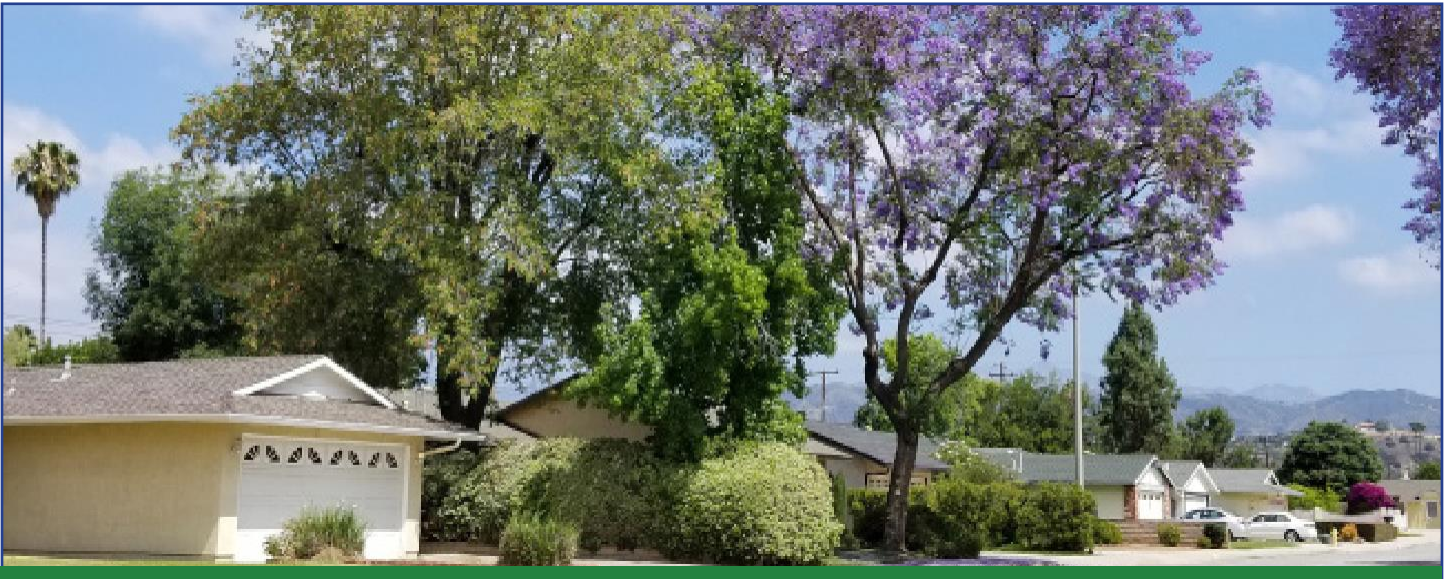




# East San Gabriel Valley Area Plan: Draft Parks and Recreation Summary



## 1. VISION

Equitable access to open space, parks, and recreation; preserved natural, historical and cultural resources; recreational opportunities and education on indigenous history; enhanced parks and recreational programs; and improved, expanded, and connected trails.

## 2. EXISTING CONDITIONS

### Local Parks and Recreation Facilities

Parks and recreation resources range from community and regional parks to sensitive natural areas, trails, and open spaces. Active and passive recreation facilities at East San Gabriel Valley (ESGV) parks, include but are not limited to athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, water activities, camping, horseback riding, fishing lakes, and multi-use trails. There are also many classes offered at these facilities. The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) operates 23 local parks in the ESGV, totaling 2,113 acres.

### Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

Regional Recreation Parks are over 100 acres and of regional importance. These facilities contain active amenities and offer opportunities for wildlife viewing, scenery, conservation, equestrian facilities, and outdoor recreation. There are four



For more information, please visit: [planning.lacounty.gov/ESGVAP](https://planning.lacounty.gov/ESGVAP)

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regional recreation parks in ESGV: 1) Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, 2) Marshall Canyon Regional Park, 3) Peter F. Schabarum Regional Park, and 4) San Dimas Canyon Community Regional Park. Overall, there are 20,839 acres of regional facilities.

## Trail System

There is an extensive network of regional trails spanning 179 miles. These trails are mostly maintained by DPR, and they traverse regional parks, conservancy lands, and open spaces. The varied geographies across the ESGV provide users different trail experiences. Surrounding Puddingstone Reservoir in Frank G. Bonelli Regional Park, there are trails that offer a great variety of terrain and settings. The San Gabriel River Trail runs parallel along the western boundary of the Planning Area. The Schabarum-Skyline Trail is a long connector trail in the ESGV through open spaces and flood control channels. There are also equestrian trails that connect equestrian neighborhoods to parks, trails, horse arenas, and waterways.

## Parks and Recreation Programming

DPR and cities in the ESGV offer various recreational programs at park facilities. Examples of programs include community and cultural events, Every Body Plays, Every Body Explores, Nature Center Discovery, Parks After Dark, Our Spot, and Open Gymnasium. DPR also partners with community-based organizations to expand youth access to diverse programming.

## 3. ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

### Parks Needs Assessment (PNA)

According to the 2016 PNA, four study areas, including the City of Baldwin Park, the City of La Puente, unincorporated Charter Oak/Covina Islands, and unincorporated Bassett-West Puente, have high or very high park need. ESGV has an average of 2.1 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents, which is below the current countywide average of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents; and an average of 5.91 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents, which is below the County standard of 6 acres per 1,000 residents.

### Park Planning for a Diversity of Needs and Equitable Access

Many communities are facing the challenges of lacking safe access to quality parks within walking distance, limited tree canopy, a high percentage of paved and impervious surfaces, and excessively hot temperatures. These factors can and do affect community health and well-being. In addition, the 24 unincorporated communities in ESGV are diverse and unique in terms of their demographics, geographies, and recreational preferences, which makes it crucial to have a wide range and comprehensive system of facilities to address community needs.

## **Open Space and Historic Resources Preservation**

Various parks and open spaces contain significant historical and natural resources that must be protected to conserve sensitive habitat, wildlife, and natural and cultural resources. Threats to these resources include deferred maintenance, renovation or improvements that significantly alter or damage the resource, acts of vandalism and theft, overuse by park users, or development. It is essential that parks and recreation facilities reflect and provide education on the history of indigenous people.

## **Parks and Open Space Acquisition and Planning**

All residents should have equitable access to the benefits of parks and open spaces. Additional park and recreation amenities are necessary to address the growing and diverse needs of residents and park users.

## **Trail Connectivity and Green Connections**

Residents rely heavily on their vehicles to access parks and recreational facilities. There is a need to provide improved and additional transportation options. Certain utility corridors and transportation rights-of-way may be improved to provide active transportation connections to parks and other community destinations. There is a need to expand the trail network and improve connectivity between trails and community destinations. Transit access and expanding multi-use trails into the surrounding areas, including to waterways, spillways, and easements, can improve the trail connectivity and extend the system.

## **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Enhanced Parks Access & Opportunities**

Provide additional active and passive recreation opportunities based on a community's setting and recreational needs, ensure that County parks and recreational facilities are clean, safe, inviting, usable and accessible, and enhance existing parks to offer balanced passive and active recreation opportunities through efficient use of space and additional needed amenities.

### **Acquisition and Development of Additional Parkland**

Acquire land for parks in collaboration with other organizations and develop parks to meet County goals for providing adequate parkland and additional parks in communities with insufficient local parkland. In addition, expand the supply of regional parks by acquiring land that would: 1) provide a buffer from potential threats that would diminish the quality of the recreational experience; 2) protect watersheds; and 3) offer linkages that enhance wildlife movement and biodiversity.

### **Improved Access to Greenways**

Connect existing trails to storm channels, waterways, pedestrian paths and bike paths and develop a network of feeder trails into regional trails in collaboration with other organizations.

## **Resource Protection**

Protect historical and natural resources on County park properties. Preserve and develop facilities that serve as educational resources to improve community understanding of and appreciation for natural areas, including watersheds.