TONIGHT’s MEETING

1. About East LA
   - Existing Conditions
   - Park Needs
   - What we’ve heard from the Community

2. Health and Safety

3. Vision and Strategies

4. Three Opportunity Sites
   - Site Conditions
   - Opportunities and Limitations

5. Park Features

6. Site Design Activity
ABOUT EAST LA

East Los Angeles Population: 126,496

Los Angeles County Standard: 4 acres / 1,000 people

- Total amount of open space needed in East Los Angeles: 506 acres

Existing Park Acres: 75.54 acres

- 0.6 acres / 1,000 people
WHERE ARE THE PARKS and WHO DO THEY SERVE?
WHERE IS THE NEED?

EAST LOS ANGELES
## What is in Our Parks

### East Los Angeles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Parks</th>
<th>Size (Acres)</th>
<th>Restrooms</th>
<th>Group Picnic Shelters</th>
<th>Picnic Tables</th>
<th>Barbecues</th>
<th>Splash Pads</th>
<th>Fitness Zone</th>
<th>Outdoor Stage</th>
<th>Drinking Fountains</th>
<th>Art or Monument</th>
<th>2-5 Year Old</th>
<th>5-12 Year Old</th>
<th>2-12 Year Old</th>
<th>Softball Fields</th>
<th>Multi-purpose Overlay Field</th>
<th>Soccer Fields</th>
<th>Football Field</th>
<th>Basketball Courts</th>
<th>Tennis Courts</th>
<th>Handball Courts</th>
<th>Lake</th>
<th>Skate Park</th>
<th>Walking Path</th>
<th>Swimming Pool/Bath House</th>
<th>Community Building</th>
<th>Senior Center</th>
<th>Offices</th>
<th>Gymnasium</th>
<th>Multi-purpose Room</th>
<th>Computer Lab</th>
<th>Cyclist Stand</th>
<th>Commercial Kitchen</th>
<th>Council Office</th>
<th>Sheriff’s Office</th>
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COMMUNITY OUTREACH: WHAT WE DID

- 6 Stakeholder Meetings with 8 Organizations
- 3 Focus Groups
- 200 Community Surveys
- 1 Community Workshop
- 1 Community Bus Tour
WHAT WE HEARD

KEY ISSUES

- Overcrowded parks
- Lack of green landscaping and programming
- Security issues (lighting and supervision) and maintenance
- Need for improved communication between park staff and the community
- Senior and Youth Programs
- Cost of programming is too high, especially for families with several children.
COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

- A new running/walking track around Calvary Cemetery, which many already use for exercise
- More exercise programs and equipment (examples: bike lanes, fitness equipment, and Zumba classes)
- Green projects that are also communal places: plazas, placitas, and parklets
- More volunteer opportunities and community investment in local parks
- More open and frequent communication with park management
HEALTH & SAFETY - COMMUNITY INPUT
SALUD Y SEGURIDAD - OPINIONES DE LA COMUNIDAD

Community Safety

- Community Infrastructure
- Crime and Violence
- Services and Resources
- Programming
- Infrastructure of the Community
- Crime and Violence
- Infrastructure of the Park
- Park Maintenance

EAST LOS ANGELES
**HEALTH & SAFETY - COMMUNITY INPUT CONTINUED**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Services &amp; Resources</strong></th>
<th><strong>Programming</strong></th>
<th><strong>Infrastructure &amp; Maintenance</strong></th>
<th><strong>External Influences &amp; Law Enforcement</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| More park staff is needed to ensure adequate supervision and support for park users | There is widespread agreement among residents that park programming improves park safety | Lighting is a crucial element of park safety  
- The East LA Civic Center was praised as being a well lit communal area  
- Obregon and Belvedere were identified as poorly lit parks | Sheriffs should patrol parks and the surrounding community more regularly |
| There is no system for filing grievances or reporting problems at the park | There is a need for more senior and youth programming, as well as exercise-related programming for all | Infrastructure improvements are needed, such as:  
- More crosswalks to protect pedestrians  
- Uneven sidewalks should be replaced | Sheriffs should:  
- Respond quicker when an incident or crime is reported  
- Speak Spanish in order to communicate with the constituents they serve. |
| Residents would like increased communication between the park and the community | Summer Night Lights, a program to bring residents to the parks after dark, was praised for improving park safety - residents want to see this program continued and expanded | Residents associate park maintenance with safety, stressing that a clean park is a safe park | The presence of gangs causes safety concerns to park users in East Los Angeles |
| There is a need for more consistency in park management so that the quality of services and resources provided at each park are standardized | Community gardens and accompanying programming are popular project ideas among residents because they would be beneficial to the community and residents' health | Stray and loose dogs pose threats to park users | Crime increases in the summer and more prevention strategies and vigilance are needed during that time of year |
COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE (CSC) 
COMITÉ DIRECTIVO COMUNITARIO (CDC)

Recommendations

• Create more joint use agreements
• Offer more low-cost programming
• Volunteer opportunities for undocumented residents
• Educational campaigns to hold park visitors responsible for their actions
• Identify more opportunities for collaboration to increase benefits of volunteers
• Stronger safety measures
• Address the homeless population who live at the parks
• Improve infrastructure
• Reduce bureaucracy
• Conduct more research
• Keep a CSC structure in place as a permanent mechanism for community input
COMMUNITY IDENTIFIED SITES

EAST LOS ANGELES

WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU
THEMES

- Not enough green space
- Community desires places to walk, run and exercise
- Green spaces that are also gathering places
- A history of fragmentation
- Strong interest in community participation and ownership

WHAT WE HEARD FROM YOU

EAST LOS ANGELES
SUMMARY OF NEEDS

MORE GREEN SPACE

SPACES TO PLAY

SPACES TO GATHER

SAFE SPACES

SPACES FOR HEALTHY ACTIVITIES

OPPORTUNITIES TO WALK

SPACES FOR EXERCISE AND FITNESS

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
OPEN SPACE VISION

a park
EVERY DAY/
Un parque
Cada día

A Vision for Green Space and Connections in East LA

Una Visión para Espacios Verdes Y Connexiones En East LA
STRATEGIES

- Strategically acquire **vacant lots** for greening throughout the community.

- Develop **park nodes** to support the community desire for exercise and fitness.

- Emphasize greening along the **Third Street corridor**.

- Create **trails** as to connect parks.

- **Partner** with other agencies to increase overall green-space capacity.

- Think creatively about **currently underutilized spaces** and develop for open space use.
PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES

EAST LOS ANGELES
SELECTING THE FIRST PROJECTS

NEED → SIZE → TIMING → OWNERSHIP → PRIORITY PROJECTS

EAST LOS ANGELES
FIRST PRIORITIES

EAST LOS ANGELES

[Map of East Los Angeles showing various parks and areas of interest, with color-coding for park needs and opportunities.]

- Neighborhood Park
- Pocket Park
- Park Node
- Multi-beneficial Green Infrastructure
- Joint Use
- Other Recreational Facility
- Trail
SITE CONDITIONS

Total Size: 9.58 acres
SITE 2

CONTEXT AND CONNECTIONS

EAST LOS ANGELES

SITE

Saybrook Park

utility corridor continues

landscaped medians

utility corridor continues
SITE 2

EAST LOS ANGELES

Street crossings

Utility towers with foundation

Long continuous, generally flat corridor
A large green corridor through the eastern part of the neighborhood and improve connections to Saybrook Park.

Pockets of play zones could be suggested

Gathering nodes would provide resting places

Lighting and safety amenities

Potential long walking or running trail. Crosswalks and pedestrian amenities may be included

Fitness nodes along the route would provide options for exercise

Trees could shield the utility corridor; increased planting could provide habitat
SITE CONDITIONS

SITE 4

EAST LOS ANGELES

Total Size: 0.44 acres
SITE 4

CONTEXT AND CONNECTIONS

EAST LOS ANGELES
SITE 4

SITE ANALYSIS

EAST LOS ANGELES
SITE 4

View from top

Relatively flat area

SITE ANALYSIS

EAST LOS ANGELES
SITE 4

- Small, but a new pocket park increases overall green space in an area. It is owned by the County so easy to convert soon.

- Stairs or fitness equipment could create a small fitness node.

- Benches and tables placed at the top of the hill would have a nice view over the neighborhood.

- There is room for a small playground that could allow for children to play while adults exercise.

- Lighting would make the site more accessible. Increased lighting and safety measures should be utilized.

- There could be a small set of community garden plots at the top of the hill.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES
TRAIL A

SITE CONDITIONS

Total Potential Length: 0.33 miles (1,740 feet)
Elevation Change: approximately 87 feet
TRAIL A

City Terrace Park

Senior Housing

CONTEXT AND CONNECTIONS
EAST LOS ANGELES
TRAIL A

Steep slope would need switchbacks

City Terrace Park

SITE ANALYSIS

EAST LOS ANGELES
The trail would create new access to City Terrace Park from the neighborhood to the south. It is owned by the County so easy to convert soon.

The trail would provide a strenuous walking or running route up to the park.

Resting places along the trail would make it easier to climb.

The trail will pass through dense vegetation and should be well lit for safety.

Existing, established trees should be avoided and retained along the new trail route.
SITE DESIGN

TOOLBOX

OF PARK

FEATURES

EAST LA COMMUNITY DESIGN WORKSHOP
03.20.2014

VISUAL INSPIRATION TOOLKIT

Inspirational images for designing new open spaces.

Nature for Neighborhoods
Come help create a GREENER vision

EAST LOS ANGELES
WALKING/RUN TRAIL

Considerations:

- Surface material (one type, multiple types)
- Modes (pedestrian, bike, skateboard, horse)
- Stopping points/resting places

Rubberized Surface

Asphalt or Concrete Path

DG path

Stairs
EXERCISE

Considerations:
- Surface material
- Signage
- Types of exercise
- Where would they be most used

Stationary Bicycles
Fitness Equipment
Exercise Nodes
PATHWAYS

Considerations:
- Direction
- Nodes
- Purpose of path (running, walking, biking)

Meandering  Arcing  Linear

Width Variability  Hillside Trail
PLAY

Considerations:

- Surface material
- Play elements
- Age groups
- Accessibility
- Feature colors
- Water features

EAST LOS ANGELES
SPECIAL USES

Considerations:
- Are there any amenities missing in neighborhood?

Skateboard or BMX Park

Community Garden
SAFETY

Considerations:

- Access Points
- Style of lighting
- Security cameras
- Visibility
- Lines of sight and good observation points for law enforcement
GATHERING

Considerations:

- Types of seating
- Types of tables
- Ability to cook
- Site furniture needs (bike racks, trash and recycling, dogi-pots)
- Shade needs
KIOSKS AND SIGNAGE

Considerations:
- Trailhead needs
- Informational needs
- Is the community allowed to post?
TREES AND PLANTING

Considerations:
- Evergreen or deciduous
- Large trees or small ones
- Flowers
- Grass

Tree Types

Naturalistic Planting  Formal Planting  Native
ART

Considerations:
- Themes of the piece
- Medium (mural, sculpture, etc.)

Fitness Theme

Cultural Theme

Interactive Piece
Nature for Neighborhoods
Come help create a GREENER vision

COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLANS

LENNOX  WESTMONT-WEST ATHENS  WILLOWBROOK  WALNUT PARK  EAST RANCHO DOMINGUEZ  EAST LOS ANGELES