Where are parks most needed in East Los Angeles?

**MISSION**

“A Park Every Day” emphasizes the importance of providing local park access within the community. Green spaces, of a variety of sizes, should be available throughout the community and easily accessible in the everyday routine of residents’ lives. Given the lack of available land for new parks, the vision for East Los Angeles (commonly referred to as East LA), is a creative approach of amplifying the existing network with new spaces for exercise and recreation, including new parks, parklets, fitness nodes, and expanded walking paths.

**PARKS AND GREENING PROFILE**

East Los Angeles has seven parks, totaling 75.5 acres of parkland. However, 31 acres of those are at Belvedere Park, which is designed to accommodate use by County residents up to 20 miles away. The other six parks in East Los Angeles are local parks intended for use predominately by community residents. The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a standard of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. East Los Angeles has a current population of 126,496 residents and approximately 44 acres of local parkland, translating to 0.34 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents, a figure well below the General Plan standard.

Access to existing parkland in East Los Angeles is not consistent across the community. About 44 percent of the East Los Angeles residents is not within walking distance (1/2 mile) of a park. Additionally, due to socioeconomic conditions, including relatively low incomes, low levels of car ownership, and a large percentage of families with children, a master plan for parks and urban greening is needed to help East Los Angeles meet its needs for parks, green space, and community health.

**ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EXISTING PARKS**

- 1.7 million gallons of stormwater intercepted annually
- 1,600 pounds of reduced air pollutants annually
- 153,000 tons of CO₂ sequestered annually

Youth Bike Ride to Identify Potential Park Sites.

Community Members at the Design Workshop.
EAST LOS ANGELES 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 East Los Angeles.
GOALS FOR EAST LOS ANGELES PARKS

1. Increase overall green space.
2. Integrate parks and healthy activities into the everyday lives of East LA residents.
3. Create new urban trails, walking paths and safe streets that connect residents to parks and open space.
4. Enhance public spaces that support community interaction and cultural identity.
5. Consider creative new green space types:
   » Utility corridor parks
   » Freeway underpass parks
   » Freeway cap parks
   » Parklets
6. Increase the sense of nature within the parkland system and in the everyday lives of East Los Angeles residents.
7. Maintain and enhance East Los Angeles’ urban forest.
8. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

East Los Angeles community members participated in a design workshop to develop concepts for three potential new parks in their community, including a mini park at Folsom Street, a segment of the Southern California Edison Utility Corridor, and a fitness trail near City Terrace Park. These concepts were developed into schematic plans that serve as guiding templates for new parks.

Folsom Street Mini-Park Concept

Community Members at the Design Workshop.

Service improvements (with the addition of potential new parks)

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<tr>
<th>Parkland Acres</th>
<th>existing</th>
<th>future</th>
<th>increase of 19 acres of park land</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>76 acres</td>
<td>95 acres</td>
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<td>25% increase in parkland</td>
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<th>Total Population Served</th>
<th>existing</th>
<th>future</th>
<th>increase of 21,000 people newly served</th>
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<tr>
<td>61,000 people</td>
<td>82,000 people</td>
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<td>34% increase in service</td>
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<tr>
<th>Youth Population (Under 18) Served</th>
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<th>future</th>
<th>increase of 7,000 youth newly served</th>
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<tr>
<td>17,000 youth</td>
<td>24,000 youth</td>
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<td>41% increase in service</td>
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Graphs show improvements based on the addition of high priority park projects.
CONCEPTUAL PARKS AND GREEN SPACE

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