LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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June 21, 2016 – Updated June 29, 2016

TO: Supervisor Hilda L. Solis, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Sheila Kuehl
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Mike Antonovich

FROM: John Wicker
Director

SUBJECT: **REPORT BACK: POTENTIAL LOCAL PARKS FUNDING MEASURE (RELATED TO ITEM P-1, BOARD MEETING OF MAY 3, 2016)**

On August 11, 2015, the Board instructed the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director), through the Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) to analyze potential funding mechanisms and report back with a recommended revenue model and expenditure plan for funding future park projects. On May 3, 2016, the Director presented the report back with recommendations and the Board further instructed the Director to:

1) Report back with the

   a. Final Narrative Report of the 2016 Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment) for adoption by the Board.

   b. Final Draft Local Parks Funding Measure Resolution (Resolution) so that the Board may consider its adoption and placement onto the November 8, 2016 ballot.

2) Conduct additional public opinion polling, in consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel, and the five Supervisorial offices, and make appropriate revisions to the Resolution prior to reporting back.

2016 COUNTYWIDE PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

The Executive Summary of the 2016 Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment) was presented to the Board on May 3, 2016. The Needs Assessment Final Report is now complete and before you so that you may consider its adoption. The narrative report reflects the full detail of the data collection and its results. The appendices, totaling nearly 3,000 pages, reflects the analyses and need maps of each study area within the County.

FINAL DRAFT PARKS FUNDING MEASURE RESOLUTION

The following Potential Local Parks Funding Measure (Funding Measure) tasks have been completed:

Informational and Educational Outreach

- Eleven (11) Community Informational Meetings:
    - In partnership with the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, RPOSD conducted eleven Community Informational Meetings where constituents and some civic leaders attended to learn about the outcome of the Needs Assessment and to understand the potential Funding Measure. Two meetings were held in each Supervisorial District and three in the Fifth Supervisorial District between May 9 and May 26.

- Outreach to all 88 cities within Los Angeles County, as well as 139 chambers of commerce, 14 labor groups and 12 government organizations, including a total of over 120 briefings or presentations on the Funding Measure with nearly:
    - 60 cities
    - 30 chambers of commerce
    - 6 labor groups
    - 11 government organizations
      (figures include multiple presentations with a number of groups and organizations)

- Electronic Media with public information on the Needs Assessment and Funding Measure seen over 7 million times, including:
    - Online video/banner
    - Social media – video and still information on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
    - Google AdWords: video and still information displayed based on keywords in content and search terms.

- News articles highlighting the Needs Assessment findings and Funding Measure in local print and online media in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Thai publications.

- Countywide Park Summit Quarterly Meetings held in March and June 2016 provided detailed information and updates on the Needs Assessment and Funding Measure for Park Directors, staff and interested parties.

Countywide Working Group

As instructed by the Board, the Director convened representatives of many County agencies, including the Office of the Assessor, Auditor-Controller, Chief Executive Office, County Counsel, Departments of Beaches and Harbors, Public Works, and Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, and the five Supervisorial offices. The Countywide Working Group was instrumental in drafting the Funding Measure Plan and input from the group is reflected in the final draft.

Polling (Language Updated)

In consultation with the Chief Executive Officer, County Counsel, and the five Supervisorial offices, additional polling was conducted on the Funding Measure, including testing of tax rates of $0.03 and $0.015 per square foot. Polling was completed on the 75 word ballot statement.

- Support remains consistent for the Funding Measure, with 69 percent of likely voters in favor initially. After educational messages, support for the ballot measure increased to 75 percent.

- Statistically, there was no difference in support between the two tax rates.

- As requested by the Board Offices, Steinberg and Associates' polling on the length and order of the three potential Countywide ballot measures for the November 8, 2016, General Election – Parks, Homelessness, and Transportation – has been completed.

Funding Measure Expenditure Plan and Language Revisions (Language Updated)

Revisions have been made to the draft Funding Measure in response to the informational and educational outreach efforts. Here is a summary of substantive changes:

- The main revision is an increase of the first funding category, Community-Based Park Investment Program, from 27 percent to 35 percent of overall funding. This category represents the direct return of funds to the city and/or unincorporated area of the County by study area as defined in the Needs Assessment.

- The remaining funding category percentages were adjusted to accommodate the increase of the first category as detailed in Attachment 3: Local Parks Funding Measure Resolution.

- Based upon feedback from the Educational and Informational Outreach, 50 percent of funds collected by the tax will be returned to the cities in the Community Based Park Investment Program and Local Agency Maintenance and Servicing Funds.

- County Counsel has advised staff that the Senior Exemption is not legal for this type of measure, therefore, the measure will apply to all private property owners.

- The 75-word ballot statement was refined to reflect polling results.

The final draft, Funding Measure, is now before you so that you may consider its adoption and placement onto the November 8, 2016 Ballot.

There are three Attachments to this memo:

1) Final Narrative Report of the Needs Assessment
2) Table of the Funding Measure Expenditure Plan
3) Resolution for the Special Tax Funding Measure

If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 738-2951 or your staff may contact Rita Robinson, Needs Assessment Project Director at (213) 738-2874 or Jane I. Beesley, Administrator of the Regional Park and Open Space District at (213) 738-2981.

JW:JIB:WRO:ee

Attachments (3)

c: Chief Executive Office (S. Hamai, J. Jones)
County Counsel (M. Wickham, C. Salseda)
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors (L. Glasgow)
Park Deputies (T. Villegas, K. Katona, M. Chong-Castillo, E. Stibal, S. Nemer)

we all need PARKS
for healthy, thriving and engaged communities

LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

MAY 9, 2016

Los Angeles County
Department of Parks & Recreation

LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

MAY 9, 2016

This document was prepared by:

PLACEWORKS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Many individuals and organizations contributed to the successful completion of the Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. The efforts of those noted below are especially appreciated; please refer to the main report for more detailed acknowledgments.

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- Norma E. Garcia, Deputy Director, Planning and Development Agency
- Rita Robinson, Project Director
- Clement Lau, Departmental Facilities Planner II
- Sheela Kleinknecht, Park Planner
- Over 100 staff members

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

- Jane Beesley, District Administrator
- Warren Ontiveros, Administration Section Manager

STEERING COMMITTEE

In memoriam: Steering Committee member Mary Kaufman, avid trail supporter and enthusiast.

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- Mark Greninger
- Su Jin Lee
- Weimin Li
- Douglas Morales
- Viktor Patiño
- Patricia Pendleton

INCORPORATED CITIES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Over 175 staff members in 86 cities

RESIDENTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Thousands of County residents shared their thoughts about parks in Los Angeles County

CONSULTANT TEAM

- PLACEWORKS
- GreenInfo Network
- DakeLuna Consultants
- David Taussig & Associates
- MIG
- Prevention Institute

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Appendix A - Study Area Profiles

Each Study Area Profile contains a base map, park metrics, map of where parks are most needed, amenity quantities and conditions, park need framework, project cost estimates, submitted project reporting forms and community engagement form.

Appendix B – Regional Recreation Park Projects

Project lists and cost estimates submitted by the managing agency of each regional recreation park.

Appendix C – Specialized Facilities Projects

Project lists and cost estimates as submitted by the managing agencies of specialized facilities such as open space, beaches, hiking trails, arboreta, amphitheaters, golf courses, and equestrian facilities.

Appendix D – Resources Provided to Partners

» Web Portal User Guide and Amenity Condition Definitions
» Sample Toolkit (includes facilitator training manual)
» Survey Results

Appendix E – Technical Resources

» Data Sources
» Mapping and Analysis Information
» Cost Estimate Assumptions

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In March 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a motion to initiate the Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. This represents an unprecedented effort to document existing parks and recreation facilities in cities and unincorporated communities and to use these data to determine the scope, scale, and location of park need in Los Angeles County.

The Parks Needs Assessment will help local officials, park agencies, and residents understand the future steps that need to be taken to ensure all communities have adequate access to thriving parks.

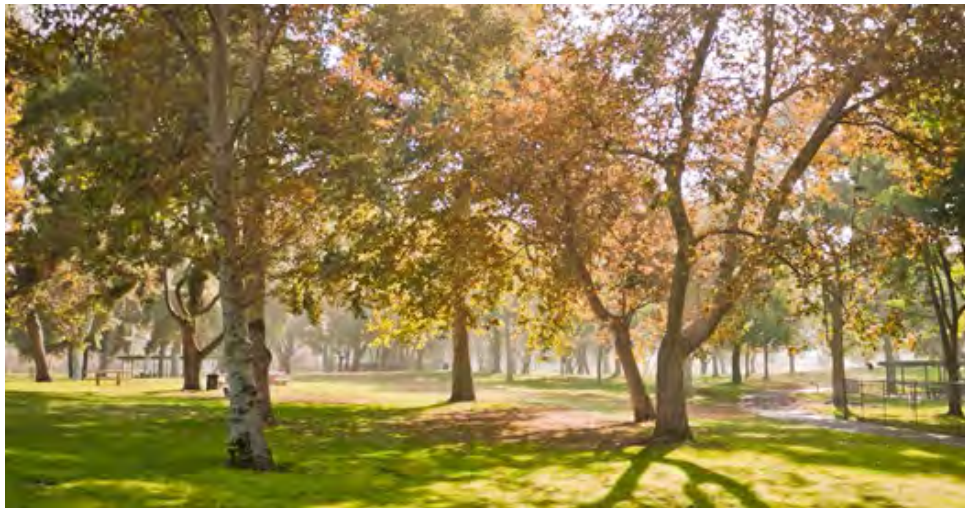
Park projects in Los Angeles County are currently funded in part by Proposition A, the Safe Neighborhoods Park Tax that is set to expire in 2019. Once this tax sunsets, funding for park projects will be greatly reduced. The results of the Parks Needs Assessment will help inform planning and decision-making regarding future funding.

In initiating the Parks Needs Assessment, the Board of Supervisors has affirmed the importance of parks as essential infrastructure in the County. Healthy, safe communities have thriving parks that contribute to public health and well-being, create a sense of place, increase community cohesion, improve the environment, and boost the economy.

A NEW PARADIGM

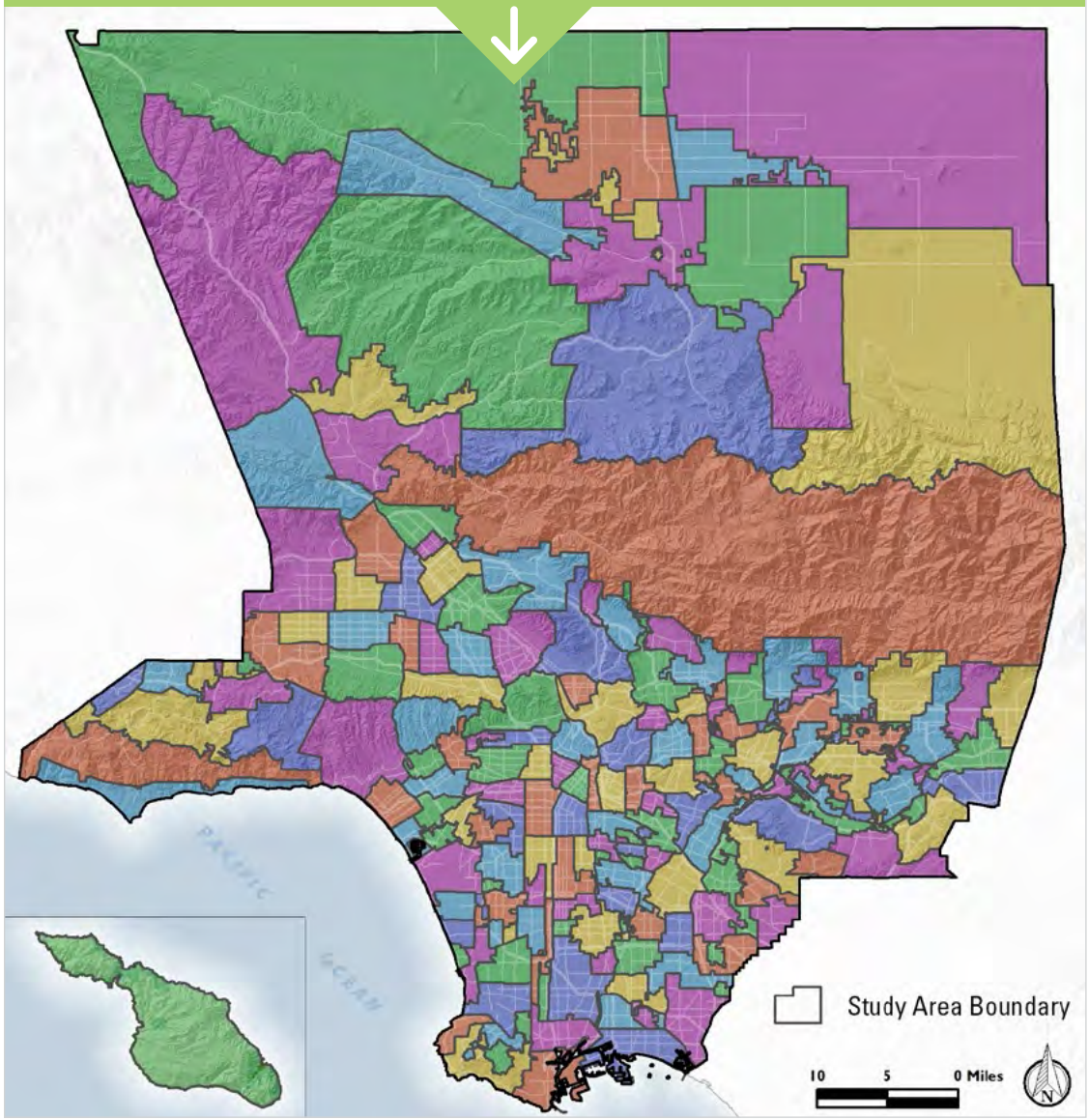
The Parks Needs Assessment proposes a new way to understand and think about parks, recreation, and open space by:

- Considering **parks as key infrastructure** needed to maintain and improve the quality of life for all County residents
- Using a **new series of metrics** to determine park need
- Supporting a **need-based allocation of funding** for parks and recreation
- Emphasizing both **community priorities** and **deferred maintenance projects**



INITIATION

The Board of Supervisors launched the Parks Needs Assessment in March 2015, giving the County Department of Parks and Recreation 16 months to complete the task. The work was guided by both a Steering Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The Steering Committee's 40 members were appointed by the Board offices and included representatives from cities, advocacy groups, and community-based organizations; subject matter experts; and community members at large. The Steering Committee provided insight on key issues, including dividing the County into Study Areas, and the 188 approved Study Areas were used for many of the analyses. The TAC provided review of GIS and mapping methodology at key points of the project.



INVENTORY

Accurate data about the size and location of all existing parks in the county were critical to completing the Parks Needs Assessment. These data were not available in a single database; therefore, the Department of Parks and Recreation collaborated with 86 cities to complete the first ever Countywide inventory of existing parks.

3,023
PARKS INVENTORIED

9,472
AMENITIES INVENTORIED

PARKS & OPEN SPACE INVENTORY

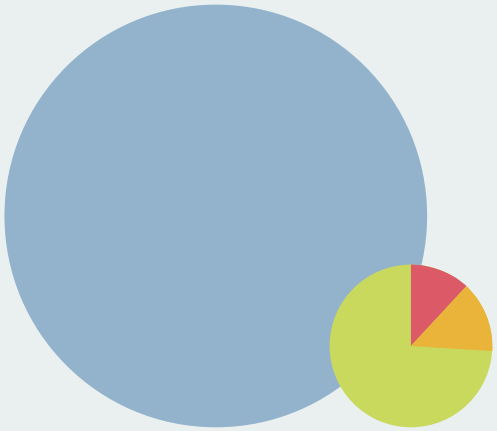
Four types of parks and open spaces were identified as means to categorize the facilities inventoried during the Parks Needs Assessment. This uniform categorization system ensured an "apples to apples" comparison among facilities and Study Areas. The four categories are specific to the Parks Needs Assessment, and differ from the categories used in cities and by other agencies in the County. For the inventory, specialized facilities serving the entire County or specific sub-regions, such as arboreta, amphitheaters, and wilderness parks were included in the category that covered their specific characteristics, and only if they were part of a park or open space area.

LOCAL PARKS are under 100 acres and contain active amenities such as athletic courts and fields, playgrounds, and swimming pools. Local parks identified in the inventory are sometimes called community parks or regional parks by the agencies that operate them. These parks are included in the analysis of all park metrics. 1,602 INVENTORIED

REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS are over 100 acres and contain active amenities such as athletic courts and fields, playgrounds, and swimming pools. Locally administered "regional parks" under 100 acres in size are not included in this category, and are included as local parks in the inventory instead. Regional Recreation Parks are included in the analysis of all park metrics, and were subject to a separate facility review process due to their large size and regional importance. 17 INVENTORIED

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE includes facilities that are more than 5 acres and generally contain only passive amenities such as visitor centers, trails, picnic shelters, or restrooms. These facilities are not included in the analysis of any individual park metric, but are included in the analysis of park need. 329 INVENTORIED

NATURAL AREAS are generally larger than 100 acres and contain no reported amenities. These facilities are not included in any of the needs analyses of the Parks Needs Assessment. 1,075 INVENTORIED



LOCAL PARKS
15,723 acres

REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS
18,248 acres

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE
98,977 acres

NATURAL AREAS
768,699 acres

1,068 Baseball Fields

1,022 Tennis Courts

940 Basketball Courts

510 Multipurpose Fields

424 Soccer Fields

1,452 Playgrounds

373 Fitness Zones

96 Skate Parks

51 Dog Parks

1,251 Picnic Shelters

1,190 Restrooms

518 Senior Centers

187 Gymnasiums

90 Community Rec Centers

218 Swimming Pools

82 Splash Pads

367 Unique Amenities*

** Unique amenities include equestrian arenas, volleyball courts, amphitheaters, community gardens, concession stands, gazebos, etc.*

PARK METRICS

Park need is traditionally measured with a single metric, such as the number of acres of park land available to residents, or the percentage of residents living within walking distance of a park. Measuring only a single aspect of need provides a one-dimensional understanding of park need. The Steering Committee recognized that park need is affected by many variables and approved a suite of five metrics that produce a robust understanding of physical park needs in each Study Area and in the County:

- Park Condition
- Park Access
- Park Amenities
- Park Land
- Park Pressure

How much park land is in the County?

3.3 ACRES

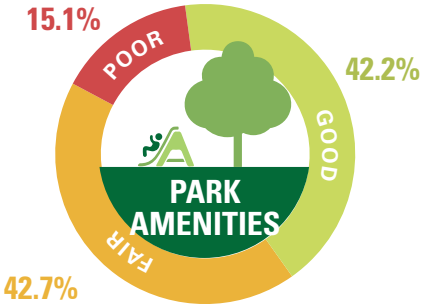
Local & Regional Recreation Park per 1,000 people

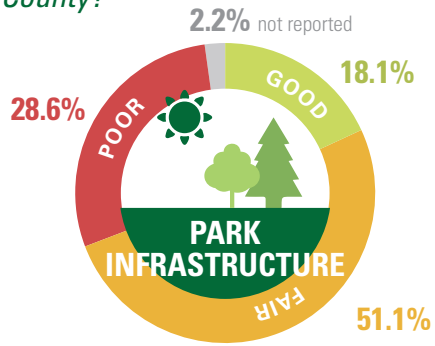
How much land is available to residents in the area around each park?

Low park pressure at **20%** of parks in the County

High park pressure at **80%** of parks in the County

What is the condition of the parks in the County?





How much of the population has access to parks?

49% of population Countywide lives within 1/2 mile of a park

51% of population Countywide lives beyond 1/2 mile of a park

What park amenities are available in the County?

Tennis Courts
11 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 46 per 100,000

Basketball Courts
10 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 63.1 per 100,000

Baseball Fields
11 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 14.6 per 100,000

Soccer Fields
4 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 16.7 per 100,000

Multipurpose Fields
5 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 50 per 100,000

Restrooms
13 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 64.5 per 100,000

Picnic Shelters
15 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 100 per 100,000

Gymnasiums
2 per 100,000 residents
National Average: no data

Senior Centers
15 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 10.3 per 100,000

Community Rec Centers
5 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 10.3 per 100,000

Fitness Zones
4 per 100,000 residents
National Average: no data

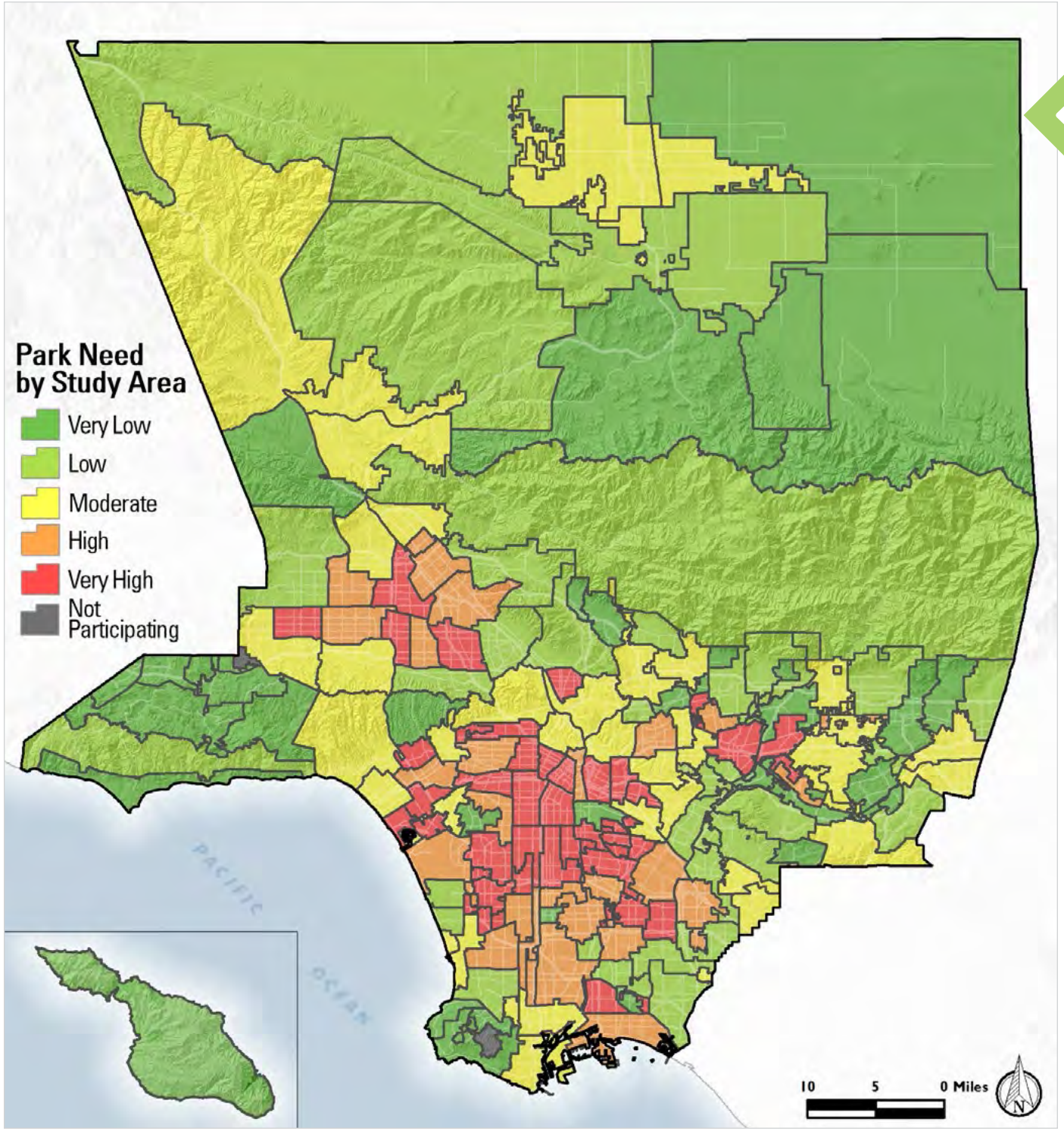
Skate Parks
1 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 1.9 per 100,000

Playgrounds
15 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 45 per 100,000

Dog Parks
1 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 3.6 per 100,000

Splash Pads
1 per 100,000 residents
National Average: no data

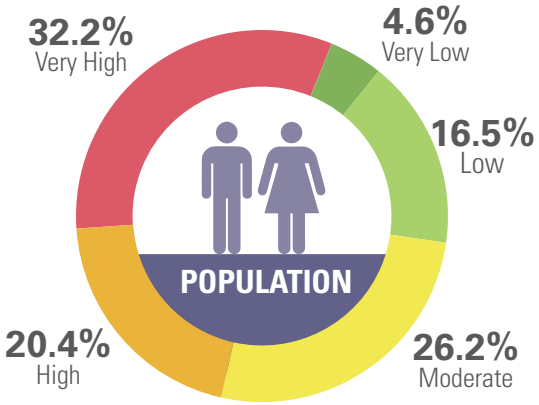
Swimming Pools
2 per 100,000 residents
National Average: 5.6 per 100,000



PARK NEED

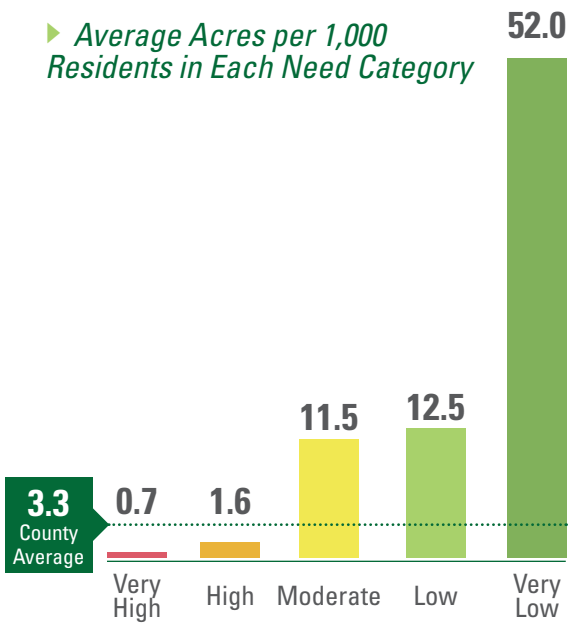
The results of the analysis of the park metrics were combined to determine an overall park need level for each Study Area. This approach creates a framework for assessing park need from a Countywide perspective.

*Population in Each Need Category**



*0.1% Not Participating

Average Acres per 1,000 Residents in Each Need Category

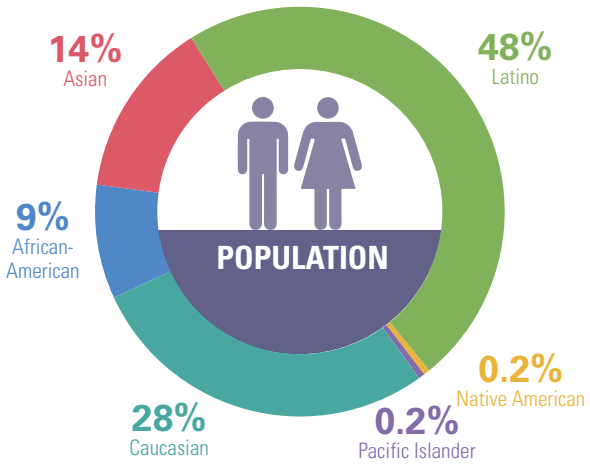


COMMUNITY PROFILE

A community profile summarizing demographic, health, and environmental information was completed in each Study Area to supplement park metrics.

*Data sources for demographic information: 2014 Los Angles County Age/Race/Gender Population Estimates; US EPA Smart Location Database; Los Angeles County Poverty Estimates, 2013; and the US Census American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates, 2013

*Population by Race/Ethnicity**

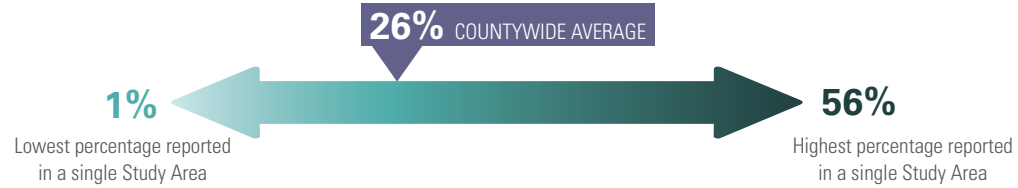


*Total is less than 100% due to rounding

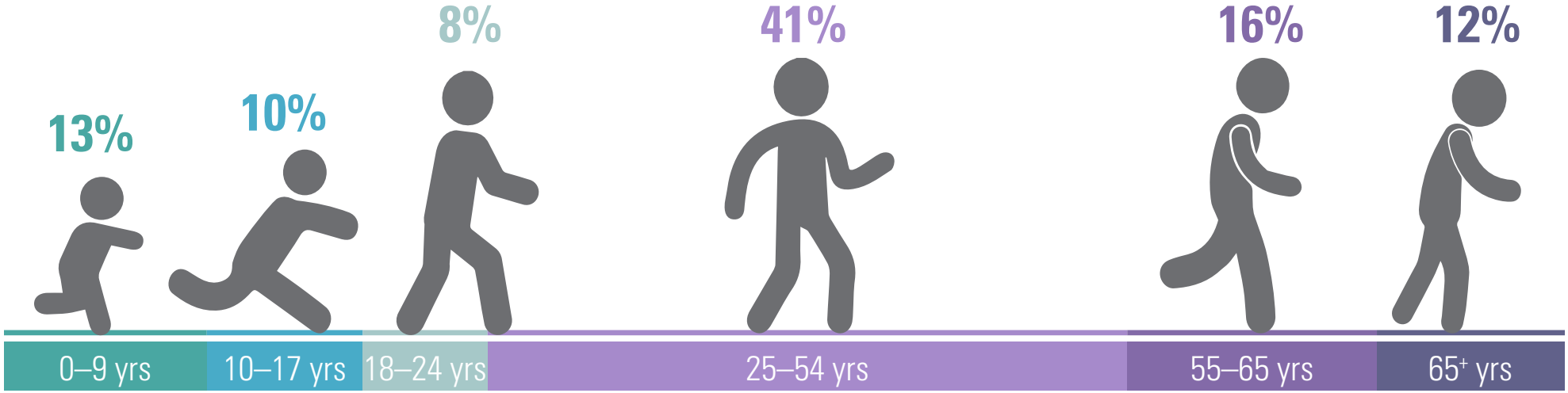
Population at or below 200% Poverty Level

Population without Vehicle Access

Population in Linguistic Isolation



Population Distribution by Age



OZONE

Varying levels of ozone concentration throughout the County.

*Data source: CalEnviroScreen 2.0, 2013.

PM 2.5

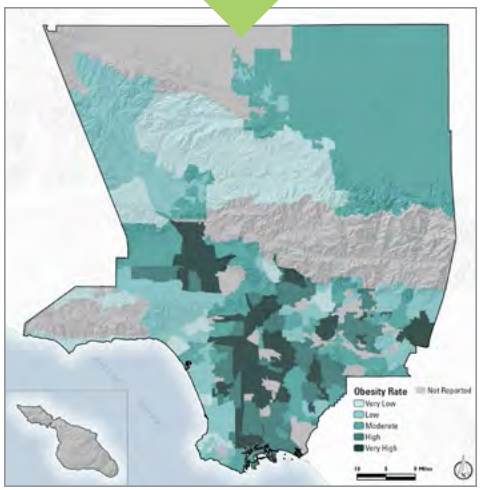
Concentration of particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter (PM 2.5) throughout the County.

*Data source: CalEnviroScreen 2.0, 2013.

OBESITY

Percentage of obese fifth graders throughout the County.

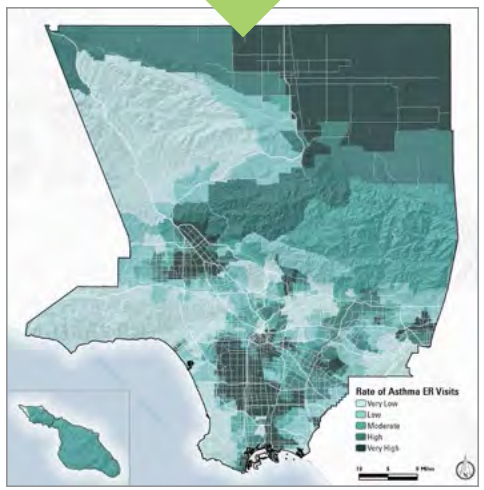
*Data source: Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, 2015.



ASTHMA

Number of emergency room visits for asthma treatments per 10,000 people per year.

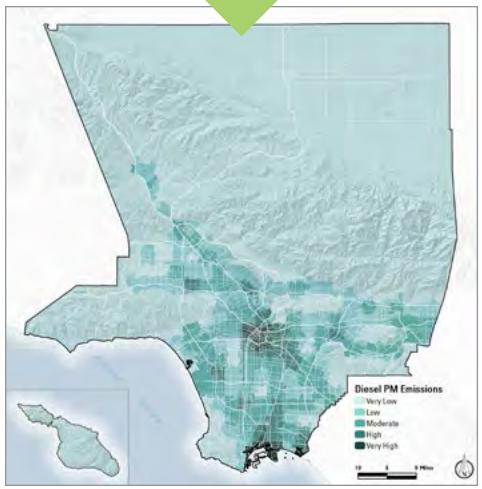
*Data source: CalEnviroScreen 2.0, 2013.



DIESEL EMISSIONS

Rates of diesel particulate matter emissions in Los Angeles County.

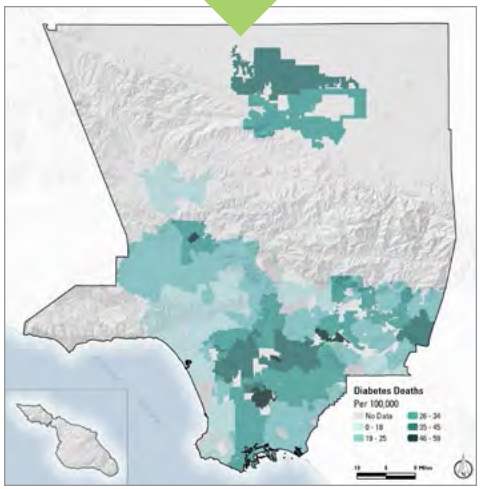
*Data source: CalEnviroScreen 2.0, 2013.



DIABETES

Diabetes death rate per 100,000 residents in the County.

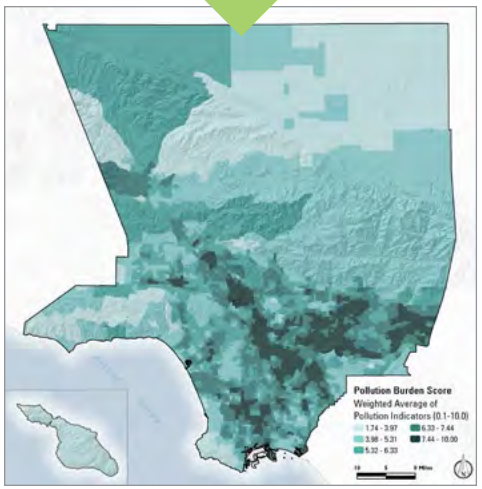
*Data source: CalEnviroScreen 2.0, 2013.



POLLUTION BURDEN

Pollution scores, based on 12 pollution burden indicators.

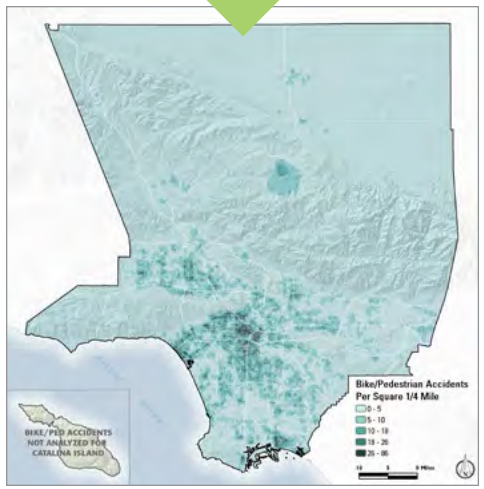
*Data source: CalEnviroScreen 2.0, 2013.



BICYCLE/PED. COLLISIONS

All collisions between automobiles/bicycles and automobiles/pedestrians.

*Data source: Transportation Injury Mapping System SWITRS Collision Raw Data, 2003–2012



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A Countywide education and awareness effort informed residents about the Parks Needs Assessment and encouraged them to attend a community workshop in their Study Area. The effort included a robust media component, informational meetings, and a dedicated online presence.

The lead agency in each Study Area was responsible for advertising its local workshop and was eligible for a $2,500 stipend to cover workshop costs. Each lead agency submitted a community engagement plan describing the efforts they would make to attract participants to its workshop and was given resources such as flyers, logos, and social media hashtags to assist.

Translations of workshop and outreach materials were available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Armenian and were strongly recommended for use in all Study Areas where 15% or more of the population is linguistically isolated. These four languages were selected because they are the dominant languages spoken by the linguistically isolated populations within the Study Areas meeting that criteria.

Population reached via media

2.5 million+ Traditional Media

1.1 million+ Social Media

30K+ views Project Website

Number of Study Areas meeting criteria for translation recommendation

78 Study Areas in Spanish

12 Study Areas in Chinese

2 Study Areas in Armenian

1 Study Area in Korean

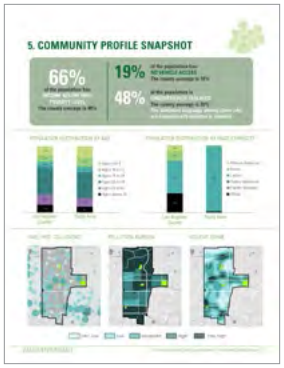
¡Hola! 你好 Բարեւ 안녕하세요

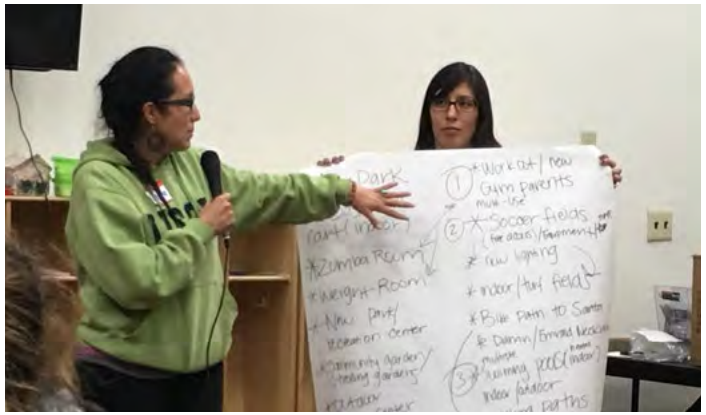
COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

Workshop facilitators attended an intensive training session and received a 50-page Facilitator Toolkit with Study Area-specific results of the analysis of the five park metrics, community profile information, templates, and other resources needed to host a successful workshop.

Community Engagement Workshops were held for 178 Study Areas between December 2015 and February 2016.* At each workshop, participants reviewed their Study Area's specific park metrics, generated a list of potential park projects, and prioritized those projects.

**Ten cities, comprising ten Study Areas, elected not to hold a workshop.*





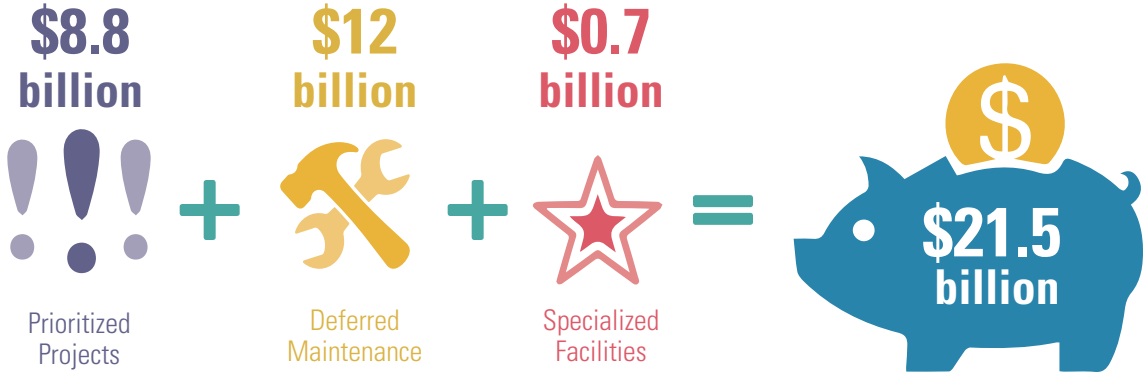
PRIORITIZED PROJECTS

Community members at all workshops identified the top ten local park projects in their Study Area. Prioritized projects included repairing or replacing amenities in existing parks, adding new amenities to existing parks, and constructing new parks. Additional projects were prioritized by the managing agencies of regional recreation parks, and specialized facilities such as regional specialty facilities, and open space/nature centers.

Community Workshops Flow Chart

COST ESTIMATE

Cost estimates were developed for the prioritized projects from each community workshop and for all deferred maintenance projects using a standardized set of costs developed with input from several agencies and cost estimators with extensive experience throughout Los Angeles County. Costs for deferred maintenance projects prioritized by local communities are included in the cost of prioritized projects, and not in the costs for deferred maintenance. Cost estimates for prioritized projects in regional recreation parks (included in the prioritized projects cost) and specialized facilities were furnished by each managing agency. All cost estimates were summed to provide a rough order-of-magnitude estimate of the cost needed to implement prioritized projects and catch up on deferred maintenance.



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Parks Needs Assessment lays the groundwork for making important planning and funding decisions in Los Angeles County. Most importantly, it provides the County, its jurisdictions, and all residents of Los Angeles County with a wealth of parks-related information and opportunities.

VALUABLE DATA

The data in the Parks Needs Assessment provide a clear picture of the current scope, scale, and location of park need in Los Angeles County. For the first time, a single source provides information regarding parks and park infrastructure across the entire County. This information helps us to understand the challenges facing our communities and may be used to seek funding and support for parks, inform staffing and programming decisions, and focus outreach efforts.

ONGOING UPDATES

The County will seek to keep data in the Parks Needs Assessment up to date, in order to continue identifying new needs and to track progress toward addressing already-identified needs.

FUNDING DECISIONS

With comprehensive information regarding existing parks and the need for new parks, amenities, and repairs, the County is well prepared to develop a funding measure for park and open space projects that will provide funding streams for improvements in the short, medium, and long term. Local, state, and federal funds can also be leveraged to enhance park and open space funding.

EQUITABLE ALLOCATION

The comprehensive data in the Parks Needs Assessment can be used to allocate funds to meet identified needs in ways that emphasize areas with high to very high park need while also addressing the specific needs of every jurisdiction and community in the County.

A NATIONAL MODEL

The Parks Needs Assessment serves as a model for a clear, replicable process that other jurisdictions across the country can use when they assess their regionwide park facilities and needs..

NEW SOLUTIONS TO PROVIDE NEEDED PARKS

The Parks Needs Assessment shows that there are many areas in the County with high park need and a lack of vacant land for new traditional parks. Local agencies will need to find innovative solutions to provide essential park infrastructure by using underutilized land, utility corridors, alleys, and other public lands. Additionally, creative partnerships, such as joint use and reuse with schools, hospitals, libraries, and other facilities, should be considered in order to expand park opportunities and meet recreational needs.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE OF THE PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Unprecedented in scope and scale, the Countywide Parks Needs Assessment (Parks Needs Assessment) was designed to quantify the need for parks and recreational resources and the potential costs of meeting that need. To achieve this goal, the Parks Needs Assessment incorporated the following objectives:

- Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the park, infrastructure, and recreational needs and opportunities in Los Angeles County
- Establish a list of priority projects for each study area
- Outline costs for future project opportunities
- Establish a transparent and best-practices approach
- Engage the County, cities, and communities in a collaborative and shared process
- Build support and understanding of the park, infrastructure, and recreational needs and opportunities
- Inform future decision-making regarding funding for parks and recreation in the County

1.1.1 HISTORY OF PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY

Parks and recreational facilities in Los Angeles County are supported in part by funds generated from the Safe Neighborhood Parks Tax Measure (Proposition A), which was initially approved by voters in 1992 and provided a total of $540 million in grant funds for the acquisition, restoration, and rehabilitation of property for parks, recreation, and natural lands. An additional $319 million in funding was obtained after voters approved a second measure in 1996. The 1992 tax expired in 2015, and the 1996 tax will end in 2019. Since its passage, Proposition A has granted more than $1 billion to cities, County departments, state and local agencies, and non-profit organizations for the development, acquisition, improvement, restoration, and rehabilitation of parks, recreational, cultural, and community facilities, as well as open space lands throughout Los Angeles County.

Anticipating the loss in 2019 of this critical source of funding, the County Board of Supervisors placed Proposition P Safe Neighborhood Parks Tax Measure, on the ballot for the November 2014 general election. Although a majority of voters supported the measure (62 percent), Proposition P required two-thirds (66.6 percent) approval, and did not pass. The process that led to the placement of Measure P on the ballot had several shortcomings, including: a short time frame for the Board of Supervisors' (Board) approval of the ballot measure for education of and consideration by the voters; and the absence of a substantial analysis of the needs that the additional revenue would address.

Robert E. Lundigan Park, City of Burbank

1.1.2 MOTION FROM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Understanding the critical importance of park and recreation funding in the County, the Board of Supervisors passed a motion in November 2014 directing the Chief Executive Office and Department of Parks and Recreation to report back to the Board in 30 days with a plan to produce a Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Parks Needs Assessment. The subsequent plan was approved by the Board in February 2015, with a 16-month time frame for completion and a $3.5 million budget. The schedule was later compressed to 14-months.

As outlined in the approved motion, the Parks Needs Assessment includes the following components:

- Establishment of 188 Study Areas within the County
- An inventory of existing park and recreation assets in the County, in all unincorporated and incorporated communities
- GIS-based spatial analysis of existing park and recreation assets
- Community-led outreach process of sharing inventory and analysis results to help identify and prioritize needed improvements
- Cost estimates for priority park projects developed in community workshops

Figure 1. Components of the Parks Needs Assessment

La Puente Park, City of La Puente

The information in the Parks Needs Assessment summarizes a data-driven analysis of the existing recreational assets and park need in the County. This information can be used by cities and unincorporated communities to inform future park planning and funding efforts, as well as to leverage federal, state, and private resources.

1.2 WHO WAS INVOLVED

The scope, scale, and timeline of the Parks Needs Assessment required collaboration among many different agencies Countywide and included input from experts in fields ranging from data management to community engagement.

1.2.1 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Board's recognition of the importance of parks and recreation in Los Angeles County led to their unanimous approval of the development of the Parks Needs Assessment. This unprecedented effort would not have been possible without the full support of the Board and their desire to expand the rich legacy of park and recreational resources established over the past few decades. The Board and their staff have provided support and guidance throughout the duration of the project.

District 1, Hilda L. Solis

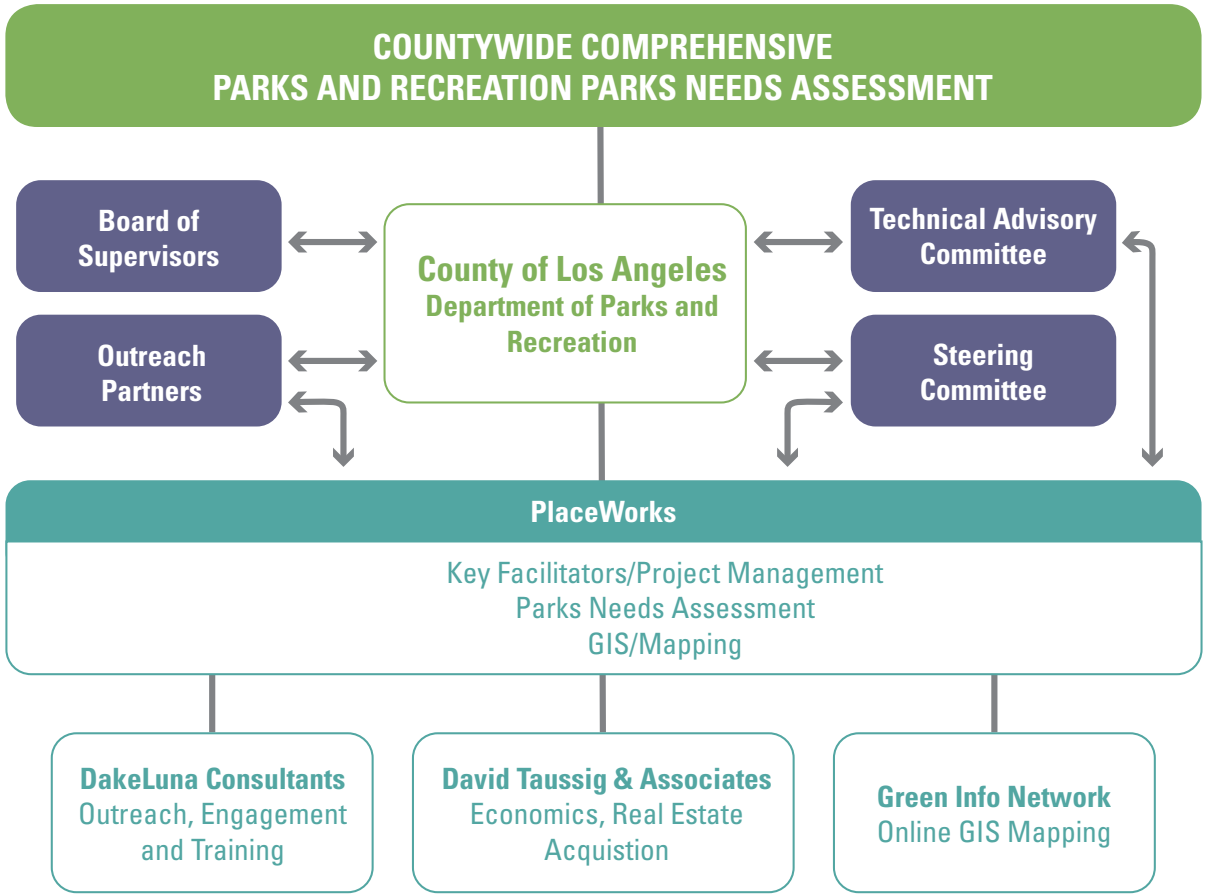
District 2, Mark Ridley-Thomas

District 3, Sheila Kuehl

District 4, Don Knabe

District 5, Michael D. Antonovich

Figure 2. Organizational Chart



1.2.2 DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) provided consistent project leadership while coordinating their own participation in the Parks Needs Assessment. Led first by former Director, Russ Guiney and then by current Director John Wicker, DPR staff worked closely with the project consultants for the duration of the Assessment, ensuring adherence to the Assessment's objectives, the department's standards, and the stringent 16-month timeline. DPR staff also participated in the inventory of all County parks, the community engagement process, and the development of a prioritized project list in each of the 47 unincorporated Study Areas.

1.2.3 STEERING COMMITTEE

Acting independently of the Board and DPR, the Steering Committee oversaw the project approach and provided insight and direction based on experience as members of the community-at-large and various formal and informal organizations. Steering Committee members were tasked with three main functions:

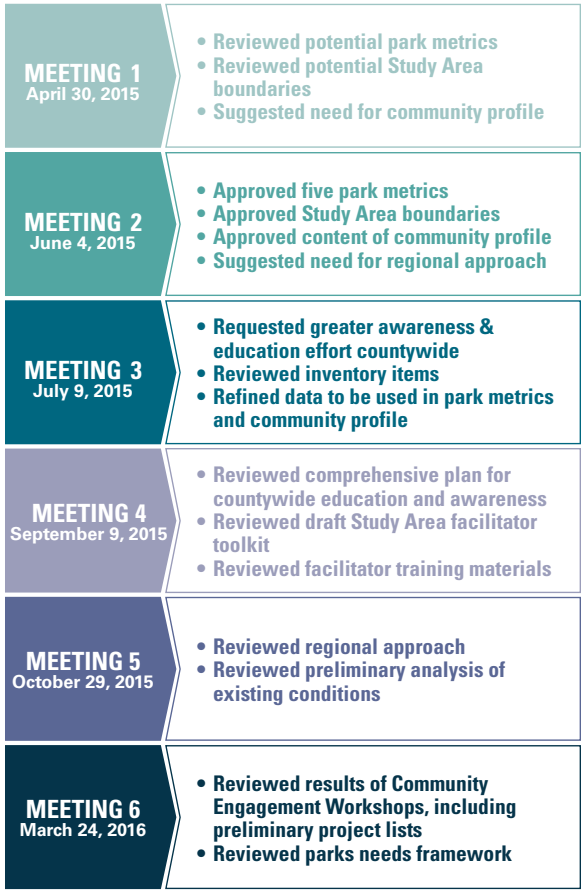
- To provide feedback and direction to DPR staff and the project consultants during the preparation of the Parks Needs Assessment, with the goal of creating a document that is responsive to neighborhood and community goals, conditions, and aspirations.
- To make recommendations to the DPR and project consultants at key project milestones.
- To communicate information about the Parks Needs Assessment to Los Angeles County residents and to encourage their colleagues, friends, and neighbors to participate in the process.

The Steering Committee included 40 members and offered a diversity of viewpoints that were broadly representative of Los Angeles County. Steering Committee members were selected as follows:

- From each Supervisorial District:
  - One staff representative
  - Two representatives from community-based organizations working on park and recreation issues in the District
  - Two community-at-large representatives
  - A representative from each Council of Government (COG), including Los Angeles, Lancaster, and Palmdale
- Representatives from the following County Departments: Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Health, the Chief Executive Office (CEO), and Department of Community & Senior Services
- A representative from the Regional Park and Open Space District
- A representative from First 5 LA
- A representative from the Youth Conservation Corps

Members of the Steering Committee attended six meetings over the course of the Parks Needs Assessment and provided invaluable input at each meeting. Their careful consideration of the issues brought forth by the Parks Needs Assessment greatly improved the final product. Their dedication is deeply appreciated.

Figure 3. Steering Committee Meetings Summary



1.2.4 TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provided expert guidance on technical aspects of the project at key phases, including the inventory of Countywide recreational assets, existing conditions analysis and baseline establishment, and land inventory and opportunity analysis. Specifically, the TAC was charged with providing review of GIS and mapping methodology. Three TAC meetings were held with County staff and project consultants to review key milestones, particularly during the inventory and analysis phases of the project.

1.2.5 CITIES

Participation of the incorporated cities within Los Angeles County was a critical component of the Parks Needs Assessment. Recognizing the significance of the Parks Needs Assessment, 86 of the 88 incorporated cities committed to collaborating on the project. These cities dedicated considerable staff time and resources to verifying and updating existing conditions of their parks and amenities during the inventory phase of the project; organizing, advertising, and facilitating community engagement workshops; and reviewing and submitting community feedback to the Parks Needs Assessment team.

Steering Committee Meeting, Exposition Park

The detailed and highly accurate data contributed by each city were critical to the accurate analysis of park need and the representation of community needs throughout the County. Participating cities are listed alphabetically.

- Agoura Hills
- Alhambra
- Arcadia
- Artesia
- Avalon
- Azusa
- Baldwin Park
- Bell
- Bell Gardens
- Bellflower
- Beverly Hills
- Bradbury
- Burbank
- Calabasas
- Carson
- Cerritos
- Claremont
- Commerce
- Compton
- Covina
- Cudahy
- Culver City

- Diamond Bar
- Downey
- Duarte
- El Monte
- El Segundo
- Gardena
- Glendale
- Glendora
- Hawaiian Gardens
- Hawthorne
- Hermosa Beach
- Huntington Park
- Industry
- Inglewood
- Irwindale
- La Cañada Flintridge
- La Habra Heights
- La Mirada
- La Puente
- La Verne

Covina Park Bandshell, City of Covina

- Lakewood
- Lancaster
- Lawndale
- Lomita
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles
- Lynwood
- Malibu
- Manhattan Beach
- Maywood
- Monrovia
- Montebello
- Monterey Park
- Norwalk
- Palmdale
- Palos Verdes Estates
- Paramount
- Pasadena
- Pico Rivera
- Pomona
- Rancho Palos Verdes
- Redondo Beach
- Rolling Hills Estates
- Rosemead
- San Dimas
- San Fernando
- San Gabriel
- San Marino
- Santa Clarita
- Santa Fe Springs
- Santa Monica
- Sierra Madre
- Signal Hill
- South El Monte
- South Gate
- South Pasadena
- Temple City
- Torrance
- Vernon
- Walnut
- West Covina
- West Hollywood
- Westlake Village
- Whittier

1.2.6 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

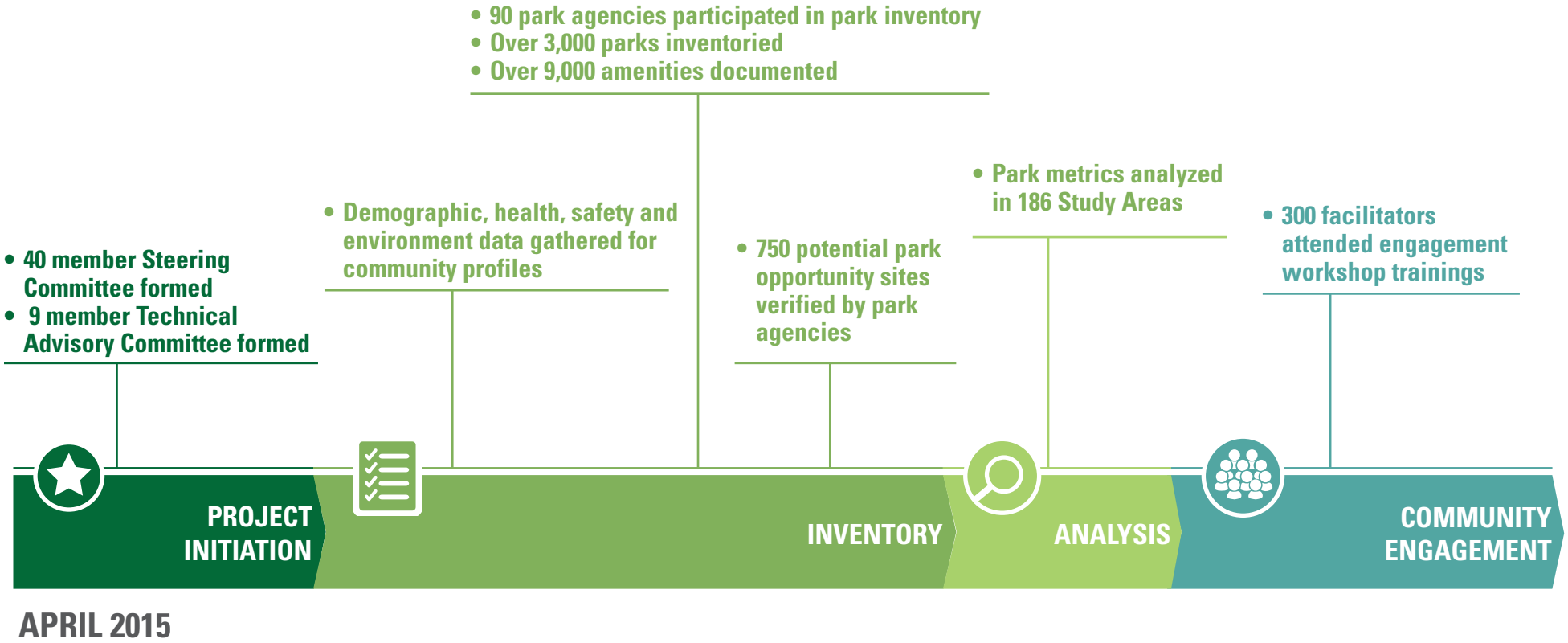
A strategic network of over 30 allied non-profit organizations was formed to educate and engage residents throughout the County to create understanding and transparency regarding the Parks Needs Assessment. These partners contributed to general Countywide education and awareness efforts. A smaller subset of these partner organizations provided targeted outreach in High-Priority Areas (HPAs) and facilitated community engagement workshops hosted by cities throughout the County. These separate roles are further detailed in Section 1.3.4, Community Engagement.

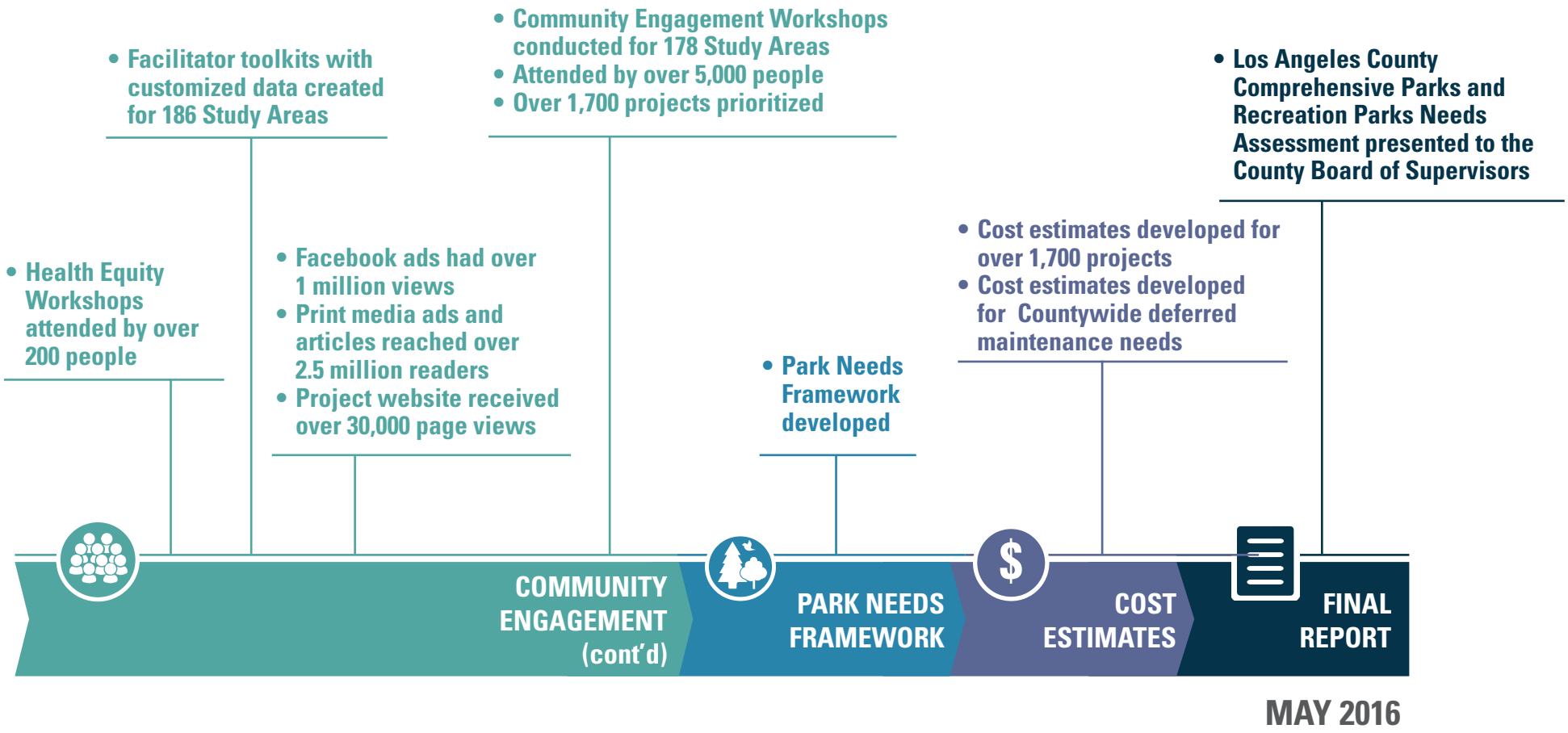
1.2.7 CONSULTANT TEAM

1.3 PROCESS OF COMPLETING THE PARKS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Parks Needs Assessment was completed over the course of 14 months, from March 2015 to May 2016. The work of the Parks Needs Assessment consisted of several distinct, yet overlapping phases, as illustrated in Figure 4. During project initiation, the Steering Committee and TAC were formed, baseline data were gathered, a Countywide base map was produced, and the Study Areas and park metrics were developed. Data were gathered during the inventory phase, followed by analysis of the gathered data. Once data analysis was complete, the information was shared with community members, who worked to prioritize park projects within their communities. Cost estimates were completed for the prioritized projects, and the park needs framework was developed.

Figure 4. Parks Needs Assessment Milestones




• Facilitator toolkits with customized data created for 186 Study Areas
• Community Engagement Workshops conducted for 178 Study Areas
• Attended by over 5,000 people
• Over 1,700 projects prioritized
• Los Angeles County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Parks Needs Assessment presented to the County Board of Supervisors
• Cost estimates developed for over 1,700 projects
• Cost estimates developed for Countywide deferred maintenance needs
• Health Equity Workshops attended by over 200 people
• Facebook ads had over 1 million views
• Print media ads and articles reached over 2.5 million readers
• Project website received over 30,000 page views
• Park Needs Framework developed
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (cont'd)
PARK NEEDS FRAMEWORK
COST ESTIMATES
FINAL REPORT
MAY 2016

1.3.1 STUDY AREAS

Los Angeles County includes 88 incorporated cities and over 2,600 square miles of unincorporated area. The majority of the County's 10 million residents live in incorporated cities, and about 1 million residents live in unincorporated areas. To ensure that communities across the County received equal representation in the Parks Needs Assessment, the County was divided into individual Study Areas. These geographic boundaries were developed using a GIS-based process that considered existing jurisdictional boundaries such as supervisorial districts, city borders, and County planning areas alongside information about population.

The initial Study Area boundaries were reviewed by the Steering Committee at their first meeting. Revised Study Area boundaries incorporated Steering Committee comments and resulted in a total of 189 Study Areas. However, due to its annexation into the City of Santa Clarita, one unincorporated community was later eliminated, bringing the final total number of Study Areas to 188. The process of establishing Study Area boundaries is illustrated in Figure 5.

Each incorporated city was initially assigned a single Study Area. Cities with population over 150,000 were split into two or more Study Areas, to create a more even distribution of population among Study Areas. Each of these larger cities was allocated a number of Study Areas based on their total population:

- City of Los Angeles: 43 Study Areas
- City of Long Beach: 5 Study Areas
- City of Glendale: 2 Study Areas
- City of Santa Clarita: 2 Study Areas
- City of Lancaster: 2 Study Areas
- City of Palmdale: 2 Study Areas
- City of Pomona: 2 Study Areas
- City of Torrance: 2 Study Areas
- City of Pasadena: 2 Study Areas

For each of these cities, project consultants suggested internal Study Area boundaries based on input from city staff, geographic barriers such as major roadways, City-developed boundaries such as council districts or planning areas, and population distribution. Final determination of the internal boundaries of the Study Areas was at the discretion of city staff.

Unincorporated communities in the County were evaluated based on population size and geographic location. Each of the 187 incorporated communities was addressed as follows:

- Geographically isolated communities with small populations were added to the Study Area of the adjacent, like-named city. A total of 18 cities agreed to include an adjacent unincorporated community within their Study Area boundaries.
- Distinct and/or geographically isolated communities with larger populations each became an individual Study Area. Any of these communities with more than 150,000 people was split into two Study Areas, similar to what was done for large cities.
- Geographically adjacent communities with small populations were grouped according to community name and geography, population distribution, and statistical areas.
- Each Study Area was assigned a unique identification number, illustrated in Figure 6, Figure 7, and Table 1.

Salt Lake Park, City of Huntington Park

Figure 5. Study Area Development Process

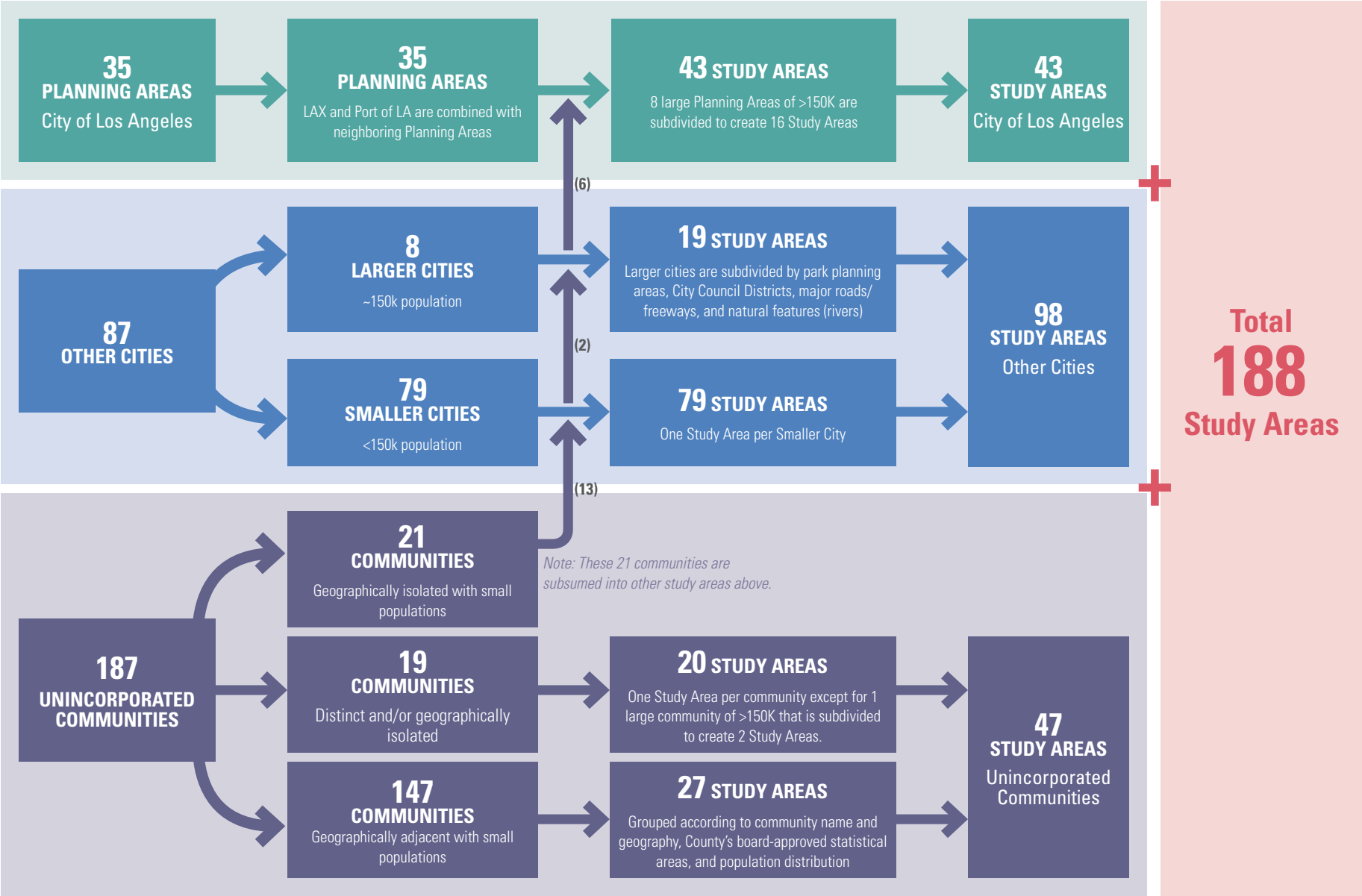


Figure 6. Study Area Map: Los Angeles County, North

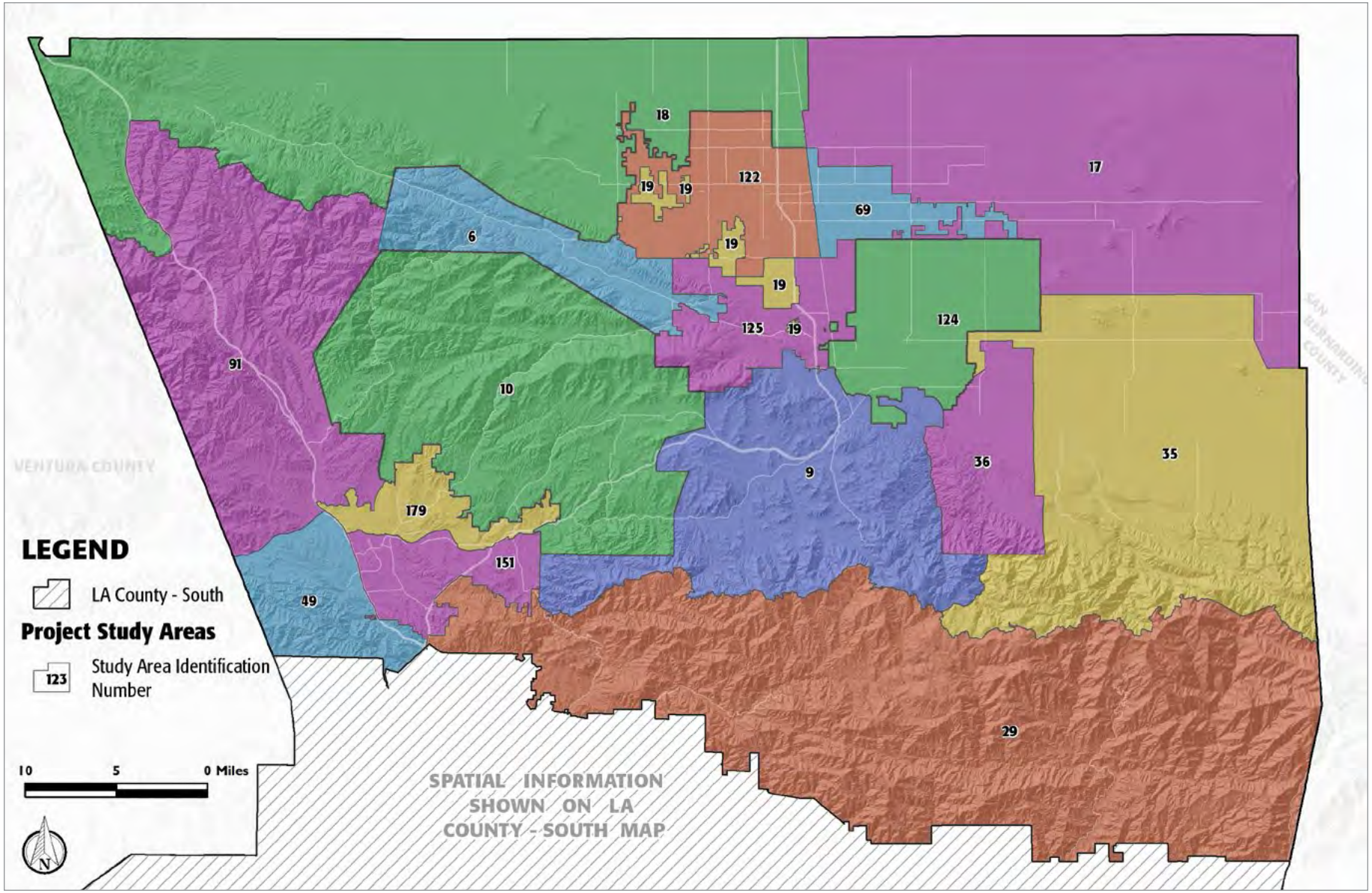


Figure 7. Study Area Map: Los Angels County, South

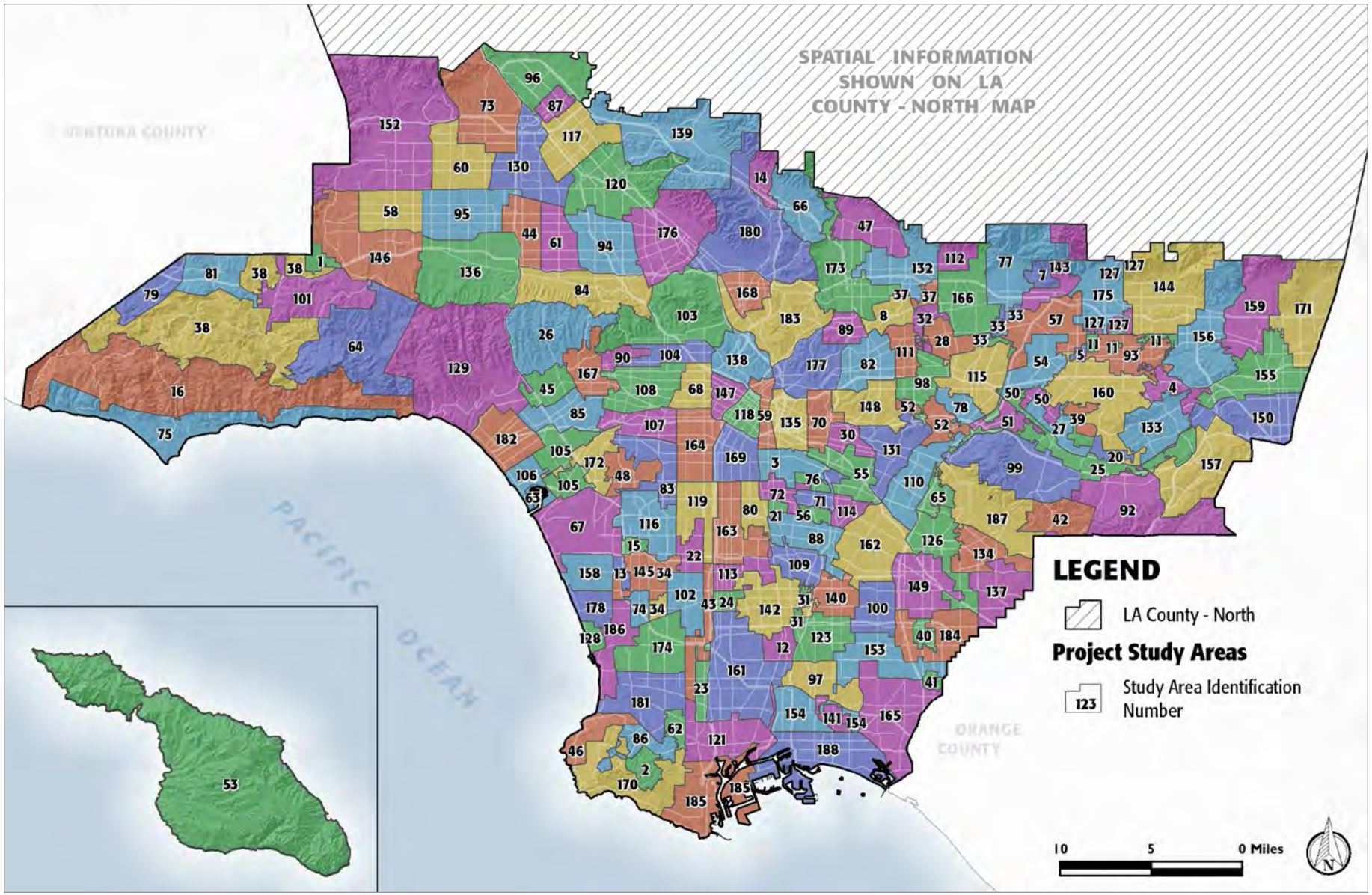


Table 1. Study Area Map Key

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
1	City of Hidden Hills
2	City of Rolling Hills
3	City of Vernon/ Unincorporated Vernon
4	Unincorporated Covina-San Dimas
5	Unincorporated Covina Islands
6	Unincorporated Leona Valley/ Unincorporated Lake Hughes
7	City of Bradbury/ Unincorporated Bradbury
8	City of San Marino
9	Unincorporated Acton/ Unincorporated South Antelope Valley
10	Unincorporated Agua Dulce-Angeles National Forest-Canyon Country
11	Unincorporated Charter Oak Islands
12	Unincorporated Compton
13	Unincorporated Del Aire
14	Unincorporated La Crescenta - Montrose
15	Unincorporated Lennox
16	Unincorporated Malibu
17	Unincorporated Northeast Antelope Valley
18	Unincorporated Northwest Antelope Valley
19	Unincorporated Quartz Hill-Lancaster
20	Unincorporated San Jose Hills
21	Unincorporated Walnut Park
22	Unincorporated West Athens-Westmont

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
23	Unincorporated West Carson
24	Unincorporated West Rancho Dominguez
25	City of Industry
26	City of LA - Bel Air - Beverly Crest/ Unincorporated Hollywood Hills
27	City of La Puente
28	City of Temple City
29	Unincorporated Angeles National Forest
30	Unincorporated East Los Angeles - Southeast
31	Unincorporated East Rancho Dominguez
32	Unincorporated East San Gabriel/ Unincorporated Arcadia
33	Unincorporated Monrovia
34	Unincorporated Hawthorne/ Unincorporated Alondra Park
35	Unincorporated Lake Los Angeles/ Uninc Pearblossom/ Uninc Liano/ Uninc Valyermo
36	Unincorporated Littlerock
37	Unincorporated San Pasqual/ Unincorporated East Pasadena
38	Unincorporated Santa Monica Mountains/ Unincorporated Triunfo Canyon
39	Unincorporated Valinda
40	City of Artesia
41	City of Hawaiian Gardens
42	City of La Habra Heights
43	City of LA - Harbor Gateway

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
44	City of LA - Van Nuys - North Sherman Oaks
45	City of LA - Westwood/ Unincorporated Sawtelle VA Center
46	City of Palos Verdes Estates
47	Unincorporated Altadena
48	Unincorporated Ladera Heights/ View Park - Windsor Hills
49	Unincorporated Stevenson/Newhall Ranch
50	Unincorporated Bassett-West Puente Valley
51	Unincorporated Pellissier Village-Avocado Heights
52	Unincorporated Sunrise Village-South San Gabriel-Whittier Narrows
53	City of Avalon/ Unincorporated Channel Islands North
54	City of Baldwin Park
55	City of Commerce
56	City of Cudahy
57	City of Irwindale
58	City of LA - Canoga Park - Winnetka
59	City of LA - Central City North
60	City of LA - Northridge
61	City of LA - Valley Glen - North Sherman Oaks
62	City of Lomita
63	Unincorporated Marina del Rey
64	Unincorporated Topanga Canyon/ Topanga

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
65	Unincorporated West Whittier - Los Nietos
66	City of La Canada Flintridge
67	City of LA - Westchester - Playa del Rey/ City of LA Los Angeles International Airport
68	City of LA - Wilshire - Koreatown
69	City of Lancaster - Eastside
70	Unincorporated East Los Angeles - Northwest
71	City of Bell
72	City of Huntington Park
73	City of LA - Granada Hills - Knollwood
74	City of Lawndale
75	City of Malibu
76	City of Maywood
77	City of Monrovia
78	City of South El Monte/ Unincorporated El Monte/ Unincorporated Whittier Narrows
79	City of Westlake Village
80	Unincorporated Florence-Firestone
81	City of Agoura Hills
82	City of Alhambra
83	City of LA - Baldwin Hills - Leimert - Hyde Park
84	City of LA - Sherman Oaks - Studio City - Toluca Lake - Cahuenga Pass/ Uninc Universal City
85	City of LA - West Los Angeles
86	City of Rolling Hills Estates/ Unincorporated Westfield

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
87	City of San Fernando
88	City of South Gate
89	City of South Pasadena
90	City of West Hollywood
91	Unincorporated Castaic
92	Unincorporated Rowland Heights
93	City of Covina
94	City of LA - North Hollywood - Valley Village
95	City of LA - Reseda - West Van Nuys
96	City of LA - Sylmar
97	City of Long Beach Central
98	City of Rosemead
99	Unincorporated Hacienda Heights-Whittier
100	City of Bellflower
101	City of Calabasas
102	City of Gardena
103	City of LA - Hollywood - North
104	City of LA - Hollywood - South
105	City of LA - Palms - Mar Vista - Del Rey
106	City of LA - Venice
107	City of LA - West Adams
108	City of LA - Wilshire - West
109	City of Lynwood/ Unincorporated Lynwood
110	City of Pico Rivera

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
111	City of San Gabriel
112	City of Sierra Madre
113	Unincorporated Willowbrook
114	City of Bell Gardens
115	City of El Monte
116	City of Inglewood
117	City of LA - Arleta - Pacoima
118	City of LA - Central City
119	City of LA - South Los Angeles
120	City of LA - Sun Valley - La Tuna Canyon
121	City of LA - Wilmington - Harbor City/ City of LA Port of Los Angeles
122	City of Lancaster - Westside
123	City of Long Beach North
124	City of Palmdale - Eastside/ Unincorporated South Antelope Valley
125	City of Palmdale - Westside
126	City of Santa Fe Springs
127	Unincorporated Azusa
128	City of Hermosa Beach
129	City of LA - Brentwood - Pacific Palisades
130	City of LA - Mission Hills - Panorama City - North Hills
131	City of Montebello
132	City of Pasadena - Eastside/ Unincorporated Kinneloa Mesa

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
133	City of Walnut
134	Unincorporated South Whittier/ Unincorporated East La Mirada
135	City of LA - Boyle Heights
136	City of LA - Encino - Tarzana
137	City of La Mirada
138	City of LA - Silver Lake - Echo Park - Elysian Valley
139	City of LA - Sunland - Tujunga - Lake View Terrace - Shadow Hills
140	City of Paramount
141	City of Signal Hill
142	City of Compton
143	City of Duarte
144	City of Glendora/ Unincorporated Glendora
145	City of Hawthorne
146	City of LA - West Hills - Woodland Hills/ Uninc Conoga Park - West Hills
147	City of LA - Westlake
148	City of Monterey Park
149	City of Norwalk
150	City of Pomona - Southside
151	Santa Clarita - South
152	City of LA - Chatsworth - Porter Ranch/ Uninc Chatsworth/ Uninc Northridge/ Uninc Conoga Park/ Uninc Porter Ranch-Oat Mountain
153	City of Lakewood/ Unincorporated Lakewood

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
154	City of Long Beach West
155	City of Pomona - Northside
156	City of San Dimas/ Unincorporated San Dimas
157	City of Diamond Bar
158	City of El Segundo
159	City of La Verne/ Unincorporated La Verne/ Unincorporated Claremont
160	City of West Covina
161	City of Carson
162	City of Downey
163	City of LA - Southeast Los Angeles
164	City of LA - Exposition Park - University Park - Vermont Square
165	City of Long Beach East/ Unincorporated Long Beach
166	City of Arcadia
167	City of Beverly Hills
168	City of Glendale - Southside
169	City of LA - Southeast Los Angeles - North
170	City of Rancho Palos Verdes
171	City of Claremont/ Unincorporated Claremont
172	City of Culver City
173	City of Pasadena - Westside
174	City of Torrance - North
175	City of Azusa
176	City of Burbank

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME
177	City of LA - Northeast Los Angeles - South
178	City of Manhattan Beach
179	Santa Clarita - North
180	City of Glendale - Northside
181	City of Torrance - South
182	City of Santa Monica
183	City of LA - Northeast Los Angeles - North
184	City of Cerritos/ Unincorporated Cerritos
185	City of LA - San Pedro/ City of LA Port of Los Angeles/ Unincorporated La Rambla
186	City of Redondo Beach
187	City of Whittier
188	City of Long Beach South

Verdugo Park Aquatic Center, City of Burbank

1.3.2 PARK METRICS

Park need is affected by a variety of factors, from historical development patterns to population density, and thus can be measured in a variety of ways. Traditionally, measures such as the number of acres of park land available to residents or the percentage of residents living within walking distance of a park have been used to understand park need within an area. However, using a single indicator, which provides information on just one aspect of park need, does not lead to a complete understanding of the level and variety of park need. For example, an evaluation of park need based on the number of acres of park land available per 1,000 residents may show that an area is providing an adequate amount of park land. However, if the majority of the population cannot access that park land because it is too far away, park need likely still exists.

Recognizing that park need is affected by more than just park availability and accessibility, the Steering Committee approved a suite of five park metrics for analysis in the Parks Needs Assessment. Taken together, these five metrics produce a robust understanding of physical park needs in each Study Area in the County.

The five park metrics ensure that the need measured in one Study Area is comparable to the need measured in any other Study Area across the County. Additionally, with the exception of "Park Condition," the metrics are based on quantitative features of parks and the neighborhoods surrounding them. As such, they can be easily re-evaluated in the future as a way of gauging progress toward the goal of meeting park need in Los Angeles County.

Veterans Park, City of Bell

i. The Five Park Metrics

Park Land: How many acres of park are there per 1,000 people in the Study Area?

Because this metric accounts for population size, it can be used across diverse geographic areas to give an understanding of how much park land is available to residents in any given area.

A single standard for what is considered sufficient park land does not exist. However, the County's recently approved General Plan establishes a goal of 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents. Within Los Angeles County, many incorporated cities have set their own standards for this metric. For cities with a documented standard for this metric, it ranges from less than 1 acre per 1,000 to over 8 acres per 1,000.

Park Access: What percentage of the population lives within a half mile of a park?

This metric evaluates the distribution of park land within each Study Area and whether residents can easily access it. The closer someone lives to a park, the more likely they will visit it regularly.[1] Research from several studies, as summarized by the Trust for Public Land,[2] notes that most pedestrians are willing to walk a half mile or approximately ten minutes, to a access a destination, including parks and recreation facilities.

1 NRPA. (2014). Safe Routes to Parks: Improving access to Parks through Walkability.
2 The Trust for Public Land. (2015). ParkScore 2015. Close-to-Home Parks: A Half-Mile or Less.

This distance has been widely adopted as a standard for providing nearby access to parks and open space. Of the 100 largest cities in the United States that have explicit park distance goals, over 60 percent use a half mile.

Park Pressure: How much park land is available to residents in the area around each park?

Park pressure examines how population density affects parks by capturing the potential demand if each resident of the County were to use the park closest to them. Various studies report that people are more likely to visit the park closest to them than any other park, and that they will visit that park repeatedly rather than exploring other parks, located further from their homes.[3] If the majority of people in a Study Area live within a half-mile of a park, but the population density surrounding that park is high or the number of acres of the park are low, there is likely to be park need that would escape detection using only the park land and park access metrics. Park pressure assesses the potential number of nearby users for each park in the County by analyzing population density in conjunction with park size. Parks with a small number of acres per 1,000 nearby residents are likely to be more heavily used than parks with a larger number of acres per 1,000 nearby residents.

3 Sister, C., Wolch, J., & Wilson, J. (June 01, 2010). Got green? addressing environmental justice in park provision. Geojournal: Spatially Integrated Social Sciences and Humanities, 75, 3, 229-248.

Park Amenities: What amenities are available in each park in the Study Area?

The types of amenities available in a park can also affect park need. If parks do not offer a variety of amenities to meet the needs of all residents of the Study Area, the quality of individuals' park experience may be diminished. By collecting information on the quantity and type of amenities available in each park in the County, this metric provides information on the type of park experience that may be lacking in a given Study Area.

Amenity data presented for each Study Area was captured during the inventory web portal phase of the Parks Needs Assessment. Each of the participating cities; the County of Los Angeles; and other state, regional, and local agencies reviewed their parks and reported their amenity information. Park amenities were reported by park staff during the inventory phase of the Parks Needs Assessment. Specifically, respondents were asked to report the number of each of 16 common amenities in each of their parks. These 16 amenities were agreed upon by the Steering Committee:

- Baseball Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Community/Rec Centers
- Dog Parks
- Fitness Zones
- Gymnasiums
- Multipurpose Fields
- Picnic Shelters
- Playgrounds
- Restrooms
- Senior Centers
- Skate Parks
- Soccer Fields
- Splash Pads
- Swimming Pools
- Tennis Courts

In addition to these 16 amenities, data were collected on trails, open space/turf areas, and general park infrastructure (defined as signage, parking lots, walkways, security lighting, park furniture, irrigation, vegetation/landscaping, and fencing). Users of the Web Portal also had the opportunity to enter any specialty amenities in their parks, such as volleyball courts, equestrian centers, amphitheaters, etc.

Park Condition: Is the park in good, fair, or poor condition?

A park visitor's experience is also affected by the condition of the park and the amenities within it. Regardless of the quantity and variety of amenities available, community members may be less likely to visit parks with amenities or general park infrastructure in poor condition. This could result in underutilized parks as well as overcrowding in parks with better conditioned amenities and infrastructure.

Park condition was assessed as part of the Park Assets Inventory Web Portal, by each agency reporting the condition of their amenities and general park infrastructure. Agencies could choose between three conditions for each

amenity: good, fair, or poor. The Steering Committee raised concerns over the accuracy of self-reporting, as park agencies could easily overstate or understate the condition of their amenities. To improve accuracy and consistency as much as possible within the time constraints of the Parks Needs Assessment, the consultant team developed the "Park Amenity Condition Visual Manual and Operational Definitions" to ensure mutual understanding of each condition for every amenity type. For additional information on the assessment of amenity conditions see Section 1.3.3, Park Assets Inventory Web Portal.

ii. Community Profiles

The Steering Committee noted that a number of factors beyond the five park metrics can affect park need and may include variables such as public safety; gang activity; the condition of sidewalks and crosswalks leading to parks; pollution burdens; and demographic factors such as race, ethnicity, poverty, and obesity rates. However, because the scope of the Parks Needs Assessment is focused on the physical needs of existing parks (including deferred maintenance) and any need for new parks, these additional factors are not included in the park metrics used to determine need. Instead, this information, where available, was included in a community profile for each Study Area.

The community profile provides information about factors that affect park need and that are beyond the scope of the Parks Needs Assessment. For example, park access is affected not only by the distance a household is from a park, but by access to a vehicle. Community profile data were provided directly to each Study Area for its internal use and to inform park staff, who could in turn use the information as part of community meetings. The following data were provided for each Study Area:

- Demographics: population distribution by age and race/ethnicity
- Socioeconomics: poverty level, access to a vehicle, linguistic isolation
- Public Safety: bike/pedestrian collisions, violent crime
- Health: obesity, asthma, diabetes rates
- Environment: ozone concentration, fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) concentration, diesel emissions

Additional data requested by the Steering Committee, but not available for the entire County or in a quantifiable dataset include sidewalk and crosswalk locations and conditions, prevalence of gang violence, and perceived safety associated with homelessness.

Orizaba Skate Park, City of Long Beach

iii. Multi-Benefit Parks

The Steering Committee also noted that all parks built or renovated in Los Angles County in the future should be multi-benefit parks. As outlined in the motion from the Board, the Parks Needs Assessment focuses on individual Study Areas and local park need within each of those Study Areas. Because of this local focus, the Parks Needs Assessment does not address regional issues such as water conservation, green infrastructure, or climate adaptation. However, as Los Angeles County moves to address park need, there is an opportunity to address these regional issues at the same time. By designing multi-benefit parks that contribute to stormwater capture, provide ecosystem services, use water responsibly, and enhance regional sustainability, local parks can contribute positively to the entire region.

1.3.3 PARK ASSETS INVENTORY WEB PORTAL

An accurate and reliable source of baseline data on the existing parks and recreation amenities in Los Angeles County is the foundation of the Parks Needs Assessment. Prior to the Parks Needs Assessment, this data did not exist in a single database. Instead, each jurisdiction maintained its own records in its own system. Gathering this dispersed information into a single GIS-based database was accomplished via an interactive online web portal that greatly expedited the collection of accurate and complete data from over 90 park and open space-owning agencies in the County. Each of these agencies was invited to contribute data to the Park Assets Inventory Web Portal.

Building on data from the California Protected Areas Database (CPAD) developed by GreenInfo Network, the interactive Web Portal allowed participating agencies to:

90
park agencies participated in the inventory

- Verify and refine existing parks and open space data
  - Each agency reviewed the CPAD data displayed as a base layer in the Web Portal and was able to update and edit this information as needed
- Add missing parks and open space facilities
  - Each agency was able to upload GIS shapefiles to the Web Portal or locate the missing facility on the interactive map and manually outline the boundaries, name the facility, and indicate the owner/operating agency
- Add amenity information to each park and open space facility
  - Each agency recorded the quantity and condition of each amenity type in every facility in their Study Area. A standardized system of ranking amenity condition as "good," fair," or "poor" was employed.
- Place general notes
  - Agencies could record additional information about each facility in this section of the Web Portal
- Upload photos of existing conditions
  - Agencies could share pictures to show the condition of facilities in the Study Area

i. Training

To ensure the accuracy of the data inputs, the project consultants conducted extensive training sessions with users. Over 30 on-site trainings were held with city staff at their offices, and a technical assistance workshop was held during the Quarterly Parks Summit on August 6, 2015, at the Hacienda Heights Community Center. The workshop was attended by nearly 80 City and County staff members and included an extensive demonstration of the Web Portal's functionality, in-depth explanation of tools available to users, and a question-and-answer session.

Training materials developed by the project consultants were provided digitally to all participating cities, and phone-based training was available to those who could not attend the technical assistance workshop or on-site training. The project consultants also provided ongoing technical assistance to all agencies using the Web Portal during the seven weeks it was open.

The training materials provided to Web Portal users included a Quick Start Guide, an index of frequently asked questions, and the "Park Amenity Condition Visual Manual and Operational Definitions" booklet (See Appendix D), which provided visual guides and operational definitions.

Gallant Park, City of Bell Gardens

ii. Amenity Condition Definitions

The rating of amenity conditions was the responsibility of each park-owning agency. To increase the consistency of these self-reported ratings, all users were instructed to adhere to the definitions in the "Park Amenity Condition Visual Manual and Operational Definitions" guide that was provided to all users. This guide included a written description and sample photo of each condition (good, fair, and poor) for each amenity type.

In general, amenities in "good" condition offer full functionality and do not need repairs. "Good" condition amenities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features such as railings and fences. "Good" amenities may have minor cosmetic defects that can be repaired as part of a regular maintenance regime. "Good" amenities encourage area residents to use the park.

In general, amenities in "fair" condition are functional but need minor or moderate repairs. "Fair" amenities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or time periods where they are unusable. "Fair" amenities remain important amenities for the neighborhood but may slightly discourage use of the park by residents.

In general, amenities in "poor" condition are largely or completely unusable. They need major repairs to be functional or cannot be repaired. "Poor" amenities discourage residents from using the park.

The Web Portal opened on July 16, 2015, and closed on September 4, 2015, allowing agencies seven weeks to enter data. Of the 88 incorporated cities in the County, 86 provided data for the Web Portal. The Web Portal was also used by DPR staff, state and federal agencies, and other park and open space-owning agencies. The lead agency in each Study Area had the opportunity to review their submitted inventory data in mid November, 2015, after receiving the information at the facilitator training sessions.

Figure 8. Sample Condition Definitions

1.3.4 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

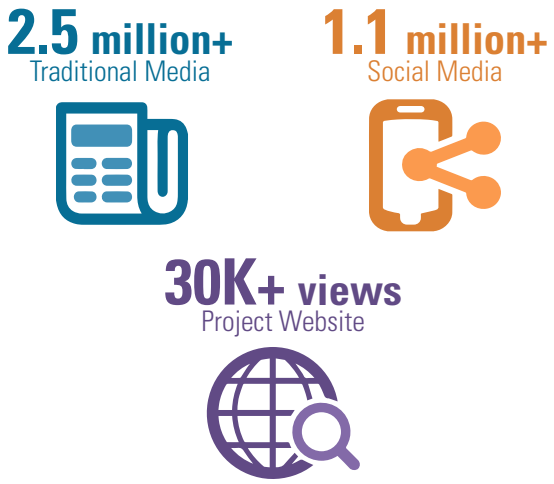
The motion passed by the Board of Supervisors to launch the Parks Needs Assessment emphasized the importance of a community-led engagement process to share analysis results and gather community input on park needs. The sharing of analysis data and gathering of input occurred in a series of community workshops that were held in nearly every Study Area between December 2015 and February 2016.

To ensure that community members were aware of the opportunity to learn about the parks in their community and share their input on park need, the Parks Needs Assessment launched a significant community engagement effort two months before the first community workshop. Engagement efforts occurred at two levels: a Countywide education and awareness campaign, and efforts within each Study Area to draw residents to the community workshop for that Study Area.

i. Countywide Education and Awareness

The goal of the Countywide education and awareness effort was to inform County residents of the Parks Needs Assessment and encourage them to attend a community workshop in their Study Area. During the outreach portion of the project, the DPR collaborated with project consultants PlaceWorks and MIG to develop a comprehensive outreach strategy. The strategy included a robust media component, public meetings and workshops, extra efforts in high priority areas, and a dedicated online presence. The goal of the education and awareness effort was to promote the Parks Needs Assessment on a Countywide scale and to encourage attendance at community workshops, where stakeholder feedback would help to inform future priorities for parks and recreation throughout the County.

Figure 9. Education and Awareness Reach



Media Component

Social Media. In keeping with the current popularity of online communities and their influence over local-level engagement, DPR developed an active social media strategy aimed at reaching stakeholders across all geographic regions of the County. The primary purpose of this effort was to drive people to the Parks Needs Assessment website, where viewers could use the interactive map to find workshops in their local communities.

Figure 10. LA Times Advertisement

Social media posts began in mid-November and ran until the end of January. The effort utilized sophisticated online marketing tactics to target advertisements toward those who have high-level interest in parks and recreation, such as families, dog-lovers, and those interested in sports and outdoor activities. Nine Facebook advertisements, led nearly 20,000 people to the Parks Needs Assessment website and generated nearly 4,000 clicks on the interactive map. The effort also benefited from existing online networks, which shared the advertisements 450 times and generated nearly 4,000 "likes," effectively expanding the reached audience to over 1.1 million people (see Figure 9).

Figure 11. Sample Facebook Advertisement

Traditional Media. To complement the online social media efforts, DPR worked to raise awareness about the Parks Needs Assessment among consumers of traditional media. Over 60 journalists throughout the County were contacted, and over 20 articles were published.

Based on the circulation numbers of all participating media outlets, the print media effort reached over 1.2 million people, as shown in Table 2.

Print and digital ads for the project and community workshops ran multiple times in the *Los Angeles Times, La Opinión,* and *San Gabriel Valley Tribune.* The daily readership rates for these publications is over 1.3 million, which results in total of over 2.5 million people reached through traditional media sources (Figure 10 and Figure 11).

Table 2. Newspaper Publications

PUBLICATION	CIRCULATION
Long Beach Post	25,000
Bell Gardens Sun	7,000
Commerce Comet	6,500
Eastside Sun	24,000
Montebello Comet	17,000
Vernon Sun	2,500
LA Daily News	385,602
Long Beach Press Telegram	77,334
Daily Breeze	79,327
Pasadena Star-News	24,880
San Gabriel Valley Tribune	56,513
Whittier Daily News	14,367
Monrovia Weekly	4,000
Hometown News	15,000
Los Angeles Wave	198,108
El Monte Examiner	10,000
Sierra Madre Weekly	2,000
Santa Clarita Valley Signal	19,400
The Downey Patriot	25,000
The Argonaut	30,000
South Pasadena Review	4,000
Glendale News-Press	20,000
SCV News	3,000
Total	**1,160,531**

In addition to local newspaper publications, project director Rita Robinson was interviewed by KPCC/Southern California Public Radio and the *Los Angeles Times*.

Web-Based Component: LAcountyparkneeds.org

The social media, traditional media, and additional efforts in high priority areas directed interested residents to the Parks Needs Assessment website, a vibrant and user-friendly resource designed to connect the general public with information about the Parks Needs Assessment. With 186 Study Areas participating in the Parks Needs Assessment, the website required a user-interface design that was functional, graphically engaging, and logically organized so that users could easily obtain and/or provide information without visiting numerous pages or lists.

During the community engagement phase of the Parks Needs Assessment, the website's primary function was to assist users in finding the location and date of the community workshop in their Study Area. An interactive map allowed users to pinpoint their location; a single click on the map then activated a pop-up window that provided workshop information and links for downloading maps and data for each Study Area. The workshop information and Study Area-specific downloads were also available on the website in a chart format for those who preferred to search by Study Area name.

In addition to allowing users to quickly and easily find information about their Study Area, the website included a complete chronology of the Parks Needs Assessment; information about the Steering Committee meetings, including presentations and summary meeting notes; a listing of the TAC members; project fact sheets and background information in seven languages, contact information for reach County staff involved in the Parks Needs Assessment; and a platform for providing feedback. This brief survey was designed to engage stakeholders who were unable to attend a workshop in person.

The website also included a sign-up list for users to submit their email address and receive updates and news as the project moved forward. More than 250 people signed up for the project mailing list.

Figure 12. Homepage for Project Website

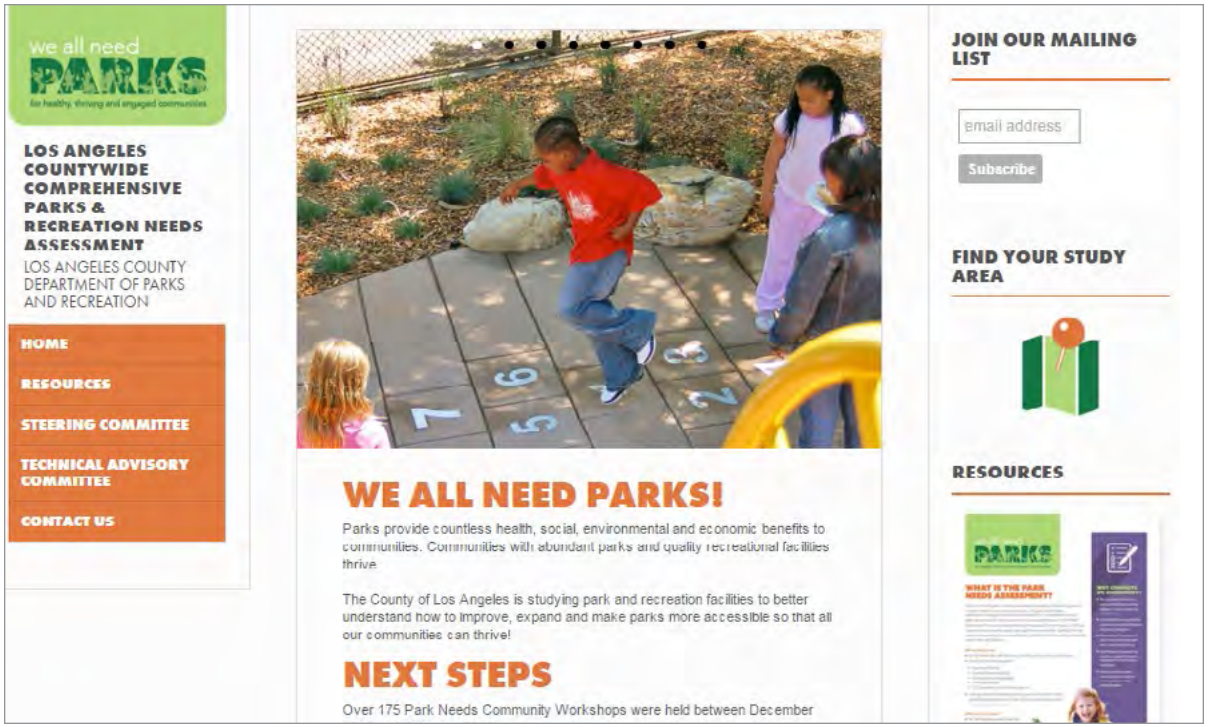


Figure 13. Interactive Map for Locating Workshops

High Priority Areas

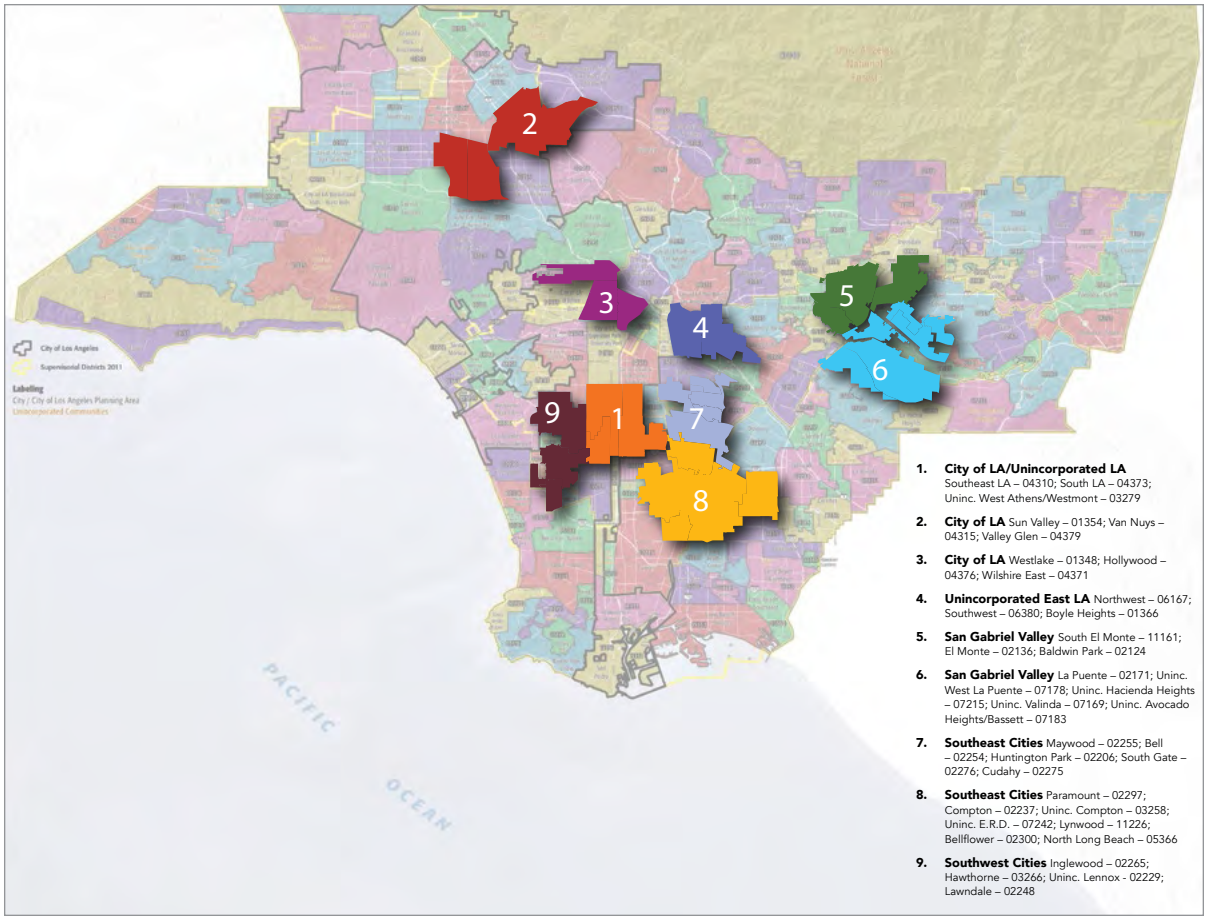
In an effort to reach communities that are typically underrepresented in civic engagement initiatives and planning processes, the County identified areas of high need that could benefit from additional approaches to outreach. Nine High-Priority Areas (HPAs), consisting of 35 study areas, were established and are shown on Figure 14.

The County recognized that community-based organizations (CBOs) with an established rapport with community members are often more successful in engaging them than public agencies. Taking that into consideration, seven CBOs were contracted to provide increased local outreach in the HPAs. Collaborating with CBOs that are well known and respected provided the opportunity to connect with other community organizations, schools, local businesses, and political leaders.

Health Equity Workshops

To invite these community leaders to collaborate, the County conducted three "Health Equity" workshops, which provided a space for community leaders to network and unify efforts. The workshops were also dedicated to explaining the positive impacts parks and recreation services can have on public health. Lastly, the workshops called on the organizations in attendance to help spread the word of the Parks Needs Assessment and to actively engage community members and encourage them to attend their local workshop, aimed at prioritizing park needs. The seven contracted CBOs organized outreach efforts to complement the Countywide efforts. By reaching out to their existing mailing list of subscribers, CBOs were able to reach over 6,500 people, and another 34,708 people through their social media networks.

Figure 14. Location of High Priority Areas



3
Health Equity Workshops held

In order to reach community members who might not be active on web-based platforms, the CBOs distributed flyers and other print materials to various points of interest in the community, including: churches, parks, residences, businesses, and community meetings. Through their collaboration efforts, several council members, assembly members, and even senators used their public voice to share the news of the Parks Needs Assessment and upcoming workshops with their constituents. By engaging the HPAs at a local level, the CBOs were able reach a wider audience and noticeably improve workshop attendance.

ii. Study Area-Specific Outreach

In contrast to the Countywide education and awareness campaign, which delivered general information about the Parks Needs Assessment, Study Area specific-outreach focused on advertising individual community workshops. The lead agency in each Study Area was responsible for advertising the workshop it would host, and was given resources such as flyers, logos, and social media hashtags to assist in the effort. Each agency crafted and executed its own outreach plan for advertising its workshop, using the provided resources or developing materials tailored to the Study Area's population.

Unincorporated Study Areas

Nearly 100 DPR employees and several community-based organizations worked together to inform community members in unincorporated Los Angeles County about opportunities to participate in the Parks Needs Assessment in each of the 47 unincorporated Study Areas.

The DPR and its collaborators operated an active social media campaign, published print and digital ads in local newspapers, distributed flyers through schools and other organizations, posted signs in parks, and made announcements at community events in order to attract participants to each of the workshops held by the DPR.

Facebook posts and Twitter "tweets" promoted the Parks Needs Assessment and provided specific meeting dates, times, and locations. To reach those who follow park-related news through social media outlets, DPR used popular hashtags (#weallneedparks and #boostmyparks) in all of their related posts. To encourage organic leads and shares, Facebook posts were further amplified by using the service's "boost" function, an advertising feature that allowed the DPR to target posts to key demographics based on user location, age, interests, and other metrics. Facebook "boosts" were a key part of the outreach effort, and targeted posts reached an average audience of between 3,000 and 4,000 people per meeting. In total, DPR's Facebook and Twitter efforts received more than 120,000 views.

Figure 15. Tweets for Community Workshops

To further increase attendance at workshops, the County aimed to make it easier for working families to attend their local workshops by providing dinner or refreshments for evening meetings, childcare, and give-aways such as umbrellas and gift cards.

Figure 16. Customized Flyer, Unincorporated Sunrise Village - South San Gabriel - Whittier Narrows

City Study Areas

Each city was responsible for advertising its own community workshop. Although resources such as flyer templates and logos were provided by the Parks Needs Assessment, staff in each City was encouraged to use their prior experience to develop and implement outreach tactics known to work best in their communities. Cities posted workshop information on their websites, engaged with social media, distributed flyers, partnered with schools and local organizations, and made announcements at local events. Highlighted below are summaries of the efforts made by several cities to attract participants to their meetings.

Workshop Banner Advertisement, City of La Puente

The **City of El Monte** displayed large signage at the local aquatic center, senior center, city council meetings, and other special events. In addition to signage, banners were hung in local parks, flyers were posted on the city webpage, and an article was blasted to all residents and subscribers of the city e-Newsletter. The City also collaborated with local school districts, the Chamber of Commerce, and organizations like Meals on Wheels, to distribute customized flyers to their respective members and subscribers. Over 150 people attended the workshop.

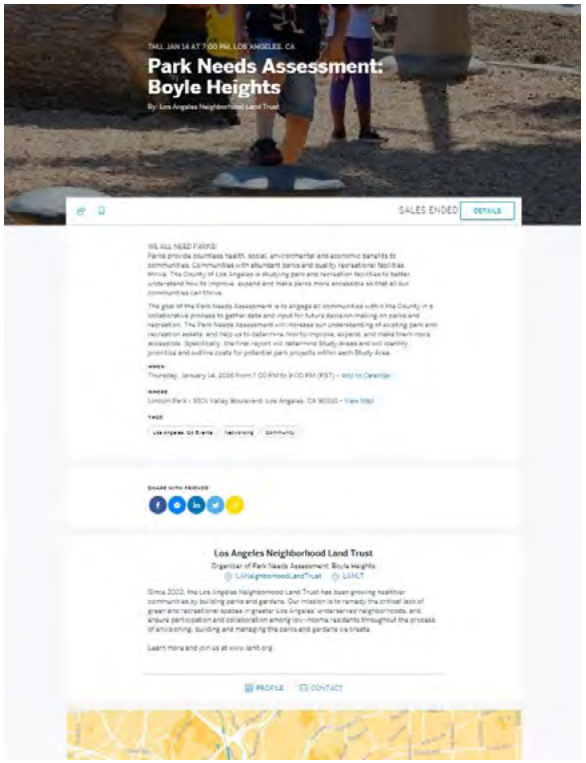
Figure 17. Customized Flyer, City of El Monte

The **City of Bell Gardens** attracted approximately 65 people to their workshop by announcing the event on the city website, utilizing social media platforms, and distributing flyers in multiple languages. In addition, workshop facilitators partnered with city recreation supervisors and program coordinators to reach out to participants of all city programs; the majority of their turnout was in response to this effort.

The **City of Los Angeles** collaborated with Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust to conduct outreach in the Boyle Heights study area. Organizers held in-person meetings with community groups and partnered with local churches and council members to have announcements placed in their respective newsletters. Organizers also held advocacy training sessions to inform the community of the importance of the Parks Needs Assessment for park-poor communities such as Boyle Heights. The Boyle Heights workshop attracted the largest number of participants, approximately 350 people.

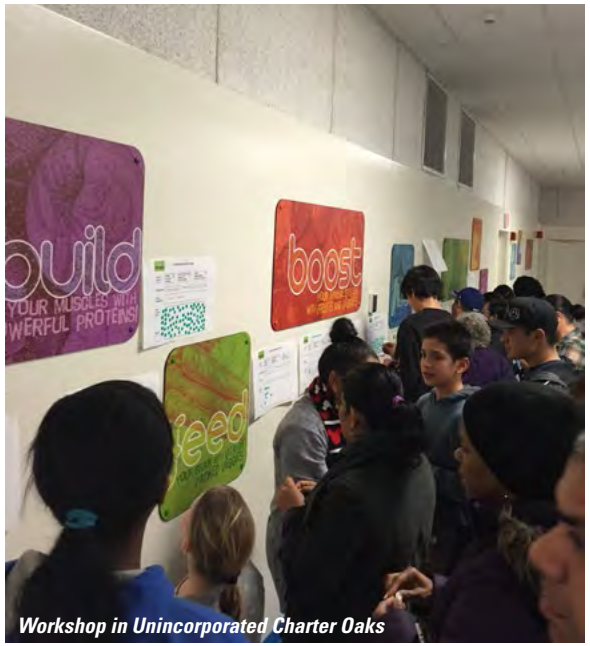
Figure 18. English Language Flyer, City of Bell Gardens

Figure 19. Eventbrite Invitation, Boyle Heights



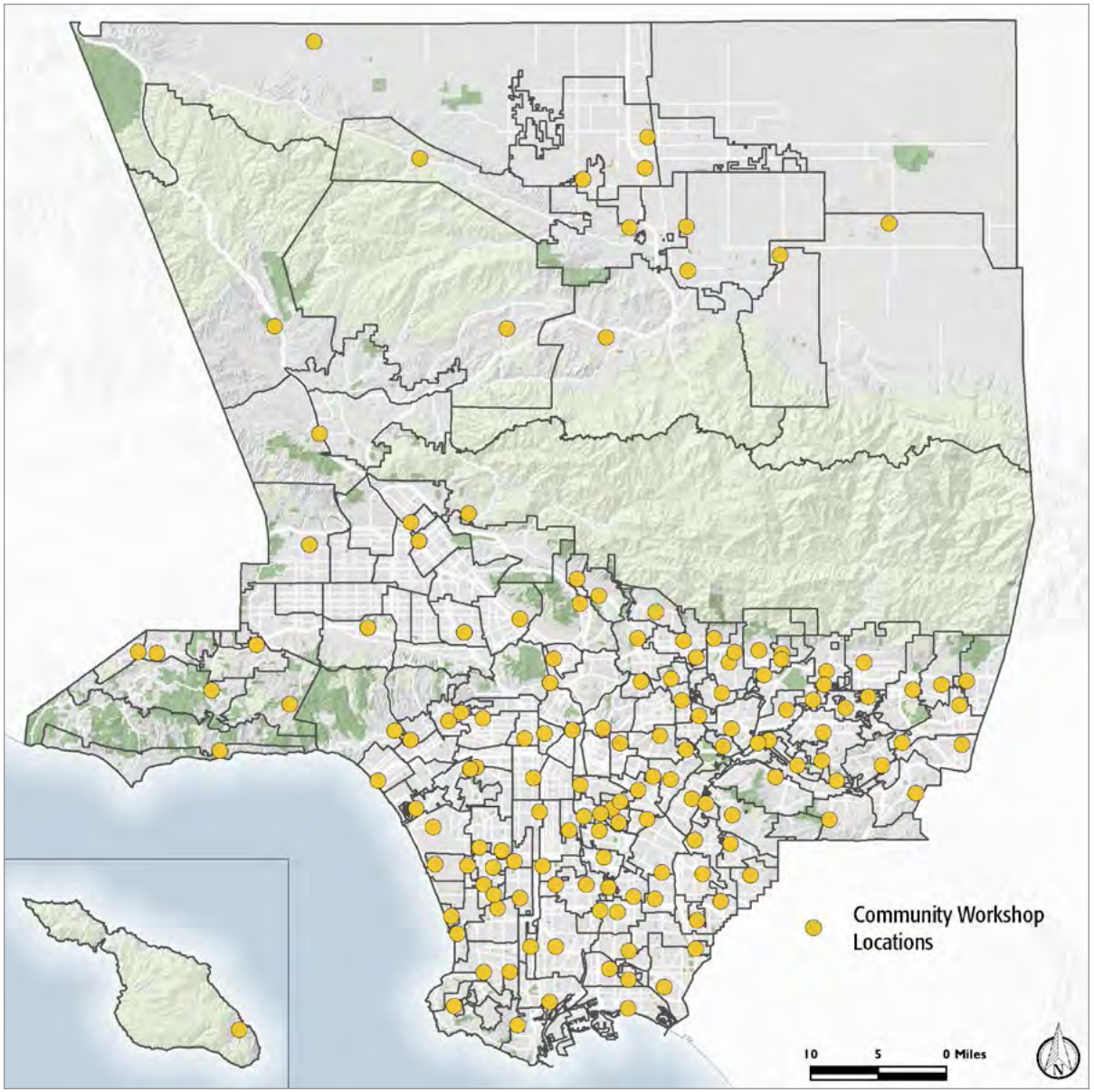
1.3.5 COMMUNITY WORKSHOPS

The primary method of collecting community input for the Parks Needs Assessment was the series of community workshops held throughout the County between December 2015 and February 2016 (see Figure 20). As a result of the extensive Countywide and study area-specific outreach efforts, community workshops were attended by over 5,100 participants across the County. Attendance at individual workshops varied widely, with low attendance attributed to the busy, end-of-the-year holiday season; tight time frame for completing outreach for meetings; and varied levels of effort to advertise the workshops. In a few instances, workshops with exceptionally low attendance were supplemented by an additional workshop in an attempt to collect accurate community input.



Workshop in Unincorporated Charter Oaks

Figure 20. Countywide Workshop Locations



Community workshops were facilitated by the lead agency in each Study Area, either the County or an individual city. Every community workshop had three goals:

- Share the results of the analysis of existing park assets and needs within the Study Area with workshop participants.
- Develop a list of potential park projects, guided by the results of the analysis and workshop participants' insights.
- Prioritize the top ten park projects for the Study Area.

Facilitators were provided with many resources for accomplishing these goals and had broad leeway to conduct the workshop in a manner they thought would be most effective within their community. The resources provided to every Study Area included a group training session, print and digital Facilitator Toolkit, and a $2,500 stipend to cover workshop expenses.

i. Facilitator Training

Facilitator trainings took place in mid-November 2015 and were held at three different locations to accommodate attendees. In addition, an online training was held for anyone unable to attend in person. At least one facilitator from every Study Area was required to attend one of the training sessions. In total, the training sessions were attended by over 300 people. Each two-hour training session covered the following topics:

- Goals of the community workshop
- Tips for marketing and outreach
- Guidance on preparing and customizing a workshop using the provided standard templates and Study Area-specific data
- Direction for interpreting, presenting, and explaining analysis data
- Recommendations for identifying and presenting potential projects
- Suggestions for incorporating community feedback into prioritization exercise
- Guidance on conducting participatory prioritization exercise
- Instructions for preparing and submitting prioritized project lists
- Facilitation tools to improve participation during the meeting and effectively meet challenges

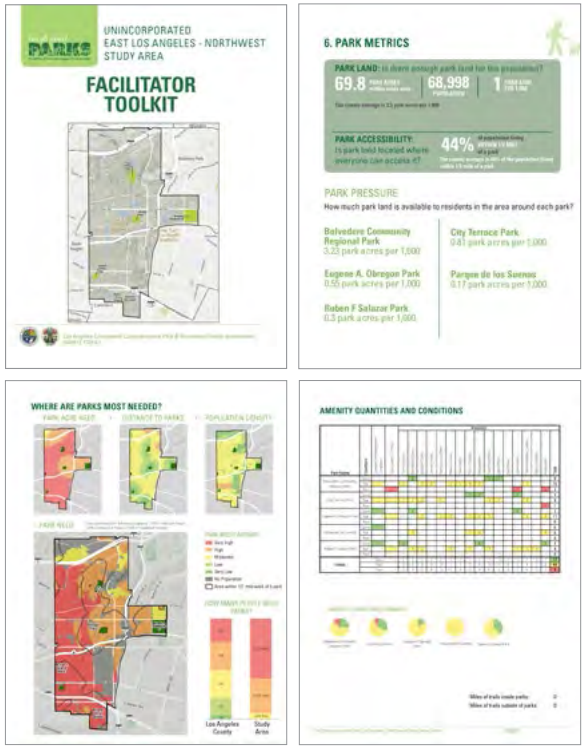
Over **300** facilitators trained

Facilitator Training Session, San Fernando Regional Park Pool

ii. Facilitator Toolkit

The Facilitator Toolkit contained a number of resources designed to assist facilitators in all aspects of preparing for and completing the community workshop. The toolkits were customized for each of the 188 Study Areas with information specific to each. All elements of the toolkit were available digitally, and a printed sample toolkit was supplied for reference during the training session. Refer to Appendix D for a sample toolkit.

Figure 21. Sample Facilitator Toolkit



Project Overview

A written description of the Parks Needs Assessment provided facilitators with a thorough understanding of the goals of the Parks Needs Assessment and the process of achieving them. Ensuring that facilitators clearly understood the purpose of the Parks Needs Assessment allowed them to confidently address questions from meeting participants.

Frequently Asked Questions

This portion of the toolkit provided answers to commonly asked questions about the Parks Needs Assessment. It served both to answer the facilitators' own questions and to anticipate any questions they might hear from meeting participants.

178
toolkits
distributed

Study Area Base Map

A map of the Study Area boundaries and existing parks within the Study Area.

Community Profile Snapshot

A Study Area-specific collection of data about the community. For additional information the contents of the Community Profile Snapshot, please refer to Section 2.5, Community Profile.

Park Metrics

Study Area-specific results of the analysis of the five park metrics. For additional information on the park metrics, please refer to Section 2.3, Park Metrics Summary Countywide.

Potential New Park Sites

Study Area-specific map of vacant land within the Study Area that could potentially inform siting of new parks.

Initial Potential Projects

Study Area-specific list of potential park projects, based on the results of the park metrics analysis.

Facilitator Manual

A step-by-step set of instructions for facilitating the community workshop, for use during and after the facilitator training session.

Glossary

A comprehensive listing of data sources and explanation of the terms, maps, and statistics used throughout the Facilitator Toolkit.

Templates

All templates were provided digitally, so facilitators could customize the materials for their Study Area.

- PowerPoint presentation
- Sign-in sheets
- Workshop agenda
- Workshop flyers, available in seven languages
- Parks Needs Assessment fact sheets, available in seven languages
- Potential Project Form, to be used in project prioritization exercise.
- Project reporting forms

Large Format Prints

Poster size prints (24" x 36") of the Study Area base map and park metrics were available for each Study Area. Workshop facilitators were given printed proofs of these posters at the training session and asked to provide corrections. Once the base map and list of parks in the Study Area were corrected to the lead agency's satisfaction, the prints were delivered to facilitators prior to their workshop. This process allowed every agency to review the information that had been documented during the inventory phase of the project and resulted in several corrections to that database.

Translations

Translations of workshop and outreach materials were available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Armenian and were strongly recommended for use in all Study Areas where 15% or more of the population is linguistically isolated. These four languages were selected because they are the dominant languages spoken by the linguistically isolated populations within the Study Areas meeting that criteria.

Although Vietnamese and Japanese did not meet the criteria for translation recommendations, translations were available in these languages as well. Translated versions of the larger format prints were also available, although each Study Area could only receive one set of large format prints. Facilitators were urged to use some of their stipend funds to print copies in additional languages as needed.

Figure 22. Number of Study Areas Meeting Criteria for Translation Recommendation

Figure 23. Fact Sheet, Spanish and Chinese

Workshop Facilitator Explaining Large Format Prints, Unincorporated Topanga Canyon

iii. Stipends

Each participating study area was eligible to receive a $2,500 stipend to cover costs associated with the planning and facilitation of community engagement workshops. Suggested uses of the stipend included:

- Printing flyers and posters, including translated materials
- Simultaneous interpretation
- Advertising to promote the workshop
- Workshop supplies such as easel pads and markers
- Refreshments at workshops
- Childcare at workshops
- Transportation to workshops
- Partnering with a community-based organization

iv. Additional Resources

At the conclusion of the training sessions, facilitators were prepared to share and explain Study Area-specific park metrics, identify and present potential park projects, and conduct an inclusive exercise to prioritize potential park projects. Facilitators were provided contact information for ongoing phone-based support if any questions came up during the preparation for their workshop.

The **City of Compton** used stipend funds to partner with William C. Velasquez Institute and to hire a professional translator. Workshop participants had access to 50 personal headsets with simultaneous interpretation, and received additional workshop materials in both Spanish and English.

Simultaneous interpretation, City of Compton

Workshop Facilitator, City of Compton

Raffle Ticket Distribution, City of Pico Riveria

The **City of Pico Rivera** and **City of Bell Gardens** both held raffles at their workshops. Prizes included gift cards to grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, toy stores, and more.

Workshop facilitators worked hard to plan and implement all workshop logistics by arranging venue reservations and set-up; preparing all workshop materials; presenting park metrics; moderating community discussions; explaining and assisting with the voting process; and processing voting results to develop and submit the prioritized project reporting form.

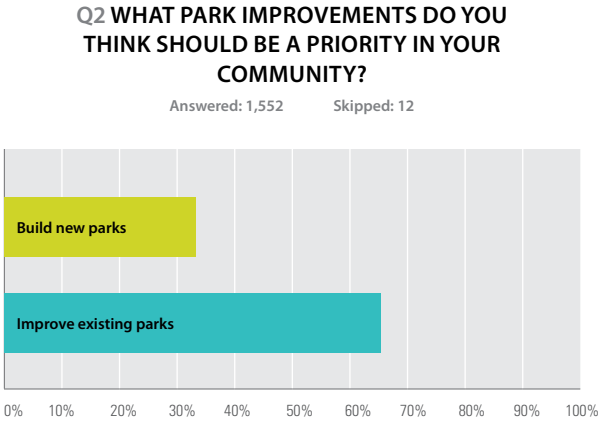
Facilitation

In some instances, the lead agency in a Study Area chose to work with a community-based organization (CBO) rather than facilitate the workshop themselves. In these cases, the agency selected a CBO of their choice and worked with the CBO to host the workshop. By facilitating these workshops, the CBOs provided great assistance in approximately 40 Study Areas and supported the community with expertise and commitment to the engagement process

Online Survey Results

Interested community members who were not able to attend a workshop in person were invited to participate in a survey available at www.lacountyparkneeds.org. The survey asked respondents to identify the types of park improvement projects that should be prioritized in their community and continued with open-ended questions that sought to identify which specific parks should be improved and how they should be improved. Nearly 1,600 people

Figure 24. Sample Survey Results



Local Law Enforcement Welcoming Participants, Uninc Bassett

Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust Facilitating the Boyle Heights Workshop

responded to the survey. Survey responses were distributed to workshop facilitators prior to their workshop to be incorporated into the overall discussion of park conditions and needs during the workshop. All survey responses are available in Appendix D.

In **Unincorporated Bassett/West Puente Valley,** childcare was provided during the workshop. As adults listened to the presentation and discussed projects, children were instructed to draw what they would like to see in a park. Just prior to prioritizing projects, the children presented their ideas to everyone at the workshop.

The workshop in the **City of Huntington Park** was attended by over 80 residents. Children at this workshop also shared ideas of what amenities they would like to see in their parks.

Thanks to a community-minded teacher, the **City of Bellflower**'s workshop was well attended by high schools students, a demographic that can be hard to attract to community meetings. The City provided water bottles to workshop attendees to thank them for their participation.

The **City of Bell Gardens** supported local economic development by collaborating with a neighborhood restaurant to provide a full course dinner to workshop participants.

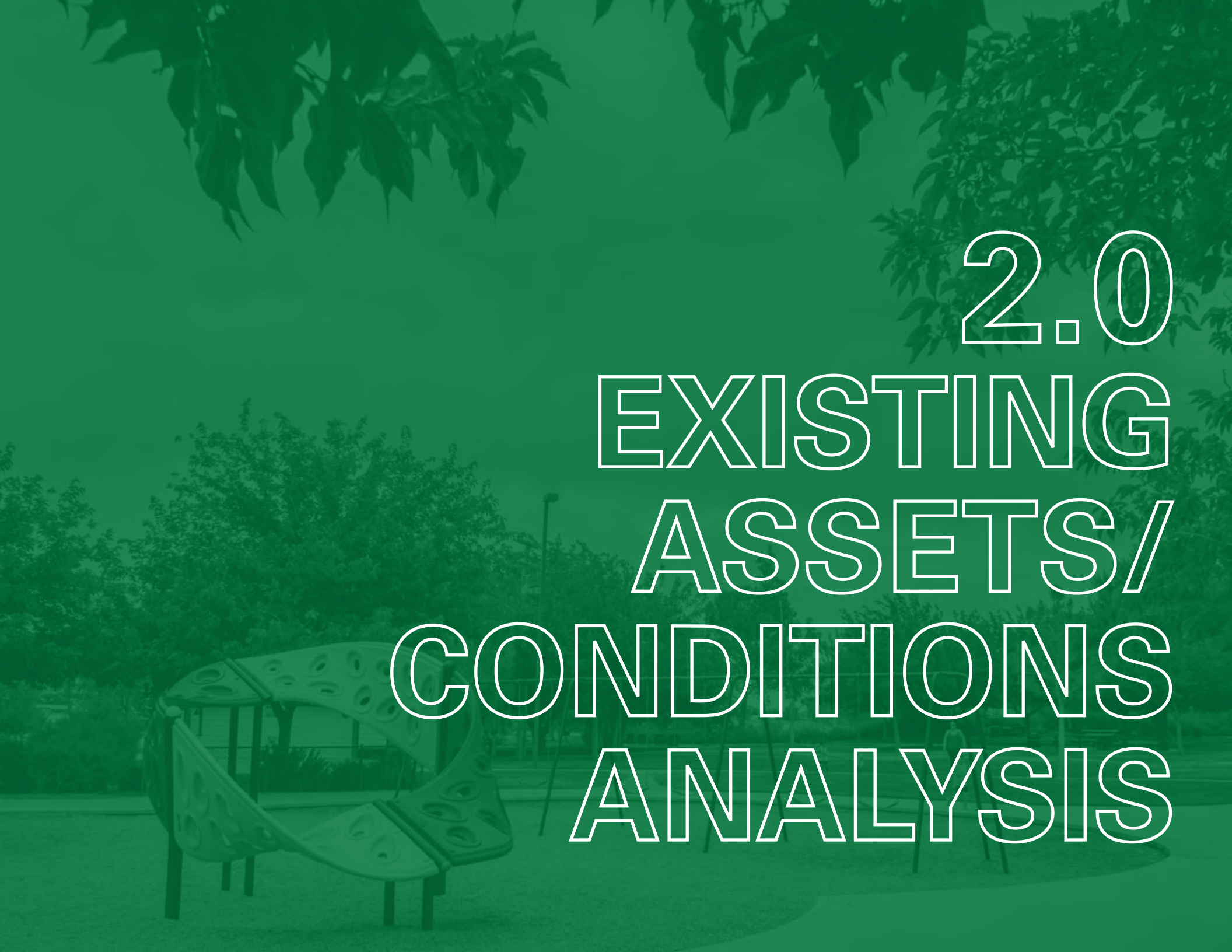
Youth Engagement, Unine Bassett/West Puente Valley

Prioritization Exercise, City of Bellflower

Rocio's Mexican Kitchen Serving Dinner, City of Bell Gardens

Youth Participants, City of Bellflower

Workshop Participants Enjoying Dinner, City of Bell Gardens



2.0 EXISTING ASSETS/ CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

2.1 DATA ANALYSIS & INVENTORY SUMMARY

The Parks Needs Assessment is a data-driven analysis of park need in Los Angeles County. Therefore, it was paramount that the data used in every analysis be the most accurate and up-to-date available. Data were sourced with the input of the TAC, who provided access to a range of current datasets.

Data were analyzed using both descriptive and exploratory methods to quantify population, health and safety, parks and open space, and potential future park opportunities. The majority of the analyses were spatial in nature and examined the relationships between parks, people, and the built environment. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) software was the main tool used to analyze, summarize, and display these spatial relationships and patterns between the various data types. All procedures and analysis methods were presented to and vetted by the TAC in three separate meetings.

The results of various analyses were displayed in the maps, infographics, charts, and graphs in the Facilitator Toolkit for each Study Area (see Section 1.3.5, Community Workshops, and Appendix D). These data-based graphics created a detailed snapshot of the existing conditions with regard to parks, people, and the built environment in each of the 186 participating Study Areas.

All data relating to existing parks and open space were gathered through the online Park Assets Inventory Web Portal (see Section 1.3.3, Park Assets Inventory Web Portal for additional detail). Source information for additional data used in the Parks Needs Assessment is available in Appendix E. The data verified and documented in the Web Portal are summarized below.

Local Park. Parks in this category include all parks under 5 acres; all parks under 100 acres that contain active amenities such as athletic courts and fields, playgrounds, and swimming pools; and schools with joint-use agreements (as reported through the Web Portal). Local parks identified in the inventory are sometimes called community parks or regional parks by the agencies that operate them. These parks are included in the analysis of all park metrics. County and City-owned tot lots, pocket parks, neighborhood parks, and community parks, as well as special-use facilities such as aquatic centers and community recreation centers, are included in this category. **1,602 inventoried.**

Regional Recreation Park. These parks are over 100 acres and contain at least three active amenity types such as athletic courts and fields, playgrounds, and swimming pools. Locally administered "regional parks" under 100 acres in size are not included in this category, and are included as local parks in the inventory instead. Regional recreation parks are included in the analysis of all park metrics, and were subject to a separate facility review process due to their large size and regional importance. **17 inventoried.**

Regional Open Space. Parks in this inventory category include facilities that are more than 5 acres and generally contain only passive amenities such as visitor centers, trails, picnic shelters, or restrooms. These facilities are not included in the analysis of any individual park metric, but are included in the analysis of park need. Facilities in this category include, but are not limited to, State Parks, State Recreation Areas, Habitat Conservation Lands, State Ecological Reserves, and National Park Service Land. **329 inventoried.**

Natural Areas. These areas are generally larger than 100 acres and contain no reported amenities. These facilities are not included in any of the needs analyses of the Parks Needs Assessment. Types of open space in this category include, but are not limited to, agricultural land, habitat conservation lands, ecological reserves, military lands, flood control channels, tribal lands, and BLM public land. This category also includes open space types that were excluded from analysis at the outset: cemeteries, golf courses, and beaches. **1,075 inventoried.**

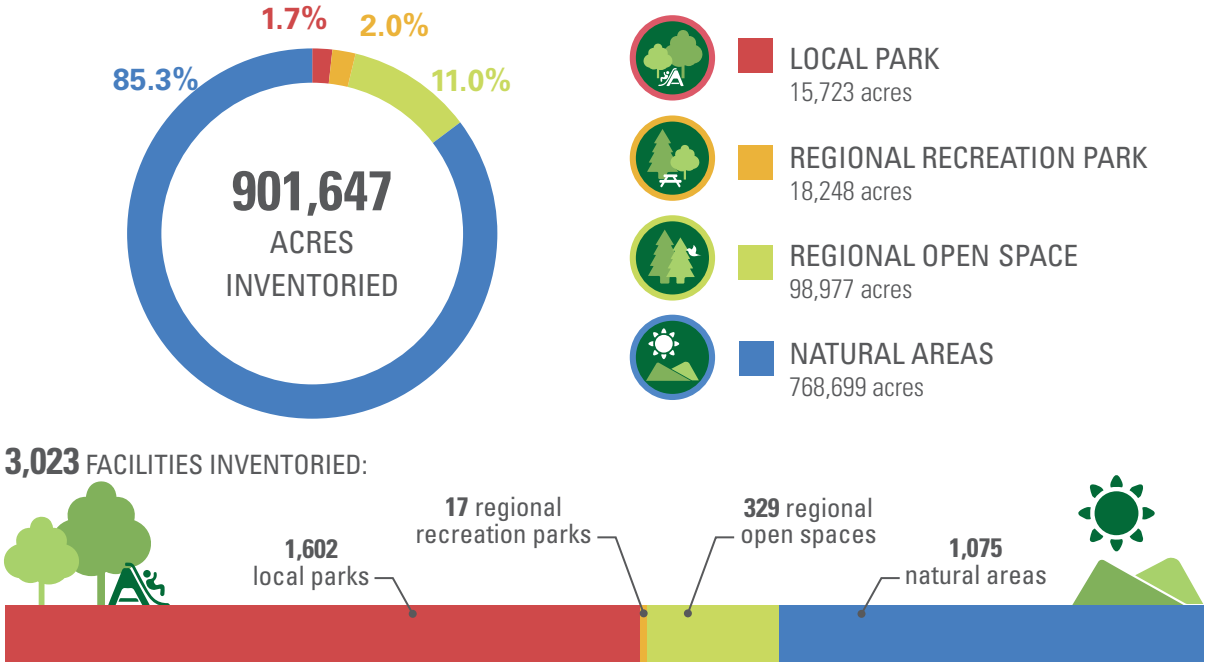
2.1.1 PARK AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES INVENTORY

Over 3,000 park and open space facilities were inventoried through the Web Portal. Each facility was reviewed in detail and reconciled against aerial and GIS data for location and acreage.

Four types of parks and open spaces were identified as a means to categorize the facilities inventoried during the Parks Needs Assessment: local parks, regional recreation parks, regional open space, and natural areas (refer to definitions on page 2-38). This uniform categorization system ensured an "apples to apples" comparison among facilities and Study Areas. The four categories are specific to the Parks Needs Assessment, and differ from categories used in cities and by other agencies in the County. For the inventory, specialized facilities serving the entire County or specific sub-regions, such as arboreta, amphitheaters, and wilderness parks were included in the category that covered their specific characteristics, and only if they were part of a park or open space facility.

As seen in Figure 25, the inventory of park assets in the County shows that local parks account for the less than two percent of the park land available. Regional recreation parks account for two percent of park land; 11 percent of park land is classified as regional open space. Natural areas account for the remaining 85 percent of the park land in the County.

Figure 25. Los Angeles County Park and Open Space Inventory



Local Park: Chaparral Park in the City of Claremont

Regional Recreation Park: Whittier Narrows

Regional Open Space: Arroyo Woodland and Nature Park

Figure 26. Existing Parks and Open Space in Los Angeles County, North

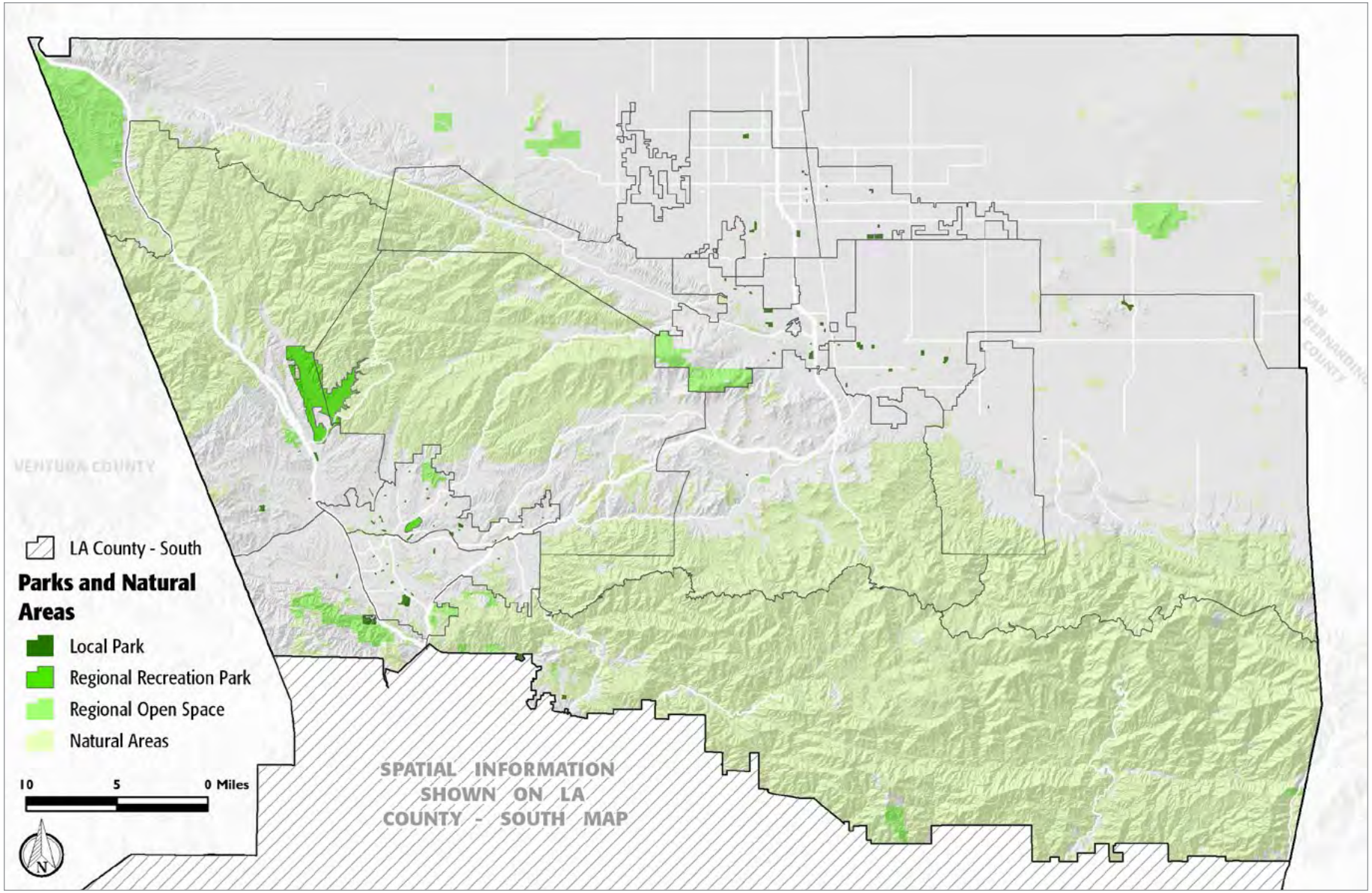
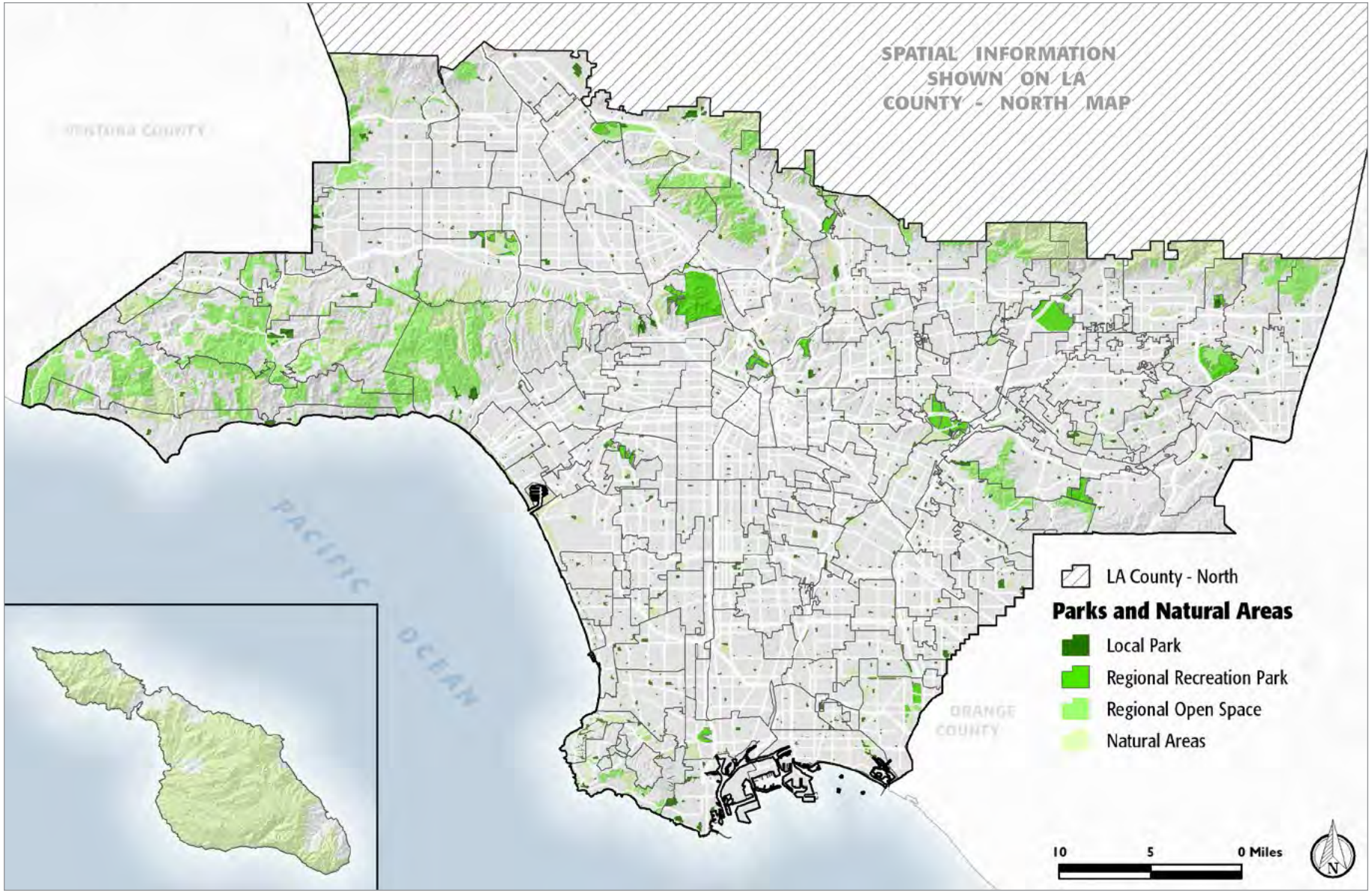


Figure 27. Existing Parks and Open Space in Los Angeles County, South



2.1.2 AMENITY INVENTORY

The Park Needs Assessment included an unprecedented effort to create a comprehensive database of park amenities in every park in the County. It is snapshot in time of the quantity and condition of the amenities in each park in the summer of 2015. The 16 amenities, plus trails and infrastructure data, cataloged in the Web Portal were determined in collaboration with the Steering Committee and TAC. Each park agency also had the opportunity to document unique amenities in their parks beyond the standard 16. Over 9,000 amenities were cataloged in the Web Portal. The amenity data received during the inventory is summarized in Figure 28. Participating agencies were given the opportunity to review these data for accuracy upon receipt of the Study Area's Facilitator Toolkit. Accuracy of data for trails may be affected by lack of participation from agencies owning these types of amenities.

Figure 28. Summary of Inventoried Amenities

9,472
Total Number of Amenities Inventoried

1,068 Baseball Fields

1,022 Tennis Courts

940 Basketball Courts

424 Soccer Fields

510 Multipurpose Fields

1,251 Picnic Shelters

1,190 Restrooms

518 Senior Centers

187 Gymnasiums

90 Community Rec Centers

1,452 Playgrounds

373 Fitness Zones

96 Skate Parks

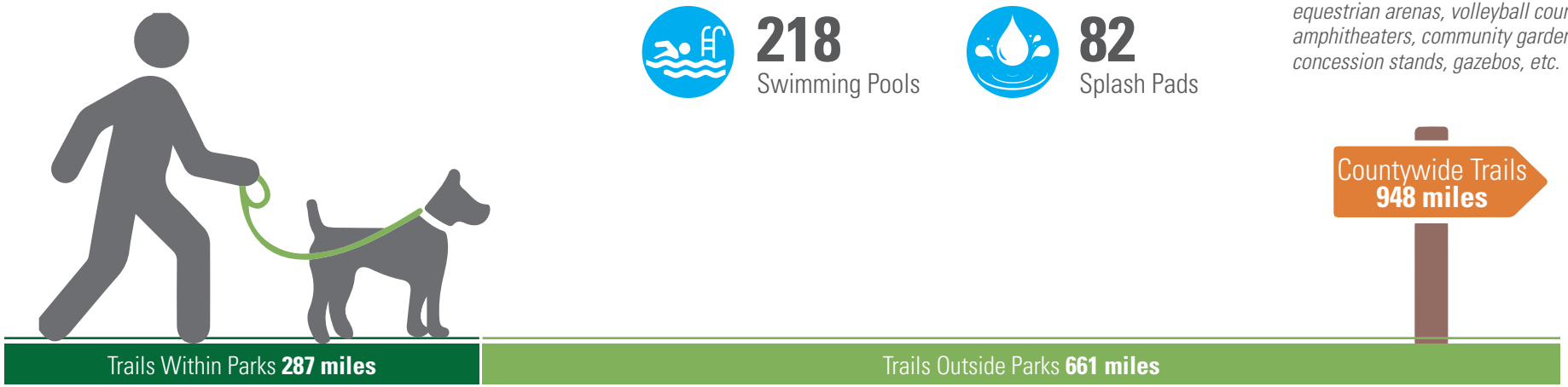
51 Dog Parks

367 Unique Amenities

Note: Unique amenities include equestrian arenas, volleyball courts, amphitheaters, community gardens, concession stands, gazebos, etc.

218 Swimming Pools

82 Splash Pads



2.2 POPULATION

Accurately documenting the number of residents and the location of households in Los Angeles County was critical for many of the spatial analyses completed as part of the Needs Assessment. The most accurate population data available at the time of the Needs Assessment were the 2014 Los Angeles County Age/Race/Gender Population Estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. These estimates are adjusted annually by both the County and the California State Department of Finance to improve accuracy. These data are provided at a census tract level.

To improve the accuracy of the spatial analyses completed for the Needs Assessment, a probable distribution of population within each census tract was developed. This was accomplished by dividing the entire County into one-acre hexagons. Population was distributed among the grid cells within each census tract based on the underlying Los Angeles County Assessor's parcel land use type. This technique pushed the population to the areas where people are most likely to live in an attempt to more accurately summarize the spatial location of the population within specific analysis areas. For example, in a census tract with a golf course, the total population of the census tract was distributed only among hexagons that are not on the golf course. Likewise, if a census tract has undeveloped land or industrial parcels, the population was not distributed to hexagons in those areas.

10,069,397
LA COUNTY POPULATION

Once the population was distributed, the data were used in all subsequent analyses involving population, including density and park access and park pressure, among others. The accuracy of each of these spatial analyses was improved by the use of these finely detailed data on the location of population. However, it should be noted that a known weakness of Census-based population data is the potential of an undercount. In Los Angeles County, undercounts are most likely in low-income and predominantly minority neighborhoods. Nevertheless, in consultation with the Technical Advisory Committee, it was decided that the 2014 Los Angeles County Age/Race/Gender Population Estimates should be used, as these were the most accurate data available.

Figure 29. Population Distribution Examples

2.3 PARK METRICS SUMMARY COUNTYWIDE

Each of the five park metrics was determined in collaboration with the Steering Committee, as summarized in Section 1.3.2, Park Metrics. Each metric was analyzed and reported for each Study Area in the County, using park and amenity data submitted through the Web Portal. Several metrics were also analyzed at a Countywide scale. The results of the Countywide analysis are presented below; refer to Appendix A for the results of the park metrics analyses for each individual Study Area. For additional information about the technical aspects of the analyses, refer to Appendix E.

2.3.1 PARK LAND

How many acres of park are there per 1,000 people?

Within each Study Area, the number of local park acres per 1,000 is reported separately from the number of regional recreation parks acres per 1,000. Additionally, in Study Areas with adjacent regional open space, the number of acres of this type of park per 1,000 is reported.

Open space and natural area acreages are addressed using an approach guided by input from cities, organizations working on open space issues, and the project Steering Committee. This approach recognizes that: 1) open space and natural areas are regional resources that serve the recreation needs of the entire County; 2) the distribution of these areas throughout the County is uneven due to a variety of factors; and 3) it is not feasible to create open space and natural areas across the County, especially in built-out urban areas. Thus, in an effort to facilitate countywide comparison, the calculation of park acres per 1,000 people in each Study Area only included acreages in local parks and regional recreation parks. Including regional open space and natural area acreages in this calculation would have greatly impacted the assessment of park need in those Study Areas adjacent to large open spaces and natural areas by inflating the amount of parkland in these Study Areas and failing to highlight their need for local parks and regional recreation parks.

Countywide, there are 3.3 acres of local and regional recreation park per 1,000 residents, which is less than the 4.0 acres per 1,000 goal included in the Los Angeles County General Plan (Figure 30). This ratio was determined by totaling the acres of local and regional parks, dividing this the total by the County's total population, and then multiplying that value by 1,000. Among individual Study Areas, this value ranges from a low of 0 acres per 1,000 residents to a high of 1,295 acres per 1,000 residents.

Countywide, there are 86.2 acres of regional open space & natural areas per 1,000 people. This amount highly exceeds the standard of 6 acres per 1,000 documented in the Los Angeles County General Plan.

Figure 30. Park Land Countywide

3.3 ACRES
Local Parks &
Regional Recreation Parks
per 1,000 people

Los Angeles County General Plan standard is 4.0 acres per 1,000

86.2 ACRES
Regional Open Space &
Natural Areas
per 1,000 people

Los Angeles County General Plan standard is 6.0 acres per 1,000

Figure 31. Park Access Countywide

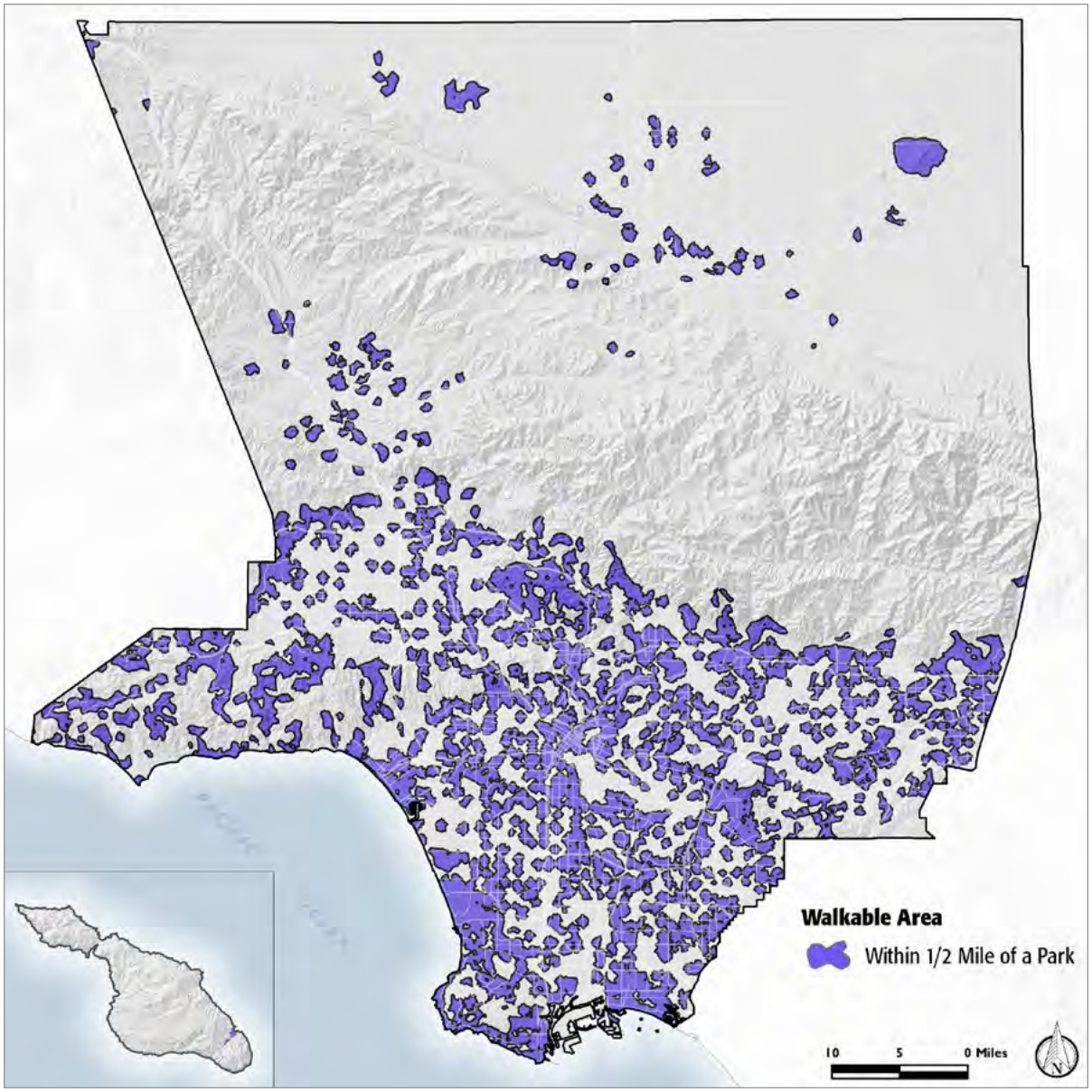
2.3.2 PARK ACCESS

What percent of the population lives within ½ mile of a park?

All local parks, regional recreation parks, and regional open spaces were included in the analysis of park access in each Study Area and Countywide. The distance from each household in a Study Area to the access points of all adjacent parks was calculated along the walkable road/pedestrian network rather than "as the crow flies." Since pedestrians cannot safely or legally walk on highways or freeways, this method takes these barriers into consideration and results in a more accurate assessment of the distance a pedestrian would need to cover to reach a park.

Countywide, 49 percent of the population lives within 1/2 mile of a local park, regional recreation park or regional open space (Figure 31). In individual Study Areas, park access ranges from a low of 0 percent of the population living within 1/2 mile of a park, to a high of 100 percent of the population living within 1/2 mile of a park. Figure 32 maps areas of the County located within 1/2 mile of a park.

Figure 32. Areas of Los Angeles County Within 1/2 Mile of a Park

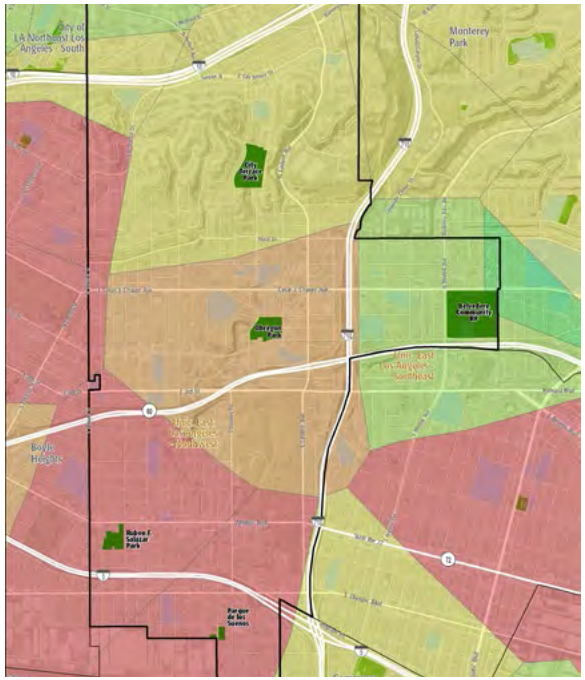


2.3.3 PARK PRESSURE

How much park land is available to residents in the area around each park?

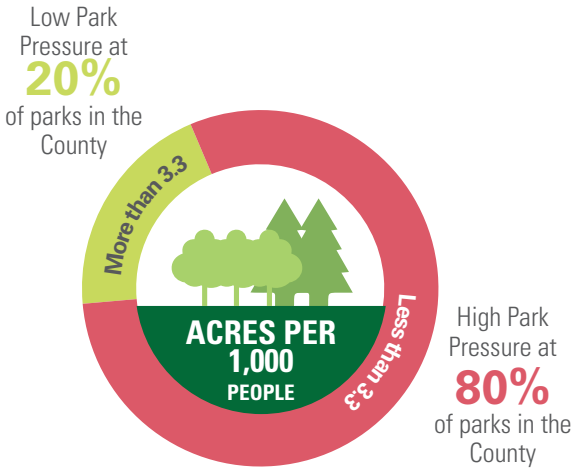
Park pressure examines park size in relation to population density and quantifies how population density affects parks by capturing the potential demand if each resident of the County were to use the park closest to them. Park pressure was calculated by defining a "parkshed" around every local park and regional recreation park in the County. The parkshed is defined by a polygon containing all the households for whom a given park is their closest park, as shown in Figure 34. In this figure, each colored polygon defines the boundary of each park's parkshed. The population within the parkshed is assumed to be the population most likely to use that park. The population within each parkshed was calculated to estimate the number of potential park users within each parkshed. The acreage of the park was then used to calculate the number of park acres available per 1,000 people within the parkshed.

Figure 34. Sample Parkshed Map



Parks with fewer park acres available per 1,000 people within the parkshed are more likely to experience heavy use, while those with more park acres available per 1,000 residents may be used less heavily. Population density can greatly affect park pressure; for example, if a 1 acre park has 10,000 people in its parkshed, it is likely to be more heavily used than a 1 acre park with 1,000 people in its parkshed.

Figure 33. Park Pressure Countywide



Countywide, 80 percent of parks have less than 3.3 acres of land available to residents in the surrounding parkshed. These parks have high park pressure, as they offer less park land per 1,000 residents than the County average of 3.3 acres per 1,000. Twenty percent of parks have low park pressure, offering more than 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents in the surrounding parkshed.

At individual parks, park pressure ranges from a low pressure of 16,851 acres per 1,000 residents to a high pressure of 0.004 acres per 1,000 residents.

2.3.4 PARK NEED

Where are parks most needed?

The three metrics analyzing park land, park access, and park pressure have spatial components and were mapped in every Study Area as park acre need, distance from a park, and population density.

Combining the information from these three maps creates a new map that identifies geographic locations within each Study Area where parks are most needed. Locations with a combination of few available park acres, far from existing parks, and a high population density have a greater need for parks than areas with many available park acres, close to existing parks, and with low population density.

Park Acre Need. The spatial analysis of park land included all local parks, regional recreation parks, and regional open space. Need was calculated by assigning a park service area to each existing park, based on the acres of the park and using the DPR's service area standards as a guide. Populations in the service area of a park are considered to have all those park acres available to them.

The park service areas used were quarter-mile service area for 3 acre or smaller park, half mile service area for 3 to 10 acre parks, two-mile service area for parks with more than 10 acres or specialized facilities. Populated areas located two or more miles from a park are deemed to have zero park acres available to them.

For example, if a household is within a quarter mile of Park A (5 acres) and a half mile of Park B (2.4 acres), it is considered to have access to 7.4 acres of park land. This analysis is not confined to political or Study Area boundaries, so park acreage in adjacent Study Areas can be considered available to any population within the park's service area. Populations with the fewest available acres of park have the highest park acre need; conversely, those populations with the most available acres of park have the lowest park acre need.

Distance From a Park. The spatial analysis of park access included local parks, regional recreation parks, and regional open space and is mapped in each Study Area as distance from a park. Data were classified into six categories based on the following distance thresholds: ¼ mile, ½ mile, 1 mile, 1½ miles, 2 miles, and more than 2 miles. Households the greatest distance from a park have the least park access, and those closest to a park have the most park access.

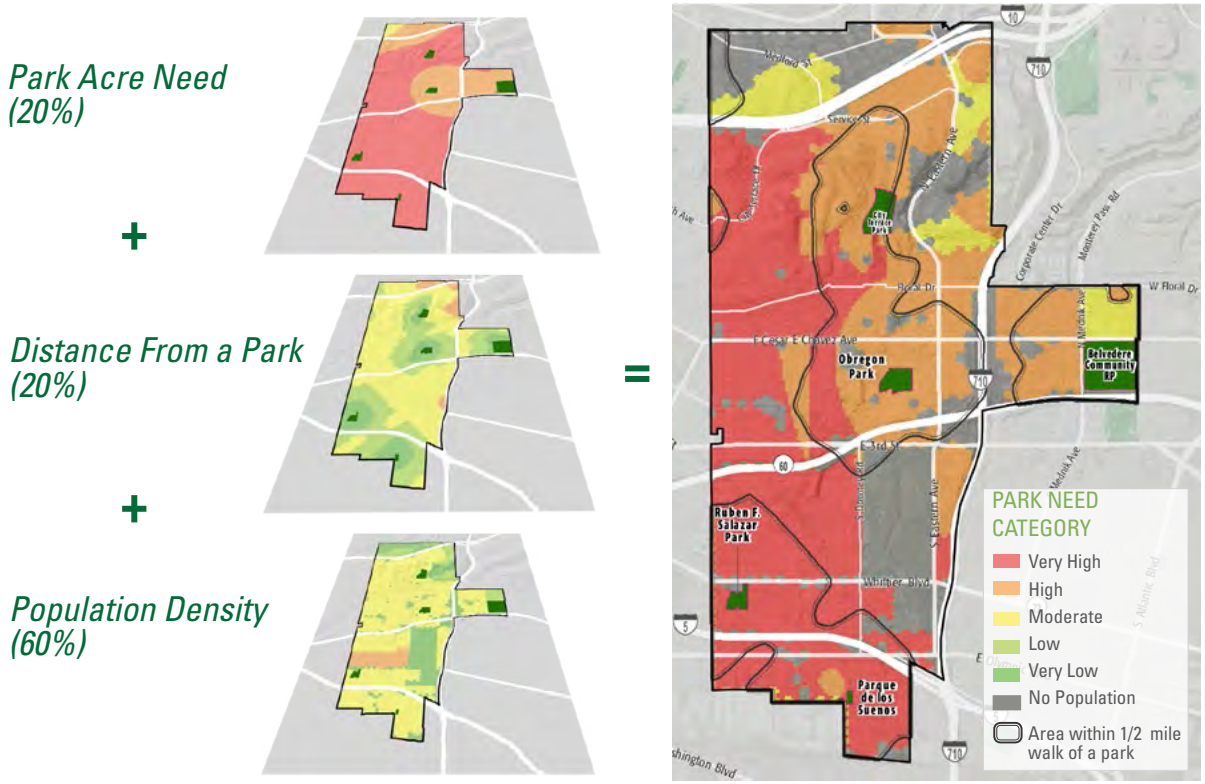
Population Density. The spatial analysis of park pressure focused on the population density component of this metric, since park acres and distance from a park (both components of park pressure) were already accounted for in the mapping of park acre need and distance from a park. Population density was measured as people per acre, and ranges from very low to very high.

Weighted overlay

To create the map of where parks are most needed, the three layers of spatial information were weighted and overlaid, with population density assigned the most weight (60 percent). Population density greatly affects the number of acres of park available per 1,000 people in any given area and is unaffected by the creation of new parks. New parks can be built to decrease park acre need and the distance people live from parks, thus these two layers of information were given less weight. This weighting of layers was reviewed by the Steering Committee.

Using the weighted overlay method, a map of where parks are most needed was generated for each Study Area and is presented in Appendix A. These maps provide a highly detailed analysis of the geographical variation of park need within each Study Area and are useful on a local level for understanding how park need varies within a single community.

Figure 35. Where Are Parks Most Needed?



2.3.5 PARK AMENITIES

What amenities are available in each park in the Study Area?

For each Study Area, the quantity and type of amenities were reported for each local and regional recreation park in the Study Area. Additionally, the number of each amenity available per 100,000 people was calculated for comparison with countywide, State Top Cities Average, and National Top Cities Average.

The amenity data used for the State and National Top Cities averages are from the Trust for Public Land's Center for City Park Excellence "2015 City Park Facts" report. The data in this report come from surveys completed by parks departments in the nation's 100 most populous cities.[1,2]

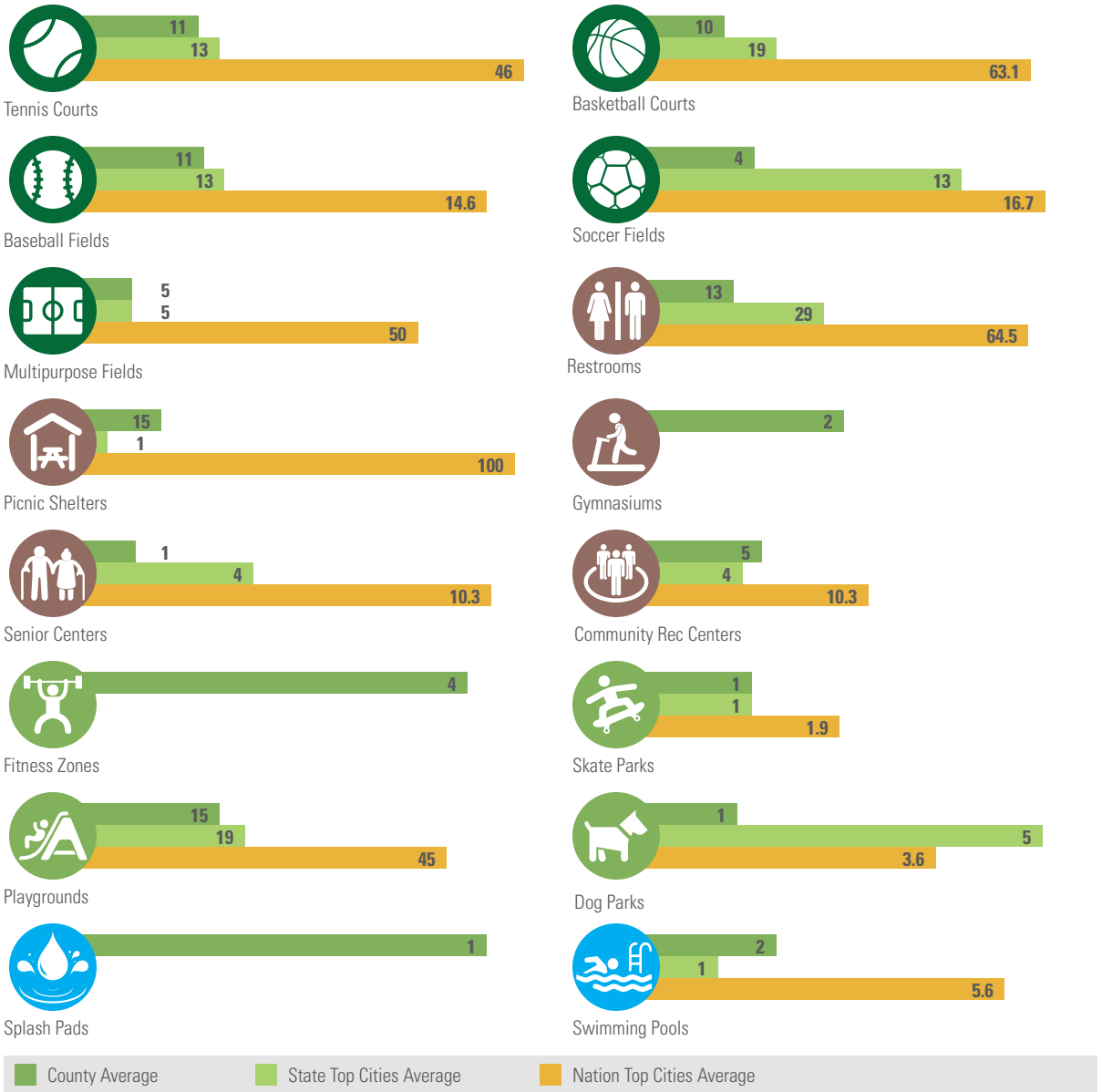
No data were reported for fitness zones, gymnasiums, or splash pads at the State or National level. The results of the park amenities analysis were presented in two ways: a matrix of amenity quantities and types in each park, and a series of bar graphs comparing amenity provisioning for each amenity type.

Of the 13 amenities with data at the State and National level, the Countywide provisioning of amenities was lower than the national top cities average for all 13 amenities and lower than the state average for 8 amenities.

1 The data reported in the State Top Cities Average category are from 16 California cities in the 2015 City Facts report: Anaheim, Bakersfield, Chula Vista, Fremont, Fresno, Irvine, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Riverside, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Ana, and Stockton.

2 The National Top Cities reports the average of the 10 cities with the greatest quantity per 100,000 people of the given amenity. Thus, the cities in the National Top Cities average vary by amenity type.

Figure 36. Park Amenities (per 1,000 persons)



2.3.6 PARK CONDITION

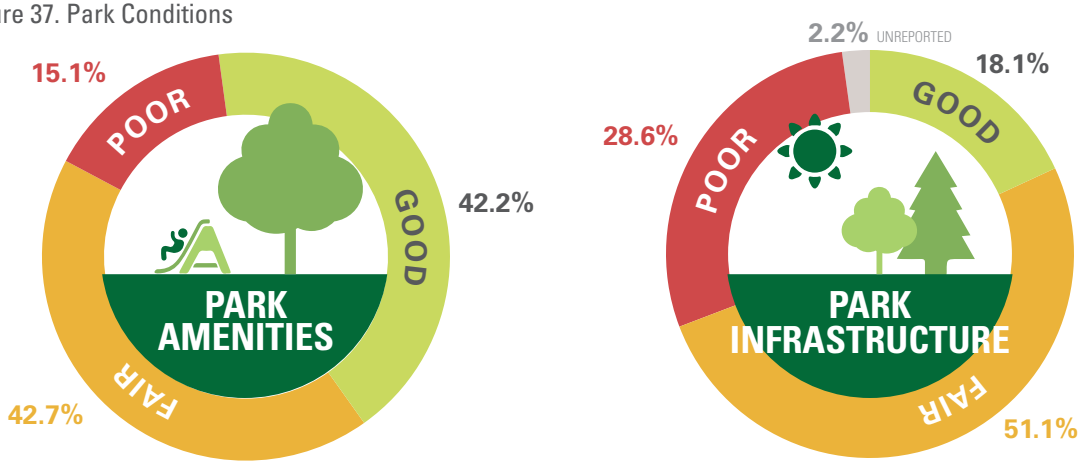
Is the park in good, fair, or poor condition?

The condition of every amenity in each local park and regional recreation park was reported in a matrix for each Study Area. The percentage of amenities in each category was calculated for each park, providing a sense of the overall condition of each park. Of the 9,472 amenities reported, a majority of the amenities were reported in "good" and "fair" condition. Amenities in "good" condition made up about 42 percent of all amenities, and amenities in "fair" condition made up about 43 percent of all amenities—both led by playgrounds in good and fair condition. The remaining 15 percent of amenities were reported in "poor" condition, which was led by restrooms in poor condition.

A majority of parks have general park infrastructure[3] that was reported to be in "fair" condition. About 51 percent of the total park acreage has general park infrastructure reported to be in "fair" condition, 29 percent of park acreage has infrastructure in "poor" condition, and only 18 percent of park acres have infrastructure reported to be in "good" condition. The condition of the general park infrastructure of the remaining 2 percent of park acres was unreported. These data only include the general park infrastructure conditions of local and regional parks. A majority of infrastructure conditions were not reported for open space, therefore these data only include the park conditions of local and regional parks to minimize the percentage of conditions not reported.

3 General park infrastructure includes: restrooms, signage, parking lot, walkways, security lighting, park furniture, irrigation, vegetation/landscaping, and fencing.

Figure 37. Park Conditions



2.4 PARK METRICS - REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS

Seventeen regional recreation parks were identified during the inventory of the Parks Needs Assessment. These 17 parks are each over 100 acres and contain at least three active amenity types such as athletic courts and fields, playgrounds, and swimming pools.

Regional recreation parks draw users from an area much larger than a single Study Area, due to their large size and the types of recreation they offer. These parks are destinations for a regional population, drawing people from as far as 25 or more miles away. Residents living near a regional recreation park may use the park for their daily recreation needs, while park users from farther away may visit the park to meet more specialized recreation needs.

Because of their size, use levels, and variety of amenities, maintenance and operation demands at these parks can differ significantly from those at local parks. The managing agencies responsible for operation of regional recreation parks are usually different than agencies managing adjacent local parks, and the users of regional recreation parks include many more people than those in the adjacent Study Area(s). Given these distinctions in scale, use, and management, the Parks Needs Assessment team, with the support of the Steering Committee, developed a separate methodology for assessing the need of the 17 regional recreational parks identified in the Parks Needs Assessment and listed below.

Need in regional recreation parks was assessed by analyzing the five park metrics in all regional recreation parks, and in consultation with the managing agency of each park, based on their knowledge of local usage patterns and trends.

Regional Recreation Parks

- Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, County of Los Angeles
- Central Park, City of Santa Clarita
- El Dorado Regional Park (East and West), Long Beach
- Elysian Park, City of Los Angeles
- Ernest E. Debs Regional Park, City of Los Angeles
- Frank Bonelli Regional Park, County of Los Angeles
- Griffith Park, City of Los Angeles
- Hahamonga Watershed Park, City of Pasadena
- Hansen Dam Park, City of Los Angeles
- Heartwell Park, City of Long Beach
- Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park, City of Los Angeles
- Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area, County of Los Angeles
- Peter F. Schabarum Regional County Park, County of Los Angeles
- San Dimas Canyon Community Regional Park, County of Los Angeles
- Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area, County of Los Angeles
- Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area (incl. Woodley Ave. Park and Lake Balboa Park), City of Los Angeles
- Whittier Narrows Recreation Area, County of Los Angeles

2.4.1 PARK LAND - REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS

Regional recreation parks occupy a total of 18,248 acres of land and provide 1.81 acres of park land per 1,000 people Countywide.

2.4.2 PARK ACCESS - REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS

Due to their large size, regional recreation parks have a large service radius, drawing users from as far away as 25 miles. In Los Angeles County, nearly 9.7 million people (96.2 percent of the total population) live within the service area of a regional recreational park.

1.8 ACRES

Regional Recreation Park per 1,000 people

2.4.3 PARK PRESSURE - REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS

Park pressure for each regional recreation park was evaluated in the same manner as for local parks (refer to Section 2.3.3, Park Pressure). Park pressure at the regional recreation parks varies from a high of 0.11 acres per 1,000 people to a low of 166.87 acres per 1,000 people. Park pressure is high at 13 regional recreation parks, as they offer fewer than 3.3 acres per 1,000 people. See Table 3.

Griffith Park

Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area

Figure 38. Regional Recreation Park Access: Areas within 25 Miles of a Regional Recreation Park

Table 3. Regional Recreation Parks - Park Pressure

PARK NAME	ACRES/1,000
Heartwell Park	0.11
Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area	0.22
Ken Malloy Harbor Regional Park	0.37
Sepulveda Basin Recreation Area	0.47
Ernest E Debs Regional Park	0.65
Elysian Park	0.75
Hansen Dam Park	0.85
Central Park	0.90
San Dimas Canyon Community Regional Park	1.08
Hahamongna Watershed Park	1.14
Peter F Schabarum Regional County Park	1.48
Whittier Narrows Recreation Area	1.90
El Dorado Park West	3.11
Santa Fe Dam Recreation Area	4.36
Frank G Bonelli Regional Park	4.42
Griffith Park	6.91
Castaic Lake State Recreation Area	166.87

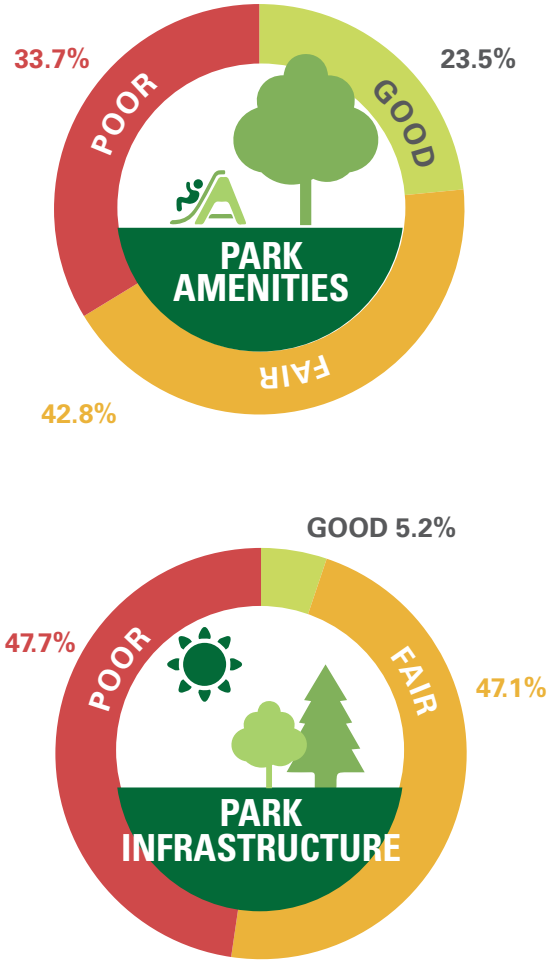
2.4.4 PARK AMENITIES - REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS

Amenities in the regional recreation parks were inventoried by the managing agency. The 17 regional recreational parks feature over 700 individual amenities, with an average of over 40 individual amenities available to users at each park.

2.4.5 PARK CONDITION - REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS

Within the regional recreation parks, the majority of amenities are reported to be in fair condition. General park infrastructure was reported to be in good condition for only five percent of the regional recreation park acres, with the remaining acres almost equally split between poor and fair condition.

Figure 39. Conditions at Regional Recreation Parks

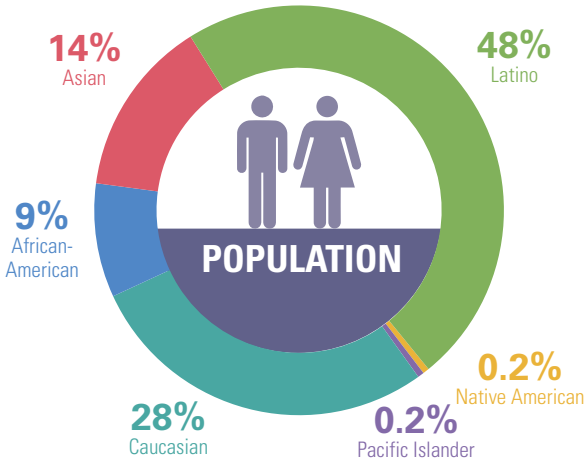


2.5 COMMUNITY PROFILE SUMMARY

The data in the Community Profile provide information about factors that affect park need, beyond the scope of the Parks Needs Assessment. This information was requested by the Steering Committee to supplement the park metrics data. Demographic, socioeconomic, public safety, health, and environmental data were gathered and compiled. No analysis was done on these data because the Parks Needs Assessment is focused on the physical needs of existing parks and the need for new parks. Rather, this information was presented as a collection of data that could be used in each Study Area to supplement knowledge of park need.

Data used in the Community Profile for each Study Area came from a variety of sources, and all were vetted by the Technical Advisory Committee. Countywide summaries of these data are presented below.

Figure 41. Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity



Note: Total is less than 100% due to rounding

Figure 42. Populations at or below 200% Poverty Level

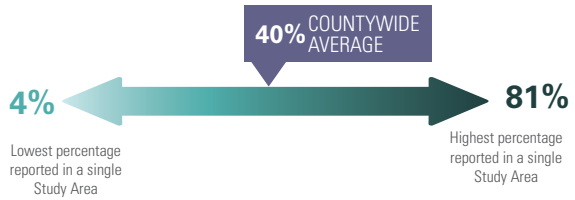
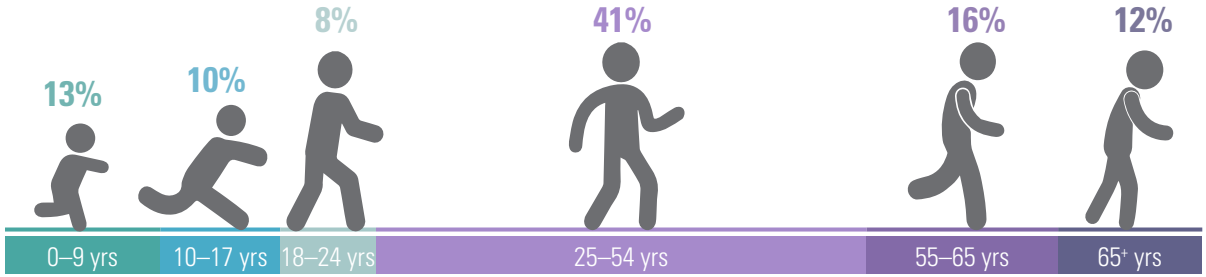


Figure 43. Populations without Vehicle Access

Figure 44. Populations in Linguistic Isolation

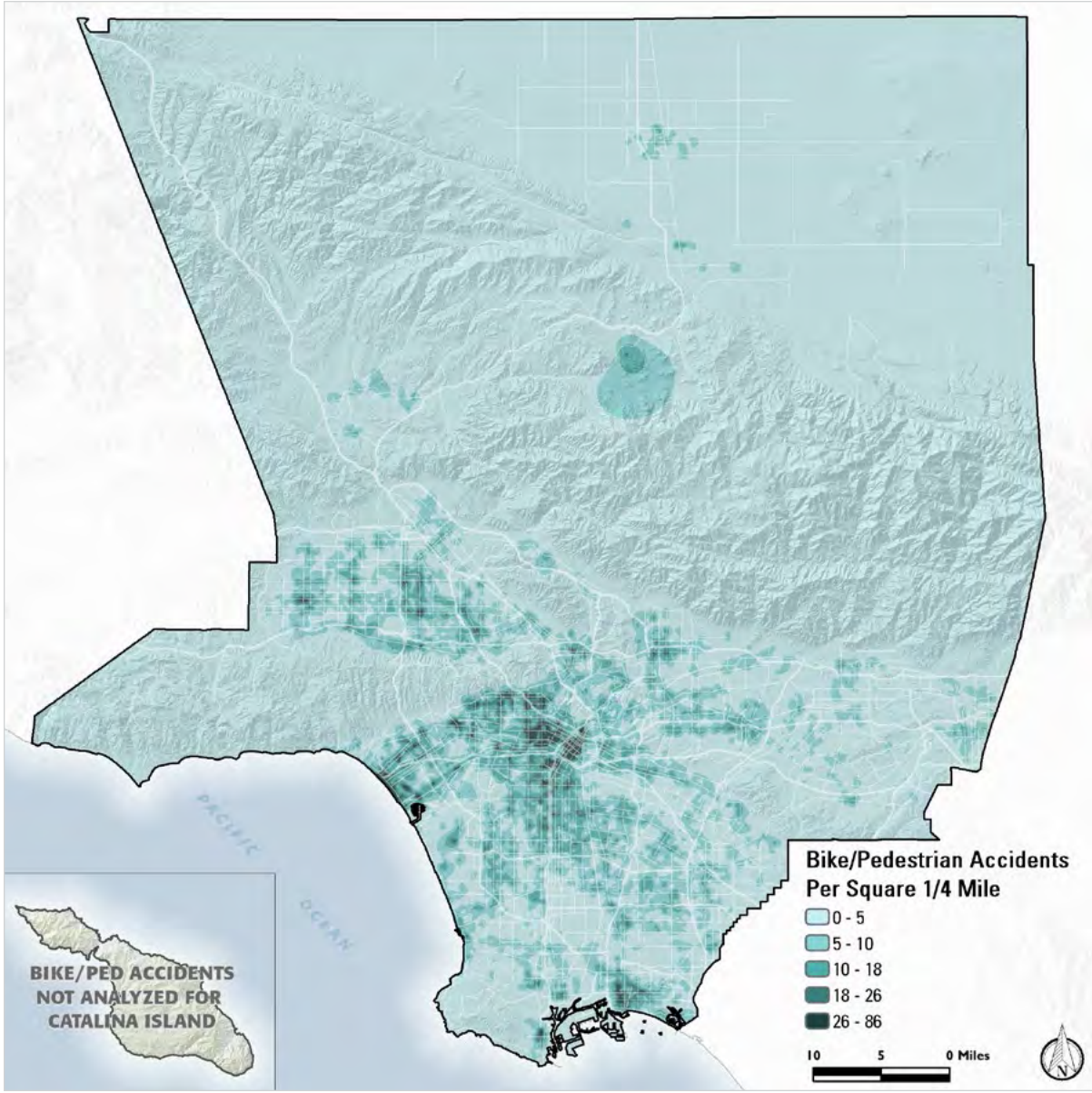
Figure 40. Population Distribution by Age



2.5.1 BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN COLLISIONS

This map summarizes all collisions between automobiles and bicycles or pedestrians. The data was collected between 2003 and 2012. During this time, there were approximately 55,000 bicycle/pedestrian collisions in Los Angeles County.

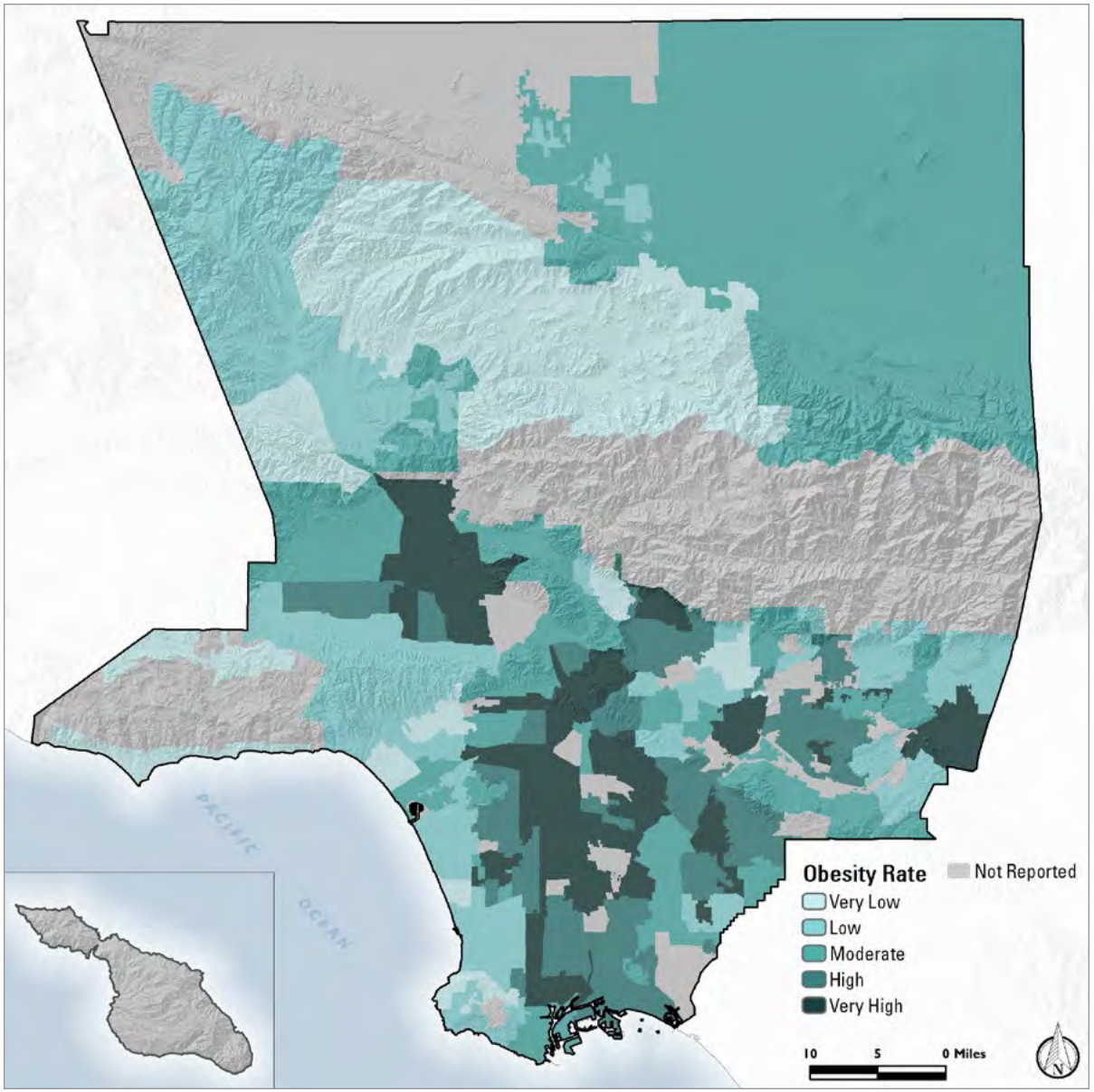
Figure 45. Countywide Bike/Pedestrian Collisions Map



2.5.2 OBESITY

This map shows the percentage of obese fifth graders throughout the County. In areas with only one school, the data may not accurately reflect childhood obesity rates for the entire area. In areas without any schools, no obesity data are included.

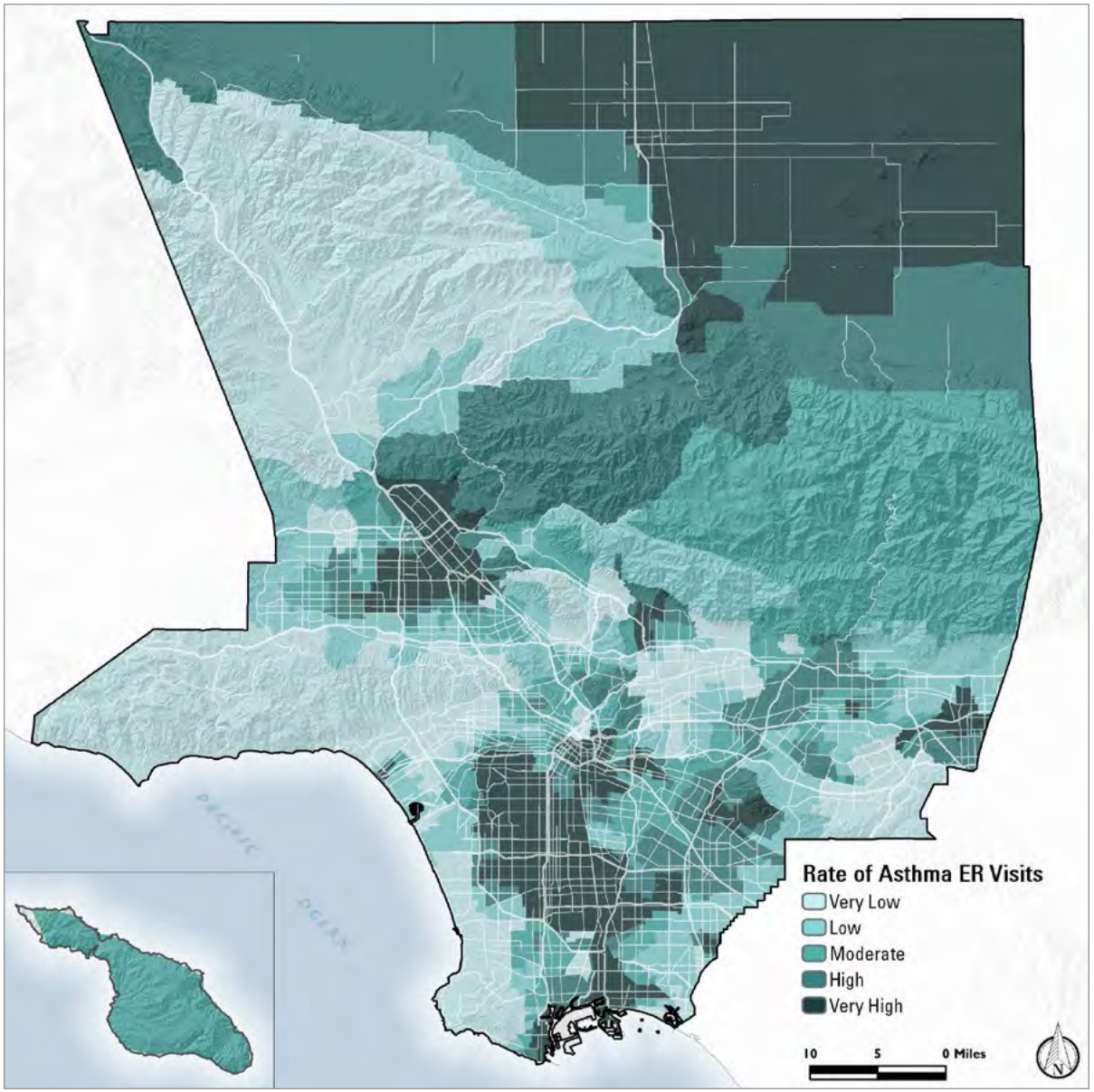
Figure 46. Obesity Among 5th Graders



2.5.3 ASTHMA

This map shows the number of emergency room visits for asthma treatments, per 10,000 people per year. Outdoor air pollution, such as diesel particulate matter and ozone, is a well-known trigger of asthma attacks. Emergency room visits do not capture the full burden of asthma in a community, but are used as an indicator of overall disease burden for lack of better data.

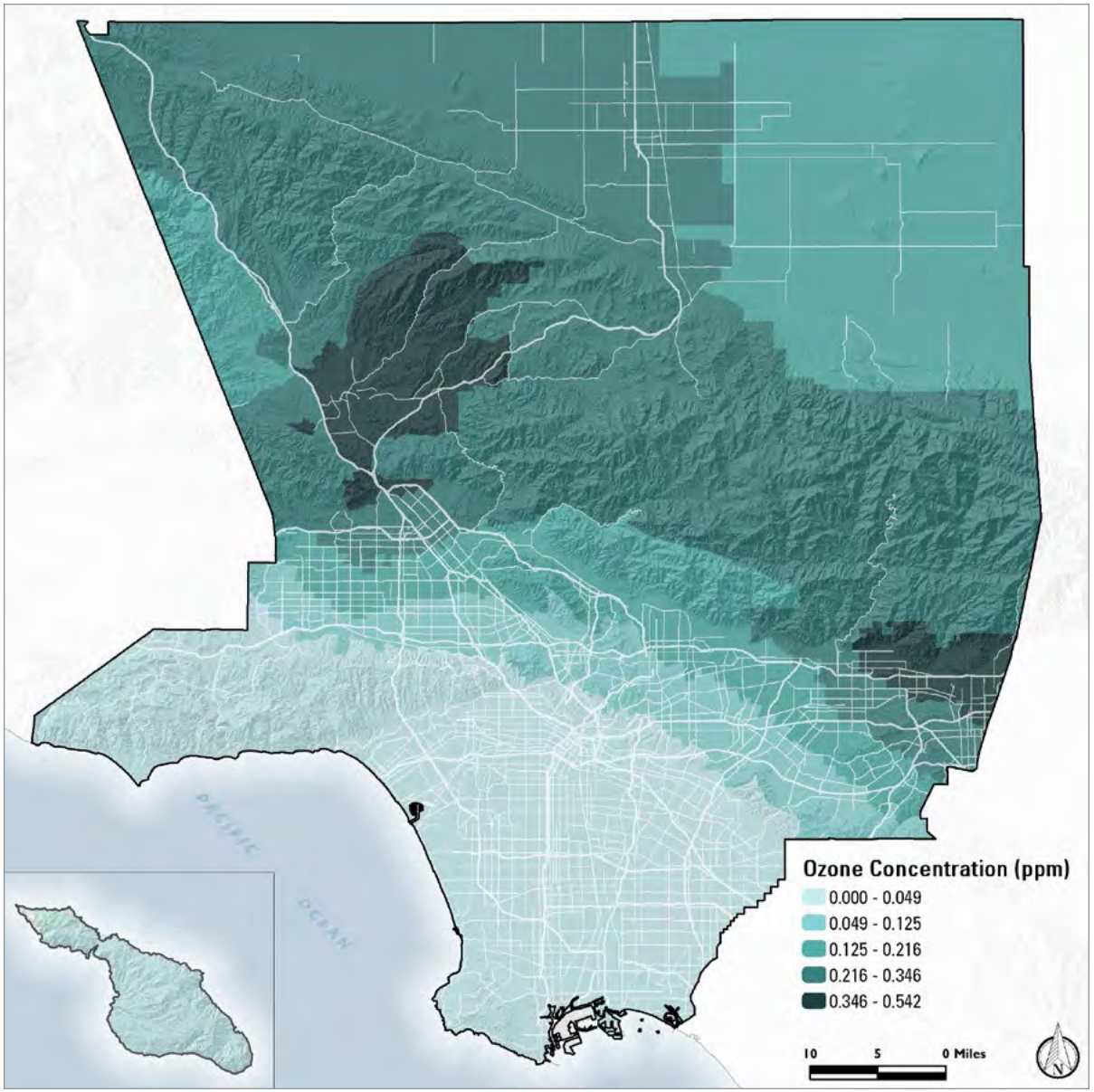
Figure 47. Asthma



2.5.4 OZONE CONCENTRATION

This map shows the varying levels of ozone concentration throughout the County. In general, ozone concentrations are lowest in the southern portion of the County, with increased concentrations in the central part of the County. Ozone is an extremely reactive form of oxygen that provides protections from the sun's ultraviolet rays when it occurs in the upper atmosphere. When ozone is present at ground level, however, it is the primary component of smog. Ground level ozone can cause lung irritation, lung inflammation, and lung disease, and it can worsen existing chronic health conditions. High levels of ozone are also associated with increased rates of asthma-related hospitalization for children, higher mortality rates, and increased cardiovascular and respiratory emergency room visits.

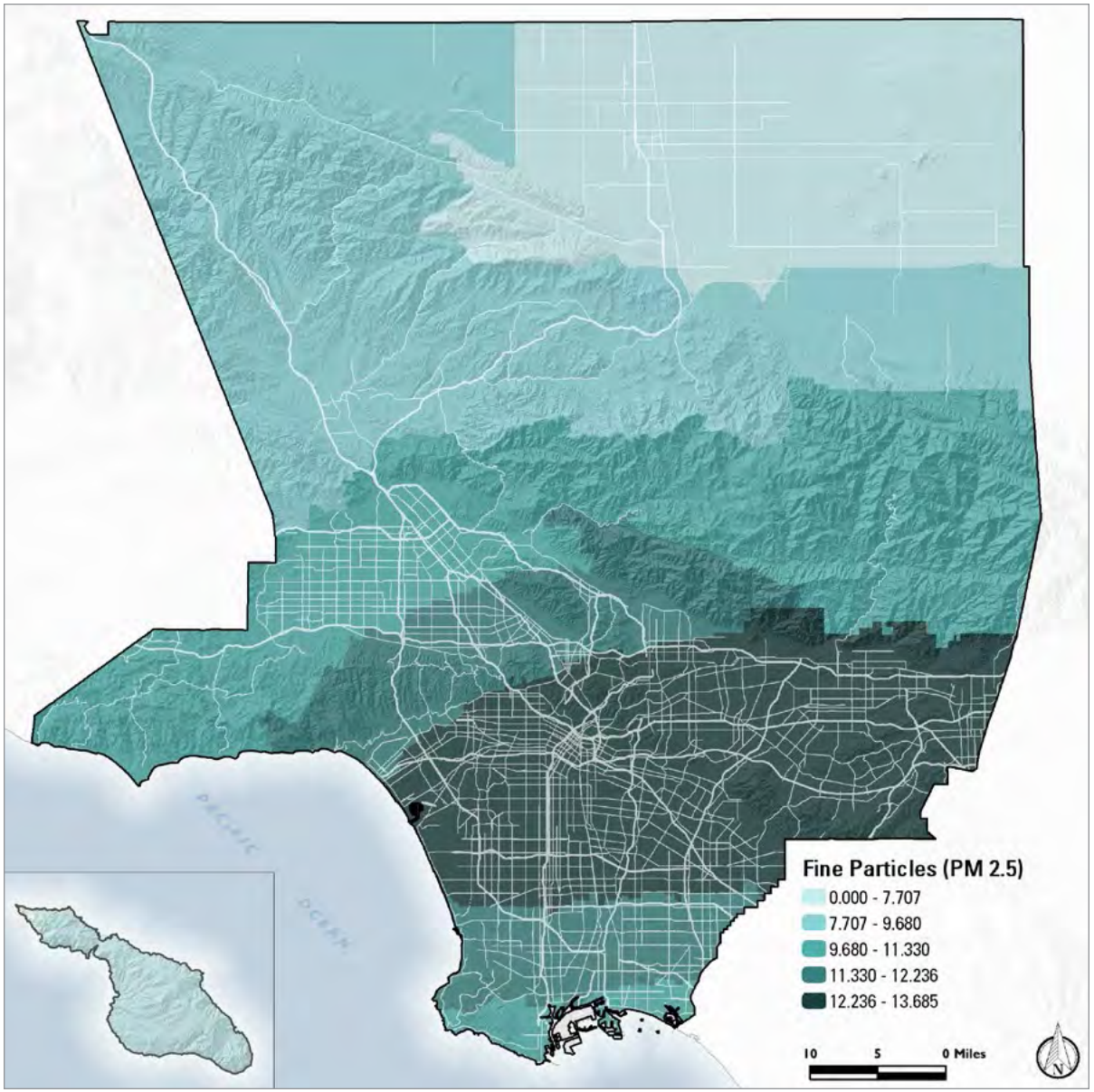
Figure 48. Ozone Concentration



2.5.5 PARTICULATE MATTER 2.5

This map shows the concentration of particulate matter (PM) 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter throughout the County. PM 2.5 concentrations are lowest in the northern part of the County and higher in the southern third of the County. PM 2.5 is generally a complex mixture of solid and liquid particles, including organic chemicals, dust, allergens, and metals. Also known as fine particle pollution, PM 2.5 enters the lungs and causes adverse health effects in respiratory and cardiovascular systems. PM 2.5 has been associated with adverse effects on lung development in children, increased hospital admissions for respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, increased mortality, low birth weight, and premature birth.

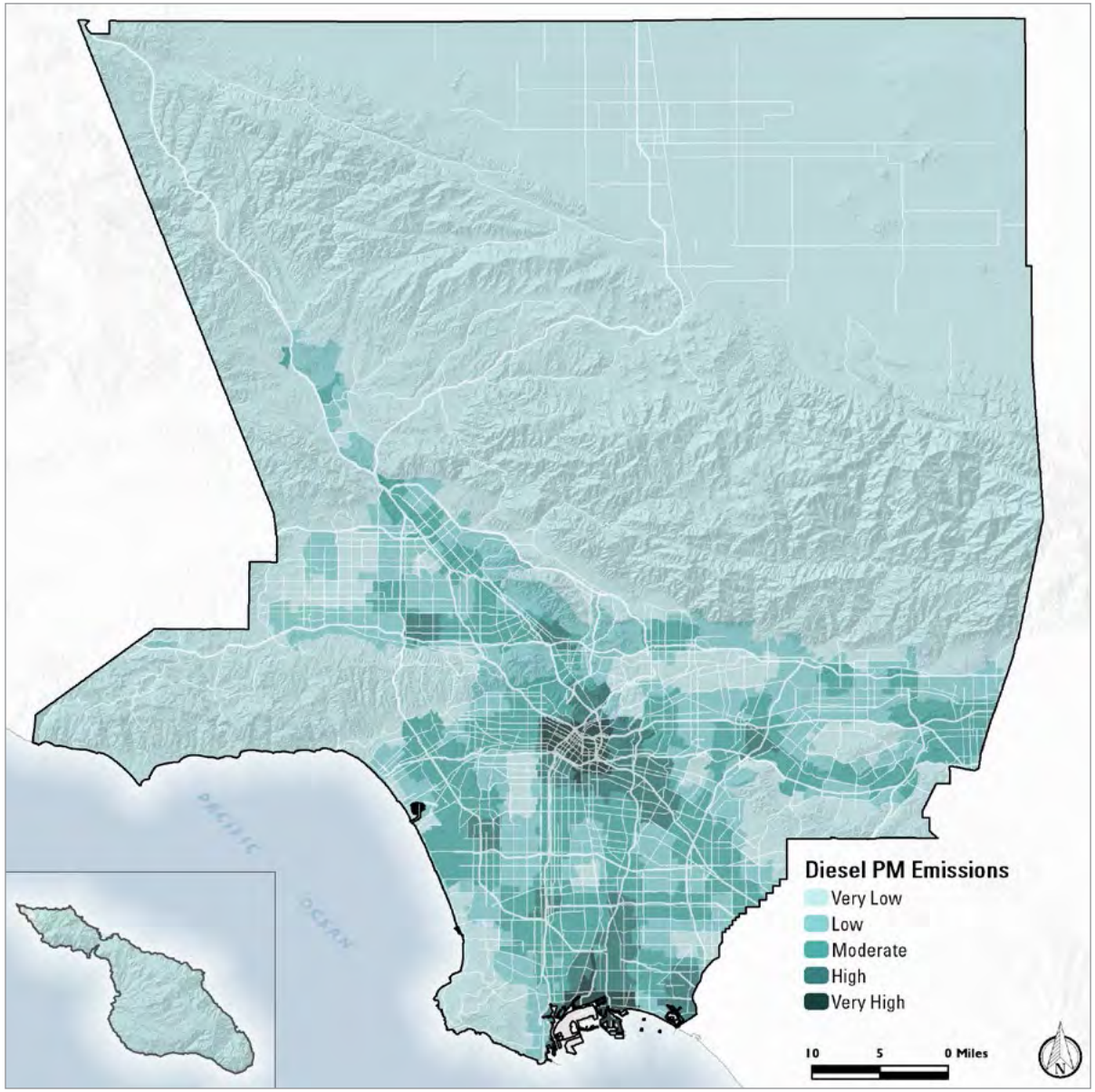
Figure 49. PM 2.5



2.5.6 DIESEL PARTICULATE MATTER EMISSIONS

This map shows rates of diesel particulate matter (PM) emissions in Los Angeles County. Diesel PM consists of particles emitted from diesel engines in cars, trucks, buses, trains, and heavy-duty equipment. Diesel PM contains carcinogens and ultrafine particles that may contribute more to adverse health effects than larger particles. Adverse health effects from diesel PM include eye, throat, and nose irritation; cardiovascular and pulmonary disease; and lung cancer. Children and those with existing respiratory diseases are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of diesel PM.

Figure 50. Diesel Particulate Matter Emissions



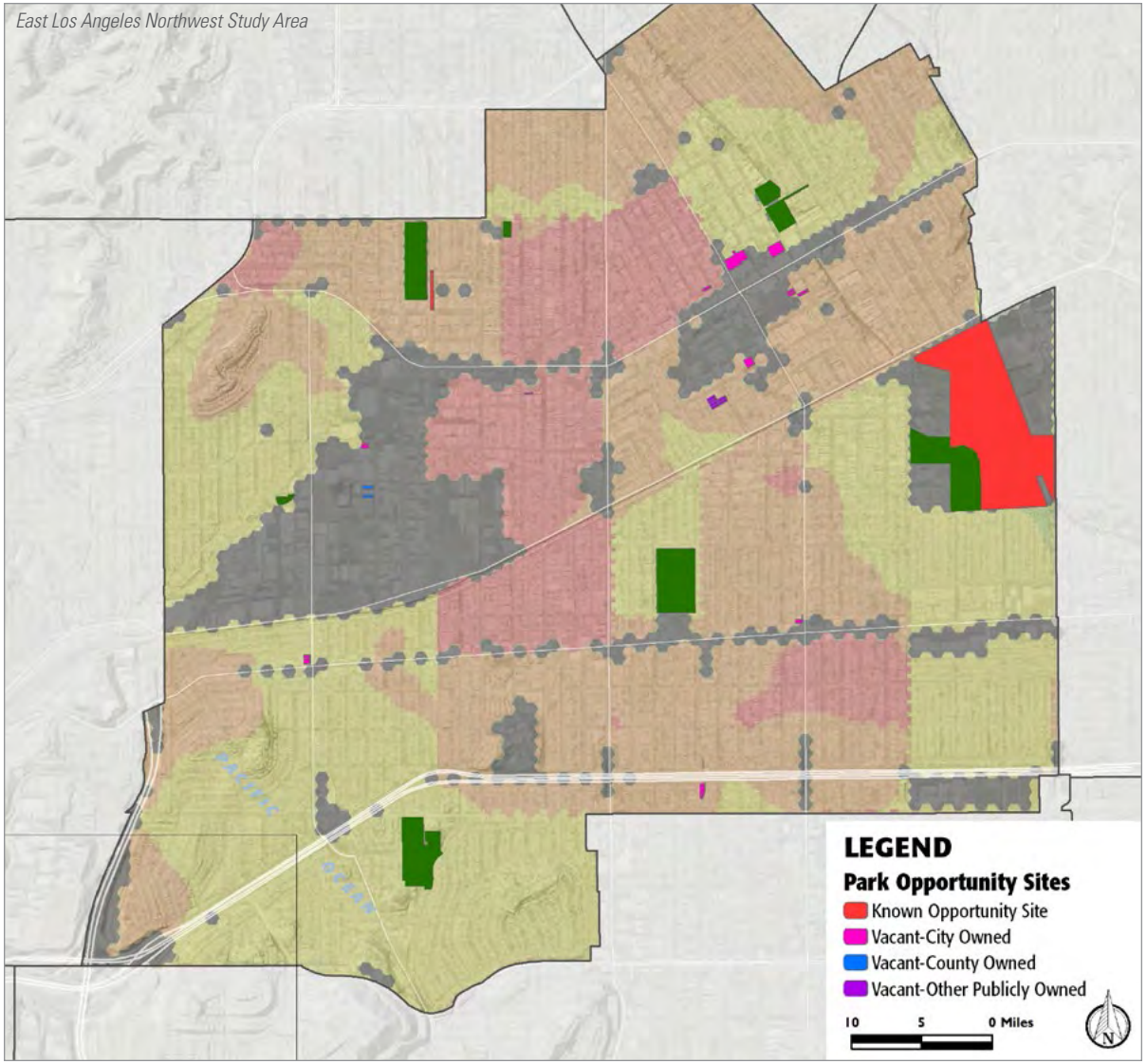
2.6 POTENTIAL PARK LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Densely populated and built-out urban areas are typically the most park poor and have very limited land available for development. Under these constrained conditions, it is important to look at all the land resources available for development. The first step to doing this is to analyze the data developed and managed by the Los Angeles County Assessor.

All City-owned, County-owned, and other publicly owned vacant parcels throughout the County were selected from the Assessor's data and overlaid on the final park need map. The map was provided as part of the Facilitator Toolkit, affording each Study Area the opportunity to verify existing potential park sites and note other potential future opportunity sites in their Study Area.

Using an interactive online mapping tool, participating agencies verified that 725 of these vacant parcels were potential future park opportunity sites.

Figure 51. Sample Map of Park Land Opportunities



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3.0 PARK NEEDS FRAMEWORK

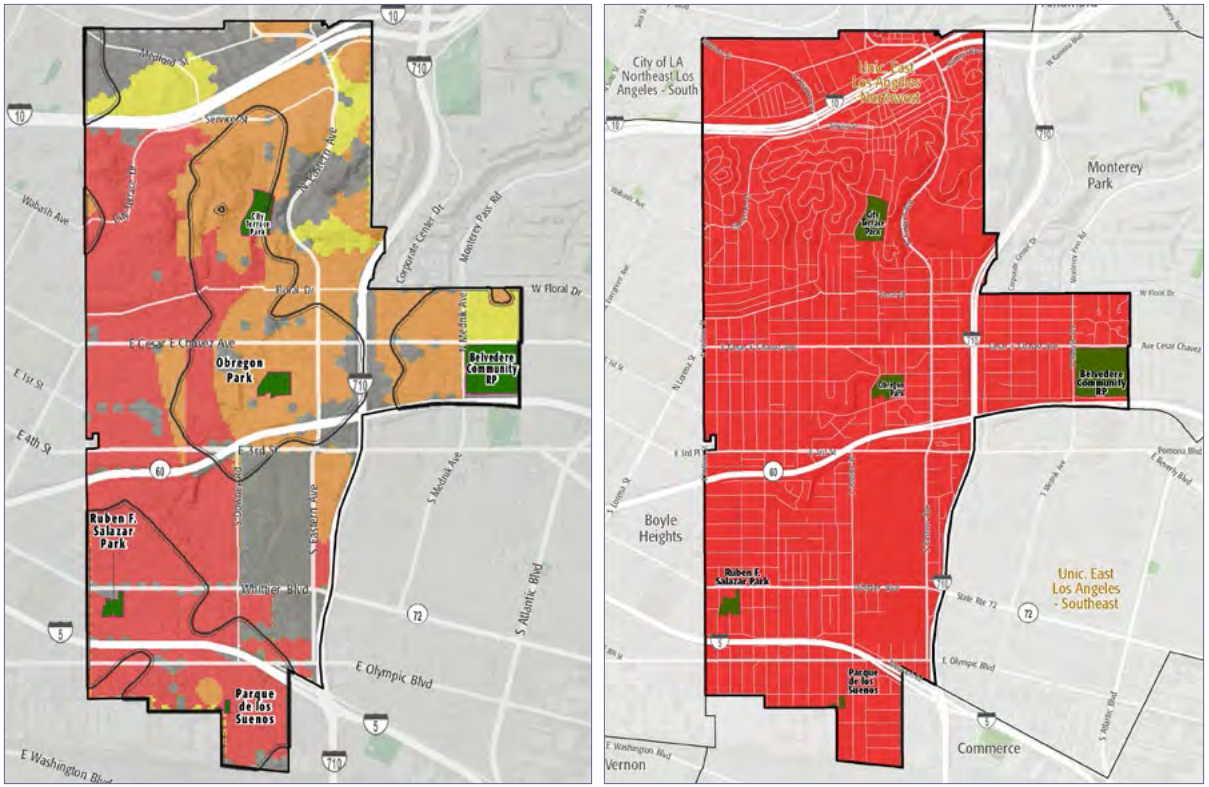
3.1 COUNTYWIDE ASSESSMENT OF PARK NEED

The analysis of the five park metrics in each Study Area produced highly detailed information about park need in each Study Area. In particular, the "Where Are Parks Most Needed?" map illustrated the location and magnitude of need in each Study Area.

Many Study Areas have three or more levels of park need. A multi-colored map that reflects that complexity is useful at the local level to help agencies understand need within their jurisdiction. However, because individual jurisdictions and unincorporated communities are often treated as single entities for large-scale planning and funding efforts, it was also important to assign a single need category to each Study Area in the County.

Building on the analysis completed for each Study Area, the Parks Needs Framework uses the park metrics to determine a single level of park need for each Study Area (see figure 52).

Figure 52. Comparison of "Where are Parks Most Needed" map from East Los Angeles Northwest Study Area and Summarized Map of Need for Entire Study Area



3.1.1 METHODOLOGY

Four steps were used to calculate a single level of park need for each Study Area.

First, the percentages of the population in "high" and "very high" need areas were added. Each Study Area was then classified into one of five initial park need categories, based on the total percentage of population in "high" and "very high" need areas in that Study Area.

After this initial sorting, a layer of information about amenities, park access, and population was added and used to modify the initial park need level.

Second, the condition of amenities in the parks of each Study Area was analyzed, since the quality of existing amenities can affect park usability. Any Study Area with more than 50 percent of its amenities in poor condition was moved to the next highest need category. Twelve Study Areas were reclassified based on this criteria.

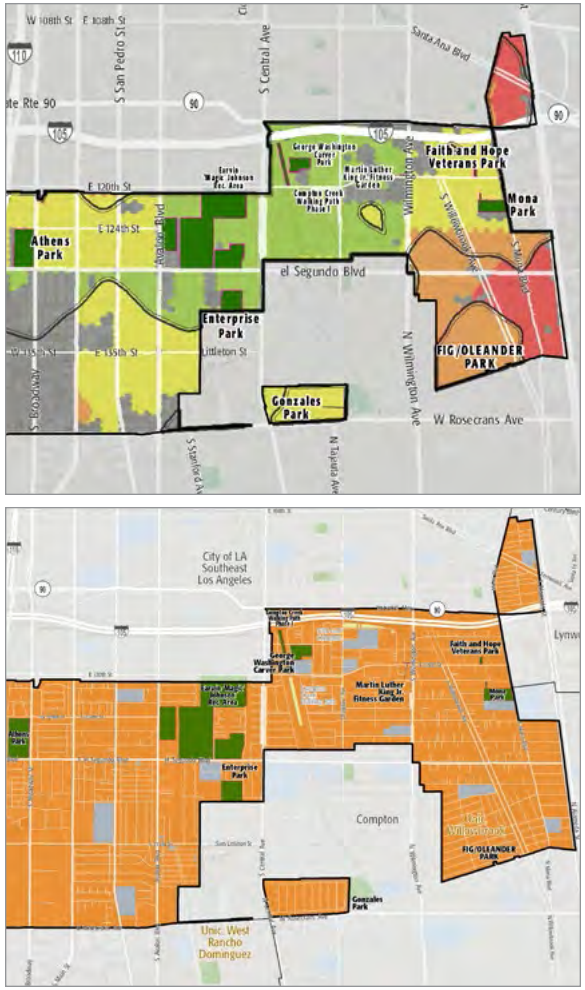
Third, park access was revisited by identifying all Study Areas without a park within its boundary and were moved to the next highest need category. Nine Study Areas were reclassified based on this information.

Finally, the population of each Study Area was considered in light of the countywide population and relative to other Study Areas. Reasoning that Study Areas with smaller populations have inherently less need than highly populated Study Areas, the following population thresholds were applied:

- A Study Area with fewer than 1,000 people could not be classified above "very low" need. Two Study Area was reclassified based on this criteria
- A Study Area with more than 1,000 residents but fewer than 5,000 could not be classified higher than the "low" need category. No Study Areas were reclassified based on this criteria, since all Study Areas with this population range were already classified as "low" or "very low" need.
- A Study Area with more than 5,000 but fewer than 10,000 residents could not be classified higher than the "moderate" need category. No Study Areas were reclassified based on this criteria, since all Study Areas within this population range were already classified as having "moderate," "low," or "very low" need.

Magic Johnson Recreation Center - Unincorporated Willowbrook

Figure 53. Comparison of "Where Are Parks Most Needed" map (top) from Unincorporated Willowbrook Study Area and Summarized Map of Need for Entire Unincorporated Willowbrook Study Area (bottom)



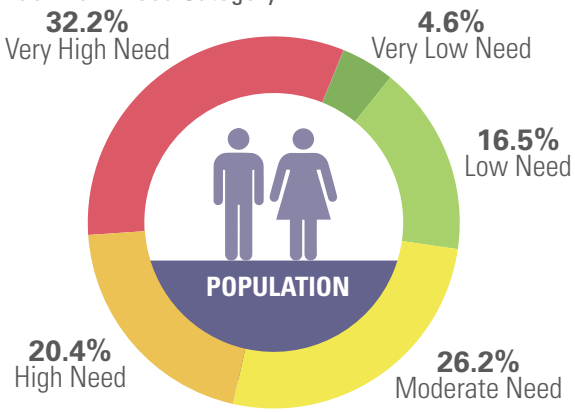
3.1.2 RESULTS

The Park Need Framework analysis shows that more than 50 percent of the County's population lives in areas of high or very high park need (see Figure 54). Study Areas with high park need have an average of 1.6 acres of park land, while Study Areas with very high need have less than an acre of park land per 1,000 (see Figure 55).

Study Areas in high park need would have to add a combined total of more than 3,250 acres of new park land in order to provide the County average of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents. Study Areas with very high need would need to add a combined total of more than 8,600 acres of new park land in order to provide 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents, as shown in Figure 56.

The maps in Figure 57 and 58, along with the information in Table 4, show how park need varies in magnitude across the County.

Figure 54. Percentage of Countywide Population in Each Park Need Category



Note: 0.1% Not Participating

Figure 55. Average Acres Per 1,000 in Each Park Need Category

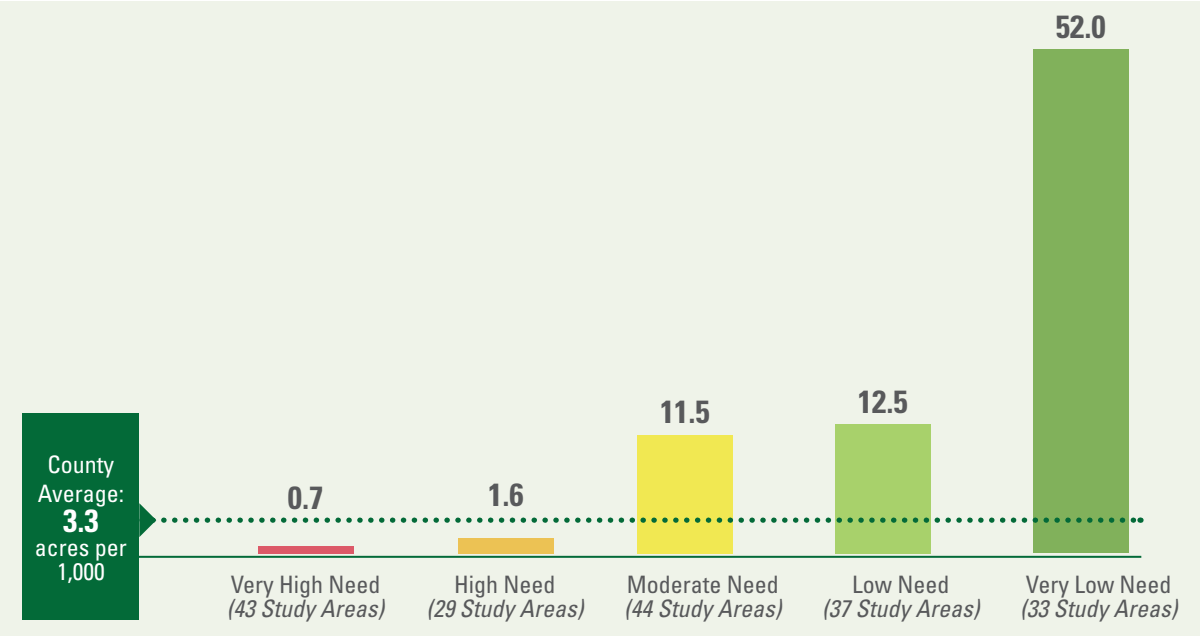


Figure 56. Additional Acres Needed

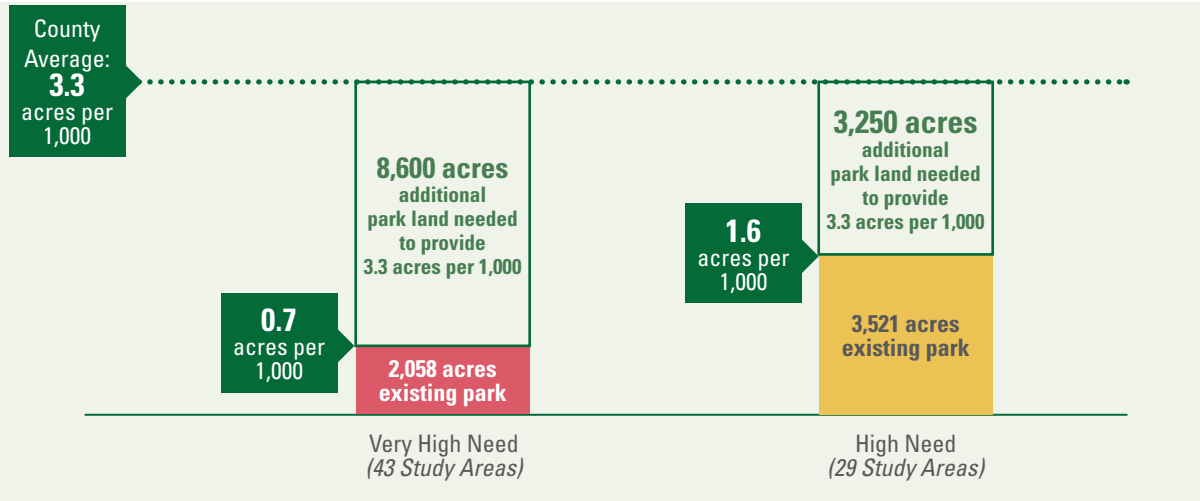


Figure 57. Park Need by Study Area Los Angeles County, North

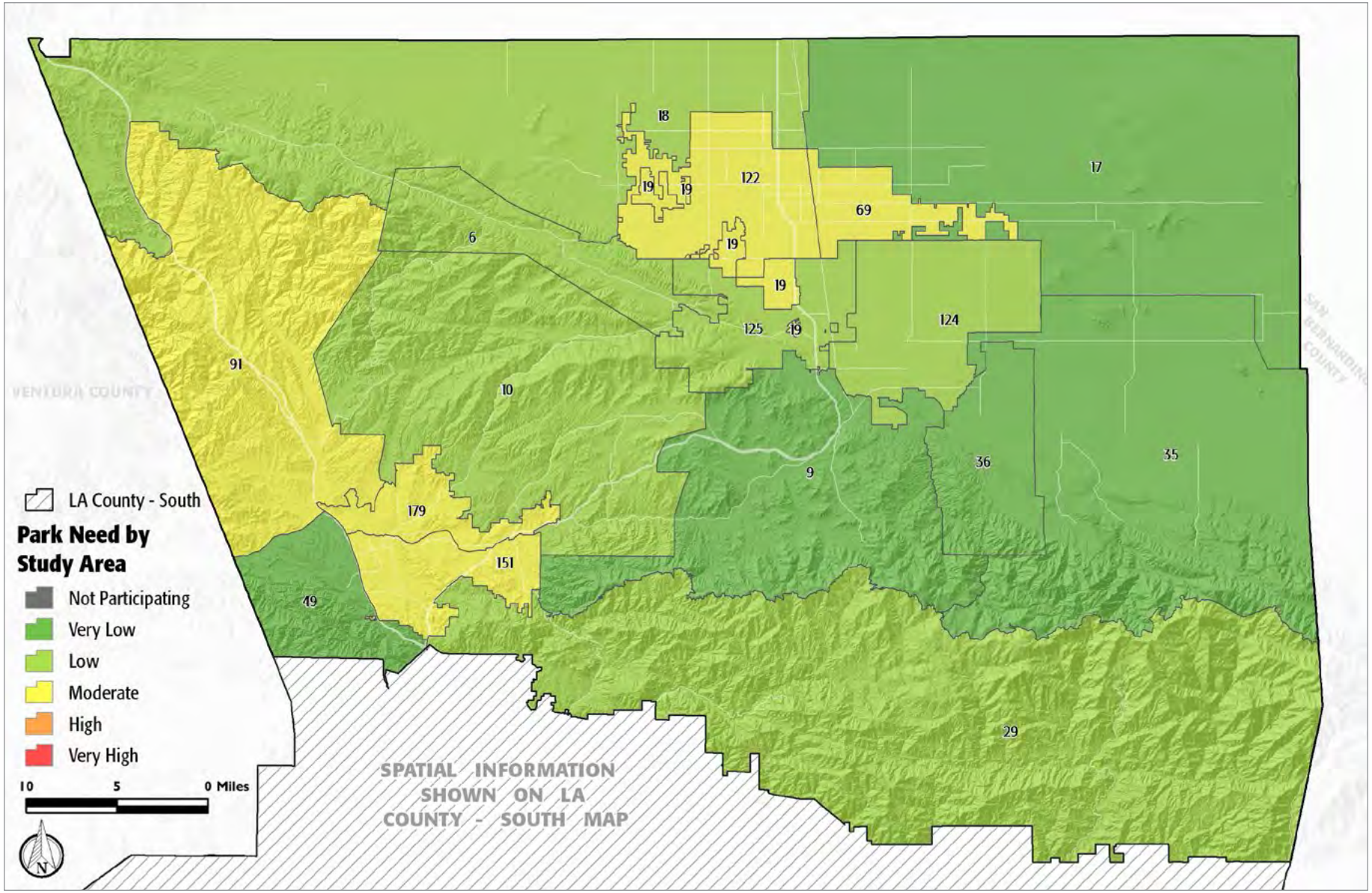


Figure 58. Park Need by Study Area Los Angeles County, South

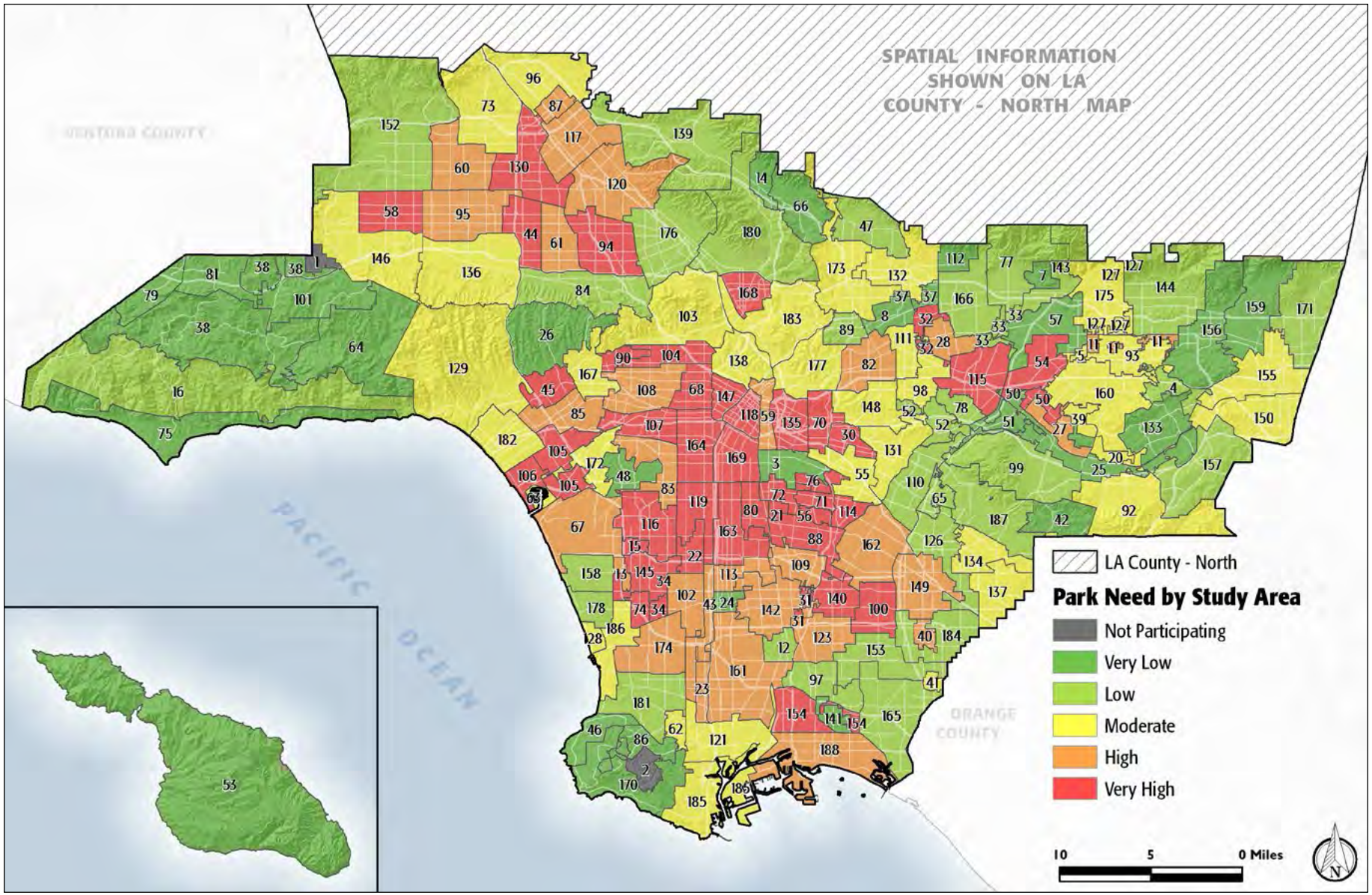


Table 4. Park Need By Study Area

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME	PARK NEED CATEGORY
1	City of Hidden Hills	Not Participating
2	City of Rolling Hills	Not Participating
3	City of Vernon / Uninc. Vernon	Very Low
4	Unincorporated Covina - San Dimas	Low
5	Unincorporated Covina Islands	Moderate
6	Unincorporated Leona Valley-Lake Hughes	Low
7	City of Bradbury / Uninc. Bradbury	Very Low
8	City of San Marino	Very Low
9	Unincorporated Acton/ Uninc. South Antelope Valley	Very Low
10	Unincorporated Agua Dulce - Angeles National Forest- Canyon Country	Low
11	Unincorporated Charter Oak Islands	High
12	Unincorporated Compton	Low
13	Unincorporated Del Aire	High
14	Unincorporated La Crescenta - Montrose	Very Low
15	Unincorporated Lennox	Very High
16	Unincorporated Malibu	Low
17	Unincorporated Northeast Antelope Valley	Very Low
18	Unincorporated Northwest Antelope Valley	Low
19	Unincorporated Quartz Hill -Lancaster	Moderate
20	Unincorporated San Jose Hills	Moderate
21	Unincorporated Walnut Park	Very High
22	Unincorporated West Athens-Westmont	Very High
23	Unincorporated West Carson	High
24	Unincorporated West Rancho Dominguez	Very Low
25	City of Industry	Very Low
26	City of LA - Bel Air - Beverly Crest/ Uninc. Hollywood Hills	Very Low
27	City of La Puente	High
28	City of Temple City	High
29	Unincorporated Angeles National Forest	Low
30	Unincorporated East Los Angeles - Southeast	Very High
31	Unincorporated East Rancho Dominguez	Very High
32	Unincorporated East San Gabriel - Arcadia	Very High
33	Unincorporated Monrovia	Low
34	Unincorporated Hawthorne - Alondra Park	Very High
35	Unincorporated Lake Los Angeles - Pearblossom - Liano - Valyermo	Very Low
36	Unincorporated Littlerock	Very Low
37	Unincorporated San Pasqual - East Pasadena	Very Low
38	Unincorporated Santa Monica Mountains - Triunfo Canyon	Very Low
39	Unincorporated Valinda	Moderate
40	City of Artesia	High
41	City of Hawaiian Gardens	Moderate
42	City of La Habra Heights	Very Low
43	City of LA - Harbor Gateway	High
44	City of LA - Van Nuys - North Sherman Oaks	Very High
45	City of LA - Westwood / Unincorporated Sawtelle VA Center	Very High
46	City of Palos Verdes Estates	Very Low

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME	PARK NEED CATEGORY
47	Unincorporated Altadena	Low
48	Unincorporated Ladera Heights / View Park - Windsor Hills	Very Low
49	Unincorporated Stevenson - Newhall Ranch	Very Low
50	Unincorporated Bassett - West Puente Valley	Very High
51	Unincorporated Pellissier Village - Avocado Heights	Very Low
52	Unincorporated Sunrise Village - South San Gabriel - Whittier Narrows	Low
53	City of Avalon - Channel Islands North	Very Low
54	City of Baldwin Park	Very High
55	City of Commerce	Moderate
56	City of Cudahy	Very High
57	City of Irwindale	Very Low
58	City of LA - Canoga Park - Winnetka	Very High
59	City of LA - Central City North	High
60	City of LA - Northridge	High
61	City of LA - Valley Glen - North Sherman Oaks	High
62	City of Lomita	Moderate
63	Unincorporated Marina del Rey	Moderate
64	Unincorporated Topanga Canyon - Topanga	Very Low
65	Unincorporated West Whittier - Los Nietos	Low
66	City of La Canada Flintridge	Very Low
67	City of LA - Westchester - Playa del Rey - Los Angeles International Airport	High
68	City of LA - Wilshire - Koreatown	Very High
69	City of Lancaster - Eastside	Moderate
70	Unincorporated East Los Angeles - Northwest	Very High

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME	PARK NEED CATEGORY
71	City of Bell	Very High
72	City of Huntington Park	Very High
73	City of LA - Granada Hills - Knollwood	Moderate
74	City of Lawndale	Very High
75	City of Malibu	Very Low
76	City of Maywood	Very High
77	City of Monrovia	Low
78	City of South El Monte/ Uninc. El Monte - Whittier Narrows	Low
79	City of Westlake Village	Very Low
80	Unincorporated Florence-Firestone	Very High
81	City of Agoura Hills	Very Low
82	City of Alhambra	High
83	City of LA - Baldwin Hills - Leimert - Hyde Park	High
84	City of LA - Sherman Oaks - Studio City - Toluca Lake - Cahuenga Pass / Uninc. Universal City	Low
85	City of LA - West Los Angeles	High
86	City of Rolling Hills Estates / Unincorporated Westfield	Very Low
87	City of San Fernando	High
88	City of South Gate	Very High
89	City of South Pasadena	Low
90	City of West Hollywood	Very High
91	Unincorporated Castaic	Moderate
92	Unincorporated Rowland Heights	Moderate
93	City of Covina	Moderate
94	City of LA - North Hollywood - Valley Village	Very High

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME	PARK NEED CATEGORY
95	City of LA - Reseda - West Van Nuys	High
96	City of LA - Sylmar	Moderate
97	City of Long Beach Central	Low
98	City of Rosemead	Moderate
99	Unincorporated - Hacienda Heights - Whittier	Low
100	City of Bellflower	Very High
101	City of Calabasas	Very Low
102	City of Gardena	High
103	City of LA - Hollywood - North	Moderate
104	City of LA - Hollywood - South	Very High
105	City of LA - Palms - Mar Vista - Del Rey	Very High
106	City of LA - Venice	Very High
107	City of LA - West Adams	Very High
108	City of LA - Wilshire - West	High
109	City of Lynwood - Uninc. Lynwood	High
110	City of Pico Rivera	Low
111	City of San Gabriel	Moderate
112	City of Sierra Madre	Very Low
113	Unincorporated Willowbrook	High
114	City of Bell Gardens	Very High
115	City of El Monte	Very High
116	City of Inglewood	Very High
117	City of LA - Arleta - Pacoima	High
118	City of LA - Central City	Very High

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME	PARK NEED CATEGORY
119	City of LA - South Los Angeles	Very High
120	City of LA - Sun Valley - La Tuna Canyon	High
121	City of LA - Wilmington - Harbor City / City of LA Port of Los Angeles	Moderate
122	City of Lancaster - Westside	Moderate
123	City of Long Beach North	High
124	City of Palmdale - Eastside / Uninc. South Antelope Valley	Low
125	City of Palmdale - Westside	Low
126	City of Santa Fe Springs	Low
127	Unincorporated Azusa	Moderate
128	City of Hermosa Beach	Moderate
129	City of LA - Brentwood - Pacific Palisades	Moderate
130	City of LA - Mission Hills - Panorama City - North Hills	Very High
131	City of Montebello	Moderate
132	City of Pasadena - Eastside / Uninc. Kinneloa Mesa	Moderate
133	City of Walnut	Very Low
134	Unincorporated South Whittier - East La Mirada	Moderate
135	City of LA - Boyle Heights	Very High
136	City of LA - Encino - Tarzana	Moderate
137	City of La Mirada	Moderate
138	City of LA - Silver Lake - Echo Park - Elysian Valley	Moderate
139	City of LA - Sunland - Tujunga - Lake View Terrace - Shadow Hills	Low
140	City of Paramount	Very High
141	City of Signal Hill	Very Low
142	City of Compton	High

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME	PARK NEED CATEGORY
143	City of Duarte	Low
144	City of Glendora / Unincorporated Glendora	Low
145	City of Hawthorne	Very High
146	City of LA - West Hills - Woodland Hills \ Uninc. Canoga Park - West Hills	Moderate
147	City of LA - Westlake	Very High
148	City of Monterey Park	Moderate
149	City of Norwalk	High
150	City of Pomona - Southside	Moderate
151	Santa Clarita - South	Moderate
152	City of LA - Chatsworth - Porter Ranch / Uninc. Northridge - Canoga Park - Oat Mtn.	Low
153	City of Lakewood / Unincorporated Lakewood	Low
154	City of Long Beach West	Very High
155	City of Pomona - Northside	Moderate
156	City of San Dimas / Unincorporated San Dimas	Very Low
157	City of Diamond Bar	Low
158	City of El Segundo	Low
159	City of La Verne / Unincorporated La Verne - Claremont	Very Low
160	City of West Covina	Moderate
161	City of Carson	High
162	City of Downey	High
163	City of LA - Southeast Los Angeles	Very High
164	City of LA - Exposition Park - University Park - Vermont Square	Very High
165	City of Long Beach East / Unincorporated Long Beach	Low

ID #	STUDY AREA NAME	PARK NEED CATEGORY
166	City of Arcadia	Low
167	City of Beverly Hills	Moderate
168	City of Glendale - Southside	Very High
169	City of LA - Southeast Los Angeles - North	Very High
170	City of Rancho Palos Verdes	Very Low
171	City of Claremont / Unincorporated Claremont	Low
172	City of Culver City	Moderate
173	City of Pasadena - Westside	Moderate
174	City of Torrance - North	High
175	City of Azusa	Moderate
176	City of Burbank	Low
177	City of LA - Northeast Los Angeles - South	Moderate
178	City of Manhattan Beach	Low
179	Santa Clarita - North	Moderate
180	City of Glendale - Northside	Low
181	City of Torrance - South	Low
182	City of Santa Monica	Moderate
183	City of LA - Northeast Los Angeles - North	Moderate
184	City of Cerritos \ Unincorporated Cerritos	Low
185	City of LA - San Pedro - LA Port of Los Angeles - Uninc. La Rambla	Moderate
186	City of Redondo Beach	Moderate
187	City of Whittier	Low
188	City of Long Beach South	High

4.0 POTENTIAL PARK PROJECTS & COST ESTIMATES

4.1 POTENTIAL PARK PROJECTS

The Parks Needs Assessment invited input from all communities in the County regarding desired park projects, and reports potential park projects from three sources: projects prioritized at community workshops in each Study Area; projects submitted by the managing agency of a regional recreation park; and projects submitted by the managing agencies of specialized facilities. As outlined in Table 5, the locations of projects, engagement process, and number of projects submitted varied by project source. These criteria were reviewed by the Steering Committee.

These potential park project lists are not intended to supersede or replace any planning documents, nor to obligate any agency to implement the included projects. Project lists simply provide a snapshot in time of potential projects agreed upon by workshop participants or agency staff to best meet park and recreational needs at the time of the Parks Needs Assessment

Table 5. Potential Park Project Submittal Criteria

PROJECT SOURCE	PROJECT LOCATIONS	ENGAGEMENT PROCESS	NUMBER OF PROJECTS
Community Workshops conducted by Lead Agency of each Study Area	Local Parks Regional Recreation Parks Regional Open Space Facilities Natural Areas New Park Locations	Workshops in Participating Study Areas	Up to 10 per Study Area
Regional Recreation Park Agencies	Regional Recreation Parks Regional Open Space Facilities	Optional Park User Meeting	Up to 5 per park
Specialized Facilities: Agencies Operating Open Space & Nature Centers *Note: Only local public agencies were eligible to submit projects*	Local Parks (if Nature Center) Regional Recreation Parks (if Nature Center) Regional Open Space Facilities Natural Areas	Self Assessment of Need Completed by Agency	Maximum of 3 per facility, 5 per Agency per Study Area. Total max. of 20 per Agency
Specialized Facilities: Agencies Operating Regional Specialty Facilities *Note: Only local public agencies were eligible to submit projects*	Local Parks Regional Recreation Parks Regional Open Space Facilities Natural Areas	Self Assessment of Need Completed by Agency	Maximum of 3 per facility, 5 per Agency per Study Area. Total max. of 20 per Agency

4.1.1 PRIORITIZED PARK PROJECTS

i. Project Definition

The Parks Needs Assessment developed a narrow definition of a potential park project. Limiting the scope of what could be considered a single project helped ensure that prioritized projects were of a similar magnitude across all Study Areas, assisted communities in clarifying their project priorities, and increased the consistency of cost estimates.

To qualify as a project within the Parks Needs Assessment, two criteria had to be met for any potential project:

- Site Specific - each project had to be located at a single physical location within the Study Area boundary. The location could be an existing local park, regional recreation park, regional open space, or natural area; or it could be an unspecified location if the project was the construction of a new park.
- Amenity Specific - each project could only address a single amenity type. Multiple installations of the given amenity were considered a single project.

For those projects focused solely on infrastructure (restrooms, signage, parking lots, walkways, security lighting, park furniture, irrigation, vegetation/landscaping and fencing) these two criteria were interpreted as follows:

- Site Specific - all infrastructure systems in a single physical location could be addressed as a single project.
- Amenity Specific - a single type of infrastructure could be addressed at all parks within the Study Area.

Because the purpose of the Parks Needs Assessment was to gain an understanding of the physical needs of parks and recreational facilities, projects involving improvements to programming, traffic signals, crosswalks, ongoing maintenance, and public safety—although important and often needed—were determined to be outside of the scope of the Parks Needs Assessment and were not included in the final project lists.

In addition to a strict definition of what constituted a project, the Parks Needs Assessment also established a point-based structure and assigned points based on the specific type of improvement to further ensure consistency in project magnitude from Study Area to Study Area. For example, a project consisting of the replacement of all tennis courts at a park was assigned a single point, while a project consisting of constructing an entire new park was assigned three points. For further explanation of the point-based criteria, please refer to Figure 59. Project lists for each Study Area could not exceed ten points, regardless of how many individual projects were submitted. For this reason, some project lists contained fewer than ten projects but in fact total ten points.

Every project was classified into one of the following categories: add or replace an amenity type at an existing park; repair an existing amenity type at an existing park; or construct a new park or specialty facility.

Figure 59. Point-Based Project Criteria

1-Point Project Examples

- Repair or replace a single amenity type at one existing park
- Add a single amenity type at an existing park
- Add a single amenity type at a proposed/new park
- Repair, replace, or add a single type of general infrastructure at all parks within the study area
- Repair or replace all general infrastructure at one existing park
- Add or repair multi-purpose recreational trails within one existing park
- Construct a new multi-purpose recreational trail outside of an existing park (where no land acquisition, general infrastructure, or amenities are required)

2-Point Project Examples

- Construct a new park or specialty facility—including all general infrastructure and 2 amenity types (where no land acquisition is required);
- Construct a new multi-purpose recreational trail outside of an existing park—where either (but not both) land acquisition or general infrastructure is needed

3-Point Project Examples

- Construct a new park, specialty facility, or multi-purpose recreational trail outside of an existing park—including land acquisition, all general infrastructure, and 2 amenity types

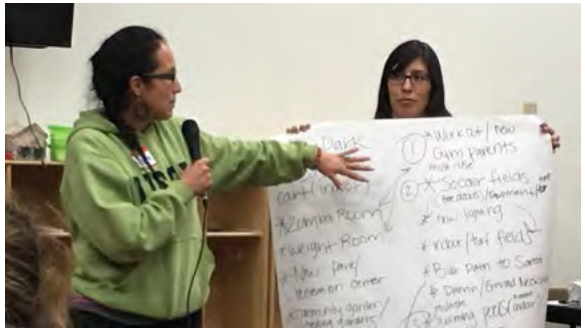
ii. Project Lists

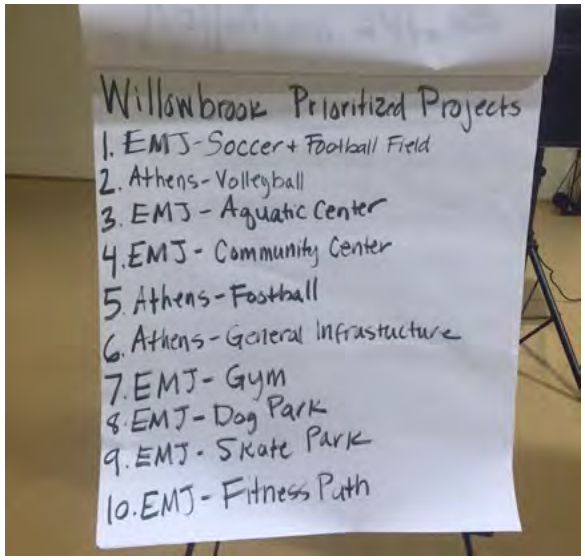
The map and overview of existing parks and the results of the park metrics analysis were shared with participants at each Study Area's community workshop (Figure 60). Workshop facilitators were trained to use the data to guide a participatory discussion about park need in the Study Area and to identify park projects that could potentially meet the documented park need. Facilitators were encouraged to acknowledge and discuss any suggestions for projects that did not meet the Parks Needs Assessment project criteria (such as requests for crosswalks), and to share such feedback with the agencies and departments responsible for those types of improvements.

At each workshop, the result of this discussion was a comprehensive list of potential park projects for the Study Area, including projects in local parks, regional recreation parks, regional open space, and natural areas.

Figure 60. Community Workshops Flowchart

After the list of all potential projects was complete, workshop participants engaged in a participatory prioritization exercise to identify the top ten projects in their Study Area (Figure 61). In most cases, this list of ten prioritized projects was reviewed internally by each lead agency prior to being submitted to the Parks Needs Assessment team. Facilitators were trained to inform workshop participants about any review or adjustment processes that the list of priority projects would undergo.





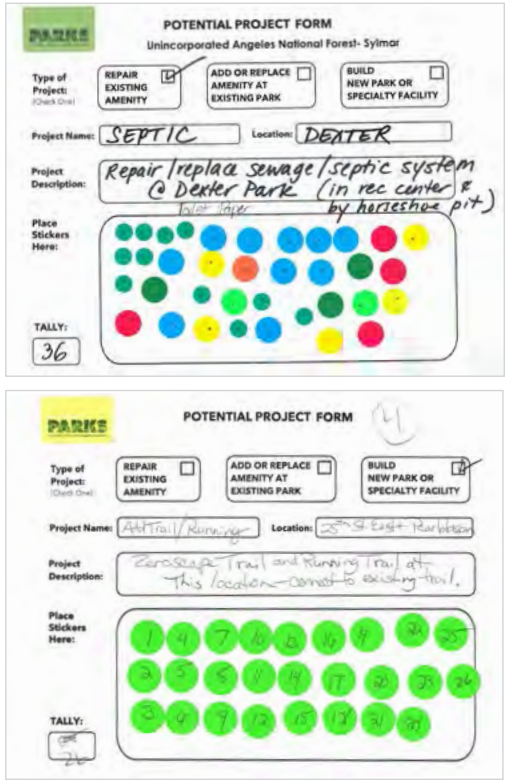
In some cases, the projects were reviewed by lead agency staff to ensure that they were feasible in light of site and other constraints and that they did not conflict with local policies. Additionally, smaller-scale projects with existing plans and established funding streams may have been removed from the list of prioritized projects in order to create room for other projects with a greater need for funding.

Facilitators were also trained to communicate that a project's inclusion on the list was not a promise to complete that project. Facilitators informed participants that the list of prioritized projects would be used to:

- Let the County know which park projects were most important in their community
- Generate a cost estimate of park need in the County
- Inform potential future Countywide park funding decisions
- Contribute to future Countywide park planning decisions

The list of ten prioritized projects was submitted to the Parks Needs Assessment team by the lead agency for each Study Area. The consultant team reviewed each list for adherence to project criteria and in some cases made modifications to the lists to ensure that projects conformed to the established project definitions. Consultants worked closely with lead agencies to help them understand project definitions and make any necessary modifications prior to submission. Every attempt was made to uphold the integrity of the community's prioritized selections.

Figure 61. Sample Project Prioritization Forms



As shown in Figure 62, workshop participants prioritized the repair of existing park amenities more frequently than other types of projects. Among repair projects, the most frequently prioritized address general infrastructure, restrooms, and community centers.

Projects to add new amenities to exiting parks were prioritized more frequently than projects to construct new parks, but less frequently than projects to repair or replace existing amenities.

The majority of Study Areas prioritized at least one new park among their projects. A total of 200 new park projects were prioritized in 138 Study Areas, as shown in Figure 63. Several Study Areas prioritized more than one new park.

For the list of projects prioritized in each Study Area, refer to Appendix A.

Figure 62. Most Frequently Prioritized Park Projects, by Project Type

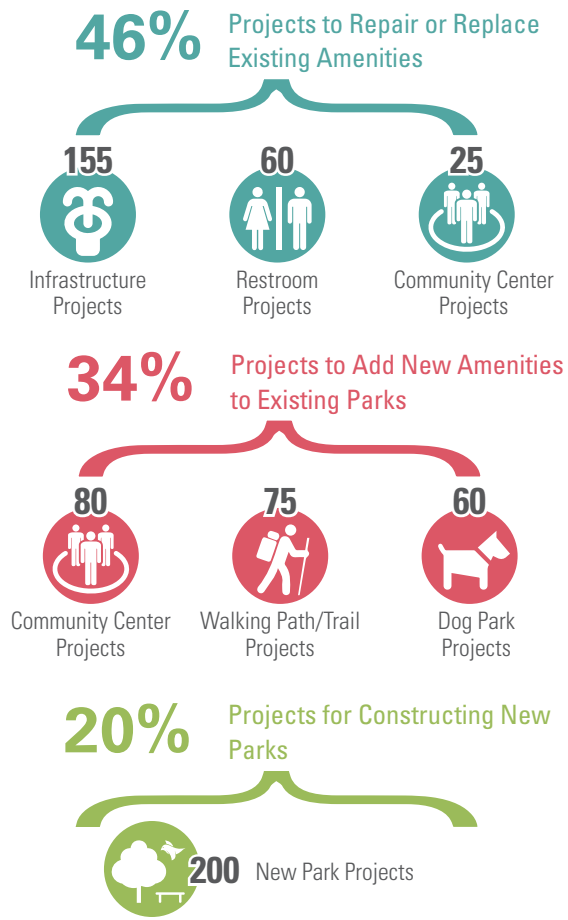


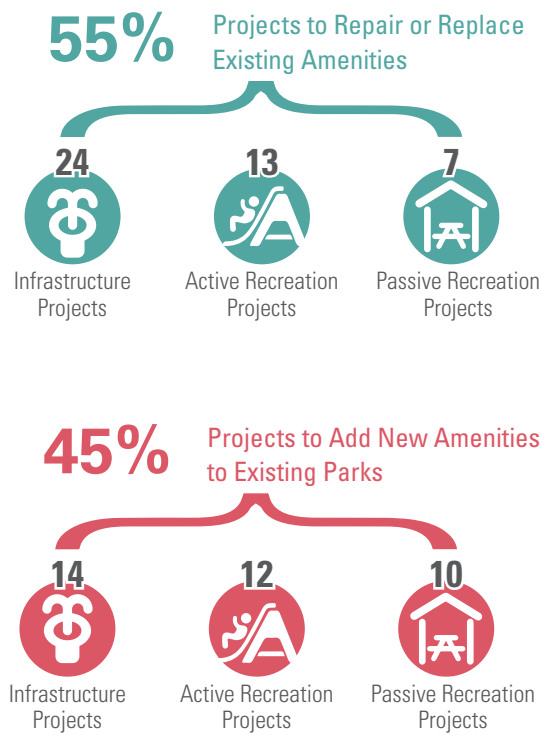
Figure 63. Study Areas Prioritizing a New Park

4.1.2 REGIONAL RECREATION PARK PROJECTS

The managing agency of each regional recreation park conducted an internal self-assessment of need. Each regional recreational park was allowed to submit a maximum of five park-specific projects to meet the identified need. Qualifying projects could include deferred maintenance or capital improvements projects and were restricted to repairing, replacing, or adding a single amenity type or infrastructure system. Agencies submitted project descriptions and cost estimates to the project consultants for review and inclusion in the Park Parks Needs Assessment. Each agency's submittal is available in Appendix B.

A total of 80 park projects were submitted by agencies managing the 17 identified regional recreational parks; 55 percent of the projects were for repairing or placing existing amenities and 45 percent were for adding new amenities to existing parks. A detailed breakdown of the project types by category is shown in Figures 64 and 65.

Figure 64. Regional Recreation Park Projects by Type



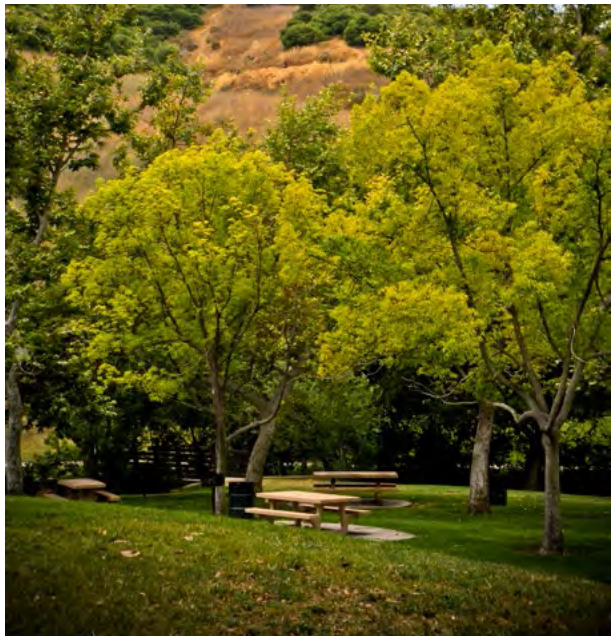


Figure 65. Sample Regional Recreation Park Projects

Infrastructure Projects Include:
-Tree planting
-New trail signage
-Repaving parking lots

Active Recreation Projects Include:
-New basketball facility
-Replace swimming pool
-Improve ballfields

Passive Recreation Projects Include:
-Wildlife observation tower
-Group picnic areas
-New dog park

4.1.3 PROJECTS AT SPECIALIZED FACILITIES

In addition to local and regional recreation parks, the recreation network in Los Angeles County includes regionally important specialty facilities such as open space, nature centers, beaches, and trails. Recognizing that the local focus and scale of community workshops could potentially result in a lack of recognition of the importance of these specialized facilities, the Steering Committee approved the inclusion of potential park projects within these facilities, which provide the public a wide variety of recreational opportunities that would not be otherwise available.

Specialized facilities include regionally important active and passive recreation resources such as open space, beaches, arboreta, specialty gardens, amphitheaters and band shells, sports complexes, hiking trails, golf courses, and equestrian facilities. In general, these facilities were documented in the inventory phase of the Parks Needs Assessment if they were located within a local park, regional recreation park, or regional open space.

All local public park, recreation, and/or open space agencies were invited to submit projects at the specialized facilities they manage. Two meetings were held to explain the process of submitting projects at specialized facilities. These facilities were categorized as either open space & nature center facilities or as regional specialty facilities. The criteria for inclusion of a specialized facility are that the facility be owned and/or operated by a local public agency and subject to the Park Preservation Act. The facility must be publicly accessible, provide recreational functions, and serve a regional population greater than that of the Study Area in which the facility is located.

Agencies were invited to submit up to three projects per facility, with a maximum limit of five projects per Study Area. Large agencies with multiple facilities throughout the County were limited to submitting no more than 20 projects.

Eight qualifying local public agencies submitted projects for inclusion in the Parks Needs Assessment. Each submitting agency also included a cover letter detailing their mission and relevance to recreation in the County. Refer to Appendix C for a complete list of participating agencies and projects submitted by each agency.

A total of 155 projects were submitted for specialized facilities. Of these, 59 percent were for repairing or replacing existing amenities and 41 percent were for adding new amenities to existing facilities. A detailed breakdown of the project types in these categories is shown in Figure 66 and Figure 67.

Figure 66. Specialized Facility Projects by Type

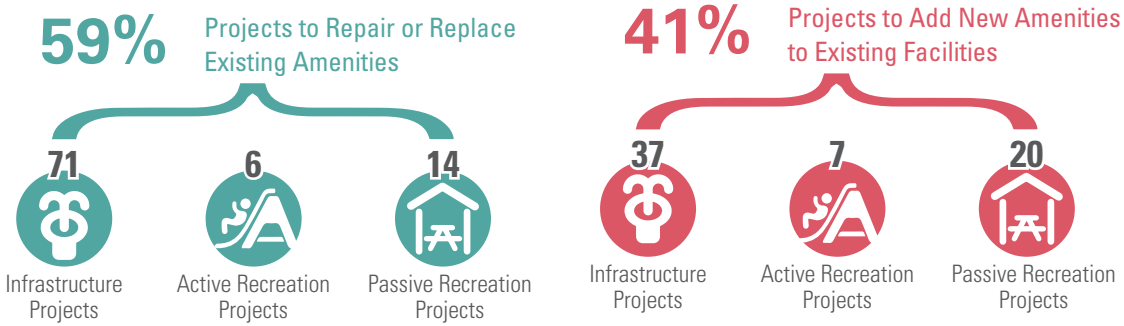


Figure 67. Sample Specialized Facility Projects

Infrastructure Projects Include:
-Build trailhead parking lot
-New lifeguard headquarters
-Add composting restrooms

Active Recreation Projects Include:
-Renovate golf course
-New equestrian center
-Add fitness equipment

Passive Recreation Projects Include:
-Build new trails
-Construct visitor center
-Add tent camping

4.2 COST ESTIMATES: COUNTYWIDE TRENDS

Planning-level cost estimates were developed to provide a rough order-of-magnitude estimate of the dollar amount needed to implement identified projects and complete deferred maintenance work Countywide. Cost estimates for prioritized projects and deferred maintenance were developed by the Parks Needs Assessment team and apply a standardized set of cost estimates to each project. Due to the unique needs of both regional recreation parks and specialized facilities, cost estimates for projects at these facilities were submitted by the managing agency of each facility.

4.2.1 METHODOLOGY

Standardized cost estimates were developed for land acquisition, projects to construct new amenities or completely replace existing amenities, and projects to repair existing amenities.

These costs were developed by the consultant team and DPR staff using a number of sources:

- Recently completed work by the County of Los Angeles, City of Los Angeles, other public agencies in the State, and landscape architectural staff from the consultant team
- Commercial construction and real estate datasets
- Third-party cost estimators with experience in park construction cost estimation in the County of Los Angeles

i. Land Acquisition Costs

Land acquisition costs were developed for each Study Area for use in estimating the cost of projects requiring land acquisition. Data from two commercial real estate analytics sources (CoStar and LoopNet) were used to estimate these costs. When available, average sales price per acre for vacant land was used. If no vacant land sales data were available, the land value component of average sales price per acre for residential and nonresidential property sales was used. If no sales were reported in a Study Area, the average asking price per acre was used.

ii. New Construction/Amenity Replacement Costs

A set of standard construction costs for new construction/amenity replacement was developed for the 16 amenities inventoried in the Web Portal, individual park infrastructure components, and unique amenities prioritized at community workshops. Starting with cost information from a commercial construction database (RSMeans), these numbers were modified by landscape architectural staff from the consultant team. The estimates were then reviewed and further fine-tuned by staff from DPR, the City of Los Angeles, and third-party cost estimators.

These standardized costs were used as a template to calculate costs for all priority projects identified Countywide that involved constructing new parks, adding new amenities or infrastructure to an existing park, or completely replacing an existing amenity or type

of infrastructure. They were also used for all deferred maintenance projects that required replacing existing amenities or infrastructure.

iii. Repair Cost Estimates

The methodology for developing standardized repair costs was based on field survey and assessment of amenities that jurisdictions had rated "fair." A sample of parks was selected across the County to ensure that the field-inspected parks represented a fair cross-section of the region's income levels, as a proxy for the fiscal resources available to the jurisdiction. Five income brackets were identified and five randomly selected parks were inspected in each income bracket. Only parks with amenities rated "fair" were inspected.

Field inspectors examined amenities rated "fair" to determine the cost of repairing them to bring them up to "good" condition. Needed repairs were identified and summarized for these amenities. As an example, a baseball

field might have needed 200 square feet of reseeding, a new bleacher, and 20 feet of backstop fencing. The total cost for these repairs were then added together. For each type of amenity, estimated repair costs were averaged across the selected parks.

This method was used for eight common amenities (Tennis Court, Basketball Court, Baseball Field, Grass Soccer Field, Multipurpose Field, Fitness Zone, Picnic Shelter, and Restrooms). For the remaining amenity types, the sample size of inspected amenities was not large enough to calculate an average repair cost. For these amenities, the average repair cost was assumed to be 10 percent of the estimated replacement cost.

iv. Assumptions

Several assumptions are incorporated into the standardized costs estimates and are listed below. For additional information, refer to Appendix E:

- They assume that the cost of construction is similar Countywide
- They assign a standard size or quantity when not specified (for example, acres in a new park, square footage of a new playground, number of stations in a fitness zone)
- A contingency of approximately 40 percent has been added to account for soft costs, design contingencies, and markups.

4.2.2 COST ESTIMATES

i. Prioritized Park Projects

The standardized cost estimates were applied to the projects prioritized at each community workshop for each Study Area and are available in Appendix A. These costs were summed to arrive at a Countywide cost estimate of $ 8.8 billion for all projects prioritized at community workshops.

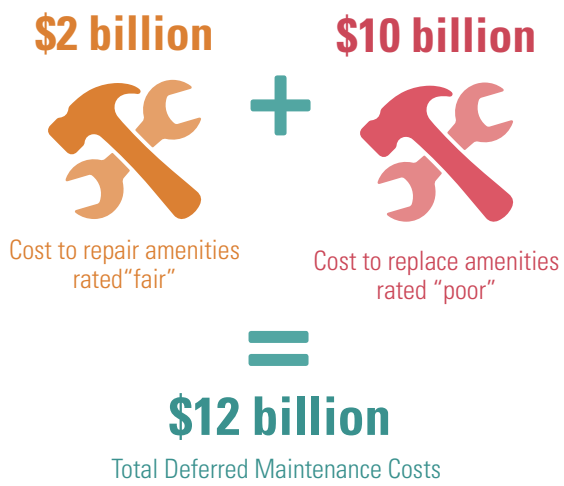
The managing agency of each regional recreation park submitted cost estimates for up to five prioritized projects. These costs represent the agency's best estimation of the total cost to complete each project and are available in Appendix B. For the 17 regional recreation parks, the total cost of all projects is $0.3 billion, giving a total cost estimate of $8.8 billion for all prioritized projects.

ii. Deferred Maintenance

For the purposes of estimating deferred maintenance, the Parks Needs Assessment considered all data collected through the Web Portal regarding the condition of park amenities at local parks, regional recreation parks, and regional open space in all Study Areas. The deferred maintenance costs include the following:

- Cost to replace all amenities rated "poor" that were not included on a prioritized project list. Estimated by applying the standardized amenity replacement cost.
- Cost to repair all amenities rated "fair" that were not included on a prioritized project list. Estimated by applying the standardized cost to repair each amenity.

Figure 68. Deferred Maintenance Costs at All Inventoried Local Parks, Regional Recreation Parks, and Regional Open Spaces



The standardized costs for new construction/complete replacement were applied to all amenities rated "poor" in every park in each Study Area. Countywide, the cost to replace all amenities rated "poor" is $10 billion. Of this, $6.1 billion is for amenity replacement at regional recreation parks.

Standardized repair costs were applied to all amenities rated "fair" in all Study Areas. Countywide, the cost to repair all amenities rated "fair" is $2 billion. Of this, $0.7 billion is for work at regional recreation parks.

The total cost of deferred maintenance in the County is $12 billion dollars.

iii. Specialized Facilities Projects

The Parks Needs Assessment recognized the importance of specialty facilities which attract community members across the region. Specialty facilities provide vital resources such as open space, arboreta, specialty gardens, amphitheaters and band shells, sports complexes, hiking trails, golf courses, and equestrian facilities. All cities within the County of Los Angeles plus managing agencies of specialty facilities that met the criteria set forth in Section 4.1.3, Projects at Specialized Facilities, were invited to submit projects for their respective specialty facilities. The managing agency of each specialized facility submitted cost estimates for up to three projects per facility. These costs represent the agency's best estimation of the total cost to complete each project and are available in Appendix C. The total cost of these projects is $0.7 billion.

iv. Total Cost Estimate

The total rough order-of-magnitude cost to implement projects identified by communities and managing agencies, as well as differed maintenance, is $21.5 billion dollars.

Figure 69. Countywide Cost Estimates

5.0 NEXT STEPS

5.1 WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The Parks Needs Assessment lays the groundwork for making important planning and funding decisions in Los Angeles County. Most importantly, it provides the County, its jurisdictions, and all residents of Los Angeles County with a wealth of parks-related information and opportunities.

i. Valuable data

The data in the Parks Needs Assessment provide a clear picture of the current scope, scale, and location of park need in Los Angeles County. For the first time, a single source provides information regarding parks and park infrastructure across the entire County. This information helps us to understand the challenges facing our communities and may be used to seek funding and support for parks, inform staffing and programming decisions, and focus outreach efforts.

ii. Ongoing Updates

The County will seek to keep data in the Parks Needs Assessment up to date, in order to continue identifying new needs and to track progress toward addressing already-identified needs.

iii. Funding Decisions

With comprehensive information regarding existing parks and the need for new parks, amenities, and repairs, the County is well prepared to develop a funding measure for park and open space projects that will provide funding streams for improvements in the short, medium, and long term. Local, state, and federal funds can also be leveraged to enhance park and open space funding.

iv. Equitable Allocation

The comprehensive data in the Parks Needs Assessment can be used to allocate funds to meet identified needs in ways that emphasize areas with high to very high park need while also addressing the specific needs of every jurisdiction and community in the County.

Pocket Park on Small Parcel

v. National Model

The Parks Needs Assessment serves as a model for a clear, replicable process that other jurisdictions across the country can use when they assess their regionwide park facilities and needs.

vi. New Solutions to Provide Needed Parks

The Parks Needs Assessment shows that high park need exists in many areas of the County. Local agencies will need to find innovative solutions to provide essential park infrastructure in these communities, as many are densely populated and lack vacant land. Underutilized land, utility corridors, alleys, and other public lands should all be considered as potential locations for new parks. Additionally, creative partnerships, such as joint use and reuse with schools, hospitals, libraries, and other facilities should be considered in order to expand park opportunities and meet recreational needs.

Parks and open spaces make significant impacts on the everyday lives of residents, providing valuable spaces for active and passive recreation, social engagement, and community connectivity. They can also provide important ecological services, including enhancing and protecting waterways, reducing the urban heat island effect, conserving water, and reducing energy consumption.

The construction of new parks and enhancement of existing parks that will occur as the cities and unincorporated communities of the County move to address high levels of park need creates an opportunity to build the types of thriving multi-benefit parks that will contribute to public health and well-being, create a sense of place, increase community cohesion, improve the environment, and boost the economy in every community in Los Angeles County.

Park Located in Utility Easement

Active Linear Park

Joint-use Park

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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- Norma E. Garcia, Deputy Director, Planning and Development Agency
- Rita Robinson, Project Director
- Clement Lau, Departmental Facilities Planner II
- Sheela Kleinknecht, Park Planner
- Over 100 staff members who helped facilitate community workshops, evaluated amenity conditions, reviewed costs, and determined projects for regional recreation parks and specialized facilities

LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

- Jane I. Beesley, District Administrator
- Warren Ontiveros, Administration Section Manager

INCORPORATED CITIES OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Over 175 staff members in 86 cities who entered data into the Park Assets Inventory Web Portal, attended trainings, reached out to their communities, facilitated workshops, and coordinated with the consultant team

RESIDENTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

- Thousands of County residents shared their thoughts about parks in Los Angeles County

CONSULTANT TEAM

- PLACEWORKS
  - David Early, Principal; Isabelle Minn, Principal; C.C. LaGrange, Project Manager; Rob Mazur, Project GIS Manager
- GreenInfo Network
- DakeLuna Consultants
- David Taussig & Associates
- MIG
- Prevention Institute

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

In memoriam: Steering Committee member Mary Kaufman, avid trail supporter and enthusiast.

- Greg Alaniz, Community Services Manager, City of Whittier, Gateway Cities Council of Governments Representative
- Jane I. Beesley, Regional Operations Manager, Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District
- Alina Bokde, Executive Director, Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, Community Based Organization Representative
- Brad Bolger, Senior Manager, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office (CEO)
- William Warren Brien, Councilmember, City of Beverly Hills, Westside Cities Council of Governments Representative

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- Maria Chong-Castillo, Deputy, Supervisorial District 3
- Kimel Conway, South Coast Botanic Gardens Foundation, Community-at-Large Representative
- Cheryl Davis, Recording Secretary, Crescenta Valley Town Council, Community-at-Large Representative
- Reyna Diaz, Duarte Unified School District, Community-at-Large Representative
- Bettina Duval, Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Community-at-Large Representative
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- Dr. Paul Simon, MD, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Keri Smith, Recreation and Culture Director, City of Palmdale
- Christopher Solek, Programs Director, Council for Watershed Health, Community-at-Large Representative
- Erin Stibal, Deputy, Supervisorial District 4
- Teresa Villegas, Deputy, Supervisorial District 1

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Javier Aguilar, Senior Regional Planner, Southern California Association of Governments
- Lee Butterfield, Policy Development Manager, Office of Grants and Local Services, California State Parks
- Nick Franchino, GIS Manager, Geographic Information Systems Section, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning
- Mark Greninger, Geographic Information Officer, Los Angeles County Chief Information Office
- Su Jin Lee, Lecturer, Spatial Science Institute, University of Southern California
- Weimin Li, Associate Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- Douglas Morales, Epidemiologist/GIS Coordinator, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
- Viktor Patiño, Manager, Office of Grants and Local Service, California State Parks
- Patricia Pendleton, Project Manager, Center for Geographical Studies, California State University, Northridge

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

- Amigos de Los Rios
- Bike San Gabriel Valley
- From Lot to Spot
- Go Day One
- Korean Youth and Community Center
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Mujeres de la Tierra
- William C. Velasquez Institute

APPENDICES

Appendices can be viewed and downloaded from the project website:
http://lacountyparkneeds.org/final-report/

Appendix A - Study Area Profiles

Each Study Area Profile contains a base map, park metrics, map of where parks are most needed, amenity quantities and conditions, park need framework, project cost estimates, submitted project reporting forms and community engagement form.

Appendix B – Regional Recreation Park Projects

Project lists and cost estimates submitted by the managing agency of each regional recreation park.

Appendix C – Specialized Facilities Projects

Project lists and cost estimates as submitted by the managing agencies of specialized facilities such as open space, beaches, hiking trails, arboreta, amphitheaters, golf courses, and equestrian facilities.

Appendix D – Resources Provided to Partners

- Web Portal User Guide and Amenity Condition Definitions
- Sample Toolkit (includes facilitator training manual)
- Survey Results

Appendix E – Technical Resources

- Data Sources
- Mapping and Analysis Information
- Cost Estimate Assumptions

Expenditure Plan for Potential Parks Funding Measure

Funding Category			$ 0.03/sq foot dev		$ 0.015/sq foot dev	
			Annually	35 Years	Annually	35 Years
Grant Category 1	**Community Based Park Investment Program**: Funds Returned to Study Areas/Cities through direct grant programs with delegated authority to the Director	35.00%	$ 64,957,628	$ 2,273,516,994	$ 32,478,814	$ 1,136,758,498
Grant Category 2	**Safe Parks, Healthy Communities, Urban Greening Program**: Funds to projects in High and Very High Need Study Areas through grant programs	13.00%	$ 24,127,119	$ 844,449,169	$ 12,063,560	$ 422,224,585
M&S	**Local Agency Maintenance and Servicing Funds:** Funds directly to Cities, County Dept., local Agencies & Non-profits, through an administrative process from the District	15.00%	$ 27,838,984	$ 974,364,426	$ 13,919,492	$ 487,182,213
Grant Category 3	**Protecting Open Spaces, Beaches, Watersheds Program**: Funds to all eligible entities through competitive grant programs	13.00%	$ 24,127,119	$ 844,449,169	$ 12,063,560	$ 422,224,585
Grant Category 4	**Regional Recreational Facilities, Trail & Accessibility Program**: Funds to all eligible entities through competitive grant programs	13.00%	$ 24,127,119	$ 844,449,169	$ 12,063,560	$ 422,224,585
Grant Category 5	**Youth and Veteran Job Training & Placement Opportunities Program**: Funds to all eligible entities through competitive grant programs	3.80%	$ 7,052,543	$ 246,838,988	$ 3,526,271	$ 123,419,494
Program Innovation and Oversight	Strategic Planning, Technical Assistance, Needs Assessment Updates, Innovative Electronic Technologies, Operations of the District: Funds distributed with delegated authority to the Director.	7.20%	$ 13,362,712	$ 467,694,924	$ 6,681,356	$ 233,847,462
		100.00%	**$ 185,593,224**	**$ 6,495,762,846**	**$ 92,796,612**	**$ 3,247,881,423**

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, ALSO ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT, PROVIDING FOR AND GIVING NOTICE OF A SPECIAL TAX ELECTION TO BE HELD IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016, AND CONSOLIDATING THE SPECIAL TAX ELECTION WITH THE CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2016

WHEREAS, every year, more than 70 million people visit the over 3,000 parks in the County of Los Angeles (the "County") and its cities, including their neighborhood parks, and participate in park-sponsored recreational programs. Parks are important to families, as millions of children and youth use park facilities for after-school, weekend, and summer programs, and millions of seniors attend programs at nearby senior centers; and

WHEREAS, parks, natural lands, open space, and beaches contribute to the health and vitality of our citizens in the County. These natural areas help make our community a wonderful place to live and protect our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, County citizens spend a great deal of time working indoors and commuting in cars, making our parks and natural resources essential to protecting and enhancing our quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the County and its cities have a long history of making significant investments in parks and recreation, beaches, open spaces, and natural areas; and

WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (the "District") has awarded more than 1,500 development, acquisition, improvement, restoration, and rehabilitation grant projects for parks, recreational, cultural, and community facilities, as well as beaches and open space lands throughout Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, for over 20 years the County has relied on local voter-approved funding to protect and maintain our local neighborhood, city and county parks, outdoor areas, beaches, rivers, watersheds, and local water resources. This funding is expiring and we face the loss of the only source of dedicated local funding for our neighborhood parks; and

WHEREAS, dedicated local funding from the District has served as matching funds for State, Federal, and philanthropic funding, and in this way is essential for our communities to receive their fair share of available resources; and

WHEREAS, while many of the over 3,000 parks, beaches, and open space areas and over 9,000 recreational amenities throughout the County have

received District funding since 1992, heavy usage by the public year-round result in a continuous need for resources to repair and replace amenities; and

WHEREAS, the County has undertaken an inventory, analysis, and community engagement process that culminated in the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment Final Report (the “2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment”), which allowed the County to document and analyze the needs of all the communities within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment was a 16-month outreach process to study 188 sub-regions of the County (the “Study Areas”) to identify community park needs and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment shows that there is a serious need for tens of billions of dollars in investments in safe neighborhood parks; protection of rivers, streams, lakes, beaches and watersheds; safe and healthy communities; urban greening; sustainability and energy efficiency; senior centers, community and facility rehabilitation and maintenance; at-risk youth job training and placement, gang violence prevention; and improved community access, connectivity and trails to these facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the County, also acting as the governing body of the District (the "Board"), finds and determines that the continued development, acquisition, improvement, restoration and maintenance of parks, recreational, cultural and community facilities, beaches, and open space lands within the County confer documented health, social, environmental and economic benefits throughout the County resulting in increased opportunities for physical activity, improved safety and social cohesion, sustainability and maintained or enhanced property values; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds and determines that the public interest and convenience require, and that it is in the best interest of the County, that local funding be secured within the County, to fund projects consistent with the plan of expenditure hereinafter set forth; and

WHEREAS, the collection and expenditure of all funds under this measure will continue to be transparent to the voters through annual independent financial audits and a public oversight committee, and all communities throughout the County will receive a share of the funding. To the extent feasible, funds generated by this measure shall be spent on priorities pursuant to the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment; and

WHEREAS, the District may issue Bonds to pay for Eligible projects that are payable from and secured by the Special Taxes authorized herein; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition, construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities, natural resources, beaches, and open space

lands under this measure will aid in the development of safe places and facilities for local children, youth and families, thereby creating healthy places for children and youth to play, learn and interact with other children. These alternatives keep children and youth off the streets and limit exposure to gangs, drugs and vandalism while providing positive incentives for healthy living; and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds and determines that it is necessary to provide a voter-approved funding source to ensure all parks and recreation centers throughout Los Angeles County and its cities are continuously serviced, maintained and upgraded, and that new parks and facilities are established and open space lands preserved; and

WHEREAS, the protection and restoration of our last open spaces and natural areas of scenic beauty located next to rivers, creeks, streams and lakes is necessary for the purposes of conserving native and endangered species, biological diversity, protecting the health of the County's environment, and for the enjoyment of this and future generations; and

WHEREAS, improving non-motorized or active transportation methods to reach the network of park facilities, beaches, and multi-use trails, including regional bike paths, is important to our health and provides for greater accessibility for our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the programs funded under this measure will increase the accessibility of public lands, park facilities, and park amenities to the people of Los Angeles County, especially to those living in high-need and very-high need Study Areas; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to use the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment as a guide to direct funding to all communities within the County to ensure local priorities are met; and

WHEREAS, the District intends to continue the community and stakeholder engagement processes and make periodic updates to the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment including but not limited to regional and specialty facilities, open space, and access; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems that this measure supports the mission and goals of the County as detailed in its strategic plan; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the matters set forth in this resolution was called and held on July 5, 2016, and this resolution shall not take effect unless and until the question of approval of the matters set forth herein shall have been submitted to the electorate of the County and approved by a supermajority of voters voting on the question; and

WHEREAS, the Board deems it necessary and essential to submit the question of a special tax to the qualified voters within the County at a special tax

election to be held on November 8, 2016, and to consolidate such election with the Statewide General Election to be held on that date;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Los Angeles, also acting as the governing body of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, as follows:

Section 1.

A special tax election shall be held and the same is hereby called and ordered to be held in the County on the 8th day of November, 2016, for the purpose of submitting to the voters of the County the question of a special tax to be levied by the District in the amounts and for the purposes hereinafter set forth and to be administered by the District and the issuance of bonds and other indebtedness in accordance with Public Resources Code Sections 5500 et seq. The special election called by this resolution shall be consolidated with the Statewide General Elections conducted by and in the County of Los Angeles on November 8, 2016, and the Proposition shall be placed on the same ballot and the same precincts, polling places, election officers, and facilities shall be used for this special election.

Commencing with Fiscal Year 2017-2018, an annual special tax to raise revenue to continue funding for programs pursuant to the plan of expenditure contained herein is hereby imposed upon all improved parcels located within the District, whose boundaries are coterminous with the County of Los Angeles, including all incorporated cities. The Special Tax shall be levied on all improved parcels in the District at a rate of 1.5 cents per square foot of structural improvements, excluding the square footage of improvements used for parking. For each fiscal year after 2017-2018, the Board shall by a majority vote set the rate of the tax; however, in any fiscal year the rate may be set no higher than the amount of 1.5 cents per square foot, as adjusted by the cumulative increases, if any, to the Western Urban Consumer Price Index from July 1, 2017, as established by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics. If for any fiscal year the Board fails to set the rate, the tax shall continue at the same rate as the preceding year.

(a) All laws and procedures regarding exemptions, due dates, installment payments, corrections, cancellations, refunds, late payments, liens and collections for the secured roll ad valorem property taxes shall be applicable to the collection of the Special Tax. The secured roll tax bills shall be the only notices required for the levying of the Special Tax. The Auditor-Controller of the County shall place the Special Tax on the secured tax roll for the initial Fiscal Year 2017-2018, and for subsequent fiscal years. The Treasurer and Tax Collector of the County shall collect the Special Tax for the initial Fiscal Year 2017-2018, and for subsequent fiscal years, on the tax roll at the same time and in the same manner, and subject to the same penalties as the ad valorem property

taxes fixed and collected by or on behalf of the County. The Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District shall establish and administer an appeals process to address and correct potential errors in the levy of the Special Tax.

(b) Properties owned by public agencies devoted to a public use or to protect public health or safety will not be assessed, consistent with the statutes applying to possessory interests. The Special Tax shall be levied on possessory interests based on the amount of privately-held structural improvements.

(c) Based upon all of the facts before it on this matter, the Board finds that the submission of this question of a Special Tax to the voters is not subject to, or is exempt from, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project as defined by California Code of Regulations Section 15378(b)(4) because it relates to the creation of government funding mechanisms, which do not involve commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Section 2.

The Proposition for levying said special tax and issuing bonds shall appear upon the ballot substantially as follows:

Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Open Space, Beaches, Rivers Protection, and Water Conservation Measure

To replace expiring local funding for safe, clean neighborhood/ city/ county parks; increase safe playgrounds, reduce gang activity; keep neighborhood recreation/ senior centers, drinking water safe; protect beaches, rivers, water resources, remaining natural areas/ open space; shall 1.5 cents be levied annually per square foot of improved property in Los Angeles County, for 35 years, with bond authority, requiring citizen oversight and independent audits?

The Board does hereby submit to the qualified voters of the County, at said special District election, this proposition. The Chair and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors are hereby authorized and directed to publish notice of said special election in accordance with the California Elections Code. Analysis and review of this resolution shall be carried out pursuant to Section 9160 of the California Elections Code.

Section 3.

As used in this resolution, the following terms have the indicated meanings:

“1992 and 1996 Propositions” means the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions approved by voters on November 3, 1992 and November 5, 1996, respectively.

“2016 Countywide Parks Needs Assessment” means the 2016 Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment Final Report and any supplementary material adopted, and as subsequently updated, by the District.

"Advisory Board" means the Citizens Oversight Advisory Board established in Section 7.

“Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990” means the federal law as codified in Chapter 126, Title 42, of the U.S. Codes.

“Assessor” means the County of Los Angeles Office of the Assessor.

“Beaches” means a public beach or shoreline area bordering the Pacific Ocean owned, controlled, or managed by a public agency, within the County of Los Angeles.

"Board" means the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, also acting as the governing body of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

“Bonds” means borrow any form of indebtedness, including notes and bonds, issued to finance Eligible projects and related bond costs.

“Community Development” means the feasibility, planning, design, permitting and construction of recreational infrastructure and amenities.

"County" is used as defined in the recitals to this resolution.

“County Cultural Facility” means a building owned &/or operated by the County of Los Angeles which shall be used for the programming, production, presentation, and/or exhibition of natural history and any of the arts and/or cultural disciplines. These disciplines include music, dance, theatre, creative writing, literature, architecture, painting, sculpture, folk arts, photography, crafts, media arts, and visual arts.

“Director” means the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

"District" means the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

“Eligible project” means pre-project assistance and feasibility, planning, acquisition, construction, development, improvement, restoration, rehabilitation, or any combination thereof, for any park or recreation project or improvement.

“Greenway” means a project that incorporates elements of water conservation and reclamation, urban greening, or public safety in a linear park, urban trail and/or active transportation corridor.

“High-Need and Very-High Need” means areas designated as such in the Parks Needs Framework as identified the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment.

“Interpretation & Education” means, a visitor serving amenity that enhances the ability to understand and appreciate the significance and value of natural, historical, cultural and recreational resources that may utilize educational materials in multiple languages, digital information, and the expertise of a naturalist or other skilled specialist.

“Joint-use” means shared management of facilities, land, utilities, programs, or other common elements between two or more parties.

“Local jurisdiction” means a city, county, special district or local agency.

“Multi-benefit project” means a project that maximizes or enhances recreation opportunities and one or more of the following: protection or enhancement of the natural environment, stormwater capture, water and air quality improvements, greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions, carbon sequestration, heat-island reductions; habitat protection and biodiversity, community health improvements, or any combination thereof.

"Natural Lands" means an area of relatively undeveloped land which has substantially retained its characteristics as provided by nature or has been substantially restored, or which can be feasibly restored to a near-natural condition and which derives outstanding value from its wildlife, scenic, open space, parkland or recreational characteristics, or any combination thereof.

"Nonprofit Organization" means any charitable organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which has among its purposes the provision of park, recreation or community services or facilities, gang prevention and intervention, conservation corps, environmental education and interpretation, tree-planting, or the conservation and preservation of wetlands or of lands predominantly in their natural, scenic, historical, forested or open-space condition, or restoration of lands to a natural, scenic, historical, forested or open-space condition.

"Open space, foothill, mountain, trail, river, wetlands and stream projects" include any of the following: preservation of natural lands, scenic vistas and

wildlife habitat, wildlife corridors, development and restoration of mountain and other open space hiking, biking, walking and equestrian trails, especially those maintained by the County Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments, restoration of natural vegetation and habitat, habitat and recreation facilities in and adjacent to riparian and flood control channels, and the provision of recreational opportunities and public access in mountain, foothill, river, stream and wetland areas.

"Parcel" means any unit of real property that receives an annual secured property tax bill from the Los Angeles County Treasurer and Tax Collector.

"Park" means a tract of land with scenic, natural, open-space or recreational values, set apart to conserve natural, scenic, wildlife, cultural, historical or ecological resources for present and future generations, and to be used by the public as a place for respite, rest, recreation, education, exercise, inspiration or enjoyment.

“Parks Fund” means the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Park Fund.

“Per Capita and Structural Improvements” refers to each Study Area’s respective percentage of total Countywide 1) population as of the 2010 Census, and 2) structural improvements on parcels on the secured property tax rolls according to the Assessor’s records as of January 1, 2017.

“Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula” means the formula established by the District to determine how allocations of certain funding programs under this proposition shall be distributed. Each Study Area’s allocation percentage of the applicable funding programs shall be the arithmetic mean of Per Capita and Structural Improvements, where Per Capita is weighted two-thirds and Structural Improvements are weighted one-third, and shall be calculated as follows: Allocation Percentage = [(Per Capita + Per Capita + Structural Improvements)/3].

“Pre-Project Assistance” means the planning, design, feasibility and studies necessary to define and articulate 1) a park project on land that was developed for uses other than parkland, or 2) a project to acquire and/or restore parks and natural lands.

"Public Agency" means any governmental agency, special district, or joint power authority, established pursuant to the laws of the State that is authorized to acquire, develop, improve and restore real property for beach, wildlife, park, recreation, community, cultural, open space, water quality, flood control, or gang prevention and intervention purposes.

“Recreation Access” means those programs that increase the ability for county citizens to access public lands, park facilities, and park amenities, including education, interpretive services, safety information, transportation, and

other activities that increase the accessibility for county residents, especially for those in high-need and very-high need study areas.

"Regional Recreational Parks" means facilities with unique, countywide significance that are publicly owned, consist of at least 100 contiguous acres and have three or more active recreational amenities.

"Special Tax" is the Tax levied on all improved parcels at a rate of 1.5 cents per square foot of structural improvements, within the County pursuant to this resolution.

"State" means the State of California.

"State Lands Commission" means the Lands Commission of the State of California.

“Structural Improvements” means the square footage of building floor area on a parcel.

“Study Areas” means the 188 regions studied for need in the 2016 Countywide Parks Needs Assessment.

“Urban area” means an urban place, as that term is defined by the United States Department of Commerce, of 2,500 or more persons.

“Urban Forest” means those native or introduced trees and related vegetation in an urban area, including, but not limited to, urban watersheds, soils and related habitats, street trees, park trees, natural riparian habitats, and trees on other private and public properties. Where feasible, introduced trees and plants shall be native species selected and planted in accordance with best management practices. No plants or trees identified on the California Invasive Species list maintained by the California Invasive Plant Council, or other appropriate sources, shall be planted.

“Urban Forestry” means the cultivation and management of trees in an urban area for their present and potential contribution to the economic, physiological, sociological, and ecological well-being of urban society.

“Urban Park” means a park in an urban area that offers respite, rest, recreation, education, exercise, inspiration or enjoyment to residents of, and visitors to, that urban area.

“Veterans” means any person who served in the United States armed forces as defined by Title 38 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

“Youth and Veterans Career Development and Job Training” means a program that provides job training, career development, or both, to young adults

aged 18-24 and veterans, including education and/or certification for jobs within the conservation and parks and recreation fields.

Section 4.

It is the intent of this proposition to provide funds to benefit property and improve the quality of life throughout the District by preserving and protecting parks, safe places to play, community recreation facilities, beaches, rivers, open spaces, water conservation, youth and veteran career development, and the urban tree canopy. Funds will be disbursed by the District consistent with the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment to ensure all communities within the County can fund local priorities.

Section 5.

Expenditure Plan

(a) Proceeds of the Special Tax shall be allocated by the District to develop and implement grant programs that invest in eligible projects consistent with or similar to those identified in the 2016 Park Needs Assessment, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Protecting and developing parks, safe places to play, beaches, open space lands, and natural areas,

2. Protecting, enhancing, and preserving open space, natural areas, and waterways,

3. Promoting Healthy Communities,

4. Increasing investments in high-need and very high-need regions identified in the Countywide Park Needs Assessment,

5. Protecting water resources, including lakes, rivers and creeks,

6. Developing and improving local and regional recreational facilities, including general infrastructure improvements, sustainability improvements, and removal of asbestos, mold, and lead paint from existing facilities,

7. Helping reduce gang activity by maintaining safe and healthy parks to encourage use by the community

8. Ensuring local drinking water continues to be safe and accessible at park and recreation centers,

9. Providing safe places to play for afterschool programs for children and youth,

10. Providing youth and veteran career development and job training,

11. Improving park safety and universal accessibility, including for seniors and those with disabilities,

12. Protecting and enhancing clean and safe beaches,

13. Improving water quality and implementing stormwater capture on park and open space lands,

14. Developing and enhancing urban gardens, pocket parks, and other small-scale greening projects, including education and food health programs,

15. Facilitating community education, engagement, natural, historical and cultural resource interpretation, and other innovative projects that engage the community regarding park facilities funded by the District.

16. Developing and enhancing senior citizen, youth, multi-generational, and other neighborhood and community recreation facilities,

17. Developing and enhancing public equestrian facilities, especially to promote sustainable practices,

18. Developing, restoring and maintaining museums and cultural facilities,

19. Protecting and preserving the urban canopy and promoting tree health.

(b) The funds allocated pursuant to subsection (a) shall be expended according to the following schedule:

(1) Community-Based Park Investment Program.

(A) Thirty-five percent (35%), on an annual basis, for eligible projects located in each study area, to all incorporated cities and unincorporated areas of the County located within the District. To ensure that each community throughout the County will benefit from improvements such as those identified in or consistent with those identified in the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment Report, funds will be allocated to each study area based on the Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula. The District shall prioritize projects located in each study area as identified in or consistent with the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment.

(2) Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities and Urban Greening Program.

(A) Thirteen percent (13%), on an annual basis, for the acquisition of real property, and the construction and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities that provide safe places and facilities for after-school, weekend and holiday programs for local children, youth and families, provide opportunities for healthy living in all neighborhoods, and improve the quantity and quality of green spaces in the county. The District shall fund projects in high-need, and very high-need, study areas, as identified in the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment, based on the Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula, including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) community and local parks, including pocket parks, playgrounds, playground equipment, dog parks, and picnic areas, especially those that connect and restore underutilized spaces;
(ii) community and senior recreational centers;
(iii) park safety, graffiti removal, facility safety lighting, safe routes to schools, and other safety improvements;
(iv) greenspace and greenway development; gardens;
(v) urban canopy development to reduce the heat island effect, especially in heavily urbanized, tree-poor areas of the County;
(vi) active transportation and physical activity programming that promotes recreation and accessibility to recreational facilities;
(vii) interpretation, education and communication about parks, local environmental issues and recreational activities;

(B) Of the funds allocated to this paragraph, multi-benefit projects should seek to leverage public and private funding from water conservation and supply; water and air quality improvements; flood risk management; climate pollution reduction or adaptation; carbon sequestration; heat-island reduction; habitat protection and biodiversity; public health; and environmental justice benefit programs.

(3) Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation, and Watershed Protection Program.

(A) Thirteen percent (13%), on an annual basis, for planning, acquisition, development, improvement, and restoration, of multi-benefit park projects that promote, improve, or protect clean local water supplies, habitat improvements, park space, recreation, public access, watershed health, and open space, including improvements or restoration of areas that buffer our rivers, streams, and their tributaries along with the lakes and beaches throughout the County, including but not limited to, the following:

(i) riparian corridor improvements;
(ii) river and stream parkway development;
(iii) river and stream clean up, access and community development;
(iv) lake clean up, access and community development;
(v) beach and coastal watersheds clean-up, access and community development;
(vi) fishing and boating facilities;
(vii) natural lands, wildlife corridors, and watershed protection;
(viii) recreational facilities, public property and rights of way, flood control infrastructure, and other easements;
(ix) natural and cultural resource interpretive programs and nature education activities.

(B) Of the funds allocated to this paragraph, multi-benefit projects should seek to leverage public and private funding from water conservation and supply; water and air quality improvements; flood risk management; climate pollution reduction or adaptation; carbon sequestration; heat-island reduction; habitat protection and biodiversity; public health; and environmental justice benefit programs.

(C) The District shall prioritize projects that offer the greatest regional benefits, or serve the greatest regional need.

(4) Regional Recreational Facilities, Multi-use Trails and Accessibility Program.

(A) Thirteen percent (13%), on an annual basis, for acquisition, development, improvement, restoration, or rehabilitation projects, including but not limited to, the following:

(i) regional parks, regional facilities, museum, environmental education and other cultural facilities;

(ii) multi-use sports facilities, including golf facilities and other community recreational facilities;

(iii) multi-use trail connectivity for existing and future park facilities, including connection to Public Works-maintained Class I bike path facilities;

(iv) multi-use trail and path projects, with special emphasis being placed on those multi-use trails that provide hiking, equestrian, bicycle and other opportunities, including universal access and access consistent with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, especially in urban communities;

(v) regional, ecological, zoological, geological, archeological, anthropological, paleontological, and cultural sites of countywide significance.

(B) Trail and accessibility projects funded under this paragraph that connect river, mountain, and urban areas, especially to County Parks, State Parks, the National Forest, the National Recreation Area(s), and the National Monument(s), and that link other canyons and regional and local parks throughout the County will be given higher priority.

(5) Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement Opportunities Program.

(A) Three point eight percent (3.8%), on an annual basis for:

(i) Organizations within the county, including certified conservation corps, that provide education, skills training, and career pathway development to young adults, aged 18 to 25, or veterans, to implement park projects.

(ii) Organizations within the county that provide certifications and placement services, or apprenticeship opportunities, for young adults, aged 18-25, or veterans, for jobs and careers in the Parks and Recreation field.

(B) The District shall prioritize grants to organizations that provide services to, or recruit a majority of their participants from, the areas of high-need, and very high-need, as identified in the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment Report. The District shall grant no less than eighty percent (80%) of funds from this paragraph pursuant to sub-paragraph (A)(i).

Section 6.

Implementation

(a) Authority to award and administer grants pursuant to Section 5 shall be delegated by the Board to the Director for projects consistent with this resolution.

(b) Of the funds allocated pursuant to Section 5, eligible project applicants include Public Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations.

(c) To the extent feasible, priority may be given to multi-benefit recreational projects that maximize climate pollution reduction and adaptation, carbon sequestration, heat-island reduction, stormwater capture that increase infiltration, habitat protection and biodiversity, community health improvements, promote innovative public-private partnerships, or a combination thereof.

(d) Of the funds allocated pursuant to Section 5(b)(3) through Section 5(b)(5), the District may periodically dedicate a portion of funds to:

(1) Competitive grant solicitations accessible to eligible Public Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations for projects consistent with the goals of this paragraph.

(2) Grant solicitations designed to leverage federal, or state, park, conservation, water, or climate funding programs.

(e) Consistent with Section 5, in each of the years after the date the special tax is levied and collected, the schedule of expenditure of all proceeds of the special tax shall conform to the following:

(1) Up to seventy-seven percent (77%) shall be used for grant projects, including but not limited to, pre-project assistance, planning, acquisition, development, improvement, restoration, rehabilitation, technical assistance, and program oversight. For purposes of this resolution, grant projects include the servicing of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued by the District/County.

(2) Up to fifteen percent (15%) shall be set aside and designated as the maintenance and servicing amount, and shall be used only to maintain and service, including resource protection activities for the capital outlay projects funded by the District, inclusive of projects funded by 1992 and 1996 Propositions. These funds shall be

administered separately from the District's grant program and shall be held in trust by the District until a request from an eligible entity is made pursuant to rules established by the District. To ensure that every community maintains park and recreation facilities and park safety improvements as identified in, consistent with or similar to the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment, funds granted pursuant this paragraph will be allocated based on the Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula. The District shall grant funds, pursuant to this paragraph, for projects identified in the 188 study areas, as well as the associated addenda, as contained in the report. For projects identified in the 188 study areas, the District shall prioritize funds for high-need, and very high-need, areas as identified in the report, as well as projects that provide public access. The maintenance and servicing amount shall be allocated each year as follows:

(A) Fifty point eighty-five percent (50.85%) to cities; ten point fifty percent (10.50%) to the Department of Beaches and Harbors; thirteen point five percent (13.50%) to the Department of Parks and Recreation; three percent (3.00%) to the Department of Public Works; one percent (1.0%) to the Baldwin Hills Regional Conservation Authority; point five percent (0.5%) to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority; eight percent (8.0%) to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority; two percent (2.0%) to the Puente Hills Habitat Preservation Authority; one percent (1.0%) to the Santa Clarita Watershed Recreation and Conservation Authority; five point fifteen percent (5.15%) to the Watershed Conservation Authority; and, four point five percent (4.5%) unallocated for eligible nonprofit organizations that own, operate, or both, parklands consistent with this resolution.

(i) Any additional local agencies created for park purposes after January 1, 2017, may receive funding made available pursuant to (e)(2)(A) according to a determination made by the District.

(3) Up to seven point two percent (7.2%) shall be set aside and designated for strategic planning, updates to the 2016 Countywide Park Needs Assessment, and the District for operations, management, technical assistance, outreach, and oversight, including personnel, to administer programs pursuant to this resolution.

(f) Notwithstanding Section 6(e), starting in 2026, and each year thereafter, the District may increase funds made available pursuant to provision (e)(2) up to 2%, annually, and correspondingly decrease funds

made available pursuant to (e)(1), until funding made available pursuant to provision (e)(1) and (e)(2) both equal 46.4%.

(g) (1) Funds for maintenance and servicing as described in this section shall be allocated annually to each recipient within the District. Allocations shall be made only to those entities which certify that: (A) such funds shall be used only to maintain and service projects funded by the District, inclusive of grants issued pursuant to the 1992 and 1996 Propositions and this resolution, and (B) such funds shall not be used to fund existing levels of service, but rather only to supplement or enhance existing service levels.

(2) Funds allocated to the Department of Beaches and Harbors consistent with (e)(2)(A) shall be used for projects that repair and replace facilities impacted from high user activity and weatherization from being located near the ocean, such funds shall be used to supplement existing levels of service.

(h) Except for those funds allocated to cities, the Director may, on an annual basis with Board approval, adjust the allocations pursuant to Section 6 (e)(A) .

(i) (1) Of the funds provided in Section 5 (b)(3), up to twenty-five percent (25%), on an annual basis, shall be allocated to the Department of Beaches and Harbors.

(2) Of the funds provided in Section 5 (b)(3), up to fifteen percent (15%), on an annual basis, shall be allocated to develop and implement Recreation Access programs that increase the ability for county citizens to access public lands, park facilities, and park amenities, including education, interpretive services, safety information, transportation, and other activities that increase the accessibility for county residents, especially for those in high-need and very-high need areas. Programs funded pursuant to this paragraph shall meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

(3) Of the funds provided in Section 5 (b)(4), up to twenty five percent (25%), on an annual basis, shall be allocated to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

(4) Of the funds provided in Section 5 (b)(4), up to fifteen percent (15%), on an annual basis, shall be allocated to develop and implement Recreation Access programs that increase the ability for county citizens to access public lands and park facilities, including education, interpretive services, safety information, transportation, and other activities that increase the accessibility for county

residents, especially for those in high-need and very-high need areas. Programs funded pursuant to this paragraph shall meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

(5) Of the funds provided in Section 5(b)(4), up to ten percent (10%), on an annual basis, shall be allocated to County cultural facilities.

(j) The District shall promote sustainability, energy and water efficiency, stormwater capture, and technology innovation through the implementation of this program, including but not limited to the following:

(1) Development of projects that include as many of the following elements as possible:

(A) Sustainability,
(B) Cost-saving energy efficiency,
(C) Weatherization,
(D) Stormwater capture
(E) Water efficiency, including irrigation efficiency,
(F) Use of reclaimed water or stormwater, and
(G) Use of climate and site appropriate native California tree and plant materials.

(2) Investment in enhanced electronic communications and other forms of technology innovation that benefits the public's interactions with individual parks or the park system, including internet connectivity; electronic or mobile reservation, scheduling, and fee systems; regional websites; or other systems deemed necessary by the District.

(k) (1) The Director may provide advanced payment for up to 50 percent (50%) of the grant award for those projects that satisfy one or both of the following criteria:

(A) The project proponent is an eligible grantee and would require advanced payment to implement the project.

(B) The grant award for the project is less than five hundred thousand dollars ($500,000).

(2) The Director shall establish rules to determine how advanced funds will be managed and administered.

(3) If funds are not expended, the unused portion of the grant shall be returned to the District within 60 days after project completion or the end of the grant performance period, whichever is earlier.

(4) All funds granted pursuant to this paragraph are subject to an independent audit.

(l) Notwithstanding Sections 4, 5 and 6 of this resolution, of the funds available from the special tax, the District's Board may, on an annual basis, allocate up to 2% of the funds for eligible projects.

(m) As a California Special District established pursuant to Section 5500 of the Public Resource Code, officers and employees of the County may act ex officio as the officers and employees of the District. However, in order to maintain transparency and accountability to the public and fairness to its various grant recipients, the District shall hereby operate as an independent agency of the County, with the District Administrator reporting directly to the Director of Parks and Recreation with clear separation from its grant recipients in all aspects of District administration including, but not limited to, personnel, fiscal, budget, and audit functions.

(n) The District shall have the authority to grant funds from any study area with a population of 2,500, or less, to an adjacent high-need, or very high-need study area.

Section 7.

Community Oversight and Accountability

(a) The Citizens Oversight Advisory Board ("Advisory Board") is hereby created.

(1) The Advisory Board shall be composed of five members appointed by the Board. Each appointing office shall appoint one member who meets each of the following criteria:

(A) An accountant, economist, or other professional with knowledge and expertise in parks, park development, evaluating financial transactions and program cost-effectiveness, or an appointed member of the Park Needs Assessment Steering Committee;

(B) A community member from one of the five Supervisorial Districts.

(2) The Advisory Board shall do all of the following:

(A) Quarterly (4 times per year) review of all expenditures from the special tax;

(B) Ensure that this program is integrated in the annual independent audit of the District;

(C) Publish a complete accounting of all allocations each year, posting the information on the District's publicly accessible Internet Web site; in a downloadable spreadsheet format, including information about the location and footprint of each funded project, its objectives, status, and outcomes, any matching funds used, and the applicable program from the expenditure plan schedule in Section 5(b);

(D) Submit to the County periodic evaluations of the program, which may at the Board's direction be undertaken by independent researchers, identifying any changes needed to meet the objectives of this resolution.

(3) (A) Members of the Advisory Board shall serve a term of four years at the pleasure of the Board, and no member may serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. The Board may, by order, extend this length of service or waive this limit for individuals or the Advisory Board as a whole. A member's position shall become vacant upon his or her death, resignation, or removal by the Advisory Board. In the case of such a vacancy, the Board shall appoint a successor to fill the unexpired term.

(B) Members of the Advisory Board shall not be compensated for their service, but may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

Section 8.

Eligibility

(a) No funds authorized pursuant to Section 5 may be disbursed to any recipient unless the recipient agrees:

(1) To maintain and operate in perpetuity the property acquired, developed, improved, rehabilitated or restored with the funds. With the approval of the granting agency, the recipient or its successors in interest in the property may transfer the responsibility to maintain and operate the property in accordance with this Section.

(2) (A) To use the property only for the purposes of this resolution and to make no other use, sale, or disposition of the property, except as described in paragraph (B).

(B) If the use of the property acquired through grants pursuant to this resolution is changed to one other than a use permitted under the category from which the funds were provided, or the property is sold or otherwise disposed of, an amount equal to the (1) amount of the grant, (2) the fair market value of the real property, or (3) the proceeds from the portion of such property acquired, developed, improved, rehabilitated or restored with the grant, whichever is greater, shall be used by the recipient for a purpose authorized in that category or shall be reimbursed to the Parks Fund and shall be available for a use authorized in that category.
If the property sold or otherwise disposed of is less than the entire interest in the property originally acquired, developed, improved, rehabilitated or restored with the grant, an amount equal to the proceeds or the fair market value of the property interest sold or otherwise disposed of, whichever is greater, shall be used by the grantee for a purpose authorized in that category or shall be reimbursed to the Parks Fund and be available for a use authorized in that category. Nothing in this Section shall limit a Public Agency from transferring property acquired pursuant to this order to the National Park Service or the State Park System, with or without consideration.

(3) Any beach, park or other public facility acquired, developed, rehabilitated or restored with funds from this act shall be open and accessible to the public without discrimination as to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religious belief, national origin, marital status, physical or medical handicap, medical condition or place of residence, to the extent consistent with the provisions of subdivision (b) of Section 9.

(4) In order to maintain the exclusion from gross income for federal income tax purposes of the interest on any bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued for purposes of this resolution, each recipient of funds pursuant to this resolution covenants to comply with each applicable requirement of Section 103 and Sections 141 through 150 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. Each recipient of funds disbursed pursuant to this resolution shall agree in writing to the conditions specified in this paragraph.

(5) An entity receiving funds pursuant to this resolution shall agree to audits of expenditures on a regular basis, as directed by the District.

(6) To the extent practicable, a project that receives funds from this measure will include signage informing the public that the project received funds from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District.

Section 9.

Property

(a) All real property acquired pursuant to this resolution shall be acquired in compliance with Chapter 16 (commencing with Section 7260) of Division 7 of Title 1 of the California Government Code. Public Agencies and Nonprofit Organizations receiving funds pursuant to this resolution shall certify compliance to the Department of Parks and Recreation. Funds disbursed to a Public Agency in accordance with this resolution may be expended by that agency pursuant to an agreement, or by an entity, authorized or established pursuant to Article 1 (commencing with Section 6500) of Chapter 5 of Division 7 of Title 1 of the Government Code.

(b) Reasonable public access to lands acquired in fee with funds made available pursuant to this resolution shall be provided except where that access may interfere with resource protection. For purposes of this resolution, reasonable public access shall include parking and public restrooms.

(c) Prior to recommending the acquisition of lands that are located on or near tidelands, submerged lands, swamp or overflowed lands, or other wetlands, whether or not those lands have been granted in trust to a local public agency, any agency receiving funds pursuant to this resolution shall submit to the State Lands Commission any proposal for the acquisition of those lands pursuant to this measure. The State Lands Commission may, at its discretion, within ninety (90) days of such a submission, review the proposed acquisition, make a determination as to the State's existing or potential interest in the lands, and report its findings to the entity making the submittal and to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

(d) No wetlands or riparian habitat acquired pursuant to this resolution shall be used as a dredge spoil area or shall be subject to revetment which damages the quality of the habitat for which the property was acquired.

(e) No provision of this resolution shall be construed as authorizing the condemnation of publicly-owned lands.

(f) Funds that are granted pursuant to this resolution for the purposes of development, improvement, rehabilitation or restoration shall be expended for these purposes only on lands owned by the applicant Public Agency or Nonprofit Organization or subject to a lease or other interest held by such Public Agency or Nonprofit Organization. If such lands are not owned by the applicant or subject to such other interest held by the applicant, the applicant shall first demonstrate to the satisfaction of the administering agency that the project will

provide public benefits commensurate with the type and duration of the interest in land held by the applicant.

(g) The use of property acquired using funds pursuant to this resolution shall be consist with purposes identified in this resolution and shall be set forth in the grant contract executed by the District. Unless otherwise approved by the Board, in no circumstances may oil, gas, or other mineral extraction occur on or under any property acquired with funds pursuant to this resolution.

(h) The District shall ensure the following:

(1) To the maximum extent possible an irrevocable deed restriction setting forth the requirements of this resolution shall be recorded on all properties for which funds are awarded pursuant to this resolution. This deed restriction shall provide that the County may enforce the requirements of this resolution, and the contract entered into with the recipient of grant funds, at any time without restriction of any statute of limitations, and that the County shall be awarded its reasonable attorney fees and costs for such enforcement.

(2) A grant applicant must maintain and operate in perpetuity the property that was acquired, developed, improved, rehabilitated or restored with the funds from this resolution, and the purpose and/or use of the property for such acquisition, development, improvement, rehabilitation, or restoration. The recipient must also enter into a contract with the County whereby the recipient shall agree to comply with all terms of this resolution and any other terms deemed necessary by the District for the effective administration and implementation of this resolution. Said contract shall have no termination date and its provisions shall last in perpetuity. With the prior approval of the District, the recipient or its successors in interest in the property may transfer the responsibility to maintain and operate the property in accordance with this resolution.

(3) That any beach, park, or other public facility acquired, developed, rehabilitated, or restored with funds derived under this resolution shall be open and accessible to the public without discrimination as to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religious belief, national origin, marital status, physical or medical handicap, medical condition, or place of residence. The recipient shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any person or organization seeking to use such facility based upon the place of residence of such person or the members of such organization.

(4) That the conditions specified in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this Section shall not prevent the transfer of property acquired, developed, improved, rehabilitated or restored with funds authorized pursuant to

Section 5 of this resolution from the recipient to another Public Agency or to a Nonprofit Organization authorized to acquire, develop, improve, restore and/or operate real property for park, wildlife, recreation, community, open space or gang prevention and intervention purposes, or to the California Department of Parks and Recreation, National Park Service, or the US Forest Service, provided that approval by the District is obtained prior to the change and any such successor to the recipient assumes the obligations imposed by this resolution.

(5) Revenue generated on projects funded by this measure shall be utilized for the purposes of the measure.

Section 10.

Financing

(a) It is the intention of the Board to authorize the District to issue Bonds payable from and secured by the Special Taxes to fund all or a portion of the costs of the projects authorized by this resolution pursuant to Article 3 of Division 5 of the Public Resources Code. In addition, the District may also issue Bonds as may be authorized by applicable law in the future. Such Bonds may be issued in one or more series at such times, in such principal amounts, with such terms and subject to sale, all as the Board may determine in its sole discretion.

(b) All funds generated by the Special Tax shall be deposited into the Regional Parks and Open Space District Park Fund (Parks Fund). The Auditor-Controller of the County, on behalf of the District, may create any other funds, accounts or subaccounts necessary or desirable, including for the proceeds of Bonds issued by the District.

(c) All revenue generated by the District, including the proceeds from the issuance of any Bonds, shall be deposited in the Parks Fund and shall be allocated among all affected Public Agencies within the District as defined in Section 5506.9 of the California Public Resources Code, for expenditure consistent with the purposes of Division 5, Chapter 3, Article 3 of the Public Resources Code and of this resolution. The District shall reimburse the County from the Parks Fund for all costs of administration of the District, and the costs of issuance of bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness.

(d) Pursuant to subdivision (e) of Section 5506.9 of the Public Resources Code, no proceeds from any Bonds issued by the District shall be used for any operations, maintenance or servicing purposes, except that such proceeds may be used to pay all costs incidental to the preparation and issuance of the bonds.

Section 11.

The Special Tax levied pursuant to this resolution shall be levied for a period of not exceeding thirty-five (35) years beginning with the fiscal year in which the tax is first levied by the District and collected by the County.

Section 12.

(a) In case any provision of this resolution shall be invalid, illegal or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions shall not in any way be affected or impaired thereby.

Section 13.

(a) This resolution shall take effect immediately, and upon declaration by the Board that the Special Tax herein has been approved by the voters, all officers and employees of the County and the District shall take all actions necessary and desirable to carry out the purposes of this resolution. The officers and employees of the County and the ex officio officers and employees of the District, are and each of them acting alone is, hereby authorized and directed to take any and all actions which are necessary or desirable to carry out the purposes of this resolution.