

Florence - Firestone

-DRAFT-

Community Parks and Recreation Plan



Miramonte School Mural

County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation



October 2010

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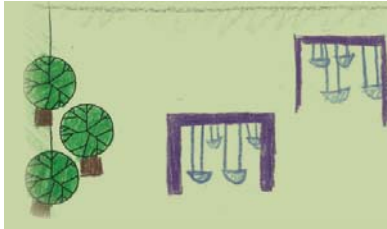
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Introduction and Purpose

1

Scope and Purpose

Florence-Firestone is a densely populated unincorporated community in Los Angeles County with significant park deficits. As of 2007, Florence-Firestone had a deficit of 245 acres of local parkland and 343 acres of regional parkland.¹ The lack of parkland in underserved areas like Florence-Firestone is an issue that demands urgent attention. Nearly two out of three children in Los Angeles County do not live within walking distance (one-quarter mile) of a park, playground or open space.² These children are more likely to be obese and at higher risk of developing asthma, diabetes, or obesity related disease.³ The prevalence of childhood obesity is 32% in Florence-Firestone comparing to 23% countywide, according to the County Department of Public Health.⁴

The purpose of this Community Parks and Recreation Plan (CPRP) is to plan for parks and recreation services that meet the needs of residents in Florence-Firestone. County parks and recreational facilities are a vital part of enhancing the quality of life for community residents. The goals, policies, and implementation actions set forth in this Plan address the growing and diverse recreation needs of Florence-Firestone.

This Plan provides strategic direction for implementing a bold "green-rich" vision for Florence-Firestone. Through a community outreach process that encompasses public input, collaborative multi-agency, public-private

partnership efforts, and a comprehensive gap analysis of parks, the Plan establishes the following goals:

- Acquisition and development of additional parkland;
- Enhanced multi-agency collaboration to leverage resources;
- Enhanced active and passive recreation opportunities;
- Improved accessibility and connectivity to an urban trail system;
- A sustainable parks and recreation system; and
- Protected historical and educational resources on County park properties.

Planning Process

The Florence-Firestone CPRP serves as a guide for the improvement of existing and development of future parks and recreational facilities. This Plan has been prepared with full consideration of the following factors important to park and recreation planning in Florence-Firestone:

- Recreation needs and preferences of the community;
- Limited availability of land in a highly urbanized setting;
- Current sustainability concepts, including the growing need for water and energy conservation;
- Unique site conditions;
- Budgetary constraints; and
- Limitations on financial and other

resources available to maintain, improve, and develop parks.

The Florence-Firestone CPRP is the first plan developed by the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for a specific unincorporated community. This Plan offers focused policies and implementation strategies to address park and recreation needs in Florence-Firestone identified through a comprehensive community input process. This Plan will be incorporated into the Florence-Firestone Community Plan to be prepared by the Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP). The Community Plan will address a variety of issues including (but not limited to) land use, transportation, and sustainability.

Public Involvement

To ensure that this Plan reflects the desires and needs of the community, DPR engaged the public in a wide variety of ways. Specifically, the community input process included stakeholder interviews, community workshops, focused workshops with seniors and youth, community questionnaires, surveys of sports groups, and collaboration with staff from other public agencies. Community members were enthusiastic about park and recreation issues, and were actively involved in the development of this Plan.

Community Parks and Recreation Plan Goals

The goals of this Plan are to:

- Foster efficient and cost-effective capital improvements programs for parks and open space;
- Provide direction for land acquisition of new parks and open space; and
- Promote responsible stewardship of existing resources.

The Florence-Firestone CRP will serve as:

- A “Living and Guiding” document to meet the growing and changing needs of present and future generations;
- A tool to facilitate future land acquisitions and partnerships for park and recreation purposes;
- A guide to implement multi-benefit projects that provide opportunities for recreation, open space, habitat, water quality, and groundwater recharge;
- A strategy to ensure that limited resources are maximized to meet the greatest recreation needs and provide the most benefit to community residents; and
- A framework to promote collaboration by creating a stakeholder process that includes public input, educational awareness, and on-going working relations among County Departments, communities other public agencies and private entities.

Summary of Existing Related Documents

Past and Current Park Planning Efforts

Park and recreation planning in Los Angeles County is guided in part by

several important plans and studies. DPR has completed two strategic plans in recent years. In 1992 DPR prepared the Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan for 2010 to guide the decision-making process for future development of parks and implementation of recreation programs. Specifically, the Strategic Plan: assessed existing park acreage and future recreation needs; identified goals, objectives, and policies for appropriate future actions; and developed conclusions based on needs, goals and public involvement to guide the future direction of parks and recreation in Los Angeles County. In 2003 DPR developed an updated Strategic Plan to create a road map to meet the various community recreational needs as the population continued to grow and change. The document identified important trends and opportunities while setting DPR’s direction for a five-year period.

In 2004 the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) for 2020 was prepared to provide County decision-makers, park planners, and the public with updated information and analysis to prioritize the allocation of scarce economic resources in the provision of parks, recreation facilities, and open space. The SAMP included park inventories, needs, and recommendations for each Park Planning Area and each Supervisorial District. Specifically, the SAMP offered the following recommendations with respect to Florence-Firestone:

- Begin process to develop trails as part of Countywide network.
- Enhance existing parks.
- Maintain existing facilities.
- Acquire and develop additional local parkland.
- Acquire and develop additional regional parkland.
- Use existing recreation facilities such as school fields and other community recreational facilities.

- Improve structures at existing parks.

Since 2008, DPR has been working collaboratively with the Department of Regional Planning to develop the Parks and Recreation Element of the Los Angeles County General Plan. The purpose of this Element is to plan and provide for an integrated parks and recreation system that meets the needs of residents in Los Angeles County. The goals, policies, and implementing actions set forth in this Element address the growing and diverse recreation needs of the communities served by DPR. DPR owns and operates parks and recreational facilities in both unincorporated areas and incorporated cities. These facilities are intended to meet the local needs of unincorporated communities as well as the regional needs of the County as a whole.

Florence-Firestone Vision Plan (June 2009)

Between November 2008 and March 2009, hundreds of residents, businesses, and other stakeholders came together to develop a comprehensive,



long-term vision for Florence-Firestone. This vision is captured in the Vision Plan which includes broad ideas for different areas of the community, and offers various short and long-term actions that can be taken to improve

the quality of life in Florence-Firestone. While much work remains to be done, the Vision Plan presents the overall direction and some key first steps towards positive change.

The Vision Plan was developed through a large, collaborative effort by many agencies, County departments, local organizations, businesses and individuals. The project was led by the Department of Regional Planning with a grant from the Southern California Association of Governments. DRP hired Raimi + Associates, an urban planning firm, to lead a consultant team for the project. DRP and the consultant team were supported by other County agencies including the Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Sheriff's departments. Others significantly involved in the effort were the Chief Executive Office (CEO), the Board of Supervisors First and Second District offices, the Community Development Commission (LACDC), and the Florence-Firestone Chamber of Commerce.

The Vision Plan summarizes the results of the visioning effort and provides a series of actions that can be implemented by the County, residents, businesses and nonprofit organizations. The Plan recommends the following actions with respect to parks and open space:

- Construct new neighborhood-serving parks on vacant/under-utilized parcels.
- Create community gardens.
- Implement a "Green" streets program.
- Construct a linear park along utility right-of-way.
- Construct a trail along railroad right-of-way.
- Improve existing parks and recreation facilities. Ideas for new activities in existing parks include: skate park, family activity center, art park, art studios and exhibition space, outdoor amphithe-

ater, and basketball courts.

- Increase public safety in parks.
- Pursue joint use agreements with schools.



additional service. Florence-Firestone residents tend to rely heavily on public transportation. This is an important consideration in the siting of new parks and recreational facilities. Specifically, new neighborhood and community parks should be within walking distance to residents and/or in close proximity to public transportation lines wherever possible.

Community History

Florence-Firestone shares the region's broader trends in economic and demographic changes over the years. Like most of South Los Angeles, racially restrictive covenants and policing patterns leading to devastating riots

as well as deindustrialization have played a critical role in the area's history. Many of the negative impacts are still evident today.

1800s

Initially settled as a ranch area, Florence-Firestone was formally established in 1870 with a railroad station located on Florence Avenue and Alameda Street. By 1890, the area had a population of 750, most of whom were European immigrants from the east coast. Florence-Firestone established an agrarian economy producing barley, small grain, corn, sweet potatoes, and other agricultural staples.⁵

1900s

The railway lines provided affordable transportation for residents and also facilitated the growth of industry and the transport of goods and materials. The Southern Pacific Railway runs along Alameda Street and is one of the many railroads that intersect Florence-Firestone. During the 1900s, Mexicans were recruited by railroad companies and by the Red Line electric car company to lay tracks and work on the rail lines. As the area's economy continued to grow, civic and community organizations, including the chamber of commerce and churches, serviced the mostly White working class suburban community of Florence-Firestone.⁶

1920s

Due to the area's proximity to the ocean and growing transportation infrastructure, Florence-Firestone became a magnet for many manufacturing plants and companies. Good-year Tire Company opened a plant in 1920 and provided 10,000 jobs for area residents.⁷ In 1927 the Firestone Tire Manufacturers opened a plant near the intersection of Firestone Boulevard and Alameda Street.⁸ During the World War II economic boom, South Los Angeles experienced rapid demographic change. Southern California became one of the hubs of the new defense industry, creating unprecedented economic prosperity that attracted millions of new residents.

1940s to 1950s

As World War II came to an end and the defense industry shrank, South Los Angeles' economy quickly adapted into a booming auto industry. Auto giants like General Motors and Ford established or expanded auto plants in South Los Angeles. When "Whites-Only" housing covenants were lifted in 1948, many African Americans began to purchase

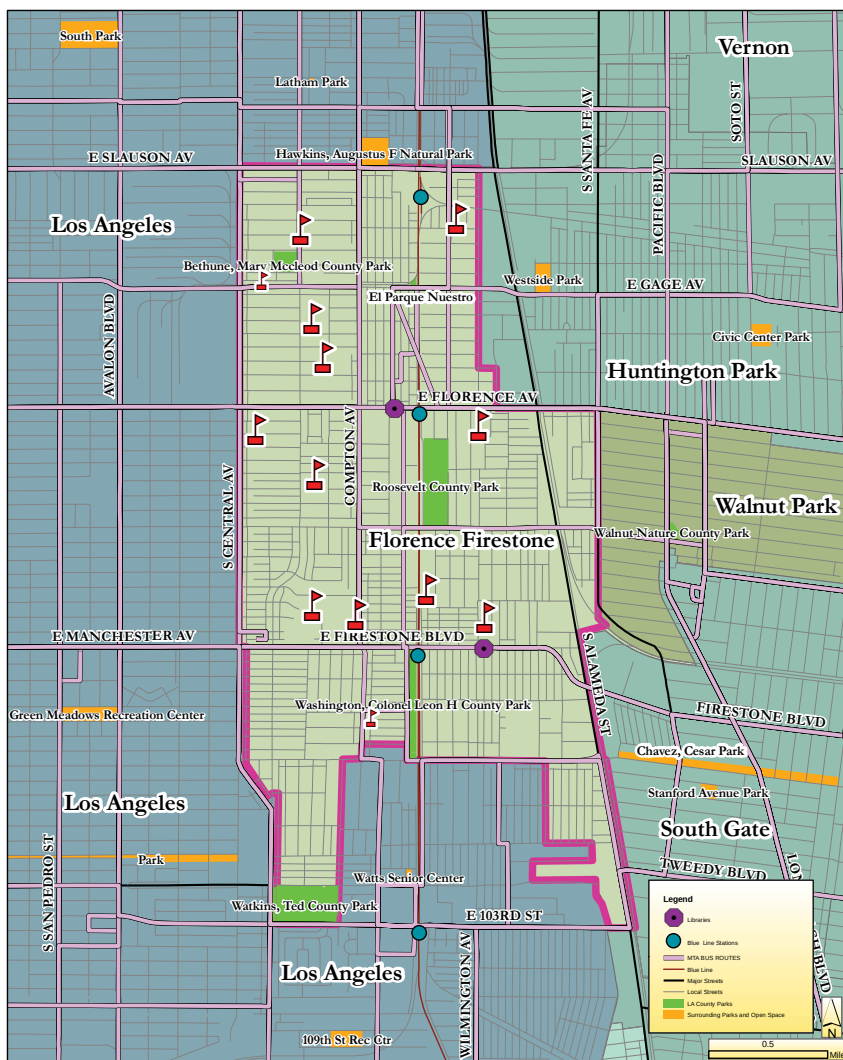


Exhibit 2.2: Transportation Systems Map

homes outside of the segregated area. During the 1950s, the area became plagued with racial violence as White residents bombed, fired into, or burned crosses on the lawns of homes bought by African American families.⁹ Also, as Blacks moved into previously White areas, White families slowly began moving out into the suburbs. This process was accelerated by a practice known as “blockbusting,” whereby real estate agents would purchase homes on an all-White street, sell to African Americans, and then purchase the rest of the White families’ homes at deflated prices in order to sell the homes at inflated prices to other Black families.¹⁰

1960s

By the 1960s, auto manufacturing had reached its peak and began to decline. The area’s first wave of deindustrialization resulted in a dramatic shift from traditional manufacturing jobs to a low-wage service based economy. For the next three decades, Florence-Firestone was one of the communities most impacted by assembly plant closures and mass layoffs. As a result of the deindustrialization and discriminatory policing, Watts, immediately south of Florence-Firestone, erupted into civil unrest in 1965. Due to the riots and the continued loss of jobs, many of the remaining White residents and middle class African Americans left the area.

1970s to 1980s

During the early 1970s and 1980s, Los Angeles lost more than 50,000 jobs due to plant closures in the auto, tire, steel, and non-defense aircraft industry.¹¹ In 1982, the Goodyear and Firestone plants shut down. As the loss of jobs, closure of manufacturing giants and middle class flight continued to destabilize the area, low income African Americans and recent immigrants from Mexico and

Central America filled the void in the low-wage unskilled labor sector.

1990s

During the second major wave of deindustrialization, Los Angeles lost additional industrial jobs. This, along with poor community-police relations, contributed to the area’s instability leading to the South Los Angeles riots in 1992. Despite the efforts of “Rebuild LA” to bring investment into South Los Angeles after the riots, Florence-Firestone was not targeted and did not benefit significantly. As a result of the lack of investment and demographic shifts in the area, tensions between African Americans and Latinos continued to rise as they competed for low-wage jobs and scarce resources.

Present

Today, Florence-Firestone is a community with both long-term and transient Latino and African American residents. Florence-Firestone’s remaining infrastructure consists of numerous mom-and-pop businesses ranging from specialty restaurants to tire shops. The effects of deindustrialization are still evident as demonstrated by vacant and unkempt lots, boarded-up businesses and unused railroad tracks. Nevertheless, there have been various efforts to revitalize the area. In 1999, residents of Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park symbolically joined together to devise a motto for the area, “A Community Working Together.” This revitalization effort included the renovation of Roosevelt Park and Graham Library. Other revitalization efforts include the renovation of the Alameda Corridor in 2002. Most recently, the “La Alameda” Shopping Center, located on the corner of Alameda Street and Florence Avenue, opened its doors in 2008. Despite these efforts, public safety remains one of the major concerns among area residents.

Climate and Topography

Los Angeles County shares a Mediterranean-type climate with less than 3% of the world’s landmass. The climate of the County can be described interchangeably as mild, temperate, and winter-wet, summer-dry. Residents of this rare and comfortable climate can enjoy outdoor recreation nearly year-round. In particular, numerous neighborhood and community parks in the Basin are heavily used due to the gentle climate.

Planning Areas

Los Angeles County is organized in various ways for administrative and planning purposes including Supervisorial Districts, Regional Planning Areas, Watershed Management Areas, Park Planning Areas, and Recreation Service Areas. These divisions are important in the appropriation of funds for parks and recreation services, the management of County parks and recreational facilities, and future community-based planning activities.

Supervisorial Districts

Financial resources for parks and recreation services are allocated according to Supervisorial Districts based on the size and needs of the population. Florence-Firestone is divided between the First and Second Supervisorial Districts. The boundary generally runs north-south along Compton and Graham Avenues.

Supervisorial District 1 is generally located in the central portion of the County. District 1 consists of the following unincorporated areas served by DPR: Avocado Heights, East Los Angeles, Florence/Firestone (portion), North Claremont, Rowland Heights (portion), South Whittier (portion), Valinda, West Whittier (portion), and Whittier Narrows.

Supervisorial District 2 is generally lo-

cated in the southern portion of the County. District 2 consists of the following unincorporated areas served by DPR: Athens, Baldwin Hills, Del Aire, East Rancho Dominguez, Florence/Firestone (portion), Ladera Heights, Lennox, West Carson (portion), Westmont, and Willowbrook. Two DPR facilities are also located in the City of Carson.

Regional Planning Areas

The County is divided into eleven (11) Planning Areas or sub-regions that include unincorporated areas as well as the incorporated cities adjacent to them. As listed below, these sub-regions generally share common geographical features, transporta-

tion patterns, demographics, and planning issues:

1. Antelope Valley
2. Santa Clarita Valley
3. San Fernando Valley
4. Santa Monica Mountains
5. Westside
6. West San Gabriel Valley
7. East San Gabriel Valley
8. Metro
9. Gateway
10. South Bay
11. Coastal Island

Florence-Firestone is located in the

Metro Planning Area (8) which also includes the unincorporated communities of East Los Angeles, Lennox, Walnut Park, West Athens-Westmont, West Rancho Dominguez-Victoria, and Willowbrook. Communities in this planning area are urban and generally characterized by challenging physical and economic conditions. In terms of land use issues, several residential communities abut industrial uses creating land use conflicts. Although housing affordability is an issue throughout Los Angeles County, the Metro Planning Area, in particular, faces issues of overcrowding. In addition, it contains very few natural areas and open spaces.

Watershed Management Areas

Florence-Firestone is located within the Los Angeles River Watershed. This watershed covers a land area of 834 square miles. The watershed encompasses and is shaped by the path of the Los Angeles River, which flows from its headwaters in the mountains eastward to the northern corner of Griffith Park. Here the channel turns southward through the Glendale Narrows before it flows across the coastal plain and into San Pedro Bay near Long Beach. The Los Angeles River has evolved from an uncontrolled, meandering river providing a valuable source of water for early inhabitants to a major channelized flood protection system.

The Department of Public Works' Watershed Section is tasked with finding ways to restore or revitalize the channels within the watershed and thereby provide significant opportunities for recreation and aesthetic improvement for the Los Angeles metropolitan area while protecting the Los Angeles Basin from major flooding.

Park Planning Areas

The unincorporated areas of the County are divided into 47 Park Plan-

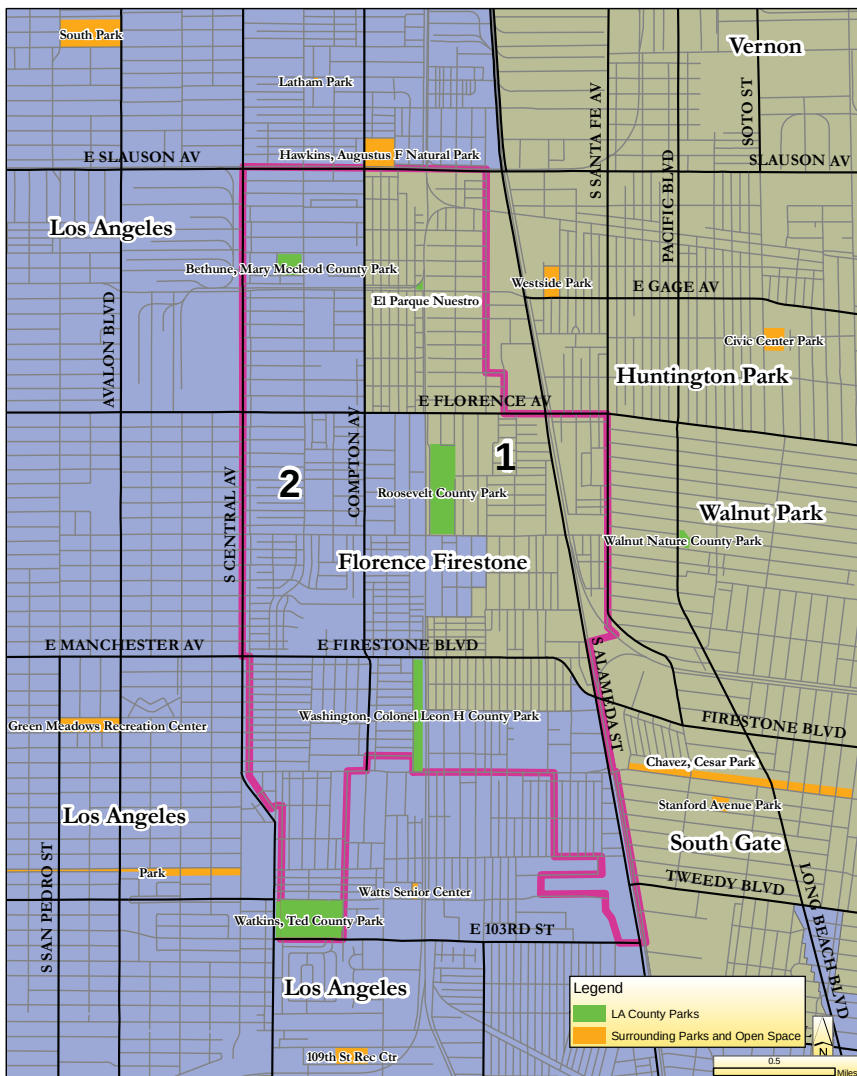


Exhibit 2.3: Supervisorial District 1 and District 2 Map

ning Areas (PPAs) based on location and neighborhood characteristics. This division was done as part of the County's implementation of the Quimby Act which applies only to residential subdivisions and requires developers to dedicate land or pay fees for park and recreation purposes. Florence-Firestone is located within PPA 23. Parkland dedication and the payment of Quimby fees are calculated based on the representative land value per acre established by the County for each PPA. The Quimby fees generated in one PPA may not be spent in another area.

Recreation Service Areas

The County consists of four recreation service areas that are served by DPR's four community service agencies: East, North, South, and Regional Facilities. These agencies provide recreation, construction, and maintenance services for County parks and recreational facilities. Florence-Firestone is served by the East and South agencies.

Demographics and Park Planning

Population

Florence-Firestone is a dense urban community with a total of 60,197 residents in 2000 (Census). As of 2007, the community was estimated to be home to 65,780 residents, representing an increase of 9%. Florence-Firestone will have a population of 76,725 residents by the year 2013, according to projections by Claritas (a private demographic data provider). Given the community's density and anticipated growth, it is important to plan for and provide additional parks and recreational services to meet current and future needs.

Age

Age characteristics are a useful de-

mographic factor for park and recreation planning purposes. Specifically, the age profile of a community helps park planners determine the appropriate mix of needed recreational facilities and services. Between 2000 and 2007, the proportion of seniors (65 and over) in Florence-Firestone remained unchanged at about 5%. The 45 to 59 age group increased from about 11% of the population to nearly 14%. As more baby boomers approach retirement, there is a growing need for senior programs and facilities. The under 18 proportion of the population decreased from 40% in 2000 to 36% in 2007, while the share of residents in the 25 to 34 group grew just slightly, from 17% to

18%. Nevertheless, the demand for youth and adult sports programs and activities remain high as indicated by the results of our survey. Our analysis of the completed questionnaires reveals that the five most popular recreational activities in Florence-Firestone are: youth sports, adult sports, activities for seniors, passive leisure, and educational classes.

According to the California Resources Agency (2005), demographic projections indicate large increases at both ends of the lifespan, with many new Californians from births and immigration, and an increasing number of older Californians. Youth, families with children, and senior citizens rep-

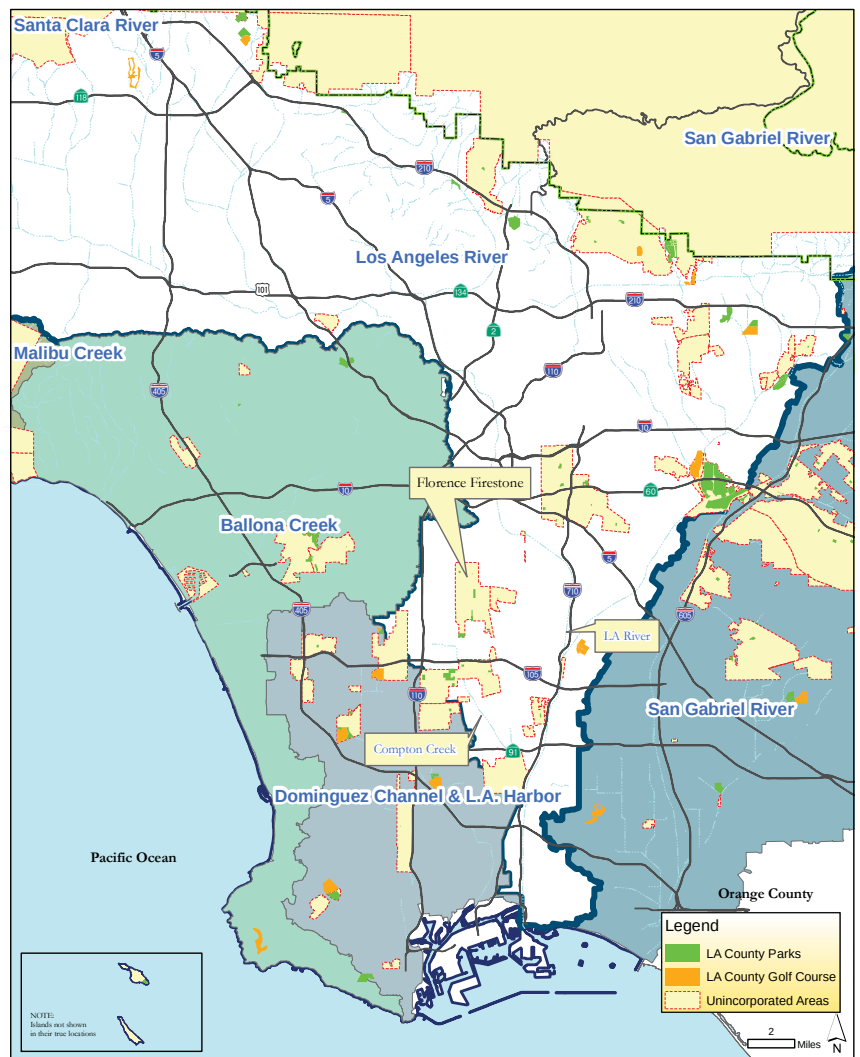


Exhibit 2.4: Watershed Management Map

resent large markets for park and recreation service providers. Growth in these segments of the population will increase demand for recreation and leisure services. It is anticipated that these important user groups will continue to grow throughout the state but will be concentrated in the urban areas of southern California including South Los Angeles.

Race and Ethnicity

The past two decades have brought dramatic changes and demographic shifts for Florence-Firestone. Thousands of new immigrants have moved to the area, living side by side with long-term residents, and at times re-

sulting in both harmonious and tense relationships. In 1980, the African American population in nearby South Central was over 66%, but had fallen to less than 45% by 1990. Meanwhile, the Latino population grew from 13% to 51%. The increase in Florence-Firestone's population between 1970 and 2000 can be attributed to a major influx of people of Hispanic origin. During the 30-year period, the Hispanic share of the population in Florence-Firestone increased dramatically from 30% in 1970 to 86% in 2000. As of 2007, almost 90% of community residents were estimated to be Hispanic.

There is often a mistaken assumption that park and recreation agencies need only make future popula-

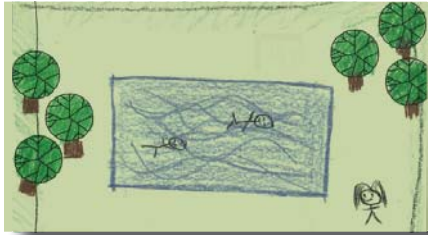
tion projections and provide more of what currently exists. However, numerous studies have shown that parks and recreation needs, preferences, and perceptions vary by race/ethnicity, place of origin, and length of residence in the U.S. Furthermore, Florence-Firestone is an important center for recent immigrants who have unique needs and preferences for recreational amenities. Thus the County must understand and plan for the diverse recreation needs of different groups. Soccer, for example, is an extremely popular sport in Florence-Firestone. Our survey of sports groups in the area revealed that there are over 40 such groups using Roosevelt Park alone, with the vast majority of them playing soccer; the groups serve nearly 900 participants in total.

Income and Poverty

Florence-Firestone is a working class community, with a significant number of low-income residents. As of 2007, 28% of families and 31% of individuals in Florence-Firestone lived below poverty level comparing to 12% of families and 15% of individuals countywide. Similarly, the median household income in Florence-Firestone was just \$35,119, significantly lower than the countywide median of \$55,192. These economic indicators suggest that community residents are much more likely to rely on public parks for recreation; many families have little or no money to spend on recreational facilities and programs offered by alternative providers such as private gyms and the YMCA.



Exhibit 2.5: Regional Planning Areas Map



Inventories of Existing Parkland, Facilities and Open Space Resources

3

Introduction

Parks and recreational facilities are used for a variety of purposes by all types of people and groups. Because the needs of park users are diverse, no individual park or recreational facility can meet the needs of all users. Thus, a diverse and comprehensive system of facilities is needed to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities. This section describes the County's parkland standards, classifications of existing parks and recreational facilities offered by DPR, trails and trail standards, and other facilities available to meet park and recreation needs in Florence-Firestone.

County Parkland

For planning purposes, parks are classified by type based on the size, use, and physical characteristics of the land. County parks in Florence-Firestone total approximately 70 acres, translating to a ratio of about one acre of parkland per 1,000 residents. Table 1 below summarizes the acreage of local and regional parkland available in Florence-Firestone.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PARK

Roosevelt Park is one of the oldest parks in the Los Angeles County system. Construction of the park was authorized by then President Roosevelt as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) building project during the Great Depression in the 1930s. The 24.6-acre Roosevelt Park is a large facility that offers a variety of programs for youth, adults, and seniors. This park is located next to the Florence Metro Blue Line Station.

TED WATKINS MEMORIAL PARK

Ted Watkins Park is a monumental piece of history in South Los Angeles. This 27-acre facility was renamed to honor Ted Watkins, founder of the Watts Labor Community Action Committee (WLCAC) in 1995. Watkins Park is also home to the Promenade of Prominence Walk of Fame created to celebrate the accomplishments of community leaders. The mosaic tile mural on the park's flagpole serves as a memorial to Ted Watkins and his commitment to the Watts community. The remaining panels on the flag pole depict colorful images of garden tools, symbolic of the Watts community's constant growth. In addition, there is an exterior tile mural

at the entry to the Ted Watkins pool house.

It should be noted that although Roosevelt Park and Watkins Park are classified as "regional" parks due to their size, they primarily serve the needs of local residents.

COLONEL LEON H. WASHINGTON PARK

Washington Park is a 13.2-acre facility built on land that formerly housed a large lumber yard. The park is named after Colonel Leon H. Washington, a leader and independent thinker who founded the newspaper, *The Eastside Shopper*, which is now known as *The Sentinel*. Washington Park is located next to the Firestone Metro Blue Line Station.

MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE PARK

Bethune Park is named after Mary McLeod Bethune, one of America's greatest educational advocates and civil rights leaders. This 5.3-acre facility features a gymnasium, large community room, computer lab, baseball diamond, swimming pool, and one of the first skate parks built by DPR. Located on the back wall surrounding the pool is a tile mural which features graphic depictions of swimmers, and is made of porcelain and molded glass tiles.

EL PARQUE NUESTRO

El Parque Nuestro, a new 0.63-acre pocket park, opened in the summer of 2010. This park was named by a Lillian Elementary School student through a contest. The park is landscaped with drought tolerant plants,

Table 3.1: Local and Regional Parks in Florence-Firestone

PARK	ACERAGE	PARK CLASSIFICATION
Franklin D. Roosevelt Park	24.6 acres	Community Regional
Ted Watkins Park	27.0 acres	Community Regional
Col. Leon Washington Park	13.2 acres	Neighborhood
Mary McLeod Bethune Park	5.3 acres	Neighborhood
El Parque Nuestro	0.6 acres	Pocket Park
TOTAL	70.7 acres	

offers benches and tables made with recycled materials, and includes smart irrigation, solar lighting and a concrete jogging path. Barbeque pits as well as play and fitness equipments are also available.

Park Amenities and Site Plans

The following pages detail the location of the Florence-Firestone Parks and amenities available at each of the four existing County parks in Florence-Firestone. Site plans of the parks are also provided.

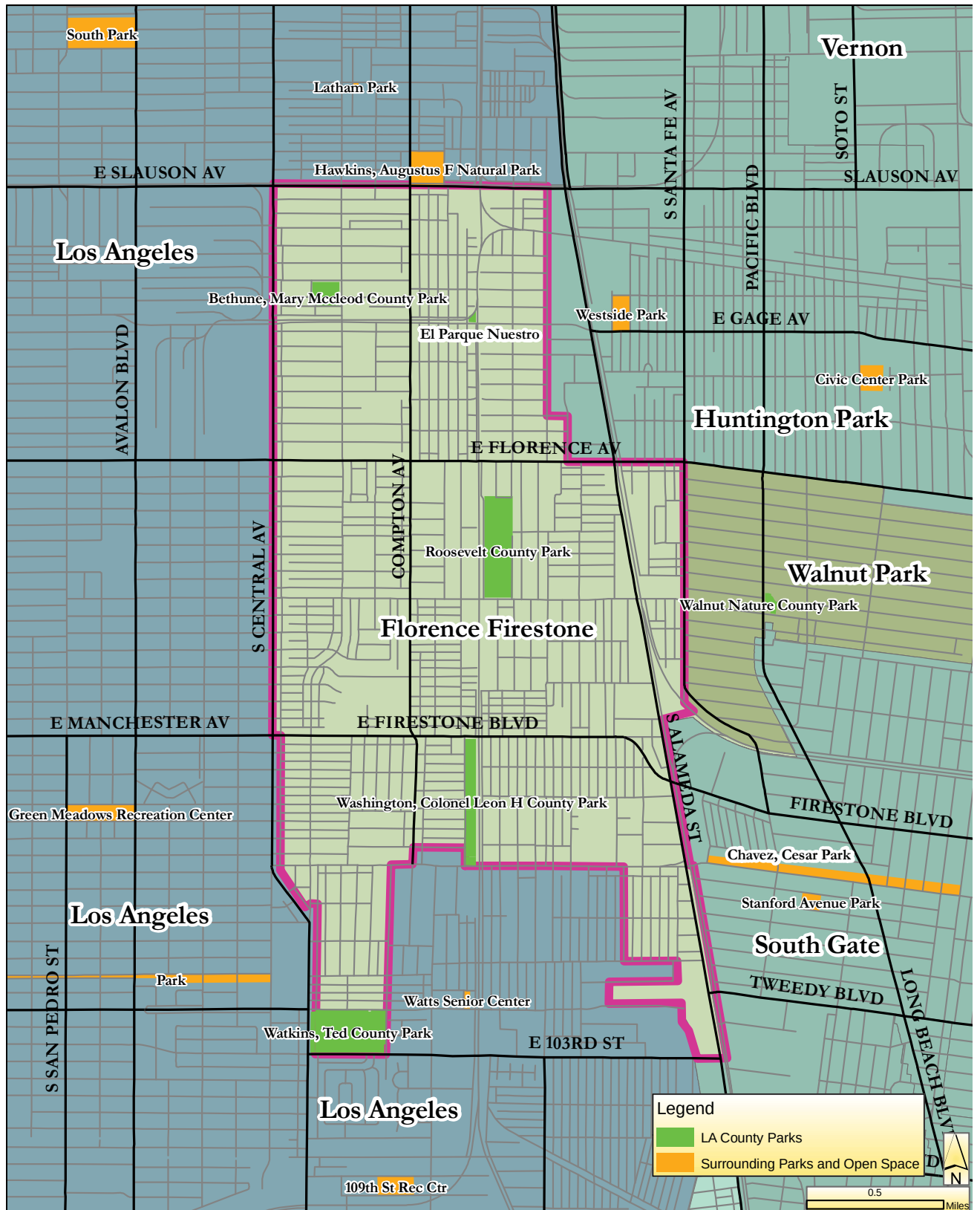


Exhibit 3.1: Existing Florence-Firestone Parks

PARK LAND INVENTORY – COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARKS

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT PARK

24.6 ACRES

7600 Graham Ave.
Los Angeles, CA



Typical Community Regional Park Amenities

Sports Fields

Baseball Fields ✓

Softball Fields ✓

Soccer Fields ✓

Football Fields

Rugby Fields

Multi-purpose Field ✓

Sports and Play Facilities

Tennis Courts ✓

Basketball Courts ✓

Volleyball Courts ✓

Roller Hockey

Skate Park ✓

Pool ✓

Fitness Par Course

Fitness Equipment

Lawn Bowling

Horseshoe Pits

Equestrian Facility

Fishing Lake

Children's Play Equip. ✓

Park Amenities

BBQ's ✓

Bike Racks

Plaza

Informal Open Play Areas ✓

Community Garden

Walking Path ✓

Telephone ✓

Vending Machines

Parking

On-Site Parking ✓

Surface: Non-Permeable

Security Lighting ✓

Park Buildings and Structures

Restroom ✓

Concession Stand

Community Building

Seniors Center ✓

Teen Center

Interpretive Center

Amphitheater

Gymnasium ✓

Pool Building ✓

Ticket Booth

Group Picnic Shelter

Family Picnic Shelter

Informational Kiosk

Maintenance Yard ✓

Maintenance Bldg. ✓

Equipment Bldg.

Trash Enclosure

Additional Park Amenities

Handball Court ✓



NOT TO SCALE



PARK LAND INVENTORY – COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARKS

TED WATKINS MEMORIAL PARK

27.0 ACRES

1355 East 103rd Street
Los Angeles, CA



Typical Community Regional Park Amenities

Sports Fields

Baseball Fields ✓

Softball Fields ✓

Soccer Fields ✓

Football Fields

Rugby Fields

Multi-purpose Field

Sports and Play Facilities

Tennis Courts ✓

Basketball Courts ✓

Volleyball Courts

Roller Hockey

Skate Park

Pool

Fitness Par Course

Fitness Equipment

Lawn Bowling

Horseshoe Pits

Equestrian Facility

Fishing Lake

Children's Play Equip.

Park Amenities

BBQ's ✓

Bike Racks ✓

Plaza ✓

Informal Open Play Areas

Community Garden

Walking Path

Telephone

Vending Machines

Parking

On-Site Parking ✓

Surface: Non-Permeable ✓

Security Lighting ✓

Park Buildings and Structures

Restroom ✓

Concession Stand

Community Building ✓

Seniors Center

Teen Center

Interpretive Center

Amphitheater

Gymnasium ✓

Pool Building ✓

Ticket Booth

Group Picnic Shelter ✓

Family Picnic Shelter

Informational Kiosk

Maintenance Yard ✓

Maintenance Bldg. ✓

Equipment Bldg.

Trash Enclosure

Additional Park Amenities

Handball ✓

Outdoor Kitchen ✓



NOT TO SCALE



PARK LAND INVENTORY – NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

MARY BETHUNE PARK

5.3 ACRES

1244 E. 61ST. Street
Los Angeles, CA

Typical Neighborhood Park Amenities

Practice Sports Fields

Baseball Fields

Softball Fields ✓

Soccer Fields

Football Fields

Rugby Fields

Multi-purpose Field ✓

Sports and Play Facilities

Tennis Courts ✓

Basketball Courts ✓

Volleyball Courts

Roller Hockey

Skate Park ✓

Splash Park

Fitness Par Course

Fitness Equipment

Lawn Bowling

Horseshoe Pits

Children's Play Equip. ✓

Additional Park Amenities

Handball Court ✓

Pool ✓

Seasonal Pool Building ✓

Gymnasium ✓

Community Building ✓

Park Amenities

BBQ's

Bike Racks

Plaza

Informal Open Play Areas ✓

Community Garden

Walking Path ✓

Telephone

Vending Machines

Parking

On-Site Parking ✓

Surface:
Non-Permeable

Security Lighting ✓

Park Buildings and Structures

✓ Restroom

Group Picnic Shelter

Family Picnic Shelter

✓ Informational Kiosk

Trash Enclosure ✓



NOT TO SCALE



PARK LAND INVENTORY – NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

COL. LEON H. WASHINGTON PARK

13.2 ACRES

8908 South Maie
Los Angeles, CA



Typical Neighborhood Park Amenities

Practice Sports Fields

Baseball Fields
Softball Fields
Soccer Fields
Football Fields
Rugby Fields
Multi-purpose Field

Sports and Play Facilities

Tennis Courts
Basketball Courts ✓
Volleyball Courts
Roller Hockey
Skate Park
Splash Park
Fitness Par Course
Fitness Equipment
Lawn Bowling
Horseshoe Pits
Children's Play Equip.

Additional Park Amenities

Pool ✓
Community Building ✓
Gymnasium ✓
Specialty Garden ✓

Park Amenities

BBQ's ✓
Bike Racks
Plaza
Informal Open Play Areas ✓
Community Garden
Walking Path ✓
Telephone ✓
Vending Machines

Parking

On-Site Parking ✓
Surface: Non-Permeable
Security Lighting ✓

Park Buildings and Structures

Restroom ✓
Group Picnic Shelter
Family Picnic Shelter ✓
Informational Kiosk
Trash Enclosure



PARK LAND INVENTORY – POCKET PARKS

EL PARQUE NUESTRO

0.6 ACRES

Gage Ave.
Los Angeles, CA



Typical Pocket Park Amenities

Sports and Play Facilities

- Basketball Courts
- Splash Park
- Fitness Equipment ✓
- Children's Play Equip. ✓

Park Amenities

- BBQ's
- Bike Racks ✓
- Plaza
- Informal Open Play Areas ✓
- Community Garden
- Walking Path ✓
- Telephone
- Vending Machines



NOT TO SCALE

Parkland Standards

The Los Angeles County General Plan standard for the provision of parkland is four (4) acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents of the population in the County's unincorporated areas and six (6) acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the County's total population.

While park standards based on acres per population establish important parameters for evaluating future park needs, they do not speak to the physical distribution of parkland and park accessibility by underrepresented groups and underserved populations, including low income communities, certain race/ethnic groups, children, seniors, disabled individu-

als and those who are transit dependent. Community preference, population density, and existing park distribution patterns should also be considered in order to accurately assess a community's park needs.

Open space areas established to conserve nature such as wildlife sanctuaries provide a greater benefit than the relative location of the site to populated areas. In the regional park system, a key consideration is the ecological health of natural environments. Accessibility to regional facilities is also important. Access may be enhanced by providing improved public transportation to connect population centers with regional parks.

Parkland Classifications

The County offers a wide variety of parks and recreation resources. These facilities generally fall under two systems: local system and regional system.

Local System

The local system consists of parks of varying sizes that meet local needs and offer opportunities for daily recreation. These facilities include community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, and park nodes.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are larger parks intended to serve a wide variety of

LOCAL PARK SYSTEMS				
FACILITY	ACRES PER THOUSAND POPULATION	SUGGESTED ACREAGE*	SERVICE AREA	TYPICAL PARK FEATURES / AMENITIES
Community Park	4 / 1,000	10 - 20 acres	1 - 2 mile	Passive Park Amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, family and group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues Active Sports Activities including but not limited to: lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts Additional amenities may include: aquatics complex, skate park, arena soccer, rollerhockey, community gardens and dog parks Park Facilities including but not limited to: public restrooms, concession building, community buildings, maintenance building and on-site parking and informational kiosks
Neighborhood Park	4 / 1,000	3 - 10 acres	1/2 mile	Passive Park Amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, family picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues Active Sports Activities including but not limited to: practice sports fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts Park Facilities including but not limited to: public restroom, on-site parking and informational kiosk
Pocket Park	4 / 1,000	less than 3 acres	1/4 mile	Passive Park Amenities including but not limited to: picnic areas and seating areas Active Park Amenities including but not limited to: children's play apparatus
Park Node	4 / 1,000	1/4 acre or less	no service radius area	Varies - can include: plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks and public art installations

Exhibit 3.2: Proposed Local Parkland Standards and Guidelines

active and passive recreation activities community-wide. The amenities programmed into a community park are focused on meeting the needs of several neighborhoods or large sections of the community. They allow for group activities and recreational opportunities that may not be feasible in neighborhood parks.

Optimally, from 10 to 20 acres in size, community parks serve several neighborhoods within a radius of 1 to 2 miles of the park. Where community parks are located in residential neighborhoods, they serve both the needs of the community park service radius and neighborhood park service radius.

Amenities typically programmed into a community park include, but are not limited to: informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, family and group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, public restrooms, concession building, maintenance building, on-site parking and information kiosks. Community buildings are important features in community parks and can include a recreation office, performing arts center, a senior center, a community center, a historical museum, a cultural center, an interpretive center, or a teen center. Specialty passive and active sports facilities may also be located in community parks including swimming pools and aquatics complexes, skate parks, facilities for arena soccer and roller hockey, community gardens, gymnasiums, and dog parks.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks provide space and recreation activities to create healthy social networks within residential communities via programs and facilities. The common objective of all neighborhood parks is to bring people together to recreate and socialize close to home. Neighborhood parks are geared specifically for those living within a half-mile radius of

the park and are optimally from 3 to 10 acres in size. Ease of access and walking distance uninterrupted by major roads and other physical barriers are important factors in locating neighborhood parks. Neighborhood parks should be well connected to other public facilities such as schools and libraries.

Amenities typically programmed into a neighborhood park include: informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, picnic tables, picnic shelters, barbecues, practice sports fields, basketball, tennis and volleyball courts, public restrooms, information kiosks, recreation offices, and on-site parking.

POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks represent the smallest park classification and are less than 3 acres in size that serve either a residential or business area within a quarter-mile radius or within a walking distance. They are best used to meet limited or specialized recreational needs. Pocket parks can provide landscaped public use areas in industrial and commercial areas, scenic overlooks, linkage to a community pathway system, and urban infill sites in park-poor communities. Pocket parks generally do not have on-site parking.

Site amenities for a pocket park can include both active and passive features depending on the community's setting and needs, including: children's play apparatus, picnic areas, fountains and seating areas. Due to the limited amenities included in pocket parks, they are typically not included in the service radius analysis.

PARK NODES

Park nodes are small pieces of open space that serve as public destinations, connections, and community defining spaces. Nodes provide physical and visual breaks to the urban landscape and connect various spaces such as waterways, streets, trails, and greenways.

Park nodes are used as gathering and rest areas, and serve as opportunities for social and cultural exchange. Examples of park nodes include: equestrian and hiking trail heads, bike rest stops and stations with lockers and repair areas, neighborhood focal points, and passive amenities such as plazas, rest areas, playgrounds, landmarks, and public art installations.

Regional System

The regional system is intended to meet the park and recreation needs of residents and visitors throughout the County. This system con-

sists of community regional parks, regional parks and special use facilities such as: golf courses, historic and cultural facilities, natural areas, habitat preservation areas, and arboreta and botanic gardens.

COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARKS

Community regional parks serve to protect natural resources, preserve open spaces, and provide recreational facilities that are not available in neighborhood or community parks. They have a service radius of up to 20 miles and are generally from 20 to 100 acres in size.

Amenities typically programmed into a community regional park include: a jogging exercise course, informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, family and group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts, information kiosks, public restrooms, concession building, recreation offices, maintenance buildings, and on-site parking. Community regional parks may also have one or more of the following features: multiple sports facilities, aquatics center, fishing lake, community building and gymnasium, and outstanding views and vistas.

REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are greater than 100

acres in size with a service radius of 25 miles or more. They include unique areas such as lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies, and campgrounds in addition to the active recreational facilities often offered in community and community regional parks. Many of the recreation activities are associated with experiencing the natural environment. A regional park may also perform important ecological and environmental functions, including serving as wildlife habitats. The connection of these parks to natural areas is often vital to ensuring a healthy ecological system.

Amenities typically found in a regional park include: picnic areas, nature

centers, trail systems, scenic drives, campgrounds, water areas for swimming, fishing and boating, and in some cases, sport fields.

Trails

Los Angeles County is unique in that trail opportunities in the area are varied and showcase the diverse scenery of the many parks, open spaces, cultural resources, and wilderness areas of the region. The region has an ideal climate for trail activities on most days of the year. There are miles of existing County trails. Many of the trails are in the less densely populated northern part of Los Angeles County. Additional trails are

needed closer to population centers in the central and southern portions of the county to allow residents to conveniently access and reap the recreation, health, and transportation benefits of trails.

Florence-Firestone currently does not have any County-designated trails. However, there is some interest in the community for trails. Specifically, key findings from our community input process include:

- Many workshop participants supported pathways that connect community facilities including parks, libraries, schools, and other key destinations.
- Some participants wanted a bike

REGIONAL PARK SYSTEMS				
FACILITY	ACRES PER THOUSAND POPULATION	SUGGESTED ACREAGE*	SERVICE AREA	TYPICAL PARK FEATURES / AMENITIES
Community Regional Park	6 / 1,000	20 - 100 acres	up to 20 miles	Passive Park Amenities including but not limited to: informal open play areas, children's play apparatus, family and group picnic areas with overhead shelters and barbecues Active Sports Activities including but not limited to: lighted sports fields, basketball courts and tennis courts Additional features may include one or more of the following features: multiple sports facilities, aquatics center, fishing lake, community building and gymnasium and outstanding views and vistas. Park Facilities including but not limited to: public restrooms, concession building, maintenance building, informational kiosks and on-site parking
Regional Park	6 / 1,000	greater than 100 acres	25+ acres	Passive Park Amenities including but not limited to: group picnic areas with overhead shelters and barbecues Additional amenities may include one or more of the following features: lakes, wetlands, auditoriums, water bodies and campgrounds, water bodies for swimming, fishing and boating, and sports fields
Special Use Facility	6 / 1,000	no size criteria	no assigned service radius area	Generally single purpose facilities. Uses can include passive features such as: wilderness parks, nature preserves, botanical gardens and nature centers Active uses can include: performing arts, water parks, aquatic facilities, skate parks, golf driving ranges and golf courses

*Actual park acreage is determined based on land availability and community needs and demands.

Exhibit 3.3: Proposed Regional Parkland Standards and Guidelines

path along Florence Avenue and safety improvements along streets and alleys.

- Some thought there should be trails along rail right-of-ways and that trails should be visible for safety reasons.

DPR has established four classifications for regional and community trails: A, B, C, and D. All County trails are multi-use and are accessible to all non-motorized users including equestrians, mountain bicyclists, and hikers. Specific guidelines are provided in Exhibit 3.4 for each classification and include information such as easement width, tread width, trail grade, trail cross slope, and vertical clearance that influences the design, construction, and maintenance of County trails.

All trails should have design guidelines

established for tread width, easement width, function, cross slope, grade, anticipated user volume, horizontal clearance, and vertical clearance as well as adequate signage, fencing, staging areas and additional trail features. The objective of the design guidelines is to be efficient, effective, and feasible with respect to initiating, implementing, and managing trails, while attempting to satisfy the greatest number of users with the least amount of acquisition and construction cost per user.

While Florence-Firestone currently has no County trails, there are opportunities to establish urban trails in the community, and connections with existing and proposed regional trails outside of Florence-Firestone. These opportunities are described in Section 7 (Parkland Opportunities) of this Plan.

In addition, there are currently two trail-related planning efforts that could benefit the Florence-Firestone community. First, the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC) applied and received a federal grant in 2008 to develop the Randolph Greenway Master Plan for a four-mile corridor that includes the cities of Bell, Huntington Park, Maywood, Vernon, and the northern portion of Florence-Firestone. Project partners include the Los Angeles and San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council, Rails to Trails Conservancy, and the National Park Service. The purpose of the proposed Greenway is to create active transportation and recreation opportunities by providing people of all ages with an attractive, safe, accessible place to bike, walk, jog, skate, or play.

The second planning effort is the update of the County of Los Angeles Bi-

TRAILS				
SPECIFICATION	TYPE A URBAN/SUBURBN	TYPE B RURAL	TYPE C PRIMITIVE	TYPE D SHARED PATHWAY/SERVICE ROAD
Tread Width	6'-10'	4'-8'	2' or >	10'-12'
Easement Width	12'-15'	12'-20'	>20' (Variable Width or Blanket Easement)	10'-20'
Function	Recreation	Recreation	Remote Recreation	Limited Recreation
Grade	< 10%	< 15% Note: 15% grade at more than 300 ft. permitted on a case by case basis per review per DPR Trails Section	< 15% Note: 15% or higher grade permitted on a case by case basis per DPR Trails Section review	< 15%
Cross Slope	2-3%	2-5%	2-5%	1-2%
Surface Material	Decomposed Granite (D.G.) with Binding Agent or Suitable Native Soil	Suitable Native Soil	Suitable Native Soil	D.G. with Binding Agent, Asphalt, or Concrete
Anticipated User Volume	High	Medium	Medium-Low	High
Horizontal Clearance	2' Beyond Tread Edge	2' Beyond Tread Edge	1' Beyond Tread Edge	At Edge
Vertical Clearance	12'	12'	12'	12'

Exhibit 3.4: Proposed Trail Classifications and Design Guidelines

cycle Master Plan by the Department of Public Works. The Plan covers bicycling issues in all unincorporated areas, and studies the potential for new and improved bike paths along flood control facilities. Opportunities for new and improved bike paths in Florence-Firestone will be analyzed as part of this Plan.

Other Recreational Facilities

In addition to the local and regional parks DPR offers, there are other types of recreational facilities including: multi-benefit parks, city parks and facilities, school sites, other public facilities, private recreational facilities, and recreational facilities operated by non-profit organizations.

Multi-Benefit Parks

Multi-benefit parks and open spaces are created through collaborative efforts among entities such as city, county, state, and federal agencies, private organizations, private landowners, and industries. These parks are characterized as having more than one function and contributing to multiple program goals. There are a number of applications of multi-benefit parks including: utility corridors and flood control basins which can serve as areas for active or passive recreation; watershed areas that can protect critical wildlife habitats, preserve open space; and provide trails for recreation, while contributing to water conservation objectives and water districts where trails can be located adjacent flood control channels and trailhead parks. Florence-Firestone is home to a number of utility corridors and rail right-of-ways which have the potential to be used for recreational purposes.

City Parks and Facilities

Where city parks and facilities are lo-

cated close to the borders of the unincorporated “islands” of the County, those facilities are enjoyed by city and County residents alike. Similarly, local County parks located within or close to the borders of incorporated cities provide recreational amenities for both populations. This overlap in local park service radius is an important factor to consider in the placement of new local County parks. Examples of city parks in close proximity to Florence-Firestone include Westside Park in Huntington Park, and Augustus Hawkins Natural Park and Green Meadows Recreation Center in the City of Los Angeles.

School Sites

The County cooperates with school districts in organizing, promoting, and conducting joint recreational and educational programs. These community recreation agreements are a form of joint-use agreement where either a school or park facility may be put to some recreational use by the other party in exchange for some facility improvement and/or maintenance participation being provided. A park does not necessarily have to be adjacent to a school (i.e. share a common boundary) for these arrangements to be viable. Florence-Firestone is served by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) which

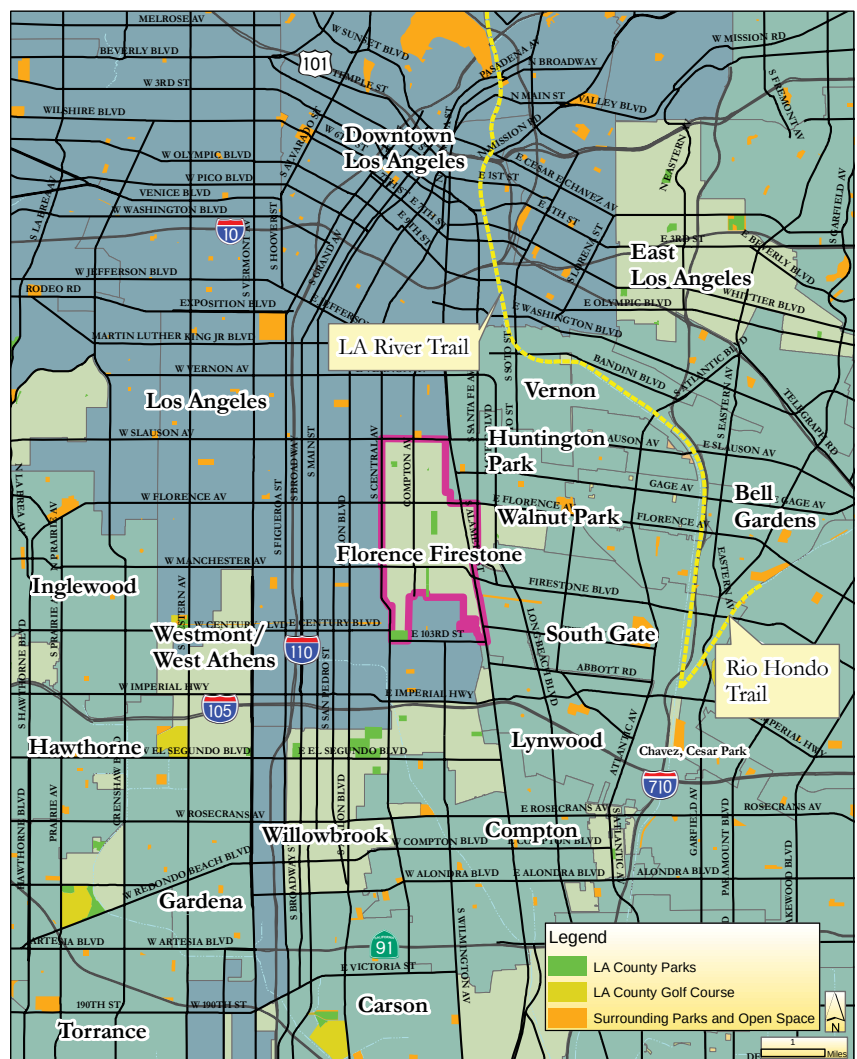


Exhibit 3.5: Existing Trails

operates seven elementary schools and two middle schools in the community. Also, two new elementary schools and a new high school are currently under construction. In addition, a number of private schools and charter schools are located in the area. An example of a joint-use facility located just outside of Florence-Firestone is Walnut Nature Park. This park was created through a joint use agreement involving DPR, LAUSD, and the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy.

Other Public Facilities

In addition to County parks, Florence-Firestone is home to various

public facilities that meet the community's recreational needs:

THE FLORENCE-FIRESTONE SERVICE CENTER provides comprehensive human services to residents in partnership with public agencies, private organizations, and businesses. The center brings traditional public services and links them with non-traditional community-based service providers. Services include elderly care, a physical fitness room, emergency food assistance to low-income families, internship opportunities, mediation and conflict resolution, and mobile van services. Over 20 County departments and other public and private agencies have satel-

ite offices at the center. The center was recently renovated to include a large senior area, along with an improved multi-purpose room with a kitchen, and upgrades throughout the original 1970's era building.

THE YOUTH ATHLETIC LEAGUE (YAL) FIRESTONE ACTIVITY CENTER is operated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and is located at the intersection of Compton Avenue and Nadeau Street. This facility is a safe gathering place for neighborhood kids to engage in recreational activities during after-school hours. Ongoing activities include football, cheerleading, karate, boxing, ballet folklorico, soap box derby racing, art classes, educational field trips, and tutoring. Although the focus is on youth activities, community meetings are also hosted at this facility.

FLORENCE AND GRAHAM LIBRARIES operated by the County of Los Angeles Public Library offer the following services to the residents of Florence-Firestone: basic reference services, computers with internet access, bilingual story times for children, a homework center, and year-round reading activities.

A NEW CENTRAL PARK with an area of over six acres is proposed as part of the redevelopment of Jordan Downs, a public housing in South Los Angeles owned and maintained by the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA). The park will include a variety of passive and active recreation areas. In addition, the proposal includes greenways and other open spaces for use by the community. No timeline is currently available for the anticipated construction and completion of these amenities.

Private Recreational Facilities

Private recreational facilities play an important role in meeting the recreational needs of County residents.

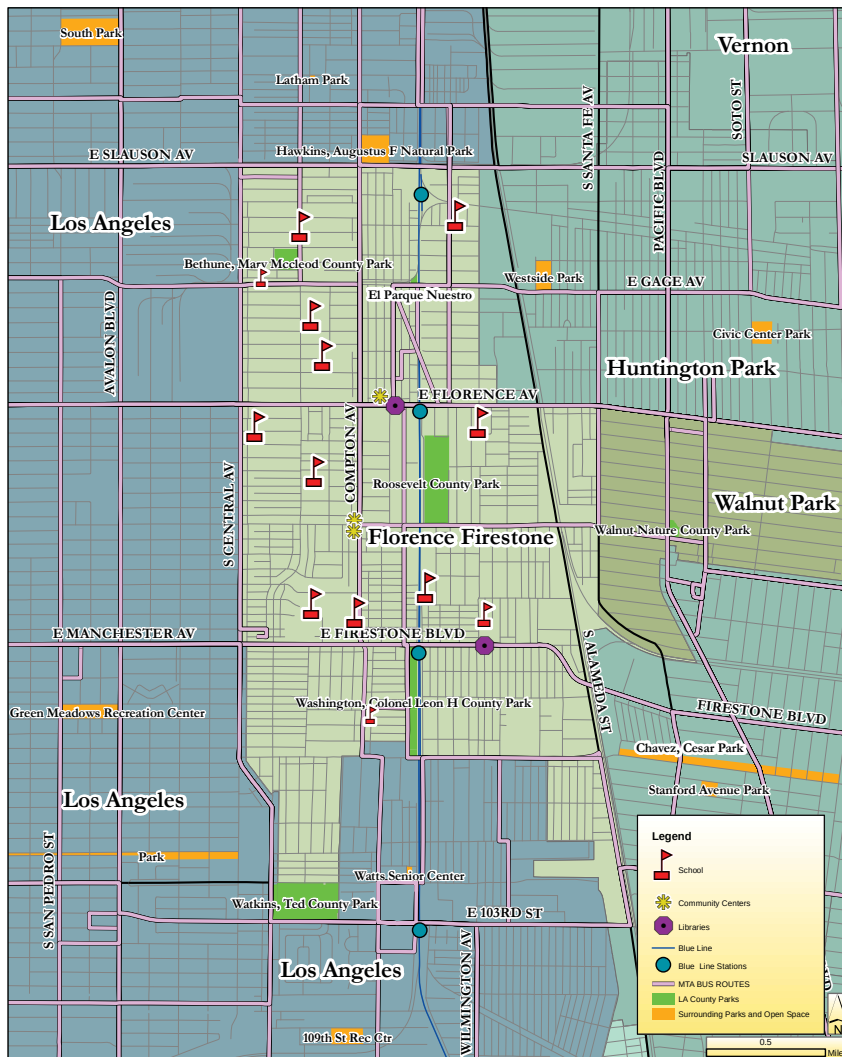


Exhibit 3.6: Parks, Schools and Community Facilities in the Florence-Firestone Vicinity

Examples of private recreational facilities include health and fitness clubs, and other private organizations which offer a variety of programs and facilities. This Plan does not include an inventory of private recreational facilities. Because the County does not control, maintain, or program private recreational facilities, these resources are not credited toward satisfaction of the County's acreage goals for public parks.

Recreational Facilities operated by Non-profit Organizations

The non-profit sector is playing an increasing role in the provision of recreational opportunities. In particular, various non-profit organizations such as churches, the Salvation Army, YMCAs, and Boys and Girls Clubs offer recreational services and facilities such as gyms and community centers.



Existing Recreation Programs and Services

4

Introduction

Along with access to parks and recreational facilities, the availability of a wide range of recreation programs is critical to the quality of life in any community. A comprehensive offering of effective recreation programs benefit individuals, families, neighborhoods, and households of all ages, income levels, cultures and abilities by:

- Offering opportunities to play, grow, and learn;
- Providing a sense of place and of belonging;
- Promoting health and wellness, including obesity prevention;
- Improving neighborhood and community connections and problem solving;
- Enhancing community cohesiveness while honoring diversity; and
- Helping protect our natural environments.

Recreation programs can range from organized sports, tournaments, scheduled classes, and special events, to more individualized, casual leisure activities such as family picnics and walking. Effective recreation programs promote the constructive use of leisure time and a lifelong commitment to a healthy lifestyle. DPR offers a wide variety of recreation programs to meet the growing and diverse needs of Florence-Firestone residents. This section summarizes existing recreational programs and services offered by DPR.

Programs Inventory

DPR's recreation programs can be grouped into three broad categories: special interest programs, sports/outdoor opportunities, and special interest recreation activities. Table 4.1 lists the programs offered by DPR at each County park in Florence-Firestone.

Special Interest Programs

Special interest programs include the following: cultural programs, after school programs, art and craft, computer and technology classes, music/dance programs, family programs, tiny tots, teen programs, and senior activity programs. Crafts include ceramics, brush painting, quilting,

Table 4.1: Recreation Programs offered in Florence-Firestone				
Parks / Programs	Colonel Leon H. Washington Park	Mary McLeod Bethune Park	Franklin D. Roosevelt Park	Ted Watkins Memorial Park
Special Interest Programs				
Cultural Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓
After School Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Art and Craft	✓	✓	✓	✓
Computer and Technology	✓	✓	✓	✓
Music/Dance			✓	✓
Family Programs			✓	
Teen Programs	✓		✓	
Senior Activities			✓	
Sports/Outdoor Opportunities				
Adventure Programs				
Fitness and Wellness	✓	✓	✓	✓
Individual and Team Sports	✓	✓	✓	✓
Summer Programs	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nature and Outdoor Programs				
Special Interest Recreation Activities				
Volunteer Opportunities	✓	✓	✓	✓
Organized Hiking				
Special Community Events	✓	✓	✓	✓

knitting, and oil painting. DPR offers the community's recreation program classes in a variety of dances including but not limited to Hula, tap dancing, line dancing, ballroom dancing, and cheerleading. Examples of programs for toddlers and teens include the Teen Club, Bookworms reading club, Junior Ranger Program, day camps, Drum Corps, and Young Chefs. Senior activities include lawn bowling, water aerobics, and specific classes for seniors in tennis, aerobics, and computer.

Sports/Outdoor Opportunities

Sports/outdoor opportunities include adventure programs, fitness and wellness programs, summer programs, nature and outdoor programs, and individual and team sports. Examples of fitness programs include aerobics, Jazzercise, and Walking for Wellness Club. DPR offers programs in the following sports: badminton, baseball, basketball, boxing, fencing, golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, tennis, volleyball, youth wrestling, and youth flag football.

Special Interest Recreation

Activities

Special interest recreation activities include volunteer opportunities, special community events, and activities such as organized hiking, fishing, boating, mountain biking, water skiing, and camping.

These programs serve a diverse group of stakeholders including, but not limited to: pre-school aged children, elementary school aged youth, middle school aged youth, high school aged youth, adults, seniors, and families.

As shown in Table 4.1, County parks in Florence-Firestone currently do not offer adventure programs, nature and outdoor programs, and organized hiking activities.

Section 5 of this Plan presents the findings of our community input process, including information regarding



Community Input Process and Needs Assessment

5

Introduction

The purpose of this Needs Assessment is to understand and quantify both the recreational facility and program needs of the Florence-Firestone community. In order to develop a long range plan for providing the appropriate recreational facilities and programs, DPR must understand the nature of the community, its recreational desires, its actual needs, and its ability to provide the services that are determined necessary through the Needs Assessment.

Demand and needs are sometimes difficult to quantify. Numerical standards may not necessarily reflect the makeup of a community, its economic situation, history, traditional recreational uses, or political environment. This Plan assesses the park facilities and recreational programming needs of Florence-Firestone starting with a review of current national and state trends, followed by a summary and analysis of community input from public outreach.

Current National and State Trends in Parks and Recreation

National and state trends in the perception of the environment, socio-economics, technology, and urban development will affect the need for and use of parks and recreational programs. In 2004 the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed a list of trends which will

cause the greatest impact on local park agencies planning for recreational facilities through the year 2020. Specific trends and issues that may impact DPR's efforts for developing recreational facilities and programs for Florence-Firestone are listed below:

- A greater need for walking and biking on trails, sidewalks, within parks and along streets, and utility corridors.
- Collaboration between parks and schools to share construction, development, and use of lands and facilities.
- Preventive recreation, that is, recreation as an antidote for social problems.
- Recreation for groups limited by income, physical disability, language, or cultural barriers.
- Collaboration among program and facility providers, partnerships and cooperation between public, private, and non-profit sectors, especially cultural organizations.
- Family recreation centers (inter-generational campuses) that offer a variety of services for each family member.
- Pressure to increase park capacity and infrastructure of existing parks and concern for adequate maintenance.
- Community volunteering opportunities, such as adopt a park projects, friends of the parks groups, and park watch programs.

- Increased demand for tiny-tot and pre-school programs and activities.
- Protective measures for open space.
- Provision for aquatics programs and water safety instruction.
- Provision for senior citizen programs and activities.
- The need for financial sustainability in order to deliver quality recreation services and facilities.

Every one of these trends and issues is relevant in Florence-Firestone and must be taken into consideration as DPR determines its priorities for future development and operation of its park and recreation delivery system.

Community Input from Public Outreach

To ensure that this Parks and Recreation Plan reflects the desires and needs of the community, DPR engaged the public in a wide variety of ways. Specifically, the community input process included stakeholder interviews, community workshops, focused workshops with seniors and youth, community questionnaires, surveys of sports groups, and collaboration with staff from other public agencies. Overall, community members were enthusiastic about park and recreation issues, and were actively involved in the development of this Plan. The input received is critical to the development of appropriate goals, policies, and implementation

actions to address park and recreation needs in Florence-Firestone.

Stakeholder Interviews

Over 35 stakeholders were invited to meet with DPR staff to discuss park and recreation issues in Florence-Firestone. Between February and May 2010, DPR conducted over 20 interviews. The stakeholders interviewed included: the Florence-Firestone Community Leaders; members of the public; school officials; representatives from the Florence-Firestone Chamber of Commerce, local churches, and other non-profit organizations; and staff from various County agencies including the Arts Commission, Public Health, Public Library, Public Works, and Sheriff's Departments.

Major issues identified through the interviews include:

1. Safety/Security

- Not enough lighting at parks
- Need safe routes to parks
- Gangs may take control of smaller parks
- Racial tension and awareness of gang territories limit park usage
- Parks need to be well-staffed

2. Lack of Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Range of opinions as to whether



smaller or larger parks are needed

- Pocket parks may be appropriately sited near or on school properties
 - Need for larger parks with staff onsite
 - Need community meeting room and/or cultural/banquet facility
 - Provide transportation for kids to experience parks and recreation areas outside of Florence-Firestone
- ### 3. Opportunities for Collaboration
- Parks and Recreation can collaborate more with schools, churches, libraries, Sheriff's, Public Health, and non-profit organizations such as local land trusts

- Sharing and distribution of information and resources
 - Joint-use opportunities with existing and future schools
 - Public-Private Partnerships
- ## 4. Recreation Programs
- Need for more classes and activities in music, arts, dance
 - Need programs for residents with special needs
 - Need for classes and activities that bring different generations together
 - Establish "movies in the parks" program

Many of these ideas were also expressed in the completed questionnaires and during workshops with the community.

Community Workshops

Community workshops were held at Roosevelt Park and Washington Park. Both workshops had the same format. Following a brief presentation by staff, attendees participated in a dot sticker exercise in which they expressed their preferences on four topics: park facilities, park locations/classification, recreation programs, and trails. Verbal comments were also recorded on large note pads.



Community Input Exhibits

WORKSHOP 1

The first community workshop took place at Roosevelt Park on January 9, 2010. The attendance was 53. Key findings from this workshop were:

- Many participants:
 - Wanted more security at parks, including increasing security lighting along walking paths.
 - Asked for more par course equipment.
 - Supported pathways that connect community facilities including parks, libraries, schools, and other key destinations.
- Some participants identified the following areas as suitable locations for new parks:
 - On east side near South Gate and Huntington Park
 - Along Central Avenue in the northwest portion of Florence-Firestone

Results of the dot sticker exercise were:

The top 3 park classifications were:

- 1) Park Node
- 2) Neighborhood Park
- 3) Community Park

The top 3 adult and senior programs were:

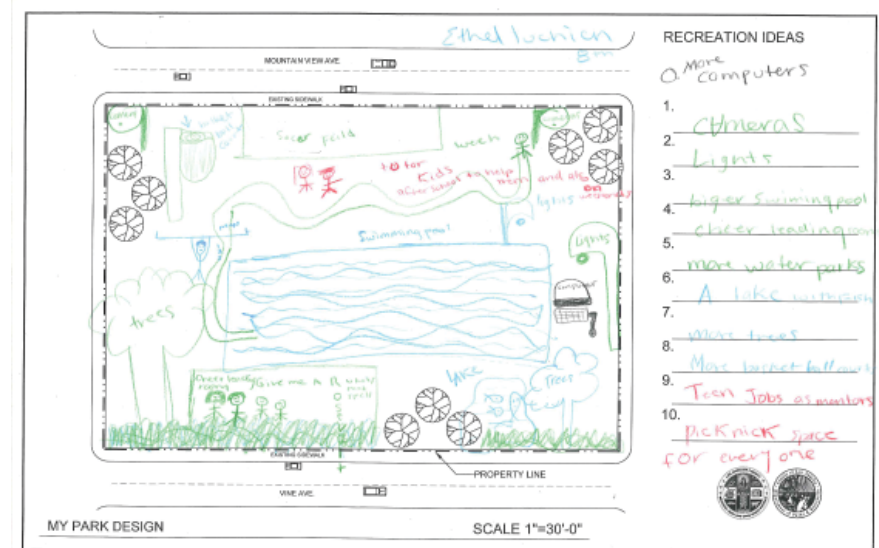
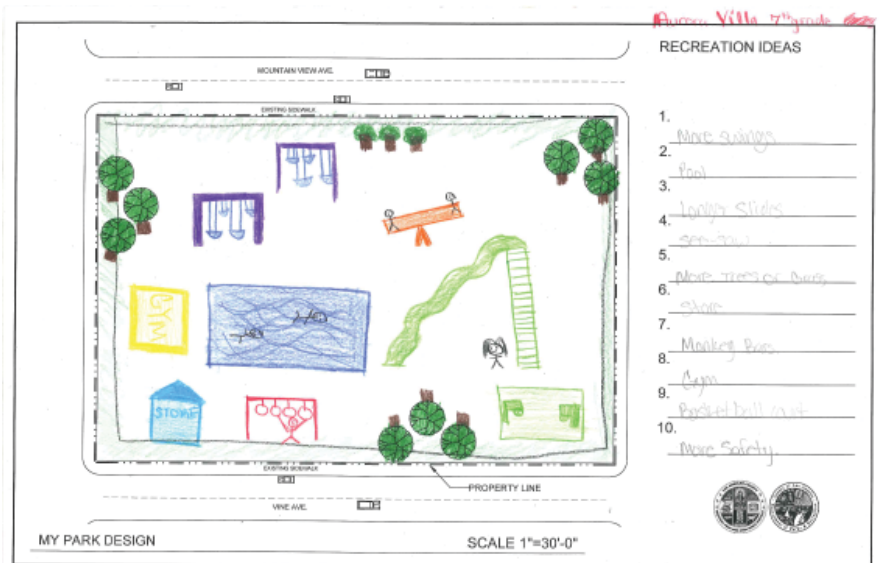
- 1) Exercise
- 2) Aquatics
- 3) Social Clubs

The top 3 park facilities were:

- 1) Par Course Trail
- 2) Walking/Jogging Path
- 3) Family Picnic Area

The top 3 youth recreation programs were:

- 1) Sports
- 2) Camps



3) Cheerleading and Drill Team

WORKSHOP 2

The second community workshop was held at Washington Park on January 30, 2010. The attendance was 33. Key findings from this workshop were:

- Some participants expressed the need for dog parks and/or more space for dogs at existing parks.
- Some thought there should be more parks east of the Metro Blue Line right-of-way.
- Many participants supported pathways.

- Some participants wanted a bike path along Florence Avenue and safety improvements along streets and alleys.

- There was some interest in rubberized surface walking/jogging loop trails around industrial centers, retail centers, and parks.

Results of the dot sticker exercise were:

The top 3 park classifications were:

- 1) Community Park
- 2) Pocket Park
- 3) Neighborhood Park

The top 3 adult and senior programs

were:

- 1) Arts and Crafts
- 2) Aquatics
- 3) Exercise

The top 3 park facilities were:

- 1) Splash Pad
- 2) Family Picnic Area
- 3) Skate Park

The top 3 youth recreation programs were:

- 1) Cheerleading and Drill Team
- 2) Sports
- 3) Dance

SENIORS WORKSHOP

A workshop focusing on seniors was held at Bethune Park on February 4, 2010. About 40 seniors participated. Like the two community workshops, participants were given the opportunity to share their thoughts and participate in a dot sticker exercise to express their preferences on park and recreation topics. Key findings from this workshop were:

- Many participants expressed the need for more picnic areas, open space, and playgrounds for grandchildren.
- Pathways were popular among participants.
- Some thought that there should be trails along rail right-of-ways

and that trails should be visible for safety reasons.

- Results of the dot sticker exercise were:

The top 3 park classifications were:

- 1) Neighborhood Park
- 2) Community Park
- 3) Pocket Park and Park Node (tied)

The top 3 adult and senior programs were:

- 1) Exercise
- 2) Community Events
- 3) Aquatics

The top 3 park facilities were:

- 1) Par Course Trail
- 2) Family Picnic Area
- 3) Walking/Jogging Path

The top 3 youth recreation programs were:

- 1) Sports
- 2) Camps
- 3) Dance

YOUTH WORKSHOP

A youth input workshop was held at Drew Middle School on February 25, 2010. About 25 students in a leadership class participated in ex-

ercises to design their own park and respond to a three-question survey.

Key findings from this workshop were:

- The students desired a wide range of amenities in their parks. (Examples of student drawings are shown above. Please refer to the Appendix for all student drawings.)
- Most of the students participated in organized recreational activities and sports.
- Nearly all of the students felt that there were not enough youth sports programs offered in Florence-Firestone.
- Computer labs in parks were important to nearly all of the students.

Community Questionnaires

Bilingual (English-Spanish) questionnaires were distributed at County parks and libraries in Florence-Firestone to solicit public input on park and recreation issues. About 320 were collected from these locations, with most of the respondents being residents of Florence-Firestone and park patrons. Key findings from the questionnaires were:

- The questionnaires were completed by people of all ages, ranging from children (5 to 14) to seniors (66 and older).
- Senior citizens were most well-represented - nearly one-quarter of respondents were 66 years or older.
- 63% of respondents used the parks daily.
- Roosevelt Park was the most used park in Florence-Firestone.
- The four most popular recreation activities were: youth sports, adult sports, senior activities, and passive leisure (see Exhibit 5.1).
- Overall, respondents indicated that the following activities were most needed in Florence-Firestone: senior citizen activities,

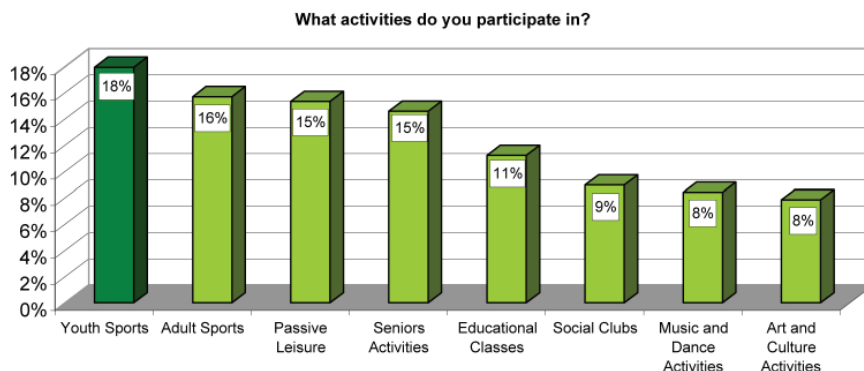


Exhibit 5.1: Participation in Recreational Activities in Florence-Firestone

walking/bicycle paths, arts and cultural activities, after school and extended day care, and tutoring or homework assistance (see Exhibit 5.2 below).

- Not surprisingly, the ranking of most needed activities varied by age as summarized below:

Age Group	Most requested activity
5 to 14	Arts and Cultural Activities
15 to 19	Youth Sports
20 to 30	Adult Sports
31 to 50	Walking and Bicycle Paths
51 to 65	Senior Citizen Activities
66 and older	Senior Citizen Activities

- About 46% of respondents participated in recreation programs outside of Florence-Firestone, with youth sports and adult

sports being the most popular programs (see Exhibit 5.3 below). This may suggest additional recreation programs, especially active sports, are needed in Florence-Firestone.

- In addition, over 570 questionnaires were filled out by members of a local church and students of the school it operates. Key findings from the questionnaires were:
 - Children and youth were very well-represented - nearly 75% of respondents were 19 years or younger.
 - 40% of respondents used the parks at least once a week.
 - Roosevelt Park was by far the most used of the parks in Florence-Firestone.
 - The two most popular recreation activities were youth sports and

passive leisure.

- Overall, respondents indicated that the following activities were most needed in Florence-Firestone: youth sports, walking/bicycle paths, tutoring or homework assistance, and art and cultural activities.
- About 43% of respondents participated in recreation programs outside of Florence-Firestone, with youth sports being the most popular program.

Sports Group Surveys

Local sports groups and organizations were asked to complete surveys regarding their use of parks and recreational facilities in Florence-Firestone. Surveys were completed by over 40 groups that regularly use Roosevelt Park for soccer. Key findings from the surveys were:

What activities do you feel are needed in Florence-Firestone?

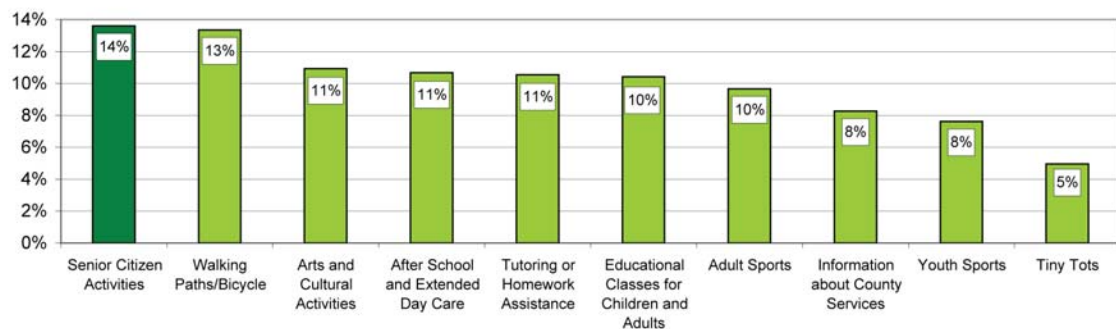


Exhibit 5.2: Needed Recreational Activities in Florence-Firestone

Which programs do you participate in other communities?

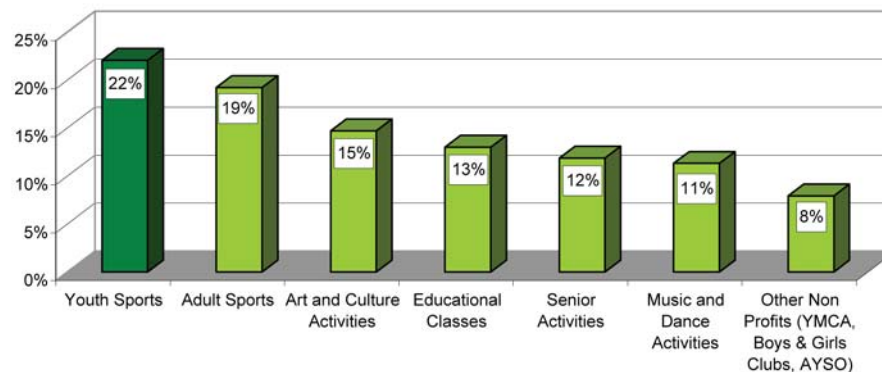


Exhibit 5.3: Participation in Recreational Activities outside Florence-Firestone

- The sports groups serve nearly a total of 900 participants.
- Half of the sports groups serve adults; none of the groups serve the 16 to 18 age group.
- More than half (57%) of the groups rated the field conditions as poor; one-third indicated the fields were in fair conditions.
- Over 90% of the sports groups have plans for expansion.

Sports groups also use other parks in Florence-Firestone. Summarized below are information provided by DPR field staff:

- **Watkins Park:** Sports groups serve 1,850 participants, about half of which play soccer; baseball is the next most popular sport, followed by football and softball. These participants range in age from young children to adults. The park's fields are in poor condition due to extensive use.
- **Bethune Park:** Sports groups serve about 560 participants, ranging in age from five to over 16. The park's two fields are in fair condition and are used for soccer, baseball, softball, and flag football.
- **Washington Park:** Sports groups

serve 80 participants, ranging from young children to adults. The park's multi-purpose field is in fair condition and is used for soccer and football.

Key Findings and Summary of Needs Assessment

Through its public outreach process, DPR collected a wide range of qualitative and quantitative data regarding the community's preferences, needs, and opinions regarding parks and recreation programs in Florence-Firestone. Overall, residents are concerned with and desire facilities and programs that address health and fitness, preventive recreation as an antidote for social problems, family recreation, cultural and arts opportunities, and sports facilities.

Targeted activities for specific age groups were a common theme throughout the community input process. While family recreation was identified as being necessary for a successful park and recreation system, specific programs for youth, teens, adults, and seniors were repeatedly mentioned as desirable in each of the community outreach tools used. The need for an art and

cultural facility was also evident during the community input process. Some residents suggested that a multi-purpose cultural arts center with a banquet hall, studios, and classroom spaces be created to benefit and serve the community.

After studying the existing conditions of Florence-Firestone and analyzing the data collected through the community input process, DPR has determined that the key issues listed below are the priority needs and demands that must be addressed in this Plan. (Section 8 of this Plan details the goals, policies, and implementation actions formulated to meet the specific park and recreation needs of the community.) Theoretically, if DPR provided all of the facilities and programs listed, it would meet all of the needs and demands expressed by the public during the community input process. In reality, due to financial, land, and other constraints, DPR would only be able to address some of the needs at a given time. Thus there must be a way to determine what the greatest needs are and then make decisions accordingly. The rankings provided below are intended to serve this purpose.

Park Locations

In response to the question of where new parks and recreational facilities should be located, the community provided a variety of responses:

- On east side near South Gate and Huntington Park
- Along Central Avenue in the northwest portion of Florence-Firestone
- Linear Park along the Utility Right-of-way
- East of the Metro Blue Line
- Small parks adjacent to schools
- Near places with high volume of pedestrian/foot traffic

No particular location(s) emerged as being the most popular.



Park Classifications and Facilities

Our stakeholder interviews revealed that there is a range of opinions as to whether smaller or larger parks are needed in Florence-Firestone. While some like the idea of pocket parks scattered throughout the community, others want larger parks with a full range of amenities. However, nearly all agreed that for safety/security reasons, parks should be staffed and well-lit, regardless of size. Based on the aggregation of quantitative data collected through the dot exercise at all workshops, the ranking of park classifications is as follows (with 1 being the most popular):

1. Community Park
2. Neighborhood Park
3. Park Node
4. Pocket Park

Also based on the aggregation of quantitative data collected through the dot exercise at all workshops, the ranking of park facilities is as follows (with 1 being the most needed):

1. Par Course Trail
2. Family Picnic Area
3. Walking/Jogging Path
4. Splash Pad
5. Public Restroom
6. Group Shade Structure

7. Youth Softball Field
8. Informal Play Area
9. Volleyball Court
10. Skate Park
11. Children's Play Equipment
12. Basketball Court
13. Soccer Field
14. Tennis Court
15. Information Kiosk
16. On site Parking

The community's growing interest in health and fitness is reflected in the high rankings of par course trails and walking/jogging paths. During workshops, some residents specifically indicated that walking paths should be improved with security lighting, varied terrain, and visually pleasing landscaping. Many residents also desire more passive elements such as family picnic areas and group shade structures.

Sports Fields

While softball and soccer fields do not rank high on this list, it is clear from the sports group surveys that additional athletic fields are needed. Sports, especially soccer, are very popular with both youth and adults in Florence-Firestone. Existing fields provide opportunities for both informal play and organized sports.

The surveys show that existing fields are highly used: nearly 3,700 participants use the nine fields at Florence-Firestone parks for baseball, football, soccer, and softball. The fields are in fair to poor condition because they are used frequently and by many participants. Not surprisingly, all of the sports groups desire more and better fields, and most have plans to expand in the near future.

Recreation Programs

The community supports a wide variety of recreation programs. Based on the aggregation of quantitative data collected through the dot exercise at workshops and the community questionnaires, the ranking of adult and senior programs is as follows (with 1 being the most needed):

1. Exercise
2. Aquatics
3. Arts and Crafts
4. Community Events
5. Social Clubs
6. Field Trips
7. Dance
8. Sports
9. Cultural and Holiday Celebrations

Based on the aggregation of quantitative data collected through the

Park	Roosevelt		Watkins		Bethune		Washington		Total	
Sport	Fields	Participants	Fields	Participants	Fields	Participants	Fields	Participants	Fields	Participants
Baseball	2(L)	192	2(L)	450	0	200	0	0	4	842
Softball	1(L)	120	0	200	1(L)	60	0	0	2	380
Soccer	1	880	1(L) 1(O)	900	0	300	0	50	3	2,130
Football	0	0	0	300	0	0	0	30	0	330
TOTAL		1,192		1,850		560		80		3,682

(L) indicates lighted field

(O) indicates overlay field

dot exercise at workshops, the community questionnaires, and the youth survey, the ranking of youth recreation programs is as follows (with 1 being the most needed):

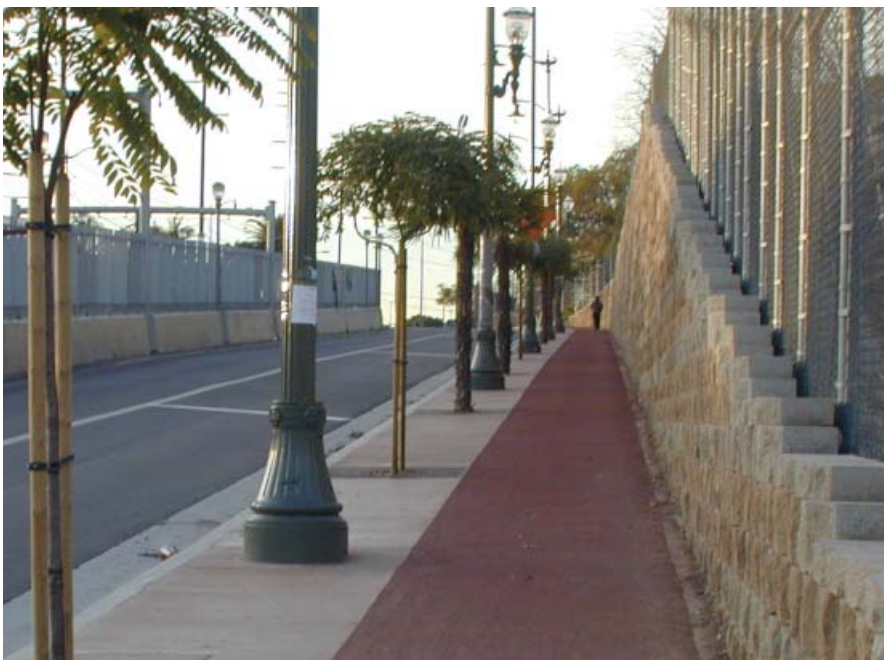
1. Sports
2. Camps
3. Dance
4. Cheerleading and Drill Team
5. Educational
6. Aquatics
7. Social Clubs

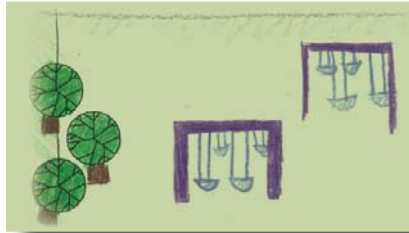
key community destinations (e.g. parks, libraries, shops).

Trails

The community is overwhelmingly supportive of additional places to walk and exercise. The aggregation of quantitative data collected through the dot exercise at workshops indicates that residents prefer pathways over multi-use trails, but desire both. Specifically, the community wants:

- Rubberized surface walking/jogging loop trails around industrial centers, retail centers, and parks.
- Multi-purpose trails along railroad easements and utility corridors.
- Safe paths of travel connecting





Site Gap Analysis

6

Introduction

This section analyzes the adequacy of existing parkland in Florence-Firestone. This adequacy is measured in terms of both General Plan park standards and service radii. Actual and perceived barriers that hinder the coverage and usage of parks are also addressed. The section concludes with an analysis of existing parkland and facilities.

Parkland Deficits

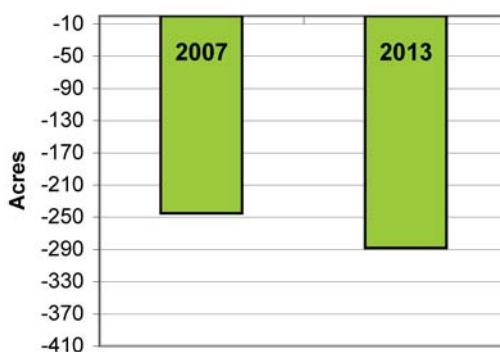
Florence-Firestone faces significant deficits in both local and regional parkland. The deficits were calculated based on: 1) the existing amount of parkland in the community; and 2) the General Plan standards for local and regional parks. These standards are: four (4) acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents of the population in the County's unincorporated areas and six (6) acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the County's to-

tal population.

As shown in Table 6.1 and Exhibit 6.1 below, Florence-Firestone had a deficit of 245 acres of local parkland and 343 acres of regional parkland in 2007. With the projected increase in population, Florence-Firestone is expected to have a deficit of 288 acres in local parkland and 408 acres in regional parkland in the year 2013. This calculation assumes that no new parks will be created in Florence-Firestone with the exception of the 0.63-

Table 6.1: Existing and Future Parkland (acres) Deficits in Florence-Firestone					
Local Parkland Standard 4 acres / 1,000 population			Regional Parkland Standard 6 acres / 1,000 population		
Population	Parkland Acreage	Surplus (+)Deficit (-)	Population	Parkland Acreage	Surplus (+)Deficit (-)
Year 2007					
65,780	18	-245	65,780	52	-343
Year 2013					
76,725	19	-288	76,725	52	-408

Local Parkland Deficit



Regional Parkland Deficit

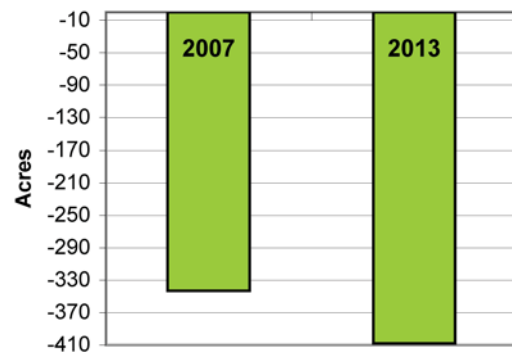


Exhibit 6.1: Existing and Future Parkland (acres) Deficits in Florence-Firestone

acre El Parque Nuestro pocket park which opened in the summer of 2010.

Parkland Service Area Analysis

The gap analysis is a means to show the areas served by existing parks and identify park deficient neighborhoods in Florence-Firestone. Exhibit 6.2 illustrates the half-mile service radii of neighborhood parks in Florence-Firestone, while Exhibit 6.4 shows the one-mile service radii of community parks. It should be noted that although Roosevelt Park and Watkins Park are classified as “regional” parks due to their size, they primarily serve the needs of local residents. Thus the service radii illustrated around the two parks are for local (community) parks rather than regional parks. Theoretically, the areas that are within the service radii (shown in white) are served by the parks, while those outside of the service radii are underserved or not served at all. As shown in Exhibits 6.2 and 6.4, much of Florence-Firestone is within the service radii of its parks.

Current Parkland Site Gap Analysis

While the service radius method provides a quick and simple way to identify park-deficit areas, it has limitations. First, a service radius measures straight-line distances from the park and are not based on the actual travel distance along streets to the park. Similarly, this method does not consider the availability of public transportation to a park. This is important considering that many residents in Florence-Firestone are transit-dependent. Finally, service radii are typically drawn without taking into consideration the actual and perceived barriers in the community.

Within Florence-Firestone, actual barriers include: the Metro Blue Line and other rail right-of-ways; utility corri-

dors; the Alameda Corridor; and major streets such as Florence Avenue, Firestone Boulevard, Compton Avenue, and Central Avenue which may be difficult or dangerous for pedestrians to cross due to the high volume of traffic. Although not formally recognized or delineated, boundaries of various gang territories are perceived barriers that separate neighborhoods and limit park usage by residents in Florence-Firestone. Thus, while the service radii maps shows that much of Florence-Firestone is covered, they are not accurate pictures of actual park coverage and usage due to the presence of real and perceived barriers.

Exhibit 6.3 and Exhibit 6.5 illustrate more realistic service radii of neighborhood and community parks in Florence-Firestone by taking into consideration the presence of barriers. As indicated in these maps, less of Florence-Firestone is within the service radii of parks (shown in white) when the effects of barriers are factored in.

Because public safety is a major concern in Florence-Firestone, it is important to further consider and understand how it impacts communities and the use of parks. A recent study found that children living in unsafe neighborhoods or those characterized by poor housing and the presence of garbage and litter on streets had an approximately 30 to 60% higher chance of being obese or overweight than children living in better conditions.¹²

Safety shapes residents' decisions about where to live, work, go to school, shop for groceries, play, and whether to go for a walk in the neighborhood or to a local park. In one study, people who classified their neighborhoods as “not safe at all” were three times more likely to be physically inactive during leisure time than those who considered their neighborhood to be “extremely safe.”¹³ Another study also found that walking habits vary according to an individual's perception of safety

and physical surroundings.¹⁴ Effective public safety measures, such as community-based anti-crime and anti-gang initiatives, can reduce fear of crime and violence. Where possible, such efforts should be targeted on specific “hot spots” for crime and violence that impede access to parks, playgrounds, and other recreational facilities.

Analysis of Existing Parkland and Facilities

Existing parks in Florence-Firestone are very well-used. As discovered through the community input process, many residents think highly of the parks and consider them to be community assets. All of the parks are heavily programmed with little to no opportunity for additional amenities to be provided.

The sports group surveys reveal that athletic fields are well used by numerous groups. Some fields may in fact be overused, resulting in their poor conditions. In particular, more than half (57%) of sports groups using Roosevelt Park rated the field conditions as poor. Staff at Ted Watkins Park also rated its fields as poor. This is not surprising considering the high numbers of groups and participants using the fields. Fields at Bethune and Washington Parks were determined by staff to be in fair condition.

The lack of alternative providers of recreational opportunities such as private gyms and nonprofits further contribute to the high demand and use of County parks in Florence-Firestone. As mentioned previously, economic indicators suggest that Florence-Firestone residents are much more likely to rely on public parks for recreation; many families have little or no money to spend on recreational facilities and programs offered by providers such as private gyms and the YMCA.

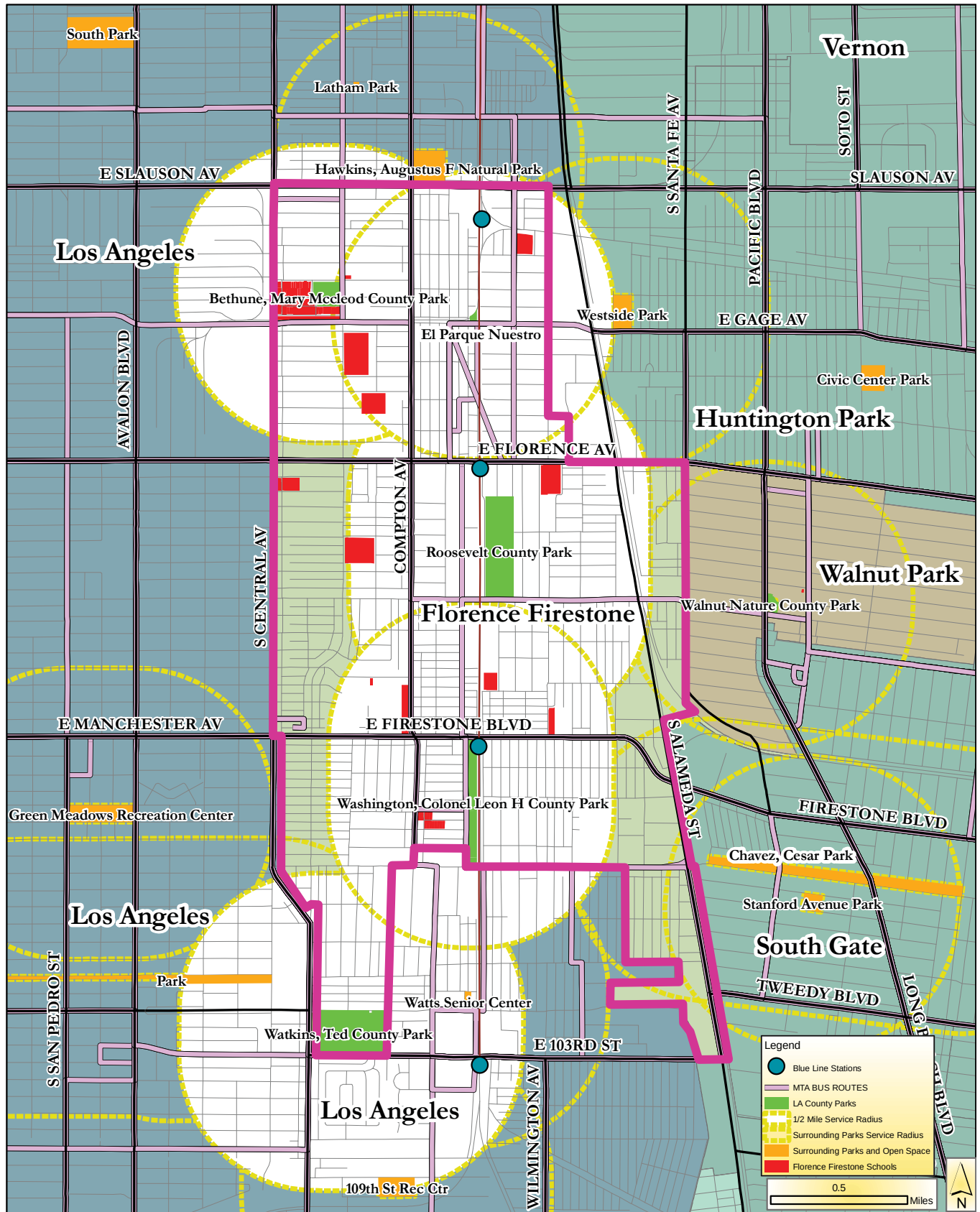


Exhibit 6.2: Existing Neighborhood Park Service Radius

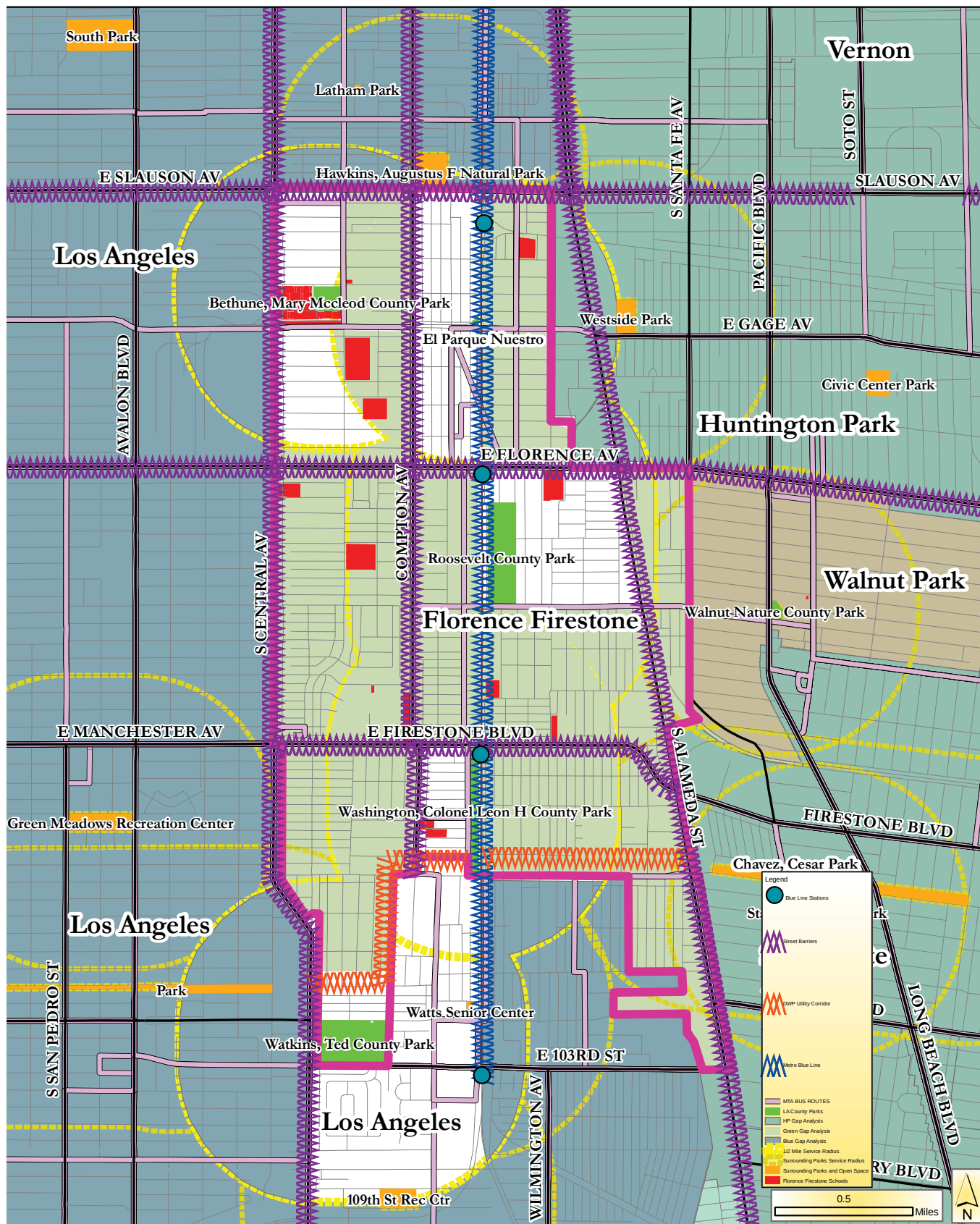


Exhibit 6.3: Existing Neighborhood Park Service Radius Modified to Include Environmental Barriers

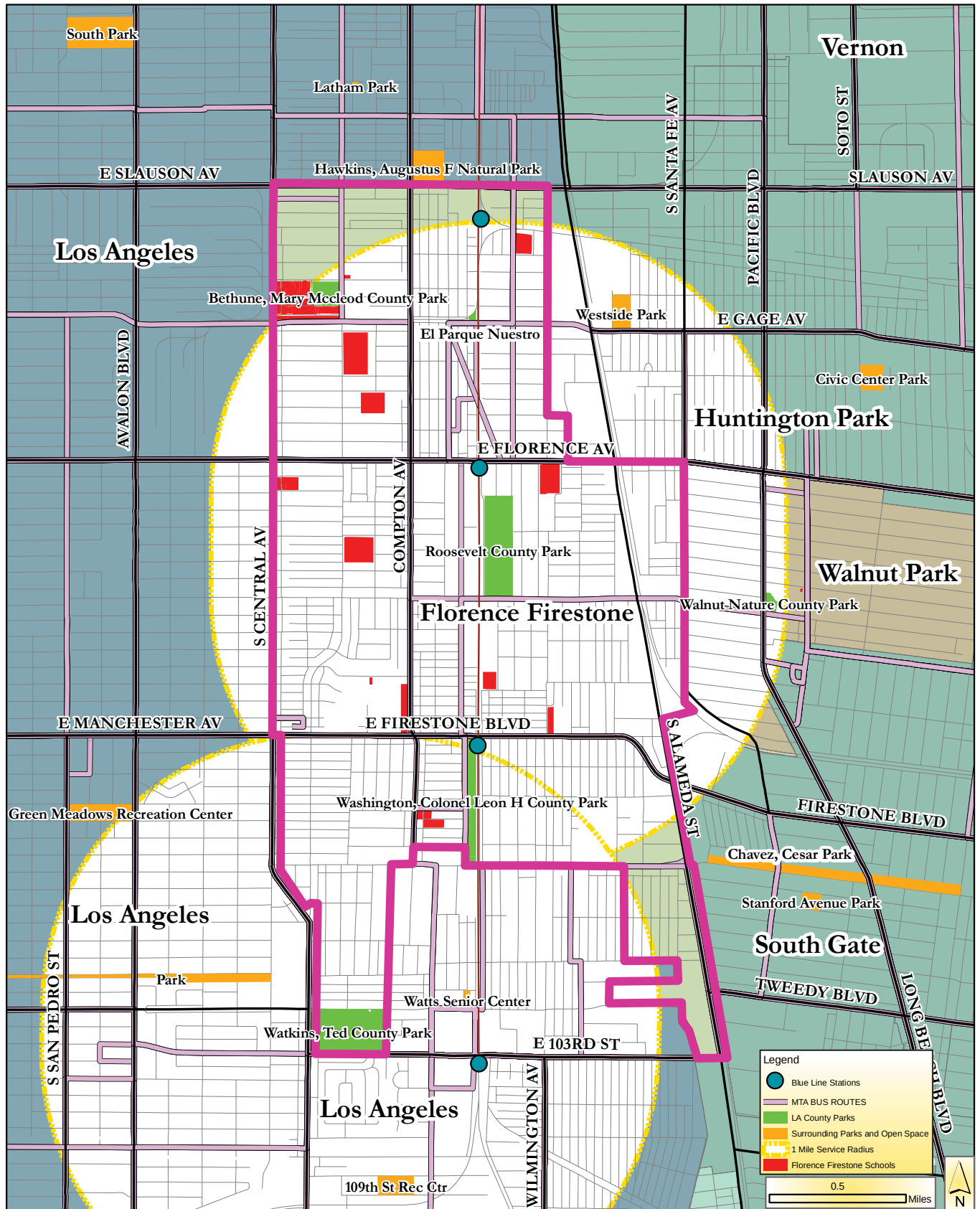


Exhibit 6.4: Existing Community Park Service Radius

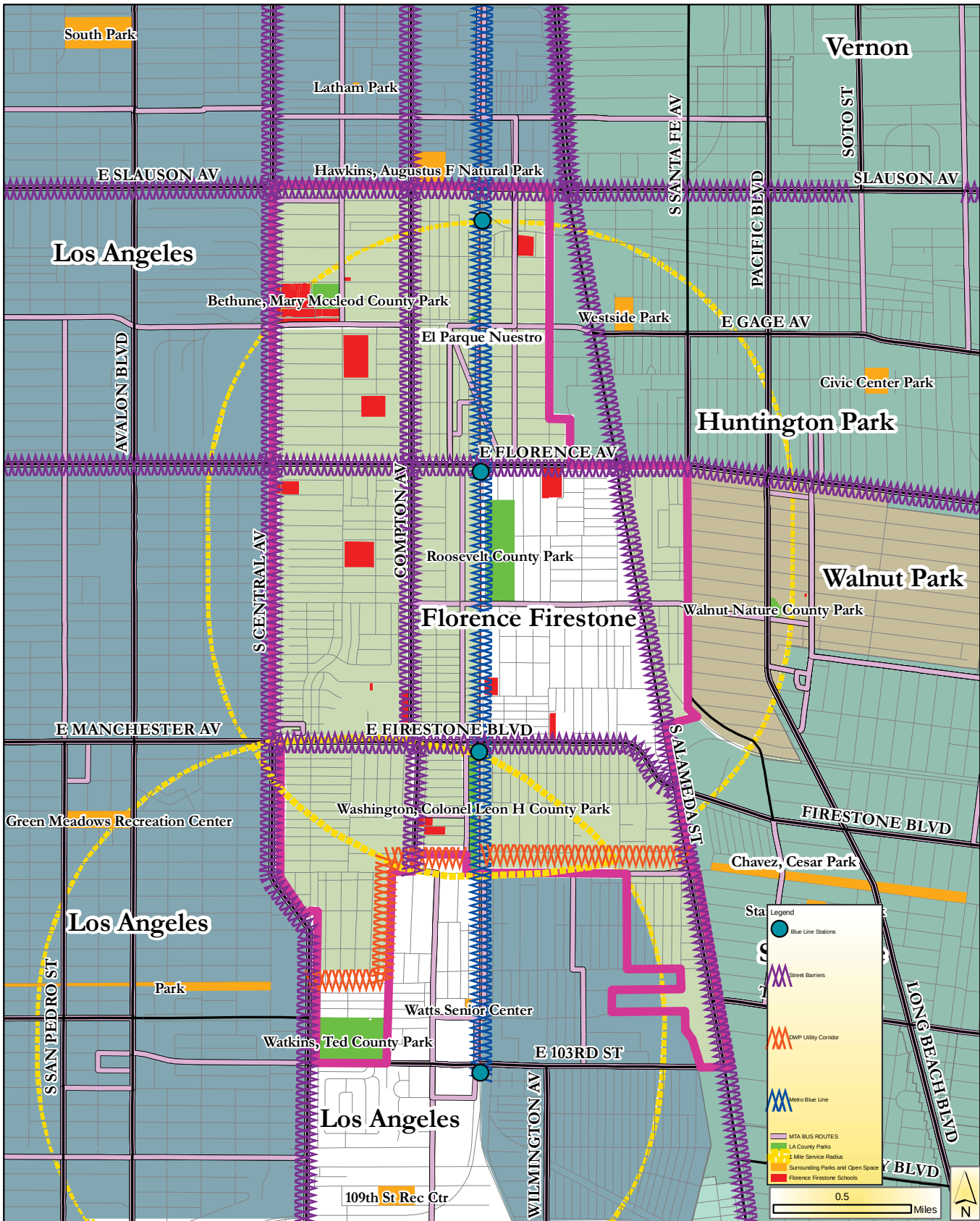


Exhibit 6.5: Existing Community Park Service Radius Modified to include Environmental Barriers



Parkland Opportunities

7

Introduction

Florence-Firestone faces significant deficits in both local and regional parkland. Additional parkland is needed to meet the growing and diverse needs of the community. This section identifies and describes potential parkland opportunities in Florence-Firestone. Specifically, these opportunities include vacant land, joint use projects on school sites, and multi-benefit projects along utility corridors and railroad right-of-ways.

Vacant Land

DPR conducted a detailed assessment of vacant land in Florence-Firestone using its Geographic Information System (GIS). This analysis revealed that there are a variety of properties which may be acquired and developed into parks and recreational facilities, including properties owned by the County of Los Angeles or other public agencies, tax-defaulted properties, and privately-owned parcels which are vacant or underutilized. (DPR has mapped all of these properties; however, due to privacy concerns, this map will not be made

available to the public.) All of these properties total 20 acres, with over half of the parcels being less than a quarter of an acre in size (see Table 7.1). Given the small size of available properties, it is clear that the acquisition and merger of multiple parcels would be necessary to create a com-

munity or neighborhood park.

Joint Use Projects on School Sites

Increasing access to recreational facilities that already exist at schools

Table 7.1: Potential Parkland Opportunities

Park Type	Required Acreage	Number of Vacant Parcels
Community	10 - 20	0
Neighborhood	3 - 10	0
Pocket Park	0.25 - 3	26
Park Node	< 0.25	33

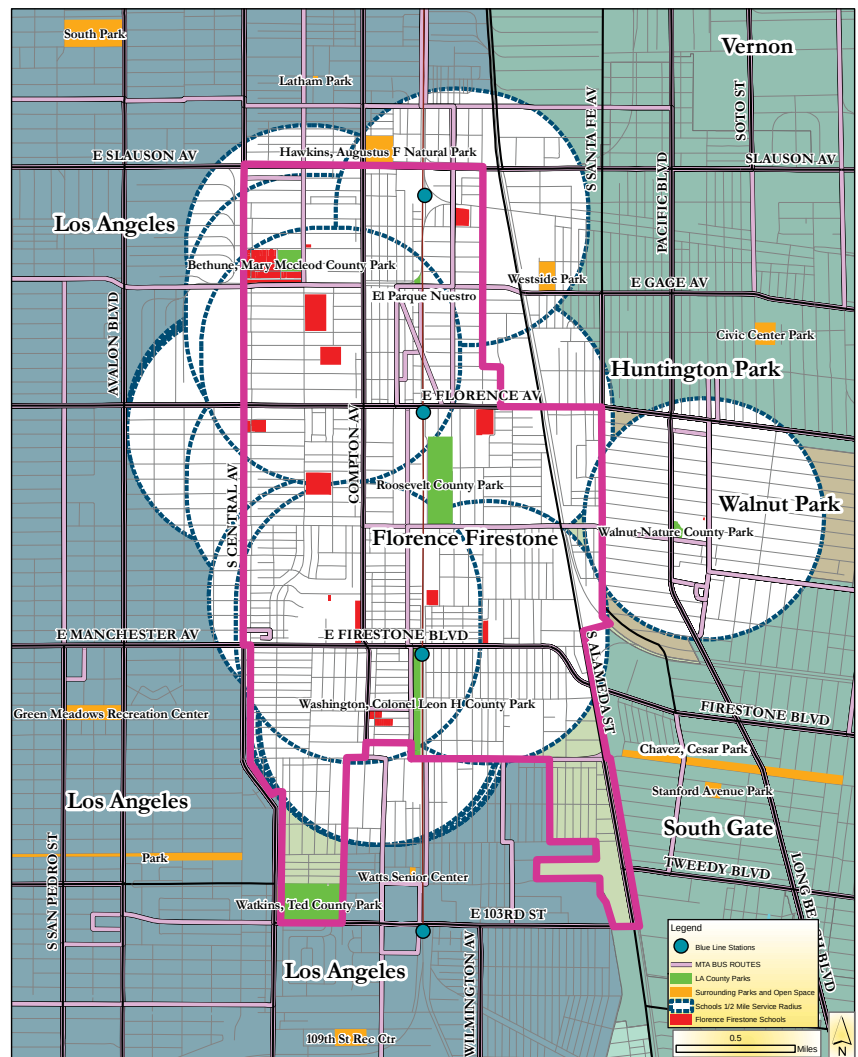


Exhibit 7.1: Middle School and Elementary School - 1/2 mile Service Radii Map

is one of the most promising ways to provide more opportunities for physical activity into neighborhoods. After all, even the most poorly designed and underserved neighborhoods have schools. At a time of budget cuts and shortfalls, maximizing access to existing facilities—rather than focusing on constructing new ones—is the most efficient and economical use of public resources.

Schools offer recreational amenities which may be made available to the public during non-school hours. In addition, asphalt lots on school grounds may be converted to new, attractive playgrounds and grass fields open to the community. However, many

school facilities are often locked and inaccessible to residents who might otherwise use them on weekday evenings and weekends. Understandably, school districts lock their facilities because they lack the capacity and funds to run programs, and they may have concerns about additional legal or maintenance costs that might arise from using school property beyond regular school hours.

Joint use agreements offer a way for school districts to open their facilities for community use. A joint use agreement refers to a written agreement between a school district and one or more public or private entities setting forth the terms and conditions for

sharing the use of the district's facilities. Such an agreement can provide community access to school property by allowing the district to share with another agency the costs and risks associated with opening the property for after-hours use.

Florence-Firestone is served by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) which operates seven elementary schools and two middle schools in the community. Also, two new elementary schools and a new high school are currently under construction. LAUSD school properties total approximately 62 acres, with about 40% (25 acres) of that devoted to recreational amenities such as hard courts, playgrounds, and ball fields. If recreational amenities at all schools were open for community use during non-school hours, Florence-Firestone would be very well-covered from a service-radii perspective. This is illustrated in Exhibits 7.1 and 7.2 which show the service radii around middle/elementary schools and the high school (under construction); areas that are within the service radii are shown in white. (A half-mile service radii is assumed for middle and elementary schools because they could function as neighborhood parks. A one-mile radius is assumed for the high school because it could function as a community park.)

Multi-Benefit Projects

Multi-benefit parks and open spaces are created through collaborative efforts among entities such as city, county, state, and federal agencies, private organizations, private landowners, and industries. These parks are characterized as having more than one function and contributing to multiple program goals. There are a number of applications of multi-benefit parks including utility corridors and railroad right-of-ways which can serve as areas for active or passive recreation in addition to their primary functions.

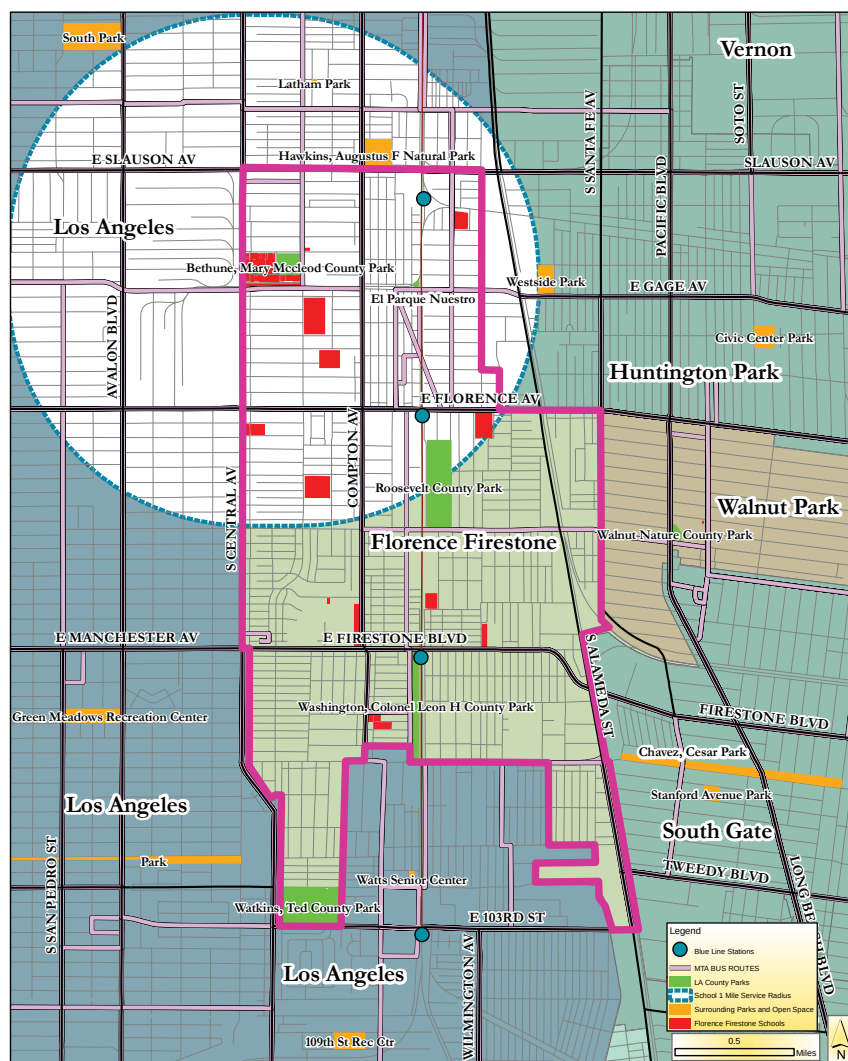


Exhibit 7.2: High School 1-mile Service Radius Map

There are utility corridors and railroad right-of-ways in Florence-Firestone which have the potential to be used for recreational purposes. Specifically, during the community input process, many residents supported the idea of developing multi-purpose trails along utility corridors.

Utility Corridor

Utility corridors are linear strips of land used for the present or future location of utility lines within its boundaries. These corridors are owned and maintained by utility providers which include public agencies and private corporations that offer water, electricity, gas, flood control, and other utility services.

Florence-Firestone is home to a major electricity transmission corridor that cuts across the community (as shown in Exhibit 7.3). This corridor is owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) and runs in an east-west direction along parts of 92nd Street, touching Washington Park, and then north-south along Success Avenue leading to Ted Watkins Parks. The linear nature of this corridor makes it a suitable location for an urban trail which may meet both the community's recreation and alternative mobility/transportation needs. The County will work with LADWP to determine whether portions of this 27-acre corridor may be used for park and trail purposes.

Railroad Right-of-Ways

One of the defining characteristics of Florence-Firestone is the rail right-of-ways which run across the community in a north-south fashion, and accommodate the Metro Blue Line as well as freight trains. It is unclear at this time whether these right-of-ways could be used for recreational purposes such as trails. Further research will be necessary to determine the

feasibility and practicality of developing rail-trail or rail-with-trail projects (as explained below) in Florence-Firestone.

Many are familiar with the concept of rail-trails—multi-use trails developed on former railroad corridors. With the increasing popularity of rail-trails across the country, communities are looking for other innovative ways of securing land for safe, popular and effective trail development. An emerging answer is the rail-with-trail. Rails-with-trails are trails adjacent to or within an active railroad corridor. The rails-with-trails concept provides more opportunities for the creation of trail systems that enhance local

transportation systems, offering safe, attractive community connections.

Rails-with-trails can also offer a solution to rail companies and local governments concerned about safety risks posed by those who illegally cross rail lines. By providing a safe alternative for cyclists and pedestrians, often with fencing between the pathway and the railway, rails-with-trails can eliminate the previous incentive to use the tracks as a shortcut. In addition, rails-with-trails enhance local transportation networks by providing non-motorized local connections that are sometimes preferable to on-road bike lanes or sidewalks located on congested,

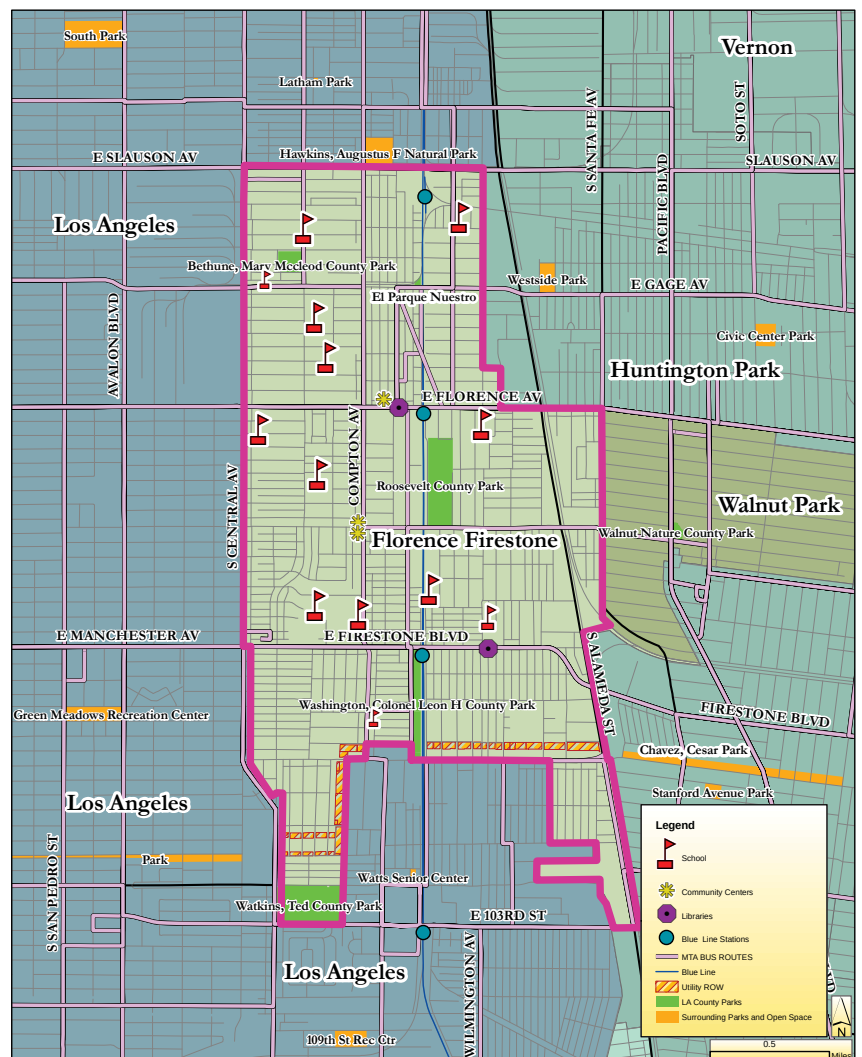


Exhibit 7.3: Utility Corridor Map

dangerous roadways.

Safety is probably the biggest concern when considering a rail-with-trail project. Both railroads and potential trail managers may be apprehensive about placing a public trail close to an active railroad track, fearing an increase risk of accidents along the corridor. However, many successful rail-trails across the country stand as a testament to the ability of trains and trails to coexist.

Summary

There are limited ways to increase the amount of parkland in an urbanized community like Florence-Firestone. Nevertheless, our analysis shows that there are some opportunities for the development of new parks and trails, including vacant land, joint use projects on school sites, and utility corridors and railroad right-of-ways. Table 7.2 below summarizes the potential acreages that could be added to Florence-Firestone’s inventory of parkland should all of the vacant land, school properties, and utility corridor be developed or used for recreation purposes. Exhibit 7.4 graphically displays potential land and easement acquisition opportunities and goals.

Table 7.2: Potential Additions to Parkland Inventory in Florence-Firestone	
Land Type	Acres
Vacant Land	20
School Sites*	25
Utility Corridor	27
Total	72
*Total equals 40% of total school site acreage - the approximate area dedicated to recreational amenities (e.g. hard courts, playgrounds, ball fields).	

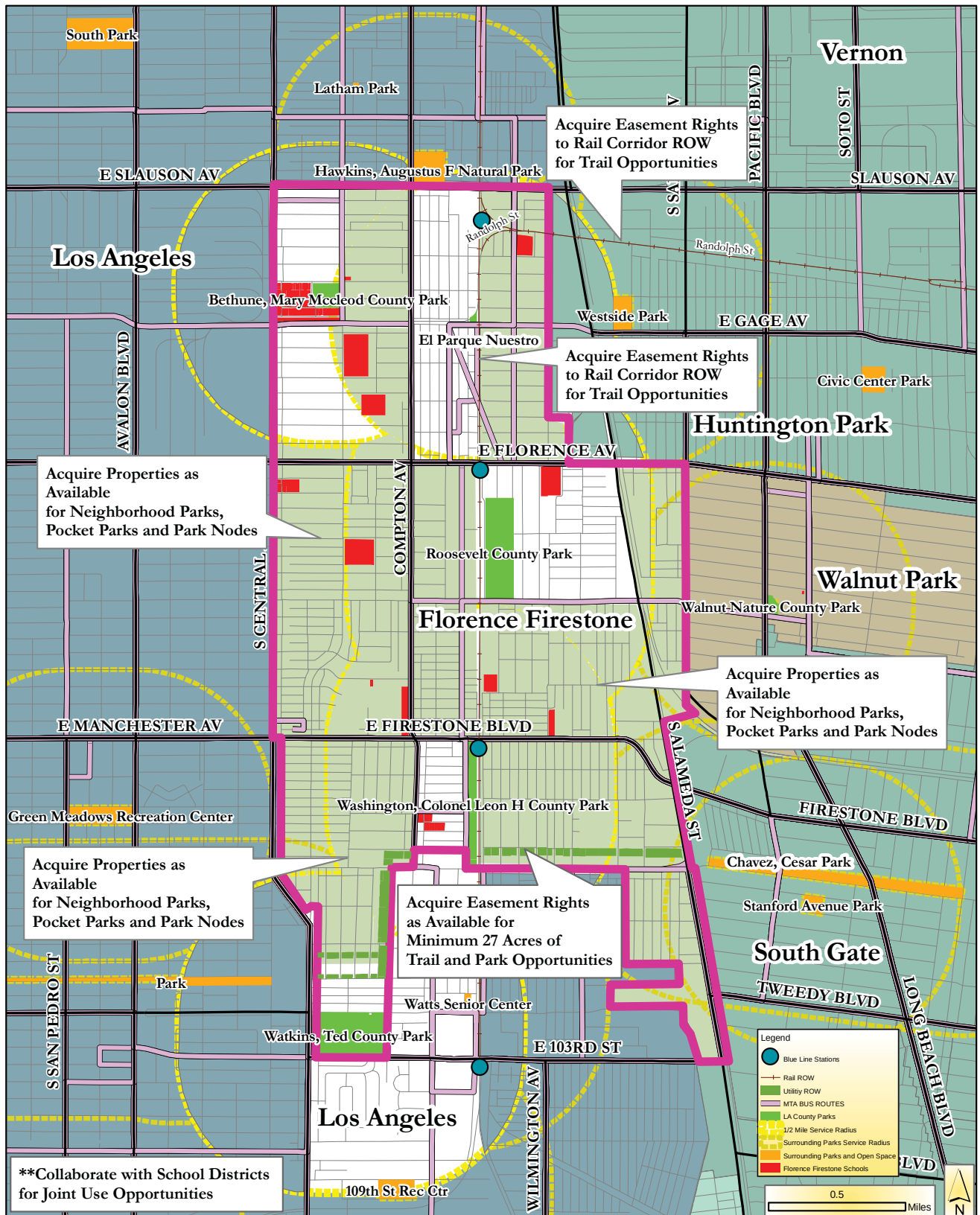
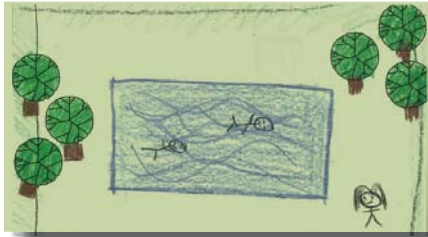


Exhibit 7.4: Acquisition Opportunities in Florence-Firestone



Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

8

Introduction

The section contains the goals, policies, and implementation actions crafted to address the identified park and recreation needs and issues in Florence-Firestone.

Goals, Policies, and Implementation Actions

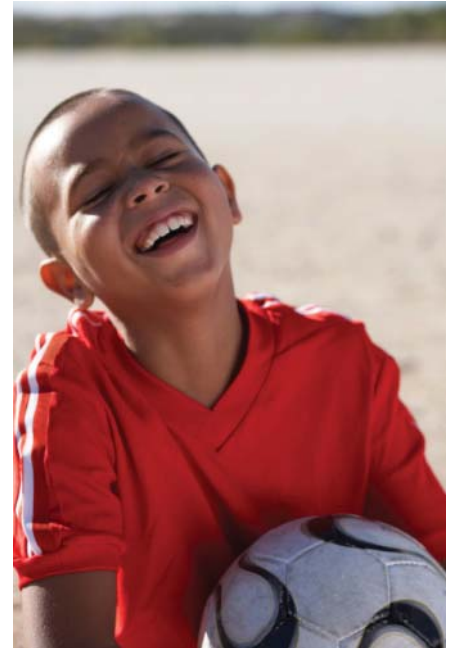
Acquisition and Development of Additional Parkland

Florence-Firestone faces significant deficits in both local and regional parkland. With the projected increase in population, the community is expected to have a deficit of 288 acres in local parkland and 408 acres in regional parkland in the year 2013. Additional parks and recreational facilities are needed to meet the growing and diverse needs of the community.

GOAL 1

Acquisition and development of additional parkland in Florence-Firestone.

- **Policy 1.1:** Acquire and develop additional local and regional parkland to meet the following County standards: four (4) acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in the unincorporated areas and six (6) acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the County's total population.
- **Policy 1.2:** Collaborate with other public, non-profit, and private organizations to acquire land for parks.
- **Policy 1.3:** Pursue a variety of opportunities to secure property for parks and recreational facilities, including purchase, grant funding, private donation, easements, surplus public lands for park use, and dedication of private land as part of the development review process.



- **Policy 1.4:** Ensure a balance of passive and recreational activities in the development of new park facilities.
- **Policy 1.5:** Develop public-private partnerships for the development of new parks.





- **Policy 1.6:** Site new parks near schools or locations with high pedestrian traffic and visibility.

Implementation Action 1.1

Determine land acquisition priorities (based on opportunities identified on Exhibit 7.4), identify funding options for acquisitions, and prepare a five-year implementation plan for land acquisition.

Implementation Action 1.2

Pursue opportunities to develop multi-benefit parks and trails in areas such as power-line alignments and transportation rights-of-way.

Implementation Action 1.3

For safety reasons, prioritize those sites that are near schools or adjacent to locations with high pedestrian traffic

and visibility.

Implementation Action 1.4

Coordinate with community groups, partner agencies, and other organizations on land acquisition projects.

Enhanced Collaboration

Traditionally, park and recreation agencies have addressed the shortage of parks by only trying to increase the number and acreage of parks in underserved areas. This approach focuses exclusively on the development of new parks, requires substantial financial and land resources, and assumes the government is the only supplier of recreational opportunities. Given budget and land constraints, this traditional approach is no longer appropriate or feasible.

Enhanced collaboration refers to the idea of providing more and improved park and recreation services through multiple-use facilities and partnerships with other public, non-profit, and private organizations. DPR must work with other agencies to leverage financial, land, and other resources to meet the growing and diverse recreation needs of Florence-Firestone residents.

GOAL 2

Enhanced collaboration to leverage resources.

- **Policy 2.1:** Establish new revenue

generating mechanisms to leverage County resources to enhance existing recreational facilities and programs.

- **Policy 2.2:** Collaborate with schools, libraries, non-profit, private, and other public organizations to leverage capital and operational resources.
- **Policy 2.3:** Support the use of school and library facilities for County-sponsored and community-sponsored recreational programs and activities.
- **Policy 2.4:** Support the development of multi-benefit parks and open spaces through collaborative efforts among entities such as cities, County, state, and federal agencies, private groups, schools, private landowners, and other organizations.
- **Policy 2.5:** Foster partnerships with other public agencies, private entities, and community groups to create a safer environment in County parks.

Implementation Action 2.1

Pursue a variety of initiatives to generate additional revenues for parks and recreation including: expanding the Adopt-a-Park program, soliciting donations and sponsorships, applying for grants, and holding more fundraising activities and events.



Implementation Action 2.2

Work with public, private, and non-profit partners to identify and pursue specific opportunities for collaborative parks and recreation projects such as a cultural arts center as requested by many residents.

Implementation Action 2.3

Expand recreation services by pursuing joint-use options for facilities and program/event venues. For example, DPR can enter into joint-use agreements with the Los Angeles Unified School District to provide for the use of schools for County-sponsored and community-sponsored recreational programs and activities.

Implementation Action 2.4

Work with private developers to provide public spaces and recreational amenities as part of large commercial or retail projects.

Implementation Action 2.5

Integrate a range of cultural arts programs into existing activities, and partner with multicultural vendors and organizations.

Implementation Action 2.6

Participate in joint powers authorities (JPAs) to develop multi-benefit parks as well as regional recreational facilities.

Implementation Action 2.7

Increase communication and partnerships with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and neighborhood watch groups to improve safety in parks.

Enhanced Recreation Opportunities

Existing parks in Florence-Firestone offer a variety of active and passive recreation opportunities. These parks are very well-used and require ongoing maintenance and improvement to ensure that community needs are met. The community has a growing interest in health and fitness, and is very supportive of existing par course trails and walking/jogging paths at the parks. Many residents also desire more passive elements such as family picnic areas and group shade structures. Additional athletic fields are needed as well. The sports group surveys reveal that existing fields are used year-round and overused in some instances, resulting in the poor condition of some fields.

GOAL 3

Enhanced active and passive recreation opportunities in Florence-Firestone.

- **Policy 3.1:** Provide opportunities for public participation and input in designing and planning parks

and recreation programs.

- **Policy 3.2:** Provide additional active and passive recreation opportunities based on community setting, and recreational needs and preferences as summarized in Section 5 (Needs Assessment / Community Input Process).



- **Policy 3.3:** Consider emerging trends in parks and recreation when planning for new parks and recreation programs.
- **Policy 3.4:** Develop joint-use agreements with other public and non-profit agencies to expand recreation services.
- **Policy 3.5:** Build on existing recreation programs to increase DPR's capacity and efficiency.



- **Policy 3.6:** Ensure that County parks are clean, safe, inviting, usable and accessible.
- **Policy 3.7:** Improve existing parks with needed amenities and address deficiencies identified through the community input process.
- **Policy 3.8:** Ensure adequate staffing, funding, and other resources to maintain satisfactory service levels at all County parks and recreational facilities.
- **Policy 3.9:** Extend park hours to provide additional time and opportunities for recreation.
- **Policy 3.10:** Address the need for additional fields in the community.

Implementation Action 3.1

Negotiate and enter into written joint-use agreements with other public agencies including (but not limited to): school districts, water districts, flood control districts, and utility providers. For example, DPR and the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) can enter into joint-use agreements to provide for the use of schools for County-sponsored and community-sponsored recreational programs and activities.

Implementation Action 3.2

Promote the park volunteer program, and actively recruit more youth and seniors to conduct recreation programs and services.

Implementation Action 3.3

Carry out repairs and improvements to existing parks based on input received through the community input process. Access-related improvements, including upgrades to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), are a priority. All repairs and improvements will be performed in a way that minimizes interruption of recreation programs and services.

Implementation Action 3.4

Enter into partnerships with non-profit and other organizations to provide programming and staffing at new pocket parks.

Implementation Action 3.5

Extend park hours and increase staffing at County parks based on the availability of funding.

Implementation Action 3.6

Install additional security lighting and surveillance cameras at County parks to improve safety and usability in the evenings.

Implementation Action 3.7

Study the possibility of replacing natural grass fields with artificial turf as a means to lower maintenance costs, increase playing time, and provide all-weather playability.

Trails

Florence-Firestone currently does

not have any County-designated trails. However, the community is overwhelmingly supportive of additional places to walk and exercise. Residents desire both pathways and multi-use trails. Specifically, the community wants: rubberized surface walking/jogging loop trails around industrial centers, retail centers, and parks; multi-purpose trails along easements and utility corridors; and safe paths of travel connecting key community destinations (e.g. parks, libraries, shops).

GOAL 4

Improved accessibility and connectivity to a comprehensive urban trail system.

- **Policy 4.1:** Create new urban trails where opportunities exist, including utility and rail right-of-ways.
- **Policy 4.2:** Maintain and design urban trails in ways that minimize circulation conflicts among trail users to insure safe circulation flow.
- **Policy 4.3:** Collaborate with other public, non-profit, and private organizations in the development of a comprehensive urban trail system.
- **Policy 4.4:** Support street, sidewalk and intersection improvements that will enhance safety for and encourage residents to walk or bicycle to community destinations including (but not limited to)



schools, parks, and libraries.

Implementation Action 4.1

Coordinate with city, regional, state, federal, and other agencies to identify opportunities and close gaps for urban trail linkages. For example, DPR should participate in the development of the Randolph Greenway Master Plan, a collaborative effort being coordinated by the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy (RMC).

Implementation Action 4.2

Work with utility providers and railroad companies to develop multi-purpose trails along utility corridors and railroad easements.

Implementation Action 4.3

Provide input to the Department of Public Works regarding potential street, sidewalk and intersection improvements that will enhance safety for and encourage residents to walk or bicycle to community destinations including (but not limited to) schools, parks, and libraries.

Sustainability

One of the challenges the County faces is: how can it design and manage County parks to be more sustainable? Sustainable design and management are necessary to promote responsible environmental practices, enhance social benefits, and reduce the cost of ownership and management.

Any park project, no matter how large or how small, must be considered within its surrounding context. Landscapes need to be treated as interdependent and interconnected spaces that share systems of soil, topography, vegetation, and water. By understanding these larger patterns and employing a comprehensive approach, parks can be designed in a way that helps repair and restore ecosystems rather than detract from them. Designing a park to take advantage of natural processes is another way to achieve sustainability. It is possible to create beautiful and functional places at the same time. Utilities such as storm water drainage can be considered an asset rather than a liability. Funding is the main challenge facing the design and implementation of sustainable strategies. Park operation and maintenance budgets continually face cuts, while DPR is forced to do more with less. However, sustainable design and management practices will help reduce operation and maintenance costs in the long run.

GOAL 5

A sustainable parks and recreation system in Florence-Firestone.

- **Policy 5.1:** Reduce the use of potable water at existing parks for landscape irrigation use and transition to recycled water where it is available.



- **Policy 5.2:** Reduce the use of energy at existing parks and transition to alternative sources of energy such as wind and solar sources.
- **Policy 5.3:** Prolong the life of existing buildings and facilities on County park properties through preventative maintenance programs and procedures.
- **Policy 5.4:** Ensure all new buildings on County park properties meet the goals of environmental sustainability, carbon footprint reduction, water conservation, and energy conservation.
- **Policy 5.5:** Ensure the routine



maintenance and operations of County parks and recreational facilities are carried out in a manner that optimizes water and energy conservation.

Implementation Action 5.1

Implement the County's Energy and Environmental Policy at County parks, including the following programs:

- **Energy and Water Efficiency Program:** This program seeks to further reduce energy and water consumption at County parks by establishing specific reduction targets and a formal reporting process to measure DPR's progress towards these targets. Recommended initiatives include implementation of conservation monitoring practices, and energy and water efficiency projects in existing County parks.
- **Environmental Stewardship Program:** This program aims to reduce DPR's environmental footprint including, among other impacts, air pollutants produced through direct and indirect DPR operations. Also, DPR will increase the use of environmentally friendly products, and expand its recycling, composting, and mulching programs.
- **Sustainable Design Program:** This program provides for the integration of sustainable, green building technologies into the designs of

park improvement and refurbishment projects. The program seeks to extend the life cycle or useful life of buildings on County parks and maximize energy and water use efficiency.

Implementation Action 5.2

Develop new buildings on County park properties in conformance with the County's Green Building Ordinances.

Implementation Action 5.3

Establish and implement guidelines for the operation, design, and development of existing and new park facilities that will meet the needs of communities while minimizing impact on the natural environment. The guidelines will address a variety of issues including but not limited to the following:

- Systems design which promotes efficient use of water and energy.
- Landscape design which uses drought tolerant plants and native plants where appropriate.
- Use of construction material with recycled content.
- Reduce generation of waste during construction and occupancy.
- Use of construction material with reduced or no release of harmful gases.
- Building design and operation

which promote indoor air quality and users' comfort level and productivity.

- Installation of efficient plumbing fixtures to reduce potable water use and lower production of waste water.
- Purchase of sustainable cleaning material and building maintenance products.

Implementation Action 5.4

Pursue Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification (or other equivalent energy certified ratings) for all new buildings of 5,000 square feet or more on County park properties. DPR will also pursue LEED-EB (Existing Buildings) certification for certain existing buildings on park properties by addressing whole-building cleaning and maintenance issues (including chemical use), recycling programs, exterior maintenance programs, and systems upgrades.

Implementation Action 5.5

Work with the Department of Public Works and water purveyors in connecting County parks to recycled water lines where available. Participate in meetings and discussions on the expansion of service areas for recycled water.



Protection of Historical and Educational Resources on County Park Properties

County parks in Florence-Firestone contain important historical and educational resources that must be protected. Threats to these resources include both intentional and unintentional acts such as deferred maintenance, renovation or improvements that significantly alter or damage the resource, acts of vandalism and theft, or overuse by park users.

Historic resources on County park properties include buildings, collections, landscapes, bridges, and other physical features. The maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historical resources are carried out in a manner consistent with the most current Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

Education resources include facilities for educational purposes, including a variety of classes and after-school programs. Integrate a range of cultural arts programs into existing activities, and partner with multicultural vendors and organizations.

GOAL 6

Protection of historical and educational resources on County park properties in Florence-Firestone.

- **Policy 6.1:** Preserve all historic resources on County park properties, including buildings, collections, landscapes, and other physical features.
- **Policy 6.2:** Expand the collection of historical resources under DPR's jurisdiction where appropriate.
- **Policy 6.3:** Preserve and develop facilities that serve as educational resources that improve community understanding of and appreciation for natural areas including watersheds.
- **Policy 6.4:** Promote the use of County parks and recreational facilities for educational purposes, including a variety of classes and after-school programs.

Implementation Action 6.1

Compile an inventory of historical resources at all County parks in Florence-Firestone, including facilities that are listed or eligible to be included on the State and/or National Register of Historic Places.

Implementation Action 6.2

Ensure maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, restoration, or reconstruction of historical resources in County parks



are carried out in a manner consistent with the most current Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings.

Implementation Action 6.3

Solicit and accept additional donations of properties, collections, and related materials of historic value to be made available for public education and benefit.

Implementation Action 6.4

Collaborate with other County departments and outside agencies to appropriately preserve historical resources through mutual learning and exchange of information.

Implementation Action 6.5

Improve and enhance educational, informational, and regulatory signage at County parks and recreational facilities as appropriate.



Sources

SOURCES

- 1 These deficits are determined based on the following Los Angeles County General Plan standards for the provision of parkland: four (4) acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents of the population in the County's unincorporated areas and six (6) acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents of the County's total population.
- 2 Trust for Public Land. (2004, November). *No place to play: a comparative analysis of park access in seven major cities*, p.4.
- 3 Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (2007, October). *Preventing childhood obesity: the need to create healthy places*, p.5.
- 4 Ibid, p.8.
- 5 County of Los Angeles. (2007). "Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Communities Rich in History." *Florence-Firestone and Walnut Park Connection Community Resources Guide 2007*, pp. 50-60.
- 6 Nicolaides, B (2002). *My Blue Heaven: Life and Politics in the Working-Class Suburbs of Los Angeles, 1920-1965*, p. 114. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 7 "Goodyear Rubber Company to Build a Great Factory at Ascot Park." (1919, June 24). *Historical Newspaper Los Angeles Times* (1991-1986).
- 8 Ibid, p.24.
- 9 Wikipedia. "South Los Angeles." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Los_Angeles
- 10 Wikipedia. "South Los Angeles." http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Los_Angeles
- 11 Chang, E. & Diaz-Veizades, J. (1999). *Ethnic Peace in the American City: building community in Los Angeles and beyond*, p. 17. New York: NYU Press.
- 12 Singh, G. K., Siahpush, M., Kogan, M. D. (2010). Neighborhood socioeconomic conditions, built environments, and childhood obesity. *Health Affairs*, 29(3), 503-512.
- 13 Vest, J., Valadez, A. (2005). Perceptions of neighborhood characteristics and leisure-time physical inactivity— Austin/Travis County, Texas. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 54(37), 926-928.
- 14 Loukaitou-Sideris, A. (2006). Is it safe to walk?: Neighborhood safety and security considerations and their effects on walking. *Journal of Planning Literature*, 20(3), 219-32.

PHOTO CREDITS

- 1 Ted Watkins Park Flagpole, p.52. Los Angeles County Arts Commission, by Patrick McElhenney

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 - COMMUNITY INPUT DOCUMENTS

Community Questionnaire

Youth Workshop Artwork

Sports Group Survey

Stakeholder Interview List

FLORENCE-FIRESTONE Community Parks and Recreation Plan COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

As a member of the Florence-Firestone community, you play an important role in helping to provide input for the development of the County's Community Parks and Recreation Plan. This Plan will identify long term planning for programs, renovating and expanding existing park facilities and creating new park facilities. You are being asked to respond to the following questions related to the Community Parks and Recreation Plan study. If some of the questions do not directly relate to your particular role in the community, your opinion or insight would be appreciated. Results will be tabulated without specific reference to individuals. This will provide a broad picture and serve as an important source of information in the development of the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

1. Do you live in Florence-Firestone? YES ☐ NO ☐

2. What is your age group?

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| 5-14 years | ☐ | 31-50 years | ☐ |
| 15-19 years | ☐ | 51-65 years | ☐ |
| 20-30 years | ☐ | 66 and older | ☐ |

3. How often do you use parks in Florence Firestone?

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Daily | ☐ | At least once a month | ☐ |
| At least once a week | ☐ | A couple of times a year | ☐ |
| Never | ☐ | If never, why? _____ | |

4. What park facilities do you use?

- | | | | |
|------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Roosevelt Park | ☐ | Col Leon Washington Park | ☐ |
| Ted Watkins Park | ☐ | Mary M. Bethune Park | ☐ |

5. What activities do you participate in at those facilities?

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Youth Sports | ☐ | Music and Dance Activities | ☐ |
| Adult Sports | ☐ | Art and Culture Activities | ☐ |
| Educational Classes | ☐ | Social Clubs | ☐ |
| Seniors Activities | ☐ | Passive leisure | ☐ |

6. What activities and/or facilities do you feel are needed in Florence Firestone?

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Senior Citizens activities | ☐ | Tutoring or Homework assistance | ☐ |
| Arts and Cultural activities | ☐ | Information about County Services | ☐ |
| After school and extended day care | ☐ | Educational Classes for Children and Adults | ☐ |
| Adult Sports | ☐ | Tiny Tots | ☐ |
| Youth Sports | ☐ | Walking paths/bicycle | ☐ |



FLORENCE-FIRESTONE Community Parks and Recreation Plan COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

7. Which of these recreation activities/programs is most important for the Florence-Firestone community, 1 being highest priority and 10 being lowest.

Senior Citizens activities	
Arts and Cultural activities	
After school and extended day care	
Adult Sports	
Youth Sports	
Tutoring or Homework assistance	
Information about County Services	
Educational Classes for Children	
Educational Classes for Adults	
Walking paths/bicycle	

8. What are the top three issues concerning parks and recreation in Florence Firestone?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

9. Do you participate in programs offered in other communities? YES ☐ NO ☐

If yes, which communities?

If yes, which programs?

City of Los Angeles	☐	Adult Sports	☐
City of Compton	☐	Youth Sports	☐
City of Lynwood	☐	Senior Activities	☐
City of Huntington Park	☐	Educational Classes	☐
City of South Gate	☐	Art and Culture Activities	☐
		Music and Dance Activities	☐
		Other Non Profits (YMCA, Boys and Girls clubs, AYSO)	☐

10. List any issues of special concern or particular importance that you may have or feel need to be addressed in the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

Drop off completed surveys at the following locations:

Franklin D. Roosevelt Park, 7600 Graham Ave. Los Angeles CA 90001
Colonel Leon Washington Park. 8908 S. Maie Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90002

County Department of Parks and Recreation - Planning & Development Agency



FLORENCE-FIRESTONE Plan de la Comunidad de Parques y Recreación CUESTIONARIO DE LA COMUNIDAD

Como miembro de la comunidad de Florence-Firestone, usted tiene un papel importante en ayudar con el desarrollo de un plan de parques y recreación en la comunidad. Este plan identificará la planificación a largo plazo para programas, renovación y extensión de parques existentes y diseño de nuevos parques. Favor de responder a las siguientes preguntas relacionadas con el Plan de Parques y Recreación de la Comunidad de Florence-Firestone. Aun si algunas preguntas no lo afectan directamente, su opinión será apreciada. Los resultados serán tabulados sin referencia individual. Esto va a asistir como recurso importante de información en el desarrollo del Plan de la Comunidad de Parques y Recreación.

1. ¿Su domicilio esta en la comunidad de Florence-Firestone? SI ☐ NO ☐

2. ¿En Cual grupo se identifica?

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| 5 a 14 años | ☐ | 31 a 50 años | ☐ |
| 15 a 19 años | ☐ | 51 a 65 años | ☐ |
| 20 a 30 años | ☐ | Mas de 66 años | ☐ |

3. ¿Cuanto tiempo frecuenta los parques en la area de Florence Firestone?

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Diario | ☐ | Una vez al mes | ☐ |
| Una vez por semana | ☐ | Dos veces por año | ☐ |
| Nunca | ☐ | Sin nunca, porque? _____ | |

4. De los parques siguientes cuáles usted utiliza?

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Roosevelt | ☐ | Col Leon Washington | ☐ |
| Ted Watkins | ☐ | Mary M. Bethune | ☐ |

5. En qué actividades usted participa en esos parques?

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Deportes de Niños | ☐ | Actividades de Música y Baile | ☐ |
| Deportes de Adultos | ☐ | Actividades de Arte y Cultura | ☐ |
| Classes Educativas | ☐ | Clubs Sociales | ☐ |
| Actividades para personas de Tercera Edad | ☐ | Pasatiempos Pasivos | ☐ |

6. Qué actividades o instalaciones cree usted que necesita Florence Firestone?

- | | | | |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Actividades para personas de Tercera Edad | ☐ | Asistencia para tarea de la escuela y tutores | ☐ |
| Actividades de Arte y Cultura | ☐ | Información sobre servicios del Condado | ☐ |
| Actividades despues de escuela y extender horas de cuidado | ☐ | Claseses educativas para Adultos y Niños | ☐ |
| Deportes de Adultos | ☐ | Programa de Niños Pequeños (Tiny Tots) | ☐ |
| Deportes de Niños | ☐ | Caminos de caminar y bicicletas | ☐ |



FLORENCE-FIRESTONE Plan de la Comunidad de Parques y Recreación CUESTIONARIO DE LA COMUNIDAD

7. Cuáles de las siguientes actividades o programas de recreación son más importantes para la comunidad de Florence Firestone, considerando el numero uno (1) como alta preoridad y el numero diez (10) de baja preoridad.

Actividades para persosas de tercera edad	
Actividades de arte y cultura	
Clases despues de escuela y extender horas de cuidado	
Deportes de Adultos	
Deportes de Niños	
Asistencia para la tarea de la escuela y tutores	
Información sobre los servicios del Condado	
Clases educativas para adultos	
Clases educativas para niños	
Caminos de caminar /bicicletas	

8. Cuáles son los tres asuntos más importantes en los parques de Florence Firestone?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

9. Usted participa en programas ofrecidos en otras comunidades? SI ☐ NO ☐

Si si, que comunidades?

Si si, cuáles programas?

Ciudad de Los Angeles	☐	Deportes de Adultos	☐
Ciudad de Compton	☐	Deportes de Niños	☐
Ciudad de Lynwood	☐	Actividades para personas de Tercera Edad	☐
Ciudad de Huntington Park	☐	Clases educativas para Niños o Adultos	☐
Ciudad de South Gate	☐	Actividades de Arte y Cultura	☐
		Actividades de Musica y Baile	☐
		Otras asociaciones (YMCA, Boys and Girls clubs, AYSO)	☐

10. Haga lista de problemas o cosas que merecen consideración especial que usted siente que necesitan atención en el Plan de Parques y Recreación.

Favor de entregar su cuestionario completo a uno de los siguiente locales:

Franklin d. Roosevelt Park, 7600 Graham Ave. Los Angeles CA 90001
Colonel Leon Washington Park. 8908 S. Maie Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90002

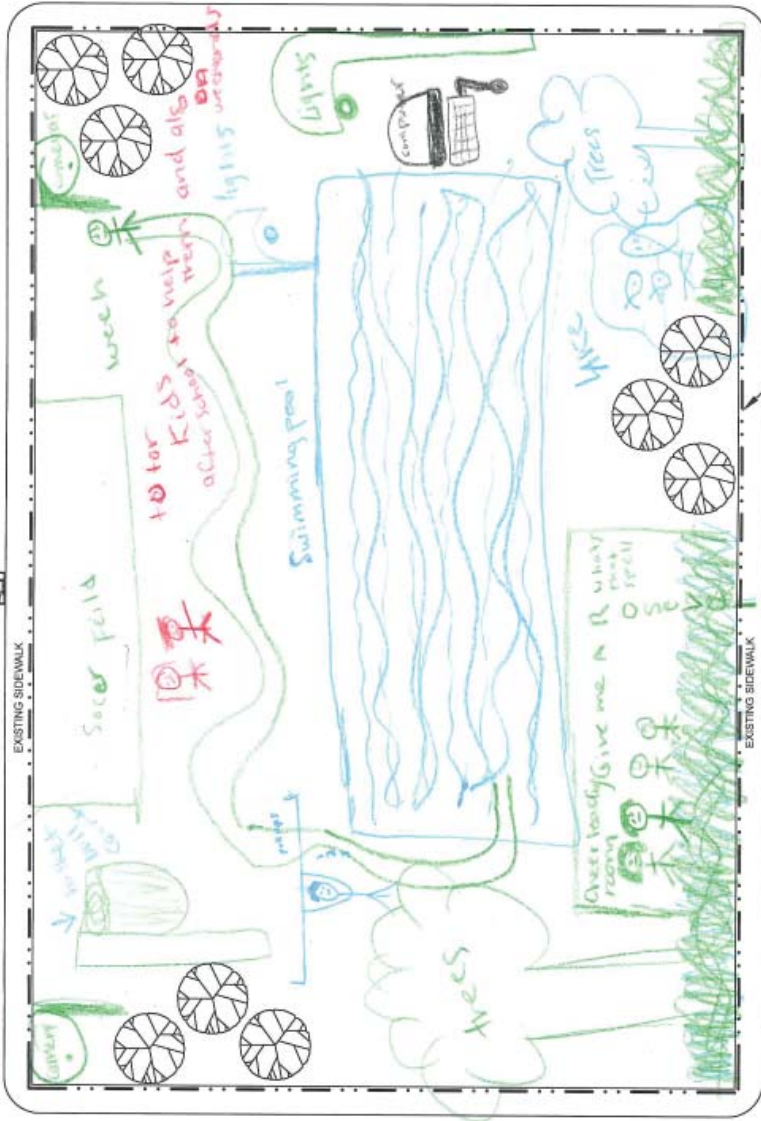


RECREATION IDEAS

More Computers

1. chmeras
2. Lights
3. biger swimming pool
4. chicer reading room
5. more water parks
6. A lake with fish
7. more trees
8. More basket ball courts
9. Teen Jobs as mentors
10. Picnick space for every one



MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE

EXISTING SIDEWALK

PROPERTY LINE

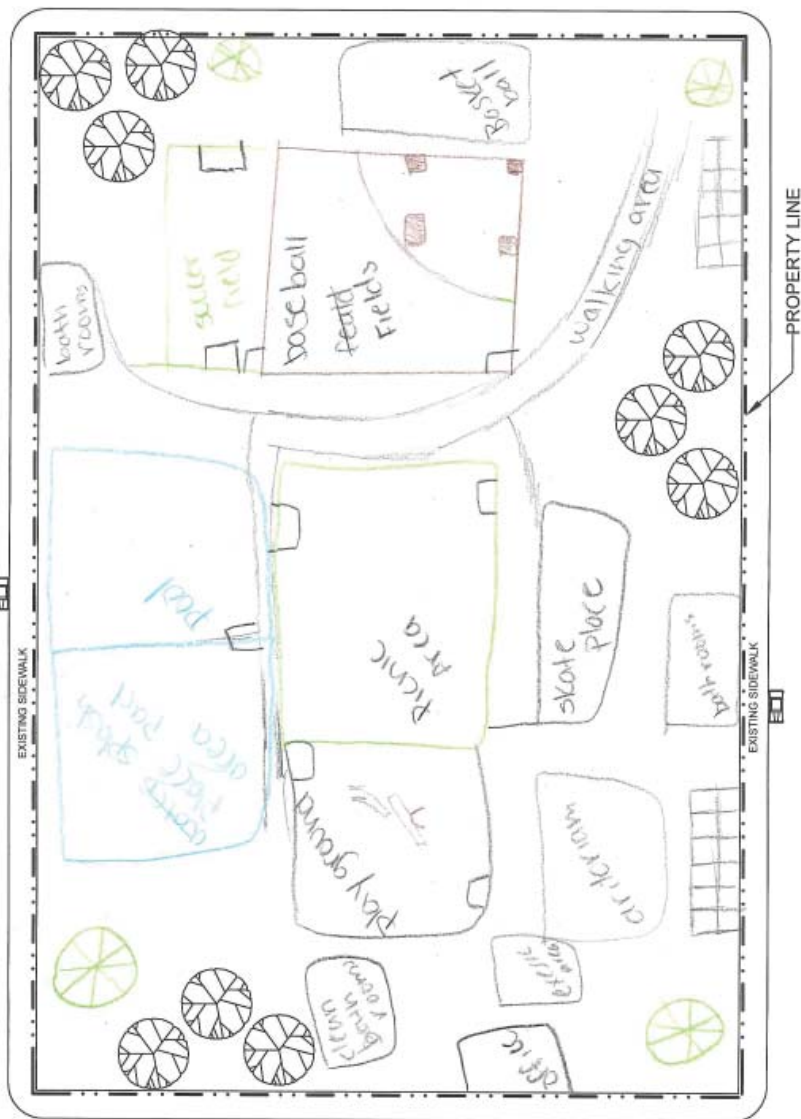
VINE AVE

MY PARK DESIGN

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

RECREATION IDEAS

1. soccer, base ball, soft ball, fields
2. picnic area
3. play ground
4. basketball area
5. pool
6. skate place
7. water place area
8. bathrooms
9. lights
10. walking paths
park patrol, trees, flowers
trellis



SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

RECREATION IDEAS

1. I think there should be a big splash pad

2. Big Bright lights around the park and especially in the parking lot

3. Clean the restrooms more often

4. I think there should be a space for people to play football

5. Bigger parking lots

6. State Parks

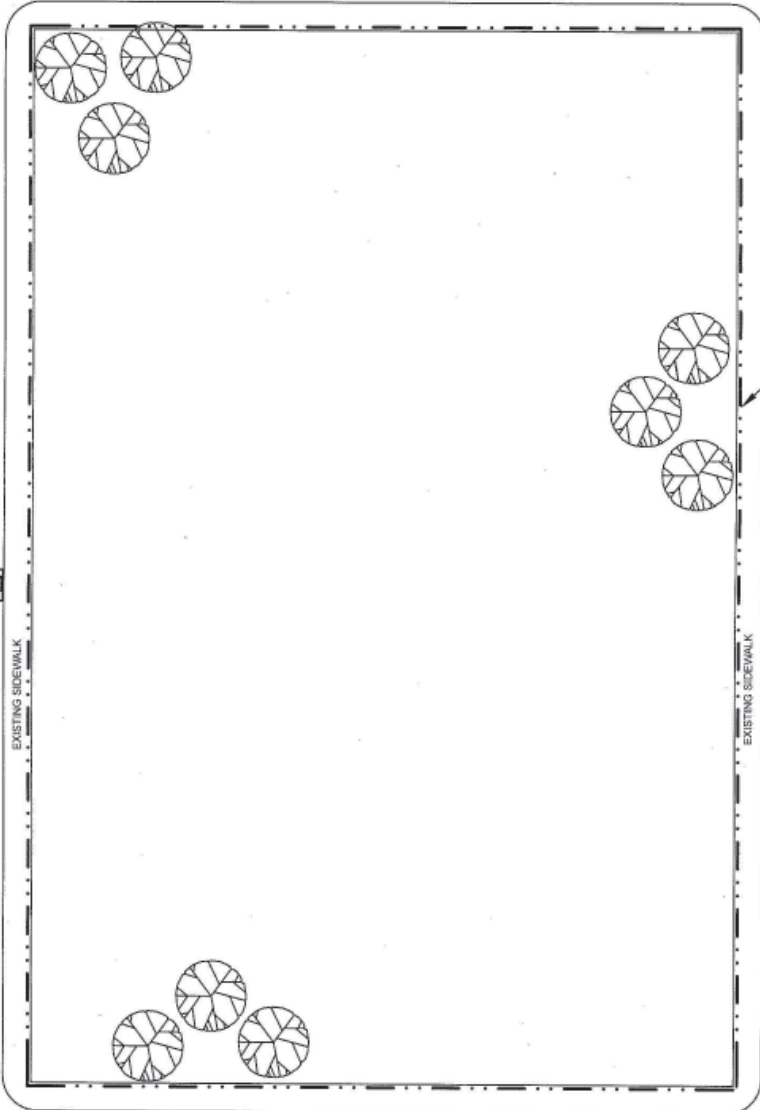
7. More safety cameras

8. more teddy bears

9. Wifi

10.



SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

RECREATION IDEAS

1. more restrooms
2. arcade
3. cleaner restrooms
4. more lights
5. pool table
6. more play areas for kids
7. football fields
8. benches
9. more trees
10. Wi-Fi



MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE

EXISTING SIDEWALK

PROPERTY LINE

VINE AVE

EXISTING SIDEWALK

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

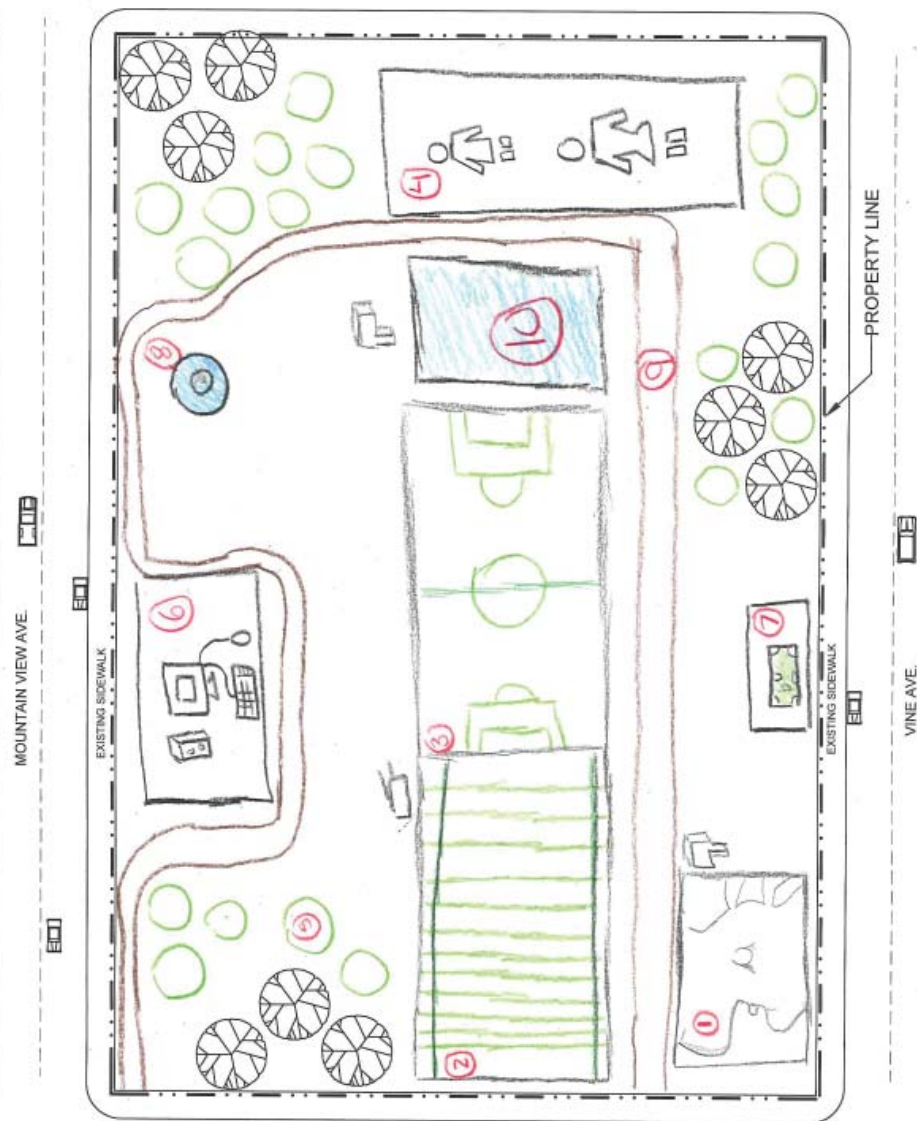




RECREATION IDEAS

See Below
7/11

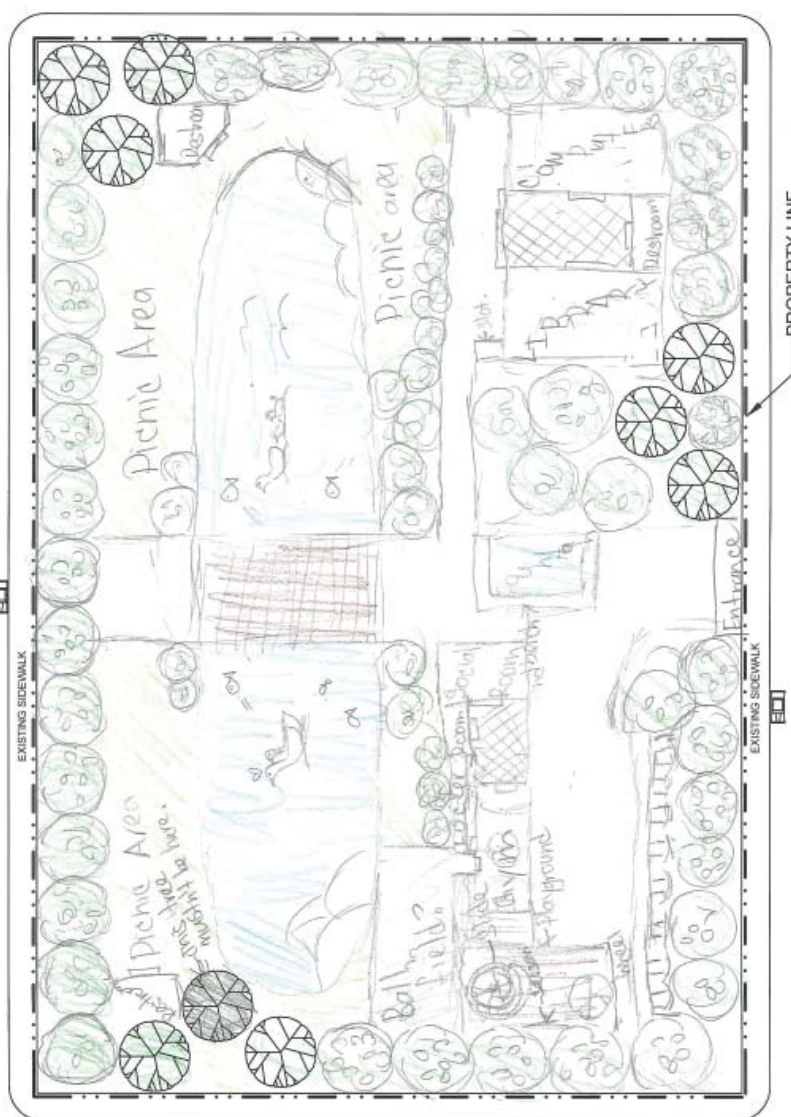
1. Skate park/BMX
2. Football Field
3. Soccer Field
4. Bathrooms
5. Trees
6. Computer Lab/Wi Fi
7. Pool Tables
8. Fountain
9. Running trail
10. Pool



MY PARK DESIGN

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

1. Trees (lots of them)
2. More Cameras
3. Put a library in it!
4. Bathrooms (put more!)
5. More security
6. Put a bike in it as well.
7. Include a computer lab
8. Swings!
9. Fountain
10. A room to exercise!



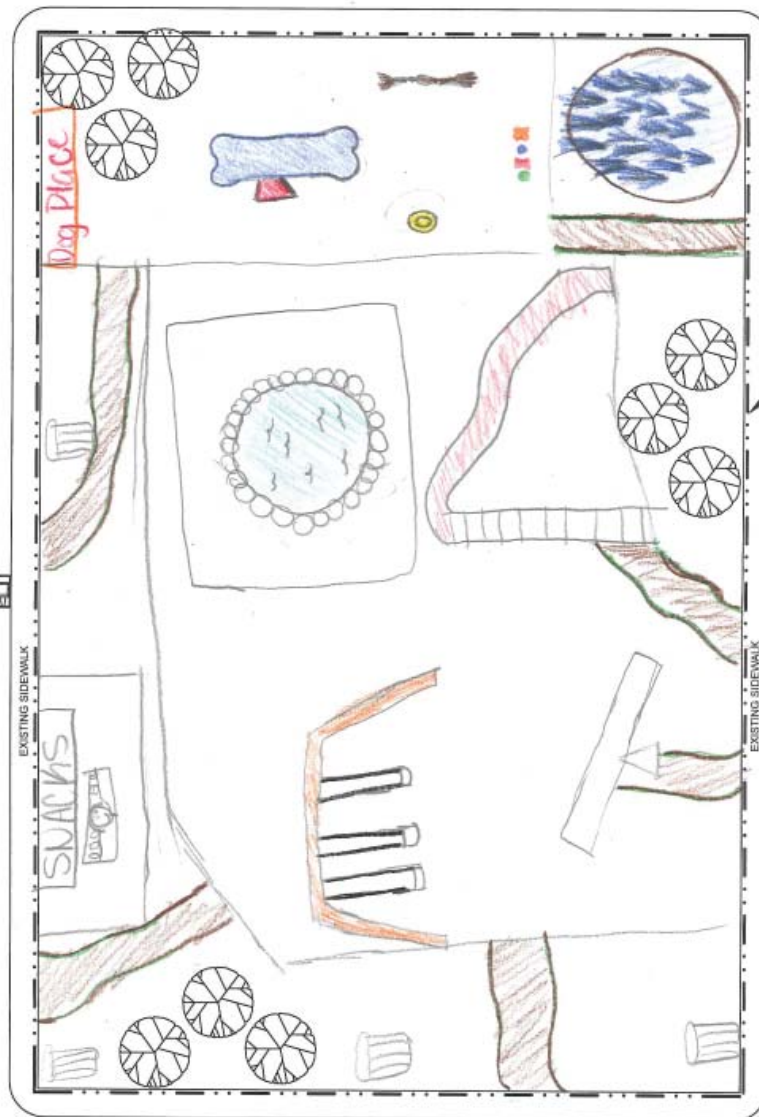
PROPERTY LINE

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

RECREATION IDEAS

1. See saw
2. three swings
3. longer slides; higher
4. splash pad
5. pond
6. snake place
7. More trash cans
8. small place for dogs
9. more safety
10. Rocking horses



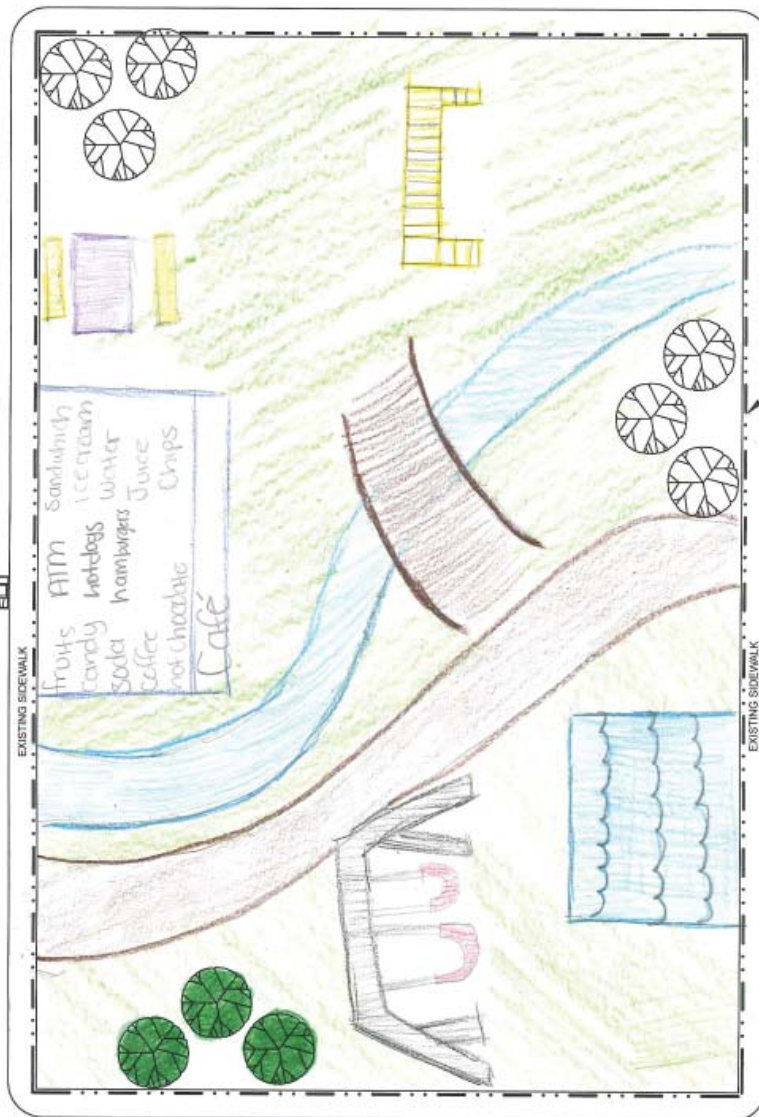
SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

Florence-Firestone Community Parks and Recreation Plan

RECREATION IDEAS

1. Swings
2. trail
3. pool
4. lights
5. computer lab (wi-fi)
6. gym (bigger)
7. Café (wi-fi)
8. monkey bars
9. water park
10. Mini river



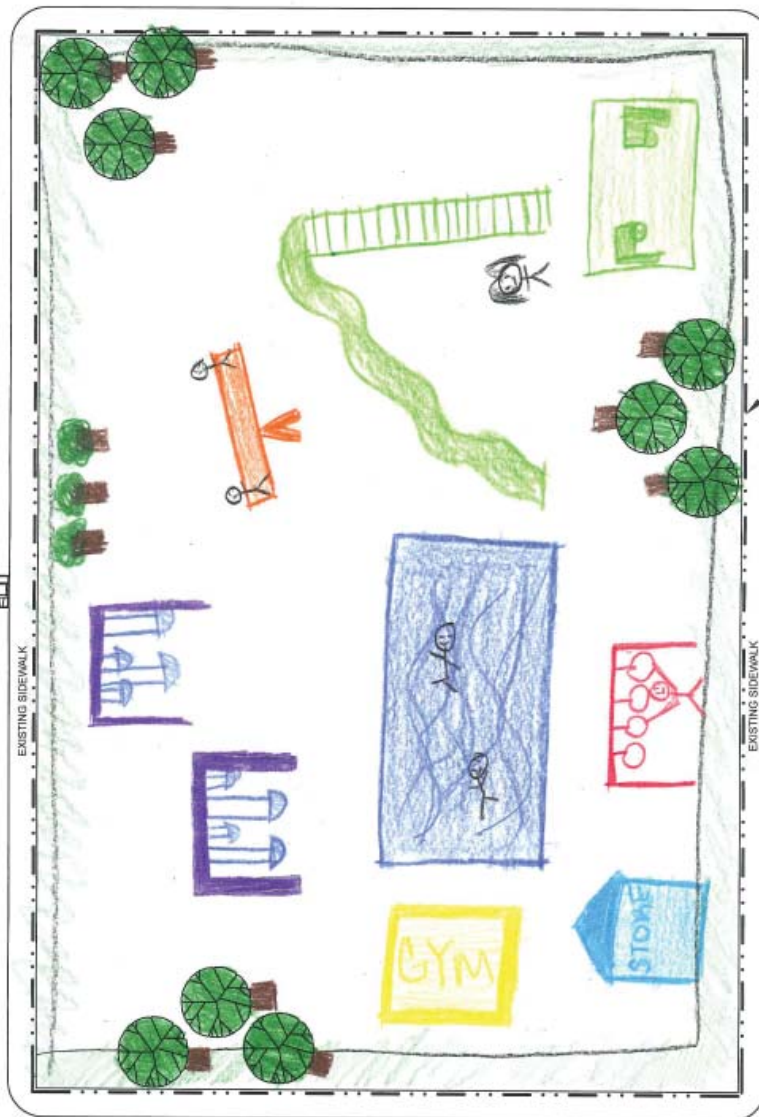
MY PARK DESIGN

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

[illegible]

RECREATION IDEAS

1. More swings
2. Pool
3. Lounger Slides
4. Seagull
5. More Trees or Bushes
6. Stone
7. Monkey Bars
8. Gym
9. Pocket ball court
10. More Safety



SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

RECREATION IDEAS

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

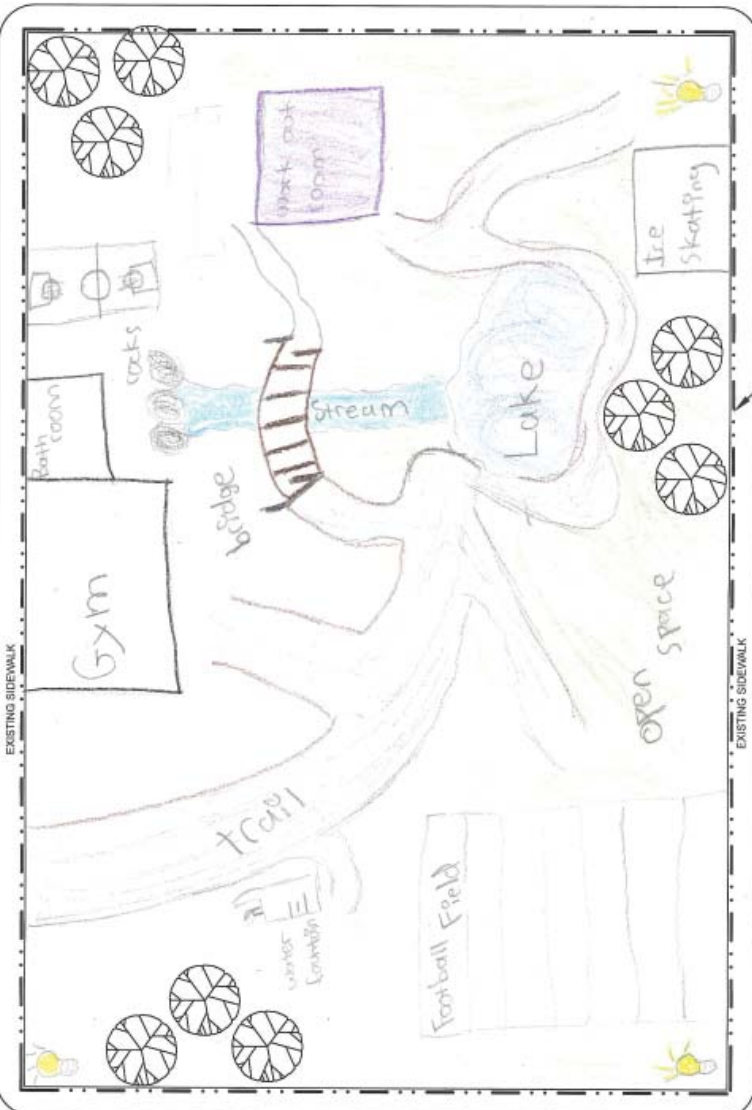



MOUNTAIN VIEW AVE

EXISTING SIDEWALK

VINE AVE

EXISTING SIDEWALK



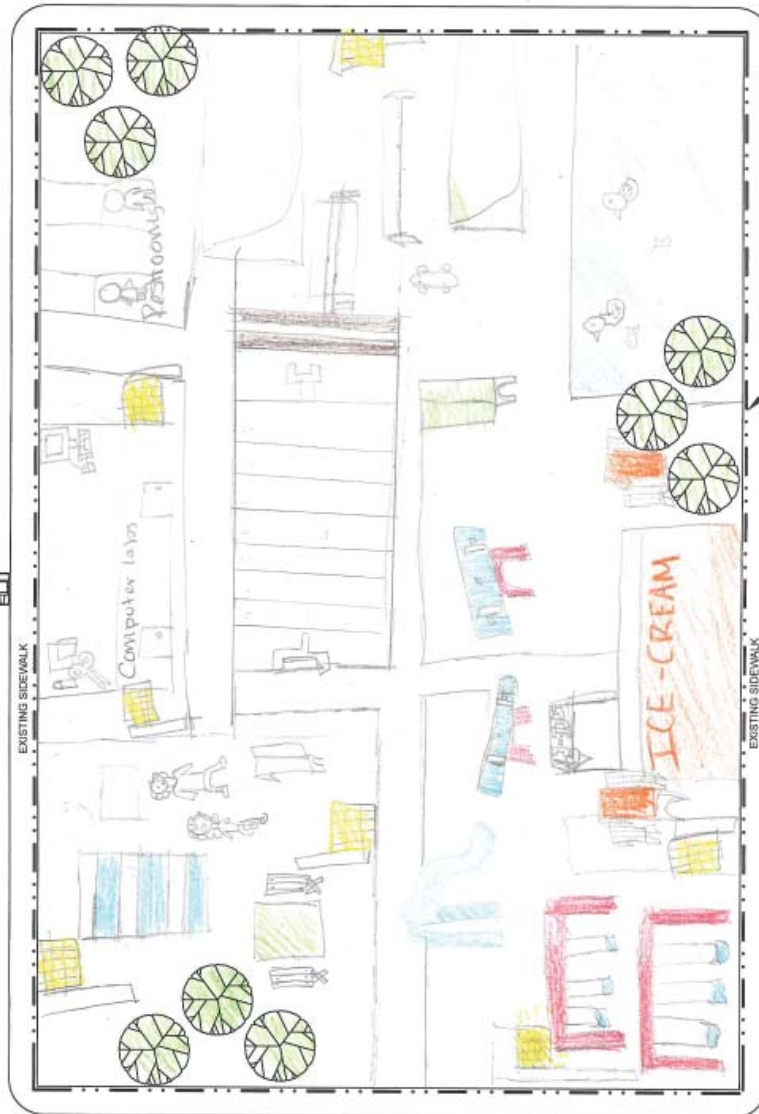
PROPERTY LINE

MY PARK DESIGN

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

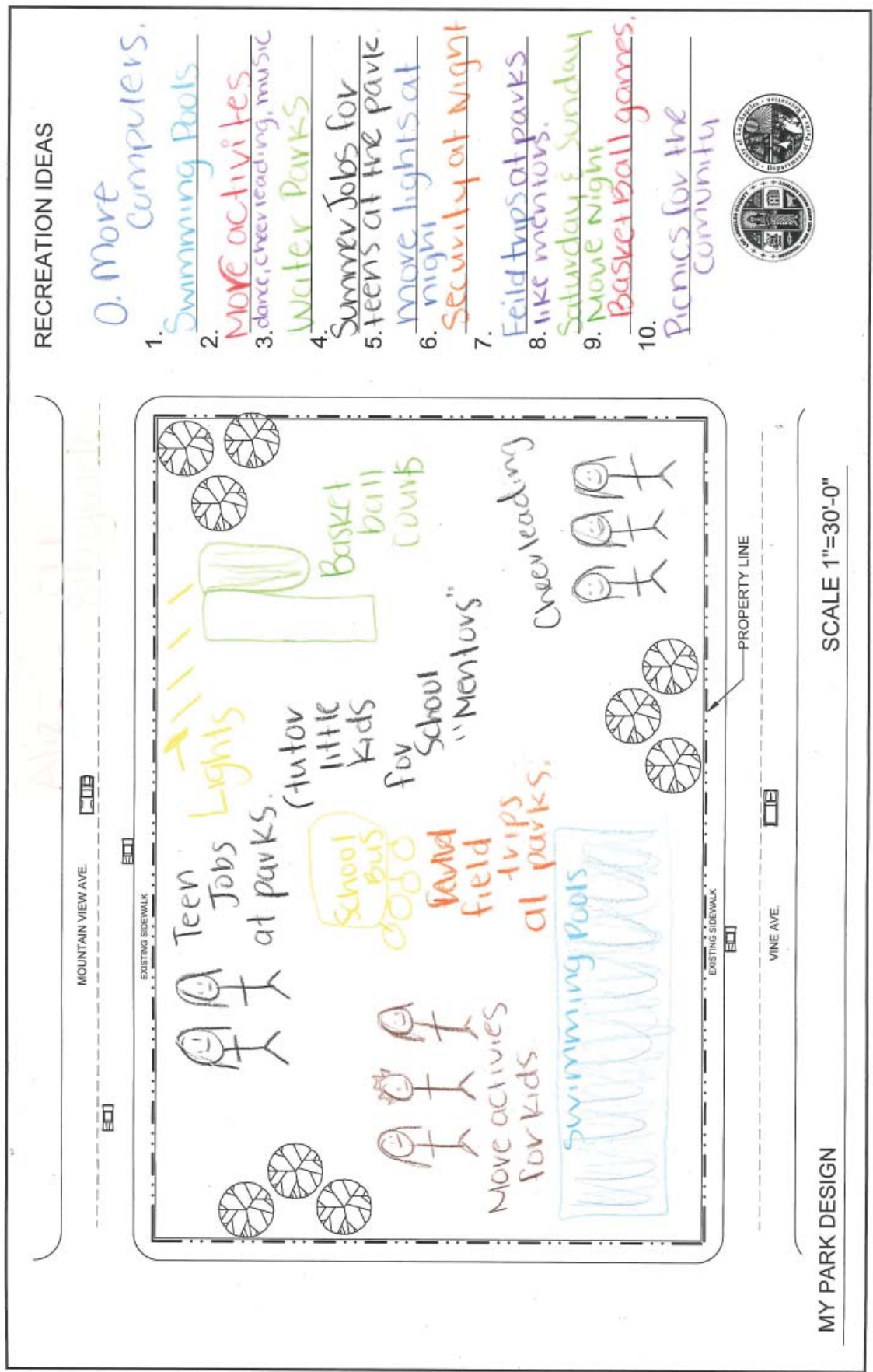
RECREATION IDEAS

1. More Swings
2. See-saws
3. Seating Ramp
4. Yoga mats
5. exercising
6. Computer lab
7. Pond
8. Foot ball field
9. Ice cream parlor
- 10.



SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

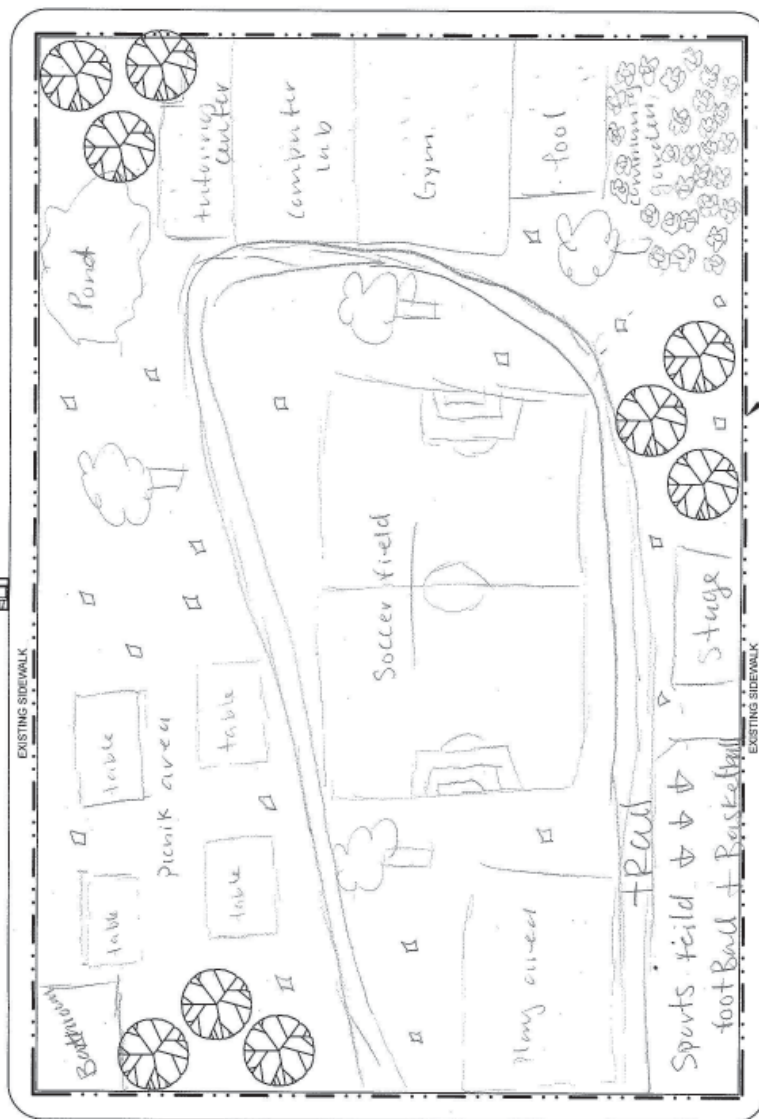


RECREATION IDEAS

D = Lights

1. Picnik area
2. community garden
3. Pond
4. computer lab w/ internet
5. Play area
6. Gym
7. Soccer field
8. Sports field
9. Tutoring center
- 10.

it would be cool like if they had people to perform every weekend.

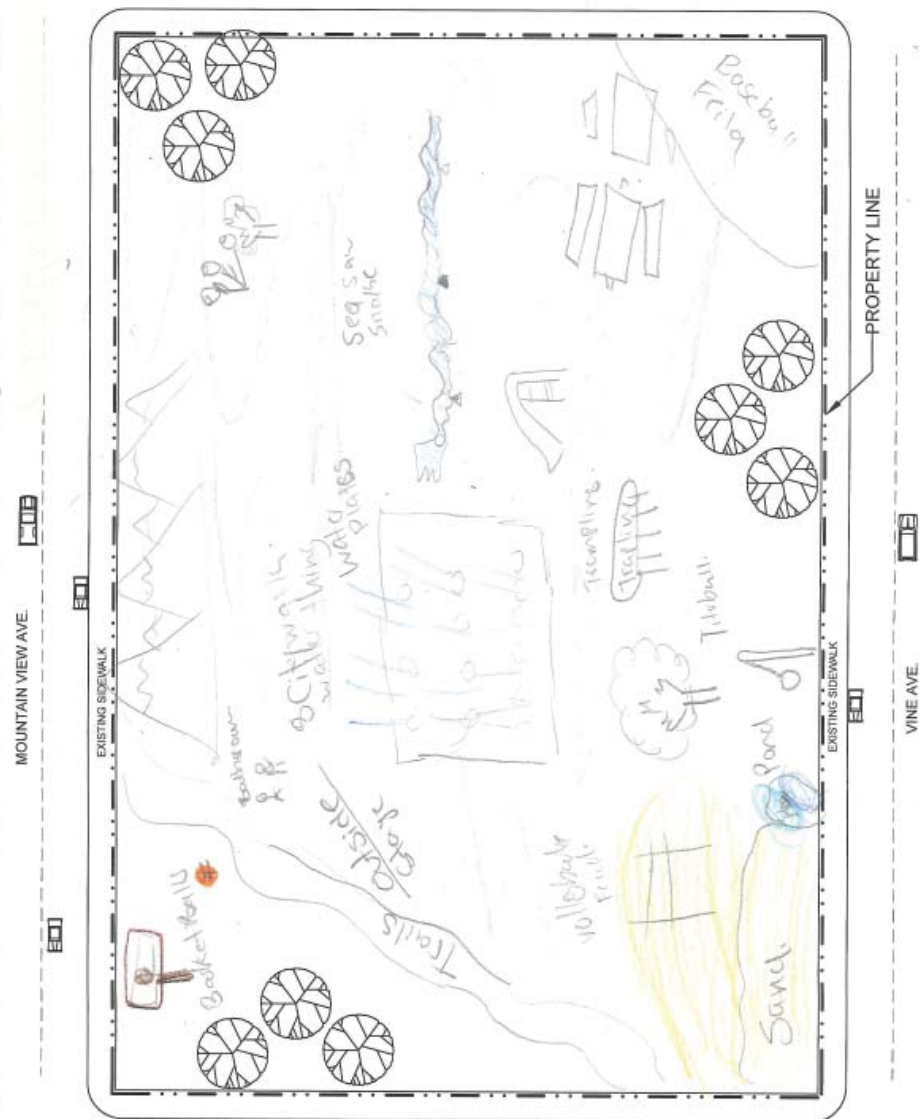


SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

RECREATION IDEAS

1. Out side stage.
2. Water Plate Park.
3. Soccer Play area
4. Family Area
5. Kid area
6. Community garden.
7. Sports area
8. Gymnasium
9. Trails Tracks
10. A place to have fun.



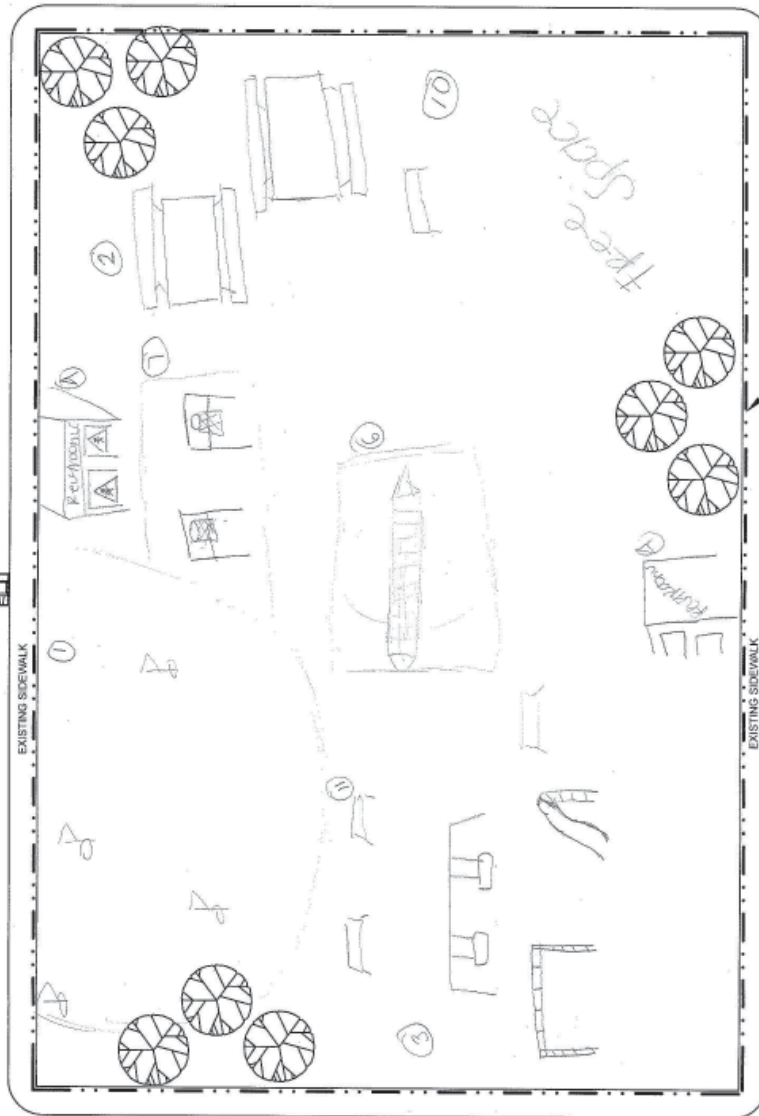
SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN

Florence-Firestone Community Parks and Recreation Plan

RECREATION IDEAS

1. Mini golf Course
2. Picnic Place
3. Play ground
4. Restrooms
5. Exercise Place/Cym
6. Tennis Court
7. basketball court
8. Vending Machines
9. light
10. Free space
11. Benches



SCALE 1"=30'-0"

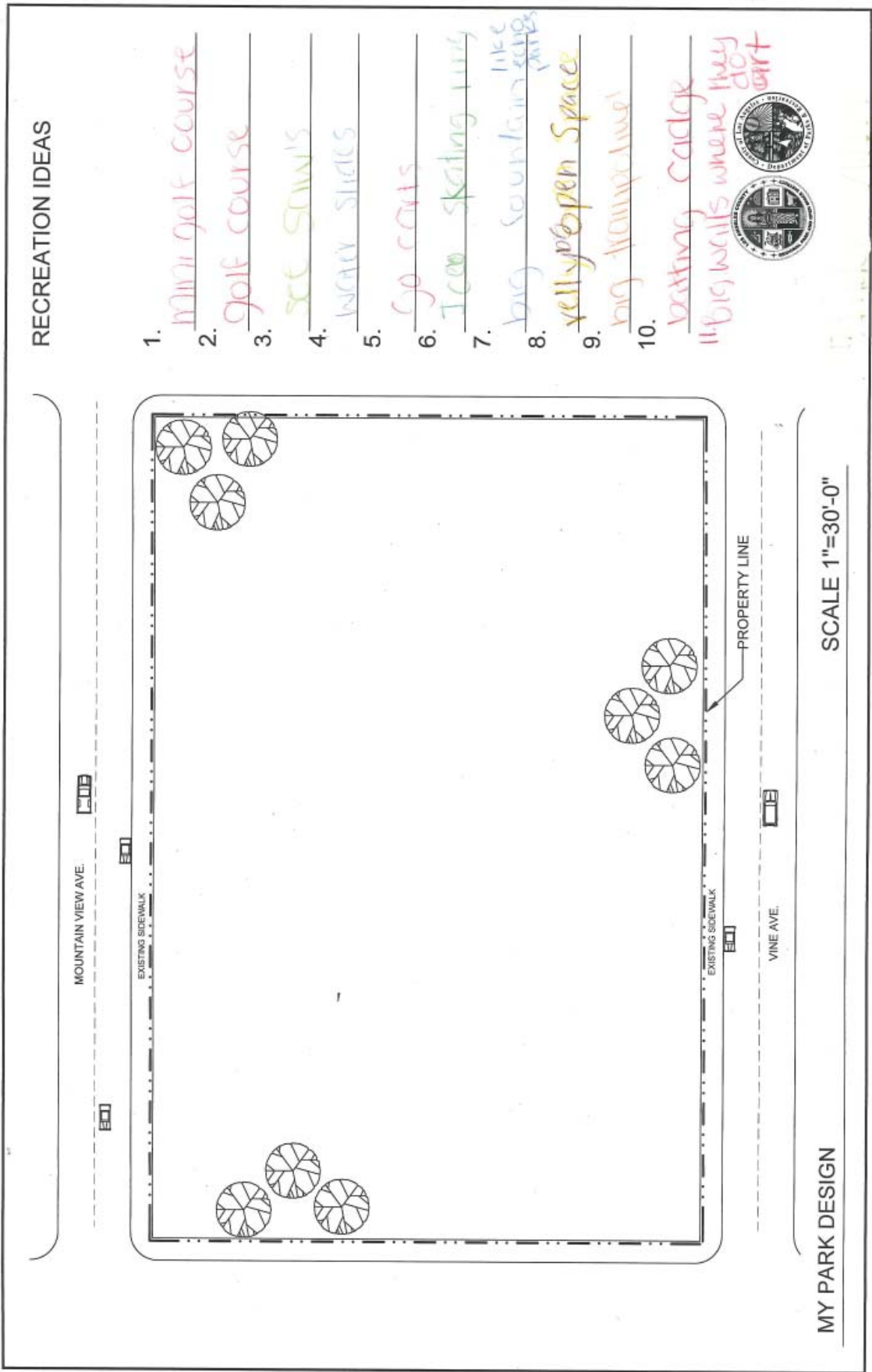
MY PARK DESIGN

RECREATION IDEAS

1. Rock climbing
2. Football stadium
3. Water slides
4. go-carts
5. trampolines
6. Ice-skating ring
7. fishing
8. batting cage
9. theater
10. kid trains

SCALE 1"=30'-0"

MY PARK DESIGN



Florence-Firestone Community Parks and Recreation Plan

FLORENCE-FIRESTONE Community Parks and Recreation Plan						SPORTS GROUP SURVEY	
Sports Organization Information Organization Name _____		Contact Name _____		Phone _____		Date _____	
How many fields do you use? Baseball Fields (total) _____ Softball Fields (total) _____ Soccer Fields (total) _____ Football Fields (total) _____ Other Fields (total) _____ Comments: _____ _____ _____ _____	What age groups do you serve? 5 & Under ☐ 5 to 7 ☐ 8 – 10 ☐ 11-12 ☐ 12-13 ☐ 13 – 15 ☐ 16 & Over ☐ Adult's ☐ Seniors ☐	Where are the fields you use? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Please rate their condition. Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor ☐ Comments: _____ _____	Where do you practice? _____ _____ _____ Lighted ☐ yes ☐ no ☐			
How many total participants? Baseball _____ Softball _____ Soccer _____ Football _____ Other (Sport) _____ Other (Sport) _____ Other (Sport) _____	Do you operate a concession stand? Yes ☐ No ☐ What is your major fund raising activity? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	What is your projected growth in participation for the next 5 years? None ☐ 5% ☐ 10% ☐ More than 10% ☐ Comments: _____ _____ _____ _____	Improvements Needed? _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Do you need additional fields? Game Fields ☐ Practice Fields ☐ Lighted Fields ☐ (Check all that apply)	Does your field use conflict with another sport? Yes ☐ No ☐ Which Sport? _____		
When is your sports season? Fall ☐ Winter ☐ Spring ☐ Summer ☐			Any additional remarks: _____ _____ _____ _____				



Stakeholder Interview List

1. Mary Anderson, Carolyn Kobayashi, Angel Nicolas, Lauren Talbott – Los Angeles County Libraries
2. Ana Lasso – Los Angeles Unified School District
3. Charlotte Perkins – Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
4. Fr. Jesus Vela - St. Lawrence Catholic Church
5. Dino Smiley – Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
6. Gloria Medina – Florence-Firestone Chamber Coordinator
7. Lt. John Babbitt – Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
8. Nicole Vick – Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
9. Giles Coons – Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
10. Laurent Hernandez – Parmelee Elementary School
11. Susan Ahern – Lillian Street School
12. Armando Zarate – St. Malachy Church
13. Gregg Esser – Los Angeles County Arts Commission
14. Glen Dake – Los Angeles Community Garden Council
15. Alina Bokde – Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
16. Abu Yusuf – Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Appendices

APPENDIX 2 - HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Image	Facility	Address	Agency	SD	Description	Historic Register	Type of Asset	Date	50th Anniver.	Notes
Roosevelt Park										
	Franklin D. Roosevelt Park	7600 Graham Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90001	East	1	Roosevelt is one of the oldest parks in the County system. Construction of the park was authorized by President Roosevelt as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project. A capped off Art Deco style fountain is located near the playground, possibly WPA. Structure was included in 1948 site plans. It was formerly a fountain that introduced water into a wading pool.	No	Historic WPA	1936	1983	1938-39 First development of park by WPA included baseball diamonds, restroom, playground, basketball & horseshoe courts, flagpole monument, water & sewer systems, lawns, walks and general landscaping.
	Franklin D. Roosevelt Park	7600 Graham Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90001	East	1	Flagpole base was erected by the WPA. It was precast terrazzo plaques set in terrazzo, approximately 9' 2" high, 6' 3" square base. A note from January 29, 1964 states that the terrazzo base had been removed. In February of 1964, this monument was sandblasted and plastered. Historic images are available. Associated seating may be WPA too.	No	Historic WPA	1936	1983	1938-39 First development of park by WPA included baseball diamonds, restroom, playground, basketball & horseshoe courts, flagpole monument, water & sewer systems, lawns, walks and general landscaping.
Washington Park										
Origin of Park name										
	Col. Leon H. Washington County Park, formerly Florence-Firestone County Park	8908 S Maie Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90002	South	2	The Franklin D. Roosevelt Park was named in 1938 with the approval of President Roosevelt (Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, Fact Sheet, 2-16-71).	No				
	Col. Leon H. Washington County Park pool house, formerly Florence-Firestone County Park	8908 S Maie Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90002	South	2	Washington Park is located in South Los Angeles. This 13.2-acre facility is built on land that formerly housed a large lumber yard. Thomas W. Haywood Jr. was the architect for the original community building. Gymnasium was dedicated January 21, 2006.	No	Memorabilia	1970	2020	Poster sized reproduction of Col. Washington with Supervisor Kenneth Hahn signed jersey & football by Chris Metcalf, USC football player who played at the park as a child.
Origin of Park name										
					Sept. 21, 1971 - Edward H. Fickett was the award winning, Modernist architect selected by the Board of Supervisors to design the swimming pool. This structure should be preserved. Alameda Krejci Pool	No				Fickett received his undergraduate degree from USC in 1937; He attended graduate school at Art Center in Pasadena from 1939-1941.
					February, 26, 1974, On motion of Supervisor Kenneth Hahn, the Board adopted the name Colonel Leon H. Washington Park which was formerly known as Florence-Firestone Park. Washington was an African American leader and independent thinker who founded the newspaper, "The Eastside Shopper", which is now known as "The Sentinel", one of the most respected newspapers in California.	No				

Florence-Firestone Community Parks and Recreation Plan