

November 15, 2022

**MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS
AND KATHRYN BARGER**

2022 Los Angeles Countywide Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+)

Parks, open spaces, recreation facilities, trails, and gardens (hereafter “parks”) are essential community infrastructure that offer multiple benefits. Every Los Angeles County resident in every neighborhood deserves safe and accessible parks, nature and open space. To help make this a reality, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors called for the visionary preparation of the Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA) which was adopted in July 2016 and comprehensively analyzes and quantifies the need for parks in cities and unincorporated areas throughout the County of Los Angeles. The 2016 PNA was a groundbreaking initiative led by the Los Angeles County Department Parks and Recreation (DPR) hosting over 140 community engagements meetings in collaboration with a multitude of community-based organizations. The PNA has served as DPR’s North Star, guiding its planning, resource allocation and decision-making.

The PNA directly informed the development of Measure A which was approved by nearly 75% of voters in November 2016, is managed by the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) and includes dedicated funding for Very High and High park need areas.

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Since 2016, DPR, public agencies, Los Angeles County Departments, and community-based organization have collectively tackled park inequities by advocacy at the local, state and federal level for the creation of new parks and improving existing parks especially in Very High and High park need communities.

However, much work remains to be done. The PNA+ builds on the PNA and, once again, serves as a model for equity in environmental conservation and restoration, regional recreation, and rural recreation. While both the federal and state governments launched “30x30” Initiatives with the goal of conserving 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by the year 2030 to fight climate change and advance biodiversity and conservation, it falls short of incorporating a framework for urbanized County of Los Angeles.

The 2022 Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+) is Los Angeles County’s 30x30 plan which sets a visionary and critical path to advance environmental conservation and restoration, regional recreation, and rural recreation. Going beyond strategies outlined in federal and state 30x30 plans, the PNA+ reimagines conservation to include both traditional efforts that involve the acquisition and protection of natural lands as well as the restoration and transformation of degraded lands, such as brownfields, landfills, and oil fields, into parks, especially in lower income communities of color where vulnerable populations and environmental burdens are concentrated. Specifically, people of color account for 84% of the residents living in priority areas for restoration, i.e. those areas with highest environmental burdens.

The PNA+ also identifies priority areas for regional recreation and rural recreation using

various indicators of population vulnerability and other factors such as access to regional and rural recreation sites via different modes of travel, the availability of such facilities, and the amenities they offer. Many of the most vulnerable areas identified in the PNA+ are also the Very high and High park need areas in the PNA. PNA+ additionally identifies numerous rural communities in the Antelope Valley an area with high population vulnerability. While rural areas are home to thousands of acres of parkland, many rural unincorporated communities still have unmet recreational needs and lack the amenities that residents have long desired and requested.

Community outreach and engagement was a key component of the PNA+. Thousands of Los Angeles County residents completed surveys that were distributed in multiple languages and participated in workshops and other outreach events. DPR partnered with a coalition of community-based organizations and coordinated and collaborated with various public agencies, education and research institutions and conservancies. DPR, in support of the County's Indigenous People's Initiative, also conducted focused outreach to Native American stakeholders to better understand barriers and potential solutions to improve access to County lands for spiritual and cultural practices.

DPR is committed to creating a critical path and plan for the protection and restoration of green spaces to address the significant park and recreation needs documented in the 2016 PNA and the 2022 PNA+ in ways that produce tangible results and provide multiple benefits for residents and biodiversity

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors

1. Adopt the PNA+ Final Report as the County of Los Angeles' official 30x30 plan which focuses on:
 - a) Environmental Conservation and Restoration
 - b) Regional Recreation and;
 - c) Rural Recreation.

2. Work at the Federal, State, and local levels to incorporate Los Angeles County's PNA+ (30x30 plan) into programs, legislation, policies, and funding opportunities.

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HLS: gdm