WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT
Community Parks & Recreation Plan

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a vision and roadmap for a greener and safer West Athens-Westmont, including a more extensive network of publicly-accessible green spaces and recreational facilities, as well as environmental enhancement projects. The Plan provides specific implementation actions to be taken by the County in order to achieve the vision of a safer, greener community. These include acquiring space for new parks, enhancing existing recreational facilities and programs, and establishing and strengthening partnerships – all with an emphasis on enhanced community health and safety. The Plan builds on recent urban greening and green space projects and is a response to community needs and call for additional greening in West Athens-Westmont.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EXISTING PARK

90,000 gallons of stormwater intercepted annually

130 pounds of reduced air pollutants annually

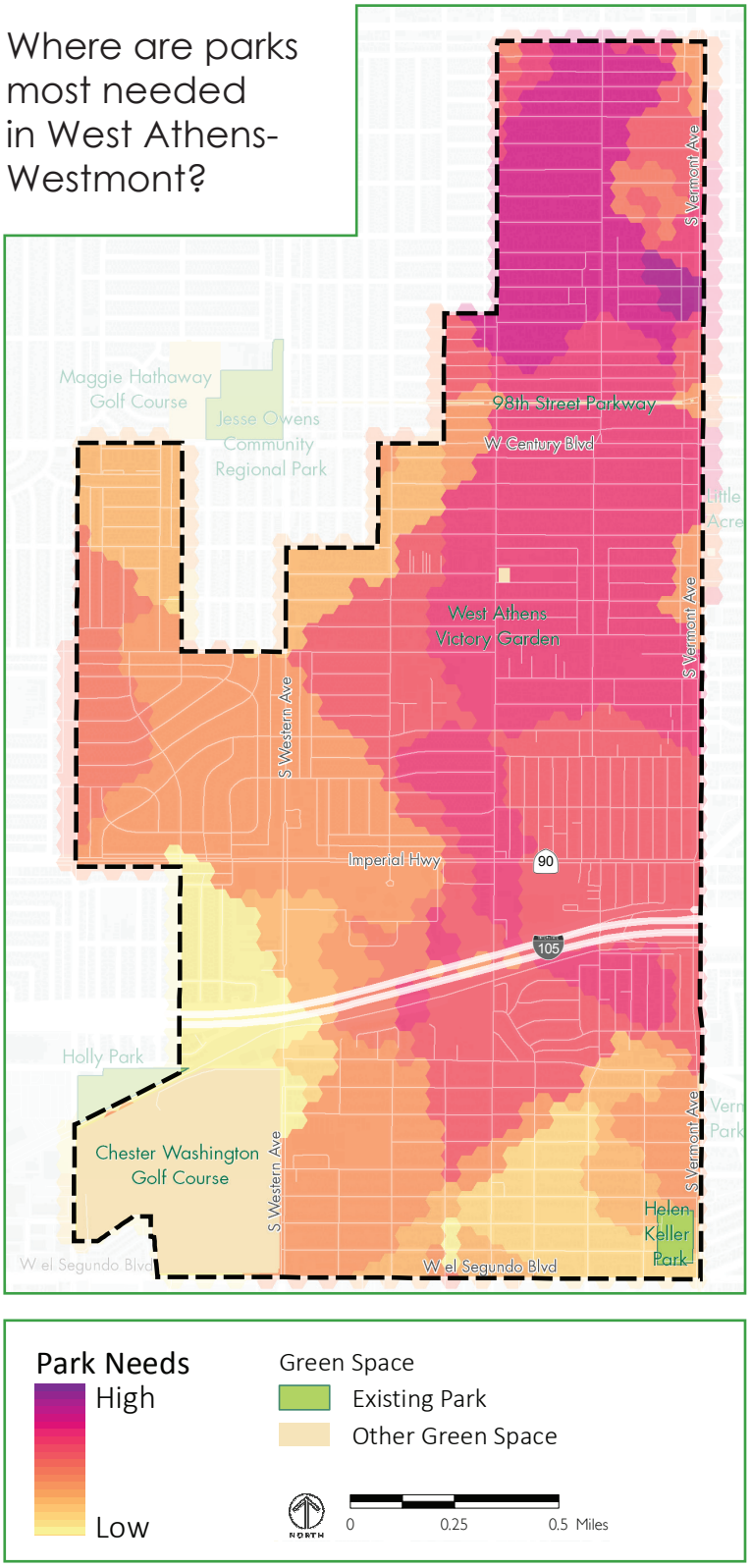
10,000 tons of CO_2 sequestered annually

PARKS AND GREENING PROFILE

West Athens-Westmont has a severe deficit of parkland and significant public safety issues. Helen Keller Park, the only existing County Park in the community, is approximately 7 acres in size. The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a goal of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. With a population of nearly 41,000 residents, West Athens-Westmont only has approximately **0.2 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents**, a figure significantly below the General Plan standard. Furthermore, access to existing parkland in West Athens-Westmont is not consistent throughout the community. **Approximately 84 percent of the West Athens-Westmont population is not within walking distance (1/2 mile) of a park**.

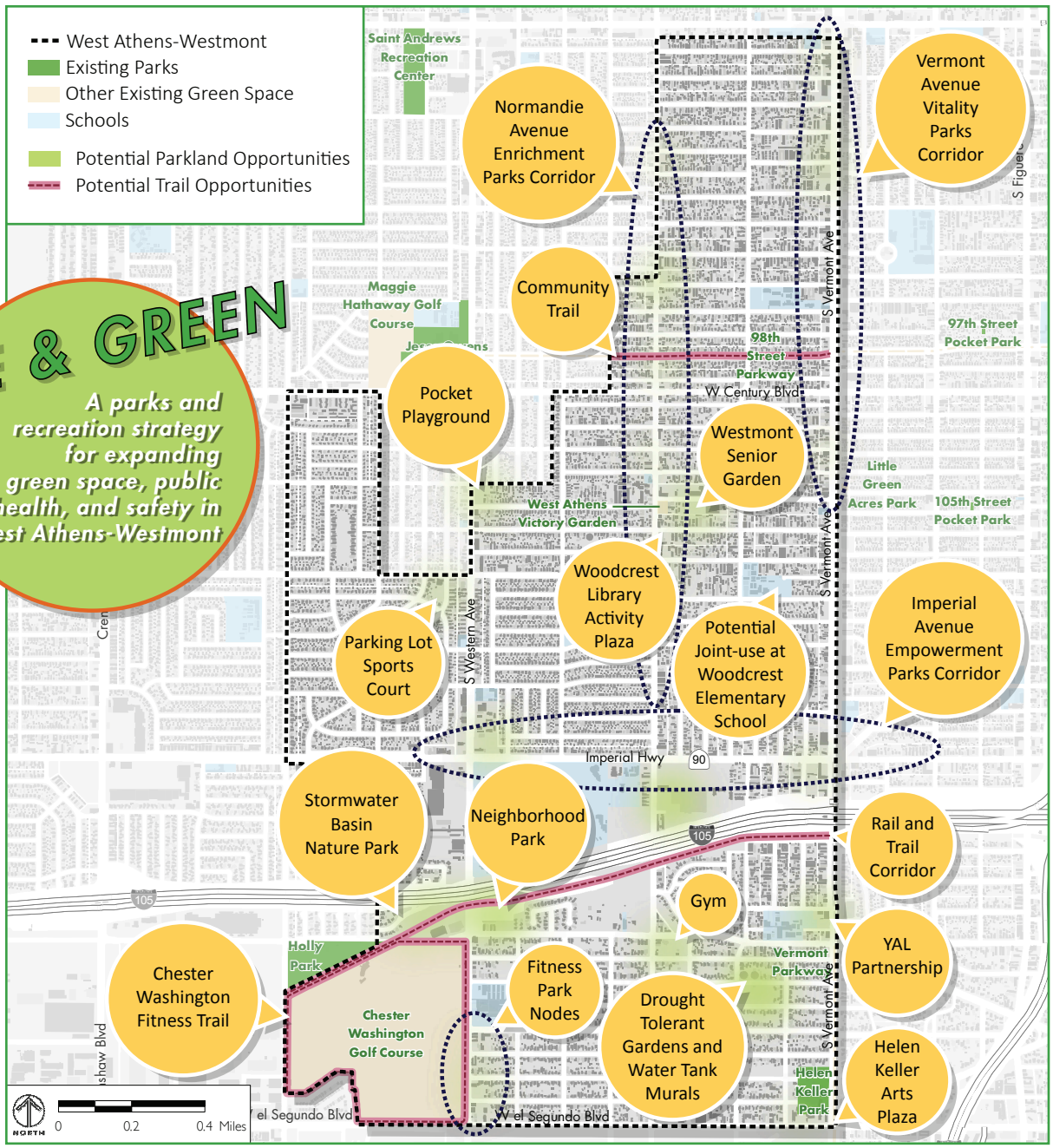
Additional access issues, such as **unsafe street conditions** and **high levels of crime**, affect the ability of residents to connect to parks and other public amenities. Coupled with other local **environmental issues,** including low urban tree canopy and emissions from nearby freeways, these issues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

Where are parks most needed in West Athens-Westmont?

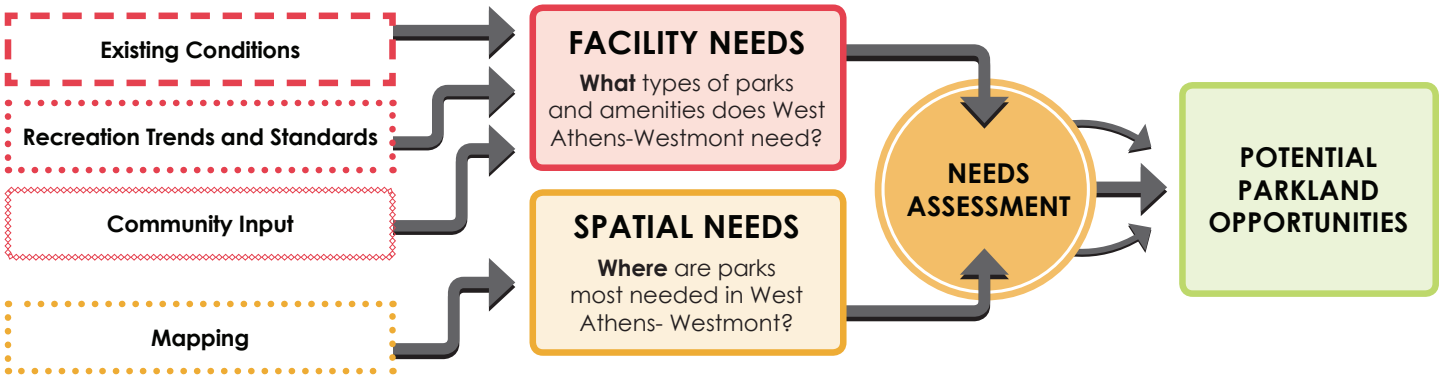


WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT GREEN VISION MAP

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



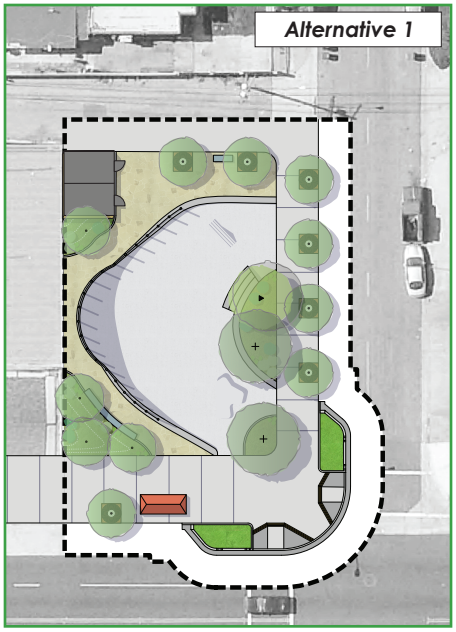
Site Identification Process

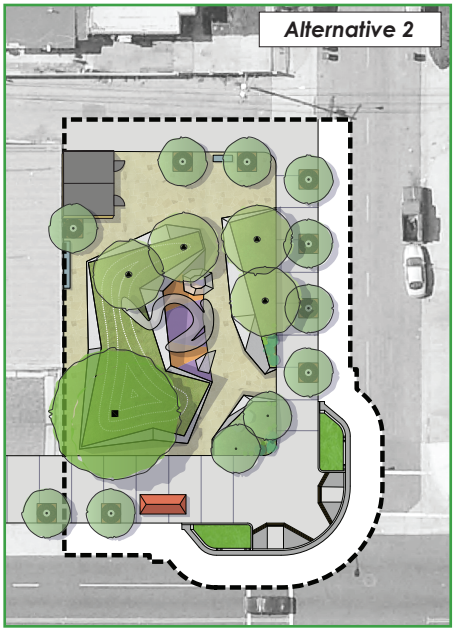


GOALS FOR WEST ATHENS-WESTMONT

1. Increase overall green space and expand recreational opportunities for people of all ages, including youth and seniors.
2. Ensure that all parks and recreation facilities improve community safety and do not create new security issues.
3. Utilize park development as a catalyst for improving public health and safety community-wide.
4. Provide new places for exercise and safe places to walk.
5. Foster public participation in park projects and ensure that the community is included in decision-making processes.
6. Maintain and enhance West Athens-Westmont's urban forest.
7. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.

POCKET PARK DESIGN CONCEPTS

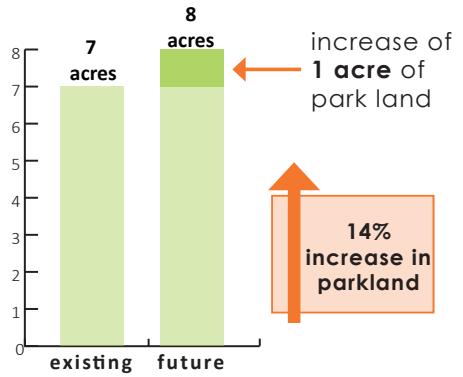




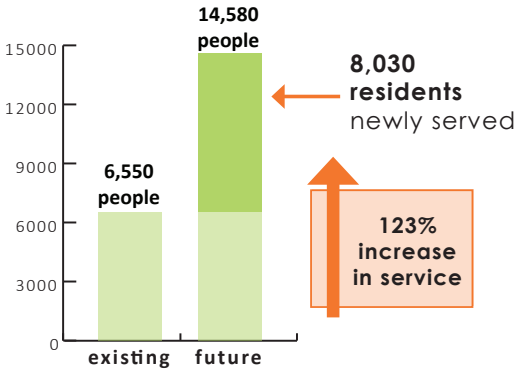
Service improvements

(with the addition of potential new parks)

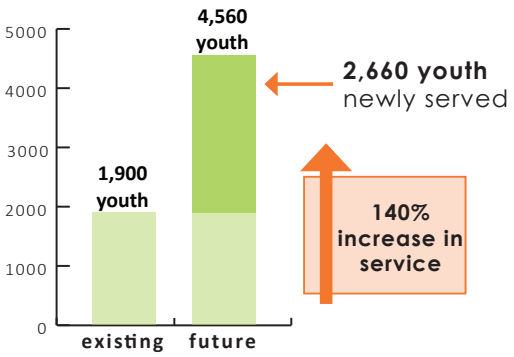
Parkland Acres



Total Population Served



Youth Population (Under 18) Served



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

Community members providing feedback and presenting ideas at a community workshop.

POCKET PARK DESIGN CONCEPTS

1. Center for gang intervention group and restroom (prefab container building)
2. Vertical planter to provide low screen from street an seat wall on interior
3. Street trees
4. Painted basketball court
5. Improved street crossing
6. Low wildflower meadow along entrance

1. Center for gang intervention group (wall panels open up to create exterior gathering space)
2. Bermed planting to provide low screen from street
3. Street trees
4. Mini skate park
5. Improved street crossing
6. Low wildflower meadow along entrance

PLACEWORKS

LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD LAND TRUST

For more information, contact:
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