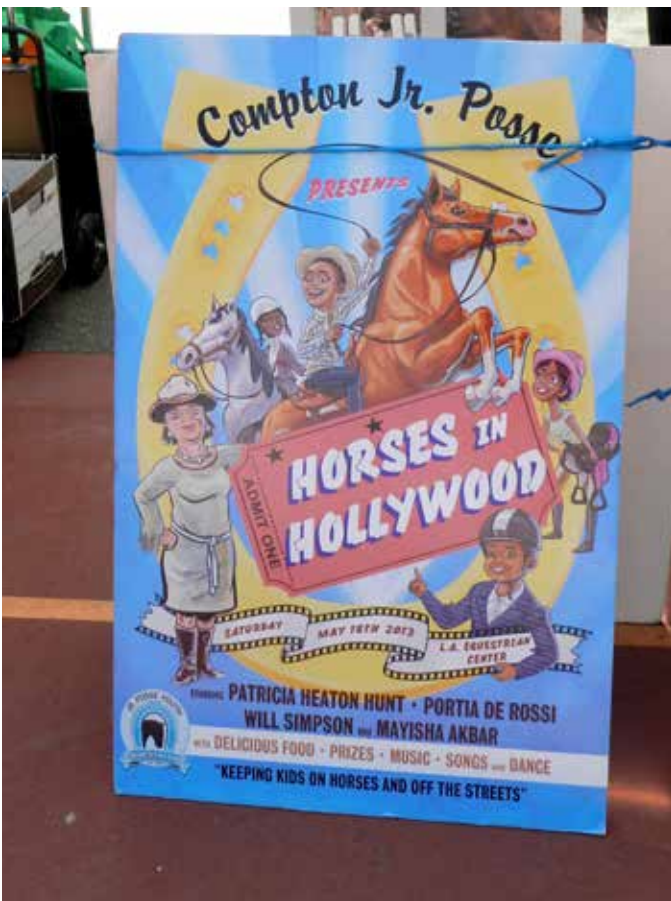
FIGURE 2.10 SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS AT COUNTY PARKS IN WILLOWBROOK

PARK	YOUTH										ADULT/FAMILY									
	ENRICHMENT	Summer Day Camp	Summer Lunch	Tiny Tots	Toy Loan	Teen Club	YAL	SPORTSWELLNESS	Baseball	Karate	ACADEMIC	Homework Club	Computer Club	SPORTSWELLNESS	Aerobics	Ballroom Dance	African Dance	SOCIAL/ENRICHMENT	Senior Meals	Community Potluck
ATHENS PARK		●	●	●		●				●									●	
CARVER PARK		●	●		●				●		●	●			●	●	●			●
ENTERPRISE PARK		●	●																	
EARVIN 'MAGIC' JOHNSON RECREATION AREA																				
MLK, JR. FITNESS GARDEN																				
MONA PARK		●	●		●		●		●						●					

EXISTING CONDITIONS

FIGURE 2.11 TIMING OF PROGRAMS AT COUNTY PARKS IN WILLOWBROOK





well-received by community members and have been lauded as instrumental in improving public perception of safety in and around the park.³

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 meals for participating youth.

LOS RYDERZ is a youth biking club based in the Watts/ Willowbrook area. The group does not have a facility but leads bicycle rides through the area, utilizing the public streets and parks as part of their rides. The group is modeled on the East Side Riders group in Watts that organizes bicycle rides for youth to help facilitate a livelier bike culture and emphasize the environmental and health benefits of biking. Organizers of the group believe that bike riding helps to reduce stress among the youth and gives them a fun way to exercise. The group currently does not have a central meeting space in Willowbrook and expressed interest in setting up a community-based bicycle shop for their members to use.

COMPTON JR. POSSE is another unique program for youth in Willowbrook, although their facility is located in Compton to the south of the Willowbrook 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.

SENIOR PROGRAMS

While there are no senior centers at the parks in Willowbrook, the Los Angeles County Community and Senior Services has a separate facility at 12915 Jarvis Avenue. The **WILLOWBROOK SENIOR CENTER** offers social programming for elderly adults, as well as health screenings, legal assistance, and food services. They also offer a variety of arts and crafts and exercise classes. There is a small shaded outdoor space for passive recreation as well as indoor fitness and game rooms.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS

There are two public libraries in Willowbrook offering various programs and events focused on youth and adult literacy.

³ “Taking Back Mona Park for the Community - Sheriff’s Youth Foundation.” Sheriff’s Youth Foundation. 20 Mar. 2013. <<http://sheriffsyouthfoundation.org/taking-back-mona-park-for-the-community/>>

A.C. BILBREW LIBRARY is located at 150 East El Segundo Boulevard in the western part of the community. The library offers free Wi-Fi internet access and on-line educational classes, as well as storytime for children and family life skills workshops for children and their caregivers. A.C. Bilbrew Library is also home to the Black Resource Center, which includes archive material on local African American history. The center offers special programs, including jazz concerts, poetry slams, author talks, and black history month activities.

The **WILLOWBROOK LIBRARY** is located at 11838 Wilmington Avenue at the edge of the MLK Hospital Master Plan area, discussed previously. The library in its current state is small with limited resources for residents; however, there is a plan to renovate the library in conjunction with a large affordable housing project that will occupy the site. The new center will include 100 units of housing for seniors above an expanded 8,000 square foot library and employment center at ground level. Due to the site's location near the MLK Hospital, the housing will be dedicated for senior residents with medical needs. Additionally, the County envisions the site as a future "educational anchor and gathering place for the community."⁴

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

As part of their efforts to expand their audience groups, the Ford Theater holds **J.A.M. (JAZZ AND MOTIVATED) SESSIONS** throughout the Los Angeles area. This included a series of eight dance, theater, and cultural events at the MLK-MACC during the summer of 2014. The locations and themes of J.A.M. events change overtime. The 2015 season included events at Phoenix Hall in nearby Watts. The Ford Theater partners with local groups, including the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC), the Watts/Willowbrook Boys and Girls Club, and Watts Village Theater Company.

In partnership with local violence prevention groups, **BAFTA LA AND A BETTER LA** organize movie screenings, dance events, and community gatherings, including an annual Christmas Party, at local parks in Willowbrook and nearby West Athens. The partnership began in 2004 when gang violence in the area reached an unacceptable level, including the death of four children at Hellen Keller Park in West Athens. Gang leaders reached out to numerous groups to bring alternative programming into the community and received support from BAFTA-LA to develop a program. The events began at Hellen Keller Park but have expanded to Athens Park in recent years. Local groups credit the program with reducing crime in the community and improving safety around these parks.⁵

4 2015, May 19. "Willowbrook to Get a New Library and Senior Housing." Website of Supervisor Mar Ridley-Thomas, Second District, County of Los Angeles. <<http://ridley-thomas.lacounty.gov/index.php/willowbrook-to-get-new-library/>>.

5 2014, February 24. "How BAFTA Helped Stop Violence in LA." Los Angeles Confidential website. <<http://la-confidential-magazine.com/Post/how-bafta-helped-stop-gang-violence-in-south-central-la>>.

PARK ACCESS

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) manages The Link, a shuttle service with three routes through Willowbrook. The shuttles offer residents reduced fares (25¢ for the general public and free for seniors, persons with disabilities, children under 5 and Metro Pass Holder) to parks and commercial areas in their community. Figure 2.2 displays three "The Link" routes in Willowbrook.

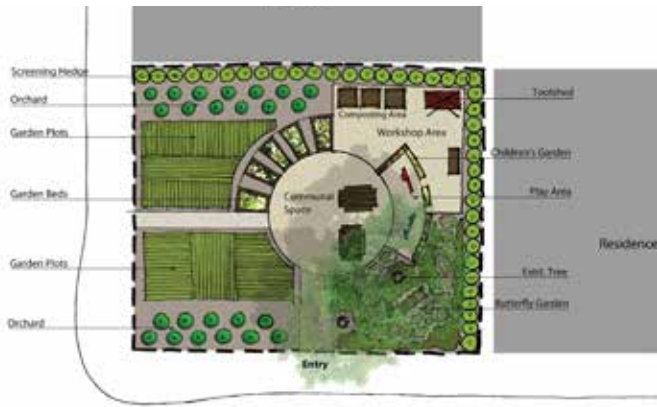
OTHER GREEN SPACE TRAILS

Compton Creek creates a north-south corridor through the center of Willowbrook. In this area, the creek is below grade in a concrete v-ditch with no formal access to the water's edge. Through a lease agreement with the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (FCD), DPR developed a pedestrian walking path along the channel between E. 120th Street and E. 118th Street. The trail includes a 12-foot wide decomposed granite (DG) trail, benches, and a rip-rap swale along the channel edge. The project also includes safety fencing between the trail and the channel and decorative gates at the intersection with the public streets. The project was constructed by the Los Angeles Conservation Corps, a crew that hires local youth to install public works projects.

DPR is currently planning a second phase of the Compton Creek Trail in Willowbrook, which will extend between E.120th Street and El Segundo Boulevard, the border of the City of Compton. South of El Segundo Boulevard, there is a multi-use trail along Compton Creek. The City of Compton recently completed the Compton Creek Regional Garden Master Plan that proposed creating a more naturalized channel with trail improvements along the edge, discussed below. The City has implemented some trail improvements along the creek



Compton Creek Trail



Site Plan for Fellowship Garden at Holmes
 source: Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Fellowship Garden of Love at Holmes is currently under construction in Willowbrook. LANLT is constructing the garden with community support and held a series of design workshops in 2015 to develop a plan for the space. In addition to having garden beds which will be “rented” to community members, the garden will have a gathering and education space, as well as a small orchard.

Additionally, the Los Angeles Community Garden Council developed the Willowbrook Community Garden in the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) utility corridor connecting Willowbrook and Watts. The garden is located in the corridor between E. 121st Street and E. 120th Street, partially within unincorporated Los Angeles County and partially within the City of Los Angeles. Informal community garden use by nearby residents continues in the corridor north of E. 120th Street to E. 118th Street.

ART IN WILLOWBROOK

Public and civic art gives a community a distinct character and allows for a sense of self-expression. In Willowbrook, public or civic art is valued both as a way of improving the aesthetic feel of the community and encouraging residents to become involved in a public space. Most of the public arts projects in Willowbrook are murals or sculptures, and many can be found in public parks or in plazas near the Rosa Parks Metro Station.

As noted above, the Los Angeles Arts Commission recently completed an outreach project in Willowbrook, which examines cultural arts projects in the community and resident responses to them as a way of determining how best to incorporate public art into the area. As part of the project, artist Rosten Woo led a series of community engagement meetings and interviews to determine local preferences and cultural assets in the community, including schools, parks, and many churches. The process resulted in two documents. The first, Project Willowbrook: Cultivating a Healthy Community through Arts and Culture which catalogues feedback from residents and makes recommendations for integrating public art into the community. The second, *Willowbrook Is/Es* profiles community artists and their contribution to the eclectic style of Willowbrook.

The Project Willowbrook report points out the importance of the Watts Tower Arts Center located near Willowbrook and to the north. The author indicates that Willowbrook is within the sphere of influence of this important public arts facility and suggests that community resources should be utilized to build on the momentum of the programs in Watts and expand arts initiatives into Willowbrook.

The report also identifies potential barriers to civic art appreciation, including the lack of formal arts facilities in Willowbrook, high concern for public safety, and the diversity



Willowbrook Community Garden in Los Angeles
 Department of Water and Power Utility Corridor
 source: Los Angeles Community Garden Council



Outreach Signage for Los Angeles County Arts Commission Project

of cultural backgrounds in the area needing to be considered when identifying new projects. The report recommends four potential options for enhancing arts and cultural programming in Willowbrook:

- A “Community as Classroom” program pairing teens and artists to conduct site-based investigations that yield a variety of creative community service projects.
- Leveraging artists and local culture in public engagement as Los Angeles County’s inter-departmental collaborative designs for a healthy community.
- The formation of the Willowbrook Hub, a public space for community gathering where resident artists can program events, exhibitions, interventions and workshops.
- Establishing Dance Willowbrook, a sequential dance education program for youth and adults located in an area park and culminating in a performance and community dance party.

PLANNING CONTEXT

There are various other recently completed or currently underway planning and development efforts in Willowbrook that impact parks, recreation, and urban greening. These plans include direction for parks, plazas, and streetscape improvements.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (MLK) MEDICAL CENTER CAMPUS MASTER PLAN LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

As part of the process to reopen the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center (MLK-MACC), formerly Martin Luther King Jr./Drew Medical Center, in northeastern Willowbrook, the MLK Medical Center Campus Master Plan was developed by Los Angeles County and outside consultants.

The campus plan envisioned a “Wellness Community,” in the area surrounding the medical facility. The Wellness Community is designed around the medical complex as a healthy lifestyle hub with new opportunities for physical activity, food access, and preventative healthcare.

The master plan incorporates numerous new plazas, green spaces, gardens, and streetscape improvements, as well as a connective pedestrian pathway, called the Wellness Spine, connecting the different component pieces. Martin Luther King Fitness Garden is within the project area and was designed to fit with the public health theme of the Wellness Community.

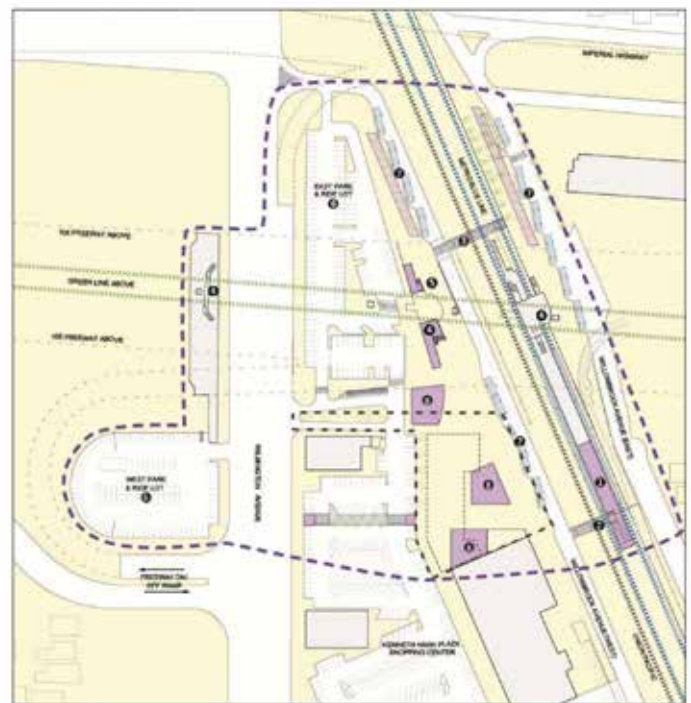
Fellowship Garden of Love at Holmes will be the first community garden in the Master Plan area, but other community gardens are proposed at various sites in the Master Plan, as well as a substantial urban forest buffer between the 105 Freeway and the Wellness Community.

WILLOWBROOK/ROSA PARKS STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT METRO

The Rosa Parks Metro Station is located at the intersection between the blue and green light rail lines under the 105 Freeway near the edge of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital Campus Master Plan area. The station is over 25 years old and in addition to providing service for the light rail lines, the station is the hub for six Metro buses and three local shuttles. Metro is planning to implement station upgrades to improve access to the station and accommodate increased use, which will involve renovation of the existing station and expansion to the area south of the existing station.



MLK Medical Center Master Plan
source: Los Angeles County Department of Planning



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> --- LIMITS OF PROJECT AREA - - - LAND ACQUISITION - - - RETAIL TO BE DEMOLISHED ■ PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS □ EXISTING TO REMAIN | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BLUE LINE PLATFORM EXTENSION 2. PROPOSED SOUTHERN AT-GRADE CROSSING 3. NORTHERN AT-GRADE CROSSING IMPROVEMENT 4. VERTICAL CIRCULATION IMPROVEMENTS 5. PROPOSED TRANSIT HALL 6. PARK & RIDE LOT IMPROVEMENTS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. BUS & SHUTTLE DECK IMPROVEMENTS 8. PROPOSED AMENITIES (CUSTOMER SERVICE CENTER, SHERIFF'S FACILITY, MOBILITY/THREE HUB) |
|--|---|---|

Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station Improvement Project
source: Los Angeles County Department of Planning



Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan Area
 source: Los Angeles County Department of Planning

WILLOWBROOK TRANSIT-ORIENTED DISTRICT (TOD) SPECIFIC PLAN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

Willowbrook TOD Specific Plan is intended to build on the vision of the MLK Center Master Plan and the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station Improvement Project. The TOD Specific Plan is intended to set up an implementation strategy for the area surrounding the Metro Station that will focus on housing, retail, and institutional uses around the station, as well as access from the station into the community.

WILLOWBROOK STREETSCAPE PROJECT



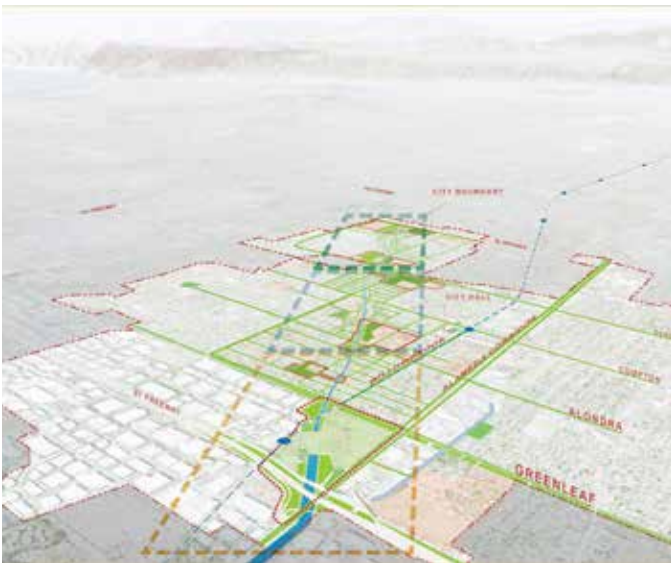
New improvements coming to Willow brook area!
 source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

WILLOWBROOK STREETSCAPE PROJECT
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Also located within the Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital Campus Master Plan area, the Willowbrook Streetscape Project includes improvements along 120th Street from Compton Avenue to Wilmington Avenue, 119th Street from Wilmington Avenue, and S. Wilmington Avenue from the 105 Freeway to 120th Street. The improvements will improve pedestrian and bicycle conditions along these corridors and introduce elements of green infrastructure, including street trees and stormwater treatment.

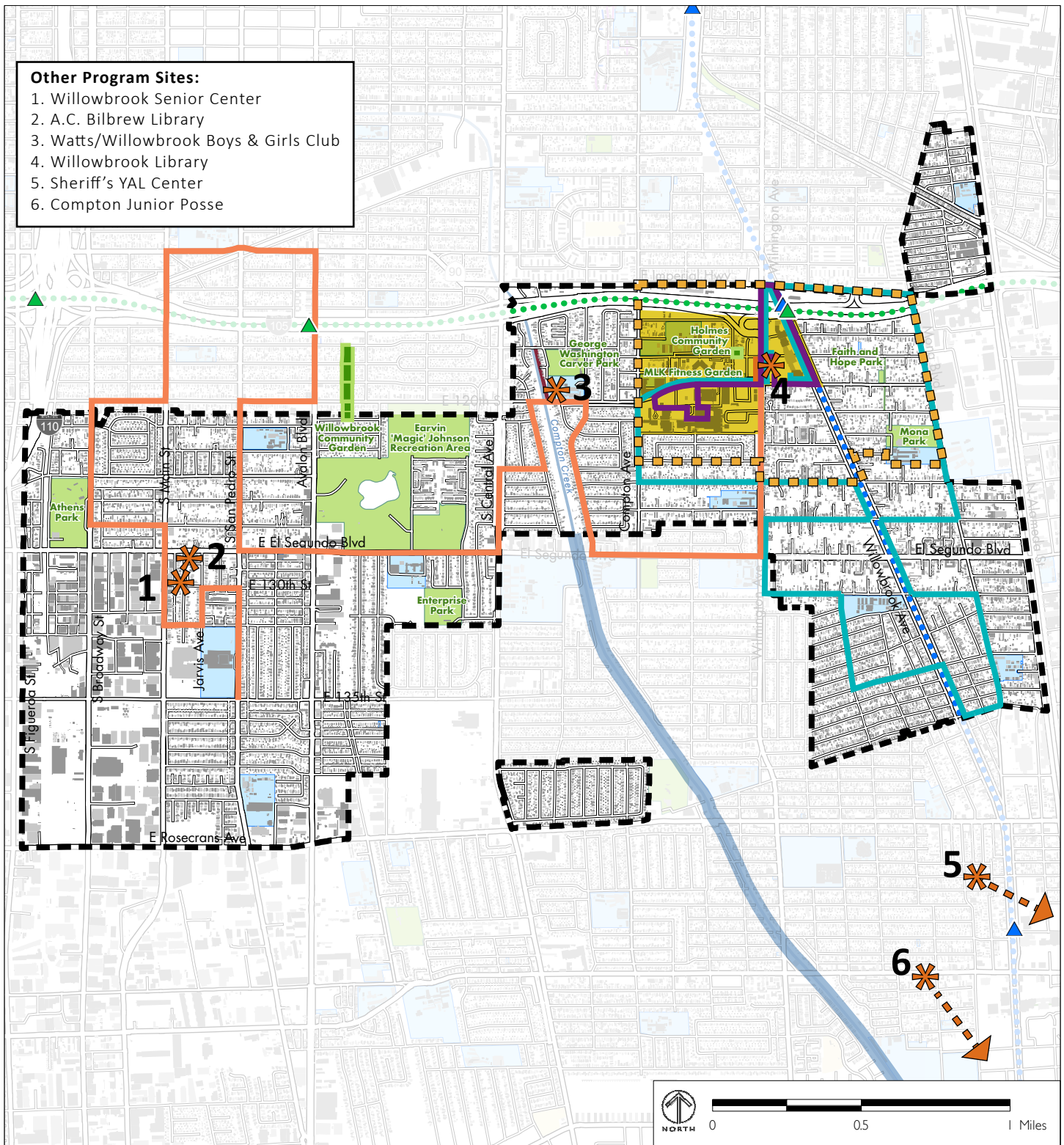
COMPTON CREEK REGIONAL GARDEN PARK MASTER PLAN
CITY OF COMPTON

As noted above, the City of Compton and an outside consultant completed a Master Plan for the Compton Creek corridor within their City boundary. The plan ends at the Willowbrook border but includes a vision for a green corridor along the creek with parks, trails and green infrastructure lining the route. The vision calls for the softening of the creek edge and increased access, allowing the public to have a more positive experience with the creek than the current one with the closed concrete channel.



Compton Creek Regional Garden Park Master Plan
 source: City of Compton

FIGURE 2.12 OTHER GREEN SPACE, RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS, AND PLANNING AREAS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| ■ County Parks | Public Transit Network | The Link Shuttles | Planning Areas |
| — Existing Trails | ▲ Metro Rail Blue Line Station | — Willowbrook A | ■ MLK, Medical Center Campus Master Plan |
| ■ Schools | ▲ Metro Rail Green Line Station | — Willowbrook B | ■ Willowbrook T.O.D. Specific Plan |
| ■ Community Gardens | ●● Metro Rail Blue Line | — King Medical Center | ■ Compton Creek Regional Garden Master Plan |
| ✱ Other Program Sites | ●● Metro Rail Green Line | | |

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, reduction of high temperatures in urban heat islands, stormwater management, and reduction in building heating and cooling costs, as well as an enhanced sense of community, serenity, and beautification. As such, understanding the extent, condition, benefits and costs of the urban forest is essential to identifying greening opportunities and making good management decisions regarding tree planting, maintenance, removal and replacement.

EXISTING URBAN FOREST

The existing urban forest in Willowbrook was examined based on tree canopy coverage data for the community as a whole, as well as an inventory of trees at each of the existing Los Angeles County Parks in Willowbrook. The community-wide canopy analysis provides a big picture understanding of the overall urban forest in Willowbrook, 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 a summary of community input regarding Willowbrook'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, it was possible to determine overall tree canopy coverage in Willowbrook, including both publicly and privately maintained trees. Although this method does not allow for assessment of each individual tree, it provides a clear picture of the total coverage and reveals the areas that are well planted or areas to focus new plantings. Figure 2.13 shows the density of tree canopy coverage in Willowbrook.

As shown on the map, the southeast portion of the community offers significantly less tree coverage than other areas of the community. This area is predominately industrial, a land use that typically has low tree canopy. The Martin Luther King Medical Center area, near the intersection of Willowbrook Avenue and the 105 Freeway, also has relatively low tree canopy coverage, which is likely to be improved during the

planned renovation of this area. Figure 2.13 also shows the important role that County Parks play in providing urban trees, with almost all of the parks displaying relatively high levels of tree canopy coverage.

Willowbrook has total tree canopy coverage of 10 percent. It is expected that the urban forest would differ based on land use. Table 2.2 provides a breakdown of the existing coverage in Willowbrook based on land use. Similar land uses were grouped for the purpose of this analysis. The table also includes the list of land uses in each group.

Streets and sidewalks serve as a primary location for urban forest trees. Street plantings can mitigate stormwater running off roadways, absorb vehicle emissions, and improve the pedestrian environment. Currently, Willowbrook's roadways have minimal canopy coverage, suggesting that there are likely opportunities to increase street planting. These plantings would be most beneficial on the roadways that form connections between parks, effectively creating a green network within the community. Canopy coverage for specific parks is discussed in the Tree Inventory section.

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 Willowbrook, based on recommended coverage for specific land uses of 35 percent for suburban residential, 18 percent for urban residential zones, and 9 percent for central business districts. Furthermore, the Los Angeles 1-Million Tree Canopy Cover Assessment found average canopy coverage of 21 percent within the City and set target coverage at 27.5 percent as an average for all land use types.⁸ The study additionally found existing coverage of 30.5 percent for low-density residential, 14.5 percent for medium/high density residential, 3.5 percent for industrial, 5.6 percent for commercial, 18.3 percent for institutional and 9.4 percent for unknown land use types.

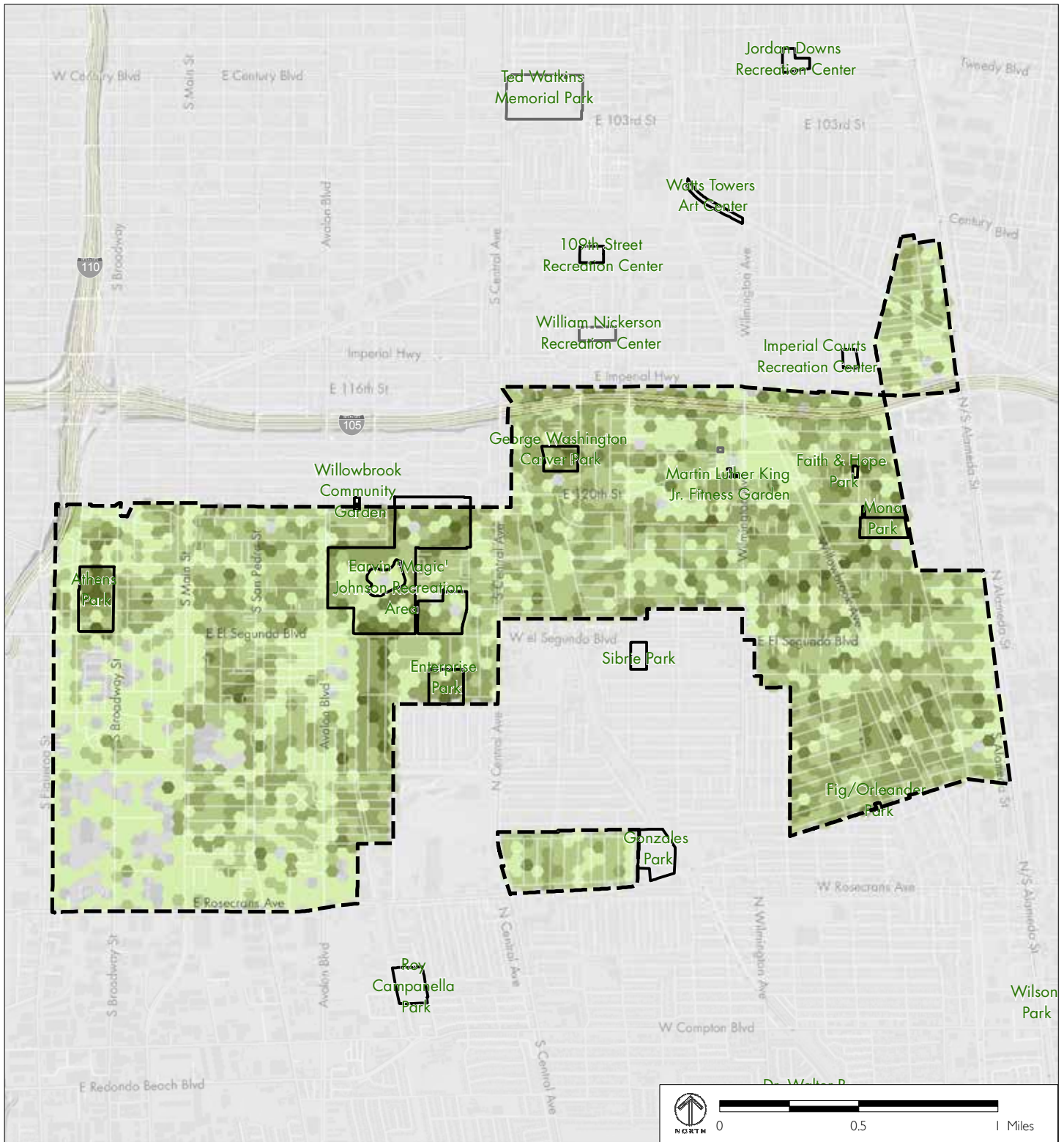
As shown in Table 2.3, Willowbrook is currently lower than both the American Forest standard and the existing and target coverage for the City of Los Angeles.

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

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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.

FIGURE 2.13 EXISTING CANOPY COVERAGE



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

- Tree Canopy Coverage**
- < 5%
 - 5% - 10%
 - 10% - 20%
 - 20% - 30%
 - > 30%

- Parklands**
- Parks Included in Analysis (includes parks within 1/2 mile of Community boundary)
 - Other Open Space (historical parks, golf courses, cemeteries, ect.)

TABLE 2.2 TREE CANOPY COVERAGE IN WILLOWBROOK 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	1,573	177	11%
High Density Residential	Unlimited residence Limited multiple residence Two-family residence	181	24	13%
Commercial/ Institutional	Unlimited commercial Commercial manufacturing Commercial planned development Commercial recreation Institutional Neighborhood business Parking restricted Restricted business	224	17	8%
Industrial	Heavy manufacturing Light manufacturing Restricted heavy manufacturing	439	11	3%
Open Space*	Open space	147	22	15%
TOTAL		2,564	251	Average: 10%

*Open Space includes County parks.

TABLE 2.3 WILLOWBROOK TREE CANOPY COVERAGE COMPARISONS

Land Use	Willowbrook 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	11%	35%	31%	n/a
High Density Residential	13%	18%	15%	n/a
Commercial/Institutional	8%	9%	6% / 18%	n/a
Industrial	3%	n/a	4%	n/a
Open Space*	15%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	10%	25%	21%	27.5%

*Open Space includes County parks.

TREE INVENTORY WITHIN COUNTY PARKS

Trees within Willowbrook’s County parks, with the exception of Faith and Hope Park, were inventoried and assessed in 2013 with funding provided by a grant from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE).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 USDA Forest Service, Davey Tree Service, and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), which allows cities to analyze the benefits of their forest. ITrees Streets is a street tree management and analysis tool that uses tree inventory data to assign dollar values to energy savings, carbon dioxide reduction, air quality, stormwater control, and property value increase.

The 2013 inventory identified approximately 1,700 trees in Willowbrook; approximately 1,185 of these trees are located within Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area. Willowbrook’s park trees are together referred to as the “Park Forest” in this section. This report summarizes the species composition, age composition, and estimated benefits provided by the forest in dollar value, as well as an overview of the general condition, necessary maintenance, and potential conflicts with existing infrastructure. The complete data set resulting from iTrees Streets analysis is provided in Appendix B. The number of trees per park and the related canopy coverage is provided in Table 2.4. Canopy coverage per park was calculated using iTrees streets rather than LIDAR data.

⁹ A grant from the Statewide Prop 84 CAL FIRE Inventory Program was awarded to the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department in 2013 for the creation of a tree inventory, as well as an analysis of the trees’ health, maintenance, and spatial needs, for the underserved areas within the community.

FOREST STRUCTURE

Studies 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 the entire forest population, as many of these issues are species specific and spread more easily to related populations. Researchers additionally recommend using native trees wherever possible, as they are well-suited for the environment and have developed resilience to local pests, and provide habitat for native wildlife. Diversity in age and size ensures the long-term stability of an urban forest. As trees die and are replaced, there needs to be younger trees to offset the removal. Very young trees do not provide the same benefits as established trees, so simply replacing the tree will not achieve the same immediate effect. The Park Forest in Willowbrook 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 and provide minimal shade. Broadleaf trees, like oaks and sycamore, provide greater canopy coverage and shade and therefore have greater measurable benefits.

Willowbrook’s Park Forest is composed of 54 percent broadleaf species, 42 percent conifers, and 5 percent palm trees. Of the broadleaf species, 26 percent are deciduous and 28 percent are evergreen. Most of the forest (69 percent) is comprised of large stature trees. Medium and small stature trees account for 20 percent and 11 percent of the forest, respectively.

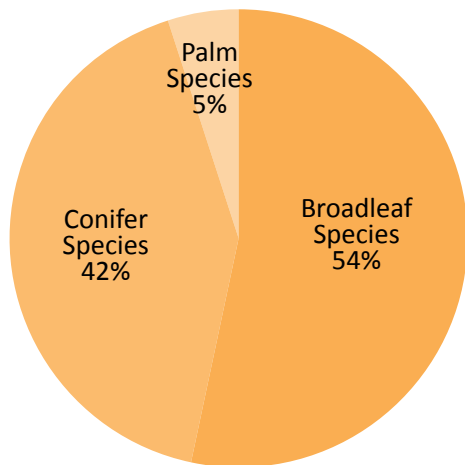
¹⁰ Clark, James R., Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross, and Victoria Wake. “A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability.” *Journal of Arboriculture* 23(1): January 1997.

TABLE 2.4 OVERVIEW OF TREES PER PARK*

Park Name	Total Trees	Total Park Acreage	Acres of Canopy Coverage	Tree Canopy Coverage (%)
Athens Park	221	18.71	4.79	26%
Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area	1,185	103.89	15.62	15%
Enterprise Park	123	10.02	2.93	29%
George Washington Carver Park	87	7	1.7	24%
Martin Luther King, Jr. Fitness Garden	31	0.26	0.05	19%
Mona Park	50	7.8	1.12	14%
TOTAL	1,697	147.68	26.21	Average: 21%

*Faith and Hope Park had not yet been constructed at the time of the inventory and the trees within this park are not included in the study.

FIGURE 2.14 TREE SPECIES COMPOSITION



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 Willowbrook's Park Forest includes 96 unique species. The dominant species of the Park Forest include Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) (20 percent), Afgan pine (*Pinus eldarica*) (9 percent), Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) (7 percent), white mulberry (*Morus alba*) (4 percent), Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*) (4 percent), Chinese pistache (*Pistacia chinensis*) (3 percent), Chinese elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) (3 percent), evergreen ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*) (3 percent), and sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) (3 percent). While it is notable that Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*) comprises a significant portion of the forest and that four types of pine trees comprise 40 percent of the forest, it is possible that if trees outside of parks were to be inventoried, the species diversity may be more balanced.

Inclusion of native species in the urban forest can be beneficial as these species are well-suited to the local climate and can 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 Willowbrook's Park Forest are limited to 35 trees, or 2 percent of the forest. These trees include 15 California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), 14 white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), 5 Coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), and a single Coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). While these species are native to California, not all of them are native to or appropriate for Los Angeles County. The diversity within parks suggests that improving diversity, including the number of native species, should be a key consideration for additional plantings and/or replacement planting.

¹¹ Clark, et al. 1997.

RELATIVE AGE DISTRIBUTION

Age distribution is an important consideration when assessing an urban forest since every tree has a limited life span and different considerations are necessary depending on the age of a tree. For instance, urban trees are often planted at the same time (such as during the construction of a new park or street) and will reach the end of their life span at the same time, making it challenging to preserve an area's character while addressing safety issues and removing trees. It is beneficial to a forest's health to have a varied age distribution.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. Willowbrook's Park Forest is relatively balanced but skewed towards more established trees. Approximately 27 percent of trees are relatively young with DBH less than 12"; 52 percent are established trees with DBH of 12-24"; and 21 percent have DBH of over 24".

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).

Overall, the Park Forest in Willowbrook is in fair condition, with the majority of trees (99.5 percent) receiving a fair rating. There were only two dead trees: one Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*) and one mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*). One tree was in critical condition: a golden raintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*), all located at Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area. Five trees received good ratings: one at Martin Luther King Fitness Garden, three at Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area, and one at Enterprise Park. The five tree species receiving good ratings included one lemon bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*), one Southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*), one wilga (*Geijera parviflora*), and two Canary Island pines (*Pinus canariensis*).

MAINTENANCE NEEDS

As part of the tree inventory, maintenance needs were categorized for each tree based on CAL FIRE grant guidelines. Maintenance needs identified for Willowbrook's Park Forest are described in Table 2.5.

While there are a few trees recommended for removal, 40 percent of the trees are identified as requiring Priority 1 Prune, which indicates a high level of potential hazards need to be addressed and may indicate that maintenance has been deferred.

¹² Clark, et al. 1997.

¹³ Richards, NA. 1982/83. "Diversity and stability in a street tree population." *Urban Ecology*. 7:159-171.

TABLE 2.5 MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Maintenance Need	Description (Based on CAL FIRE Grant Guidelines)	Number of Trees
Priority 1 Removal	Trees that have defects that cannot be cost-effectively or practically treated, and pose hazards to people or property. These trees are the first to be removed.	25
Priority 2 Removal	Trees that should be removed but do not pose a liability as great as the first priority.	35
Priority 1 Prune	Trees that require priority 1 trimming to remove hazardous deadwood, hangers, or broken branches. Hazardous limbs or leaders are greater than 4 inches in diameter.	662
Priority 2 Prune	Trees that have dead, dying, diseased, or weakened branches between 2 and 4 inches in diameter and are potential safety hazards.	736
Large Tree Routine Prune	Trees that are large enough to require bucket truck access or manual climbing that require routine pruning required to correct structural problems or growth patterns.	16
Small Tree Routine Prune	Trees that require routine pruning to correct structural problems or growth patterns. These trees are small growing, mature trees that can be evaluated and pruned from the ground.	1
Training Prune	Young, large growing trees that require pruning to minimize future maintenance requirements.	151
Stump Removal	Stump removal recommended.	2

CONFLICTS WITH EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

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

The vast majority of Willowbrook’s Park Forest (97 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 population that caused sidewalk damage:

- Green Gem Indian laurel fig (*Ficus microcarpa ‘Nitida’*): 72.22 percent of species population
- Carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*): 55.56 percent of species population
- Camphor (*Cinnamomum camphora*): 50 percent of species population
- Silver maple (*Acer saccharinum*): 33.33 percent of species population
- Jacaranda (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*): 28.57 percent of species population
- Red ironbark (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*): 16.67 percent of species population
- Sweetgum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*): 13.33 percent of species population
- Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*): 13.04 percent of species population
- Evergreen ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*): 12.5 percent of species population
- Callery pear ‘Bradford’ (*Pyrus calleryana ‘Bradford’*): 12 percent of species population
- Kaffirboom coral tree (*Erythrina corallodendron*): 10.81 percent of species population
- Rubigonoa ficus (*Ficus rubiginosa*): 10 percent of species population
- Chinese flame tree (*Koelreuteria bipinnata*): 9.09 percent of species population
- Sugargum (*Eucalyptus cladocalyx*): 4.76 percent of species population
- Italian stone pine (*Pinus pinea*): 3.08 percent of species population
- White mulberry (*Morus alba*): 2.33 percent of species population
- Aleppo pine (*Pinus halepensis*): 1.8 percent of species population
- Canary Island pine (*Pinus canariensis*): 0.87 percent of species population

Similarly, the vast majority of Willowbrook’s Park Forest (98 percent) does not conflict with overhead utility lines. The only present or potential conflicts occur at Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area (23 trees), George Washington Carver Park (7 trees), and Mona Park (2 trees).

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 Willowbrook’s Park Forest based on iTrees Streets analysis. As iTrees Streets was designed for analysis of street trees rather than park trees, the analysis assumes that trees are set along roadways and therefore the estimated benefits are likely on the high side for park trees. A full summary of the impacts of the individual tree species in Willowbrook’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; however, as noted previously, 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 2.6.

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, Willowbrook’s Park Forest currently has an estimated gross value of \$352,324 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 Willowbrook’s Park Forest is \$207. As previously stated, estimates are based on benefits provided by street trees and therefore may be higher for park trees. These benefits are summarized in Table 2.7.

Average economic benefit of one tree in Willowbrook is \$207 per year.

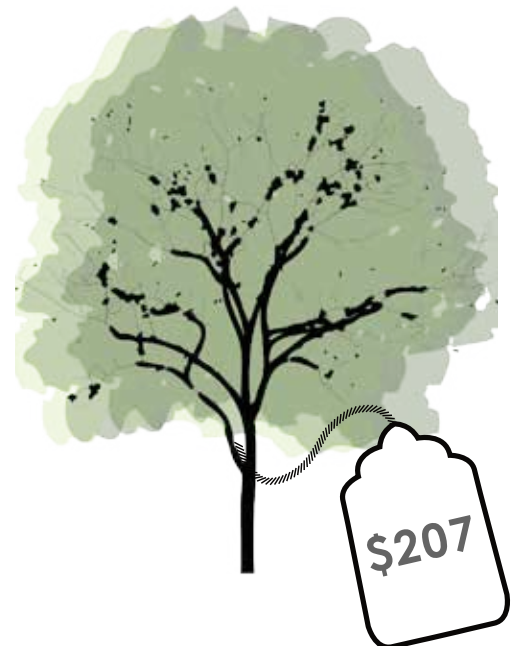


TABLE 2.6 SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NET ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Park Name	Stormwater (Gallons of Stormwater Intercepted)	Air Quality (Pounds of Reduced Air Pollutants)*	Carbon Dioxide (Tons of CO2 Sequestered per Year)
Athens Park	134,975	553	55,325
Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area	1,995,077	1,815	221,599
Enterprise Park	296,152	316	27,061
George Washington Carver Park	236,110	199	23,801
Martin Luther King, Jr. Fitness Garden	4,869	6	287
Mona Park	134,975	128	10,298
TOTAL	3,279,624	3,017	338,371

* 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 2.7 SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NET ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Park Name	Energy	Stormwater	Air Quality*	Carbon Dioxide	Aesthetics	Total
Athens Park	\$6,481	\$3,368	\$1,386	\$245	\$44,386	\$55,866
Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area	\$22,727	\$10,973	\$2,593	\$949	\$199,733	\$236,975
Enterprise Park	\$3,710	\$1,629	\$938	\$125	\$18,851	\$25,253
George Washington Carver Park	\$2,429	\$1,299	\$409	\$102	\$18,929	\$23,168
Martin Luther King, Jr. Fitness Garden	\$81	\$27	\$18	\$2	\$705	\$833
Mona Park	\$1,492	\$742	\$174	\$48	\$7,773	\$10,229
TOTAL	\$36,920	\$18,038	\$5,518	\$1,471	\$290,377	\$352,324

* 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 Willowbrook'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

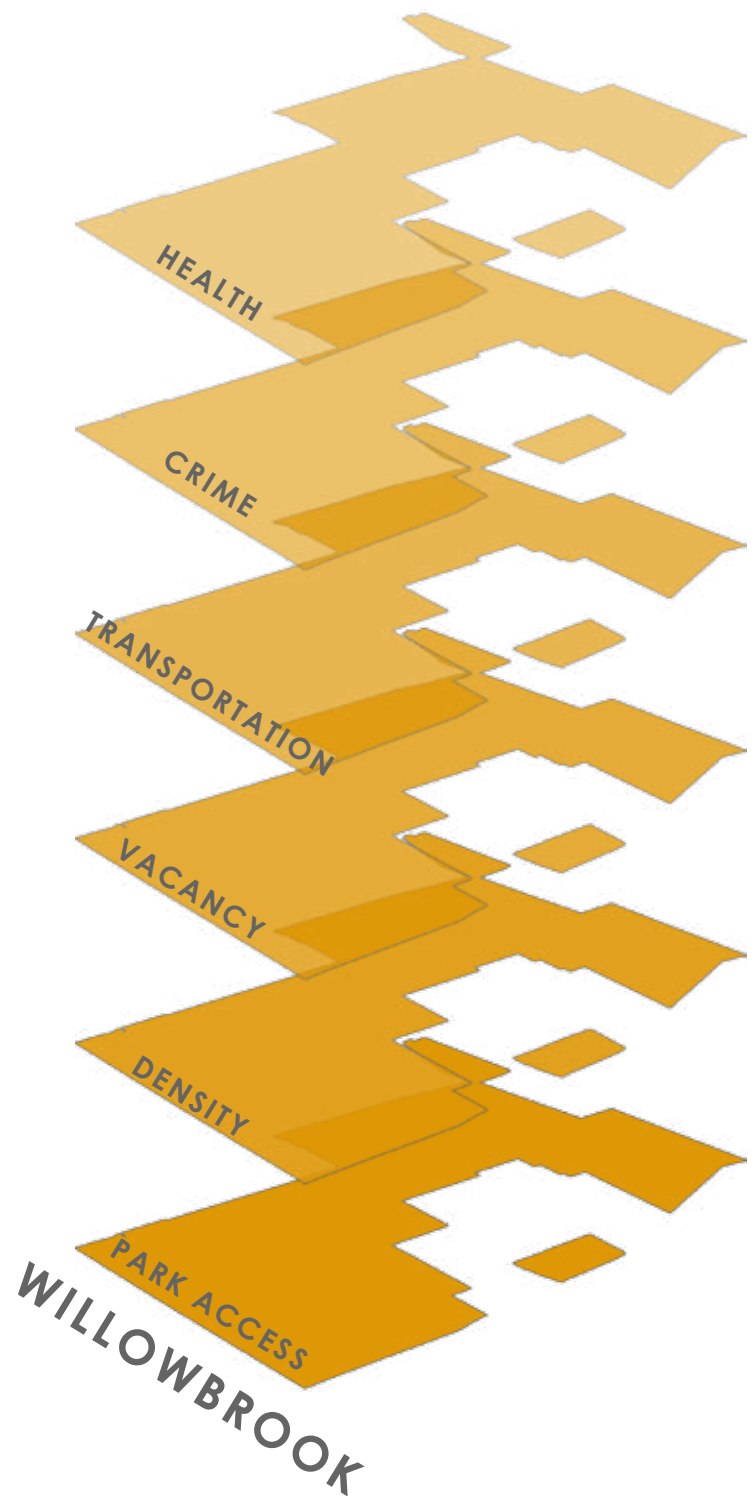
PARK ACCESS

Willowbrook contains one local community park, one community regional park, and several local neighborhood and pocket parks. DPR traditionally considers parks of different types to have different service areas. Local community parks serve residents within a 1 to 2 mile radius. Local neighborhood parks serve residents within a half mile radius. Pocket parks serve residents within a quarter mile radius. Community regional parks serve residents within a 20 mile radius; however, park users may drive or use public transit to visit these facilities. These access boundaries for parks in and around Willowbrook are shown in Figure 2.15.

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

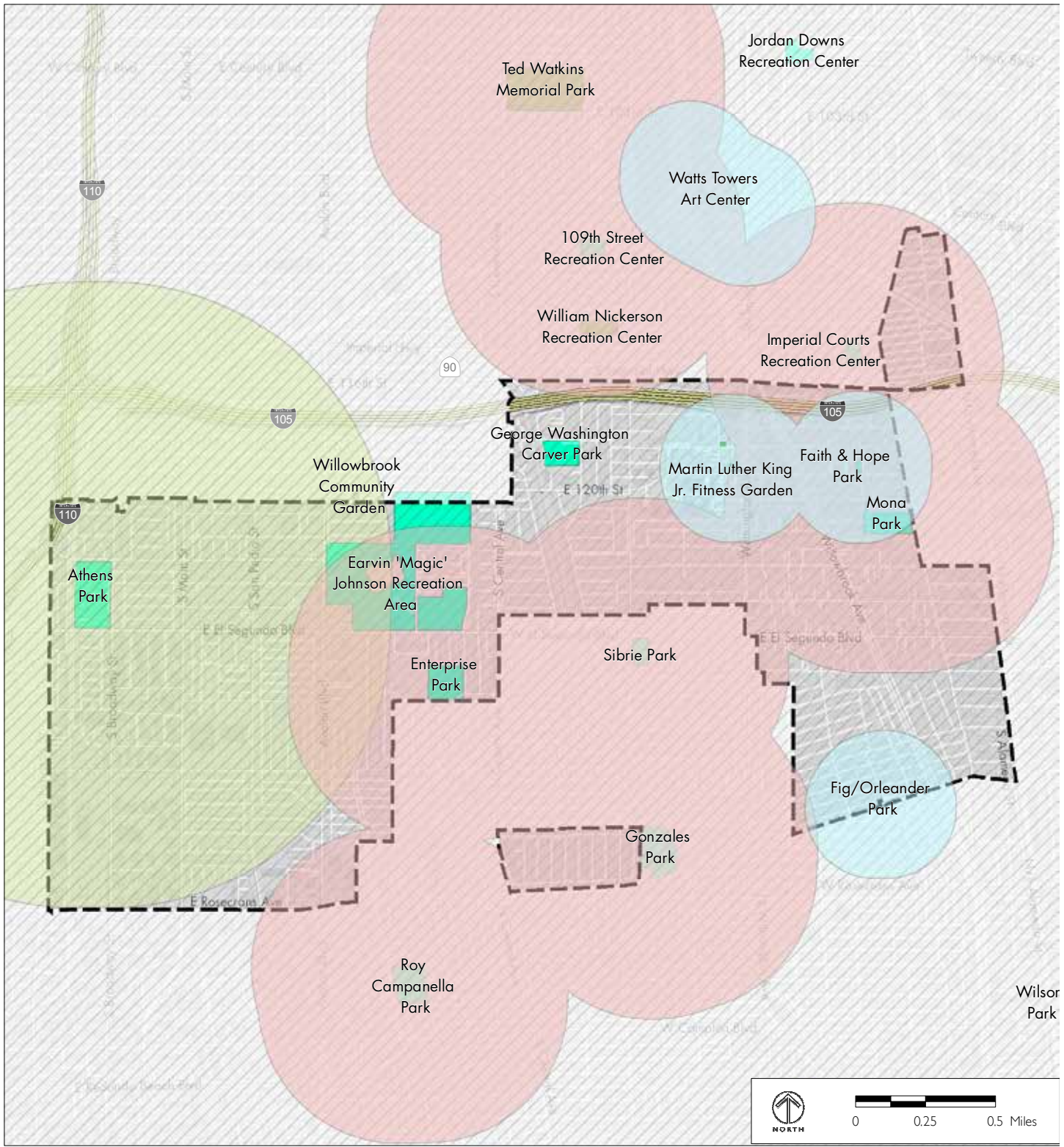
PARKLAND GAP AND WALKABILITY

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



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

FIGURE 2.15 SERVICE AREAS - LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARKS

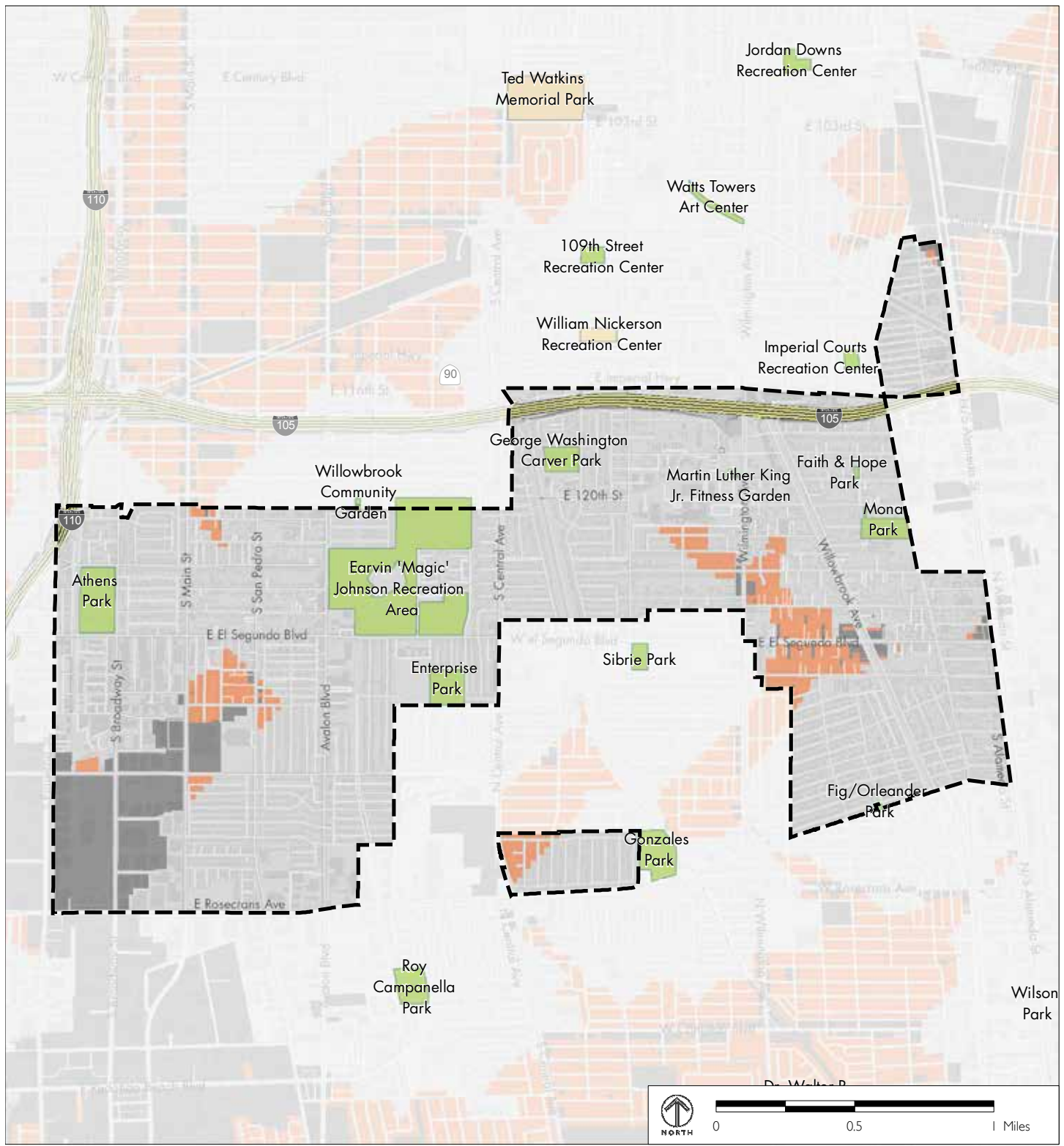


Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Parklands | 20 mile Service Radius from Regional Parks |
| Existing Park Included in Analysis | 1 mile Service Radius from Community Parks |
| Other Existing Green Space | 1/2 mile Service Radius from Neighborhood Parks |
| | 1/4 mile Service Radius from Pocket Parks |

FIGURE 2.16 PARKLAND GAPS/WALKABILITY

EXISTING CONDITIONS



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

Park Access

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

Parklands

- Park Included in Analysis
- Other Green Space

Willowbrook has fairly good park coverage from east to west. With a few exceptions, parks are generally located north of El Segundo Boulevard, which runs horizontally across the community. About 54 percent of Willowbrook’s residents are within a 10-minute walk of these parks. By contrast, about 46 percent of residents live farther than a 10-minute walking distance. These residents are concentrated in the southeastern and southwestern portions of the community, generally below El Segundo Boulevard.

There are several parks outside of the community boundary that are accessible to Willowbrook residents. The most notable of these is Gonzales Park in the City of Compton. In theory, this park serves almost the entire disconnected portion of the community to the south but the single access point off W. Rosecrans Avenue makes access difficult. Other notable parks outside of the community boundary which may serve residents to some capacity include; Imperial Courts Recreation Center in Watts (serves the small pocket of residents north of the 105 freeway), Sibrie Park, and Roy Campanella Park. Oak Avenue Playground in the City of Compton is within a half mile of the community boundary, but is disconnected by the Alameda rail corridor. A pedestrian connection across this corridor would help to serve a small portion of residents in the park poor area south of East El Segundo Boulevard.

POPULATION DENSITY

Willowbrook’s 35,983 residents predominately live in the eastern part of the community, while commercial or industrial uses occur along the west side. Figure 2.19 shows the population density patterns within the community.

Parks and recreation facilities are public amenities and are 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 of neighboring properties. Over half of Willowbrook (54 percent) is low density residential, in the form of one-to-two story single family homes. However, housing units are close together, which results in a low but dense pattern of development across the community.

LAND USE

Willowbrook’s population patterns directly correspond with land use within the community. The community is predominately residential; however there is an industrial area in the southwest of the community. These areas are characterized by large parcels with limited street frontage. Uses here range from light industrial packaging to petroleum processing.

FIGURE 2.17 POPULATION NEAR A PARK

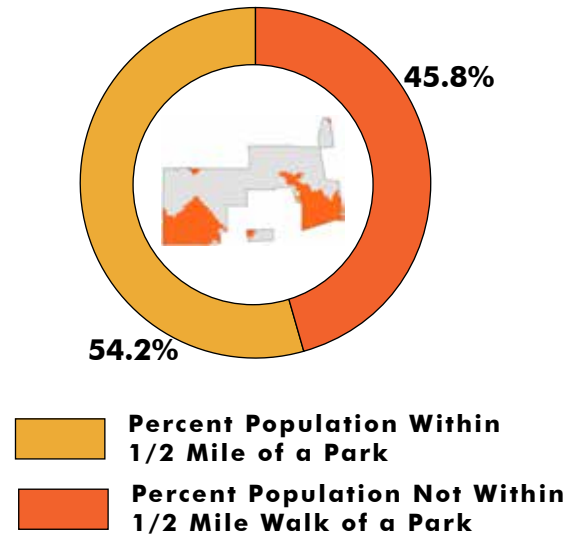
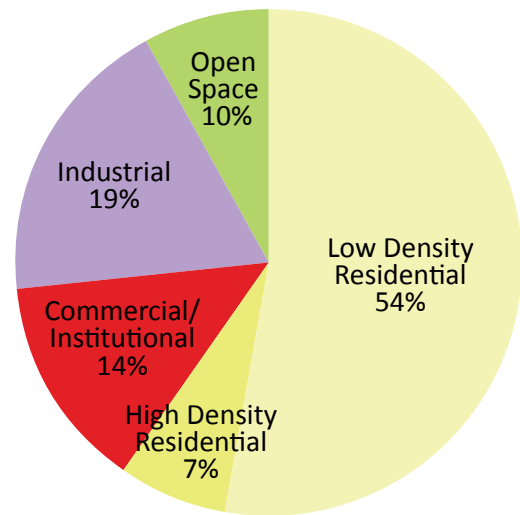


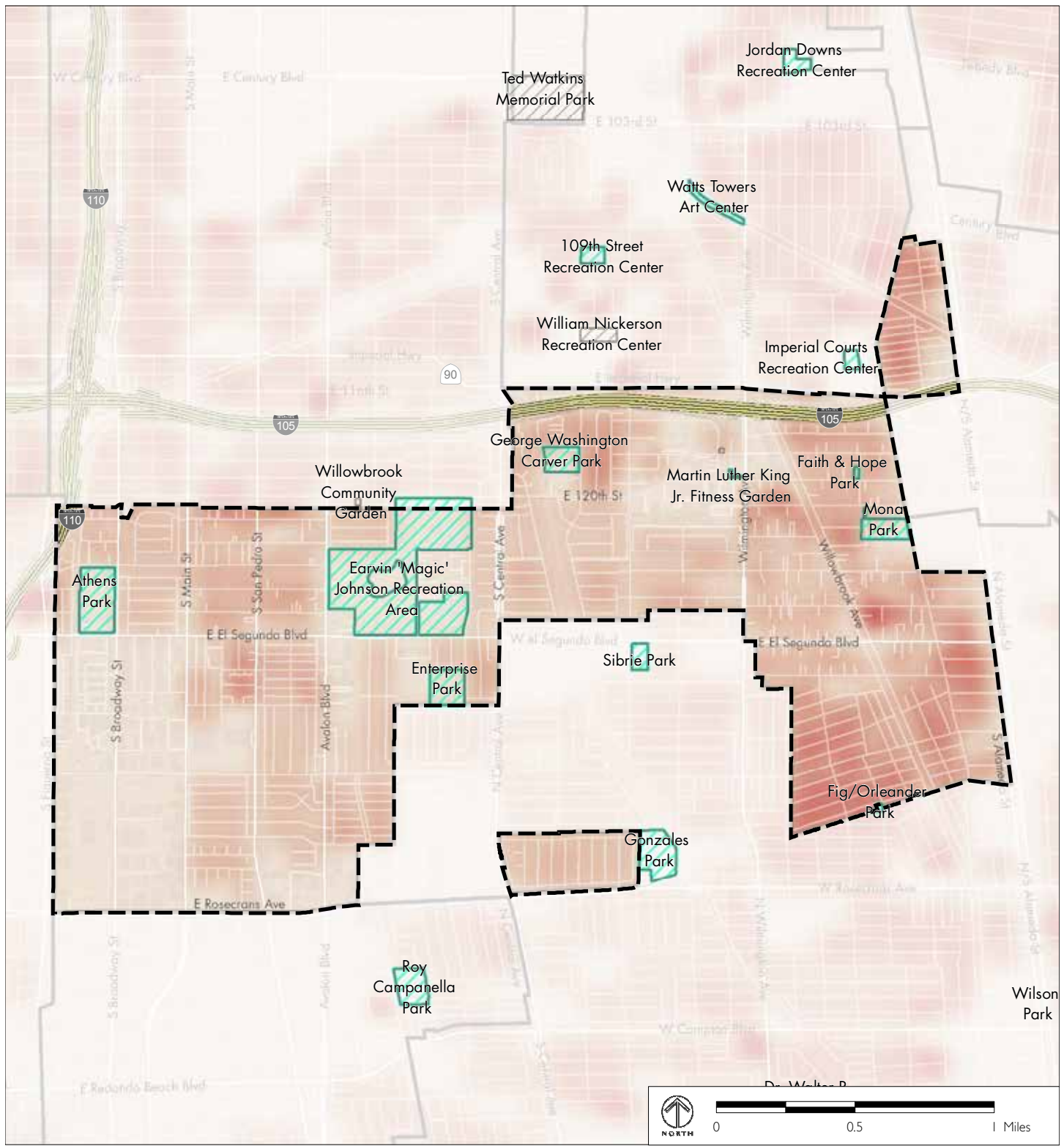
FIGURE 2.18 LAND USE TYPES



Additionally, there are a few commercial areas within Willowbrook. El Segundo Boulevard is the key commercial corridor through the community with intermittent businesses located along its length. Commercial businesses along El Segundo Boulevard mostly include strip-mall developments with large parking areas and limited street frontage. Sections of E. 120th Street and Wilmington Avenue near the Rosa Parks Metro Station currently include commercial businesses and are expected to be developed for more commercial uses as the TOD Specific Plan for the area (discussed above) is implemented. Additionally, segments of Avalon Boulevard and S. Main Street north of El Segundo Boulevard have commercial land uses.

FIGURE 2.19 POPULATION DENSITY

EXISTING CONDITIONS



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

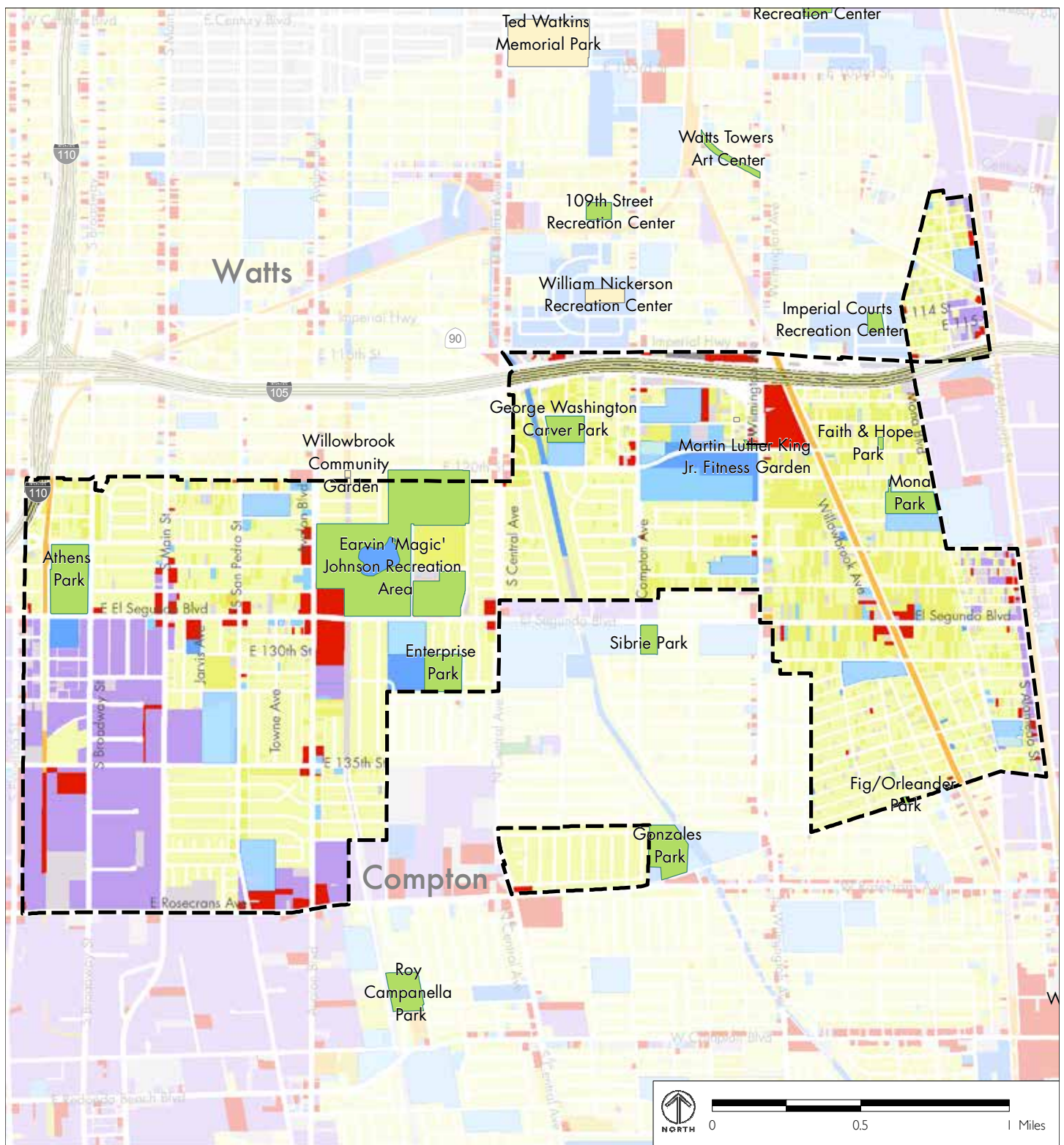
Parklands

- Park Included in Analysis
- Other Green Space

Population Density (Persons per half square mile)

- High
- Low

FIGURE 2.20 LAND USE



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

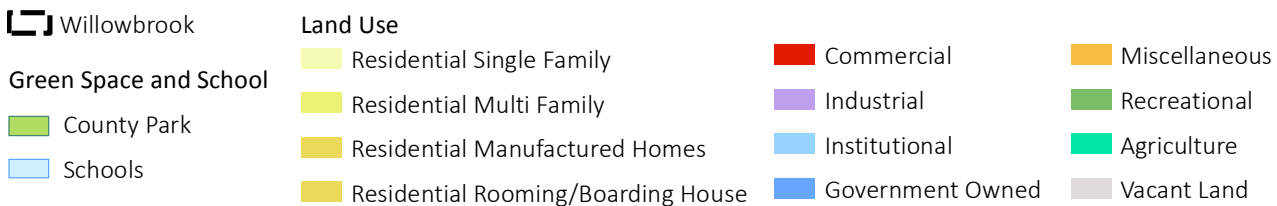
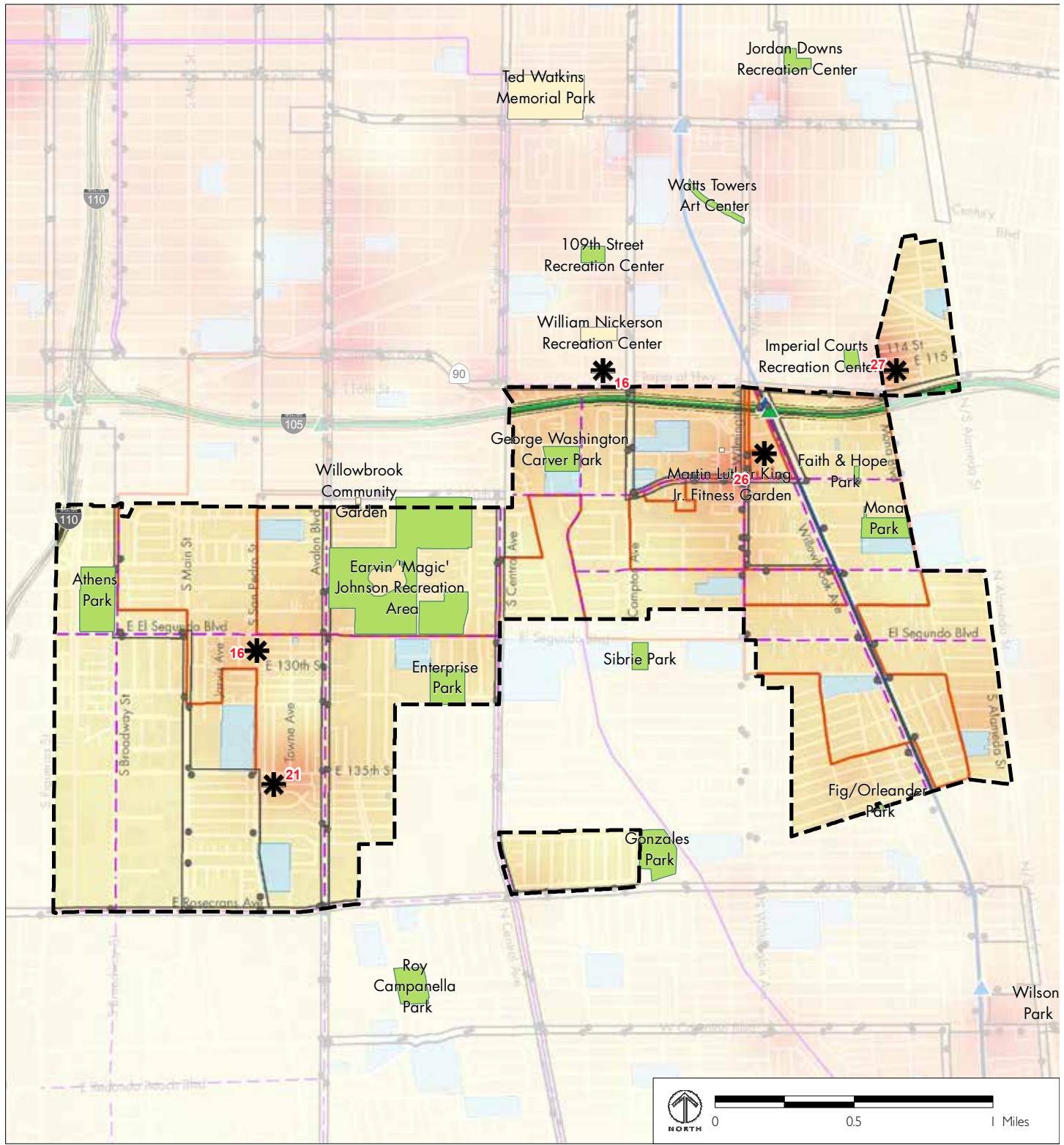


FIGURE 2.21 TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY, AND CONNECTIVITY

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), 2000-2010; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>Green Space and School</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Park School <p>Bike Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Bikeways Proposed Bikeways | <p>Public Transit Network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Metro Rail Blue Line Station Metro Rail Green Line Station Metro Rail Blue Line Metro Rail Green Line The Link Shuttle Routes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bus Stops Bus Routes Problematic Area | <p>Pedestrian and Bicycle Collisions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Concentration (67) Low Concentration (1) 37 Concentration of Collisions within 500 feet |
|---|---|---|--|

TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION

Figure 2.21 shows the existing transportation network, as well as the concentration of pedestrian and bicycle collisions in Willowbrook between 2002 and 2010. Pedestrian and bicycle collisions are any collisions involving either pedestrians or bicyclists. The figure uses a gradient overlay to show areas with a high concentration of collisions using a distance of 500 feet as the threshold for combining collisions into clusters. This summary provides a description of the most problematic areas, and considers these areas as they relate to existing parks and open space in Willowbrook.

PUBLIC TRANSIT OVERVIEW

Willowbrook has a very diverse set of transit options. Two Metro Rail lines run through the community: the Metro Green Line Light rail along Interstate 105 and the Metro Blue Line Light Rail along Willowbrook Avenue. Both lines stop at the Willowbrook Station. There are also 15 different bus lines running through the community: ten local service, one limited stop service, one express service to/from downtown LA, and three shuttles and circulators.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

There are no existing bikeways in Willowbrook, but the Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan includes 14 new bikeways in Willowbrook.¹⁴ Most of these are located near or adjacent to the community's parks. One of the new bikeways to be installed near George Washington Carver Park will connect the existing Compton Creek Trail. A bikeway is also proposed along El Segundo Boulevard, though this would require a connection through the City of Compton to be complete.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Looking at the concentration of pedestrian and bicycle collisions, Willowbrook has experienced sporadic periods of high collisions between 2002 and 2010.

A number of high-concentration areas are located outside the community boundary near the Green Meadows and Watts communities. There does not appear to be an obvious concentration of collisions relative to the transit network. However, all of the problematic areas listed in Table 2.8 are located close to schools.

Willowbrook has higher rate of pedestrian collisions compared to Los Angeles County as a whole. It has 5.53 pedestrian collisions per 1,000 population, whereas Los Angeles County has 4.73. The community currently has some sidewalks that need improvement: El Segundo Boulevard from Central Avenue to Avalon Avenue, and East 120th Street near Watts-Willowbrook Boys and Girls Club. The bike collision rate in Willowbrook is slightly lower than County's (2.58 in Willowbrook and 3.04 in Los Angeles County).

FIGURE 2.22 PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE COLLISIONS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

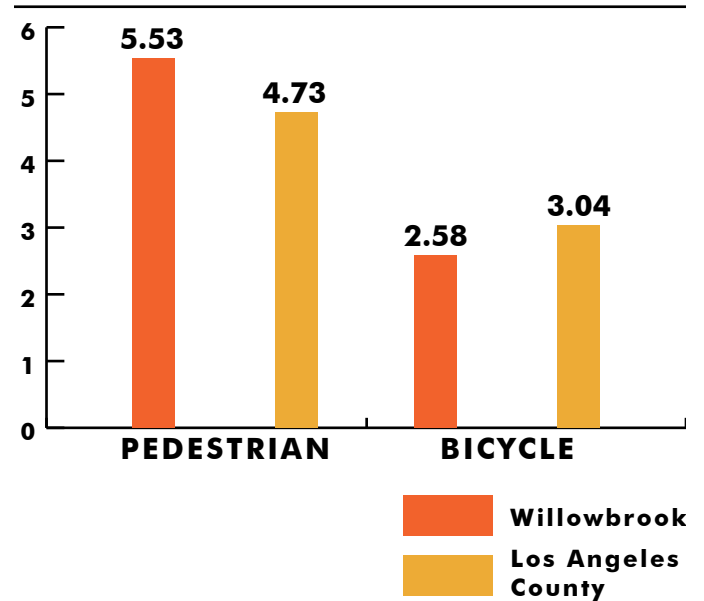


TABLE 2.8 PROBLEMATIC AREAS FOR PEDESTRIANS

Location ^A	Number of Collisions ^B
Mona Boulevard, between E 114th and E 115th Streets	27
E 120th Street & Wilmington Avenue	26
E 135th Street & Towne Avenue	21
E Imperial Highway & Compton Avenue	16
Area bounded by E El Segundo Boulevard, E 130th Street, S San Pedro Street, and Jarvis Avenue	16

^AThe Location column describes the closest intersection near problematic areas

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

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

CRIME AND SAFETY

This section summarizes the results from the crime analysis for Willowbrook. For this study area, the crime data analyzed spans from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. The analysis methodology used to identify high and low intensity crime locations is described below.

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

As shown in Figure 2.23, there are about a half dozen crime hot spots dispersed throughout the community, but this report focuses on hot spots near existing parks. Earvin 'Magic'

TABLE 2.9 CRIME CATEGORY INTENSITY RATIO*

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

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

Johnson Recreation Area has two hot spots adjacent to its southwestern and southeastern corners. The more prominent of the two is centered around the intersection of East El Segundo and Avalon Boulevards. Gang-related crime activity is fairly dispersed, especially in the eastern section of the community. However, there are notable concentration areas to the north, southwest and southeast of Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area.

SAFETY RESOURCES

Law enforcement in Willowbrook is provided by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, which is based in Century Station located just north of Mona Park in nearby Lynwood. The Century Sheriff's Station offers a volunteer program and Community Advisory Board. The local Captain with the Sheriff's Department regularly holds meetings at local parks.

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

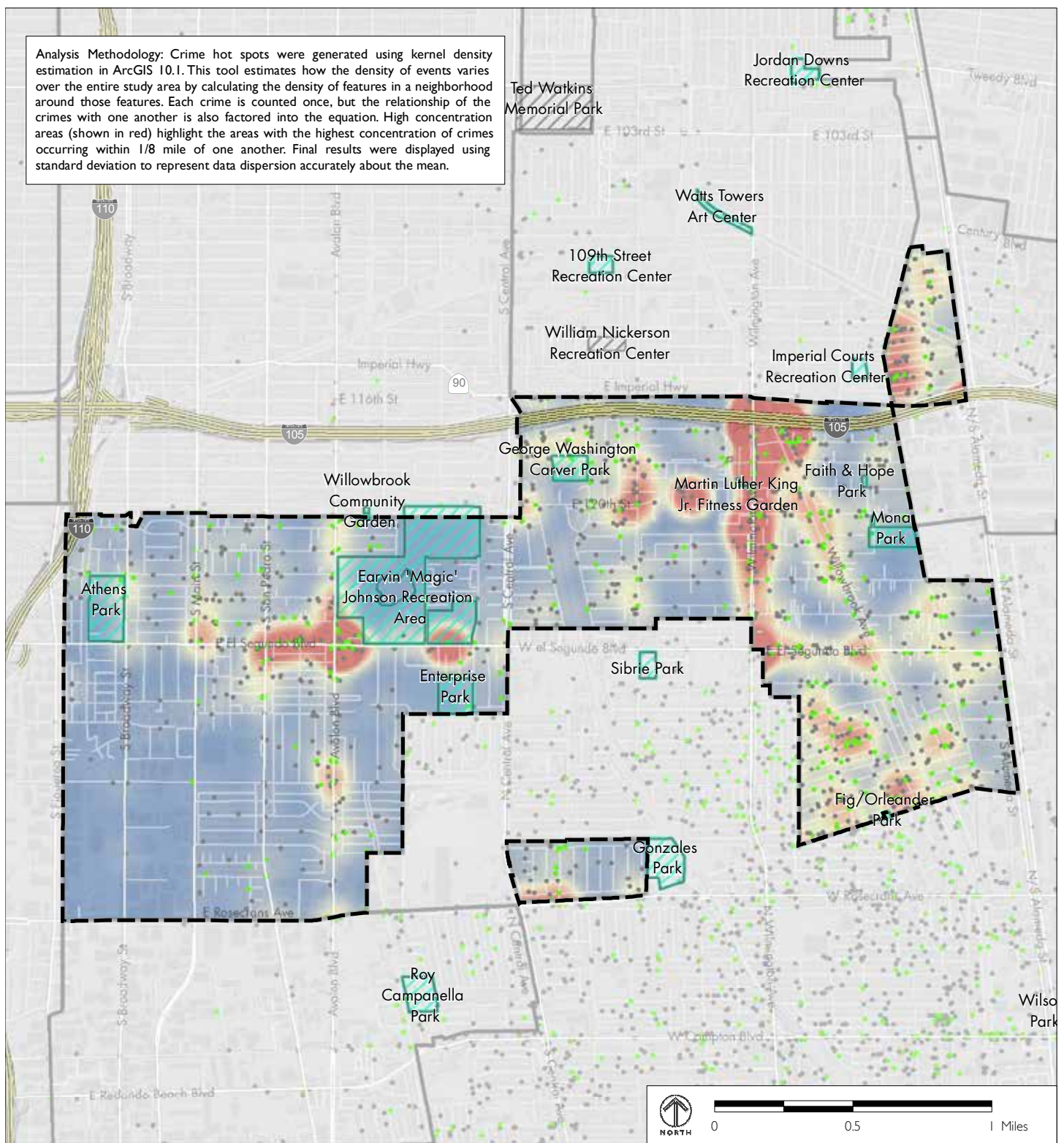
Although the Century Station facilitates a variety of programs throughout the community, from neighborhood watch groups to safe streets initiatives, by far the most visible from park users' standpoint is the Youth Activities League (YAL), an afterschool program which often uses park facilities. YALs, which operate free of charge, are staples of County Parks' recreational programming.

Outside of uniformed law enforcement, the Parks After Dark (PAD) program also has a strong impact on park safety in nearby Florence-Firestone, although it has not been implemented in Willowbrook. Conceived as a violence-prevention strategy and modeled on Los Angeles' Summer Night Lights program, PAD works to combine recreational and entertainment programming with public resources through festivals organized at parks in high-crime neighborhoods during the summer months. Communities that host PAD festivities have seen a 32% decrease in violent crime.¹⁵

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

15 County of Los Angeles. Department of Public Health Injury and Prevention Program. Department of Parks and Recreation. "Parks After Dark: Preventing Violence While Promoting Healthy, Active Lives." August 2014. <<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/parksafterdark.pdf>>

FIGURE 2.23 CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS



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

EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Concentration of Crimes Against Persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High Low | <p>Parklands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Park Included in Analysis Other Green Space | <p>Crimes Against Persons*</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gang-related 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 1,890 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

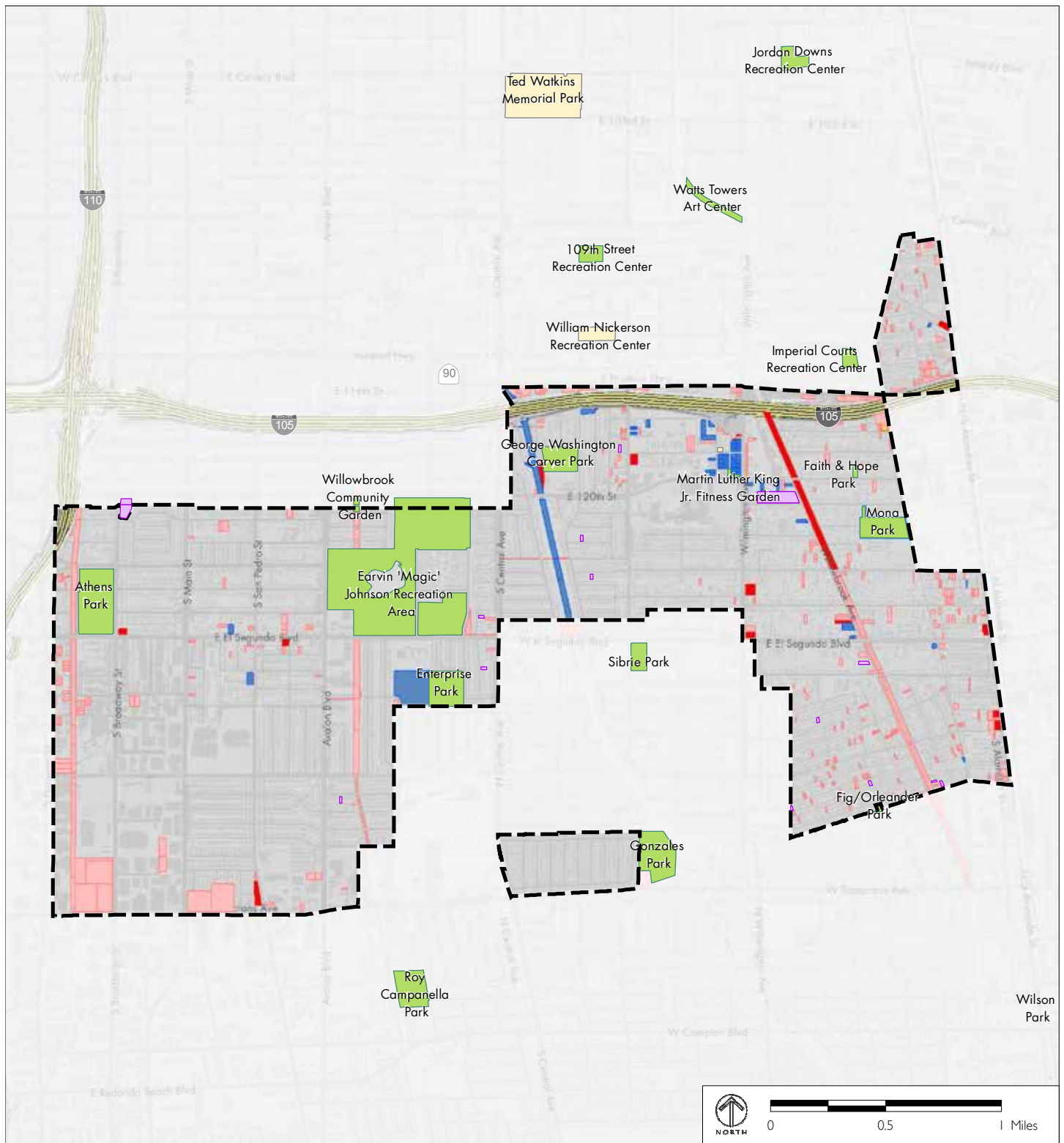
A vacant land analysis was used to preliminary identify opportunity sites for new parks in Willowbrook. Vacant land was identified using three different sources: Los Angeles County Assessor’s vacant land data according to its use code; property lots with no improvement value; and input from community 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 2.24 shows the location of vacant land in Willowbrook.



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



FIGURE 2.24 VACANT LAND



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

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

AIR QUALITY

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) recommends a minimum 500 feet buffer should 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 added to analyze potential new park sites. These buffers are displayed in the air quality map (Figure 2.25).

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:

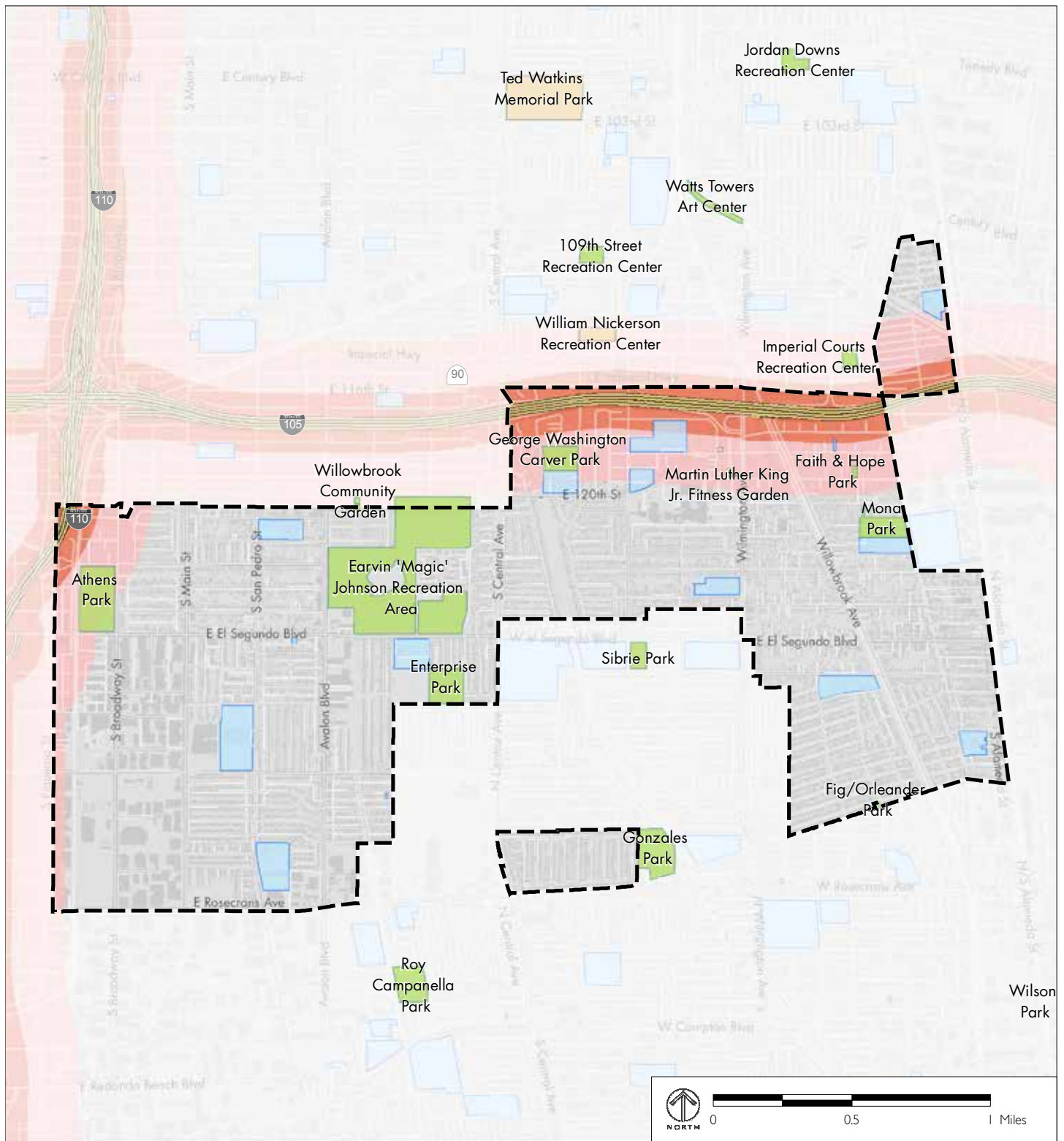
- *New parks with athletic fields, courts, and other outdoor facilities designed for moderate to vigorous physical activity should be sited at least 500 feet from a freeway. Consideration should be given to extending this minimum buffer zone based on site-specific conditions given the fact that unhealthy 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



Community Garden in DWP Utility Corridor
source: Los Angeles Community Garden Council

FIGURE 2.25 AIR QUALITY



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

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

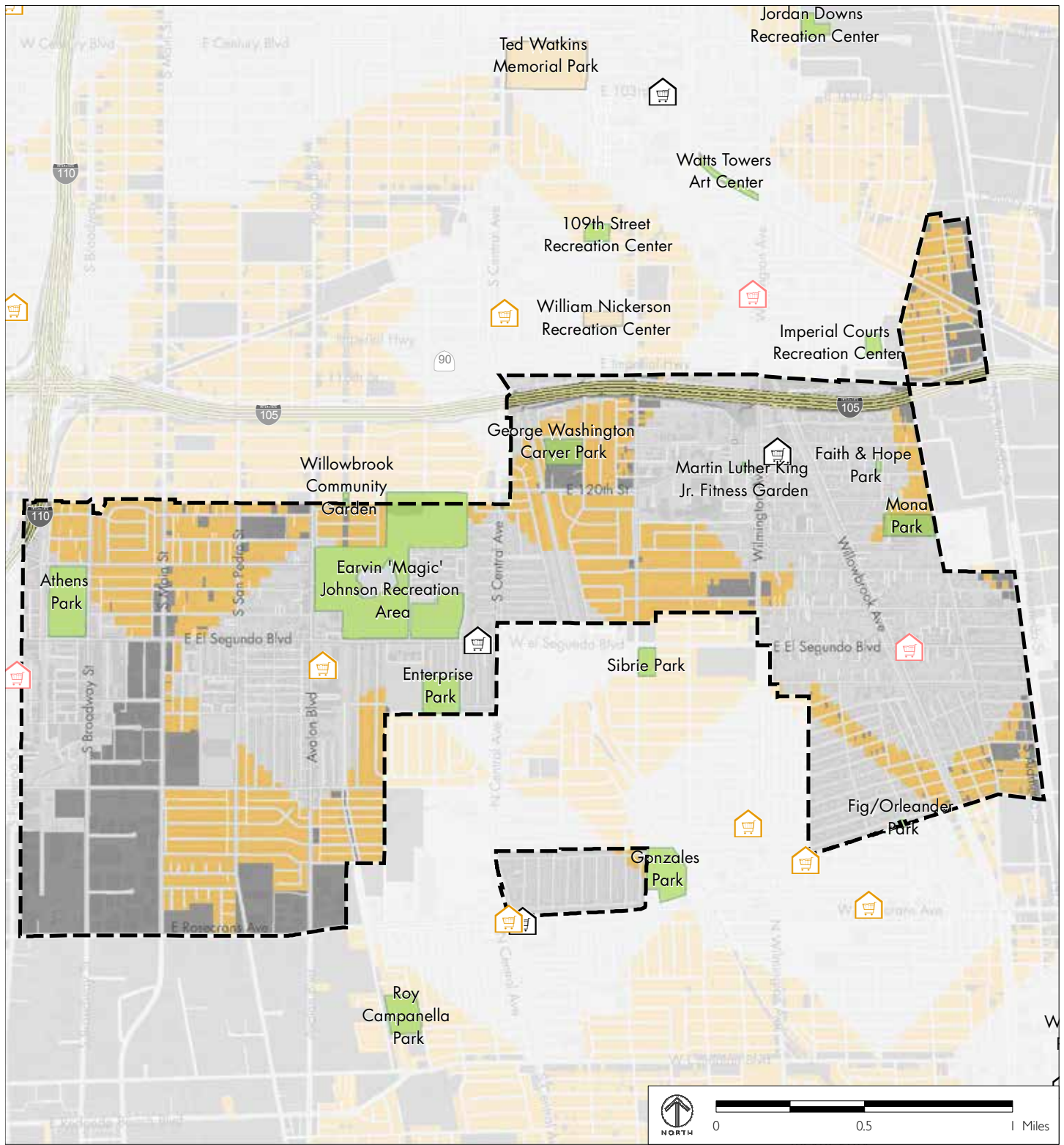
FOOD ACCESS

For this study area, a distance threshold of a half (½) mile (10-minute walk) was used to determine if residents have walkable access to a food outlet selling fresh fruits, meats, and vegetables.

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

Figure 2.26 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.

FIGURE 2.26 FOOD ACCESS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>Supermarkets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Service Grocery Store Neighborhood Market Specialty Market | <p>Healthy Food Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile of a Grocery Store/Produce Market Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile of a Grocery Store/Produce Market <p>Parklands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> County Park Other Green Space |
|---|---|



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. For Willowbrook, these efforts took place between May 2013 and May 2014, and included surveys, focus groups, stakeholder interviews, a community workshop, a youth focus group, and a community bicycle 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.

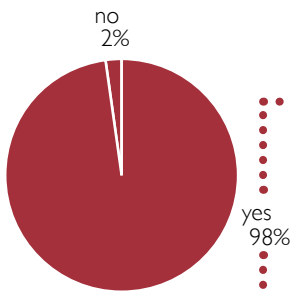
SURVEYS (MAY-OCTOBER 2013)

Two hundred (200) questionnaires were distributed while tabling at County Parks and at various community events, including the annual Juneteenth Celebration at Mona Park. Results suggested that most park visitors are traveling only a short distance to parks within their community and have a relatively high level of comfort, or feel safe, in their local park.

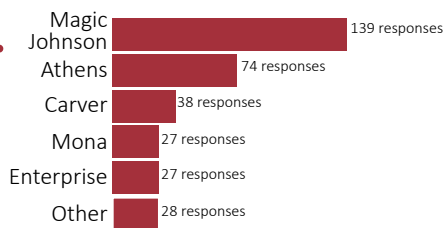
The results additionally show exercise, socializing, and sports as the predominant uses in Willowbrook parks. Current exercise and sports programs are highly used, while respondents would also like to see more youth sports and exercise programs. Respondents would like to see more fitness equipment and facilities within the parks available for free play.

FIGURE 3.1 SURVEY RESULTS

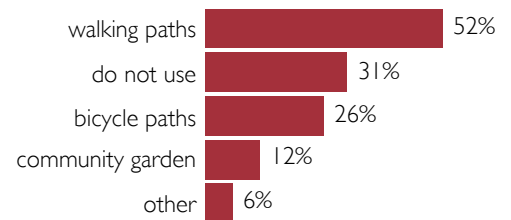
DO YOU GO TO PARKS OR OTHER GREEN/OPEN SPACE?



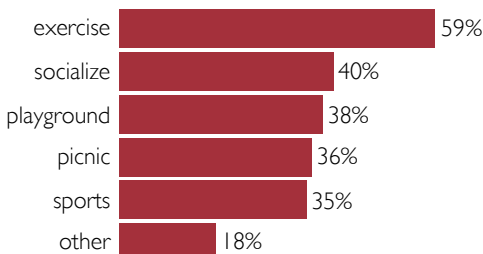
IF YES, WHICH PARKS DO YOU VISIT?



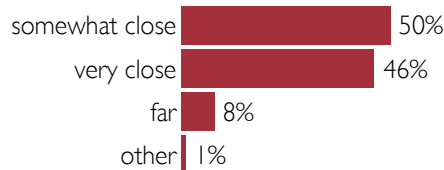
DO YOU USE RECREATIONAL SPACES, OTHER THAN PARKS? IF SO, WHAT KIND?



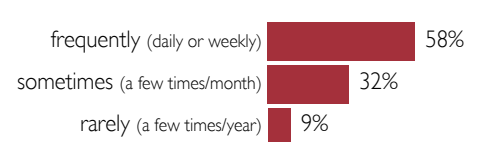
WHAT DO YOU DO THERE?



HOW NEAR OR FAR IS THE CLOSEST PARK TO YOU?



HOW OFTEN DO YOU GO?

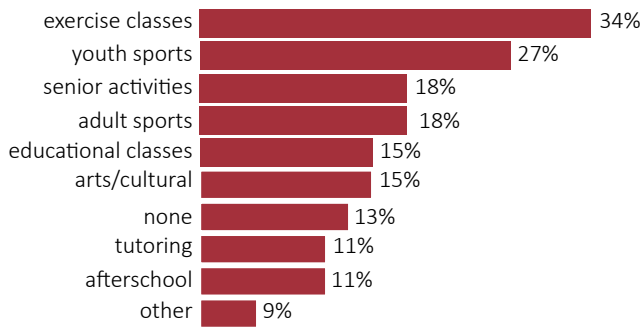


respondents could select more than one answer

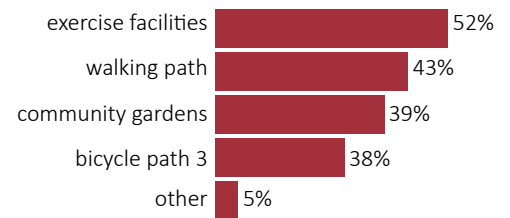
TABLE 3.1 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM SURVEY RESULTS

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN YOUR COMMUNITY?			
Programs		Facilities	
Youth Sports	41%	Exercise Facilities	52%
Exercise Classes	36%	Walking Path	43%
Adult Sports	26%	Community Gardens	39%
Senior Activities	24%	Bike Path	38%
Afterschool Daycare	20%	Other	5%
Arts/Cultural Activities	19%		
Educational Classes	18%		
Tutoring/Homework Assistance	16%		
Other	5%		

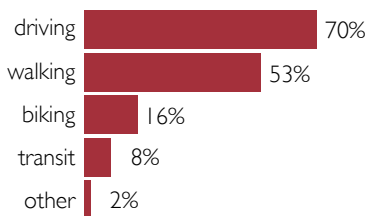
WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN?



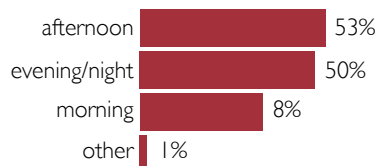
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



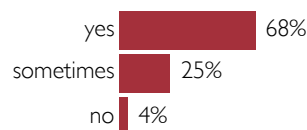
HOW DO YOU GET THERE?



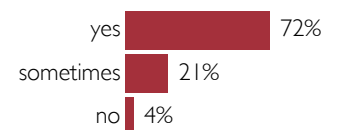
WHAT TIME OF DAY DO YOU USUALLY VISIT?



DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN PARKS?



DO YOU FEEL SAFE GOING TO PARKS?



respondents could select more than one answer

FOCUS GROUPS

(MAY-JUNE 2013)

In Willowbrook, three (3) focus groups were held with key representatives from community-based organizations, the senior citizen community, the Department of Public Health, and Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to provide insight on concerns and priorities for key parks and recreation users.

Throughout the focus groups, key themes emerged from the feedback, including:

- A need for better outreach strategies, promoting park opportunities and healthy community initiatives
- More variety in year-round park programming, including youth mentoring activities
- Renovation of existing parks to improve facilities and expand opportunities for physical activity
- A desire for alternative green projects, such as walking paths, community gardens, and farmer’s markets
- Increased attention to neighborhood safety issues

Focus group participants emphasized that open space use is dependent on community members taking interest and ownership in their local park spaces. They indicated that larger neighborhood issues, such as unemployment, neighborhood fragmentation, and safety must be considered in park planning as they can significantly impact a resident’s interest and participation in a local park system. They suggested that DPR

Representatives in Focus Groups

Seniors

- Concerned Citizens of Willowbrook

Community

- Eastside Riders (ESR) Bike Club
- Watts Neighborhood Council

Public Offices

- George Washington Carver Park Staff
- Department of Public Health Service Planning Area (SPA) 6

focus programming directly at Willowbrook needs, such as job training programs, leadership initiatives, and low-cost youth activities, as well as partner with active local groups to bring users into Willowbrook parks. The group also expressed interest in a citizens’ Park Board, allowing residents to take part in the decision-making process.

TABLE 3.2 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM FOCUS GROUPS

Facilities	Amenities
Exercise facilities	More seating areas
Walking paths connecting various parks in Willowbrook	Replace sand in playground with rubber or mulch
Soccer field (with artificial grass)	Traffic control surrounding parks
Community Gardens	Speed bumps along surrounding streets
	Wall for youth (intended to be painted)
Events	More flowers and native plants (to attract wildlife and butterflies)
Local Farmer’s Market	
Maintenance/Operations	
Citizens Park Board	

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

(MAY 2013)

Five (5) stakeholder interviews were held with leaders from local organizations:

- AC Bilbrew Library
- Boys and Girls Club
- Los Ryders Bicycle Club
- Faith-based Leaders
- Neighborhood Watch

Stakeholders generally praised the value of green space within Willowbrook as providing a place to recreate and “get away.” However, they also indicated that the parks could be a greater community resource if there was increased outreach with residents regarding programming and events.

Stakeholders suggested new facilities and programs that fit residents’ needs, as well as new features that help define the space as unique to Willowbrook. They see their community as having a special cultural identity and open spaces should allow for art pieces and other forms of self-expression from community members.

Key Issues and Concerns

- Gang violence/presence in parks makes residents uneasy about using parks.
- Police presence in parks, in response to gang presence, causes police targeting of non-gang-affiliated youth of color and makes residents uneasy at parks.
- Concern about canopy loss in the neighborhood due to tree-trimming techniques.
- Programming at parks does not meet community needs.

Key Observations

- Green spaces make Willowbrook a better neighborhood.
- New green space should incorporate educational opportunities and partner with existing organizations.
- Better communication, promotion, advertising of activities and events would increase public participation in park program and overall use.
- There is a need within the neighborhood for more bike-friendly amenities.

TABLE 3.3 NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Programs/Activities	Facilities/Amenities/Elements
More programs for seniors	Computer lab with internet access
More sports programs for girls	Bike lanes and bike-friendly amenities
Youth sports	Street and sidewalk maintenance
Environmental education programs	Better lighting at parks
Summer employment programs for youth (potential emphasis on horticulture, planning, or maintenance)	Community gardens for fresh organic foods (identified 117th Street and Holmes as potential site)
Art Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Musical education • Sculpture/ceramics • Drawing/visual arts • Poetry workshops 	Public art
Events	
More cleanups of the park and surrounding areas	
Increased park use hours through programming	

COMMUNITY FAIR

(JULY 15, 2013)

A community outreach fair was held at George Washington Carver Park in partnership with other Los Angeles County departments, local community-based organizations, health initiatives, youth program and service providers, alternative transit advocates, and arts commission representatives. The fair also served as the workshop for the Community Parks and Recreation Plan, where residents participated in activities that recorded their views on green space, indicated preferences for facilities and programs, and identified areas within the community where they would like to see new green space. They also pointed out areas that they currently use for recreation, as well as areas they currently consider dangerous or difficult to access.

During the fair, facilitators talked to residents about the Plan and took notes of their feedback regarding parks and recreation needs, as well as their vision of a “greener” Willowbrook. The feedback ranged from specific projects and facilities to a more broad approach to safety and park management. Feedback from participants indicated County parks and nearby schools are their primary sources of green space, and that residents currently visit parks primarily to take their children to the playground, play organized sports and to utilize swimming facilities. In terms of future projects, residents of Willowbrook overwhelmingly prioritize lighting and security. Additionally, participants would like to have more opportunities for bicycling and improved pedestrian routes, and identified a possible location for a future community garden.



TABLE 3.4 SUMMARY OF NEEDS FROM COMMUNITY FAIR

Programs/Activities	Facilities
Multi-generational activities (with potential focus on health and wellness programs)	Playing fields
Youth sports activities	Walking paths
Zumba	Bike lanes throughout communities, especially a lane connecting Mona Park and Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area
More activities for seniors	Exercise facilities
Increased summer and afterschool activities for youth	Rose garden
	Cleaner restrooms
	Skate park
Amenities	Needs at Existing Parks
Increased lighting at all parks	MONA PARK: Two large slides, more playground equipment and bike opportunities
Increased number of trash cans	
Public art	
Landscaping and cleaning along South Willowbrook Avenue	
Easier access between parks and more parks throughout the neighborhood: residents do not travel far for park opportunities	ATHENS PARK: More playground and exercise equipment

Dot-Voting Preference Exercise

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

Current Activities:

- Swim (16)
- Take kids to playground (15)
- Play organized sports (15)
- Exercise (11)
- Socialize (9)
- Read (9)
- Picnic (6)
- Watch wildlife (6)

What you want to see:

- Lighting and security (21)
- Bicycling (14)
- Walking paths (11)
- Play fields (11)
- Public art (11)
- Natural areas or features (9)
- Exercise facility (9)
- *Other*
 - *Increased programming*
 - *Multi-generational activities around health and wellness*
 - *Youth sports activities*
 - *Zumba*
 - *More activities for the senior center*
 - *Increased summer and after-school activities for youth*
 - *Rose garden*
 - *Small farm or community garden*
 - *Increased number of trash cans*
 - *Cleaner restrooms*
 - *A community skate park*





Community Mapping Exercise

Using a map of Willowbrook, 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 County parks as major sources of green space, sidewalk conditions and illicit activities in and along routes to parks as major obstacles to use, and vacant lots as important sites for future projects

What parks or green spaces do you use?

Participants identified County Parks, specifically Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area, Mona, and Carver Parks, as recreational areas that they visit. Schools in the area, such as Kind Drew Medical Magnet High School, were identified as other green spaces that residents utilize or enjoy. In terms of specific facilities, participants pointed to the pool at Enterprise Park and the sports field at Cesar Chavez Continuation High School.

Where is it hard to walk?

Participants consistently highlighted the need for landscaping and cleaning along S. Willowbrook Avenue. Additionally, there seemed to be widespread support of new bike lanes in the community, specifically a bike lane connecting Mona, Carver, and Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Parks. Some residents presented possible locations for future community gardens.

Where do you want new green space?

The majority of access concerns related to the need for more crosswalks and other pedestrian safety improvements. Specifically, many participants highlighted the railroad crossing at S. Willowbrook Avenue and 119th Street as dangerous for pedestrians. Some participants also indicated that gang activity surrounding Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson and Athens Parks impedes their ability to use these green spaces. In general, participants indicated that they use the park or green space closest to their homes and do not travel far to other spaces in the neighborhood, due either to concerns about safety in a less-known space or limited transportation options and difficult walking conditions.



Nature for Neighborhoods

Come help create a GREENER vision



SHOW US YOUR WILLOWBROOK



SHARE YOUR INPUT:

WHAT PARKS OR GREEN SPACES DO YOU USE? Draw a PURPLE ● on the map at places where you currently go.



Nature for Neighborhoods

Come help create a GREENER vision



SHOW US YOUR WILLOWBROOK



SHARE YOUR INPUT:

WHAT PARKS OR GREEN SPACES DO YOU USE? Draw a PURPLE ● on the map at places where you currently go.

WHERE IS IT HARD TO WALK? Draw an ORANGE CIRCLE around the areas that are difficult to pass through or create a barrier for you.

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE GREEN SPACE? Draw a GREEN ● on the map at places where you would like to see new green space built.

No Bike Path going Down 119th

WILLOWBROOK

COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

BIKE TOUR

(JUNE 2, 2013)

In partnership with United Riders Bicycle Club, youth and their families and other community members met at Carver Park to bike to nearby parks and evaluate the condition of biking in the area. The group biked a large loop connecting Carver, Earvin 'Magic Johnson', Athens, Enterprise, and Mona Parks. Youth and other members on the ride photographed sidewalk conditions and areas where they believed pedestrian and bicycle safety could be improved. The bicycle ride concluded with a barbecue and kickball game that was held at Carver Park.

The bike tour was selected as an activity because of conversations with youth in the community who expressed a high interest in cycling. During and following the ride, they indicated that bike safety and road maintenance were what concerned them, since they consider biking both a significant means of transit within the neighborhood and a recreational activity on its own.

YOUTH FOCUS GROUP

(JULY 25, 2013)

In collaboration with *Keeping it Real*, a community-based youth group that equips young people with the skills necessary to avoid dangerous situations and resist peer pressure based out of Mona Park, nine (9) members of Willowbrook youth met for a discussion focused on youth engagement in open space planning. The participants of the focus group were between the ages of 12 and 18 years old. Over the course of the focus group meeting, they voiced their perspectives with regards to park use, park needs, and safety challenges in the community.

When discussing future projects in Willowbrook, youth participants repeatedly mentioned the poor state of sidewalks in their community. They stated that large trees have uprooted the current walkways, making them difficult to navigate, especially for handicapped individuals or senior citizens. Despite this problem, participants stressed that planting more trees in the community would help beautify the streets. These conflicting needs suggest that beautification of sidewalks should be a priority, but should not include tree species that will lead to sidewalk maintenance issues. The participants also expressed an interest in more walking paths with grass and flowers, suggesting Hermosa Beach as a community that currently has this type of green space. They desire to see such community spaces in Willowbrook and thought walking paths could beautify the area and connect neighborhood blocks.

Participants also identified the need for the construction of small parks in residential areas. They stated that parks located within walking distance of houses, even if they were small, would be more accessible to parents and encourage families to frequent green space more often. In terms of specific park layout, there was a desire to see more playgrounds and exercise equipment.

Collaborating Groups

- The United Riders Bicycle Club, comprised of the East Side Riders Bicycle Club and Los Ryderz Bicycle Club
- Youth from YO! Watts
- Carver Park staff



Participants also indicated they would like parks with plants that attract more wildlife or insects, such as butterflies. Focus group participants view vacant lots in the community as potential sites for green projects, including desired small parks that beautify neighborhoods.

In terms of programming, youth indicated more activities for community members of all ages. They identified more exercise classes of all types, not only Zumba. They also expressed interest in more art classes and seemed to be unaware that these were currently offered in the community. All the youth expressed excitement when talking about large park events, such as the annual Juneteenth Festival, and expressed a desire for more community-wide events at parks.

Multiple participants indicated a need for teen jobs in the community. They stressed that employment opportunities would provide them with something to do, keep them out of trouble, and help them earn pocket money. They identified the plan for community green space as a possible avenue for bringing job opportunities to Willowbrook.

Additionally, the youth discussed the overall high unemployment rate in their community. Participants felt that any jobs created through plans and implementation of future park projects should utilize local labor, thus helping the unemployed population in Willowbrook. Youth also stressed the need for homeless shelters and educational programs, as homelessness has become an issue that impacts parks and green spaces in Willowbrook.

The youth in this focus group agreed that they generally feel safe at local parks. This is due to their familiarity of the area, the proximity of parks to their homes and their participation in park programs, such as *Keeping It Real*. Their conversation suggested that residents who travel further to access parks and who are less familiar with the surrounding neighborhoods may not feel as safe in the parks.

However, the youth mentioned “gang bangers,” indicating that their threatening presence at some of the parks causes safety issues that should be addressed. They said that increased lighting on nearby streets, as well as inside parks, could help prevent illegal activity. Additionally, they believe that speed bumps could slow traffic and help ensure the safety of children in the areas surrounding the parks. The youth also discussed the need for safe transportation to and from activities at parks, stating that this would not only keep kids safe but would also increase attendance at park programs and make parks more accessible. Additionally, they thought group transportation would make activities seem more welcoming and appealing to youth in the neighborhoods.

Key Observations

- There is a need for more youth programming and activities, specifically exercise and art.
- Public awareness of park locations and specific programming could be increased.
- The construction of neighborhood parks within walking distance of residential areas make them more desirable for local residents.
- There is a desire for community gardens at schools.
- Park access and use depends on having safe routes to parks, including well-maintained sidewalks, or reliable transit options.
- The community would benefit from more neighborhood walking paths.
- There is a lack of job opportunities for teens and adults in the community.
- Vacant lots have high potential to become small parks that beautify the neighborhood.
- Large park events build enthusiasm for parks and open space.
- Neighborhood homelessness and unemployment are issues that impact park planning, as they affect who uses the spaces.

TABLE 3.5 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM YOUTH FOCUS GROUP

Programs	Facilities/Amenities
Youth employment programs (such as summer camp)	Sidewalk improvements on key corridors
Competitive sports	Plants to attract wildlife or insects, such as butterflies
Programming for all-ages	More playground and exercise equipment
	Outside security (not police)
	More trees (but not near sidewalks)
	Walking paths
Events	
Large community gatherings around special events	

SAFETY

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

RESEARCH CHRONOLOGY & METHODOLOGY

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

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.

COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE (CSC)

The Willowbrook CSC, formed in early 2014, consisted of parents, local activists, religious leaders, and park users. Members of the Willowbrook CSC have decades of experiences, community knowledge, and activism. The CSC's main task was to develop its own research project, centering on an environmental scan that highlighted infrastructure problems at local Willowbrook parks. Teaming with local youth, CSC members engaged in a day-long activity of community engagement and park scanning. Throughout the course of their entire project, the CSC accomplished:

- A detailed environmental scan of Willowbrook Parks
- A youth engagement and training workshop
- A community safety forum at Mona Park

SAFETY PROFILE

GENERAL FINDINGS

The vast majority of Willowbrook park users feel safe at their local parks. When asked if their local parks offer a safe, family-friendly environment, only 13% of park users responded "no." For a variety of reasons, most residents who patronize local parks are frequent users, with approximately 69% of them

stating that they visit parks at least once a week (46% visit several times a week). These findings come from the 200 community surveys completed as a part of LANLT's research.

Although programming and events attract many park users, the most-cited activities are using the park as a space to exercise, walk, or socialize with family and friends. However, this community of largely older, family-oriented park users also described a series of similar safety concerns. Supervision – which many interpreted simply as security, either by park staff or other personnel – was paramount both to youth visiting a park on their way home from school, or parents taking their young children to the park on the weekends. According to survey respondents, poor and insufficient lighting, at times inaccessible park staff, and gaps in transportation infrastructure all contribute to safety problems.

Along with supervision and lighting, respondents also cited stray animals and illicit activity as major deterrents to park use. Stray dogs are a common sight at many Willowbrook parks, and both substance abuse as well as perceived gang activity were large concerns. However, 24 percent of respondents stated that there were no safety issues at all on their way to the park.

PROGRAMMING

The vast majority of Willowbrook park users see additional programming as the most effective, common-sense way to improve park safety. Among its myriad benefits, accessible and consistent programming offers a chance to build community through the friendships and familiarity fostered, along with a sense of community-ownership and stewardship that will encourage park users to protect their own spaces. However, perhaps the most important benefit residents see in additional programming is the sheer number of eyes and the amount of foot-traffic that would discourage unsafe or criminal behavior.

The CSC's documented the community's wariness of dark, uninhabited parks, such as Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Park in the evening. Similarly, many residents recount times before contemporary programming when, even in the daytime, a sparsely populated park seemed to invite illicit behavior. In recent history, many of the greatest successes in park safety in Willowbrook have been the result of the local community recommitting itself to using the park, mostly in the form of community-sponsored events and activities. In lieu of more structured park programming, this effort has resulted in the largest safety gains at local parks.

MAINTENANCE

"A clean park is a safe park." That phrase was a common refrain that followed the CSC's work and conversations in 2014. Many parks in Willowbrook are littered with broken infrastructure and other hazards that, in the eyes of the community, pose a clear danger to park users. A broken sprinkler can lead to a sprained ankle; shattered glass can lie hidden beside a playground; and uneven sidewalks can pose a dangerous obstacle to older adults in the Willowbrook community.

Despite these dangers, many residents believe that park staff is not always aware of maintenance problems. For that reason, the CSC, as a part of its own investigation, recruited local youth to conduct an environmental scan of broken lights, malfunctioning water fountains, and unsightly bathrooms. Bathrooms are of particular concern for the community, being indispensable amenities at any park, but also unsupervised and unmaintained. Any effort to more regularly supervise, repair, and clean bathrooms would alleviate one of the strongest sources of concern for local park users.

SUPERVISION

Although additional programming and foot-traffic can add secondary eyes to a park, it is not a replacement for the authority and influence of uniformed personnel, specifically park staff and law enforcement. In the opinion of many park users, the County’s supervision resources are not currently being used efficiently. They point to park staff that spends a predominant amount of their time inside park facilities, and Parks Bureau deputies from the Sheriff’s Department who tend to remain within their patrol vehicles. For that reason, the CSC recommends changing current staff policies in order to encourage park staff and Sheriff’s deputies to more regularly patrol park grounds and engage with community members. However, the CSC is aware of the limitations imposed by staff capacity on any effort to increase supervision at Willowbrook parks.

LIGHTING AND VISIBILITY

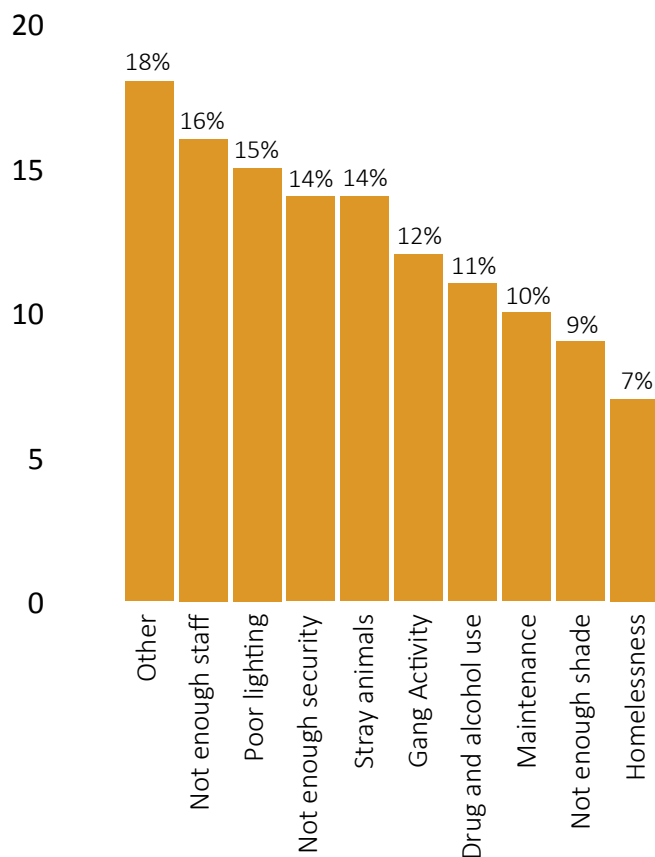
Currently, many residents feel that parks’ lighting hours do not reflect the time that the community actually uses park facilities. The result is often either community-members continuing to play and socialize at dark, unlit, and, consequently, unsafe parks, or park users merely leaving the park to engage in unsafe behavior. A park that is only an open, safe space during daylight hours endangers community-members who stay into the evening and robs local youth of a chance to engage in safe and structured activities. Additionally, many Willowbrook parks have small spaces that, although not clearly hidden, provide visibility challenges to Parks Bureau deputies and park staff. For example, Mona Park’s north entrance is a narrow corridor that often serves as an area for illicit behavior, such as gambling. There are two lights overhead, however many stakeholders say that it is still not well lit and challenges remain in deterring illicit activity. Some residents expressed concern that park offices do not provide clear lines of sight to monitor all areas of the park and suggested that strategic installation of security cameras throughout Willowbrook parks is one solution to visibility and supervision problems.

COMMUNICATION

The CSC desires more regular and direct communication with park staff and local law enforcement, (i.e. an open dialogue). In the eyes of the CSC, every regular park user should know their park staff by sight and name, with a similar level of familiarity applying to their relationship with local Parks Bureau deputies. Although many users recognize and appreciate the

FIGURE 3.2 SAMPLE QUESTION FROM COMMUNITY SAFETY SURVEY

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



relationship-building work that Parks Bureau deputies and park staff already do, moving forward, the Willowbrook CSC would like to see a more collaborative relationship between park staff, law enforcement and community groups, ensuring that any community dialogue is strong and robust.

HOMELESSNESS

The CSC has been very concerned about the presence of homelessness at local parks, an issue that was ultimately shown to be shared by the community as a whole. However, residents by and large have no animosity towards homeless persons, despite the fact that at times, youth have reported feeling uncomfortable about their presence. Instead, most community members want to see homeless individuals connected with resources, housing, and help to “get them off the streets”. The CSC suggests that DPR work with the Department of Social Services to provide additional resources to homeless individuals in Willowbrook as a means to improve park safety.

COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

(MAY 7, 2014)

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

Three prototypical pocket park sample sites were used in the design exercise. These sites represented potential sites that could be developed in Willowbrook and serve as samples for pocket park design throughout the community. These designs form the basis for the conceptual site designs presented in Chapter Six.

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

- **DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER (DWP) UTILITY CORRIDOR.** A site located within the DWP corridor connected to Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation area.
- **PLAYGROUND POCKET PARK.** A small-sized vacant lot near a school.
- **COMMUNITY WELLNESS POCKET PARK.** A medium-sized vacant in the MLK Wellness Community.

The Playground Pocket Park group divided into two groups with different concepts. The other sites were designed as one group each.

The groups began by brainstorming the vision for the site, as well as features that they wanted to include and the types of activities they wanted to see happen there. Following this discussion, the group began to draw on the site map, using a scale bar and scaled reference objects to ensure that the group had a realistic understanding of what could fit in the site.

Major site constraints were discussed and considered by the group, including the size limitations of playground pocket parks, potential impacts of the neighboring freeway and residential properties for the community wellness pocket park, and restricted uses for parks under utility lines in the DWP corridor. Facilitators worked with the group members to lay out general circulation and major park features, incorporate planting elements, and discuss material recommendations.

Summaries of the community’s design concepts are described in detail in Chapter Six.



SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

KEY ISSUES

LACK OF CONNECTIVITY. There are several well-used parks, but there is a lack of safe connections between green space.

PROXIMITY OF PARKS. Residents have limited mobility and prefer green space in close proximity to their homes.

PROGRAMMING. Residents would like to see a more diverse array of park programs and would like to participate in decisions about what types of programs occur at the parks.

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

SAFETY. Residents feel very insecure in public spaces and have a relatively negative view of law enforcement.

OUTREACH. Residents think more outreach is needed to increase community awareness of park programming.

LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARK STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY. Residents desire more power in the decision-making process for projects affecting Willowbrook.

HOMELESSNESS. Park spaces become homes for people without them, which can be a limited factor for others using the parks.

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

1. Increase seating areas to encourage gathering and community interaction.
2. Add more outdoor exercise equipment and create new spaces for community fitness.
3. Establish biking and walking paths connecting parks.
4. Improve safety conditions for pedestrians at railroad crossings and along busy streets.
5. Provide more year-round programming.
6. Offer the Parks After Dark program at County Parks in Willowbrook.
7. Start a community garden with programming and classes, and identify a space for a farmer's market.
8. Create additional recreation opportunities for youth and seniors.
9. Improve communication between the community and parks staff.



4 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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

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 Willowbrook 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 Willowbrook.

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

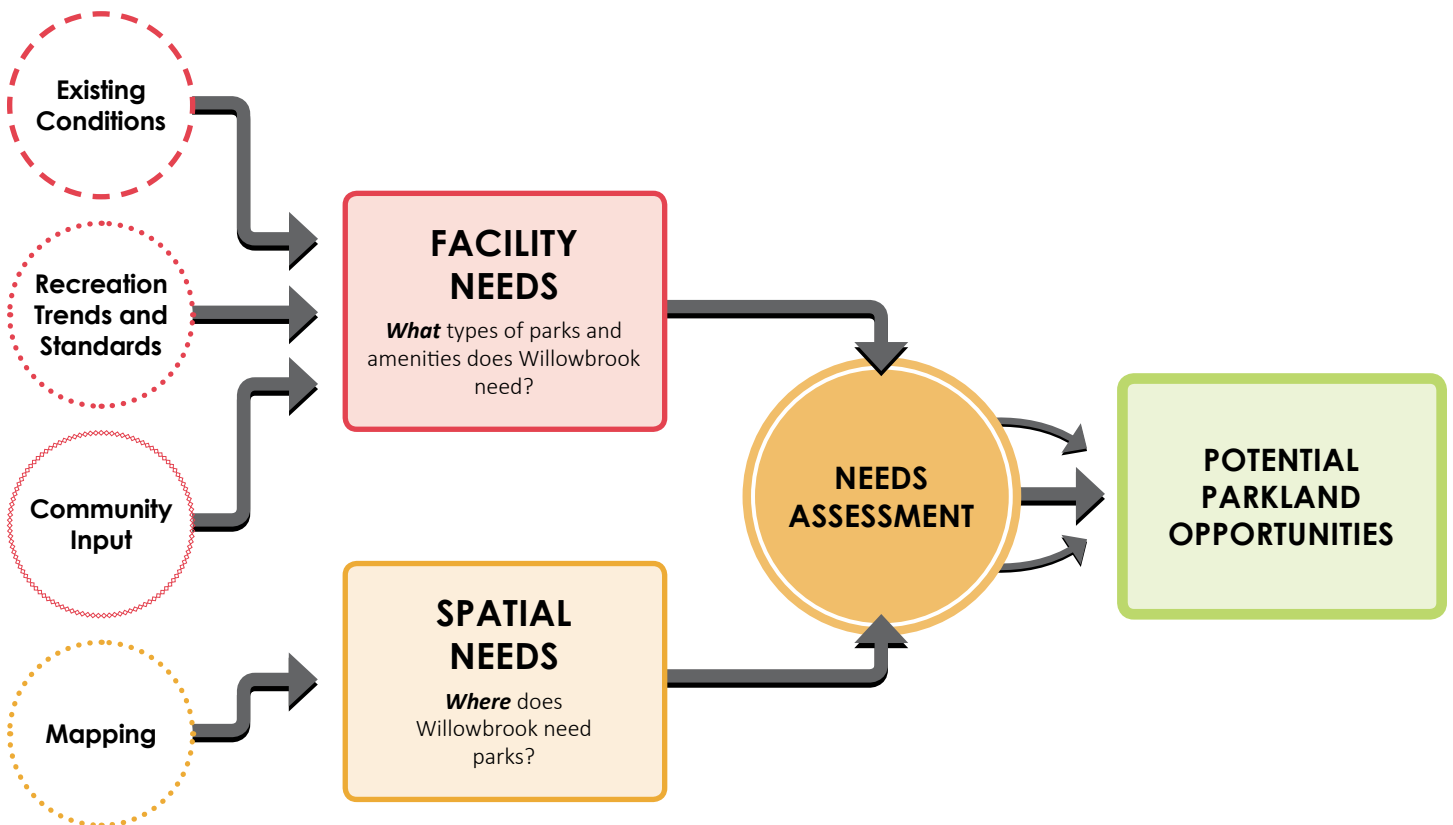
The spatial needs analysis additionally identified potential parkland opportunity sites in Willowbrook. These sites have potential for new park development and serve as the basis for the green space vision presented in Chapter Five. These sites were further analyzed and ranked based on their park development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

FACILITY NEEDS EXISTING CONDITIONS

As presented in the parks inventory found in Chapter Two, there are currently six local parks and one regional facility in Willowbrook. Collectively, these spaces make up 142 acres of parkland area within the community. Per the General Plan standard of 4 acres/1,000 residents, Willowbrook needs approximately 144 acres, suggesting that the community is very close to meeting this goal.

However, Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area, the regional facility, makes up more than 98 acres of this total. Regional facilities are intended to provide service to residents up to twenty miles away, which includes numerous communities with severe parkland deficits. This suggests that while these regional facilities do provide local service to Willowbrook residents, there might be significant use of these facilities by people from outside the community, and that Willowbrook could benefit from additional smaller park spaces dedicated to community use.

FIGURE 4.1 WILLOWBROOK NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND SITE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS



County parks in Willowbrook vary in size and amenities, and generally provide residents with a wide variety of recreational opportunities. As noted in Chapter Two, there are some amenities that are typically found in other Los Angeles County communities but are missing in Willowbrook, such as spaces for outdoor events or performances (e.g. stage), splash pads, and skate or bike skills parks.

All of the parks in Willowbrook, with the exception of Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Facility and MLK Jr. Fitness Garden have pools; however, none have a water play area or splash pad. The pools serve an important function as gathering places and exercise facilities in the summer months, and parks with pool facilities could be improved with additional water amenities. Similarly, skate and bike skills parks are popular amenities for youth, but there are currently no facilities accommodating these uses in Willowbrook.

Willowbrook and the surrounding area is home to a number of equestrians and horse riding advocates, most notably Compton Jr. Posse youth program. Horses are a regular sight within the community, including within County Parks. With the exception of youth who utilize the Compton Jr. Posse facilities, most community members use unofficial equestrian facilities or board their horses outside of the community. New facilities, including boarding stables, riding rings, and connective trails to the larger equestrian network could be well-suited for Willowbrook.

Although there are a wide variety of parks and recreation opportunities for Willowbrook residents, park access is still an issue because a large majority of residents are not capable of traveling far to visit a park. It is common for a park user to use just a single park and not travel to other parks in the community. This is either due to concerns about safety or a lack of transportation options. Connectivity and safe routes to green space are important for improving access to parks and recreation in Willowbrook. There is currently only one trail corridor in Willowbrook, running approximately 0.17 miles along the Compton Creek channel, from East 120th Street to East 118th Street. Expanding trail resources could enhance access through the community.

The construction of planned bicycle routes could significantly improve connectivity in Willowbrook. Placement of park nodes along these routes could provide both a recreational benefit and a safety improvement, as it provides space for cyclists to get out of vehicular traffic. Currently, major thoroughfares in Willowbrook, such as El Segundo Boulevard and E. 120th Street running east-west, and Wilmington Avenue and Avalon Avenue, both running north-south, are difficult to maneuver as a pedestrian. Hot spots for collisions exist at various places along their lengths. Crossing these areas may make accessing open space beyond them difficult.

In addition to providing recreational resources to Willowbrook residents, Los Angeles County Parks also provide important ecological services, such as air quality improvements, stormwater runoff treatment, and wildlife habitat. As noted in Chapter Two, the trees in existing parks make up a large portion of Willowbrook’s overall urban forest and provide significant environmental benefits. Improvements in existing parks and new parklands could incorporate more green infrastructure features, such as low-impact design strategies, to treat more stormwater runoff, provide potential habitat space, and sequester greenhouse gases. Compton Creek, in particular, is an urban waterway that passes through Willowbrook that could serve as both an ecological and recreational corridor through the community.

Several demographic factors will have potential impacts on the types of facilities needed in Willowbrook. This community, according to U.S. Census data, is experiencing a growth in population that is predominately Latino¹ and an increase in the number of adults approaching retirement. The area shows a moderate decline in the younger population range (ages 5-17) since 2000, including a decrease in the number of households with children under the age of twelve. However, the proportion of households with children in Willowbrook (45 percent) is still considerably higher than the County overall (32 percent). Compared to the County as a whole, Willowbrook has a higher percentage of residents who commute by public transit, as well as a higher percentage of residents without access to a vehicle (see “Demographics” in Chapter Two), making pedestrian or non-motorized access to parks particularly important.

RECREATIONAL TRENDS AND STANDARDS

ESRI BUSINESS ANALYST

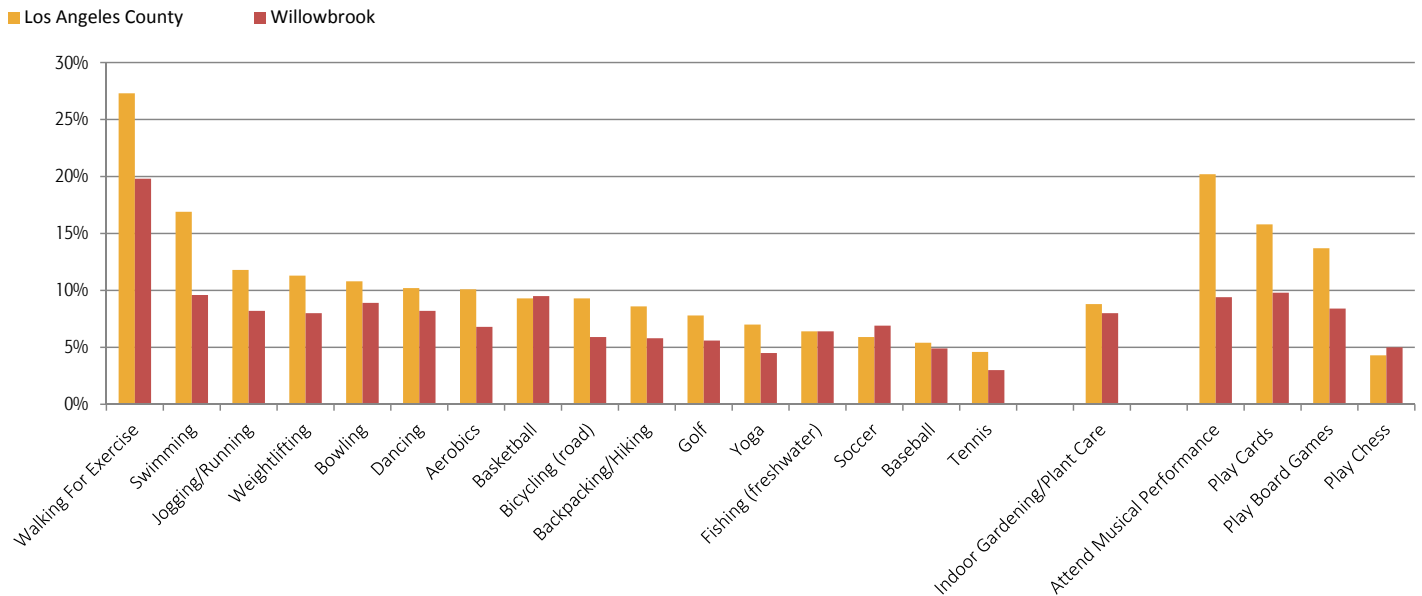
ESRI’s Business Analyst software provides a breakdown of market potential for sports and leisure activities. This report presents the percentage of the adult population of an area that currently participates in various sports and leisure activities. Figure 4.2 shows a sampling of high ranking activities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

Walking for exercise is the dominant form of physical activity for adults in Willowbrook 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, discussed below.

Swimming is the second most popular recreational activity in Willowbrook. This further suggests a need for splash pads or additional water-based activities, which could expand the services of the pools to include more activities for children. Basketball and soccer are more popular in Willowbrook than the County as a whole. Attending musical performances is significantly lower than the County; however, this might be due to the lack of performance space in the community.

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

FIGURE 4.2 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION RATES FROM ESRI BUSINESS ANALYST



STATE AND NATIONAL TRENDS

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

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

- Recreation patterns will be greatly influenced by California’s rapidly increasing Latino population. When surveyed, many Latino residents indicated a desire for parks that feel safe, a preference for features and amenities that support day-long outings with extended family, and the need for parks nearby and in urban areas.³
- Future park users will have a greater range of physical abilities, speak a wider array of languages, and represent a more diversified age group.
- 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

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

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

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 trails is needed to connect parks and green space.

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

California State Parks released a statewide assessment of recreation in September 2015. As part of this process, the state completed a Survey of Public Opinions and Attitude on Outdoor Recreation (SPOA) in California.⁴ Through phone interviews and mail or online questionnaires with adults and youth, California State Parks compiled information on how residents

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

were using park facilities and what they would like to use them. Although many California State Parks are not located in urban environments and provide significantly different services than Los Angeles County parks, the results of this survey can be beneficial in determining public perception on park use.

Adult responses were categorized by region and 29 percent were from the Los Angeles region.⁵ Youth responses were for the state as a whole. In both the mail or online questionnaires and phone surveys, adults were asked what types of activities they participated in at parks. Figure 4.4 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 4.5 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

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

FIGURE 4.3 ADULT RESPONSES TO IMPORTANCE OF TRAILS

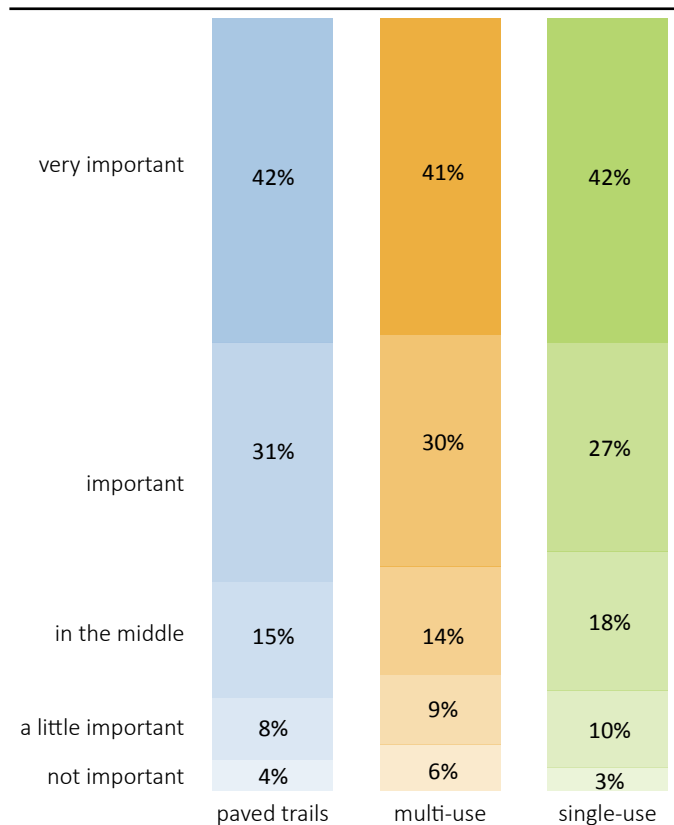


FIGURE 4.4 ADULT RESPONSES TO USUAL ACTIVITIES ENGAGED AT PARKS

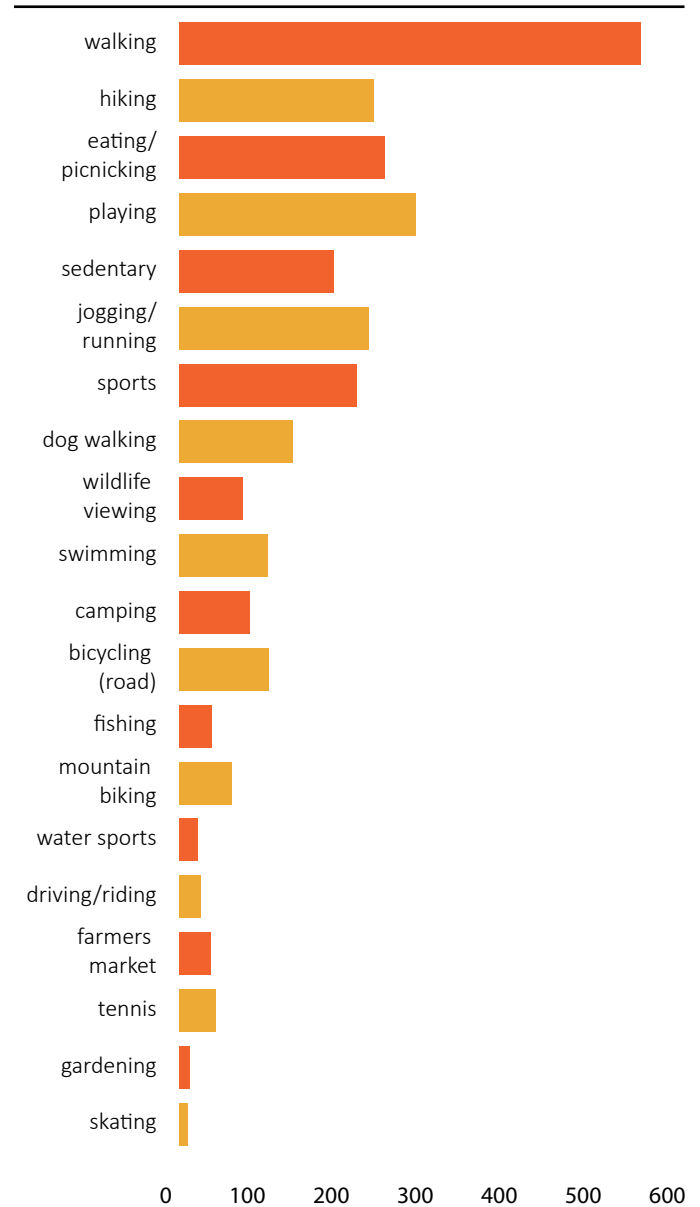


FIGURE 4.5 ADULT RESPONSES TO IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES

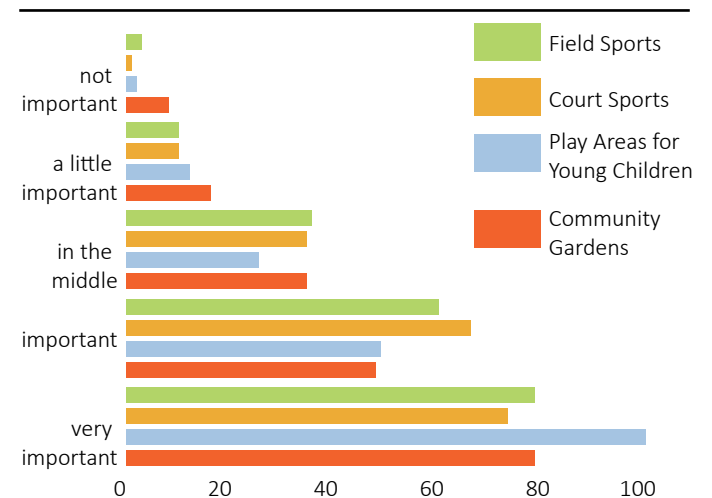


FIGURE 4.6 AGE GROUPS OF YOUTH RESPONDENTS

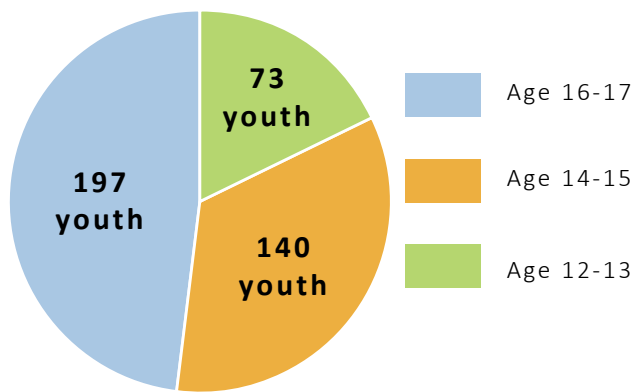
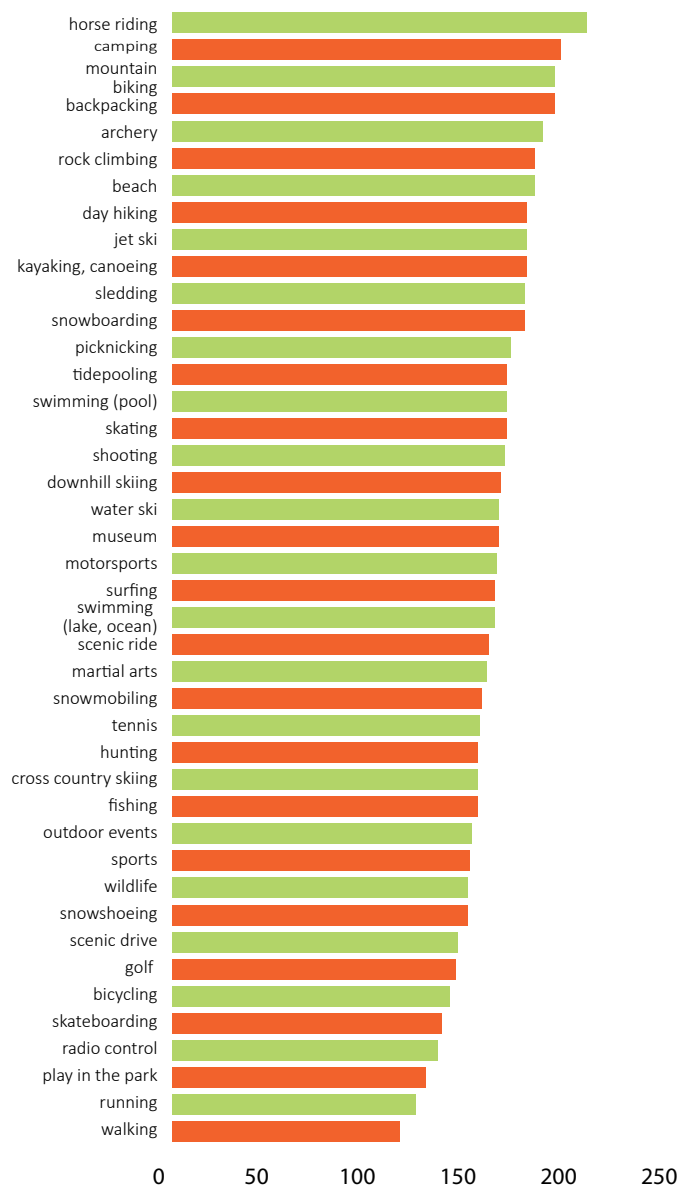


FIGURE 4.7 YOUTH RESPONSES TO WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO IN PARKS



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 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.

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 4.6 illustrates the age groups that participated in the survey. In addition to responding about what they would like to do in parks (Figure 4.7), 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.

COMMUNITY INPUT

As presented in Chapter Three, community outreach efforts gathered information on resident preferences in green space development. Due to the variety of outreach events, responses varied from specific recommendations for projects to more general requests for increased green space. Stakeholder interviews with residents revealed a desire to incorporate public art in new green space projects, as well as a greater emphasis in visual and performing arts in the recreational programs.

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

- **PARKS AND RECREATION NETWORK** includes strategies to approach open space for the entire community.
- **PARK ELEMENTS** include larger scale improvements that would require large development efforts.
- **PARK AMENITIES** include smaller scale improvements that could be incorporated into new developments or renovations.
- **ACTIVITIES/EVENTS** include suggestions for specific activities or events.
- **EXISTING PARKS** include recommendations to improve existing parks.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAM FEEDBACK

Community feedback indicated a need for more diversity in parks programming. In particular, stakeholders suggested more arts programming, including visual and performing arts, and more opportunities for job training and paid positions for youth and adults.

One stakeholder pointed out the lack of senior programming at the parks and suggested that seniors would participate if programs were available. Additionally, one stakeholder indicated that the youth sports programs were mostly for boys and that a significant push should be made to include girls in these sports.

Residents specifically recommended the following programs:

- Computer labs with internet access
- More art opportunities and access to art
- Musical education and instrument lessons
- Poetry workshops
- Sculpture and ceramics
- Drawing and visual arts
- Job training and career placement opportunities

Stakeholders showed support for the Youth Activities League (YAL) operated by the Sheriff’s department, suggesting that it helped to create a better relationship between the police and youth in the neighborhood. Stakeholders additionally praised special events at parks, such as the Juneteenth celebration at Mona Park, indicating that they help to enliven the public spaces and make the spaces feel safer. Community members also praised the potluck dinners at Carver Park as a good way to meet their neighbors and create a positive atmosphere in the park that can appeal to people from a variety of age groups and physical abilities.

Organizers of other non-profit program groups, interviewed as stakeholders, indicated interest in working with parks to develop special programs. In particular, the bike advocacy group, Los Ryderz, could work with the County to develop bike infrastructure within the parks or a bike workshop space for the group. The Willowbrook-Watts Boys and Girls Club indicated that they would like to utilize the outdoor facilities at Carver Park since their center has little outdoor space.

The Los Angeles Arts Commission completed a project to examine community art needs and preferences in the community, entitled Project Willowbrook: Cultivating a Healthy Community Through Arts and Culture. The report points out the trend towards utilizing dance programs as a way of engaging youth in physical activity. The report recommends a *Dance Willowbrook* program modeled after the County Capers program in other Los Angeles County Parks, as well as The *Willowbrook Hub*, a center for arts and culture in the community that provides formal space for artistic exploration in the community. Project Willowbrook also recommended utilizing community artists and local culture in public art exhibits, as well as the development of a *Community as Classroom* initiative, that engages youth and adults to develop community-based service projects.

TABLE 4.1 COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

Parks and Recreation Network	
Create pedestrian connections between parks	
Bicycle Paths	
Park Elements	
Walking Paths within Parks	Soccer Field
Exercise Equipment	Skate Park
Space for Farmer’s Market	Community Gardens
Multi-purpose Fields	Rose Garden
Natural Areas/Features	
Park Amenities	
Lighting	Seating
Public Art	Flowers
Speed bumps around parks	
Activities/Events	
Farmer’s Market	Park Cleanup
Mural Painting	
Existing Parks	
More playground equipment and bike opportunities at Mona Park	
More playground and exercise equipment at Athens Park	

SUMMARY OF FACILITY NEEDS

Facilities help define a park or recreational space. Based on the research presented earlier, the following is a summary of the facilities that Willowbrook 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 Willowbrook park system.

1. Safe Connections to Parks for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Safe, green routes to parks improve access and provide new opportunities for exercise. Walking and biking are popular in the community and an expanded trail network is a good method of linking together green space. Increasing amenities for pedestrian, bicycle, and other non-motorized modes of transportation additionally decreased vehicle use and contribute to reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.



2. Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk

Willowbrook residents depend on parks as places for exercise. New facilities can be integrated into the parkland network to provide new opportunities to stay healthy, including new walking and running paths, as well as exercise equipment or facilities to accommodate new fitness programs.



3. Play Space

About 10 percent of Willowbrook's population is under five years of age and 31 percent are under eighteen. Safe places to play within close proximity to their homes is a popular idea with the community and an important attribute of a park network.



4. Spaces for Teens

Recreational options for older kids is important in areas with a high population of youth, as these spaces are safe places for youth to spend time. Potential facilities include sports facilities, such as skate parks, bike skills tracks, basketball courts, dance centers, or equestrian centers, as well as more passive gathering areas for hanging out in a supervised environment.



5. Gathering Places

Park spaces in the community are considered important gathering places. Space for both large-scale gathering, such as within a large park, and in smaller nodes throughout the community are both important.



6. Splash Pad

Splash pads are common at parks throughout the County but are not currently in any Willowbrook Parks. These spaces provide relief from hot weather; however, they will need to be constructed with attention to water conservation principles.



7. Arts Facility

Willowbrook has a vibrant artist population. Although the County Parks provide some art programming, dedicated facilities could expand service in this area.



8. Performance Space

Outdoor performance facilities for either small community gatherings in the form of a small stage, or large regional events with an amphitheater, provide important opportunities to bring people into public spaces.



9. Equestrian Center

Stables, riding rings, and equestrian trails could draw horse riding advocates to the community and provide a new amenity for residents.



10. Healthy Food

Access to fresh fruits and vegetables makes a dramatic impact on public health. There are some new community gardens in or near Willowbrook. New gardens or regular farmers markets could bring new sources of produce into the community.



11. Energy Conservation and Production

No existing parks in Willowbrook produce any energy on site through solar panels or alternative means. New infrastructure could increase sustainability potential at parks and recreation spaces.



12. Green Infrastructure

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



13. Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space

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



- **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.

CONNECTING FACILITY NEEDS TO PARK SYSTEMS

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

- **COMMUNITY PARKS** are typically 10 to 20 acres, and serve several neighborhoods within a 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.

TABLE 4.2 PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION

System	Facility	Suggested Size/Width
Local Park Systems	Community Park	10-20 acres
	Neighborhood Park	3-10 acres
	Pocket Park	< 3 acres
	Park Node	¼ Acre or less
Regional Park Systems	Community Regional Parks	20-100 acres
	Regional Park	>25 acres
	Special Use Facility	Varies
Trails	Type A Urban/Suburban	6’-10’ wide
	Type B Rural	4’-8’ wide
	Type C Primitive	2’ or less
	Type D Shared Pathway/Service Road	10’-12’
Other	Multi-Benefit Parks	Varies
	School Sites	Varies
	City Parks and Facilities	Varies
	Private Recreational Facility	Varies
	Greenways	Varies

- **PARK NODES** are small pieces of open space that serve as public destinations, connections, and community defining spaces. Nodes provide physical and visual breaks to the urban landscape and connect various spaces, such as waterways, streets, trails, and greenways. Park nodes are used as gathering and rest areas, and serve as opportunities for social and cultural exchange. Examples of park nodes include equestrian and hiking trail heads, bike rest stops and stations with lockers and repair areas, neighborhood focal points, and passive amenities, such as plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks, and public art installations.
- **COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARKS** are typically 20 to 100 acres, and have a service radius of 20 miles. Community regional parks protect and conserve natural resources, preserve open spaces, and provide recreational facilities that are not available in neighborhood or community parks. Amenities for community regional parks can include a jogging exercise course, informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, information kiosks, public restrooms, concession building, recreation offices, maintenance buildings, and onsite parking. Community regional parks may also have one or more of the following features: multiple sports facilities, aquatics center, fishing lake, community building and gymnasium, and scenic views and vistas.
- **REGIONAL PARKS** are typically greater than 100 acres in size, and have a service radius of 25 miles or more. They include unique areas such as lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies, and campgrounds, in addition to the active recreational facilities offered in community and community regional parks. Many of the recreation activities are associated with experiencing the natural environment. A regional park may also perform important ecological and environmental functions, including serving as wildlife habitats. The connection of these parks to natural areas is often vital to ensuring a healthy ecological system. Amenities for regional parks can include picnic areas, nature centers, trail systems, scenic drives, campgrounds, water areas for swimming, fishing and boating, and in some cases, sport fields.
- **SPECIAL USE FACILITIES** are generally single purpose facilities that serve greater regional recreational or cultural needs. One notable example is the Hollywood Bowl. Special use facilities require adequate public access and sufficient buffers to protect adjacent residential users and to insulate the park from commercial or industrial development. Special use facilities can meet both passive (e.g., historic and cultural facilities, natural areas, habitat preservation areas, arboreta and botanical gardens, and nature centers) and active (e.g., golf courses and driving ranges, equestrian centers, off-highway vehicle parks, water parks) needs within the region. There are no size criteria or service radius areas associated with special use facilities.
- **TRAILS.** The County offers unique trail user opportunities that showcase its diverse scenery and provide connectivity to parks, open spaces, cultural resources, and wilderness areas. Los Angeles County has an ideal climate for trail user activities on most days of the year.














Typical trail uses range from hiking and walking, to mountain biking and horseback riding, with many users participating in more than one activity. The quality of the trail experience is directly proportional to the state of the visual, natural, and educational environment through which the trail passes. The wide variety of experiences include but are not limited to: exercise, solitude, spiritual practices, physical and mental well-being, building social networks, testing athletic skills, and experiencing nature. The County strives to make all trails multi-use and accessible to all non-motorized users, including pedestrians, equestrians, and mountain bicyclists, where appropriate.
- **MULTI-BENEFIT PARKS** and open spaces are created through collaborative efforts among city, county, state, and federal agencies; private organizations; schools; private landowners; and industries. These parks are characterized as having more than one function and contributing to multiple program goals. There are a number of applications of multi-benefit parks including: utility corridors and flood protection basins that can serve as areas for active or passive recreation; school sites located adjacent to parks that can share facilities, such as parking and park amenities; watershed areas that can protect critical wildlife habitats, preserve open space, provide trails for recreation, and contribute to water conservation objectives; and water districts, where trails can be located adjacent to flood protection channels and trailhead parks.
- **SCHOOL SITES.** The County works with school districts to organize, promote, and conduct joint recreational and educational programs. These community recreation agreements are a form of joint-use agreement, where either a school or park facility may be put to some recreational use by the other party in exchange for some facility improvement and/or maintenance. A park does not have to be adjacent to a school (i.e., share a common boundary) for an agreement to be viable.
- **CITY PARKS AND FACILITIES** that are located close to the borders of the unincorporated areas are enjoyed by city and County residents alike. Similarly, local County parks that are located within or close to the borders of cities provide recreational amenities for both populations. This overlap in local park service radius is an important factor to consider in the placement of new local County parks.
- **PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES** play an important role in meeting recreational needs. The network of private recreational facilities consists of churches, health and fitness clubs, and other organizations that offer a variety of programs and facilities. This plan does not include an inventory of private recreational facilities. Since the

County does not control, maintain, or program private recreational facilities, these resources are not credited toward the County’s acreage goals for public parks.

- **GREENWAYS** provide a linear area along natural corridors, and often follow features such as rivers, man-made waterways, drainage channels, and utility easements. Greenways can accommodate various modes of uninterrupted pedestrian travel on pathways, including walking, jogging, and bicycling, and can include recreation areas and natural landscape features.

Considering the needs identified through this process, Table 4.3 demonstrates which types of parklands are needed in Willowbrook. In addition to the parkland classification types, the table also includes existing park improvements, as some needs could be met within existing facilities.

TABLE 4.3 TYPES OF PARKLAND TO MEET NEED

	Existing Parks Improvements	Community Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Pocket Parks	Park Nodes	Trails	Multi-Benefit Parks	School Sites	City Parks and Facilities	Private Facilities	Greenways
Safe Connections to Parks for Pedestrians and Cyclists						●					●
Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk		●	●	●	●	●		●		●	●
Play Space			●	●				●			
Spaces for Teens			●	●				●			
Gathering Places			●	●	●			●			●
Splash Pad		●	●	●				●			
Arts Facility		●	●					●			
Performance Space		●	●					●		●	
Equestrian Center		●	●							●	
Healthy Food		●	●	●				●		●	
Energy Conservation and Production		●	●	●							
Green Infrastructure		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space		●	●	●	●	●	●	●			●

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SPATIAL NEEDS

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

Population is the highest weighted factor for determining park needs. Population was calculated in two ways in order to best capture the need of each area. First, total population in Willowbrook was summed for areas within one-half mile of each grid cell. Second, unserved population residing in the parkland gap areas in Willowbrook was calculated using the same methodology. Parkland gap areas are the areas of the community that are not within a 10-minute walk of a park. This methodology utilizes the existing street network to calculate walking distance and takes into account any barriers to reaching the park, such as impassable freeway crossings or dead end streets.

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

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

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

The final need value was calculated by summing Total Population Rank, Total Unserved Population Rank, Healthy Food Access Rank, and Urban Forest Cover Rank. Higher values indicate higher need. Figure 4.8 shows the map resulting when the methodology is applied to the entire study area. Park need is displayed as a gradient of orange with the areas of the highest need displaying the darkest color.

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

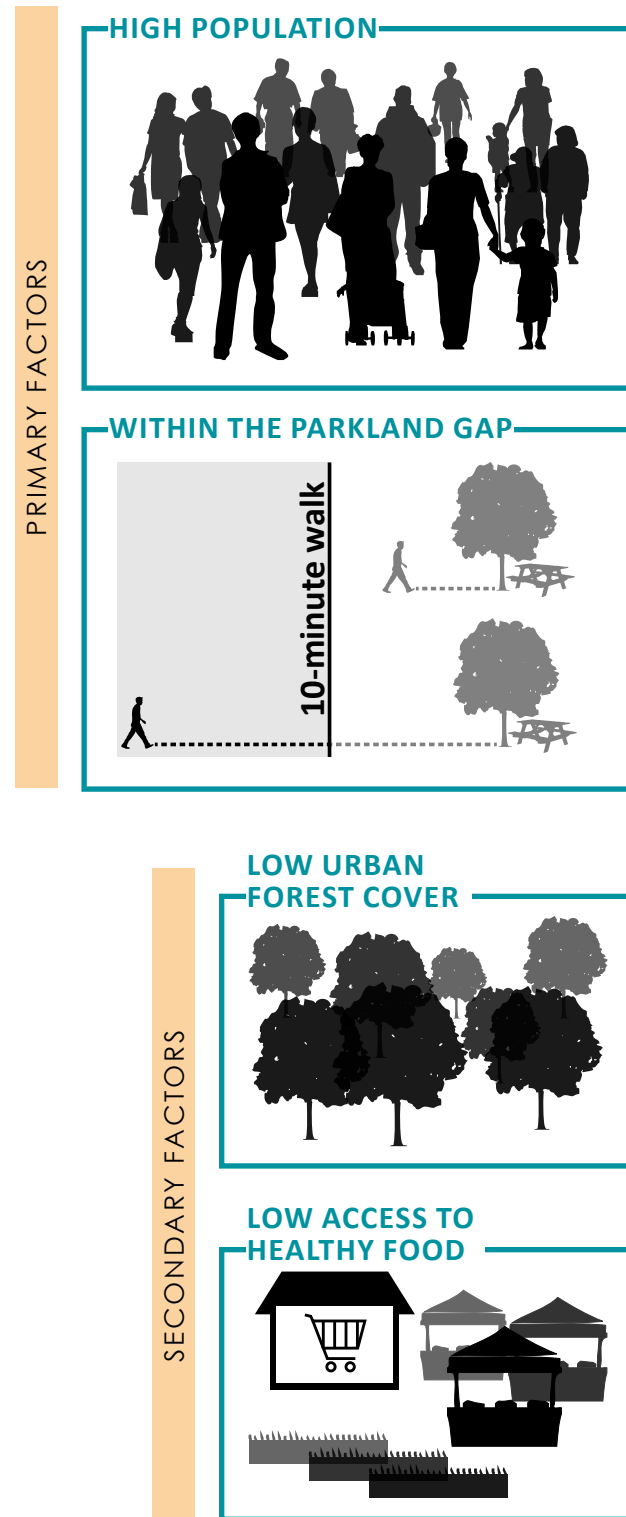
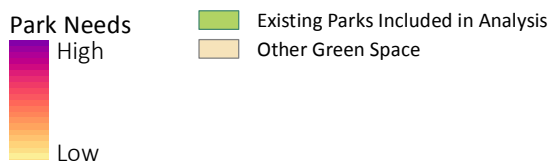
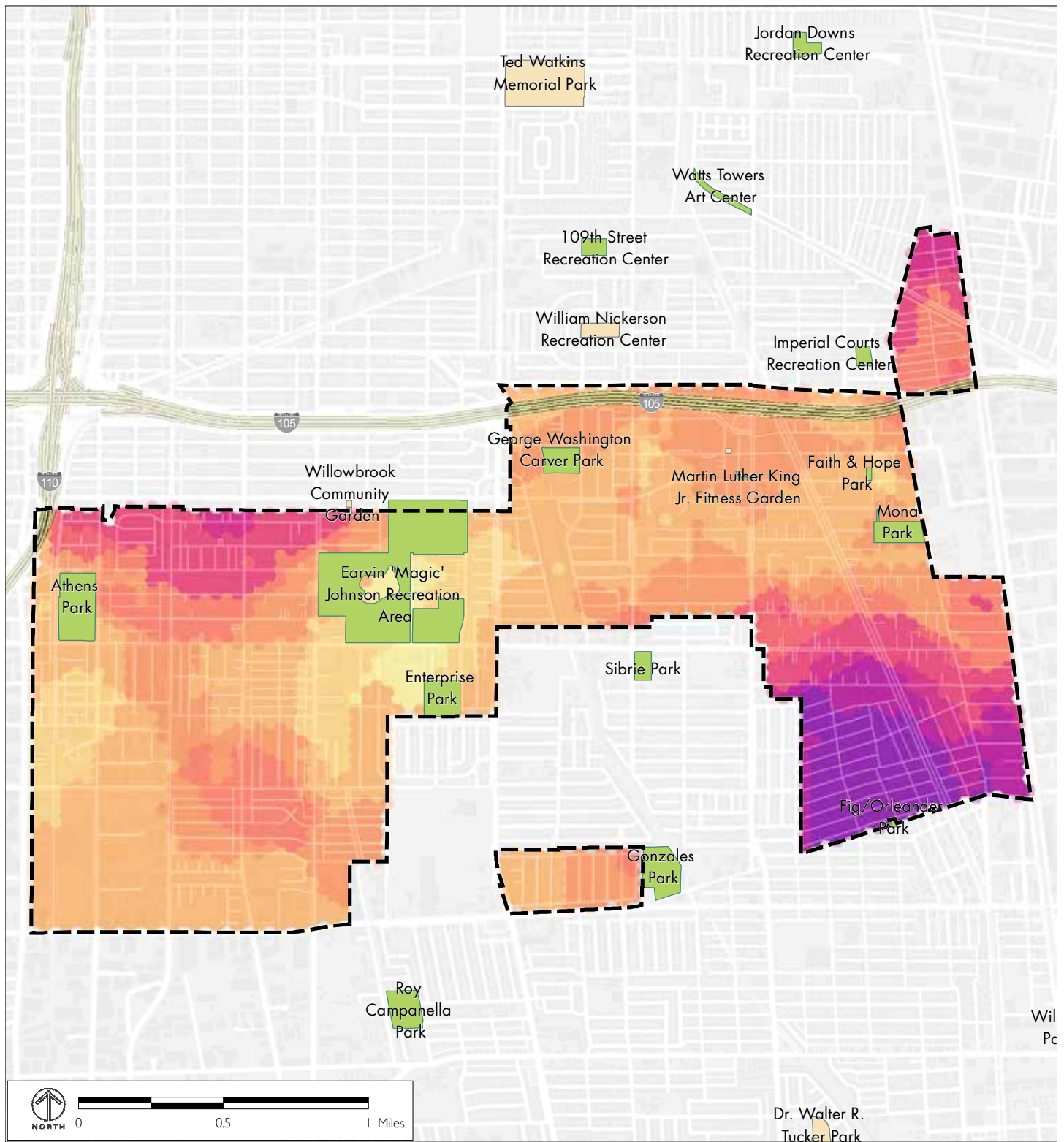


FIGURE 4.8 WILLOWBROOK SPATIAL NEEDS MAP



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 ability to acquire new land. There are limited opportunities in Willowbrook available for new large-scale park development. Following is a list of the opportunity types in Willowbrook.

VACANT LAND

Properties classified as vacant by the Los Angeles County Assessors Office, as well as sites identified as vacant by the community were mapped in Willowbrook. In total, there are 545 parcels of vacant land, equaling a total of 139 acres of vacant land. However, most of these sites are small parcels, each with an area of less than 0.5 acres. Additionally, many of these parcels are on the interior sections of blocks, making them less feasible for public parkland. Of the total vacant land, approximately 41%, or 56 acres are located on street corners or adjacent to corner parcels. Corner lots are more desirable for parkland because they are easier to access and patrol for law enforcement.

UTILITY CORRIDORS

Utility corridors contain transmission towers and overhead utility lines. These spaces remain clear of development to allow access to maintain the lines and towers. In Willowbrook, there is one utility corridor, composed of 17 parcels, owned and maintained by Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power (DWP). Two of these parcels are located within Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area. Within Willowbrook, the parcels north are vacant; however, south of the park, the corridor is leased by private nurseries. The corridor continues out of the community north to Watts and south to Compton. In Watts, the corridor is being used as community gardens constructed by the Los Angeles Community Garden Council.

FLOOD CONTROL CHANNELS

Flood control channels are used for the conveyance of water and managed by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. In urban areas, these channels are also commonly converted to green corridors integrating trails and green infrastructure into the waterway. There is one channel owned by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District in Willowbrook. The channel is known as Compton Creek, although it runs in a concrete channel while in Willowbrook. There is currently a trail adjacent to one section of the creek. The creek flows from north to south through Willowbrook and eventually connects to the Los Angeles River in Compton.

RAIL CORRIDORS

Existing rail lines in Willowbrook create linear connections within the community and could potentially be shared to accommodate pedestrian or other non-motorized uses. Southern Pacific uses the rail corridor along the western side of Willowbrook for freight, while Metro utilizes the rail corridor along Willowbrook Avenue for the Blue Line. Both rail corridors have active train travel and any new trail alignments would need to continue to accommodate rail use. Metro is currently investing in pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to complement the mass transit system and increase multimodalism. Although

TABLE 4.4 POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO PARKLAND INVENTORY

Parkland Opportunity Type	Parcels	Acres
Vacant Land	545	139
Vacant Land on Corner	86	56
Utility Corridors	15	8
Flood Control Channels*	9	9
Rail Corridors*	13	32
School Sites	15	98
Freeways	n/a	n/a
Sidewalks and Street Right-of-ways	n/a	n/a

* The acreage for Flood Control Channels and Rail Corridors include acreage to accommodate channel and rail lines, respectively.

different in site location, similar Metro projects include the Orange Line bicycle path adjacent to the dedicated rapid bus lane and the Expo Bikeway connecting Santa Monica to downtown Los Angeles along the Expo Light Rail line.

SCHOOL SITES

There are 11 public schools and four private or charter schools within Willowbrook. Many of these facilities offer recreational programming outside of the typical school day and/or their grounds are unofficially used for recreational activities. There is currently one joint use agreement between Carver Elementary School and Carver Park for use of the swimming pool. Potential joint use at other schools could expand recreational options to the greater community outside of the school population, through access to sports fields, courts, or gardens. In particular, the field at Martin Luther King Elementary School is significantly degraded. Through joint use with Mona Park, the school facility could be improved for both students and the local residents.

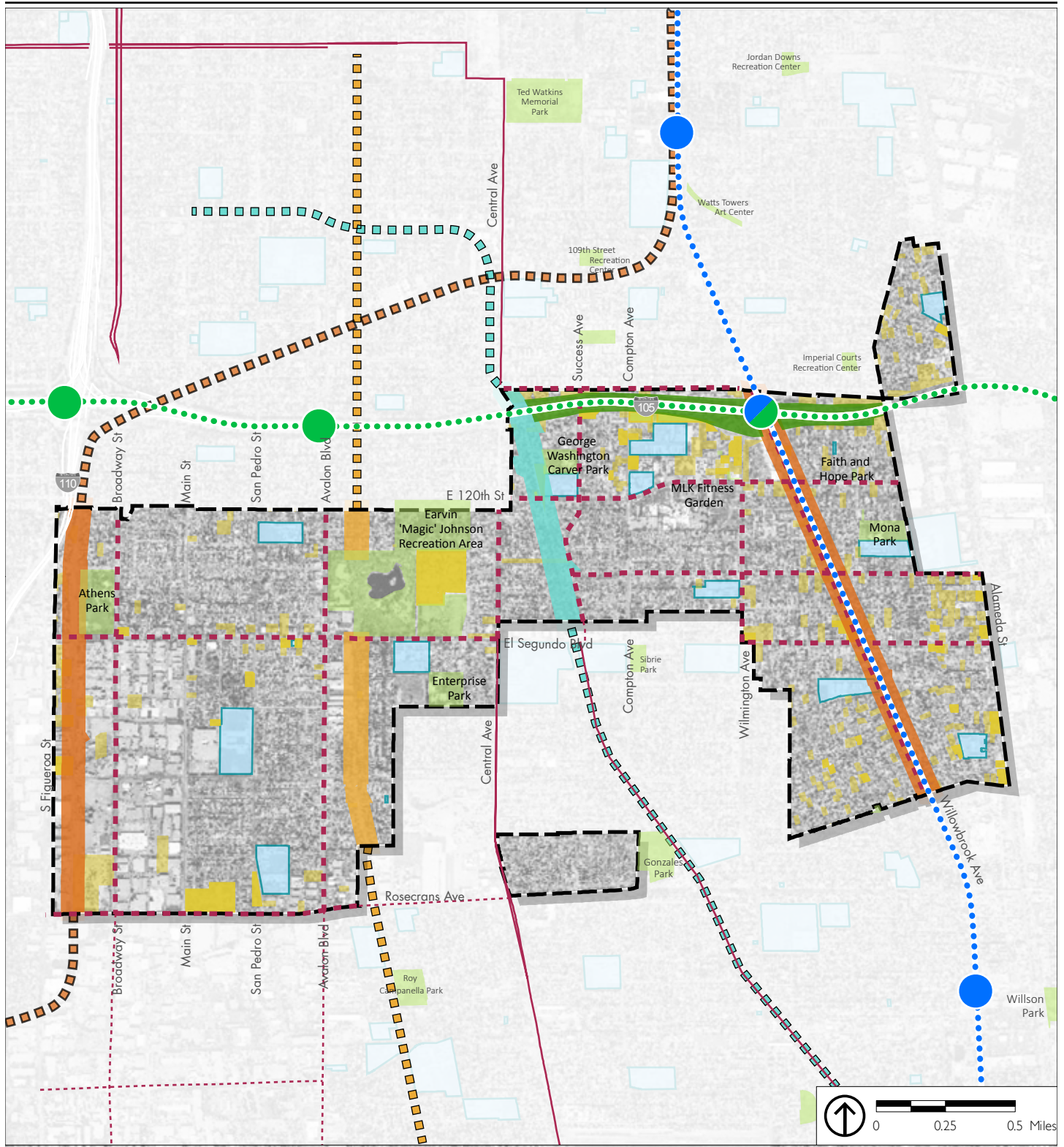
FREEWAYS

The 105 Freeway passes along the northern edge of Willowbrook and separates the community from Watts. The freeway buffer, particularly at the intersection with Compton Creek, offers some space for new green infrastructure improvements, such as expanding the urban forest or implementing stormwater runoff quality improvement measures. Although these spaces would need to include air quality mitigation if used for any recreational uses, such as parks, they would need to receive exemption from the Department of Public Health.

SIDEWALKS AND STREET RIGHT-OF-WAYS

Public streets also offer important opportunities for green infrastructure, such as street trees and stormwater retention facilities. Additionally, safe and comfortable sidewalks could significantly increase a residents desire to walk in their community. Improvements could include wayfinding and sidewalk surface enhancement, as well as street furniture to promote community gathering, or exercise equipment to

FIGURE 4.9 POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITY TYPES



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

- | | | | |
|------------------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| — Willowbrook | - - - Proposed Bike Routes in Willowbrook | ■ Vacant Land | ● Continuation out of Willowbrook |
| ■ Existing Parks | - - - Proposed Bike Routes outside Willowbrook | ■ Vacant Land on Corners | ● Continuation out of Willowbrook |
| ■ Schools | — Existing Bike Routes | ■ Freeway Buffer | ■ Continuation out of Willowbrook |
| ● Blue Line / Station | | ■ Rail Corridor | ■ Continuation out of Willowbrook |
| ● Green Line / Station | | ■ Utility Corridor | ■ Continuation out of Willowbrook |
| | | ■ Flood Control Channel | ■ Continuation out of Willowbrook |

create fitness circuits within neighborhoods. The corridors described previously (utilities, flood control, and rail) could provide excellent linkages through the community; however, they all run north to south. To create pedestrian and bicycle connections across the community from east to west, sidewalk trails and roadways would be necessary to connect the community. The Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan could serve as a guide for planning sidewalks and streets that could be enhanced with pedestrian and bicycle improvements. In conjunction with bicycle infrastructure, there could be additional enhancements to improve the overall functionality of the street, in terms of improved walking condition as well as new green infrastructure improvements.

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 Willowbrook are more populated than others. Sites in denser areas were prioritized over areas that were less dense, in order to serve a greater population.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The sites with the highest potential and the sites selected by the community were visited and further analyzed through research on ownership and historic uses. The resulting Potential Parkland Opportunities Map, Figure 4.11, shows the recommended sites for park and trail development in Willowbrook in the future. The map is accompanied by Table 4.5, which summarizes site conditions and identifies what type of parkland the site could be used for.

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 Willowbrook 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 4.10 SITE SELECTION PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA

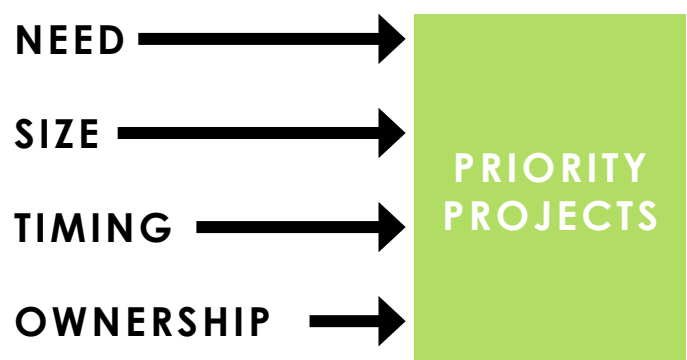
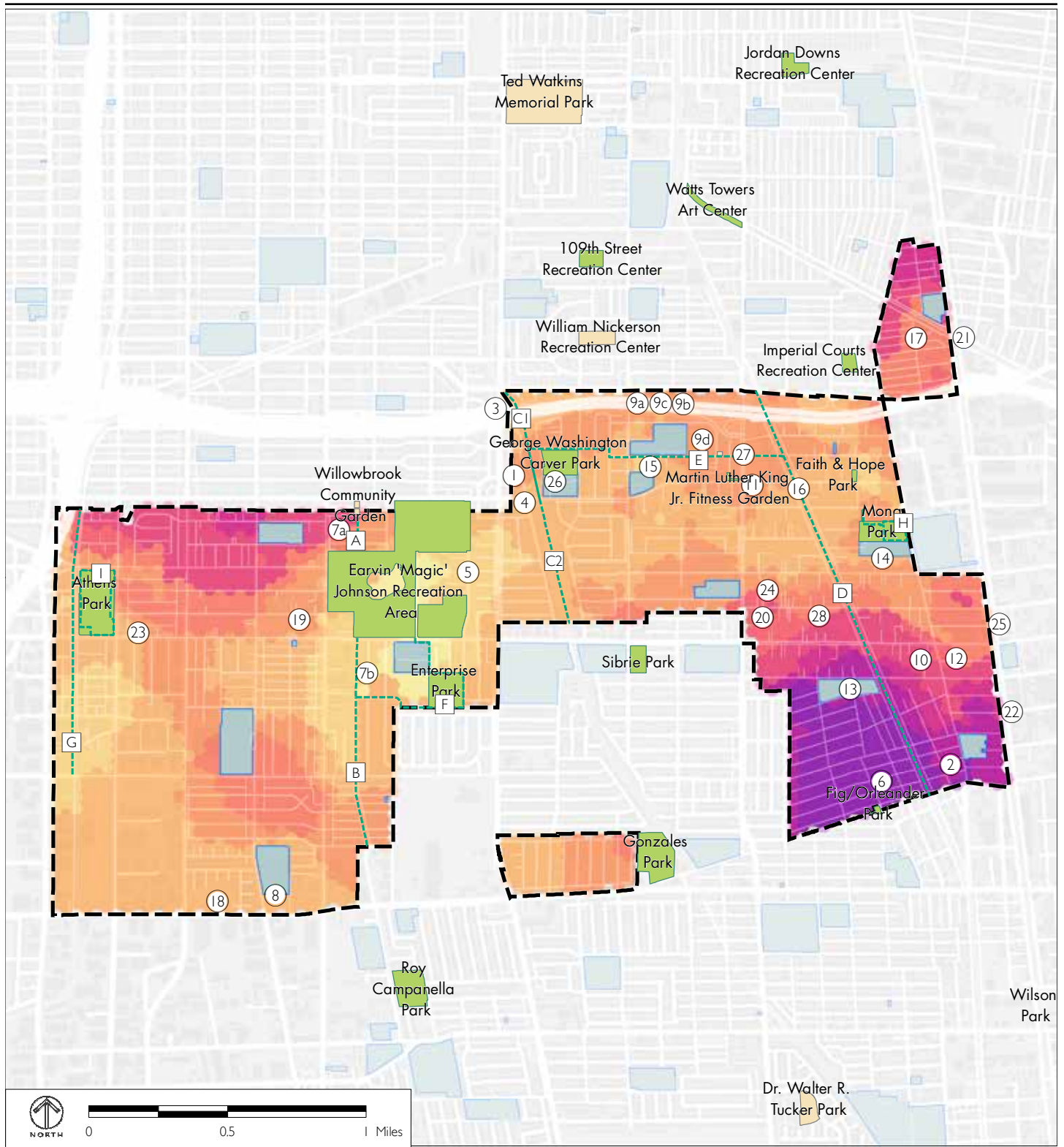


FIGURE 4.11 WILLOWBROOK POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES MAP



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

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|
| Park Needs
 | Existing Parks Included in Analysis | Existing Trail | Potential Parkland Site Number |
| | Other Green Space | Potential Trail | Potential Trail Site Number |
| Low | School | | |

TABLE 4.5 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL WILLOWBROOK 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	●		0.17					●						●
	2		●	0.21					●						
	3	●		0.58				●							●
	4		●	0.1					●						●
	5	●		15.79	●	●									
	6		●	0.17					●						
	7a	●		1.26				●		●					●
	7b	●		6.98				●		●					●
	8		●	0.86				●							
	9a	●		1.28				●							
	9b	●		1.30				●							
	9c	●		0.15					●						
	9d	●		0.17					●						
Medium	10	●		0.15					●						
	11	●		0.15					●						
	12		●	0.23					●						
	13	●		1.74				●							
	14	●		1.89				●							
	15		●	0.56				●							
	16	●		0.17				●							
	17	●		0.09				●							
	18		●	9.17			●								
	19		●	1.12				●							
	20		●	0.89				●							
Low	21		●	0.4				●							
	22		●	1.55				●							
	23		●	0.35				●							
	24		●	0.61				●							

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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
Low	25		●	0.65				●							
	26		●	0.85				●							
	27	●	●	1.11				●							
	28	●	●	2.19				●							

TABLE 4.6 SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL WILLOWBROOK 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	●		0.12				●
	B	●		0.76				●
	C1	●		0.23	●			
	C2	●		0.46	●			
	D	●		1.59	●			
	E	●		0.95	●			
	F	●		0.84	●			
Low	G	●		0.97	●			
	H	●		0.43	●			
	I	●		0.73	●			



5 - VISION PLAN



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

ACCESS WILLOWBROOK PARKS

VISION AND GOALS

The open space vision and goals are driven by community needs and input. The theme of “Access Willowbrook Parks,” emphasizes the importance of connectivity within the community parkland system. Willowbrook’s parkland system has good components, but it has the potential to become an excellent network by integrating parkland amenities more directly into the fabric of the community, both in terms of facilities provided and in the relationships with community members.

Parks and urban greening should be ubiquitous throughout Willowbrook. The intrinsic value of nature to human health cannot be underestimated. Research has documented the multiple benefits from close proximity to tree canopies and green open space, including reduced stress, improved attention span, decreased at-risk behavior among inner-city youth, and improved recovery from illness or injury. As such, increased 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 Willowbrook residents in multiple ways.

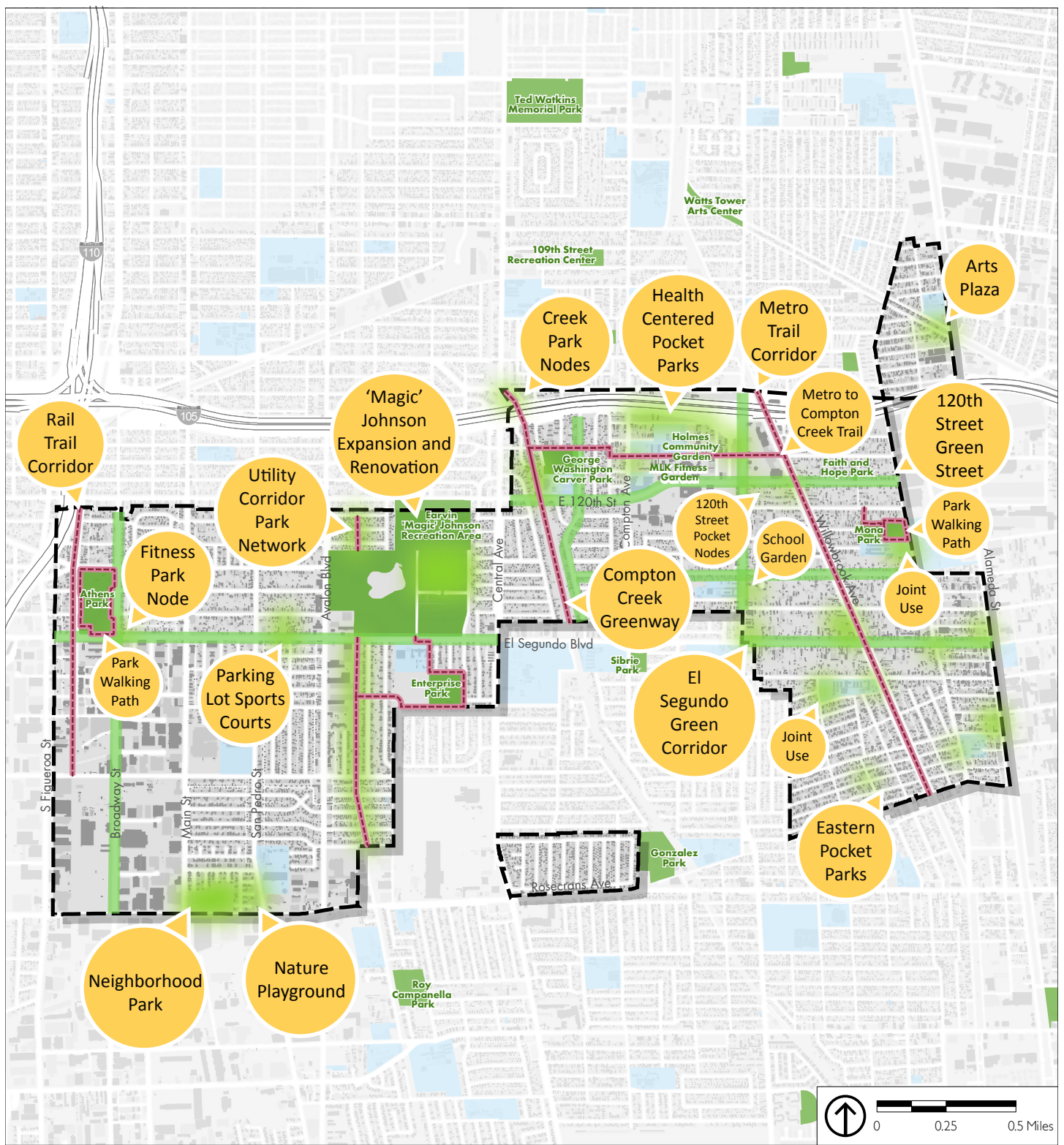
“This principle holds that a reconnection to the natural world is fundamental to human health, well-being, spirit, and survival.”

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

GOALS

1. Create a regional and local hub at Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area.
2. Improve access to existing parkland system by creating safe corridors for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians, and developing a greenway network.
3. Provide all residents with safe places to walk for exercise.
4. Ensure that recreational facilities and programs meet community needs and that residents are included in the decision-making process.
5. Expand the recreational opportunities within Willowbrook’s park system to incorporate more arts and cultural activities, as well as healthy food and lifestyle amenities.
6. Improve actual and perceived safety of Willowbrook’s parkland system.
7. Increase the sense of nature within the parkland system and in the everyday lives of Willowbrook residents.
8. Maintain and enhance Willowbrook’s urban forest.
9. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.

FIGURE 5.1 WILLOWBROOK GREEN VISION MAP



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

- Willowbrook
- Existing Parks
- Schools
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Potential Trail Opportunities
- Potential Green Streets

The Green Vision Map in Figure 5.1 shows a mix of potential new neighborhood parks, pocket parks, park nodes, and community trails throughout Willowbrook. This range of sites could provide spaces to meet the needs identified in Chapter Four. In particular, the renovation of Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area will significantly increase the recreational facilities available to Willowbrook residents. Additionally, smaller pocket parks and park nodes will help integrate parks and recreation more directly into the community fabric, providing unique, local green space experiences. In general, Willowbrook residents tend to use the park space closest to their homes. Integrating community trails and green streets into the park plan could increase the distance that residents can safely travel to green space. These corridors additionally provide space for exercise on their own, as well as connections to amenities outside of the community.

PARKLANDS

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

- RENOVATION OF EARVIN ‘MAGIC’ JOHNSON RECREATION AREA.** As noted in Chapter Two, a Master Plan process for the renovation of Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area is underway. The plan expands the park by nearly 16 acres and involves a major redesign of the park. The redesign includes space for an outdoor amphitheater, equestrian center, a skate park, three multipurpose soccer -football fields, and a multipurpose stadium. In the Master Plan, the lake is redesigned to incorporate more interactive features, including kayaking, fishing, and model boat launch. Although the lake is not intended for swimming, a splash pad will overlook it.
- NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS.** There is one larger site in Willowbrook that could be used for new neighborhood parks. It is located in the southwestern portion of Willowbrook. The site sits between business park and industrial uses to the west and south, and a residential neighborhood to the north and east. Residents in this area are not within 1/2 mile of the existing parks in Willowbrook and considered not to be within walking distance of green space. A park here would serve the recreational needs of these residents and could potentially mitigate some air quality issues with nearby industrial uses.

A bike lane is planned for Rosecrans Boulevard in the Los Angeles County Bike Master Plan, which could make the site more accessible for cyclists. This section of Rosecrans Boulevard is wide with relatively minimal tree canopy.

Additional green street improvements, including increased street tree planting, would help create a more park-like aesthetic around the site.

- POCKET PARKS / PARK NODES.** The Green Vision Map identifies potential pocket parks and park nodes throughout the community. These spaces will increase local park coverage to residents and provide smaller spaces to experience nature, to gather as a community, and for children to play. Typically, these spaces will have one central element, such a playground, picnic area, or garden space. Following are some potential uses of pocket parks and park nodes in Willowbrook:
 - Nature Spaces and Environmental Education Parks.** In the community design workshop, participants indicated that they wanted to have a greater sense of nature in their parks. In their designs, they included native planting area that attract insects and birds, naturalistic planting styles, and peaceful site design elements that they said would provide them with the opportunity to feel like they are “getting away.” Small sites can be excellent for this type of design and provide pockets of oasis throughout the community.

These parks can also be used for environmental education programming. Although it might limit the calm of the site to include active children, small pockets of natural space also provide learning opportunities about ecological processes and sustainable design.

Sites particularly well-suited for this would include small nodes along Compton Creek, lots away from major streets, and parcels near schools. The sites along Compton Creek could introduce people to the creek and how it functions in the urban area. Additionally, it could provide resting places for trail users utilizing the channel trail.

These parks would be predominately planted with native vegetation with limited hardscape. Seating elements could incorporate natural features, such as boulders or wood. Play areas should emphasize natural processes and include an environmental theme. Interpretive signage and demonstration areas would help elucidate natural processes that may not be evident at first. Green infrastructure, such as stormwater basins and rain gardens, would be used at these sites.

- Arts Plazas and Small Performance Spaces.** Creative spaces help to define the unique quality of a community. Park and plazas serve as excellent venues for displaying public art. Additionally, performance art can activate a public space. Outdoor stages or amphitheaters provide space for creative expression and can bring the community together for events.

Art plazas are best suited for sites along major corridors with high foot traffic where the art work is highly visible. Nodes along 120th Street near the Rosa Parks Metro Station could be used for this purpose. The Watts Tower Arts Center is located north of Willowbrook along Santa Ana Boulevard. The vacant lot at the corner of Alameda Street and Santa Ana Boulevard could be utilized as a gateway arts plaza to the arts community in Watts.

Outdoor performance can take many forms. A large-scale performance would need a large amphitheater, like the one planned for Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area. However, a smaller scale performance, such as an outdoor movie screening or community dance recital, could take place on a smaller stage in a pocket park. Although noise might be an issue if located on a busy street, it is best if these sites are easily seen by people passing the park. This activates the spaces and will draw people to visit the park.

These parks would be designed around a central artistic element, which should be prominent within the site. The predominant use of the spaces will be for public gathering so materials should be durable and able to withstand crowds. Planting elements should accent the artist features. Partnership with local artists and the Los Angeles County Arts Commission would help ensure that the parks are in line with the community’s preferred aesthetic style.

- **Fitness and Health.** County Parks offer a variety of exercise and fitness amenities and Willowbrook residents frequently utilize their existing park network for this purpose. Small fitness parks, like the existing Martin Luther King Fitness Garden, can augment larger facilities and offer residents unprogrammed fitness opportunities, such as exercise stations.

These exercise parks are best sited near popular walking routes or along a planned community trail. These fitness stations can be utilized while people complete their walking circuits.

Additionally, Willowbrook residents expressed growing interest in healthy lifestyles, both in terms of exercise routines and healthy food choices. LANLT and the Los Angeles Community Garden Council have been active in Willowbrook and nearby areas to plan and build new community garden spaces to provide residents with access to fresh produce. Partnerships with these or similar groups to develop small lots for community gardens and orchards could help provide more resources in this area. There is one full service grocery store in Willowbrook located on S. Central Avenue and El Segundo Boulevard. There is currently no farmers’ markets. Plaza space, either in existing parks or in a new central area could be used to host a market.



Proposed Master Plan for Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Park
source: RBF Consulting and ABHE



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



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



Art Fence

97th Street Park, Los Angeles

source: City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, 50 Parks Initiative Gallery



Artistic Play Equipment

Benito Juarez Park, Maywood, CA

source: Edison International on Trust for Public Land website



Fitness Station in Spring Street Parklet,
Downtown Los Angeles

source: People Street; photo by LADOT/Jim Simmons

Fitness and health pocket parks were part of the planning vision for the area around the new Martin Luther King Hospital, termed the Willowbrook MLK Wellness Community. Creating pocket parks like this in this area would forward the mission and help create a health-centric core within the community.

- **Creative Play or Splash Pad.** About 45 percent of Willowbrook households have children under 18 and 10 percent of the overall community population is under five years of age. Places to play are important recreational assets in the community. Small pocket playgrounds within close proximity to a child's home can serve as a treasured destination, providing an opportunity to spend time outside, play with other children, and exercise.

Pocket play areas could be integrated throughout the community. If located on busier streets, the play area should be set back from the road. The play area should emphasize dynamic play that can engage a child for numerous visits. Play areas should be shaded with trees or shade structures to provide comfortable play at all times of year. Adult fitness equipment could be integrated into the site design where feasible to provide caregivers with an opportunity to exercise while the children play.

Willowbrook does not currently have a splash pad in the community. Although one is planned for Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area, water features can also be integrated into smaller sites. Due to concerns about water conservation, these facilities should be constructed with minimal water waste and should incorporate water reuse for irrigation whenever feasible.

Pocket parks and park nodes are important features in a park network as they create a community connection to the greater park system. Importantly, many of the elements outlined above could be combined in pocket park scenarios; however, this list illustrates the opportunities and needs specific to the Willowbrook community.

- **JOINT USE AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.** The Green Vision Map identifies joint use opportunities near the high need area along the east side of the community.

Martin Luther King Elementary School is adjacent to Mona Park; however, it does not currently have a joint use agreement with the park. The school grounds include a field space that is severely degraded. Through developing a joint use agreement to refurbish and maintain the field space, students would enjoy significantly improved school yard conditions and Mona Park users can expand their play area beyond the baseball field, which dominates the open space at the park.

Anderson Elementary School occupies a long block along E. 130th Street at Willowbrook Avenue. The school includes a variety of play areas, as well as one large multipurpose field area. The play equipment is old and there is no shade along any of the structures. With the exception of turf space, there is limited planting at the school, including very few trees. Through joint use, the grounds at the school could be improved to provide more amenities to elementary school children. Additionally, allowing the public to utilize these facilities would alleviate some need for green space in this high need area.



*Interpretive Signage
Sunnynook River Park, Los Angeles*
source: City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, 50 Parks Initiative Gallery



*Exercise Mural in Utility Corridor Park
Salud Park, City of Paramount, CA*

CONNECTIONS AND CORRIDORS

The Green Vision Map re-purposes existing corridors within the community and builds on the other ongoing green infrastructure projects, such as the Willowbrook Transit-Oriented District Specific Plan and the Los Angeles County Bike Master Plan, to create a pedestrian-, bike-, and equestrian-friendly network, connecting residents to green space and providing linear greenways. Figure 5.2 illustrates key connections and corridors for linking existing open space with future projects, both within the community and in the surrounding area.

- UTILITY CORRIDOR PARK NETWORK.** A Los Angeles City Department of Water and Power (DWP) utility corridor runs through the center of Willowbrook and passes through Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area. The corridor is envisioned as a string of small parks connected by a multi-use trail. North of Willowbrook in Watts, the corridor is being used for community gardens, developed by The Los Angeles Community Garden Council. A similar use could be considered in Willowbrook or could provide other uses. A recommended use from the community was to create an arts walk along the corridor. The utility towers create a dramatic, sculpture-like presence in the corridor, which can be augmented by other sculptural pieces.

The corridor is wide enough to include trails for various uses, including separated areas for equestrians, cyclists, and pedestrians. The equestrian and bike trails would maintain a relatively straight alignment while the pedestrian path would meander more into the park spaces within the corridor, including passing through art installations or plays to play, exercise, or gather.

South of E. 135th Street, the corridor narrows and will not accommodate single use trails. In order to continue the connection south to Compton, sections of the adjacent road right-of-way will be needed to create a separate path that avoids the utility towers. In this area, the corridor is paved. Although the space is too limited for park use, it could be planted with low-maintenance species to increase stormwater infiltration along the corridor.

The DWP corridor crosses all streets at grade and will need to include crosswalks. The crosswalks should be user operated to be responsive to trail use patterns. Additional crosswalk elements, such as raised crosswalks or flashing beacons, should be used at busy street crossings, including El Segundo Boulevard and E. 135th Street.

- **COMPTON CREEK CORRIDOR.** The Compton Creek Master Plan envisions a lively creek and trail corridor along the length of the urbanized channel between Watts and the Los Angeles River. The segment of Compton Creek within Willowbrook will serve as both a local amenity and a regional connection to the greater trail network.

Although entirely contained in a concrete channel in Willowbrook, Compton Creek is envisioned as a natural greenway through the area with a multiuse trail lined with riparian planting. Additionally, the creek channel serves as the central spine for creek-side pocket parks that are adjacent to the channel and provide space for gathering and environmental education uses.

In addition to the multipurpose trail, stormwater mitigation planters would line the channel to treat runoff before entering the channel. As part of a long-term vision, the concrete channel would be replaced with an earthen bottom to create a more naturalized riparian condition. However, while the creek is in concrete, the stormwater elements can help to soften the boxed edge.

In Willowbrook, Compton Creek passes under E. 120th Street, El Segundo Boulevard, and the 105 Freeway. It is preferred that the trail continue along the creek under these street crossings (and necessary under the freeway) to limit interaction with vehicular traffic. Access points from these surface streets will be important entryways into the Compton Creek greenway and should be marked clearly with both directional and interpretive signage.

- **RAIL AND TRAIL CORRIDORS.** There are two rail corridors that currently run from north-to-south through Willowbrook. Both are included in the Green Vision Map as potential community trails.

The Blue Line runs along Willowbrook Avenue within a central median. The right-of-way for the rail is approximately 100 feet and includes the rail, a fence, and street trees. There is currently no sidewalk along the rail corridor. The Los Angeles County Bike Plan includes a bike lane along Willowbrook Avenue adjacent to the Blue Line. A redesign of the right-of-way could potentially accommodate a multi-use, separated path, creating a safer route for trail users. The trail would additionally include fencing to separate the trail from the active rail line.

Southern Pacific runs a freight line along a corridor on the west side of the community. The right-of-way is approximately 75 feet. With the exception of a portion of the rail that runs adjacent to Athens Park, the rail corridor

is bounded predominately by industrial uses. Planting and landscape would be necessary to create a greenway feel. Additionally, trail users must be separate from the active rail line with fencing.

- **SIDEWALK TRAILS.** In order to create east-west connections between green spaces within the community, sidewalk alignments were used as trail connections.

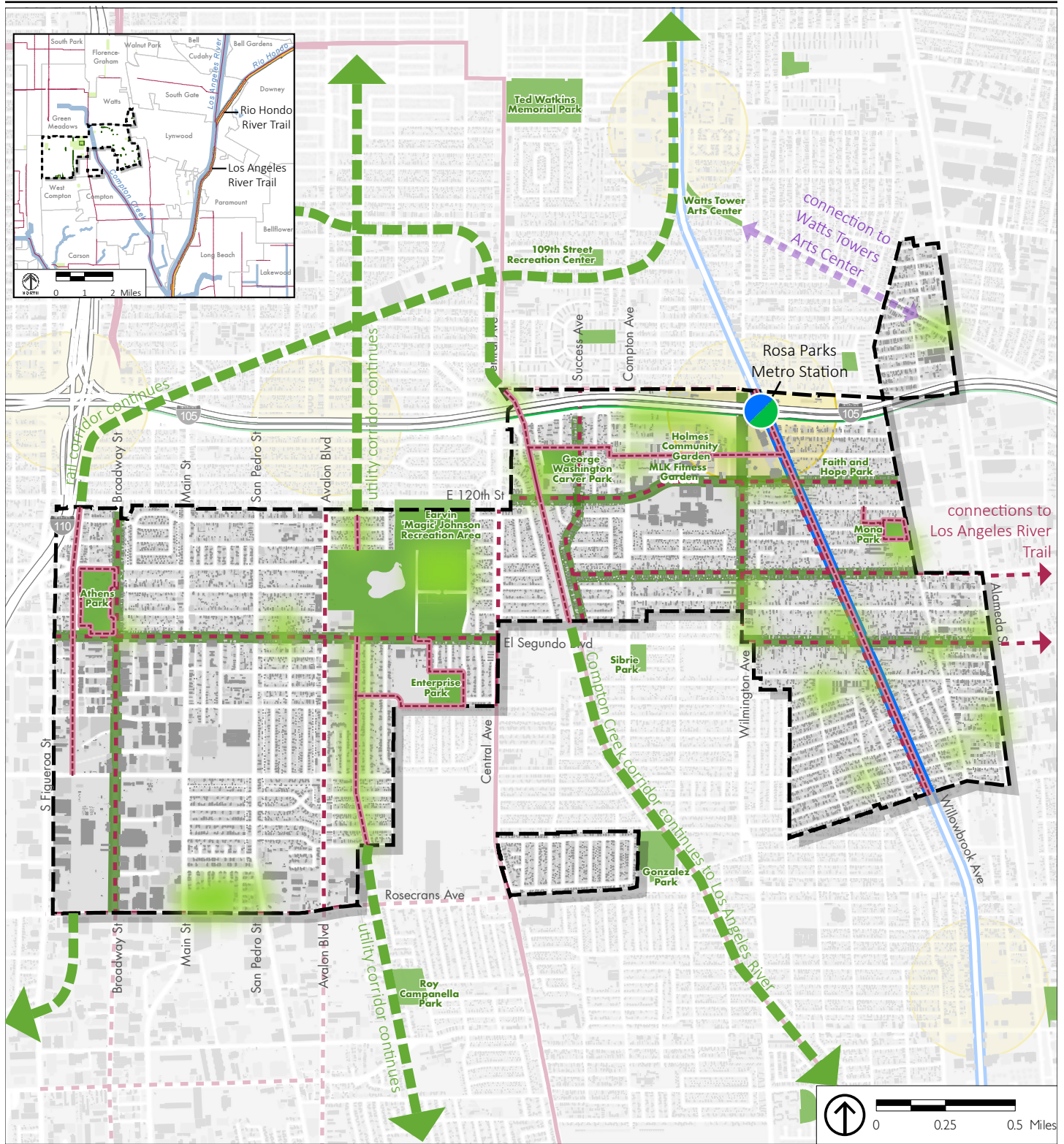
The Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area to Enterprise Sidewalk Trail loop is intended to create a new walking circuit in the community to augment popular walking paths at Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area. The trail utilizes sidewalk treatments to let walkers know the distances they’ve complete and directs them where to walk to avoid conflicts between trail and sidewalk users. The trail additionally includes new planting to create a green link between the two parks.

The Rosa Parks to Compton Creek Sidewalk Trail creates a transit to trail connect for Metro users who want to connect to the Compton Creek greenway. Through directional signage and sidewalk marking, trail users can easily find the trail, which is not readily visible from the surrounding streets.

Where possible, sidewalk trails will utilize sidewalks within parks to provide larger trail widths. In all other areas, they are predominately distinguished by sidewalk surface treatment and directional signage.

- **GREEN STREETS.** The Green Vision Map also highlights key streets in Willowbrook for targeted green street improvements. Green street improvements include both the increase of planting 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 Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), improving pedestrian and bicycle amenities along these streets could significantly impact park access. Currently, these routes do not make good pedestrian connections between green spaces due to the speed of vehicles and the lack of street trees. By improving these streets and creating smaller park nodes along them between larger parks, residents might be more likely to travel to parks using non-motorized means. As noted in Chapter Two, approximately 15% of Willowbrook residents do not have access to a car, higher than the County average of 10%. Non-motorized routes to parks are especially important for this group. Additionally, encouraging residents with access to cars to walk or bike to park spaces can decrease the impact of driving, potentially decreasing overall greenhouse gas emissions in the area.

FIGURE 5.2 CURRENT AND FUTURE CONNECTIONS



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

- Willowbrook
- Existing Parks
- Schools
- Existing Bike Lanes
- - - Proposed Bike Lanes
- Metro Blue Line
- Metro Green Line
- 1/4 mile buffer from Metro Stations
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- - - Potential Trail Opportunities
- Potential Green Streets

COMMUNITY TRAILS

Major features of the corridors described above are the trail features. The Green Vision Map includes nearly seven miles of new potential trail alignments throughout the community. These linear connections would help create a cohesiveness to the Willowbrook park network and serve as important recreation amenities on their own. As noted in Table 5.1, the potential new trails in Willowbrook serve different user groups. Figure 5.3 illustrates how these community trail opportunities could be integrated into Willowbrook.

TABLE 5.1 WILLOWBROOK COMMUNITY TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Trail Name	walking	biking	equestrian
METRO Rail and Trail	●	●	
Southern Pacific Rail and Trail	●	●	●
Compton Creek Trail	●	●	
DWP Utility Corridor Trail	●	●	●
Enterprise Park to Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area Sidewalk Trail	●		
Rosa Parks METRO Station to Compton Creek Sidewalk Trail	●		

FIGURE 5.3 COMMUNITY TRAIL CONCEPTS



METRO Rail and Trail Corridor



Department of Water and Power Utility Corridor



Rosa Parks METRO Station to Compton Creek Sidewalk Trail



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 area for wildlife, and improving comfort levels for local residents. For example, trees in parks absorb carbon dioxide, pollutant gases, and filter out particulates. In addition to urban forestry, urban greening can include efficiency measures, such as energy and water use reductions, stormwater treatment, and transportation initiatives to increase walking and biking that reduces vehicular emissions and increases health.

It is important that parks serve as a model for urban greening in the community where they are located, utilizing efficient technologies, maximizing ecological potential, and advocating for sustainable actions community-wide. The existing parks in Willowbrook have excellent tree coverage and a substantial amount of pervious surfaces. However, to maximize benefits, additional measures could be implemented at existing parks, as well as in potential new parks and trails. Partnerships with other agencies, non-profits, and residents could expand the greening potential for the community as a whole. Following are areas where change could be implemented to improve urban greening in Willowbrook:

WATER

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

WATER CONSERVATION

In April 2015, Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency throughout the State due to severe drought conditions and issued an Executive Order, requiring a 25 percent reduction in water use through February 2016. Willowbrook’s water is provided by the Golden State Water Company Central Basin Area, which was placed in Tier 2 from the State Water Board, and mandated to reach a 20 percent reduction.

WATER QUALITY

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

AIR QUALITY

Greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas can have negative impacts on human health, including cancer and respiratory disease, and negative environmental impacts, such as increased heat island effect or plant growth stagnation. Willowbrook 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.

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

ENERGY

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

In 2010, DPR initiated a pilot project to install solar panels at Obregon Park 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 none of the parks in Willowbrook 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 habitat, as it expands the species’ range and increases mobility. This is particularly important in urban areas where there is limited green space and species can be trapped. For many species, these spaces do not need to be extremely large and small elements, such as street trees, can provide valuable foraging and habitat resources.

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

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Furthermore, people are more likely to exercise when there are safe places to do so near their homes to use. 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 can affect how the public perceives the environmental quality of their community. Specifically, residents of Willowbrook considered addressing the urban forest as an important phase in developing the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

The vision for Willowbrook’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 goal is to increase the canopy coverage while maintaining visibility and existing park uses, and to transition the park forest into one which provides optimal benefits for the community.

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

CANOPY TARGETS

As discussed in Chapter 2: Existing Conditions, while coverage within Willowbrook’s parkland is approximately 21 percent, the community as a whole has an overall canopy coverage of 10 percent due to low coverage within street corridors, residential areas and other land uses. This is far less than the 21 percent coverage maintained within the City of Los Angeles or the 25 percent recommended by American Forests as appropriate for urban areas in temperate and arid climates.

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 **23 percent**.
3. Reduce water usage at all existing parks by **20 percent** of 2013 use levels.
4. Capture **100 percent** of stormwater runoff onsite at existing and potential future parks.

It is recommended that DPR maintain or increase the current canopy coverage at parks, and work with other departments, organizations, and agencies towards a 23 percent community-wide canopy coverage target, with the understanding that increases will be incremental and the target represents a long-term goal.

This target is based on American Forests’ recommendations and adjusted based on existing land uses within the community. Reaching this target would require more than doubling the number of trees in the community. As 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 along streets.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE URBAN FOREST WITHIN PARKS

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

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE URBAN FOREST BEYOND PARK BOUNDARIES

There are numerous opportunities to plant trees in non-park areas such as spaces adjacent to freeways, in vacant lots, and along rail, utility, and creek corridors. Although such areas are typically beyond the jurisdiction of DPR, the County can plant new trees in partnership with other land owners, such as Caltrans, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), or Los Angeles County Flood Control District; and can also encourage private property owners to plant trees on their respective properties.

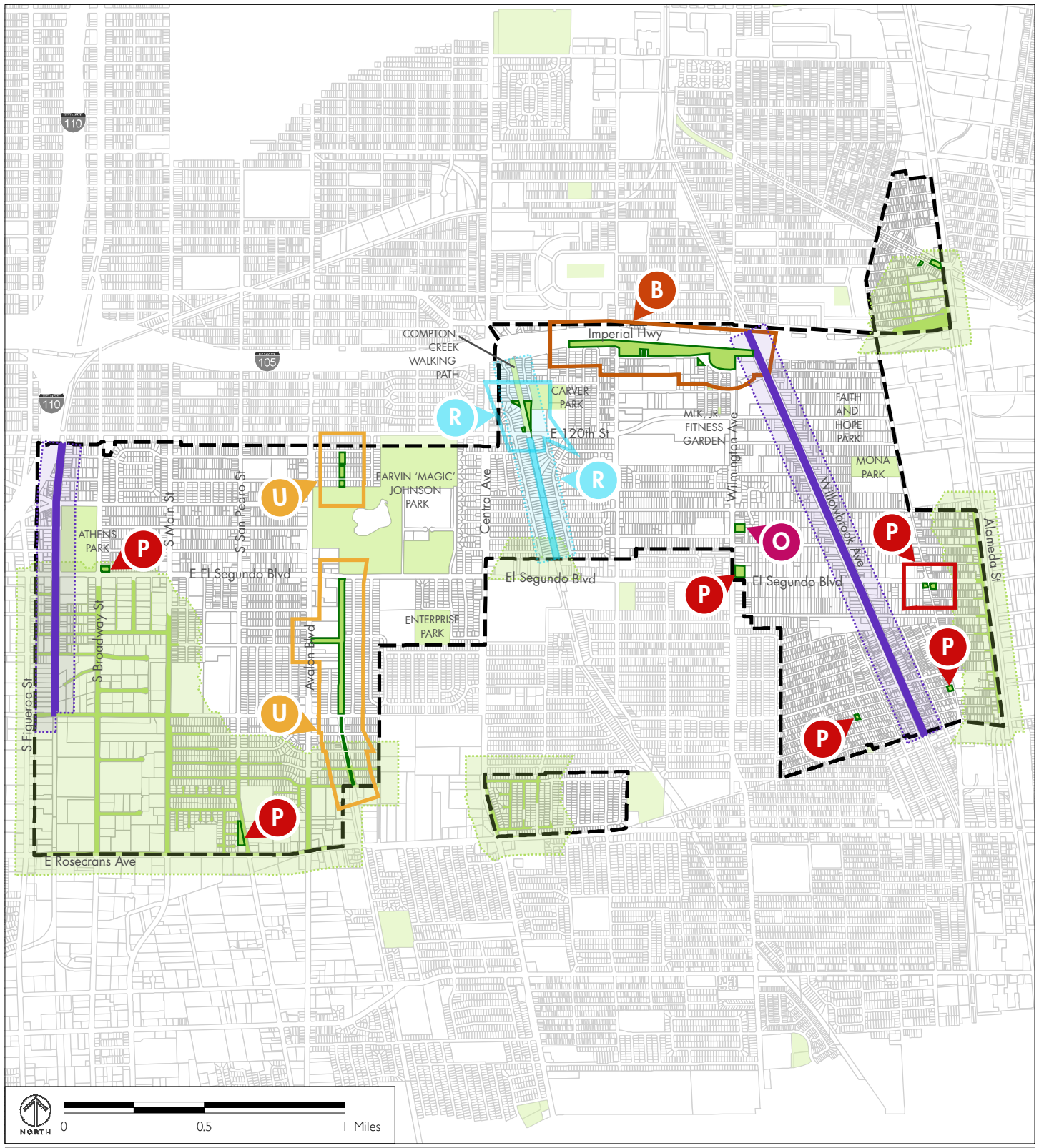
Areas that were identified as having a high need for additional street tree plantings and specific opportunity sites are identified in Figure 5.4 and described below. The Preferred Tree List in Appendix E identifies species that are appropriate for each of the opportunity types identified.

- **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 in high need or urban canopy (identified in Figure 5.4) and along the corridors that connect parks and major community amenities, such as a schools, churches, and recreational facilities.
- **RIPARIAN CORRIDORS.** As described above, Compton Creek creates a linear passage through Willowbrook. Riparian species should be planted along the creek and in adjacent park nodes to create an association between these species and waterways. Additionally, if the creek is removed from the concrete channel, Riparian trees should be planted within the flood plain. Trees designated as suitable for riparian areas are listed in the preferred

tree list in Appendix E and any planting recommendations in the Compton Creek Master Plan should be reviewed in order to maintain consistent planting along the creek corridor.

- **UTILITY AND RAIL CORRIDORS.** Utility and rail corridors have high potential to enhance pedestrian, bicycle, and equestrian connectivity in Willowbrook. Providing tree canopy along trails in the corridors will significantly enhance the users experience and encourage residents to use these routes. Height restrictions should be considered for the utility corridor to prevent interference with overhead utility lines. Additionally, since the rail corridors are limited in width, trees with straight trunks and high branching are preferred to limit the area needed for tree planting and maximize trail size.
- **FREEWAY BUFFERS.** The 105 Freeway passes along the northern edge of Willowbrook. Planting trees or enhancing existing planting along the space 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.
- **POCKET FORESTS OR POCKET ORCHARDS.** Some pocket parks in Willowbrook could be utilized exclusively for urban forestry. These parks would be planted densely with trees. This use might be appropriate in lots near the industrial areas in the southwest part of the community where dense tree plantings could mitigate potential air quality issues. Additionally, fruit trees could be planted in conjunction with a community garden or school if the trees are maintained and harvested on a regular basis.
- **RESIDENTIAL YARDS.** Private individuals can significantly increase the public urban forest. Educational resources and incentive programs can encourage residents to plant trees on their property or request planting from their landlord.

FIGURE 5.4 POTENTIAL URBAN FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN WILLOWBROOK



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

- Willowbrook
- Existing Parks
- Street Opportunities (street corridors with low existing tree canopy)
- Riparian Corridors
- Rail Corridors
- Site Opportunities
- B Freeway Buffer
- P Potential Park Opportunity
- O Community Orchard
- R Riparian
- U Utility Corridor (Potential Park Opportunity)

MEETING THE NEEDS

Willowbrook currently has sufficient parkland to meet the County’s standard based on population. However, there are restrictions to accessing the existing park spaces, such as the gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle network and safety concerns. Additionally, some parts of the community are outside of the County’s standard service areas for the existing parks, indicating a need for more facilities in some areas.

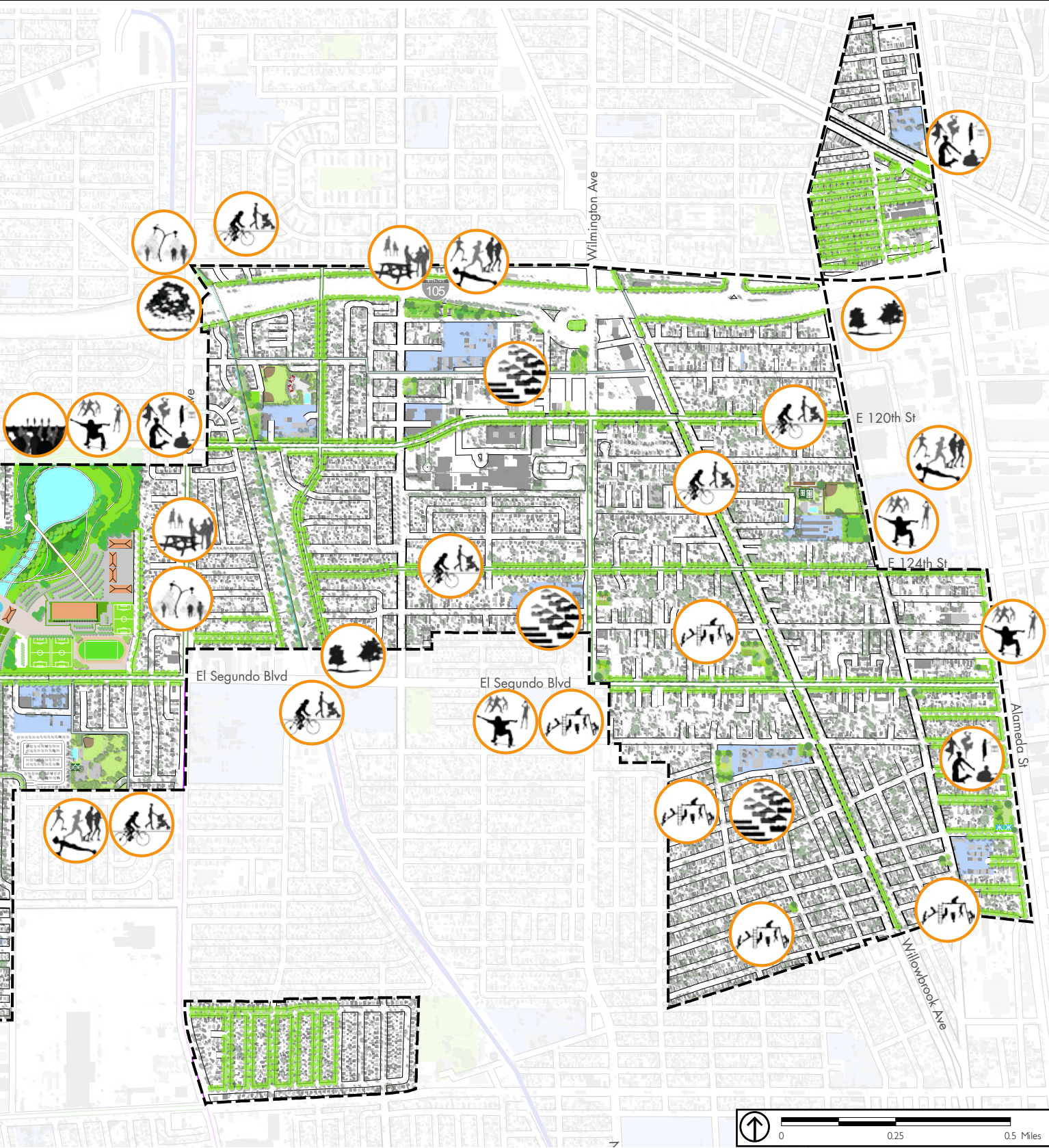
Furthermore, there are two regional facilities in Willowbrook that help meet the service need for the community. It is expected that these parks serve residents up to 20 miles away and that may be heavily used by people from outside the community. New pocket parks throughout the community will help to provide smaller community space that more directly relates to the Willowbrook community and their needs and preferences for parks and trails.

Through community outreach and site assessment, certain deficiencies in the park network were identified, including amenities that would strengthen Willowbrook’s park network. These needs, presented in Chapter Four, were considered in developing the Vision Plan and this approach aims to ameliorate current needs. To this end, potential new parks within the high need area are included in the Vision Plan. Additionally, parks that could provide the amenities needed by the community are included. Figure 5.5 illustrates conceptually which sites would meet the needs identified in Chapter Four.

- | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------------|---|
| Safe Connections to Parks for Pedestrians and Cyclists |  | Performance Space |  |
| Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk |  | Equestrian Center |  |
| Play Space |  | Healthy Food |  |
| Spaces for Teens |  | Energy Conservation and Production |  |
| Gathering Places |  | Green Infrastructure |  |
| Splash Pad |  | Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space |  |
| Arts Facility |  | | |



FIGURE 5.5 CONCEPTUAL AMENITIES AT WILLOWBROOK SITES



VISION PLAN

GREENSCORE

Achieving the vision and connecting Willowbrook’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 could meet the most need were prioritized for consideration and possible implementation in the short-term.

Parks with high priority were used in the Greenscore analysis to examine the potential impact of new parkland and trail development. The high priority projects used in the analysis are shown in Figure 5.7.

Following are discussions and illustrations of the impact that the creation these parks and trails would have on service areas, spatial need, and population served. Additionally described are the greening impacts of the development of new parks, as well as meeting the target canopy coverage of 23 percent and other urban greening goals community-wide.

IMPACT ON SERVICE AREAS

Figure 5.8 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 Willowbrook is within 1/2 mile of a local park or 1 mile from a regional facility.

IMPACT ON PARKLAND GAP AND WALKABILITY

METHODOLOGY

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

PARKLAND GAP

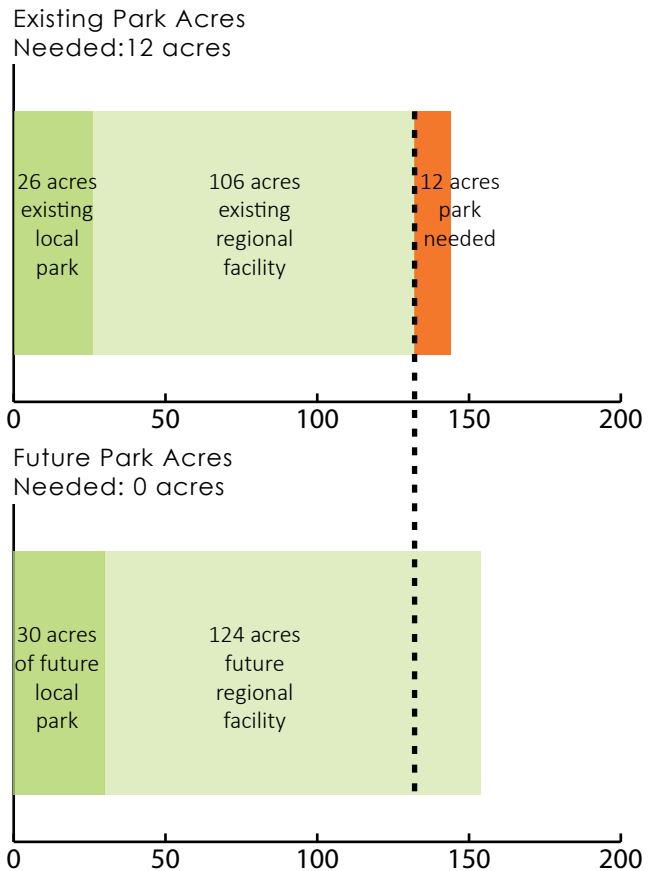
As shown in Figure 5.9, the parkland gap area would be significantly reduced with the implementation of the high priority park projects. Only a small portion of Willowbrook would not be within a 10-minute walk to a park. Additionally, when potential trail opportunities are added to the street network, pedestrian access routes to existing and potential future parklands are increased.

IMPACT ON SPATIAL NEED

With the size of its current population, Willowbrook only needs approximately 144 acres of local parkland to fulfill the General Plan standard of four (4) acres of parklands per 1,000 residents). If the two Regional Parks are included in the calculation, Willowbrook is extremely close to reaching this goal with 132 acres of parklands, a deficit of only 12 acres of parkland. However, distribution of parkland facilities is not consistent throughout the community and not all residents are within walking distance to existing parks.

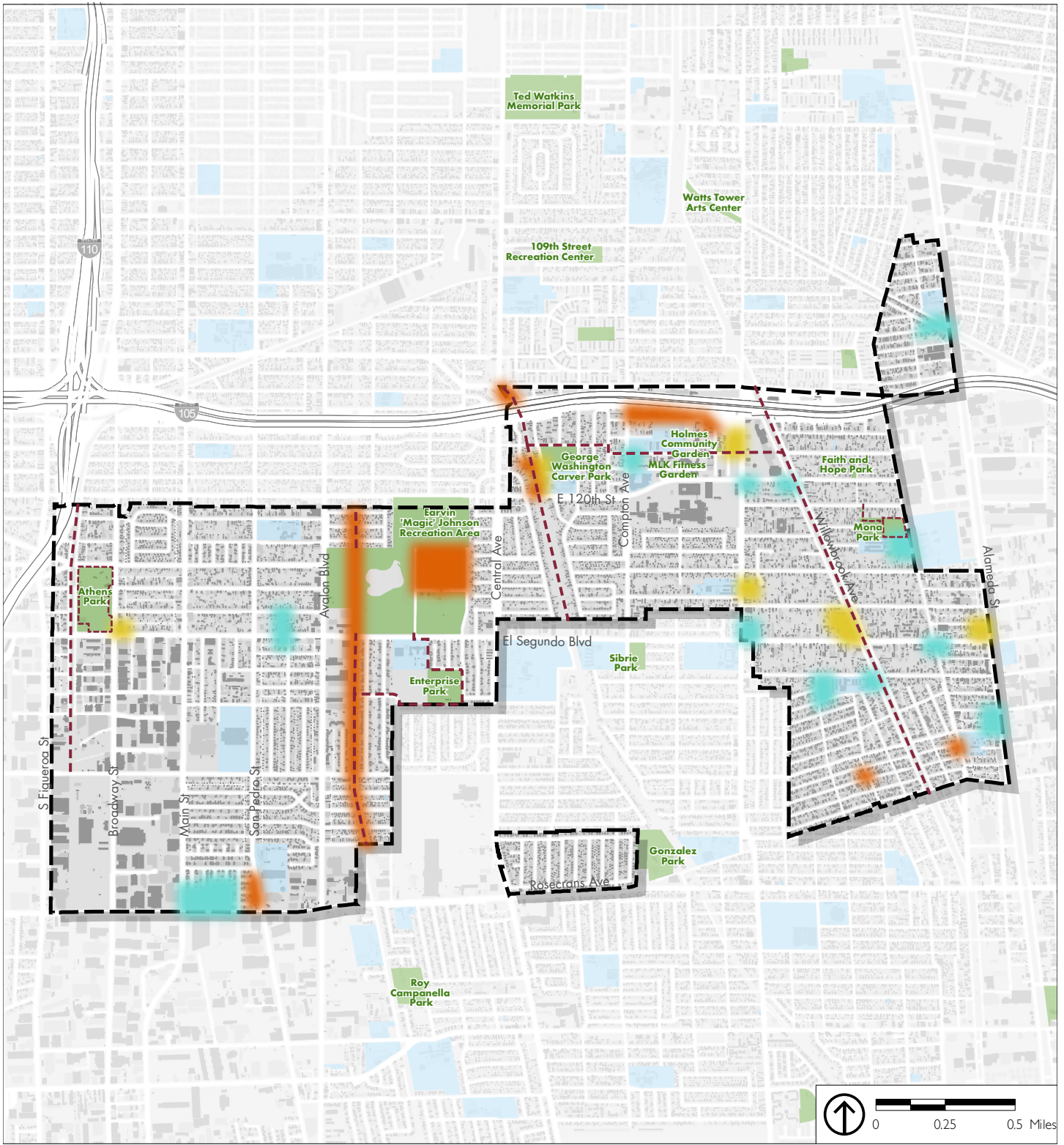
The development of the identified high priority park sites would add 22 acres of parklands, which would go beyond the General Plan Standard, providing 4.29 acres of park per 1,000 residents. Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area and Athens Park makes up more than 120 acres of this amount. Both of these parks are regional facilities, and although they provide amenities with local residents, they are also intended to provide service to the larger region, which includes numerous other communities that are significantly lacking in local parks, suggesting that these facilities might be heavily used by users from outside the community. Currently, Willowbrook has 0.7 acres of local park per 1,000 residents. The addition of a new local park through this plan would increase acreage to 0.85 acres per 1,000 residents.

FIGURE 5.6 IMPACT ON PARK NEED ACREAGE



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

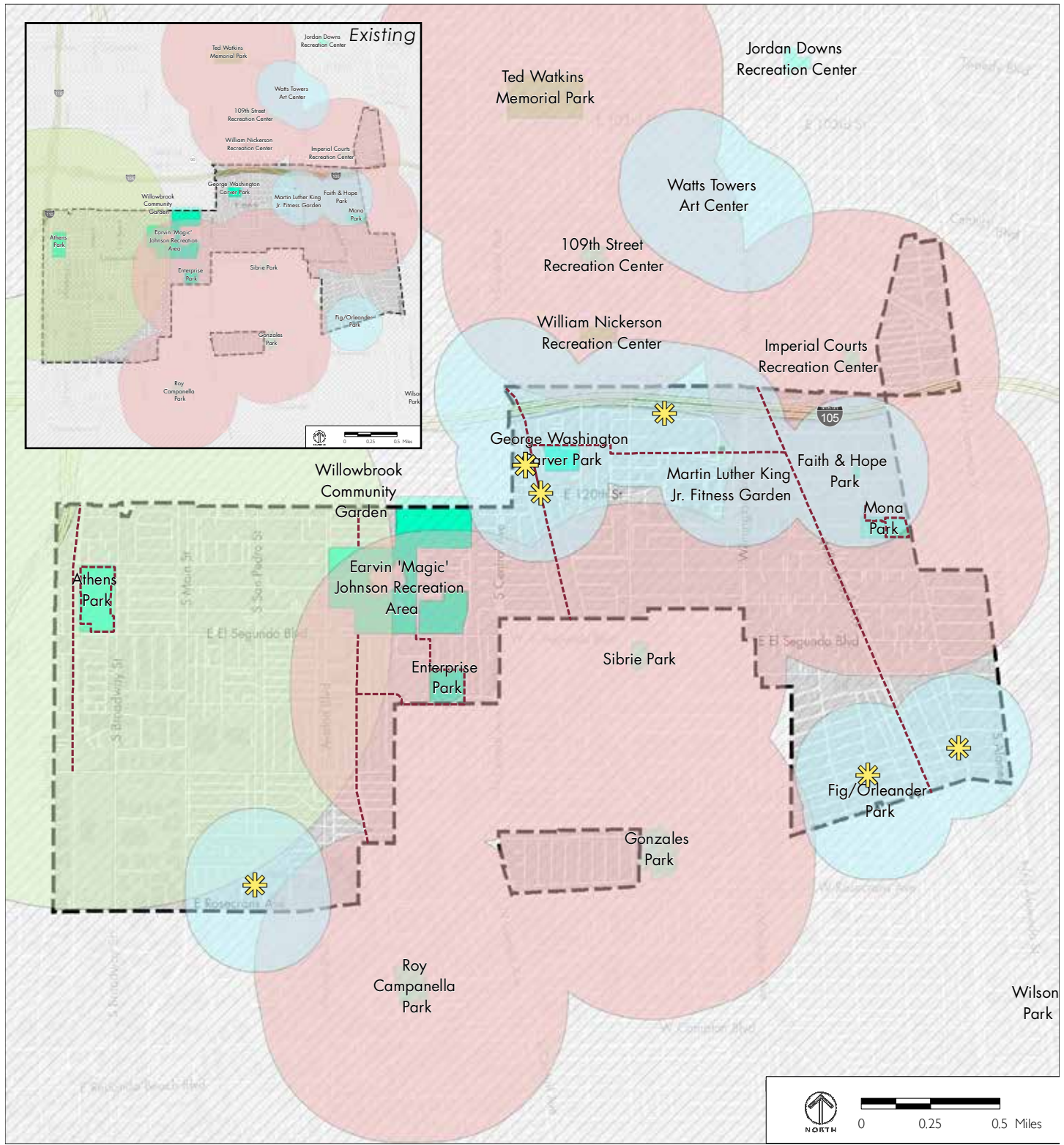
FIGURE 5.7 PRIORITIZATION OF PARKLAND AND TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES



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

- Willowbrook
- Existing Parks
- Schools
- High Priority Parkland Opportunities
- Medium Priority Parkland Opportunities
- Low Priority Parkland Opportunities
- High Priority Trail Opportunities
- Low Priority Trail Opportunities

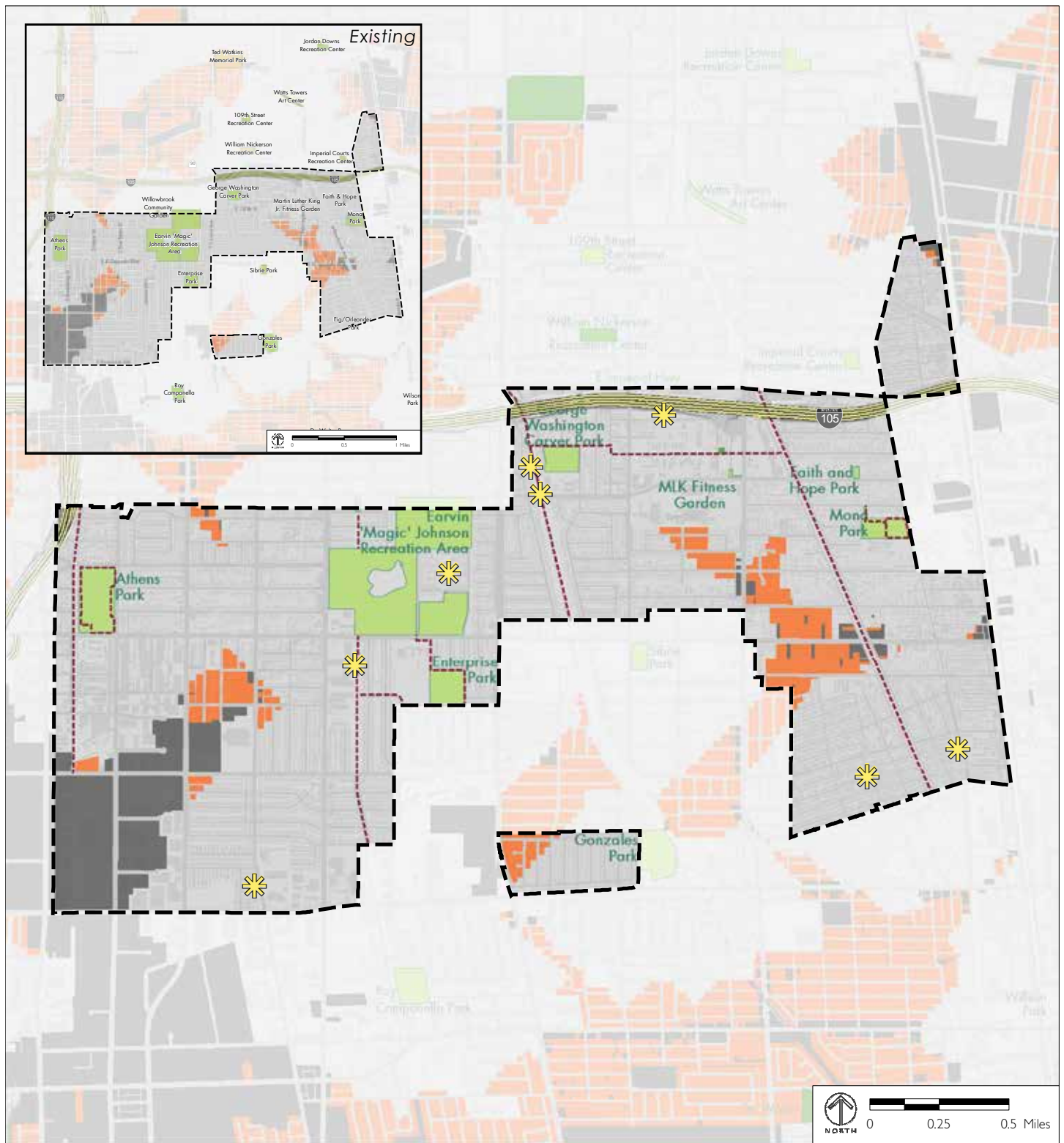
FIGURE 5.8 SERVICE AREAS - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



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

- | | | |
|--|---|-----------------|
| Parklands | 20 mile Service Radius from Regional Parks | Trails |
| Existing Park Included in Analysis | 1 mile Service Radius from Community Parks | Existing Trail |
| Other Existing Green Space | 1/2 mile Service Radius from Neighborhood Parks | Potential Trail |
| Potential Future Park included in Analysis | 1/4 mile Service Radius from Pocket Parks | |

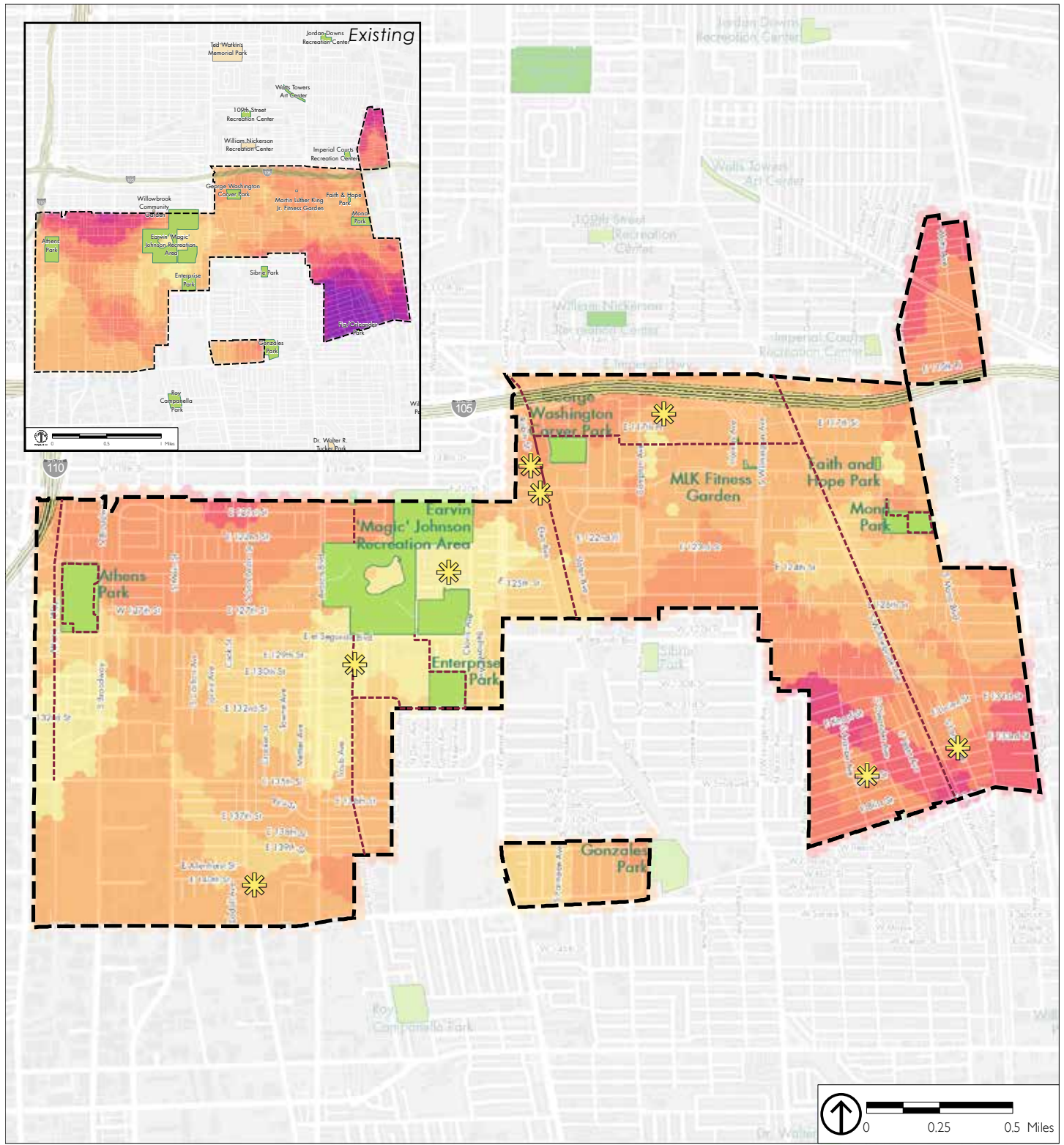
FIGURE 5.9 PARKLAND GAPS/WALKABILITY - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



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

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Park Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park Non-Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park | <p>Parklands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Park Included in Analysis Other Existing Green Space Potential Future Park Included in Analysis | <p>Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing Trail Potential Trail |
|--|---|---|

FIGURE 5.10 SPATIAL NEED - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS

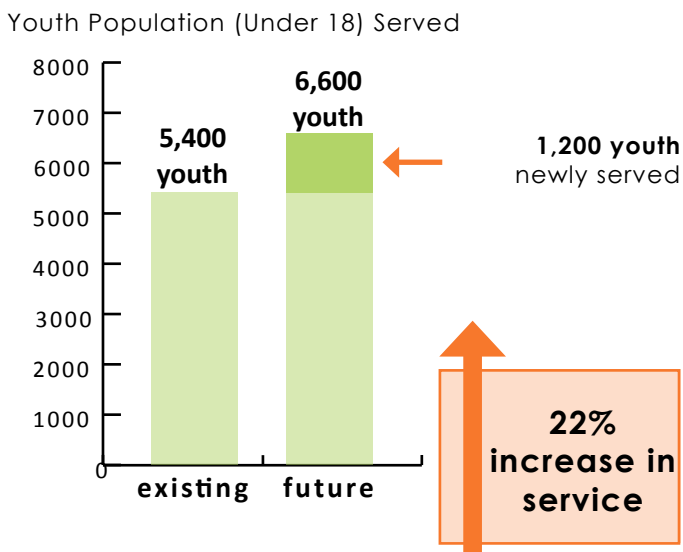
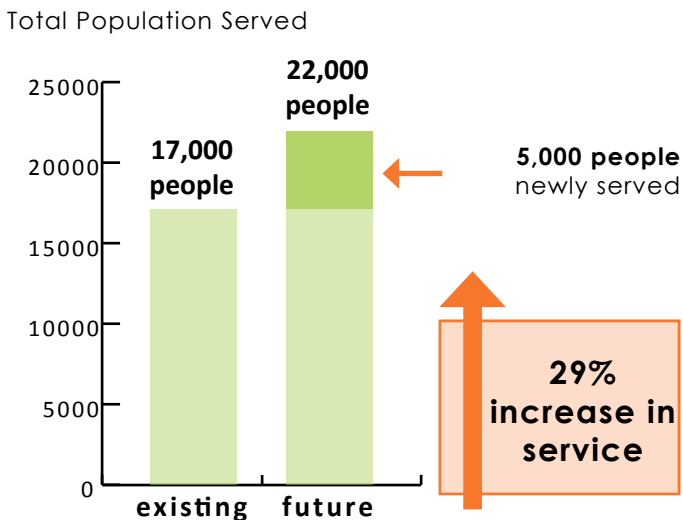
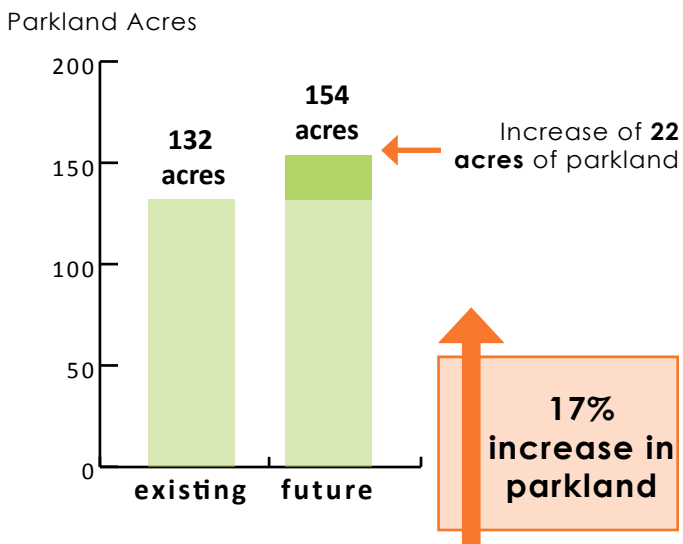


Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Park Needs</p> <p>High</p> <p>Low</p> | <p>Parklands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Existing Park Included in Analysis ■ Other Existing Green Space ☼ Potential Future Park Included in Analysis | <p>Trails</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> — Existing Trail - - - Potential Trail |
|---|---|--|

VISION PLAN

FIGURE 5.11 SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE ADDITION OF POTENTIAL NEW PARKS



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

Excluding the Regional Facilities, Willowbrook has 26 acres of local parkland, which is significantly below the General Plan Standard, suggesting that the community needs more and smaller facilities intended specifically for local use.

POPULATION SERVED WITH NEW PARKLAND

Not only would the creation of 22 acres of new parkland help Willowbrook meet the General Plan goal, it would additionally increase the number of people within walking distance to parks. With the future park sites, the population within walking distance of any parks would increase by 29 percent; from approximately 17,000 residents to 22,000 residents. Within that group, the population under 18 years old would increase from approximately 5,400 to 6,600, representing a 22 percent jump from the youth population served by existing parks. This indicates that the addition of potential future park sites would increase the possibility of providing more access to the parks and open spaces to the overall population, and especially for residents under 18 years old.

IMPACT ON STORMWATER INTERCEPTION

Utilizing Low Impact Development (LID) technologies, such as stormwater swales, bioretention basins, or green roofs to intercept water runoff within existing parks and in future parks would provide significant benefit to water storage and improvement to water quality running into nearby waterways. Additionally, increasing the community-wide tree canopy to 23 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 22 acres of additional parkland in Willowbrook, annual rainfall on these areas would equal nearly 8 million gallons. A significant amount of this volume will infiltrate into the parks' pervious surfaces; however, a presumed runoff of 10-20 percent is expected in the typical park or open space, resulting in approximately **1.7 MILLION GALLONS** that could be intercepted and treated with LID.

IMPACT ON WATER CONSERVATION

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

- Utilizing **DRIP IRRIGATION** instead of spray heads (estimated 16% water savings)
- Planting **LOW WATER USE PLANTS** and replacing high water use ones (estimated 62% 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 5.12 demonstrates how these savings could be applied to a 10,000-square foot sample park project in Willowbrook.

FIGURE 5.12 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 GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION

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

- Improving the pedestrian network that encourages more people to walk 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 impact of new trees in Willowbrook. As described in Chapter Two, the Park Forest (existing trees within parks only) is estimated to sequester 338,371 pounds (153.48 Metric tons) of carbon annually. There is limited opportunity to increase tree canopy and carbon storage at existing parks in Willowbrook. Adding additional parks with healthy urban canopy coverage is one strategy to increase the overall carbon stored by the park forest. However, the complete benefits of the urban forest are best understood at the community scale, rather than limited to trees within parks. As shown in Table 5.2, it is estimated that the current forest sequesters 1,297 Metric Tons of carbon dioxide per year, and that approximately 2,851 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 other ways than carbon sequestration, including but not limited to: providing shade for buildings, thus reducing air conditioning usage; reducing the urban heat island effect; and creating streets and paths that encourage people to walk or bike, thus reducing vehicle trips.

Maintaining or increasing current canopy coverage for existing parks (21% for all parks combined) and ensuring coverage of at least 15% for new parks would ensure sustained or increased carbon sequestration by the Park forest. In addition, selecting trees that have high capacity for carbon sequestration, especially for sites near freeways and other sites that have high levels of air pollution, can improve the contribution of the urban forest to greenhouse gas reduction. Trees that are highly effective at sequestration are identified in the Preferred Tree List in Appendix E.

TABLE 5.2 WILLOWBROOK CARBON SEQUESTRATION UNDER EXISTING AND TARGET CANOPY COVERAGE

Land Use ¹	CANOPY COVER		ANNUAL CARBON SEQUESTRAION (CO ₂ METRIC TONS) ³	
	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
Low Density Residential	173	481	822	2,293
High Density Residential	23	30	111	145
Commercial/Institutional	23	31	111	150
Industrial/Utilities/ Transportation	15	14	69	68
Open Space ²	33	41	184	195
Total	267	597	1,297	2,851

- 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, prior to the construction of MLK, Jr. Fitness Garden. The land use designation of “Open Space” was applied to all parks in Willowbrook and adjacent streets. Overall canopy coverage for Open Space was calculated from iTrees data from the 2013 park forest inventory as well as LIDAR data from the adjacent streets, resulting in a higher estimate for carbon sequestration than estimated for the Park Forest above. Compton Creek is included within Industrial/Utilities/Transportation.
- 2 Open space include Los Angeles County Parks. Additionally, the open space calculation includes canopy coverage on approximately 6.44 acres of Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area that is located beyond the community boundary in Watts but was included in the 2013 park forest inventory.
- 3 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 community within Los Angeles County for this analysis 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 will be sequestered for each additional acre of canopy coverage, regardless of land use.



6 - CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGNS

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

CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGNS

Three prototypical sites were selected to serve as conceptual projects for a community design activity with Willowbrook residents. The designs generated at this workshop are intended to guide new park development, and the sites serve as sample projects for the types of parks that might be developed in Willowbrook. Although the specific site may not be implemented due to a variety of factors (land availability, political, etc.), concepts and amenities from these designs may be incorporated into different projects at other locations, where applicable.

Conceptual site designs include the following site types:

- **LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER (DWP) UTILITY CORRIDOR.** The utility corridor runs from north to south through Willowbrook and connects to Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area. The design exercise included conceptual ideas for both a community trail and adjacent park uses, both within the corridor.
- **PLAYGROUND POCKET PARK.** The conceptual playground site is a small site near a school or another location with a large youth population.
- **COMMUNITY WELLNESS PARK.** In the Master Plan for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital, the area around the hospital was designated a “Wellness Community.” There was also significant desire from the community for more park spaces that emphasize public health and fitness. A medium-sized pocket park location was used for the conceptual design.

Figure 6.1 highlights locations where the three conceptual site designs could be implemented, although other available sites in Willowbrook could additionally build off the concepts developed in this process.

COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP

As described in Chapter Three, these sites were presented at a community design workshop at Mona Park in May 2014. Workshop participants worked with DPR and the consultant team to develop a programmatic approach to each of the sites and design a conceptual park.

Following the workshop, these ideas were compiled into the designs shown and described in this chapter. Some elements were eliminated from the design based on infeasibility or other site constraints; however, where possible, the design reflects

the community’s vision for the site. To incorporate community voices that were not present at the design workshop, elements were added to the sites where possible to accommodate other needs identified in the community, as well as to help meet DPR’s own sustainability goals. The summary of each site design includes a list of the identified facilities needs that the project would help meet.

PURPOSE AND FUTURE USE OF SITE DESIGNS

Although conceptual, these site designs bring together key elements from the Vision Plan outlined in Chapter Five and how it could be carried out at a site level. As park projects are built in Willowbrook, these plans should serve as a model for the design style and programming that is desired within the community, as well as an illustration of how urban greening elements could be incorporated into future parks.

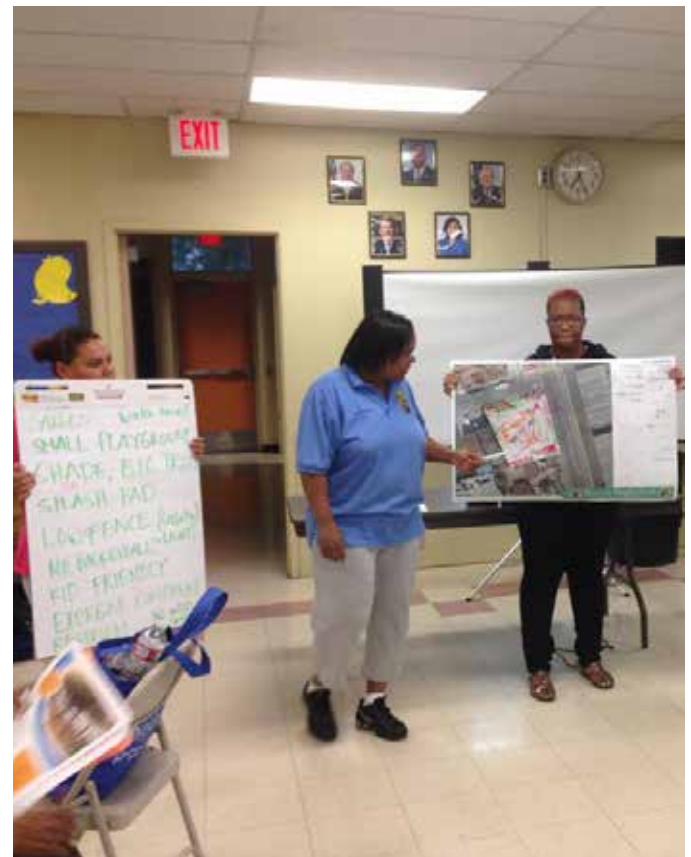
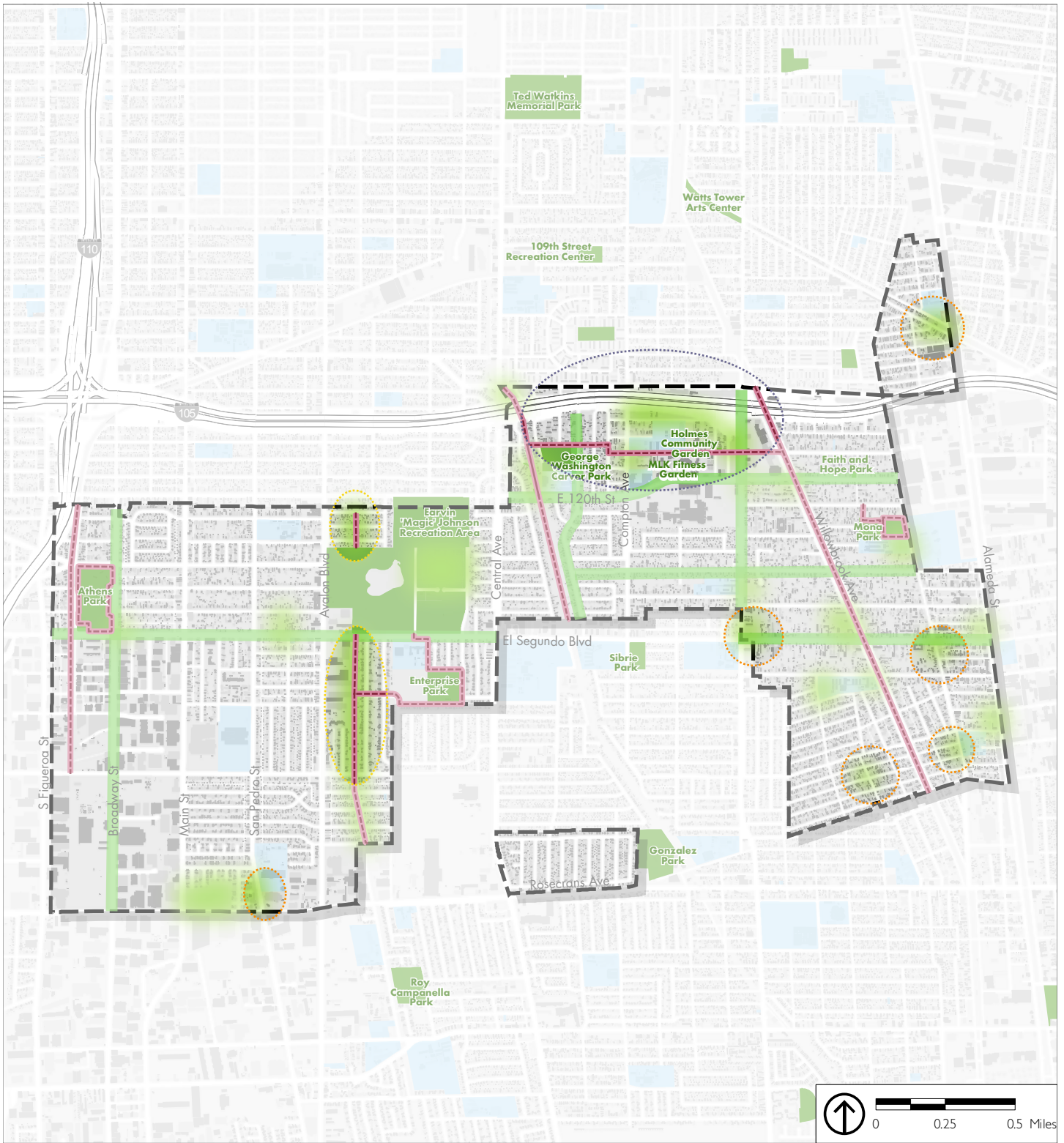


FIGURE 6.1 LOCATION OF CONCEPTUAL SITE DESIGN PROJECTS



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

- Willowbrook
- Existing Parks
- Schools
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Potential Trail Opportunities
- Potential Green Streets
- Potential DWP Corridor Park
- Potential Community Wellness Park
- Potential Playground Pocket Park

DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER CORRIDOR

SITE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power corridor is a series of linear vacant lots with overhead utility lines, punctuated by extremely large utility towers. North of East 135th Street, these parcels are approximately 100 feet wide and run between residential properties, with the exception of the corridor which is located within Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area. Although towers are not located in every parcel, they must be retained in their current locations and provided a clear area around them for service access.

COMMUNITY VISION

The community design group envisioned a corridor connected by two parallel trails, one for pedestrians that moved at a slower, meandering pace and a second for bikers or skaters moving more quickly. The group designed the pedestrian pathway to curve through a series of park-like spaces that included play areas, sports courts, fitness nodes, and gathering spaces.

Safety was the major factor influencing many design decisions. The group emphasized that there should not be ample lighting in the corridor and that it should be as bright as possible, able to clearly light the entire site, and should be easily tampered with or destroyed. Due to the proximity of the neighboring houses, the group agreed that the lighting should not provide a nuisance and shine directly into the houses, but they believed that the neighbors would prefer a well-lit site to one with minimal lighting. Additional concern was voiced about the park becoming a place where homeless people gather and sleep. The group recommended seating that is not comfortable for sleeping to dissuade people from camping there.

The community design group was composed of some younger and older group members. The discussion about how to move through the site brought out the fact that different user groups will want to move through the site in completely different ways, some more focused on speed or high intensity mobility while others might want to stroll or be more restful. The group's two trail compromises provided different ways of moving through the site. Additionally, the provided space within the park node areas for both passive and more active uses, with the more active parts of the park located near the street intersections. The group agreed that new park spaces should provide recreation opportunities for teens. The group recommended basketball, tennis, or a skate park. They designated that these active zones could be located near Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area or close to the cross streets, clearly visible by safety officers and nearby residents.

SITE DESIGN

The site design reflects the community's desire for a dual trail system and expands capacity to additionally include equestrian use to connect to the planned equestrian facility at the Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area. The equestrian, bicyclist, and

SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS

size: 1.26 ACRES

ownership: DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER

potential park type: POCKET PARK AND TRAIL



Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop

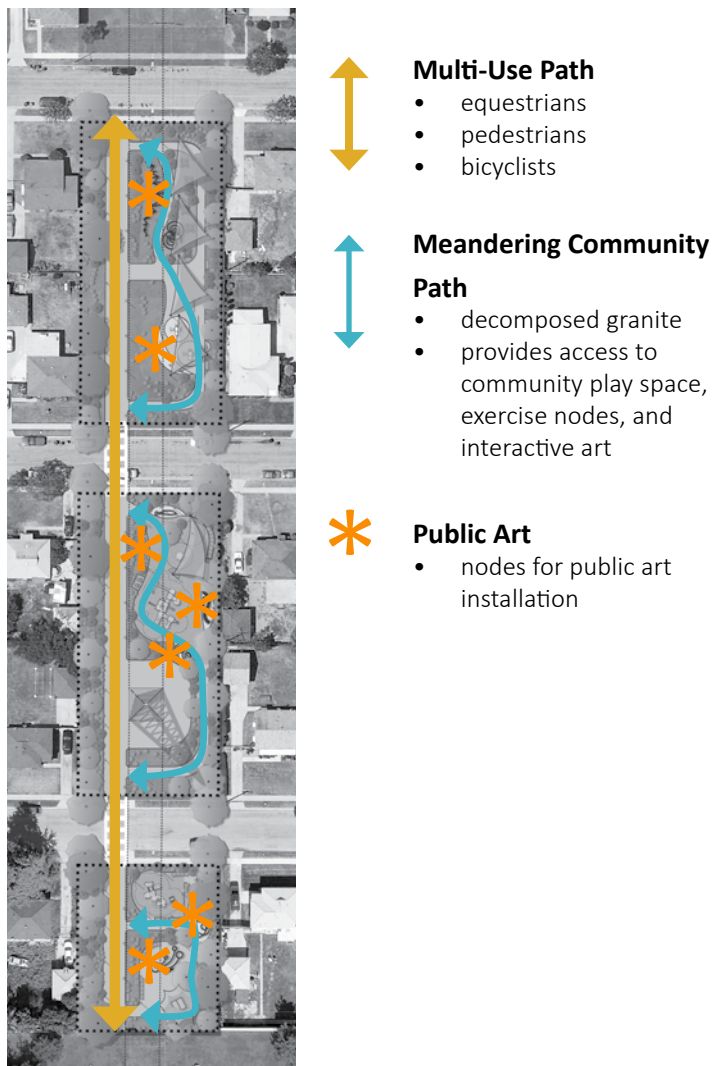
skateboard trail runs straight along the western side of the site for direct access through the corridor. The path is divided into a decomposed granite section for horses and an asphalt path for cyclists or skateboarders. The pedestrian pathway meanders along the east side through small park nodes with play and exercise amenities, including shade structures outside of the areas with overhead utility lines. These areas are separated from the multi-use trail with planted berms, which are not tall enough to limit sight between the two trails but create a separation between the uses.

Public art is interspersed along the corridor, particularly along the pedestrian pathway. These pieces would create a public interest in the corridor project and encourage people to walk the route. Lights could be integrated into the artwork and serve the dual purpose of lighting the corridor and enlivening the public space. The entry plaza at Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area serves as the gateway into the community art walk, welcoming visitors from the region. Partnership with the Public Art Commission would be necessary for implementing the art walk component. Additionally, coordination with Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Plan renovation will ensure a seamless transition between the two adjacent spaces.

FIGURE 6.2 DEPARTMENT OF WATER AND POWER CORRIDOR CONCEPT



FIGURE 6.3 ACCESS/CIRCULATION AND PUBLIC ART LOCATIONS



Public Art Examples



*Mural by Artist Louise Griffen
Augustus F. Hawkins Mental Health Clinic Courtyard
source: Los Angeles County Arts Commission; Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Community Development*



*'Light Drift' Installation
Boston, MA
source: Shift Boston Blog*

FIGURE 6.4 CONCEPTUAL CROSS-SECTION OF CORRIDOR



interactive art

meandering pedestrian pathway

community play space

SITE DESIGNS



Safe Connections to Parks for Pedestrians and Cyclists. The trails create a non-vehicular connection to Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area that will encourage people to walk or ride to the park.



Play spaces. Informal and formal play spaces within the corridor would provide a range of opportunities. Although close to Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area, these play spaces can more directly serve the residents along the corridor.



Equestrian Center. The multi-use trail could be used in conjunction with the planned equestrian center at Earvin 'Magic' Johnson for rides outside the park.



Spaces for Teens. Active nodes along the corridor can provide space for older kids to play sports and hang out.



Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk. Exercise stations in the park nodes will create a fitness destination. Additionally, the trail itself will provide a new walking route for residents.



Arts Facility. Public arts installation will create a more dynamic walking experience and encourage people to use the trail. The installations will provide regional visitors with a taste of the arts scene in Willowbrook.



Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space. Trees and plants in the corridor will provide habitat for wildlife living in Willowbrook, as well as provide connection to other green spaces.



Gathering Places. Spaces along the pedestrian pathways can be used as informal gathering places and provide opportunities to meet for social exercise.



vegetated berm

multi-use bicycle and equestrian pathway with continuous lighting

vegetated buffer at houses

PLAYGROUND POCKET PARK

SITE SUMMARY

Willowbrook has a high youth population and a high number of households with children under 18. Play space, and particularly play space within close proximity of homes and schools, is highly desired. Small pocket parks throughout the community can help create small-scale play environments, even in places where large parks are not feasible. During the community design workshop, participants envisioned a park space near a local school along a residential street.

COMMUNITY VISION

During the community workshop, two groups developed design vision plans for the pocket park adjacent to the school.

Group One designated the central space on the site as a playground space, with the core being a splash pad for children. Shade sails cover this area and make it more hospitable during hot weather. The site has a low, four-foot-tall fence along the adjacent streets, as well as planting along the inside of the fence. A small community garden is located at the edge of park. There is one main entrance with lights at the entrance and at all the corners of the site for safety. The group placed a small restroom in the southwest corner if space permitted. There are benches in the play space as well as around the perimeter of the site.

Group Two envisioned a play space for children but provided active nodes for adults as well. In the visioning exercise, the design included a round central seating zone. A splash pad and play area, as well as exercise equipment for adults, are also included. Vegetation and trees accent the site around these key elements. The group felt it was important to include a small restroom. There are two entrances to the park, and lights in all the activity areas and in the central seating space. Community murals separate the site from the surrounding streets.

SITE DESIGN

Figure 6.5 illustrates the conceptual design for a pocket park in Willowbrook. Building on key elements of the community's vision, the conceptual site design includes two main zones, a major play area, and a community garden space. The central pathway separates and serves as a "cut-through" path between the adjacent streets, encouraging users to walk through the park. There is a restroom along the pathway. Trees and vegetation buffer the park from the adjacent streets and line the pathway. Tables for gathering and monitoring children are in the shade near the play space. Plots for a community garden are tucked along the edge of the park, away from the main activity area but still within view of park users.

Pocket parks typically have one central feature. In this design, the play space and splash pad are the major features; however, it could be modified and tailored for another use. For example, to emphasize space for teens, the central space could be a sports court or skate park, or to provide a space

SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS

size: 0.25 ACRES

potential park type: POCKET PARK



Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop (Group One)



Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop (Group Two)

for environmental education for neighboring schools, the central space could take on a more naturalistic style. Figure 6.6 demonstrates some of the other uses that could become the central features of similar sized pocket parks that emphasize youth activity.

The secondary element in the park design is the community garden. The garden is placed where it is least likely to be shaded from park trees, although shade patterns from adjacent buildings would also influence final placement of a garden space. A fence surrounding the garden space might be required to prevent undesigned use of the garden space. Partnership with an active community non-profit group, such as LANLT or the Los Angeles Garden Council, to manage the garden, would help offset maintenance of this area and ensure community participation in the community garden.

FIGURE 6.5 CONCEPTUAL PLAYGROUND POCKET PARK DESIGN

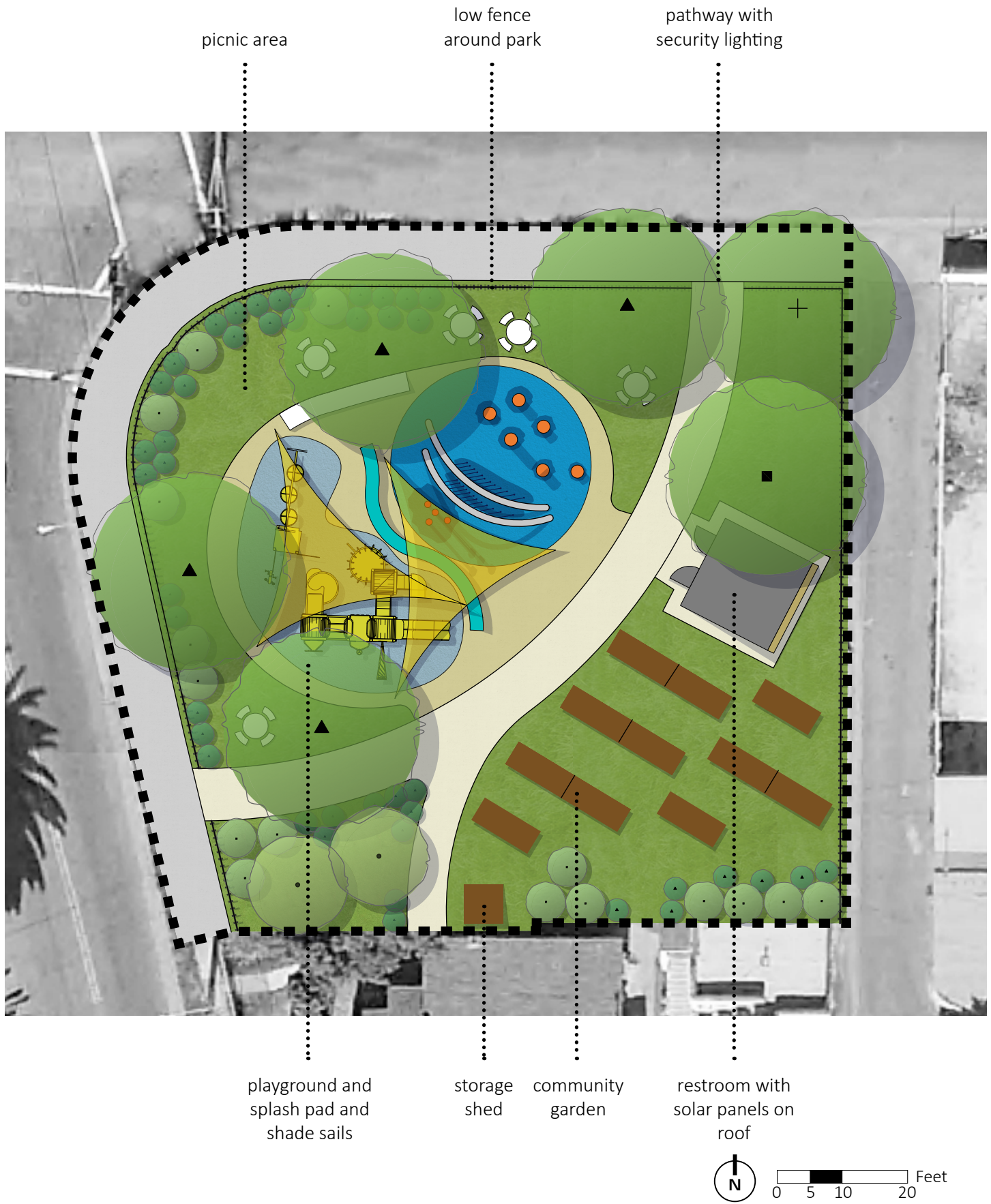
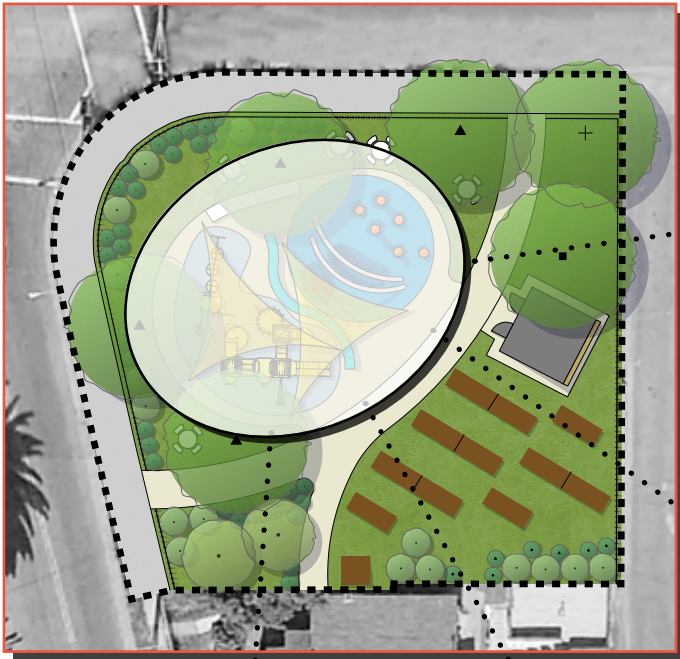


FIGURE 6.6 POTENTIAL CENTRAL FEATURE



SKATE PARK



MULTIPURPOSE COURT
source: Wikimedia



NATURE PLAYGROUND
source: Amigos de los Rios



SPLASH PAD



Play spaces. Central to the design is a play space for younger children. Increasing options for play throughout the community ensures that the community’s youngest residents have access to outdoor recreation.



Gathering Places. Tables and picnic areas around the park allow the space to be used in a more dynamic way, such as birthday parties, as well as provide places for caregivers to gather while the children play.



Spaces for Teens. Some pocket park sites could be dedicated to older kids with more advanced play elements, such as skate parks, parkour features, and sports courts, providing teens with active recreation spaces. Additionally, the green elements of the park, including trees and landscape, can have a calming impact, potentially reducing stress of park users, an important benefit for teens transitioning into adulthood.



Energy Conservation and Production. A small pocket park will have limited energy needs, including safety lighting and restroom electricity, which could be offset through the use of solar panels.



Splash Pad. Willowbrook currently does not have a splash pad, which could be integrated into a small park space. This feature would attract many children to the space, particularly on extremely warm days.



Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space. Trees and plants in the pocket park provide habitat for urban wildlife, as well as environmental education learning opportunities for young people.



Healthy Food. Including a community garden space in the pocket park allows residents to grow their own produce and increases access to healthy food choices.



Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk. Stations around the play area would provide caregivers opportunities to exercise while children play.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS PARK

SITE SUMMARY

Community health is a major priority for Willowbrook residents, as well as a major focus of planning initiatives in the community. Beyond providing places for exercise, this concept additionally involves healthy environments, access to healthy food, and peaceful places to reduce stress. This conceptual park is intended to provide a vision for a wellness park in Willowbrook. The park would likely be located in the MLK Wellness area, although concepts could easily be applied to other locations in Willowbrook. The sample site used in the conceptual design workshop includes three vacant lots along a residential street, divided by housing. The site is adjacent to the freeway, but separated by a vegetated berm.

COMMUNITY VISION

Due to the layout of the sample site including three sections, the community design group decided to utilize the division to create three distinctive park spaces with a different wellness focus. The western space has a quieter feel with more naturalistic design elements, the central space is a community

SUMMARY OF SITE CONDITIONS

size: 1.64 ACRES

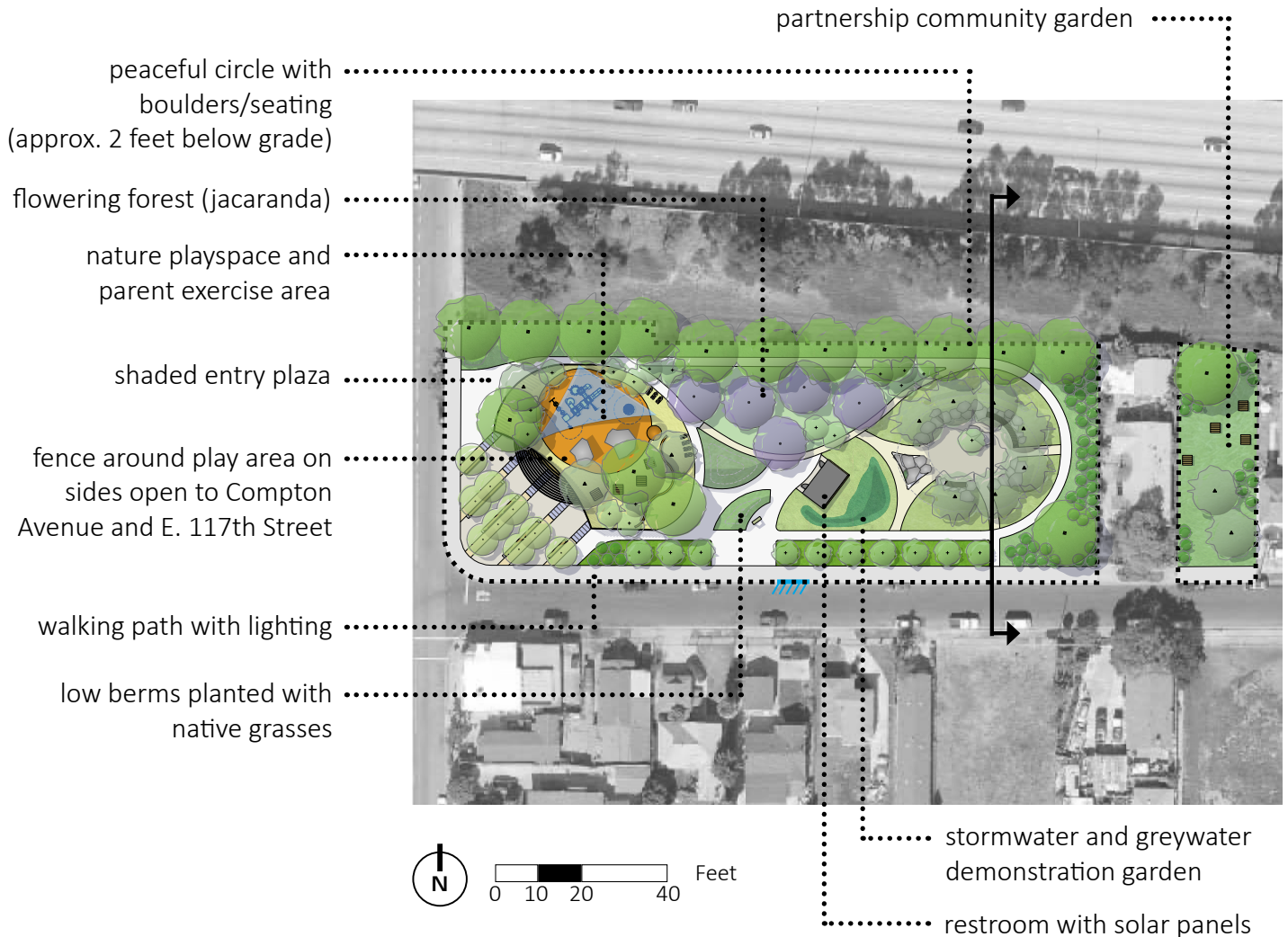
potential park type: POCKET PARK(S)

garden space; and the eastern space has an active recreation and sports focus.

As part of the design workshop, community participants wrote inspiration words to describe the elements in each of the spaces. Words in the western side included quiet, peaceful, adults, water, serenity, nature park, and rocks. Words in the eastern space included play area, boulders, walking, performance area, recycled water feature, and children.

A perimeter walking path is included in both of the larger spaces. The paths are lined with trees and well-lit. There is also a bathroom in both of the larger spaces. The group considered a water feature for the western side, which they felt would

FIGURE 6.7 COMMUNITY WELLNESS PARK CONCEPT



help people relax. They wanted the site elements to have many natural features, such as native plants and boulders. The eastern active side included a large play area, a performance space and a central gathering space with a large art element. The group considered this area to be highly energetic with places to move and be active in a fun way. Since the sample site was adjacent to the 105 Freeway, the group included a buffer of trees along the freeway edge, both to mitigate sound and potential air pollutants.

SITE DESIGN

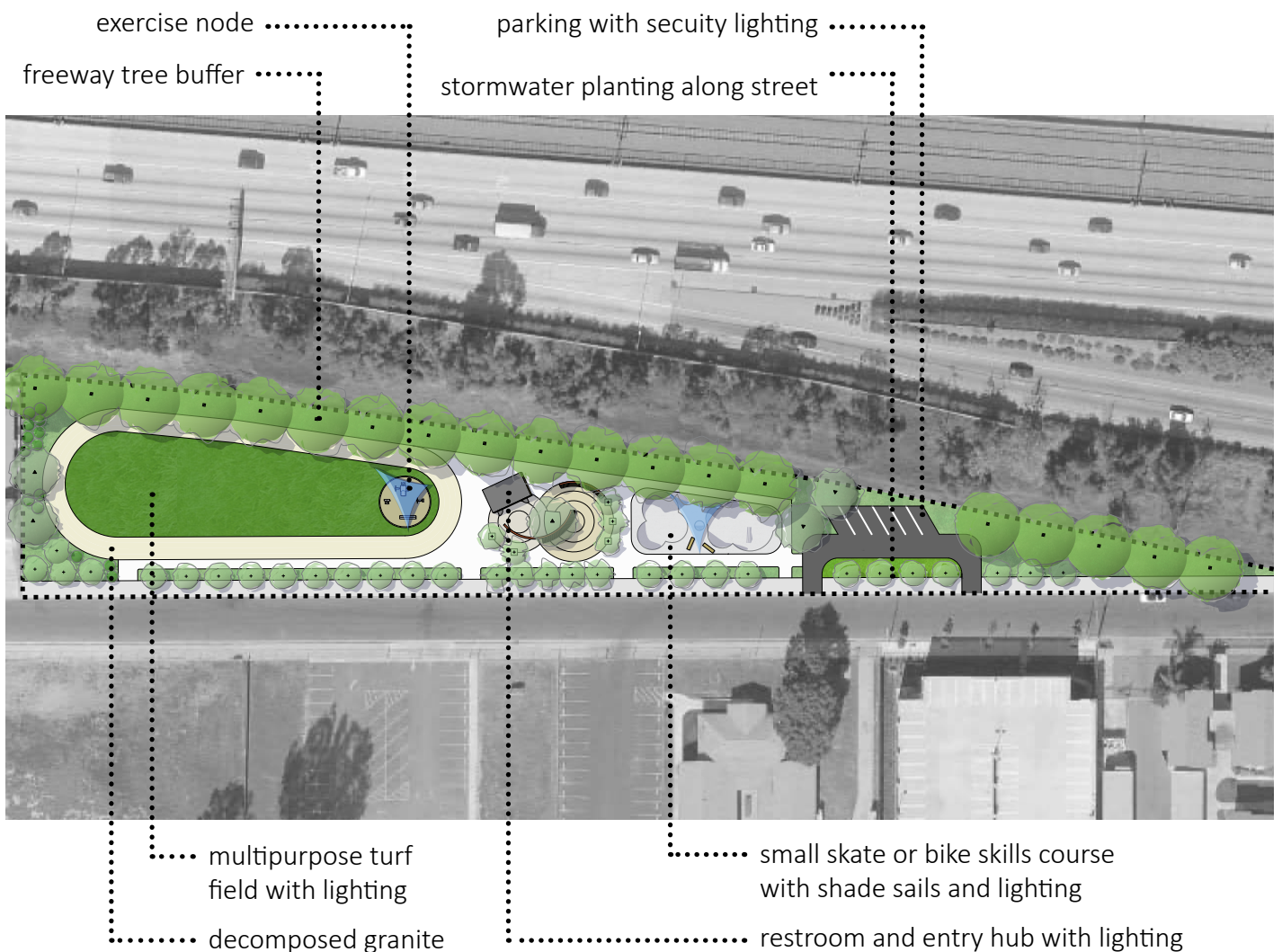
As set up in the community’s vision, the site design includes two distinct park spaces; however, the play area was moved to the passive park to accommodate field space for sports in the more “active” park. By utilizing natural play elements, the play could reference the natural style that the community envisioned and fit with their desired aesthetic of the space.

In addition to the play area, the passive park includes a round gathering space intended to reference a basin or dry creek bed. This area is slightly lower than the rest of the park and surrounded by trees and a small berm. Large boulders form the

edge of the gathering circle and are integrated into wooden benches. The space would be cool and quiet. The perimeter pathway is well shaded and passes through various planting areas, including a stand of *Jacaranda mimifolia* (Jacaranda), which will produce a dramatic flowering effect in the spring. At the corner of the park is a plaza with small trees and trellised seating area to provide a transition zone into the space.

The garden space includes planting beds and a small gathering space. Partnership with a non-profit group, such as LANLT or Los Angeles Community Garden Council, will be important to establish a community connection to a garden space.

The “active” park incorporates the community’s vision of an energetic hub. The space includes a multipurpose field and track, a fitness station, a small skate park or bike skills for older kids, and an entry plaza with community art. Stormwater planters line the park, providing stormwater treatment and a green edge to the park spaces.



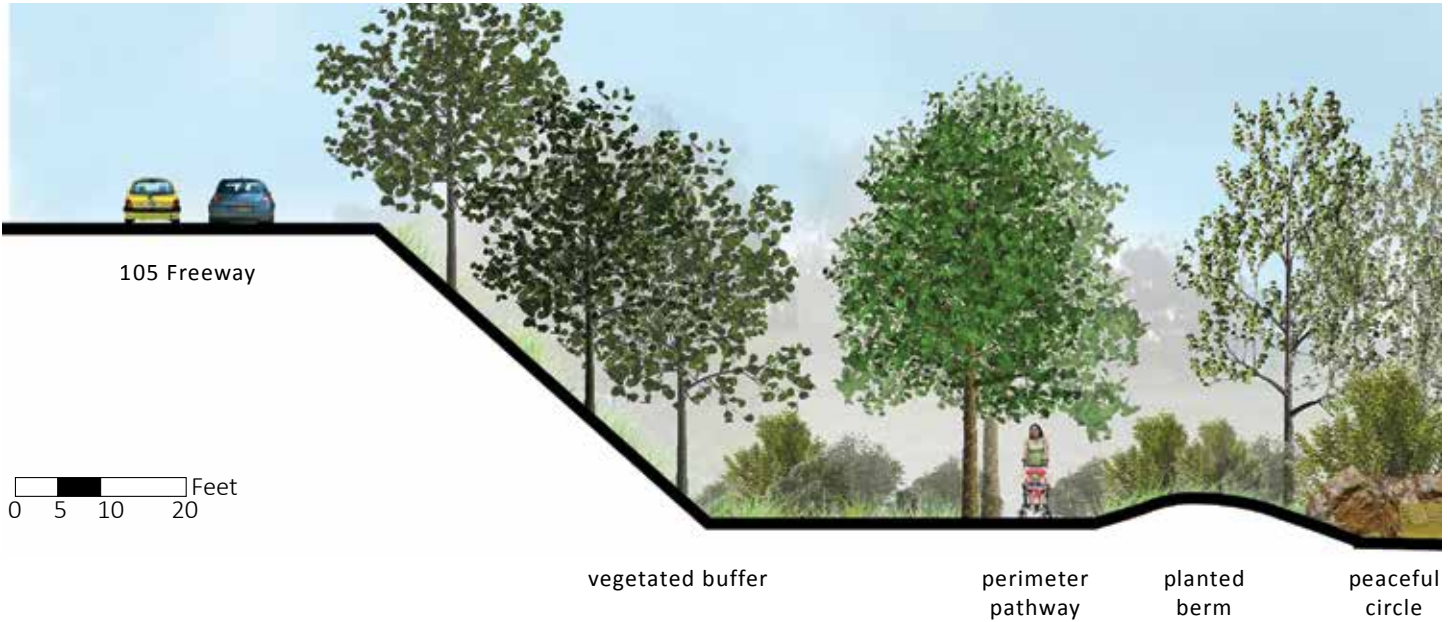


Community Vision Drawing from Design Workshop

FIGURE 6.9 PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS



FIGURE 6.8 CONCEPTUAL CROSS-SECTION OF COMMUNITY WELLNESS PARK



SITE DESIGNS



Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk. The perimeter pathways in both spaces provide new opportunities to walk. Additionally, the field space and fitness stations expand exercise possibilities.



Healthy Food. Small community garden spaces within the Wellness Park will provide space for residents to grow their own healthy foods.



Play spaces. The nature play space provides opportunity for play as well and the native plant areas and green infrastructure environmental education possibilities.



Arts Facility. Public art installations can help engage people with a space. Additionally, they help can help brand a park, such as utilizing images of healthy lifestyles and behaviors to signify its purpose at the Community Wellness Park.



Spaces for Teens. A skate park or bike skills park, as well as the multipurpose field, provide space for active recreation for teens.



Green Infrastructure. Swales along the streets will treat stormwater. The greywater from restroom sinks can be processed in a demonstration facility. The trees will help filter particulates from the freeway runoff.



Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space. The natural style of the “peaceful” park will provide residents with an opportunity for relaxation and rejuvenation, as well as habitat for wildlife.



Energy Conservation and Production. Energy needs, including safety lighting and restroom electricity, could be offset through the use of solar panels.



peaceful circle

native planting

perimeter pathway
swale sidewalk

E. 117th Street



7 - IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Willowbrook Community Parks and Recreation Plan will require long-term financing and strategic administrative policies for acquisitions, construction, and maintenance. This chapter recommends strategies and implementation actions, and identifies funding resources and partnership agreements for achieving the “Access Willowbrook Parks” vision.

SUMMARY OF GOALS

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

1. *Create a regional and local hub at Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area.*
2. *Improve access to existing parkland system by creating safe corridors for pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians, and developing a greenway network.*
3. *Provide all residents with safe places to walk for exercise.*
4. *Ensure that recreational facilities and programs meet community needs and that residents are included in the decision-making process.*
5. *Expand the recreational opportunities within Willowbrook’s park system to incorporate more arts and cultural activities, as well as healthy food and lifestyle amenities.*
6. *Improve actual and perceived safety of Willowbrook’s parkland system.*
7. *Increase the sense of nature within the parkland system and in the everyday lives of Willowbrook residents.*
8. *Maintain and enhance Willowbrook’s urban forest.*
9. *Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.*

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

STRATEGIES

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

1. **CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AT EXISTING PARKS TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SUPPORT DPR’S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS.** In general, parks in Willowbrook are well maintained and well used. However, specific improvements to existing facilities, as well as the implementation of the Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area Master Plan can ensure that the spaces continue to be valuable community assets.

2. **CREATE BIKEWAYS AND TRAILS AS COMMUNITY CONNECTORS.** New multi-use trails provide new opportunities to walk and create connections between green space. Additionally, the implementation of the Los Angeles County Bike Master Plan will improve community connectivity for cyclists. These resources could improve non-vehicular access to parks, increasing exercise opportunities for the user and decreasing emissions on the roadways.

3. **STRATEGICALLY ACQUIRE VACANT LOTS FOR GREENING THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.** Existing and underutilized parcels could be transformed into new green space for recreational and green infrastructure use.

4. **DEVELOP COMMUNITY PARKS, PARK NODES, AND COMMUNITY PATHS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY’S DESIRE FOR EXERCISE AND FITNESS.** New wellness opportunities need to be explored at existing facilities and at new locations. These interventions could include new walking paths, exercise equipment, or spaces for outdoor wellness events, as well as peaceful spaces that can help reduce stress among residents.

5. **SUPPORT EQUESTRIAN USES IN THE COMMUNITY.** Willowbrook and its neighbors have a active urban equestrian presence, as seen through the Compton Junior Posse Youth Equestrian Program and current horse use at existing Willowbrook parks, including use of field space for riding exercise. New equestrian-specific facilities, such as the proposed riding stable and ring at Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area and trails that accommodate horses will expand capacity to accommodate this use in the community.

6. **PROVIDE NATURE SPACES WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND PEACEFUL PLACES TO RELAX.** Willowbrook is densely developed but the existing parks serve as important nodes for natural processes and habitat. New park development could facilitate increased interaction with the natural world and provide opportunities for youth to learn about their environment. Additionally, these serene places could provide important stress reducing experiences. Existing resources, such as Compton Creek and sites near schools, provide excellent nature learning opportunities.

7. CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH. Healthy and safe recreation options for young people in Willowbrook is a community priority 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.

8. ENHANCE CAPACITY WITHIN COMMUNITY FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE. Currently there are limited opportunities for performance and outdoor events in Willowbrook. A new performance space or outdoor gathering venue would significantly add to the cultural life of Willowbrook residents.

9. EXPAND DPR'S CAPACITY TO ASSIST WITH REMEDIATION AND CLEANUP OF SITES AS PART OF NEW PARK DEVELOPMENT. Contaminated sites or sites considered to be contaminated are dangerous to the community and have limited development potential. Typically, these spaces are not deemed desirable for park development, but in urban areas with built-out conditions, they should be considered and remediated where appropriate. Furthermore, cleaning a contaminated site would provide important benefits in terms of public and environmental health.

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

11. IMPROVE ACTUAL AND PERCEIVED SAFETY WITHIN EXISTING WILLOWBROOK PARKS AND IN FUTURE PARK SPACES. Concern for safety is a potential impediment to using parks and open space. A strong commitment to public safety will ensure that park facilities are enjoyable and accessible to all residents.

12. CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH COMMUNITY ABOUT PARK NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN PARK ADMINISTRATION. The planning process for the Community Parks and Recreation Plan started an important relationship and conversation 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.

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

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

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

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



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

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	1.1 Implement the Master Plan for Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area. Ensure that renovation accommodates identified community needs including: splash pad, outdoor performance space, and equestrian center.		●		
	1.2 Install three (3) new bike racks at George Washington Carver Park	●			
	1.3 Create a community walking path around perimeter of Athens Park and Mona Park.	●			
	1.4 Add a splash pad or water play area to George Washington Carver Park.		●		
	1.5 Add playground equipment, including a large slide at Mona Park.	●			
	1.6 Find opportunities to add playground and exercise equipment at Athens Park.	●			
WATER CONSERVATION					
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	1.5 Ensure all existing parks meet requirements set forth in Executive Order B-29-15 to address State drought actions.	●			
	1.6 Perform a preliminary water audit of all existing County parks and perform additional audits biannually.	●			●
	1.7 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.	●			●
	1.8 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.	●			
	1.9 Monitor regularly for potential leaks in plumbing and replace quickly when leak is identified.				●
1.10 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.	●			●	

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	1.11 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.				●
	1.12 Explore opportunities for demonstration spaces that highlight water efficient planting and irrigation.		●		
	1.13 Introduce recycled water for irrigation at existing and new County parks. <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				
	1.14 Increase stormwater management potential at existing parks and ensure that new parks maximize stormwater retention onsite. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the design of new parks, use the standards of a "designated project" outlined in Chapter 12.84 of the Los Angeles County Code: Low Impact Development Standards, requiring either 100-percent stormwater retention on-site or low-impact design strategies to mitigate whatever is not retained onsite. • Research capacity to utilize park spaces as urban sponges for street runoff by integrating curb cuts along park edges and creating stormwater basins along parks. • Replace existing paving with permeable paving in parking lots and use pervious surfaces in new County parks. 				●

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

Source: Los Angeles County DPR

The California State Water Resources Control Board proposed that Golden State Water Company, which provides water to Willowbrook, reduce usage by 20% to achieve mandatory statewide conservation goal of 25% reduction.

Source: State Water Resources Control Board

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREEN BUILDINGS				
	1.15 Install solar panels in exposed parking lots or on roofs at existing and new County parks.		●		
	1.16 Utilize paving materials with low albedo to reduce surface temperatures.				●
	1.17 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 property is in conformance with the County’s Green Building Ordinances.				●
	1.18 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.				●
	1.19 Select buildings in existing parks to pursue LEED EB (Existing Building) certification for existing buildings on park properties by addressing whole-building cleaning and maintenance issues (including chemical use), recycling programs, exterior maintenance program, and systems upgrades; and implement certification.	●			
	CARBON SEQUESTRATION				
	1.20 Maintain and enhance park forest following the recommendations set forth in the urban forestry implementation actions below.				●
	1.21 Utilize an organic approach to soils management to improve organic matter content, which will in turn increase carbon sequestration in the soil. See “Healthy Soil” below.				●
	HEALTHY SOIL				
1.22 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 five percent using quality green-waste compost. If needed, implement recommendations to improve soil tilth, drainage, and carbon sequestrering potential.		●		●	
1.23 Turf maintenance shall include grasscycling and topdressing turf with finely screened quality compost after aeration and/or one to four times per year to maintain a healthy, living soil profile.				●	

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

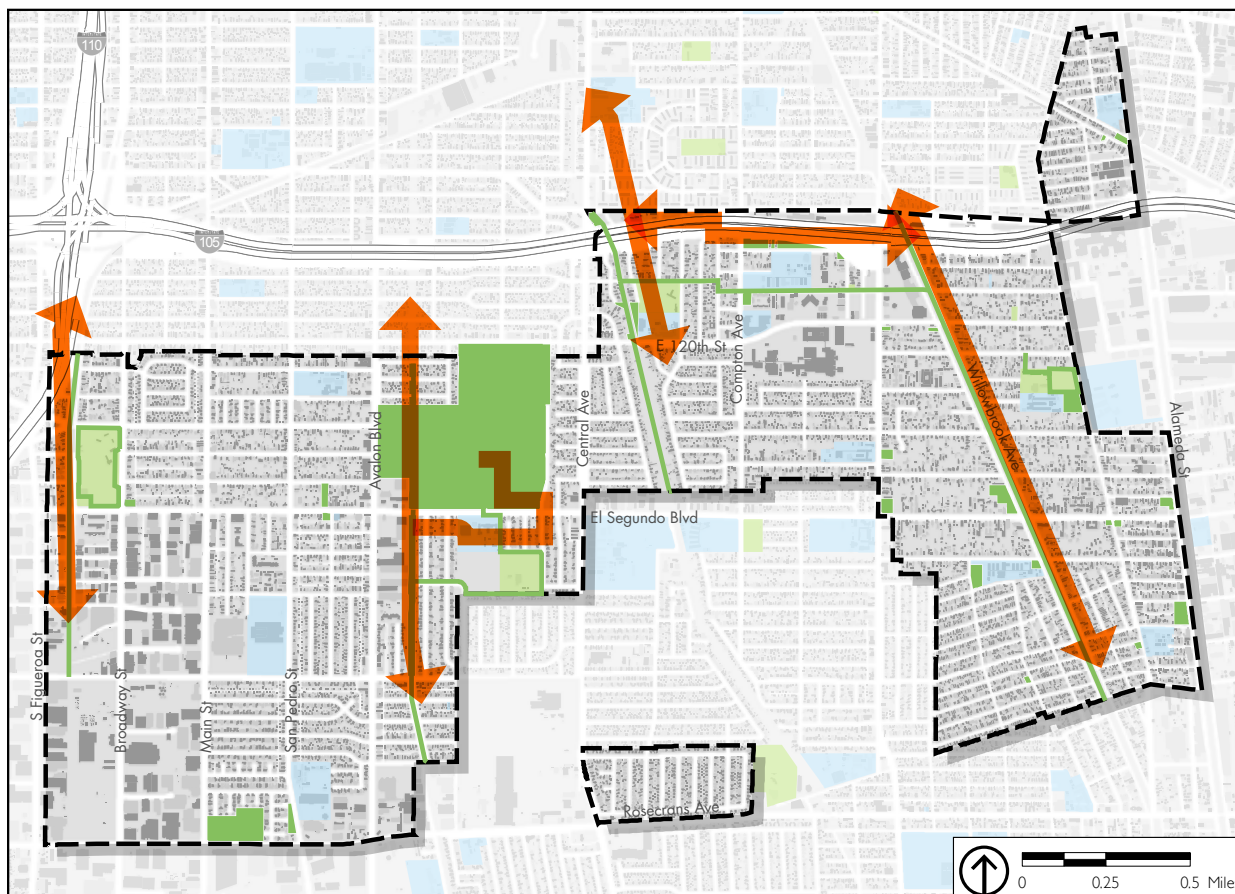
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	<p>1.24 All landscaped areas shall receive a regular reapplication of organic mulch, preferably shredded tree/shrub trimmings, to a minimum depth of 3 inches for all exposed soil to minimize evapotranspiration, protect against compaction and maintain overall soil health.</p>				●
	<p>1.25 Plant and soil amendments for maintenance shall be specified as compost, compost tea, or other naturally occurring and non-synthetic fertilizers for all landscaped areas.</p>				●
	ADMINISTRATIVE PROTOCOLS				
	<p>1.26 Establish and implement guidelines for operation, design, and development of existing and new park facilities that will meet the needs of the Willowbrook 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 design which promotes efficient use of water and energy. • Landscape design which uses drought tolerant and native plants where appropriate. • Use the construction material with recycled content. • Reduce generation of water 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>1.27 Implement the County's Energy and Environmental Policy at County Parks in Willowbrook, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and Water Efficiency Program • Environmental Stewardship Program • Sustainable Design Program 				●	

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

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

STRATEGY 2: Create bikeways and trails as community connectors.

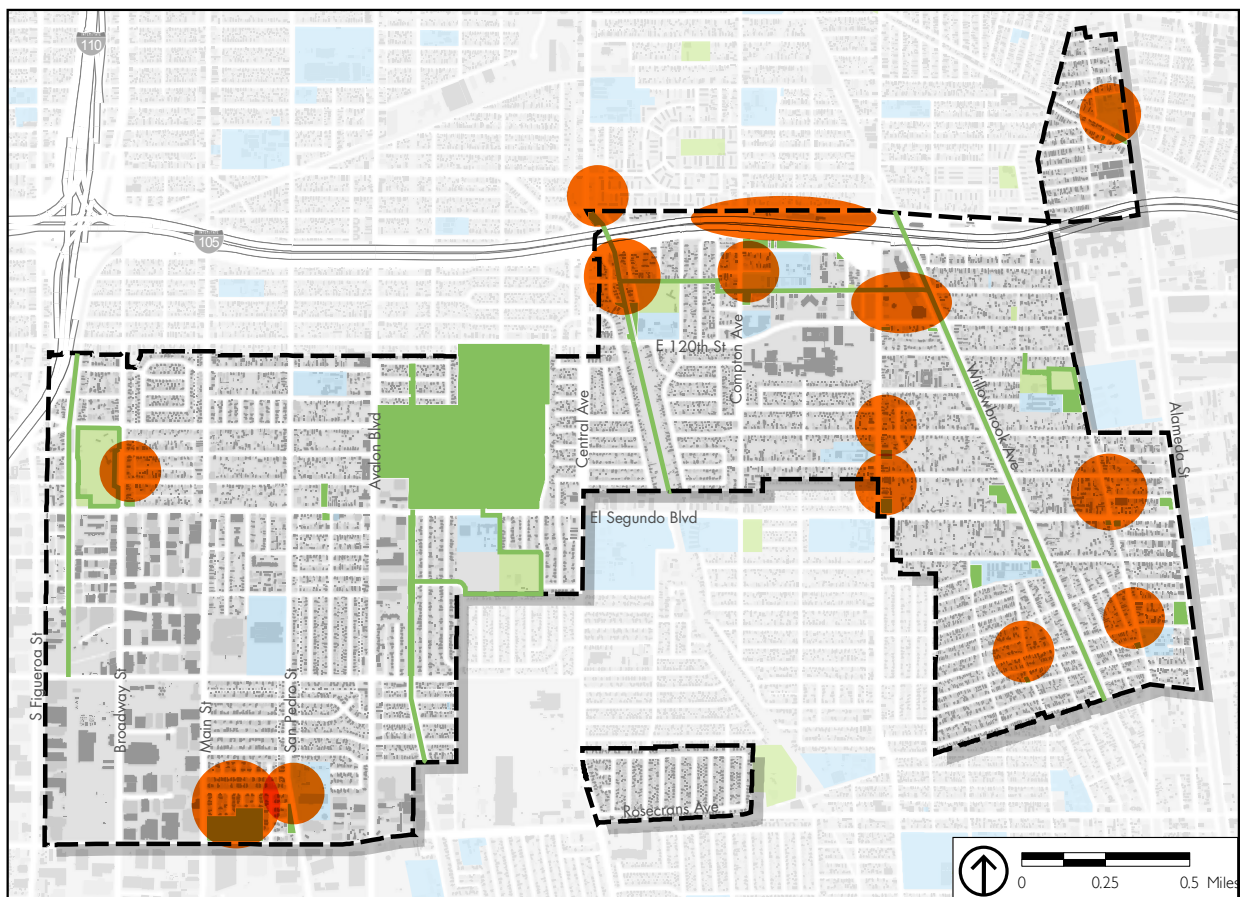
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	<p>2.1 Partner with Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) to create a multi-use trail along utility corridor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop corridor north of Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area connecting to Watts. Develop corridor south of El Segundo Boulevard to to Compton Avenue. 	●	●		
	<p>2.2 Partner with the Flood Control District to implement the Compton Creek Master Plan through Willowbrook.</p>	●			●
	<p>2.3 Coordinate with Metro and DPW in the potential development of a bikeway along the Metro rail corridor on Willowbrook Avenue.</p>		●		
	<p>2.4 Develop a sidewalk trail between Enterprise Park and Magic Johnson Recreation Area, as well as between the Rosa Parks Metro station to the Compton Creek trail.</p>			●	
	<p>2.5 Coordinate with DPW and explore the development of a bikeway along the Southern Pacific rail corridor on the west side of the community, emphasizing a neighborhood connection to Athens Park.</p>			●	



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 3: Strategically acquire vacant lots for greening throughout the community.

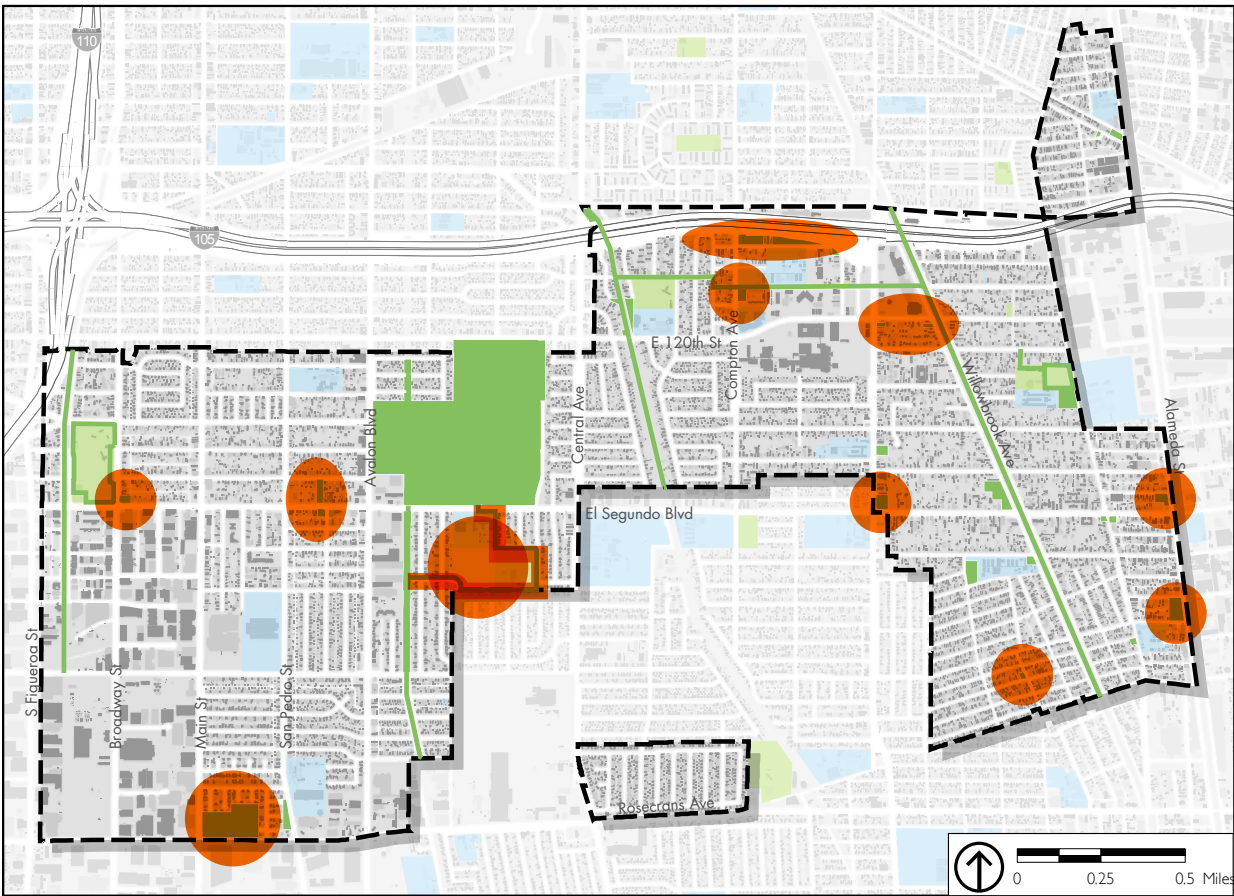
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	3.1 Reach out to owners of currently vacant lots identified in this plan for potential acquisition.	●			
	3.2 Conduct an annual review of vacancies along key corridors to identify potential new acquisitions, including vacant buildings and foreclosed properties.				●
	3.3 When pursuing new acquisitions and potential projects on vacant lots, focus on opportunities for fitness and exercise, nature experiences, and potential for places to gather and promote cultural identity.				●
	3.4 Create a corridor of pocket parks along El Segundo Boulevard to complement the bike route planned for this street.		●		



IMPLEMENTATION

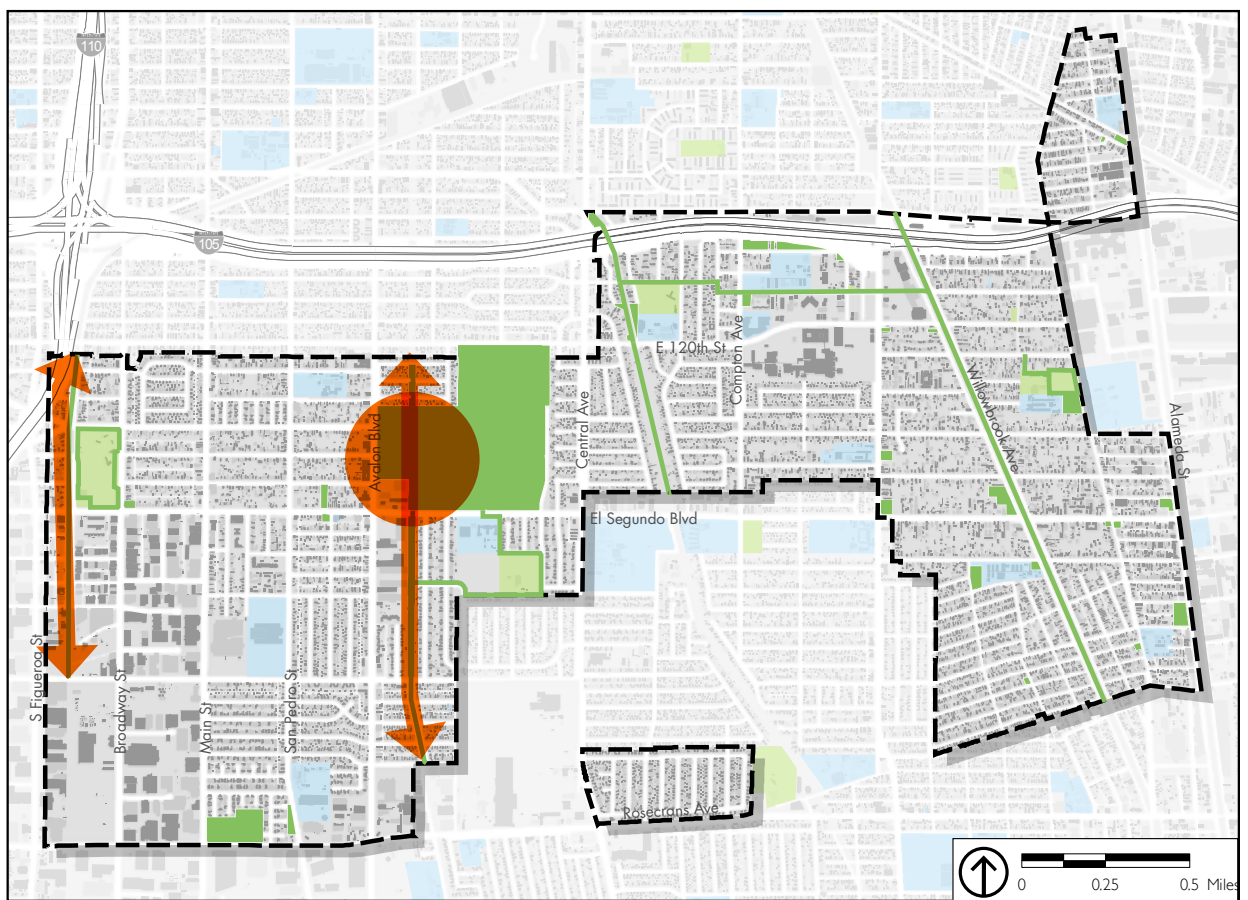
STRATEGY 4: Develop community parks, park nodes, and community paths to support the community’s desire for exercise and fitness.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	4.1 Create exercise walking loop connecting Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area and Enterprise Park with fitness stations along path.			●	
	4.3 Create mobile program unit to travel to provide programs, such as exercise classes, yoga, and dance at small pocket parks.		●		



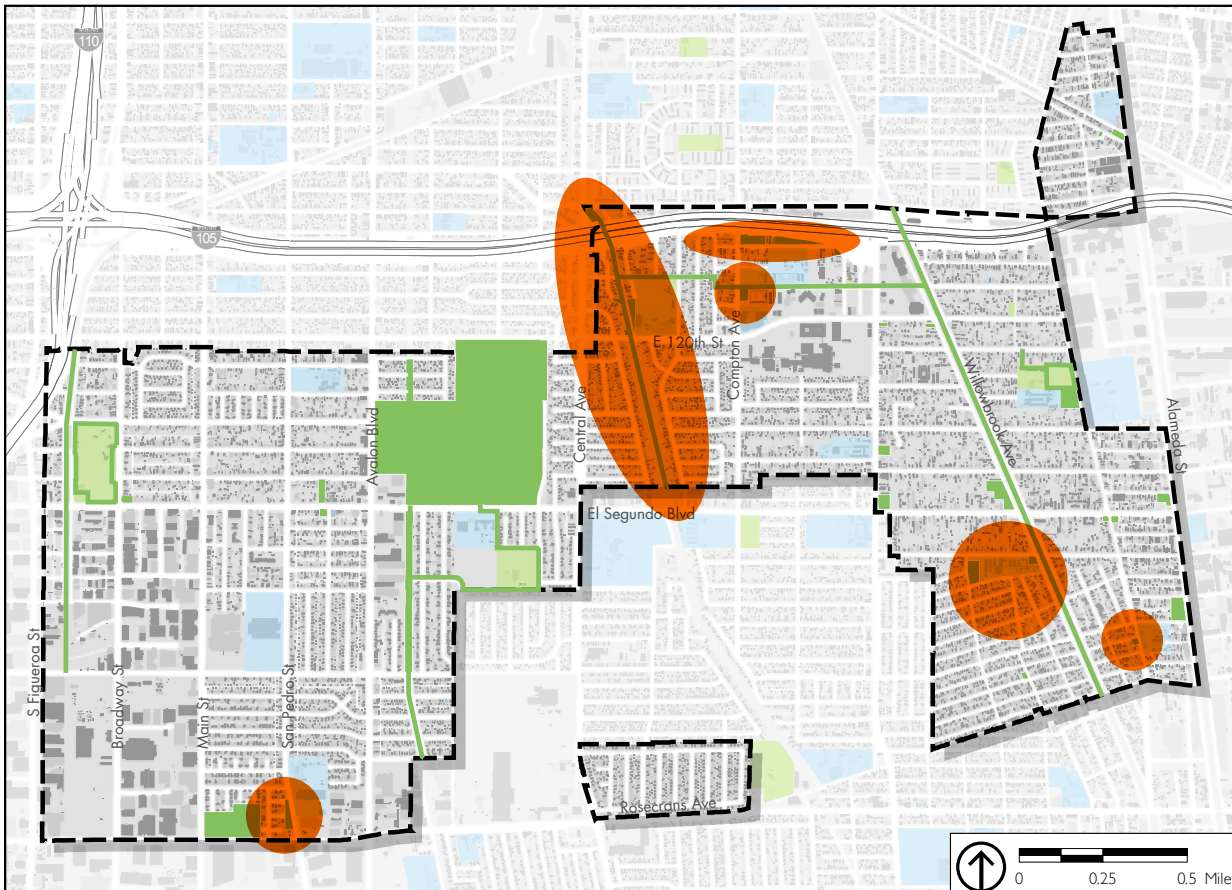
STRATEGY 5: Support equestrian uses in the community.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	5.1 Open the equestrian center in the early phases of the renovation of Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area.		●		
	5.2 Accommodate equestrian uses on trails connecting to Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area and the future equestrian center.			●	
	5.3 Accommodate equestrian trail use along Southern Pacific rail corridor.			●	



STRATEGY 6: Provide nature spaces with opportunities for environmental education and peaceful places to relax.

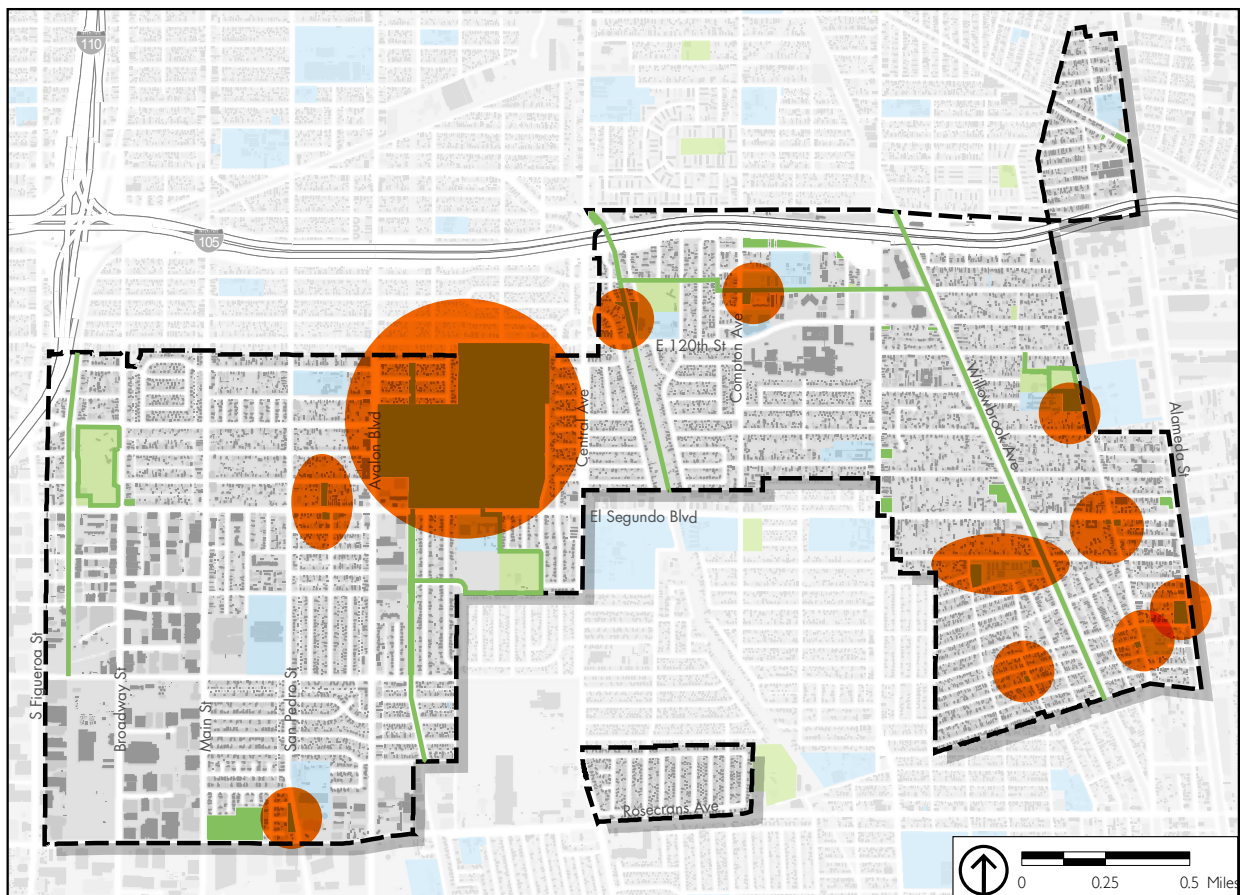
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	6.1 Create park nodes along the Compton Creek corridor that emphasizes creek ecology and natural riparian systems.	●			
	6.2 Create a new pocket park in MLK Wellness Community that emphasizes stress reduction and peaceful contemplation.	●			●
	6.3 Create a habitat and native plant garden as part of a new pocket park as exemplified in the Wellness Pocket Park concept plan.				●
	6.4 Integrate California native plants and informational signage into site designs of new parks.				●
	6.5 Partner with DPW and Flood Control District to create green corridors, such as forested tree corridors and green infrastructure elements, within Willowbrook to facilitate movement of urban wildlife through the community.		●		



IMPLEMENTATION

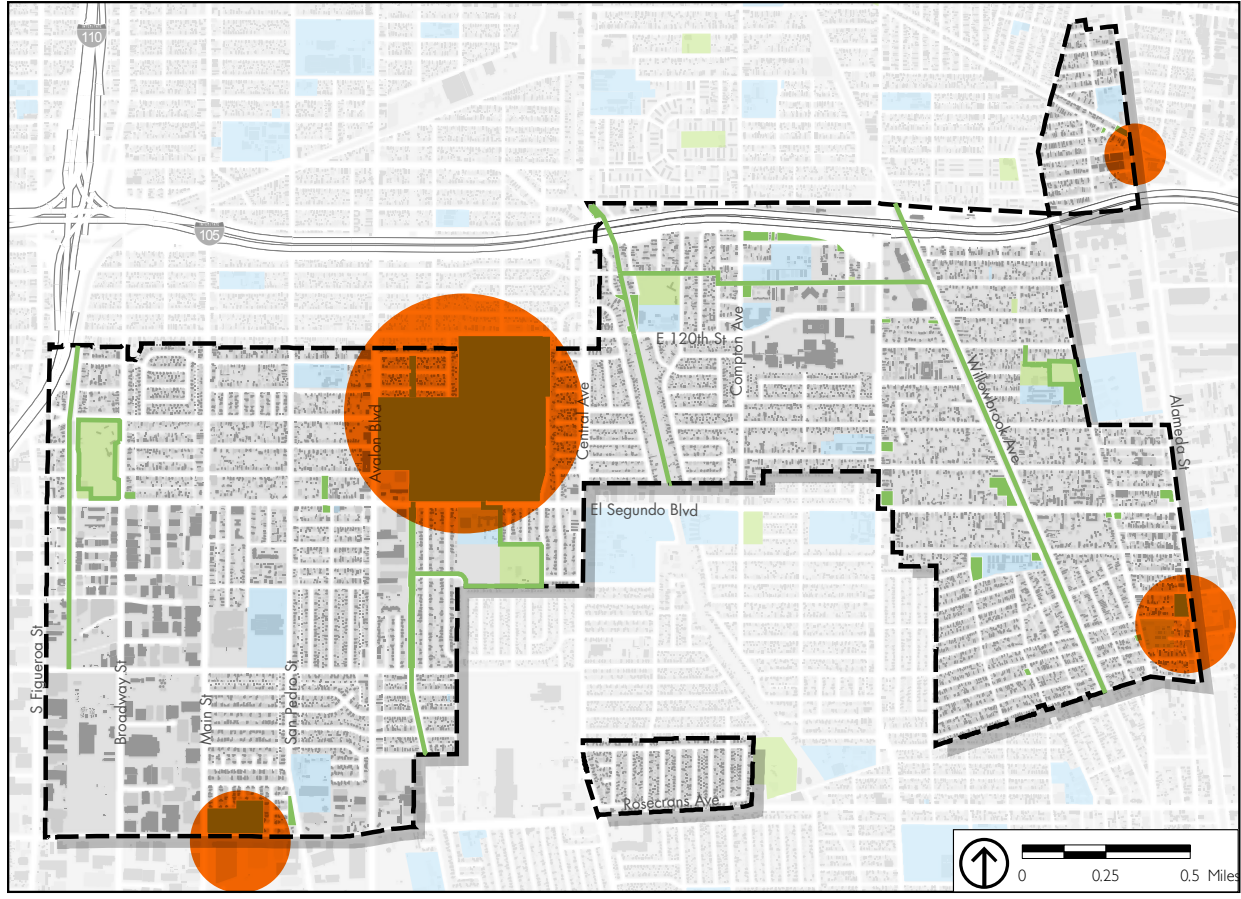
STRATEGY 7: Create new opportunities for children and youth.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	7.1 Develop joint use agreement with Martin Luther King Elementary School for renovation of field.	●			
	7.2 Develop joint use agreement with Anderson Elementary School for new play facilities.	●			
	7.3 Include new playgrounds and a splash pad as part of the redevelopment of Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area.		●		
	7.4 Create a pocket park in southeast Willowbrook with central play area or splash pad.	●			
	7.5 Include play equipment, and creative elements such as climbing boulders and climbing walls, in new parks.				●
	7.6 Contact local churches to explore the possibility of basketball courts on their parking areas when not in use.	●			
	7.7 Partner with Los Angeles County Arts Commission to develop strategy to implement the Willowbrook Hub or Dance Willowbrook arts program proposed in <i>Project Willowbrook: Cultivating a Healthy Community Through Arts and Culture</i> .		●		



STRATEGY 8: Enhance capacity within community for cultural activities and performance.

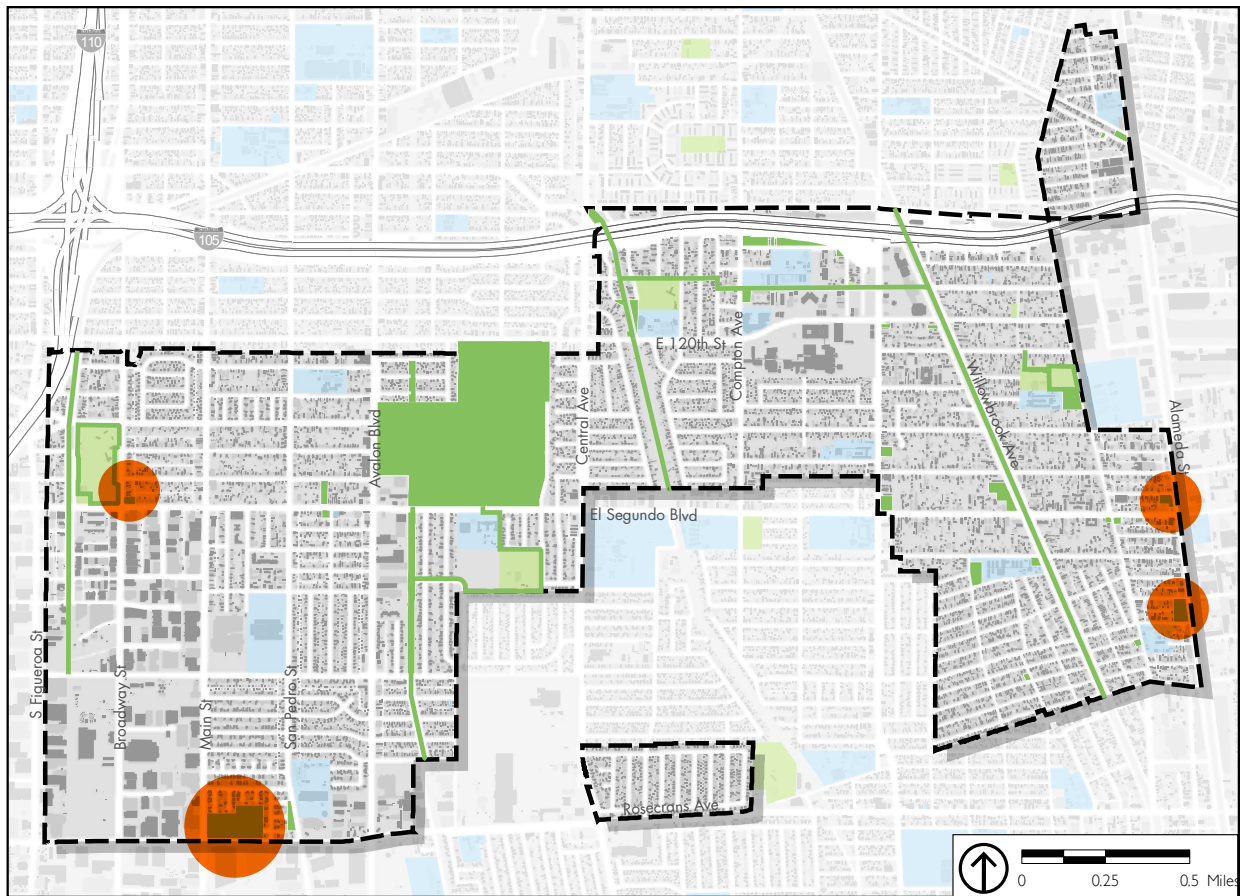
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	8.1 Include wide range of programs and areas for cultural activities at Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area, including an outdoor amphitheater.		●		
	8.2 Develop arts-centered programs, such as community performances or movie screenings at existing and new parks.				●
	8.3 Continue to partner with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to include art pieces in new parks.				●
	8.4 Explore the concept of an arts plaza at Alameda Street and Santa Ana Boulevard and to create a visual connection to Watts tower.			●	
	8.5 Incorporate an “Art Walk” into the DWP corridor north of Earvin ‘Magic’ Johnson Recreation Area.	●			



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 9: Expand DPR’s capacity to assist with remediation and cleanup of sites as part of new park development.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	9.1 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 sites with suspected contamination due to previous use.				●
	9.2 Choose a site to investigate as a test case for remediation and park creation.			●	
	9.3 Consider the use of pocket forests for phyto-remediation benefits.			●	



STRATEGY 10: Maximize urban forestry potential.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
EXISTING PARKS	10.1 Enhance and maintain forest in existing parks. Monitor and replace trees as needed	●			●
	ATHENS PARK 18.71 Acres 221 Existing Trees 26% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 26%				●
	As trees need to be replaced, retain diverse placement throughout the park. Athens Park has a high percentage of <i>Pinus halepensis</i> (Aleppo Pine) in its urban forest (17.16% of population). Avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.				●
	ENTERPRISE PARK 10.02 Acres 123 Existing Trees 29% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 29%				●
	Replace trees needed to retain high percentage of canopy coverage. Enterprise Park has high diversity among tree species. Continue to plant a variety of trees. The park has the highest percentage of <i>Fraxinus uhdei</i> (Evergreen Ash) in its urban forest (19.5%). Consider using a different species when replacing trees at the park.				●
GEORGE WASHINGTON CARVER PARK 7 Acres 87 Existing Trees 24% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 24%				●	
Consider using more “statement” trees, such as the flowering <i>Jacaranda mimosifolia</i> (Jacaranda) in front of swimming pool entrance, strategically throughout the park, such as in the play area, which currently has little shade. Consider removing and replacing some <i>Pinus canariensis</i> (Canary Island Pine) , which makes up 59% of the park forest, and avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.				●	
MLK JR. FITNESS GARDEN 0.26 Acres 31 Existing Trees 19% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 19%				●	
Monitor and maintain the trees to ensure that they maximize canopy cover. As trees need to be replaced, consider diversifying the selected species from the five species of trees used in the park.				●	

Implementation Actions			Phasing			
			Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
EXISTING PARKS	<p>MONA PARK 7.8 Acres 50 Existing Trees 14% Canopy Cover</p> <p>TARGET CANOPY COVER: 15%</p>	<p>New trees could be planted in the following areas to increase overall coverage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the Park along S. Mona Boulevard to buffer the park from the active street. Consider replacing palms with shade trees or species with lower canopy heights. • In or around the parking lot. Currently there are very few trees providing shade to the parking lot. Consider reducing the total number of spaces or shortening spaces to add trees. • Increase cover around internal pathways near community center to shade pedestrians. <p>When planting new trees or replacing existing ones, consider that Mona Park has a high percentage of <i>Pinus canariensis</i> (Canary Island pine) in its urban forest (24% of population). Avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.</p>				•
	<p>EARVIN “MAGIC” JOHNSON RECREATION AREA 103.89 Acres 1,185 Existing Trees 15% Canopy Cover</p> <p>TARGET CANOPY COVER: 15%</p>	<p>Where possible during redevelopment of the Park, it is recommended that DPR retain as many large shade trees as possible while replacing ones that are removed.</p> <p>When selecting new species, consider that Earvin “Magic” Johnson Recreation Area has a high percentage of Canary Island pine (<i>Pinus canariensis</i>) in its current urban forest (14.64% of population). Avoid excessive use of this species in future planting to enhance tree diversity.</p>			•	
NEW	10.2	Ensure maximum of 15% urban forest cover at new County parks.				•

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
10.3 Partners with other agencies and groups to enhance urban forest throughout the community.					●
County DPW	<p>Street Corridors</p> <p>Add street trees, particularly along the street corridors in high need areas (see Figure 5.5).</p> <p>Trees should be planted along corridors that connect parks and other open space. This will help to address residents’ desire for increased walking and exercise opportunities.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to bury utility lines to increase planting opportunities.</p>		●		●
Flood Control District	<p>Riparian Corridors</p> <p>Utilize riparian trees along Compton Creek. Opportunities include the creek right-of-way and vacant lots along the channel.</p> <p>Refer to Compton Creek Master Plan for consistency with creek plan outside of Willowbrook.</p> <p>Use riparian trees for stormwater collection or natural drainage areas with high levels of water.</p>	●			●
DWP	<p>Utility Corridors (Future Parks)</p> <p>Plant trees within utility corridors, where appropriate, to provide shade for people moving through the corridor and beautify the community.</p>				●
Metro & Southern Pacific RR	<p>Rail Corridors</p> <p>Plant additional trees along active Metro rail corridor on Willowbrook Avenue or replace existing species to enhance diversity within the urban forest.</p> <p>Create new urban forest corridor along rail line near S. Figueroa Street between W. El Segundo Boulevard and W. 135th Street (see Figure 5.5). This will greatly help to enhance the urban forest of the community by adding trees to bare and underutilized land and potentially enhance new pedestrian routes through the community.</p>			●	●
Caltrans	<p>Freeway Buffers</p> <p>Create buffers from freeways by planting trees along remnant parcels and vacant lots along the 105.</p> <p>Actively collaborate with Caltrans regarding projects within the Caltrans right-of-way.</p>		●		●

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
Property Owners	<p>Vacant Lots (Pocket Forests)</p> <p>Explore opportunities for vacant lots to become pocket parks or pocket forests.</p> <p>Coordinate with property owners, community, and stakeholders.</p>				●
	<p>Vacant Lots (Orchards)</p> <p>Building off community interest for gardening, consider using larger vacant lots for community orchards.</p> <p>Recommended fruit trees include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citrus varieties (blood orange, Meyer lemon, other citrus) • <i>Persea americana</i> 'Gwen' (Gwen avocado) • <i>Persea americana</i> 'Reed' (Reed avocado) • <i>Prunus armeniaca</i> 'Blenheim' (Blenheim apricot) • <i>Prunus persica</i> 'Lovell' (Lovell peach) • <i>Punica granatum</i> 'Wonderful' (wonderful pomegranate) • <i>Macadamia</i> 'Beaumont' (Beaumont Macadamia) 				●
	<p>Residential Yards</p> <p>Educate residents about benefits of tree planting and offer tools to encourage and inspire residential projects, including through community involvement in Park Urban Forest projects.</p> <p>Encourage development of programs for utility companies to provide shade trees to home owners to increase community forest canopy and reduce residential energy use (HR2454 appropriated funds from the DOE to local utility companies for strategic tree planting).</p> <p>Encourage the use of Preferred Tree List in Appendix E.</p>				●

STRATEGY 11: Improve actual and perceived safety within existing Willowbrook parks and in future park spaces.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
PROGRAMMING	<p>11.1 Expand Parks After Dark into Willowbrook and increase programming to parks that are currently facing security challenges, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area • Carver Park • Athens Park 		•		
LIGHTING	<p>11.2 Extend current lighting hours at local parks to reflect actual times of use, which is typically through 8 p.m. Reach out to community members for input on where lighting is needed.</p>	•			
SUPERVISION	<p>11.3 Direct park staff to conduct regular walking patrols throughout the park, including regular passes through restrooms, and interacting with park users, informing them of any events or updates. Develop a plan for strategically and systematically installing security cameras throughout Willowbrook parks to address visibility challenges.</p>	•			
HOMELESSNESS	<p>11.4 Hold annual job fairs at local parks, including resources such as mental health and housing; augment existing park lunch program to include resources for the homeless; and encourage park staff to develop relationships with frequent homeless at their parks.</p>		•		
EXISTING PARK UPGRADES	<p>11.5 Athens Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase lighting to playing field between gymnasium and play equipment. • Increase lighting to bathroom area on northwest corner of the park. 	•			
	<p>11.6 George Washington Carver Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regularly maintain the gopher holes on the park's baseball fields. • Direct resources to refurbish the park's bathrooms. 	•			
	<p>11.7 Earvin 'Magic' Johnson Recreation Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase lighting through the lake and parking areas. • Upgrade restroom facilities. 	•			
	<p>11.8 Mona Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase lighting around the basketball court near the picnic tables and lawn; the southwestern lawn near the gym and community room; and at the north entrance to the park from E 120th Street. • Install additional water fountains and play equipment. • Develop a regular maintenance plan for restrooms, lawn hazards (sprinklers and gopher holes), and the buffer area between the pool and the gym. 	•			

STRATEGY 12: Continue dialogue with community about park needs and opportunities to be involved in park administration.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	12.1 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.	●			
	12.2 Create ombudsperson for Willowbrook to serve as community liaison between DPR and community members who want to participate in park events and volunteer with the department.	●			

STRATEGY 13: Support initiatives that increase access to parks, recreational facilities, and regional destinations.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATIONAL ACTIONS	13.1 Provide more year-round programming at existing parks.				●
	13.2 Partner with DPW to ensure that The Link shuttle provides service to any new parks developed in Willowbrook.				●
	13.3 Partner with DPW to create Beach Bus service during summer months.	●			
	13.4 Create shuttle program to regional recreational paces, such as the Kenneth Han State Recreation Area and the Santa Monica Mountains.		●		

PARTNERSHIP

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

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

PUBLIC AGENCIES

Joint use agreements are one tool to help implement park and greening projects. There are currently two joint use agreements for facilities in Willowbrook, described in Chapter Two. Additional joint use agreements could be developed for schools in Willowbrook managed by Los Angeles Unified School District and Compton Unified School District.

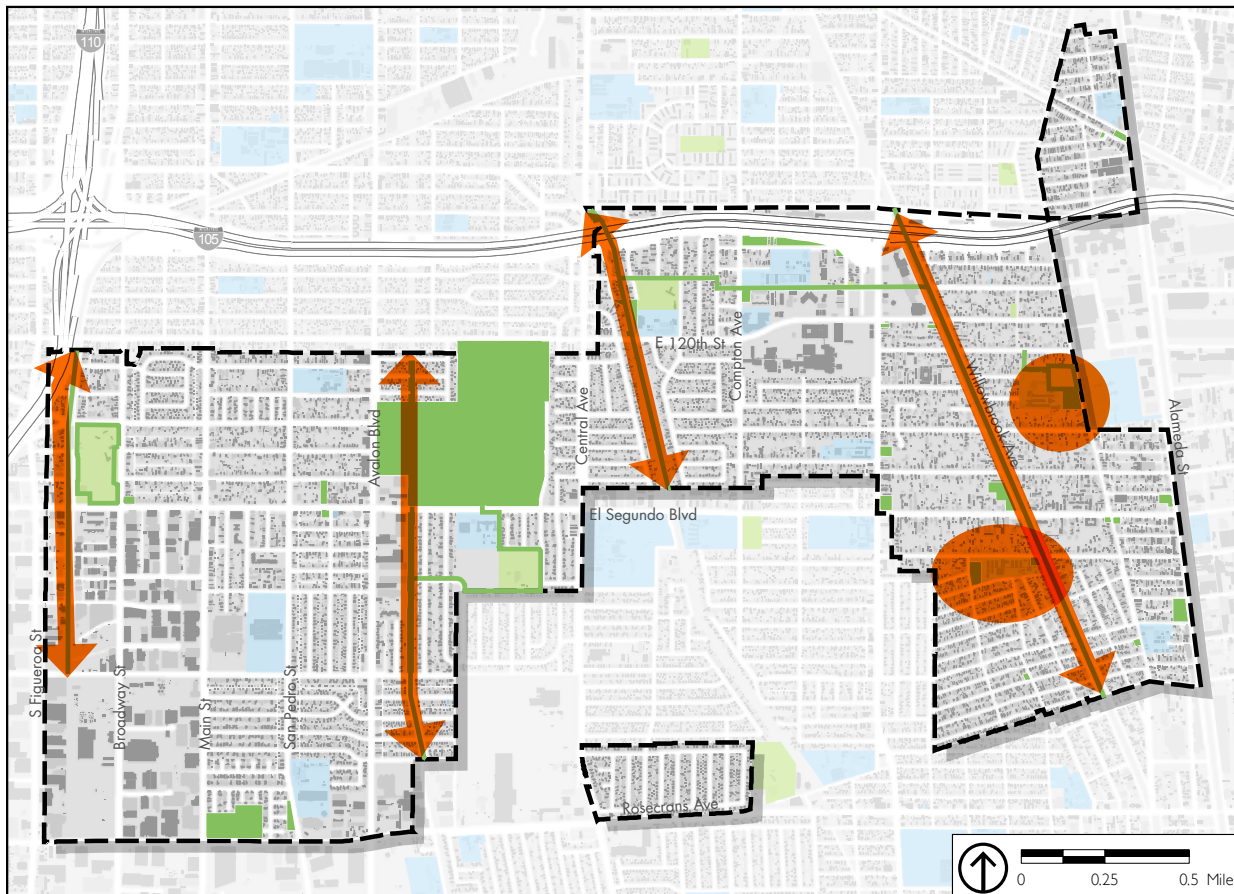
In addition, a lease agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP) would enable the development of the utility corridor park described in this plan.

Such an agreement would be developed through coordination with DWP regarding the design of the proposed project and long-term lease of the spaces.

DPR has experience working with Caltrans through lease agreements to develop recreation amenities on their property. In Willowbrook, DPR could continue to explore lease agreements with Caltrans in order to develop green infrastructure projects along the 105 Freeway.

To establish trails along the existing rail corridors, agreements with Metro and Southern Pacific would need to be implemented. Furthermore, rail and trail projects are in line with Metro's vision for enhanced pedestrian and bicycle amenities near existing transit lines. They could be an active department in developing a trail directly adjacent to the Blue Line.

Agreements with other Los Angeles County departments would also enable the development of projects described in this Plan. Specifically, an agreement with County Flood Control District could enable development of trails and green space along Compton Creek. Other agreements could be developed with the Department of Public Works to develop green streets projects that integrate fitness stations or community trails along sidewalks. Additionally, the community is very supportive the County Sheriff's Youth Activity League (YAL) and would support additional partnership with Sheriff's Department to offer more programs for older kids.



IMPLEMENTATION

Los Angeles County Arts Commission has been active in Willowbrook through public artwork at parks and plazas, as well as *Project Willowbrook*. Partnership with the Arts Commission could lead to development of integrated arts programming and artwork at parks, identified as a need by the community.

Potential partners for projects in Willowbrook include (but are not limited to):

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW)
- Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- Los Angeles Metro
- Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP)
- Los Angeles County Flood Control District
- Los Angeles Unified School District
- Compton Unified School District
- Sheriff's Department Youth Activity League (YAL)

COMMUNITY-BASED NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Partnership agreements with community-based organizations are another tool for development of projects. Faith and Hope Park was constructed through partnership with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust. At this park, LANLT is carrying out the community design process and construction of a park, which the County will own, operate and maintain after it opens. Such agreements would enable the development of a number of the pocket park and greening projects identified in this plan. A number of community-based organizations have entered into partnerships with public agencies to develop park and greening projects in the Los Angeles area.

Potential community partners for projects in Willowbrook could include (but are not limited to):

- Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Los Angeles Parks Foundation
- Watts-Willowbrook Boys and Girls Club
- Los Angeles Community Garden Council
- Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority
- Restore Neighborhoods LA
- Trust for Public Land
- Los Ryderz
- Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition
- Ford Theater (J.A.M. Sessions Program)
- A Better LA



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

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.](#)

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

GENERAL FUND

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

FINANCING AND REVENUE MECHANISMS

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

BONDS AND LEVIES

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

LEASE FINANCING

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

RAISING REVENUES

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

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

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

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

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

GRANTS

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

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

- **EXCESS FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM.** These grants were established through the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 and are intended to provide funding for “high priority” parks and recreation projects in Los Angeles County. Competitive grants can be received for projects that include urban tree planting, restoration of natural land, and at-risk youth recreation, among others.⁸
- **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION PARK ENRICHMENT GRANTS.** These grants are small, suitable for programming or small repair/restoration projects. Only State Parks are eligible.⁹
- **LISC/NFL FOUNDATION GRASSROOTS PROGRAM.** Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the National Football League (NFL) provide grants to restore or build football fields as gathering places and recreational facilities to support the development of young people and their parents, particularly in poorer communities.¹⁰
- **LISC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM.** The Los Angeles branch of LISC has a Youth Development Recreation component of their Health & Environment program, listing recreation facilities in addition to football fields.¹¹
- **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.** This provides technical assistance only, offering a National Park Service employee to help recipients organize, strategize, build capacity and public participation, and implement a conservation or recreation project. Examples include parks and trails, conservation and access improvements to rivers and natural areas, and creation of recreation opportunities through locally-led partnerships.¹²

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

ENVIRONMENTAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HEALTH

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

TRAILS

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

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/>

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM.** These federal funds are intended to stabilize communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. The Housing and Community Investment Department of the City of Los Angeles (HCIDLA) was awarded \$13.7 million and is using these funds to acquire, rehabilitate, and resell foreclosed homes. City Recreation and Parks partnered with the Housing Department to establish neighborhood parks where the rehabilitation of a foreclosed possible is not reasonable (see Consolidated Plan). As of 2014, Quarter 2, \$10.1 million of the funds had been expended.³³
- **PROPOSITION 1C. HOUSING RELATED PARKS PROGRAM.** The Housing Related Parks Program is funded by Proposition 1C, the \$2.85 billion affordable housing bond component of California's Strategic Growth Plan, which invests \$2.85 billion for housing and infrastructure programs to produce an estimated 118,000 housing units, 2,350 homeless shelter spaces, and infrastructure projects that help infill housing development such as water, sewer, parks, and transportation improvements. Run by the California office of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the program offers housing-related park grants in urban, suburban, and rural areas, expected to result in over 52,000 housing units. As of June 2013, there was \$163.6 million left of \$200 million designated from Proposition 1C.³⁴
- **INFILL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM.** The Infill Infrastructure Grant Program is administered by HCD and funded by Proposition 1C. Grants are for the development of public infrastructure projects that facilitate or support infill housing construction estimated to result in about 32,000 housing units. Projects could include water, sewer, and transportation improvements; traffic mitigation; brownfield cleanup; and up to an additional \$200 million for parks. As of June 2013, there was \$80 million left of \$850 million.³⁵
- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a locally-administered federal program that addresses capital construction needs in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. Parks and playground improvements are an allowed use of CDBG funds under Public Facilities & Improvements. Both the City and County of Los Angeles are granted annual entitlements.

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

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

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

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

URBAN FORESTS/LANDSCAPING

- **CAL FIRE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS.** CAL FIRE 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 CAL FIRE grants all fall under this category of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grants.⁴³
- **CAL FIRE 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
- **CAL FIRE 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

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>

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

- **CAL FIRE 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 CAL FIRE greening grants. Projects must show how GHG emissions will be reduced. Selection will be strongly focused on environmental justice communities.⁴⁶
- **U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE NATIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CHALLENGE COST-SHARE PROGRAM.** This grant program of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council provides funding to help enhance urban forest stewardship, support new employment opportunities, and help build resilience in the face of a changing climate. Categories in 2014 included: making urban trees and forests more resilient to the impacts of natural disasters and the long-term impacts of climate change, green infrastructure jobs analysis, and utilizing green infrastructure to manage and mitigate stormwater to improve water quality.
- **CALIFORNIA WELLNESS FOUNDATION.** The California Wellness Foundation’s program includes a grantmaking portfolio focused on promoting healthy and safe neighborhoods, which include access to safe parks, open spaces, and recreational activities to improve fun opportunities and social cohesion. The target population for these grants is low-income communities of color.⁴⁷
- **CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (CCF).** The CCF provides grants in a range of priority areas to serve low-income or underserved communities in Los Angeles County. While parks are not one of the priority areas, elements of parks and recreation projects may be eligible for funding in one of the areas such as arts and culture.⁴⁸

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

47 http://www.calwellness.org/grants_program/

48 <https://www.calfund.org/page.aspx?pid=742>

