

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

Message from the Director

This year, we celebrate the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District's (RPOSD) 30th Anniversary! Three decades ago, Los Angeles County voters approved Proposition A, establishing RPOSD as a direct source of funding for parks, open space, beaches, trails, natural areas, and wildlife sanctuaries (public parklands) in Los Angeles County. With the passage of Measure A in 2016, RPOSD led the nation with the first park equity initiative ensuring, that parks are created in communities that need them the most.

- Proposition A also established RPOSD as the County's largest philanthropic stewards and change-agents for public parklands, awarding over **\$1.6 billion** (yes, billion) – making it the most impactful park measure in the nation funding parks and open space.

- To support the stewardship of public parklands, RPOSD has granted over **\$33 million** in maintenance funding to cities, the county, conservancies, park agencies, and community-based organizations.

RPOSD funding has contributed to the acquisition of **19,600 acres** of public parklands - preserved in perpetuity for generations to come. It is my pleasure to present RPOSD's 2022-2023 Annual Report, which highlights major accomplishments and initiatives over the past year, along with key financial information. This was a significant year for RPOSD as we awarded the first programmatic grants in our history!

The awards totaled over **\$12.5 million** in funding for two Measure A competitive grant programs: Recreation Access and Youth & Veteran Job Training and Placement. The grant funding creates and supports educational and interpretive programs and job training and placement programs. These grants solidify RPOSD's mission to promote equitable access to public parklands and provide critical funding towards education, skill training, and job placement for youth and veterans.

RPOSD has made headway in the advancement of the **Technical Assistance Program (TAP)**, with continued outreach to the cities, park agencies, and CBO's, the rollout of virtual information sessions and TAP Brown Bag Lunch Series, and the awarding of TAP grants for community outreach, environmental studies, planning and design, project management, real estate negotiations, feasibility, and land inventory analysis.

With the Board of Supervisors' adoption of the **Park Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+)** on December 6, 2022, RPOSD will incorporate the conservation and restoration framework into its grantmaking to support Los Angeles County's 30x30 implementation.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our Board of Supervisors – Hilda L. Solis, Holly J. Mitchell, Lindsey P. Horvath, Janice Hahn, and Kathryn Barger for their steadfast commitment to public parklands and our environment.

Thank you to the Measure A Citizens Oversight Advisory Board members for their continued support and to the RPOSD staff – past and present, for your commitment to public parklands access and equity.

Be Well,



Norma E. García-González, Director
Los Angeles Regional Park and Open Space District



Introduction

RPOSD was created with the passage of Proposition A in 1992 and continues its mission “to enrich and empower the communities of Los Angeles County though innovative grantmaking for parks and open space” with the approval of Measure A in 2016 by the voters of Los Angeles County. RPOSD is a special district whose boundaries are the same as the County of Los Angeles and the County’s Board of Supervisors serve as its Board of Directors. RPOSD’s mandate is to collect taxes within the boundaries (as approved by nearly 75% of voters) and to grant out funds to the County’s 88 cities, local park agencies and non-profits for improving, refurbishing and creating new park projects.



Content

A Year In Review.....	4
Measure A Revenue Collected for 2023.....	8
A Look Ahead.....	10

Appendices

- I : Measure A Allocation July 2022 - June 2023
- II : Measure A Park Investments July 2022 - June 2023
- III : Proposition A 2023 Plan of Revenue Expenditure



The District’s Board of Directors

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisory District 1

Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisory District 2

Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisory District 3

Janice Hahn
Supervisory District 4

Kathryn Barger
Supervisory District 5

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 In Review

Fiscal Year 2022-2023 has been an eventful year. In RPOSD's continued endeavors to advance its mission and achieve park equity in Los Angeles County, the following are notable highlights of the fiscal year:

TAP Allocation Announcement

On July 14, 2022, RPOSD announced the allocation of over \$9 million in Measure A grant funding for technical assistance services to 30 cities and the unincorporated portion of Los Angeles County. The funding was intentionally allocated to communities with considerably less park acreage than the County average and strictly designated for projects that will result in the acquisition of new park lands. The TAP funding will cover pre-park development costs like community engagement, planning, real estate, environmental services, and much more to break down financial barriers to advance park equity and access for areas where parks are needed the most.



Celebrating 30 Years of Grantmaking

RPOSD commemorated three incredible decades of stewardship over parks and open spaces, a milestone RPOSD embraced with immense pride and enthusiasm. Over the course of 30 years, RPOSD has awarded \$1.6 billion in funding for creating, maintaining, protecting,



and preserving parks and open spaces, essential investments to make our communities a vibrant place for all. This anniversary was only possible thanks to the Los Angeles County voters and taxpayers, who passed Measure A in 2016 with a resounding 75% approval, solidifying funding for parks and open spaces for the foreseeable future. Here's to many more years of grantmaking to provide equitable access to parklands, meaningful social connections, and enriching recreational experiences for all County residents!



Awards for the 2022 Competitive Grant Programs

In February 2023, RPOSD announced the awardees for the Recreation Access and Youth & Veteran Job Training and Placement Competitive Grant Programs. A total of \$12.9 million in grants was awarded to nine programs that promote equitable access to public lands and open spaces and seven programs that support education and skills training in the parks and recreation field for youth and veterans. This competitive

grant cycle was significant in RPOSD's 30-year grantmaking history. It was the first instance of RPOSD funding programs. RPOSD extends its appreciation to all applicants of this competitive round as well as our gratitude to the evaluators for undertaking the difficult task of selecting the first awardees ever for the two programmatic grant programs.



Virtual TAP Events in 2023

Great strides have been made in TAP, starting with the recruitment of two new staff dedicated to carry out a more robust implementation of the program. TAP initiated a series of virtual workshops to cultivate collaboration and knowledge sharing. The first workshop was an information session for non-profit organizations to foster partnerships with park agencies. While the second workshop of the fiscal year was part of the Brown Bag Lunch Series, and featured Chester Kano, the Chief of Development Division, Planning & Development Agency at the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Guest speakers of the Brown Bag Lunch Series share invaluable insights and experiences in park planning, funding, and development. Be on the lookout for more virtual workshops by checking the RPOSD website or subscribing to our mailing list!



Grants Administration Manual (GAM) Update

To support efficient operations and ensure Grantees' clarity and coherence of Measure A policies, RPOSD began the process of overhauling the GAM. RPOSD started its review by hosting two sessions to solicit feedback from park agencies to identify and rectify gaps, inconsistencies, or ambiguities in the policies. Currently, RPOSD is in the midst of incorporating the input and strengthening the policies and processes. A session to preview the changes will be scheduled in the near future prior to its official release.

Parks Need Assessment Plus (PNA+)

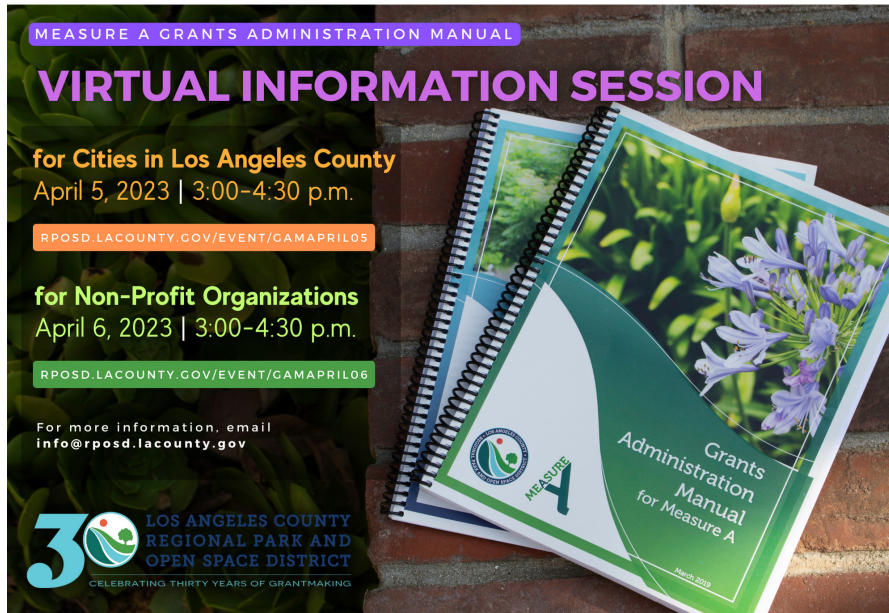
In September 2022, the PNA+ Report was released. Led by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and funded by RPOSD, this supplementary study offers vital information that was previously not included in the 2016 Parks and Recreation



Needs Assessment (PNA). It includes mapping and analyses related to population vulnerability, environmental benefits, environmental burdens, and priority areas for environmental conservation, environmental restoration, regional recreation, and rural recreation. Not only will the PNA+ serve as the County's very own 30x30 plan for conservation, but the results will also inform the direction of future park planning and funding, ensuring that park resources are more equitably distributed. RPOSD will continue to fund future PNA studies and use those findings to inform future Measure A practices in an effort to continue the work towards park equity.

"Become our Grantee Page" Launched!

RPOSD introduced a new webpage to serve as a guide for non-governmental organizations and other eligible park agencies. This page can be accessed through RPOSD's website at <https://rposd.lacounty.gov/become-our-grantee/>. The page offers information for determining eligibility as a recipient of Measure A funds, along with guidance on the registration and application process, project planning, and effective grant management techniques. There are also additional resources available to assist in planning and meeting Measure A requirements.



MEASURE A GRANTS ADMINISTRATION MANUAL

VIRTUAL INFORMATION SESSION

for Cities in Los Angeles County
April 5, 2023 | 3:00–4:30 p.m.
[RPOSD.LACOUNTY.GOV/EVENT/GAMAPRIL05](https://rposd.lacounty.gov/event/gamapril05)

for Non-Profit Organizations
April 6, 2023 | 3:00–4:30 p.m.
[RPOSD.LACOUNTY.GOV/EVENT/GAMAPRIL06](https://rposd.lacounty.gov/event/gamapril06)

For more information, email
info@rposd.lacounty.gov

30 LOS ANGELES COUNTY
REGIONAL PARK AND
OPEN SPACE DISTRICT
CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS OF GRANTMAKING

Grants
Administration
Manual
for Measure A
March 2018



MAINTENANCE & SERVICING

Formula-based allocations for maintenance and servicing of grant-funded projects.

PROGRAM INNOVATION & OVERSIGHT

Needs Assessment updates, innovative technologies, and operations of RPOSD.

CATEGORY 5

Youth and Veteran Job Training and Placement Opportunities Program
Grants, to be awarded through a competitive process

CATEGORY 1

Community-Based Park Investment Program
Formula-based allocations of funds for grants to each Study Area.*

CATEGORY 4

Regional Recreational Facilities, Multi-use Trails, and Accessibility Program
Grants, to be awarded through a competitive process.

CATEGORY 2

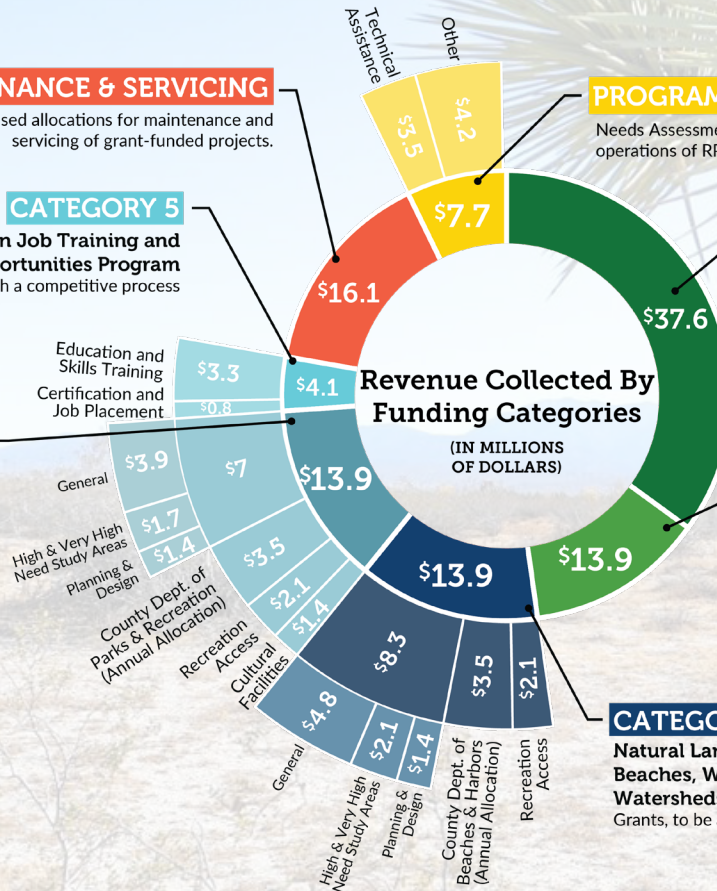
Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, and Urban Greening Program
Formula-based allocations of funds for grants to High and Very-High Need Study Areas.

CATEGORY 3

Natural Lands, Open Spaces and Local Beaches, Water Conservation, and Watersheds Protection Program
Grants, to be awarded through a competitive process.

Revenue Collected By Funding Categories

(IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS)



MEASURE A REVENUE COLLECTED \$109M for 2023

Numbers on this chart reflect the revenue collected from Measure A direct assessments for the fiscal year. For details on allocation and expenditure, refer to Appendix I.

Note: The District's Board of Directors may allocate up to 2% of total funds for eligible projects each year (up to \$2.2M total for 2023).

Cheers to Thirty Years of Grantmaking!

Highlighting three decades worth of park and open space investments.

30



RPOSD has awarded **\$1.6 BILLION** since 1992!

Our park and open space investments have benefited **over 10 MILLION** LA County residents.

In 30 years, we funded a total of **2,500** grants...

...Acquired over **19,600** acres of parkland in Los Angeles County...

Funded a total of **\$33 MILLION** to support the Maintenance & Servicing of park and open space projects...

Worked with over **220** distinct organizations, including cities, County department, state and local agencies, and community based organizations, on various park, trail, recreation, and open space projects!





A Look Ahead...

What is on the horizon for Fiscal Year 2023-2024:

- ❖ The release of the updated Grants Administration Manual
- ❖ Additional TAP Brown Bag Lunch Series workshops
- ❖ The Measure A Citizens Oversight Advisory Board will complete its first 4-year term
- ❖ Rollout of a new TAP & Program Grants Section
- ❖ Preparing to upgrade the Grants Management System
- ❖ Evaluations of the recently awarded program grants
- ❖ LA Parks Portal enhancements

Share A Park Story

Do you remember running around the jungle gym at the neighborhood park?

Have you or your pup made new pals at the dog park?

Do you enjoy riding your bike in the sunshine through Los Angeles County's beautiful trails?

We would love to hear your park story.

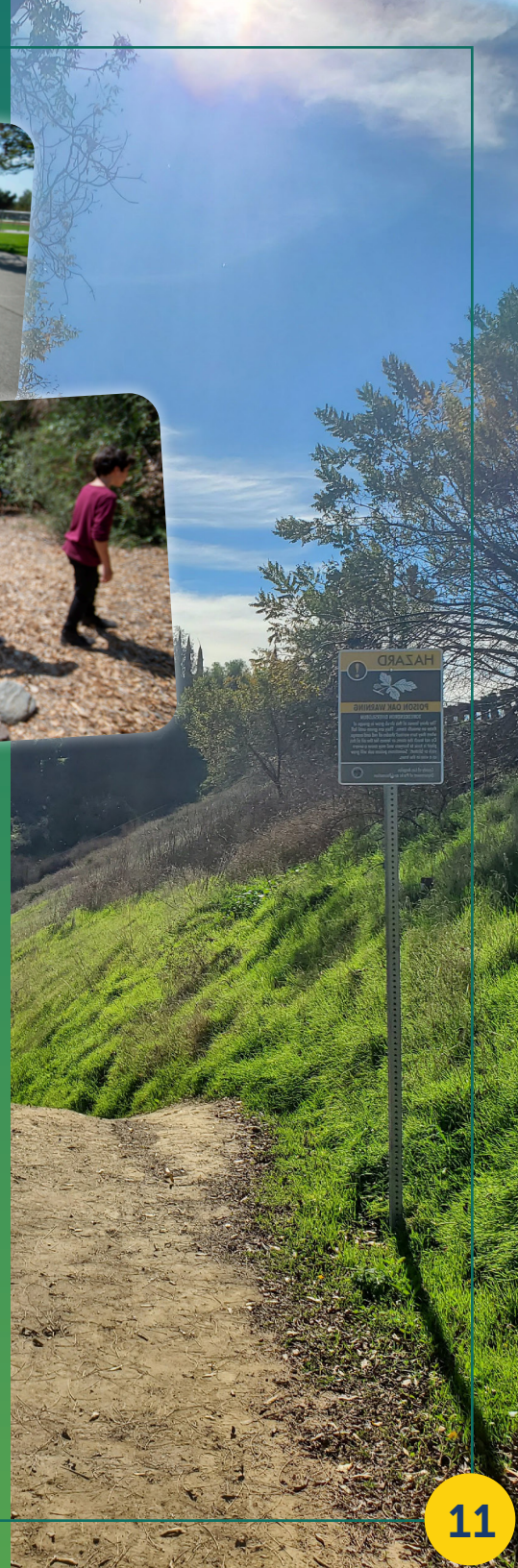


Every Park Has Its Stories... ...Tell Us Yours!



Submit a story along with your photo(s) and it may be featured on our newsletter or shared on the website!

<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/our-stories/>



Stay Connected!

Be in the know with all the latest information from the District by following us on social media:



/rposd



@rposd



@rposd

Subscribe to RPOSDdevelopments, our quarterly newsletter!

<https://rposd.lacounty.gov/newsletter/>

Have an idea for or a concern about your neighborhood park?

RPOSD is purely a grantmaking organization, generating revenue from local property tax assessments and administering grant and maintenance funding. All of the projects we fund are owned and managed by public agencies or non-profit organizations. We recommend contacting the agency who owns and operates that facility. You can contact us directly to inquire about the best contact for your cause.



626.588.5060 • info@RPOSD.lacounty.gov • RPOSD.LACounty.gov