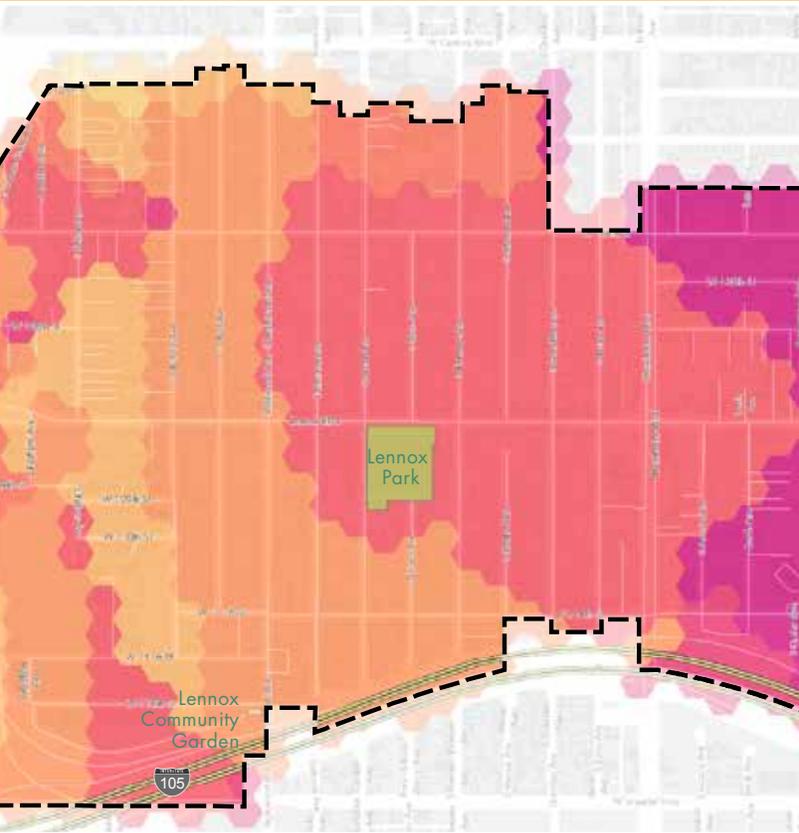


FEBRUARY 2016

LENNOX COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION



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Funding for the Lennox Community Parks and Recreation Plan was provided by the Strategic Growth Council through the Sustainable Communities Planning Grant program, funded by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006.

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From Lot to Spot

Special thanks to the residents of Lennox who took time to participate in outreach events and provide feedback about the future of parks and recreation in their community. This plan is dedicated to their vision.

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LENNOX Community Parks & Recreation Plan



PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

The purpose of the Plan is to provide a vision and roadmap for a greener Lennox, including a more extensive network of publicly-accessible green spaces and recreational facilities, as well as environmental enhancement projects. More importantly, the Plan provides specific implementation actions to be taken by the County. These will require establishing and strengthening partnerships in order to help reach the vision of a greener, safer and healthier community. The Plan builds on previous planning efforts and is a response to community needs and call for future greening in Lennox.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS OF EXISTING PARK

154,806 gallons of stormwater intercepted annually

158 pounds of reduced air pollutants annually

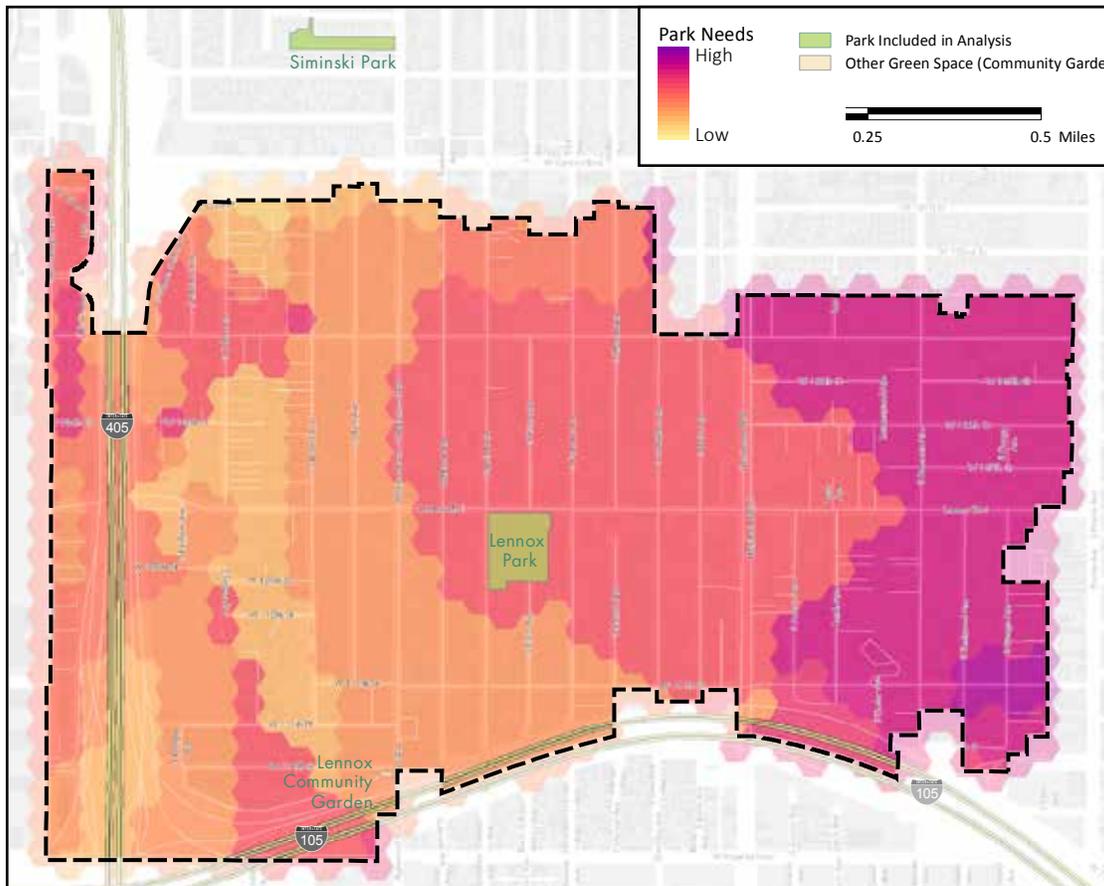
11,589 tons of CO₂ sequestered annually

PARKS AND GREENING PROFILE

Lennox has a severe deficit of parkland. The community only has one park, Lennox Park, which is approximately 5.6 acres in size. The Los Angeles County General Plan sets a standard of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. Lennox currently has a population of about 23,000 residents which means the community only has approximately **0.2 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents**, a figure significantly below the General Plan standard.

Access to Lennox Park is also not consistent throughout the community. **Thirty-six percent of the Lennox population is not within walking distance (1/2 mile) of Lennox Park or any other park in the area.** Other local environmental issues create a **high community need** for increased parks and green spaces. These include high levels of emissions and noise from nearby freeways and the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), low urban tree canopy coverage, as well as a challenging pedestrian and bicycle environment. **Access Through Partnerships** provides a community-based **master plan and implementation strategy** for parks and urban greening for Lennox.

Where are parks most needed in Lennox?



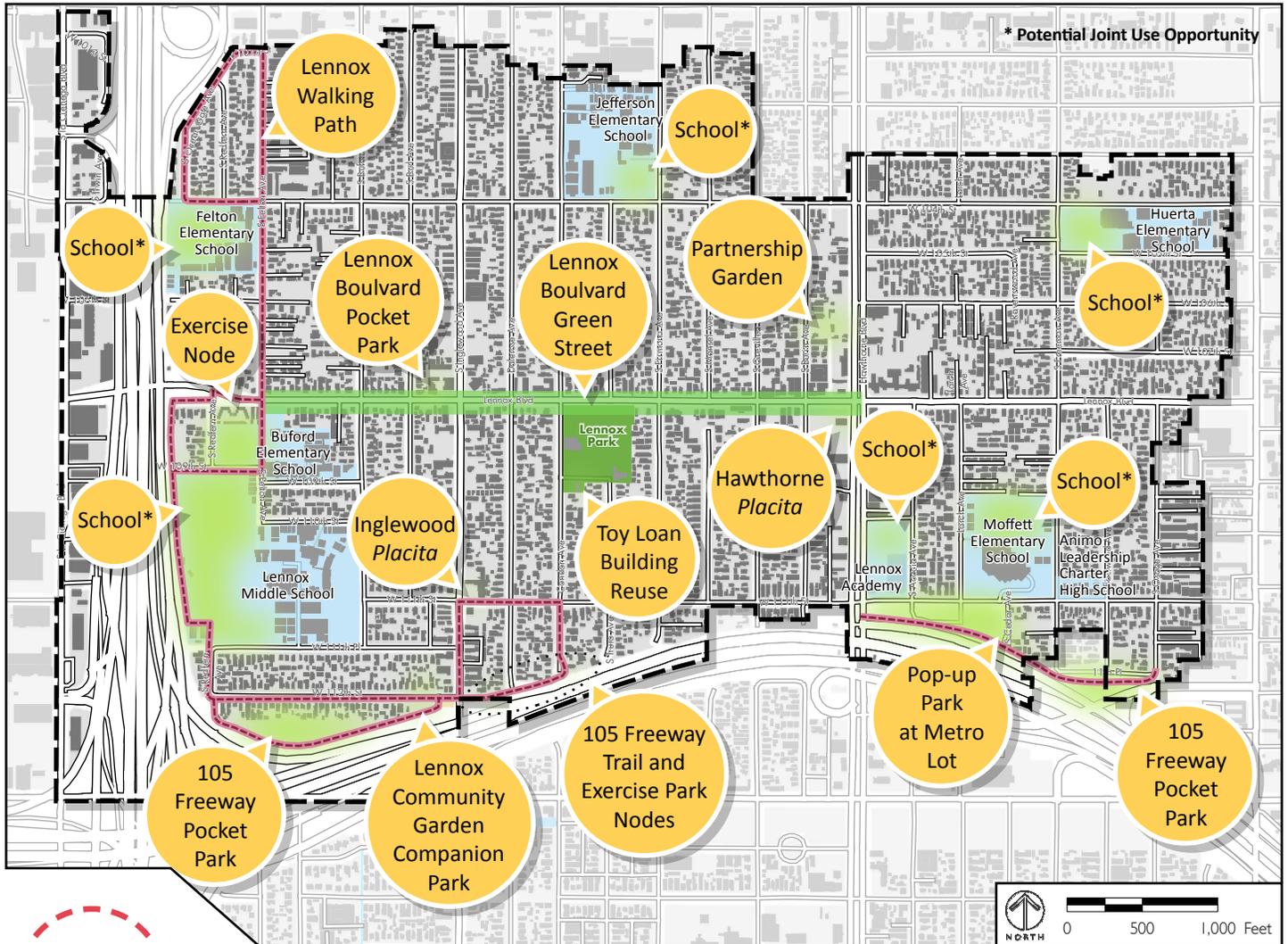
Community Members at Outreach Workshop.



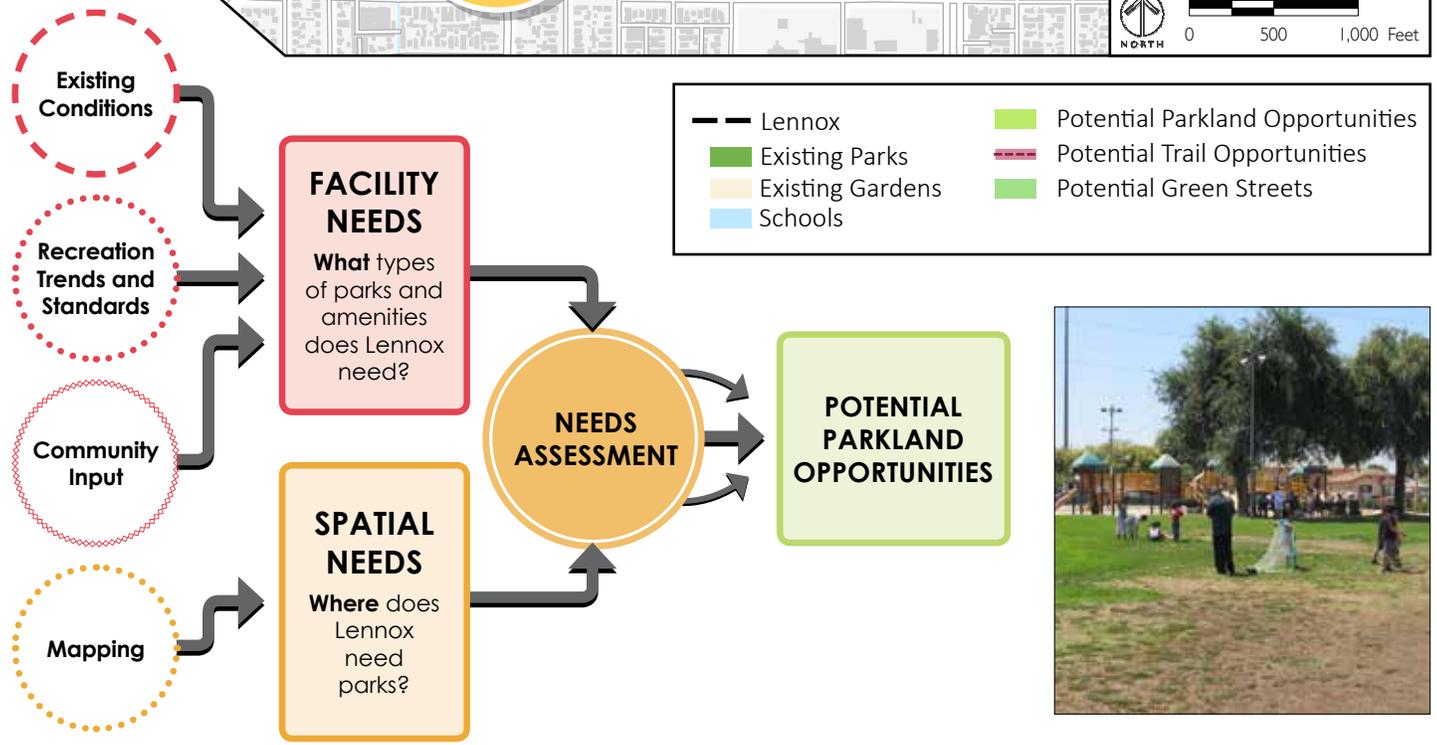
Youth Activity at Outreach Workshop.

LENNOX GREEN VISION MAP

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



Site Identification Process



GOALS FOR LENNOX

1. Develop a working model with Lennox schools to formalize joint use.
2. Partner with community groups to develop small green spaces to fill the parkland gap.
3. Utilize “pop-up” interventions to create green space in the short term.
4. Ensure that facilities and programs meet community needs and that the community is included in decision-making processes.
5. Expand recreational opportunities within Lennox to include civic spaces that support community interaction, cultural identity, and commercial enterprise.
6. Increase the sense of nature within Lennox Park, future green spaces, and in the everyday lives of Lennox residents.
7. Maintain and enhance Lennox’s urban forest.
8. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.
9. Create a community walking trail network along sidewalks, freeway buffers, and public land.

CONCEPTUAL PLACITA

Similar Projects



Leimert Park Village Plaza
Los Angeles, CA

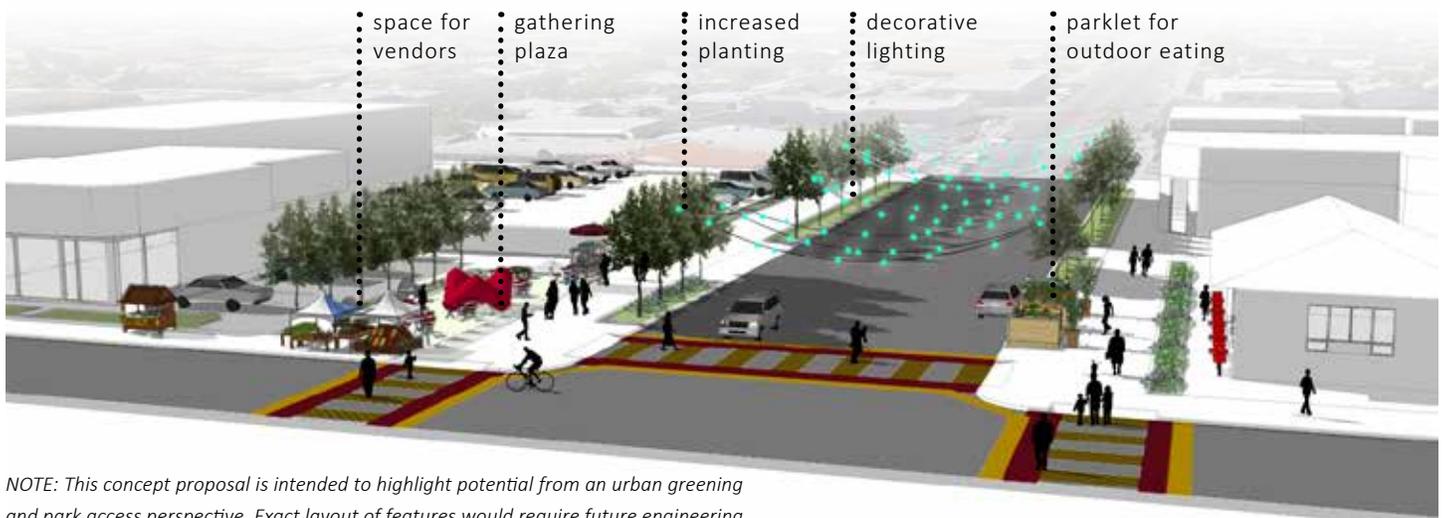
Source: People Street; photo by LADOT/Jim Simmons



Bradley Avenue Plaza
Paicoma, Los Angeles, CA

Source: People Street; photo by LADOT/Jim Simmons

Conceptual Proposal for Lennox

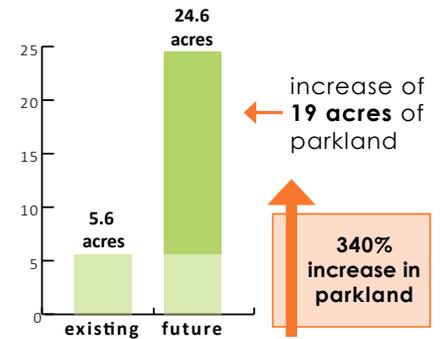


NOTE: This concept proposal is intended to highlight potential from an urban greening and park access perspective. Exact layout of features would require future engineering study and partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

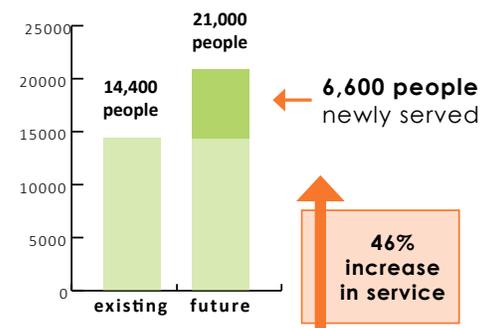
Service improvements

(with the addition of potential new parks)

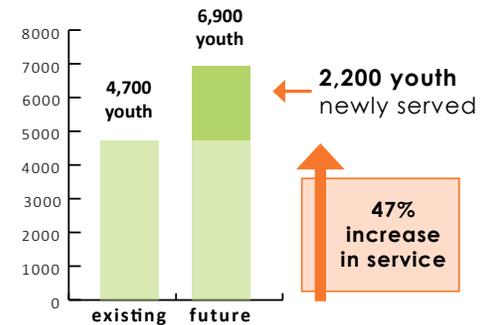
Parkland Acres



Total Population Served



Youth Population (Under 18) Served



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

CONCEPTUAL FREEWAY POCKET PARK



- trail
- connection to Metro station
- open field
- playground
- shade
- exercise station
- periphery path
- small skate park
- trailhead

CONCEPTUAL POP-UP PARK AT LA METRO PARKING & RIDE LOT



Existing



Farmer's Market and Health Fair
Partner with healthy food activists to create a regular fresh produce market.



Night Market
Contract food trucks and performers for evening events.



Field Day
Bring in sports equipment, moveable equipment, and sod surfacing for active recreation.



For more information, contact:
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County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation
Tel: (213) 351-5120; E-mail: clau@parks.lacounty.gov

1 - INTRODUCTION



There are large areas of the County that are underserved by parks and recreational facilities. Nearly two out of three children in the County do not live within walking distance (one quarter mile) of a park, playground, or open space.

- Los Angeles County General Plan, Parks and Recreation Element

WHAT IS A COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN?

A Community Parks and Recreation Plan is a guiding document for the improvement of existing parks and recreation resources and the development of new parks or programs within a community based on public input and need. The plan evaluates existing facilities and programs, as well as service areas for existing parks and recreation centers, recreational needs of current residents, trends in recreational activities, and projected future changes in the area. Through community outreach, spatial analysis, and site studies, the plan identifies areas within the community with the highest need for new parks and potential opportunity sites. The plan offers recommendations for the provision of new parks and recreation resources, and strategies to implement them in the community.

WHY LENNOX?

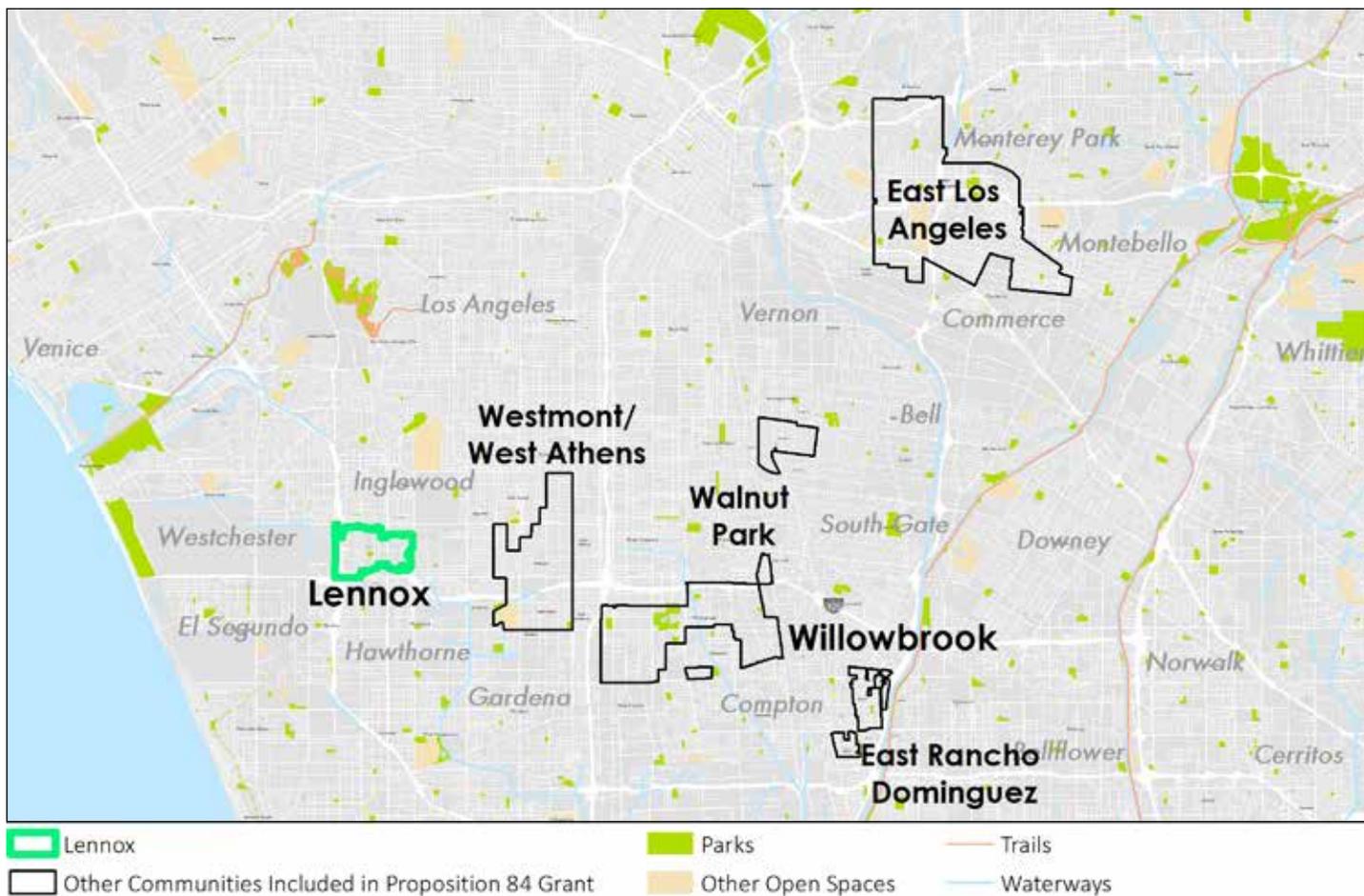
Lennox has one County park for a population of nearly 23,000 residents. The one park, Lennox Park, is well used and very much loved by residents, but the community needs more parkland and recreation facilities. The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a goal of 4 acres of local parks per 1,000 residents. With a population of nearly 23,000 residents, Lennox only has 0.2 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. To meet the General Plan goal, Lennox would need to have 91 acres of parkland. Lennox Park is only 5.6 acres in size, indicating a deficit of more than 85 acres of parkland. Although many residents currently fill the recreational gap by using non-traditional open spaces, such as school grounds and private sites, or by traveling outside of the community, However, it is more desirable for residents to have parks and recreation experiences within the community.

Although Lennox Park is located in the heart of Lennox, not all Lennox residents can walk there. Nearly 36 percent of the population is not within walking distance of Lennox Park or any other park, suggesting that their likelihood of using parks and recreation facilities is significantly lower than residents in communities that have parks that they can walk to. Lennox is predominately a low-density residential community. However, it is relatively, “built-out,” meaning nearly all the land in the community is occupied by some type of development. Under these conditions, finding new spaces for parks is extremely difficult.

In addition to a lack of park space, Lennox has a number of other environmental issues. The community is bordered by two freeways along its southern and western boundaries, is located within the flight path of Los Angeles International Airport



FIGURE 1.1 LOCATION OF LENNOX IN REGION



(LAX), and has an extremely low urban tree canopy (8 percent community-wide as compared to a recommended standard of 25 percent). Community activism and County initiatives are responding to these issues and bringing change to Lennox. A new community garden, infrastructure improvements, street tree planting, and a new library and community center are all recent additions to the Lennox landscape. Recent planning efforts, including *Vision Lennox*, and interventions along key corridors, such as the Hawthorne Street improvements, have built momentum for change and provided guidelines for community development in Lennox. However, the community still lacks a vision for green space and recreation in the community. This document intends to define that vision by building on previous planning efforts, documenting parks and recreation needs, and exploring various opportunities in the community.

HOW DID THE LENNOX PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN HAPPEN?

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) received a Sustainable Communities Planning Grant from California Strategic Growth Council (SGC) for the “Master Plan for Sustainable Parks and Recreation: Phase I,” which consists of the development of community parks and recreation plans for six communities within Los Angeles County that currently

have significant parks and recreation deficits. In addition to Lennox, community parks and recreation plans were developed for East Los Angeles, East Rancho Dominguez, Walnut Park, West Athens-Westmont, and Willowbrook, outlined in black in Figure 1.1.

Funding for the grant was provided by Proposition 84, the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006, with the purpose of funding projects that significantly reduce energy consumption, conserve water, improve air and water quality, and provide other community benefits. Due to the multi-beneficial qualities that parks and open space provide in terms of energy conservation, stormwater retention, air quality enhancement, and public health improvement, plans to increase or improve existing open space are a valuable piece of meeting the goals of the program.

The grant provided funding for technical analysis, as well as an in-depth community outreach process to gather a comprehensive understanding of existing conditions, including parks and recreation needs, and potential opportunities and strategies to address identified needs. From Lot to Spot and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT), local community-based open space advocacy groups, led the outreach program

for the Lennox Community Parks and Recreation Plan, utilizing a variety of strategies, from stakeholder interviews and interactive community workshops to interactive surveys and a youth-led bicycle trip through the community. The goal of the outreach was not only to gain information about existing usage of parks and preferred facilities or amenities, but to also facilitate a dialogue with community members about parks and recreation in Lennox. This feedback helped shape the vision for the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

Community feedback was supported by spatial analysis and a review of existing conditions to create a robust picture of existing parks and recreation needs. Opportunity sites within the community were identified and reviewed for potential parkland development. Strategies to address the identification needs were developed, along with illustration of potential parkland ideas, to move the vision forward to an implementable plan.

WHY PARKS AND URBAN GREENING MATTER?

Parks make significant impacts on the everyday lives of urban residents. They provide valuable places for recreation and social engagement, as well as important ecological services. Together with community-wide urban greening, this plan proposes a vision with wide-reaching impacts, including:

SOCIAL

- **Improved Public Health.** Parks provide locations for outdoor recreation and exercise. Trees and landscape features help clean the urban air and water. Additionally, public trails and tree lined streets encourages walking and physical activity.
- **Stress Reduction and Academic Performance.** Parks in urban areas convey serenity by providing a sensory experience of being surrounded by nature, which helps to reduce stress. Additionally, parks and trees near school grounds facilitate environmental education opportunities and creates a healthy setting for learning. Access to green space and opportunities to exercise can help students concentrate and focus in school.
- **Community Safety.** Violence and crime rates are lower in areas with nearby trees and landscaping than areas without trees. Furthermore, research has indicated that neighbors have better relationships with each other and that communities are stronger and more cohesive where there is green space, perhaps because people like where they live and feel safer.
- **Community Building.** The presence of a healthy park network and community-wide efforts to improve park spaces can empower communities to work together to protect and/or expand the network, and to build community identity.

- **Walkable Streets.** Shaded paths and trees offer pedestrians a buffer from nearby vehicles, respite from the hot sun, and colorful scenery to enjoy. In addition, trees can provide dramatic view corridors and, when properly planned, facilitate way-finding within an urban area.

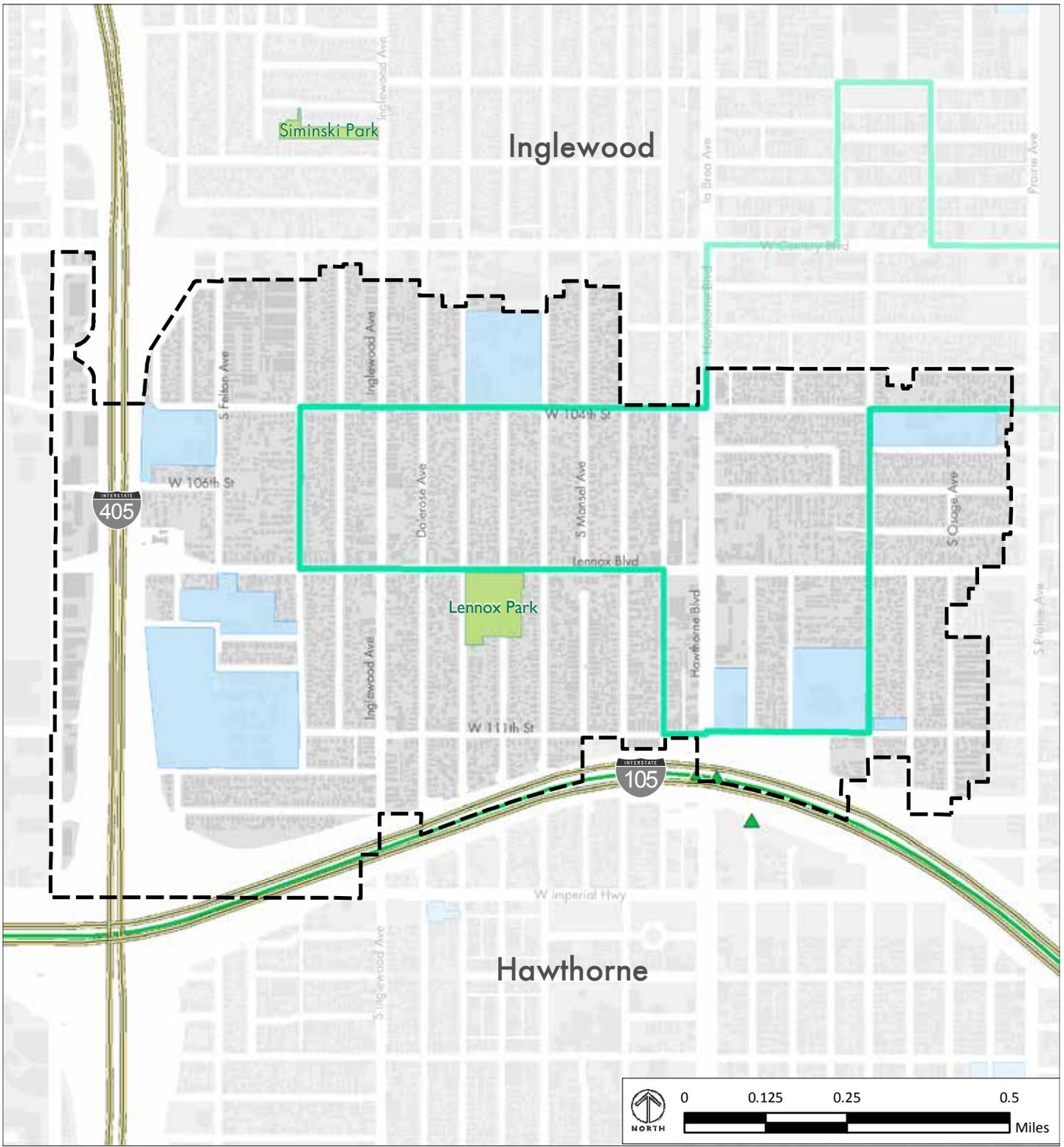
ENVIRONMENTAL

- **Wildlife Habitat.** Parks and green infrastructure provide shelter and food for birds and small animals, and their root networks are home to a wide array of organisms that provide beneficial soil improvements. A varied plant population supports a wide diversity of habitat, which in addition to being beneficial on a regional and global level, creates a dynamic, educational, and enjoyable environment for humans.
- **Stormwater Management.** Trees and stormwater treatment facilities within parks improve the quality of stormwater by intercepting and filtering stormwater before it reaches the underground water system, thus reducing the total amount of runoff lost to storm drains or contributing to flood events.
- **Improved Air Quality.** Trees and plants in urban parks can play several roles in improving air quality. The most direct way that trees help to improve air quality is by absorbing and filtering air pollutants, such as ozone and nitrogen dioxide, through their leaves or needles. In addition, parks reduce air pollution by creating cool microclimates since increased temperatures can accelerate the production of some air pollutants, such as ozone smog. Increased shading can also reduce the demand for air conditioning in buildings, impacting energy need and emissions from energy production at a larger scale.
- **Heat Island Mitigation and Temperature Stabilization.** Urban areas can become “urban heat islands” due to the abundance of dark surfaces like asphalt and buildings that absorb the sun’s heat and re-radiate the heat resulting in higher air temperatures. Parks and green space can reduce this heat island effect by shading parking lots and other surfaces, effectively intercepting the sun’s heat and reducing temperatures through evapotranspiration.

ECONOMIC

- **Energy Conservation and Green Infrastructure.** Energy upgrades and energy conservation measures at parks can result in significant savings. Additionally, trees can help reduce the need for cooling and heating buildings, thereby reducing the cost of operating these systems. In addition, trees are an important component of many green infrastructure projects that reduce costs of stormwater management.
- **Increased Property Value.** Numerous studies have shown a general increase in property value for residential properties near parks and areas with street trees.

FIGURE 1.2 LENNOX



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- Lennox
- County Park
- Metro Rail Green Line Station
- The Link Shuttle Route
- School
- Metro Rail Green Line

- **Increased Activity in Retail Areas.** Small park plazas and street trees can raise the aesthetic appeal of a shopping street, and thus attract more shoppers to a retail block.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN?

This planning document brings together community input, spatial analysis, and design to present a community-wide plan for parks and recreation. To accomplish this, the plan:

- Provides a guide toward developing new green spaces and enhancing existing recreational amenities in Lennox.
- Documents community input on parks and recreation planning issues in the community.
- Formalizes a vision for parks and recreation in Lennox based on community input and identified needs.
- Recommends potential sites and site types for acquisition and development of new projects.
- Develops conceptual plans for potential future park sites.
- Proposes meaningful strategies that can be realized by the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) in collaboration with its partners.

WHAT DOES THE PLAN INCLUDE?

Chapter 1. Introduction provides a summary of the plan, background of the planning process, and intended purpose.

Chapter 2. Existing Conditions identifies key conditions related to parks and recreation amenities within Lennox, including a demographic profile of the community, an inventory of existing parks and recreation programs, a summary of the existing urban forest, and spatial analysis of the community.

Chapter 3. Community Outreach summarizes the community outreach completed as part of this plan, including key input from the community regarding their perception of park needs and ideas for new parks.

Chapter 4. Needs Assessment describes the current state of park and recreation need within Lennox, based on findings from existing conditions, community outreach, and spatial analysis.

Chapter 5. Open Space Vision Plan describes the goals and vision of open space in Lennox, including opportunities for new open space development and enhancement of existing facilities. This chapter additionally provides a vision for urban forestry in Lennox.

Chapter 6. Implementation recommends potential actions and funding sources for carrying out the vision presented in the plan.



Lennox Bl



2 - EXISTING CONDITIONS



Lennox is a 1-square mile, unincorporated community in Los Angeles County. Lennox is bordered by the City of Inglewood to the north and east, the City of Hawthorne to the south, and the City of Los Angeles to the west. This chapter includes an overview of the policy context for developing new parks in Lennox, presents a community profile of the existing population, and provides a snapshot view of the status of parks and recreation in the community.

POLICY CONTEXT

There are various existing policies in place relevant to the development, financing, and maintenance of new parks in the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County, including the following policy documents.

- **PARKS AND RECREATION ELEMENT OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES GENERAL PLAN 2035 (ADOPTED OCTOBER 2015).** The Parks and Recreation Element of the County of Los Angeles General Plan plans for and guides the development and maintenance of parkland and recreation space and facilities to meet the needs of existing and future residents. The General Plan will guide future development throughout the unincorporated areas of the County to the year 2035.
- **LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2020 (SAMP).** In 2004, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation prepared a Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) for 2020. The SAMP provides guidance for park development serving future population growth within the County in accordance with the General Plan’s parks and open space guidelines. The SAMP includes an assessment of existing parks and recreation resources and sets five, ten, and twenty-year priorities for identified needs per the Supervisorial District within the County.
- **FLORENCE-FIRESTONE COMMUNITY PARKS AND RECREATION PLAN (DRAFT OCTOBER 2010).** The Florence-Firestone Community Parks and Recreation Plan plans for services that meet the parks and recreation needs of residents in the unincorporated Florence-Firestone area. While this plan applies exclusively to Florence-Firestone, it contains examples of best practices policies reflective of a community process that could be replicated for establishing new parks in Lennox and other unincorporated communities.
- **LOS ANGELES COUNTY CODE, TITLE 17-PARKS, BEACHES AND OTHER PUBLIC AREAS.** In the Los Angeles County Code, Title 17 – Parks, Beaches and Other Public Areas, there are several ordinances pertaining to parks and recreation. In general, the Code implements planning policies and establishes enforceable regulations. The ordinances in Title 17 regulate parks and recreation areas, arboreta and botanical gardens, beaches, Pyramid Lake, and particular recreational activities (i.e. skateboarding and roller skating).
- **THE QUIMBY ACT.** The California Quimby Act, which is part of the Subdivision Map Act, applies to residential subdivisions and permits cities and counties in California to adopt ordinances which require the dedication of land and/or payment of in lieu fees for park and recreational facilities. The Quimby Act is made effective through the Los Angeles County Quimby Code in Title 21 (Subdivision Code), which details how it is applied throughout the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County.

A summary of these policy documents and their relevance to the Lennox Community Parks and Recreation Plan can be found in Appendix A.

DEMOGRAPHICS POPULATION

Population is an important indicator for assessing park and recreational needs. Traditionally, park and recreation standards have been based on the ratio of parkland provided to population (i.e. X acres/1,000 people). The Los Angeles County General Plan establishes a goal of 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 people. Lennox was home to 22,753 residents in 2010 and has 5.6 acres of local parkland, amounting to just 0.2 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents. This represents a significant deficiency of local parks in the community.

Over the past two decades, this area’s population remained relatively unchanged. By comparison, Los Angeles County experienced growth over the past two decades: 7 percent between 1990 and 2000, and 3 percent between 2000 and 2010. A stable population in Lennox suggests that as new parks and recreational facilities are provided in the community, the ratio of parkland to population will improve in the future.

RACE AND ETHNICITY¹

The racial and cultural profile of a community often influences recreational preferences and is important to consider along with other demographic trends. The vast majority of the population in Lennox is Latino (93 percent). All other groups each constituted 3 percent or less of the population in 2010. From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of the Latino population in Lennox increased by approximately 3 percent, while the percentage of the African American population decreased by

¹ The race and ethnicity categories used in this document (i.e. African American, Asian, Latino, White, and Other) are derived from the 2010 U.S. Census.

2 percent. While not a significant change, growth in the Latino community is a trend occurring in many communities across the County, and reflects the need to consider preferences for this group in the planning of new park facilities and recreational programming.

Additionally, outreach in the community identified concern from Tongan residents that their cultural heritage was not considered in public programming, although they represent an active population group in Lennox. Collectively, residents of Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander only make up approximately 0.8 percent of the total Lennox population. However, of this group, nearly all (86 percent) are of Tongan heritage, indicating a unique ethnic minority.

AGE

Identifying a population's age profile is important for parks and trails because different age groups have different recreational needs. For example, young children require more play equipment and cushioned surfaces for safety, while seniors utilize more passive recreational amenities such as walking paths and gardens. Understanding how the population shifts over time with respect to age is also an important consideration in planning future parks and recreational facilities.

The median age in Lennox increased from 24 years in 2000 to 28 years in 2010, but is still noticeably younger when compared with the County's median age of 35. The increase in median age is due to the significant growth in the 45 to 64 year-old age group, which increased from 12 percent in 2000 to 19 percent in 2010 in their share of the population, while all other groups remain unchanged or even declined in their share of the population. A noticeable decline was seen among the 5 to 17 year-old age group, which dropped from 28 percent in 2000 to 24 percent in 2010 in their share of the population. The decline in the younger population is evident countywide and will likely continue due to the lack of affordable housing, especially for young families with children. While the younger population is declining, as baby boomers approach retirement, an increase in seniors over the next decade is likely to occur as more residents age in place. Therefore, it will be important to include more passive amenities when planning new parks and recreational programs.

Although the population in Lennox is aging, the age groups making up the largest percentage of the population include the 25- to 44-year olds (31 percent) followed by the 5- to 17-year group (24 percent). These groups represent households with children and suggest a need to plan for park amenities that support activities for the entire family, in addition to seniors.

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN

Between 2000 and 2010, the percentage of households with children under age 18 in Lennox decreased slightly from 64 percent to 63 percent. The community has significantly more households with young children compared with the County (32

percent). It is important to continue to plan for park amenities and recreational programs that support families with children in Lennox.

INCOME

The median income of Lennox is \$36,493, which is significantly lower than the County's median income of \$56,200. In general, lower income populations have fewer opportunities to engage in physical activity and have poorer health outcomes than the average population.² This is due in part to the fact that low-income groups often face social and environmental barriers to physical activity and may have fewer means by which to overcome these obstacles than other income levels. For example, lower income residents are much more likely to rely on public parks for recreation; many lower income families have little or no money to spend on recreational facilities and programs offered by alternative providers such as private gyms and the YMCA. Approximately 48 percent of the population in Lennox is very low or low income, with income less than \$35,000 annually. This is a significant percentage of the population and emphasizes the need to focus on the needs of lower income residents in the planning of new parks, trails, and open space, in order to improve their access to these facilities and opportunities for physical activity.

EMPLOYMENT

According to the 2013 American Community Survey from the U.S. Census, most of the employed Lennox workforce are in the arts, education, recreation, accommodation, and food service industries (20 percent). The other dominant industries include educational services, health care, and social assistance (16 percent); retail trade (13.4 percent); professional, scientific, and management, and administrative waste management services (10.6 percent); manufacturing (9 percent); and construction (8.5 percent) industries.

The State of California Employment Development Department estimates from May 2015 indicate that the unemployment rate in Lennox (7.4 percent) is higher than the County (7.3 percent) and State (6.4 percent) averages.

VEHICLE ACCESS

Understanding transportation needs is important when considering access to parks and trails. Approximately 11 percent of households in Lennox have no vehicle access compared with 10 percent for County households. The relationship between automobile ownership and access to parks is not often discussed, but cars clearly make a significant difference because they give people mobility and options. With cars or some form of transportation, residents can travel to recreational facilities outside of their immediate neighborhood, including beaches, arts and cultural facilities, regional parks, state parks, and national parks.

² Active Living by Design, 2012, "Low Income Populations and Physical Activity."

FIGURE 2.1 DEMOGRAPHICS SUMMARY

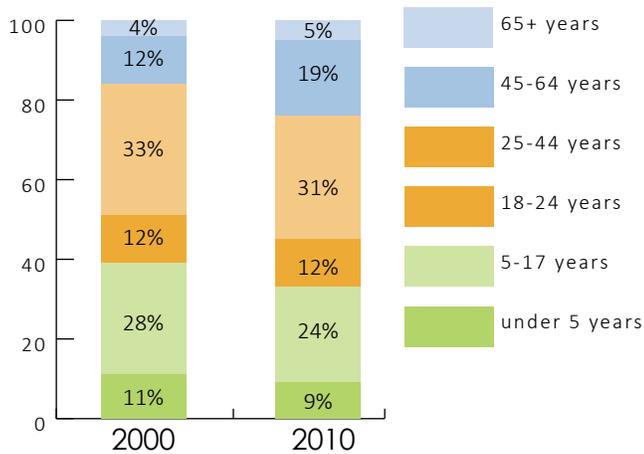
POPULATION CHANGE

	1990	2000	2010
LENNOX	22,757	22,950	22,753
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	8,863,164	9,519,338	9,834,410
	Percent Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 2000-2010	
LENNOX	+1%	-1%	
LOS ANGELES COUNTY	+7%	+3%	

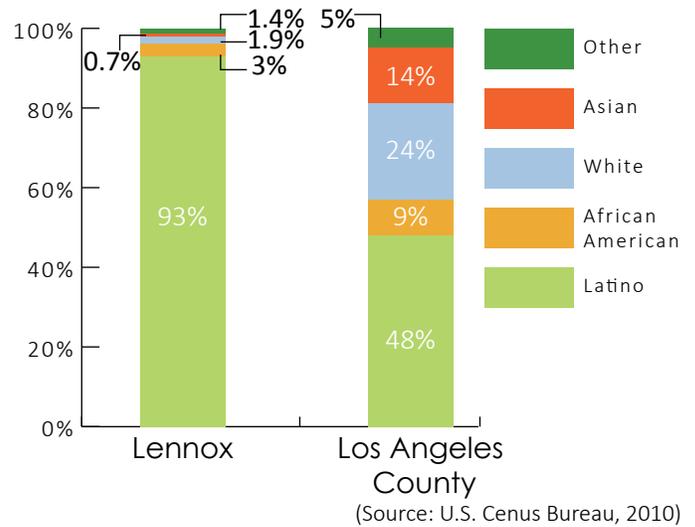
RACE AND ETHNICITY

	Percent of 2000 Pop.	Percent of 2010 Pop.	Percent Change 2000-2010
LATINO	89.8%	93%	+3%
AFRICAN AMERICAN	3.5%	2%	-2%
WHITE	3.8%	3%	-1%
ASIAN	<1%	<1%	NO CHANGE
OTHER	2.9%	2%	-1%
TOTAL	100%	100%	--

POPULATION BY AGE

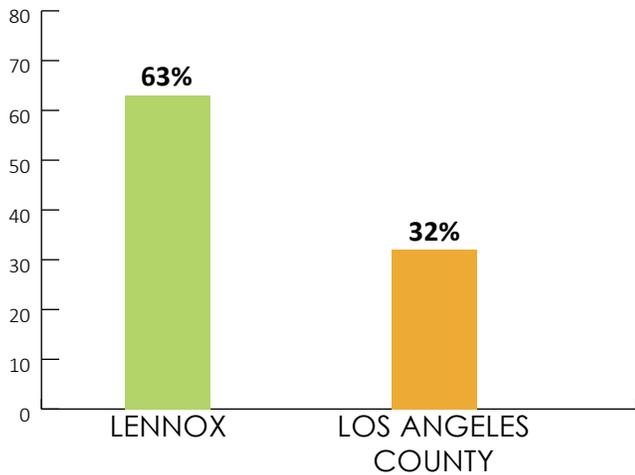


(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)



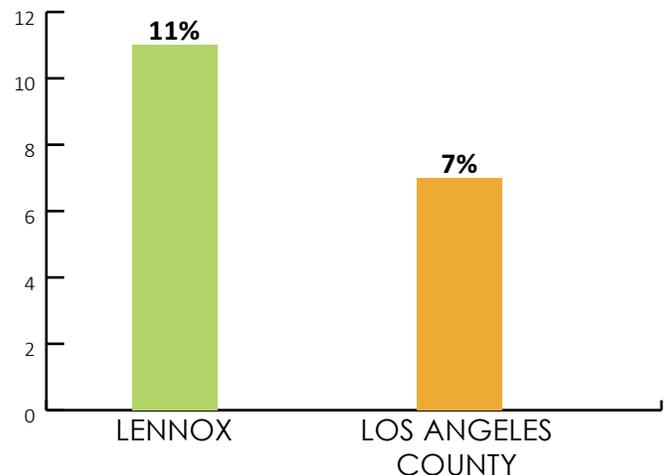
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN



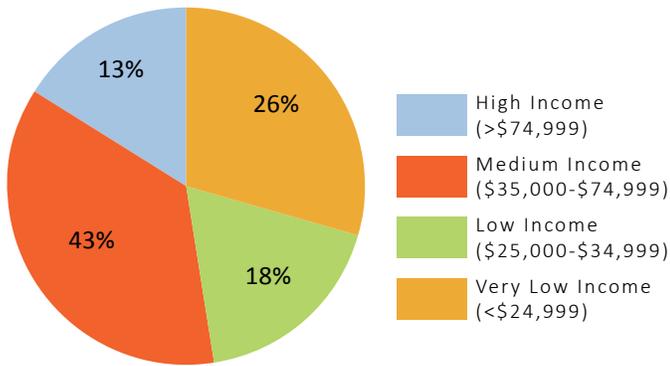
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

POPULATION THAT COMMUTES WITH PUBLIC TRANSIT



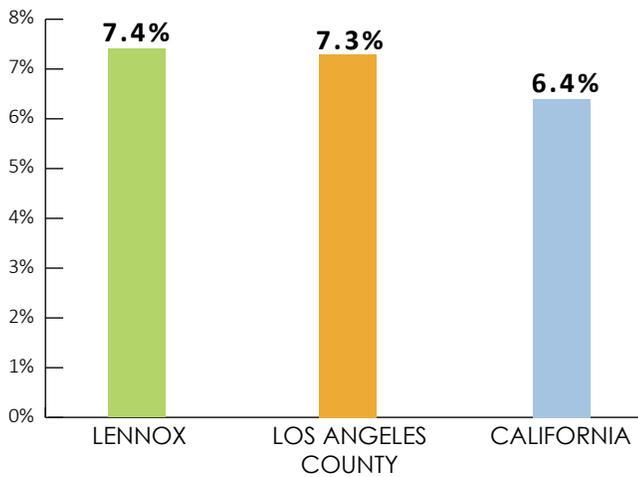
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

INCOME GROUPS



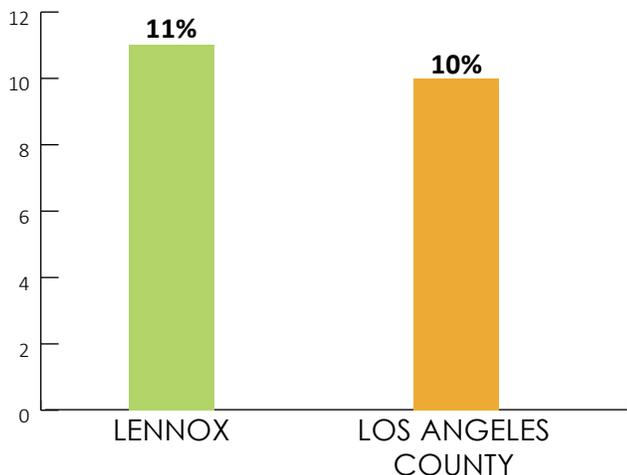
(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010)

UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES (2013)



(Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Fact Finder 2013)

POPULATION WITHOUT ACCESS TO VEHICLES GROUPS



(Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)

Lennox residents are more dependent on public transportation than other residents in the County. Approximately 11 percent of Lennox working residents commute to work via transit compared with 7 percent of workers countywide. This underscores the need to plan new neighborhood and community parks within walking or biking distance to residents and/or in close proximity to public transportation lines wherever possible.

COMMUNITY LAYOUT

Lennox is located in southwestern Los Angeles County, directly to the east of the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The community is bounded to the west by the 405 Freeway and to the south by the 105 Freeway. Both freeways are elevated in these areas and separated from the community with a planted berm. Only a few major streets continue below the freeways, creating many dead-end streets within Lennox.

Inglewood Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard are major commercial corridors through the community. Both corridors run north to Inglewood and south to Hawthorne. Lennox Boulevard is a major east-west connection within the community with high pedestrian activity and hubs of activity near the intersections with Inglewood Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard.

The Los Angeles Metro (Metro) Green Line runs along the 105 Freeway and the southern boundary of Lennox. The Green Line Station is located on Hawthorne Boulevard above the 105 Freeway. Metro manages a Park & Ride lot at the southeast corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and W. 111th Street.

There are eight schools in Lennox: five elementary schools, one middle school, and two high schools. With the exception of Lennox Math and Science Tech Academy, the schools are set back from major commercial streets. The 2012 Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan proposed bike lanes to connect the schools.

PARKS INVENTORY

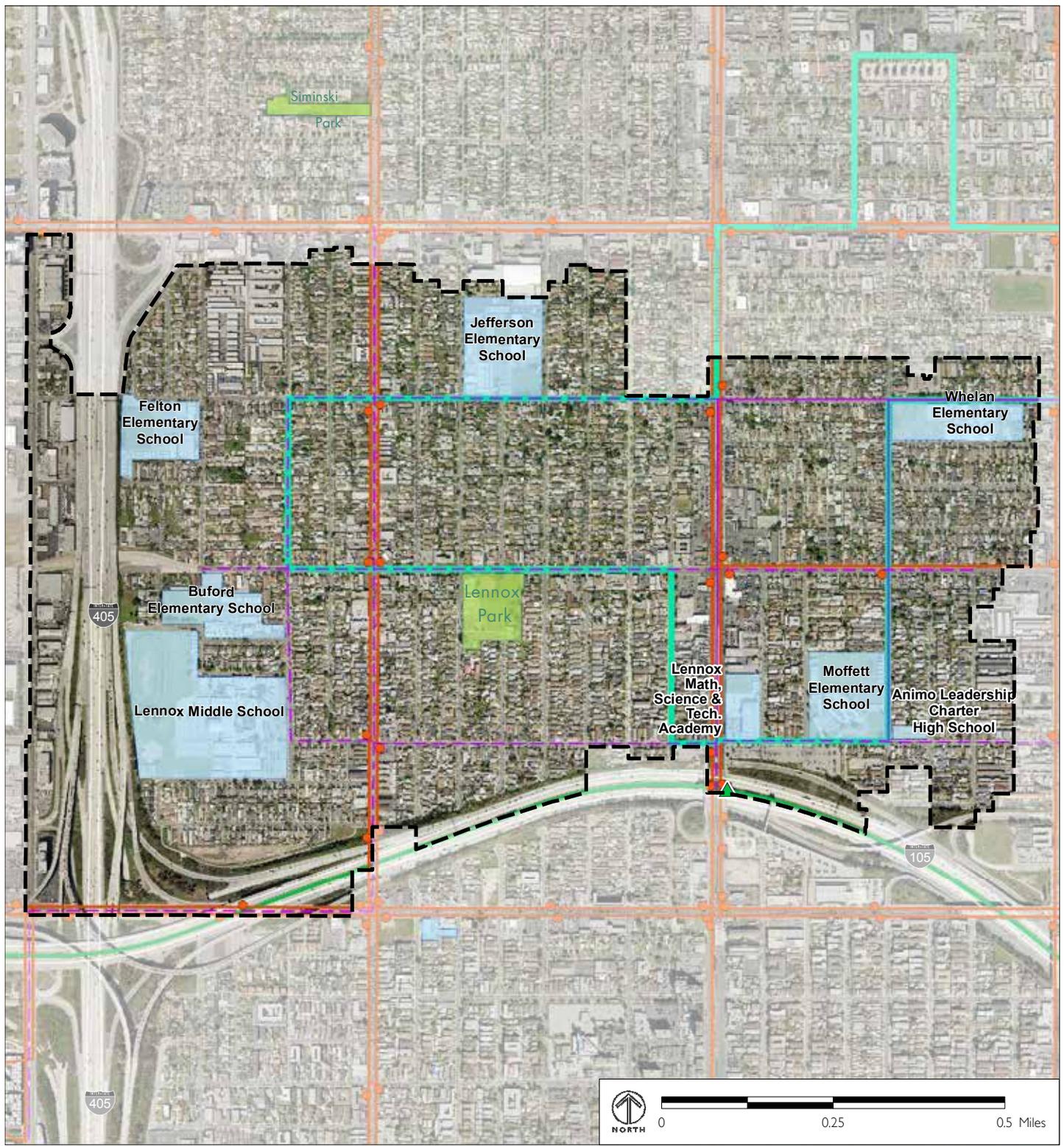
Lennox Park is the only park in Lennox. As seen in Figure 2.2, the park is located on Lennox Boulevard between Condon Avenue and S. Firmona Avenue.

The 2004 SAMP suggests that by the year 2020, the Recreation Planning Area in which Lennox is located (Planning Area 2 of Supervisorial District 2), will be deficient in providing space for walking, bicycle riding, fishing, hiking, roller skating, running, and skate boarding, as well as places to play basketball, softball or baseball, volleyball, soccer, football, tennis, and racquetball or handball.

These estimates are based on the national statistics for participation in different types of recreation, and although they show a general projected deficiency in recreational amenities,

FIGURE 2.2 LOCATION OF LENNOX PARK

EXISTING CONDITIONS



- | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| Green Space and Schools | Public Transit Network | Bicycle Network |
| County Park | Green Line Station | Existing Bike Routes |
| School | Metro Rail Green Line | Proposed Bike Routes |
| | Bus Stops | |
| | Bus Routes | |
| | The Link Shuttle Route | |

it will be important to incorporate the community preferences presented in the community outreach component of this plan in making future decisions about how to distribute recreational spaces.

LENNOX PARK

PARK USE

Figure 2-3 provides an overview of the facilities and amenities at Lennox Park. The park is 5.64 acres and is located at 10828 S. Condon Avenue. The main entrance into the park, including the parking lot with 34 parking spaces, is located along S. Condon Avenue. There are two additional entrance points along Lennox Boulevard to the north, which is a major pedestrian thoroughfare through the community. With the exception of these two access points, the park is separated from Lennox Boulevard with a chain-link fence.

The park can accommodate social gatherings, active and passive use activities, and indoor and outdoor programs. There is a grouping of picnic tables in the southeastern corner and two covered picnic shelters in the northeastern edge near Lennox Boulevard. Trees along the edge of the park and near the picnic areas provide shade for groups to gather or for passive recreation.

There is a softball field at the center of the park which was constructed through the Dodgers Dreamfield Foundation with funding from the LA84 Foundation, a sports advocacy, non-profit group funded through surplus funds from the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. There is no outfield fence so the outfield area may be used for unorganized sports or other recreation when the field is not in use. There is additionally one basketball court, one swimming pool, and one play area for children of all ages. In 2013, LA84 Foundation, in partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), installed two futsal courts at Lennox Park. These courts are enclosed by 6-foot tall chain-link fence.

The main facility buildings and swimming pool at Lennox Park are accessible from S. Condon Avenue. Young people working with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission and Create Now, a non-profit arts group, designed and painted a large mural on the exterior pool wall along this edge, entitled “Lennox Past, Present and Future,” which serves as an entry point to the park. The Arts Commission additionally commissioned public art at Lennox Park as part of the pool renovation in the form of a brightly-painted ceramic tile mural integrated into the entrance of the pool house building.

There is one grid-style bike rack mounted into the concrete in front of the community center building, although it was not counted in the County’s April 2012 bike survey. The survey indicated that it would be desirable to install one new bike rack near the parking lot on S. Condon Avenue. There are street lights along the perimeter street, as well as security lighting at many of the major use areas, including the playground, basketball court, baseball field, picnic areas, and parking lot. The parking lot has lighting and is considered well lit according to the 2012 bike survey. However, residents indicated that the park itself is poorly lit and would greatly benefit from new lighting projects.

PARK CONDITION

Lennox Park serves as both a center for physical activity and social gathering within the community. Residents commonly point to Lennox Park as the “heart of the community,” and it is a well-used and loved space. It is rare for Lennox Park to have no users during daylight hours, although it is most used during peak times, such as after school hours and weekends. The high use and limited space at Lennox Park suggests that the community would greatly benefit from a similar type of green space in the neighborhood to alleviate some of the high demand on park resources.

TABLE 2.1 MATRIX OF PARK ELEMENTS IN LENNOX

Park Name	Size	Park Amenities									Play			Recreation Amenities					Buildings/ Structures												
	(acres)	Restrooms	Group Picnic Shelters	Picnic Tables	Barbecues	Splash Pad	Fitness Zone	Outdoor Stage	Drinking Fountain	Art / Monuments	2-5 years	5-12 years	2-12 years	Softball Field	Multipurpose Field	Futsal Field	Football Field	Basketball Court	Tennis Court	Volleyball Court	Skate Park	Walking Paths or Trails	Swimming Pool	Community Building	Senior Center	Offices	Gymnasium	Multi-purpose Room	Computer Lab	Security Lighting	Parking
LENNOX PARK	5.64																														

FIGURE 2.3 LENNOX PARK SNAPSHOT

EXISTING CONDITIONS



FACILITIES

- sports
 - play
 - social outdoor
 - indoor rec
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
 -
- 1 softball/ baseball field 1 basketball court 2 futsal courts 1 pool 1 playground (2-12 yr olds) 2 picnic shelters
- outdoor cooking 1 community center 1 senior center (with kitchen) 1 computer lab 1 office

ACCESS

- SECURITY LIGHTING
- security lighting along paths in park
 - sport lighting around fields
 - parking lot lighting
 - street lights around park
- TRANSPORTATION
- 1 bike rack
 - 34 car parking spaces

As noted, the community of Lennox is located directly adjacent to LAX, and Lennox Park is right under the flight path. It is common within the open areas of the park to see planes directly overhead.

Key areas for improvements include the Lennox Boulevard edge, the planting area near the playground, and the abandoned toy loan building directly to the east of the parking lot. The chain-link fence along Lennox Boulevard provides a buffer for the softball field; however, it also creates an unwelcoming edge to the park. The planting area between the playground and community center is planted predominately with drought-tolerant species, including rosemary and agave species, which have low maintenance needs. However, the planting is sparse and could be enhanced with new plantings to increase aesthetic quality and improve habitat potential. The Gladys GreenLeaf Toy Loan Library is currently not in use. The building and adjacent space could be repurposed for a new use.

DPR maintains a list of maintenance issues, necessary upgrades, and refurbishments for its existing parks. Identified renovations at Lennox Park include:

- Irrigate and landscape turf adjacent to the senior center.
- Install drinking fountain near senior center building.
- Automate ball field lighting on one baseball field.
- Provide grading and subterranean drainage system.
- Reconstruct basketball court, including replacing slab for proper drainage, new backboards and player benches.
- Provide landscaping improvements near toy loan building and provide security gates and fencing.
- Upgrade or replace the playground.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Recreational programming enriches a community by providing access to new forms of physical activity and social engagement. The Parks and Recreation Element of the 2035 Los Angeles General Plan states that parks and recreation programs specifically benefit the greater community by:

Offering opportunities to play, grow, and learn.

Providing a sense of place and belonging.

Promoting health and wellness.

Improving neighborhood and community connections, and problem-solving.

Enhancing community cohesiveness while honoring diversity.

Helping protect natural environments.

Although many programs target health and fitness, recreational programming can also offer educational opportunities, job and life skills, or arts and social activities. The types of activities offered vary based on community interest and involvement.



TABLE 2.2 SUMMARY OF PROGRAMS AT LENNOX PARK

Youth		Adults/Family			Seniors		Events
Classes	Social	Sports/Wellness	Classes	Social	Sports/Wellness	Social	Social
afterschool program	teen club	aerobics	parenting classes	family night	low-impact aerobics	bingo	Día de Los Reyes Magos (January)
afterschool snack		aqua aerobics			free meals	<i>Grupo</i>	Senior Valentine Queen & King Dance (February)
summer day camp					Wackler Wellness	<i>Milagro</i> (Arts & Crafts)	Easter Program (March)
summer lunch						<i>Loteria</i>	Día del Niño (April)
						counseling	Cinco de Mayo Celebration (May)
							Family Festival (June)
							Halloween Program (October)
							Senior Christmas (December)

EXISTING CONDITIONS

PROGRAMS AT LENNOX PARK

Lennox Park offers a variety of programming for residents of all ages. Table 2.2 lists the current programs offered at this park. Events at Lennox Park bring large groups of community members out to the park. The park holds almost one event a month. The various park programs are offered at different times throughout the year. Figure 2.4 presents a diagrammatic breakdown of the program offerings by month and time.

The summer day camp is a major program for youth at Lennox Park, utilizing the entire park for most of the day during the summer months. The camp provides a place for young children to go during the summer recess from school. The afterschool program at Lennox Park also helps to alleviate some of the burden on working parents to find supervision for their children outside of school hours. This program utilizes the park until 5:00 p.m. on school days.

Additionally, the park runs a youth social club for teens three days a week and hosts a family night for people of all ages every other Friday night. Adults can participate in aerobic or aqua aerobics at the park. Lennox Park also offers a number of social events and fitness programs for seniors through the Lennox Senior Center, which is located in the park.

Also, since Lennox Park acts as a community hub within the neighborhood, it is the center of major seasonal festivities. The park hosts a community event nearly every month of the year.

OTHER RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

YOUTH PROGRAMS

The Lennox School District offers **LENNOX ENRICHMENT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM (L.E.A.P.)** at all public schools in the neighborhoods. These programs operate after school until 6:00 p.m. and focus on academic enrichment, healthy lifestyles, and artistic creativity. L.E.A.P. also runs an organized sports program offering baseball, softball, basketball, football, volleyball, and soccer at different times throughout the year.

Lennox Middle School and Moffett Elementary School also participate in a special music program, called **THE HARP IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS PROJECT**. Students at these schools have special instruction in learning to play the harp. Musical educators also offer harp lessons to other schools through L.E.A.P.

LENNOX LITTLE LEAGUE is a volunteer-run baseball and softball league within Lennox. Approximately 300 youth participate in the league, through both inter-league and all-star games outside of the neighborhood. The league uses the Dodgers Dreamfield at Lennox Park.



Lennox Middle School and Buford Elementary School
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



Lennox Academy for Math Science and Technology,
Moffett Elementary School, and Animo Leadership
Charter School
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



Whelan Elementary School
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

OTHER GREEN SPACES SCHOOLS

All of the schools in Lennox, with the exception of Animo Leadership Charter High School, have green space and recreational facilities on their campuses. These are used for school activities as well as some outside recreational programs, including Lennox Little League, which utilizes the baseball fields at Lennox Middle School. School grounds are the largest source of green space in Lennox, although they are not open to the general public. There are currently no joint-use agreements between the Lennox School District and DPR to utilize school grounds for publicly available open space.

Most schools include a multipurpose field, play equipment, and an asphalt area for court activities, like basketball, four square, tether ball, and handball. Lennox Middle School has the largest recreation area of all the schools in Lennox. The space includes a running track, a large multipurpose field (used predominately for soccer), three baseball fields, eight basketball courts, eight tennis courts, and three volleyball courts. The school grounds also include a former Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) training course with wooden par course equipment. The ROTC facility is no longer in use and is separated from the field space by a fence.

Jefferson Elementary School has a small school garden for students, teachers, and parents at the site. The public school is part of the Lennox School District and the garden space is only open to people with access to the site.

Lennox Academy for Math Science and Technology includes a small exercise station along Acacia Avenue. The fitness station is within the school fence and not open to the public, although it is utilized by teacher and students of the school.

COMMUNITY GARDENS

Outside of County Parks, publicly accessible green space is limited in Lennox. From Lot to Spot, a non-profit community green space advocacy group, manages a community garden at the corner of Inglewood Avenue and W. 112th Street. The garden includes 21 garden beds, has four water connections, and is surrounded by a 6-foot tall chain link fence, which supports bouganvillea that is planted along the edge. The garden is used by approximately 30 gardeners and has a waiting list to accommodate new participants.

Lennox Community Garden is located adjacent to the 105 Freeway on land owned by the State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Caltrans leased the property to DPR, who entered into a license agreement with From Lot to Spot for management of the community garden. The Los Angeles Conservation Corps constructed the garden beds and installed the accompanying infrastructure through a separate license agreement with DPR. The Conservation Corps hires local youth for construction and maintenance projects.

URBAN GREENING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

HAWTHORNE BOULEVARD IMPROVEMENTS LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW)

DPW completed streetscape improvements along Hawthorne Boulevard between W. 104th Street and W. 111th Street in 2013. The improvements will increase tree canopy and enhance pedestrian and bicycle mobility along this route. The project included landscaping of roadway medians, parkway tree planting, sidewalk enhancements, and 0.6 miles of striped bike lane. The project also included stamped and colored concrete pavement at the intersection of Lennox Boulevard and Hawthorne Boulevard near the Lennox Library and Community Service Center and at the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and W. 111th Street near Lennox Academy for Math, Science, and Technology. The median plantings are drought-tolerant shrubs and trees. The medians also include sections of decomposed granite, which create islands within the medians where pedestrians can wait while crossing the street.



Lennox Community Garden



Hawthorne Boulevard Streetscape Improvements
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

LENNOX COMMUNITY ROAD IMPROVEMENTS, PHASE I DPW

DPW additionally expanded the bicycle network in Lennox along two corridors: 104th Street between Hawthorne Boulevard and Prarie Avenue (0.47 miles) and Freeman Avenue between 111th Street and 104th Street (0.5 miles). Both routes pass by Lennox schools and include the installation of striped bike lanes.

PARK ACCESS

In addition to improving bicycle access within Lennox, DPW manages The Link, a shuttle service through Lennox. The shuttles offer residents reduced fares (25¢ for the general public and free for seniors, persons with disabilities, children under 5 and Metro Pass Holder) to Lennox Park, the Green Line Station, schools in the community, and other local destinations. The Link shuttle runs from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Figure 2.5 displays The Link’s routes in Lennox.

PLANNING CONTEXT

VISION LENNOX LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL PLANNING

In 2010, Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning (DRP) received funding from the Southern California Association of Governments Compass BluePrint Demonstration Project Program to develop a master plan for the community development in Lennox. DRP worked with a private design firm

and community groups to develop a plan titled *Vision Lennox*. Through a series of workshops and design iterations, the team developed a plan, which proposed changes to land use and zoning, as well as new streetscape improvements, residential and commercial development areas, open and green space improvements, and public transportation infrastructure.

The plan identified three parks and green space priorities. First is the construction of a new “Plaza Lennox” near the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Lennox Avenue. The plan foresees this area as the future site for a renovated Civic Center hub acting as the central meeting and gathering space in the neighborhood. The second priority is to maintain and improve Lennox Park as the central green space of the neighborhood. The third priority is to expand available open space through joint-use agreements with the neighborhood schools. The plan identifies six green spaces directly adjacent to schools that could be used in this way.

Vision Lennox also identified some second-tier priorities for parks and open space including creating new tot lots on existing vacant lands, developing pedestrian paths along freeways, and expanding the Sheriff’s presence in parks to improve public safety. The plan also calls for improvements around the existing Green Line Station and the “activation” of three major corridors in Lennox: Hawthorne Boulevard, Lennox Boulevard, and Inglewood Avenue. The Plan envisions Lennox Boulevard as the “Main Street” in Lennox, providing space for street festivals and community events. Intersections with Inglewood Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard are natural gathering places in the community that were called out for enhancement in the Plan.

FIGURE 2.5 ACTION PLAN FROM VISION LENNOX



source: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning; Raimi + Associates

Pieces of the *Vision Lennox* Plan have been implemented in the community, including the development of the Lennox Library and the Community Service Center and the streetscape improvements noted above.

GREEN LINE STATION ACCESS PLANS

METRO

In 2007, Metro completed an assessment of access to the Hawthorne Station on the Green Line at the edge of Lennox. The study identified numerous issues with accessing the station as a pedestrian or cyclist, including the speed of cars along Hawthorne Boulevard, lack of shade along routes to the Station, and sidewalk disrepair. The study also includes a series of recommendations for coordination, maintenance/security, and physical improvements that could enhance pedestrian and bicycle access. Some of these recommendations were implemented as part of the Hawthorne Boulevard improvements. DPW plans to continue to implement recommendations from the plan overtime, including sidewalk repair, intersection improvements, and repositioning of utilities that impede mobility along sidewalks.

OTHER GREENING EFFORTS

In addition to public agencies, community groups in Lennox and nearby communities are applying for grants and implementing greening actions within their community.

FROM LOT TO SPOT

From Lot to Spot, a local non-profit green space advocacy group that manages the Lennox Community Garden, received a grant from the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District in 2012 to plant nearly 100 trees in Lennox. These tree plantings are predominately located along residential streets and From Lot to Spot worked with local residents to monitor the tree health, provide water to establish the new trees, and watch for maintenance issues. Trees will also be planted along Dalerose Avenue, Condon Avenue, Mansel Avenue, and Truro Avenue.

INGLEWOOD/LENNOX GREENING PLAN

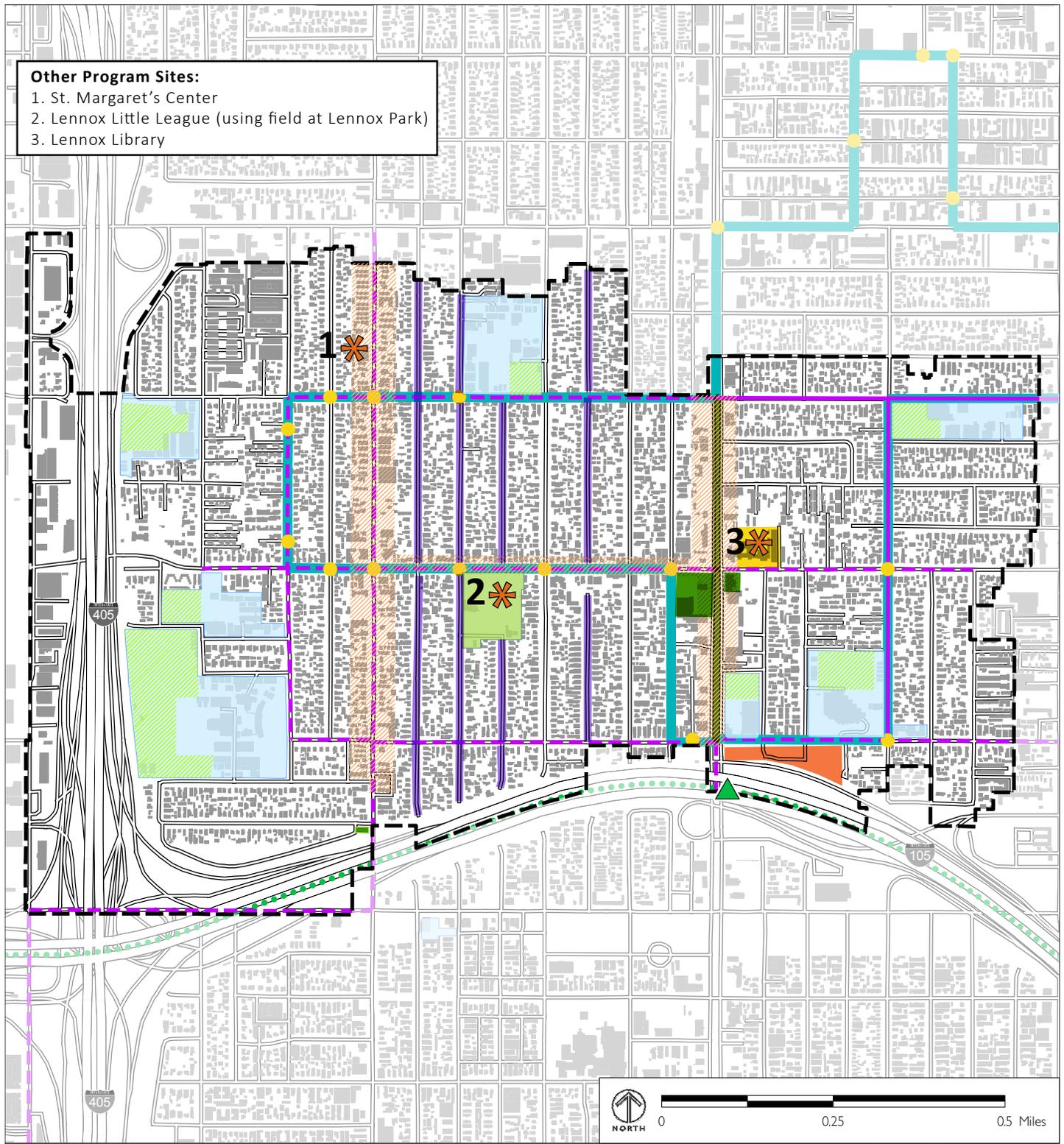
In 2012, Tree People and Social Justice Learning Institute received a Proposition 84 grant from the State of California for their "Greening Plan for Inglewood and Lennox." The plan is currently in development, but it will include a series of action strategies for improving overall greening and sustainability in Lennox and Inglewood, including recommendations for water conservation, alternative transportation, energy and waste, land use and development, air quality, and healthy food. The process to develop the plan includes significant community engagement and the plan will focus on both large-scale municipal actions as well as private initiatives carried out by local residents.



Photo-transformation of Lennox Boulevard from Vision Lennox
 source: Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning;
 Raimi + Associates

FIGURE 2.6 OTHER GREEN SPACE, PROGRAMS, AND PLANNING AREAS

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; PlaceWorks 2015

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| County Parks | Public Transit Network | Vision Lennox Planning Areas | DPW Projects |
| Community Gardens | Metro Rail Green Line Station | Major Corridors | Hawthorn Streetscape |
| Schools | Metro Rail Green Line | Civic Center | Bike Improvements |
| Other Program Sites | The Link Shuttle | Proposed Park or Plaza | Planned Bike Improvements |
| | The Link Shuttle Stop | Proposed Joint Use Open Space | Urban Forestry |
| | | Employment-generating site | Planned Street Trees |

URBAN FOREST INVENTORY

Trees are intricately connected to the quality of life in an urban landscape and are key components of most greening strategies. The benefits afforded by trees, when grouped together as a healthy urban forest, are extensive. Benefits can include improved public health, walkable streets and increased pedestrian activity, community safety, improved air quality, reduced temperatures in urban heat islands, stormwater management, reduced building heating and cooling costs, and an enhanced sense of community, serenity, and beautification.³⁴ As such, understanding the extent, condition, benefits and costs of the urban forest is essential to identifying greening opportunities and making good management decisions regarding tree planting, maintenance, removal, and replacement.

EXISTING URBAN FOREST

The existing urban forest in Lennox was examined based on tree canopy coverage data for the neighborhood as a whole, as well as an inventory of trees at Lennox Park. The neighborhood-wide canopy analysis provides a big picture understanding of the overall urban forest in Lennox and sets a benchmark for increasing overall coverage. The inventory of the trees within the County parks provides an understanding of forest structure and forest benefits. In addition to presenting this analysis, this document provides summary of community input regarding Lennox's urban forest in order to establish a more complete picture of the assets, limitations, and needs of the urban forest.

CANOPY COVERAGE AT THE COMMUNITY SCALE EXISTING COVERAGE

Utilizing LIDAR⁵ images provided by the County of Los Angeles, it was possible to determine overall tree canopy coverage in Lennox, including both publicly and privately maintained trees. Although this method does not allow for the assessment of each individual tree, it provides a clear picture of the total coverage and reveals the areas that are well-planted or areas to focus new plantings. Figure 2.7 shows the density of tree canopy coverage in Lennox.

3 Southern Center for Forest Benefits and Benefits of Urban Trees, USDA Tree Benefits brochure, <http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org/resources/library/benefits-of-urban-treesbooklet>, accessed March 23, 2010.

4 Alliance for Community Trees, Benefits of Trees and urban Forests (Resource List), http://www.actrees.org/files/Research/benefits_of_trees.pdf, accessed February 25, 2014.

5 LIDAR, which stands for "Light Detection and Ranging", is a remote sensing technology that is use to examine the Earth's surface by using light beams from airborne lasers to measure distance, which provides a detailed group of elevation data points that can be used for mapping topography.

As the map in Figure 2.7 demonstrates, the major north-south corridors of Hawthorne Boulevard and Inglewood Avenue have relatively low tree canopy surrounding them. These streets are predominately located in commercial areas, a land use that traditionally has low tree canopy. However, these streets are also highly used by pedestrians, which would benefit from increased plantings. Notably, Lennox Park does not have the densest tree canopy coverage in the neighborhood. This is due to the need for field space within the park. Although the edges of the park contain trees, it cannot accommodate significantly more trees and continue its use for sports activities.

Lennox has a total tree canopy coverage of 8 percent. It is expected that the urban forest would differ based on land use. Table 2.3 provides a breakdown of the existing coverage in Lennox based on land use. For simplification, similar land uses were combined for this analysis. The table also includes the list of land uses in each group.

In addition to parks, streets and sidewalks serve as a primary location for urban forest trees. Street plantings can mitigate stormwater running off roadways, absorb vehicle emissions, and improve the pedestrian environment. Currently, 3 percent of Lennox's roadways contains tree canopies, suggesting that there is opportunity to increase street planting. These plantings would be most beneficial on the roadways that form connections to Lennox Park, schools, and other future green space in the community, effectively creating a green network within the neighborhood. The planned tree plantings along corridors near Lennox Park will help enhance the canopy along Lennox streets.

RELATIVE CANOPY COVERAGE

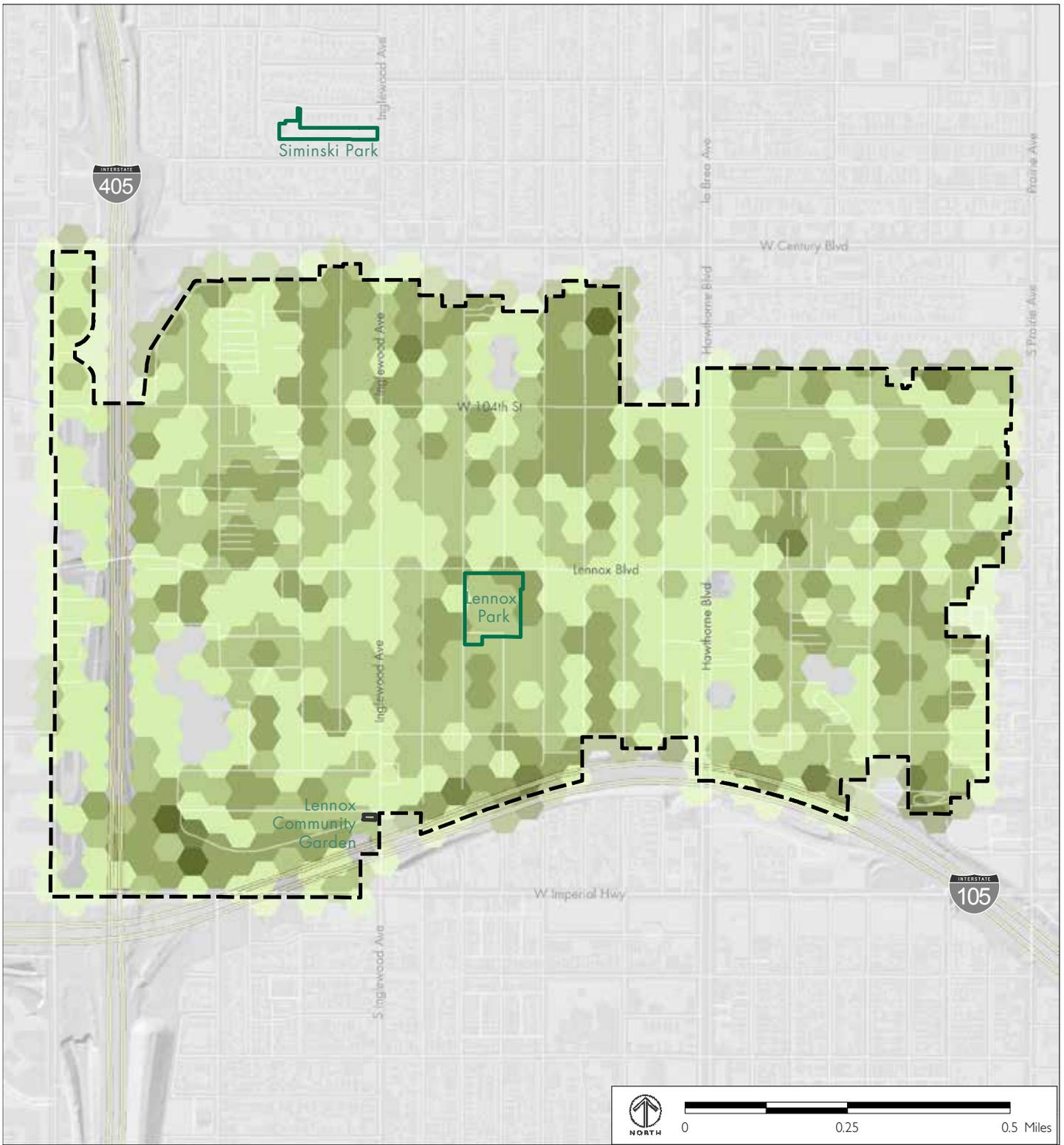
Research conducted by American Forests⁶ recommends an overall average canopy coverage of 25 percent as appropriate for urban areas in temperate and arid climates, such as Lennox, based on recommended coverage for specific land uses of 35 percent for suburban residential, 18 percent for urban residential zones, and 9 percent for central business districts. Furthermore, the Los Angeles 1-Million Tree Canopy Cover Assessment found an average canopy coverage of 21 percent within the City and set a target coverage of 27.5 percent as an average for all land use types.⁷ The study additionally found an existing coverage of 30.5 percent for low-density residential, 14.5 percent for medium/high-density residential, 3.5 percent for industrial, 5.6 percent for commercial, 18.3 percent for institutional, and 9.4 percent for unknown uses.

6 American Forests is a nonprofit conservation organization that is a recognized for their pioneering work in the science and practice of urban forestry.

7 McPherson, E. Gregory, James R. Simpson, Quingu Xiao, and Chuxia Wu. Los Angeles 1-Million Tree Canopy Cover Assessment. USDA. January 2008. http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/documents/psw_gtr207/psw_gtr207.pdf.

FIGURE 2.7 EXISTING CANOPY COVERAGE

EXISTING CONDITIONS



Source: Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | |
|--|---|
| Tree Canopy Coverage | Parklands |
| < 5% | Park Included in Analysis |
| 5% - 10% | Other Green Space (Community Garden) |
| 10% - 20% | |
| 20% - 30% | |
| > 30% | |

TABLE 2.3 TREE CANOPY COVERAGE IN LENNOX BASED ON LAND USE

Land Use	Combined Land Use Groups	Total Area (Acres)	Total Canopy Area (Acres)	Tree Canopy Coverage
Low-density Residential	Single-family residence	385.23	42.1	11%
High-density Residential	Unlimited residence Limited multiple residence Two-family residence	145.22	11.7	8%
Commercial/ Institutional	Unlimited commercial Commercial manufacturing Commercial planned development Commercial recreation Institutional Neighborhood business Parking restricted Restricted business	145.04	4.8	3%
Industrial	Heavy manufacturing Light manufacturing Restricted heavy manufacturing	21.47	0.5	2%
Open Space*	Open space	8.09	1.1	14%
TOTAL		705.04	53.04	Average: 8%

*Open Space includes County parks and other green space.

TABLE 2.4 LENNOX TREE CANOPY COVERAGE COMPARISONS

Land Use	Lennox Existing Tree Canopy Coverage	American Forest Recommended Tree Canopy Coverage	City of Los Angeles Existing Tree Canopy Coverage	City of Los Angeles Target Tree Canopy Coverage
Low-density Residential	11%	35%	31%	n/a
High-density Residential	8%	18%	15%	n/a
Commercial/Institutional	3%	9%	6% / 18%	n/a
Industrial	2%	n/a	4%	n/a
Open Space*	14%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average	8%	25%	21%	27.5%

*Open Space includes County parks and other green space.

TABLE 2.5 OVERVIEW OF TREES AT LENNOX PARK

Total Trees	Total Park Acreage	Acres of Canopy Coverage	Tree Canopy Coverage (%)
66	5.64	1.41	25%

Lennox is currently lower than both the American Forest standard and the existing and target coverage for the City of Los Angeles. Table 2.4 demonstrates these differences.

TREE INVENTORY WITHIN LENNOX PARK

Trees within Lennox Park were inventoried and assessed in 2013 with funding provided by a grant from California Department of Forestry and Fire Protect (CAL FIRE).⁸ This section provides an overview of the forest structure and benefits provided by the forest contained within parks. The inventory was utilized to create a database analysis tool called iTrees Streets. This free tool was developed by a team of researchers with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service, Davey Tree Service, and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA), which allows cities to analyze the benefit of their forest. iTrees Streets is a street tree management and analysis tool that uses tree inventory data to assign dollar values to energy savings, carbon dioxide reduction, air quality, stormwater control, and property value increase.

The 2013 inventory identified 66 trees in Lennox Park. Lennox’s park trees are together referred to as the “Park Forest” in this section. This report summarizes the species composition, age composition, and estimated benefits provided by the forest in dollar value, as well as an overview of the general condition, necessary maintenance, and potential conflicts with existing infrastructure. The complete data set resulting from iTrees Streets’ analysis is provided in Appendix B. The number of trees at Lennox Park and the related canopy coverage is provided in Table 2.5. Canopy coverage per park was calculated using iTrees streets rather than LIDAR data.

FOREST STRUCTURE

Studies of urban forests suggest that a strong urban forest resource “possess a mix of species, sizes, and ages.”⁹ This diversity ensures the longevity and resilience of the forest over time. Increasing tree species diversity reduces the risk that a single blight, disease, or pest can destroy an entire

8 A grant from the Statewide Prop 84 CAL FIRE Inventory Program was awarded to the Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation Department in 2013 for the creation of a tree inventory, as well as an analysis of the trees’ health, maintenance, and spatial needs, for the underserved areas within the community.

9 Clark, James R., Nelda P. Matheny, Genni Cross, and Victoria Wake. “A Model of Urban Forest Sustainability.” *Journal of Arboriculture* 23(1): January 1997.

forest population, as many of these issues are species-specific and spread more easily to related populations. Researchers additionally recommend utilizing native trees wherever possible, as they are well-suited for the environment and have developed resilience to local pests, and providing habitat for native wildlife. Diversity in age and size ensures the long-term stability of an urban forest. As trees die and are replaced, there needs to be younger trees to offset the removal. Very young trees do not provide the same benefits as established trees, so simply replacing the tree will not achieve the same immediate effect. The Park Forest in Lennox is described below with consideration to structural diversity.

SPECIES COMPOSITION

The species composition of a forest affects the aesthetic character of a park and/or forest, as well as the benefits that it provides. For instance, palms and conifers (like pine trees) are generally tall and narrow trees and provide minimal shade. Broadleaf trees, like oaks and sycamore, provide greater canopy coverage and shade and therefore have greater measurable benefits.

Lennox’s Park Forest is composed of 79 percent broadleaf species, 9 percent conifers, and 12 percent palm trees. Of the broadleaf species, 24 percent are deciduous and 55 percent are evergreen. Approximately 44 percent of the Park Forest is comprised of large stature trees, 11 percent is comprised of medium stature trees, and 45 percent is comprised of small stature trees.

Species diversity is also an important consideration to forest health, as diversity can buffer the impacts of pests and weather conditions on the forest. For this reason, it is widely recommended that no more than 10 percent of the forest be comprised of any one species.¹⁰

Lennox’s Park Forest includes 25 unique species. The dominant species of the Park Forest include lemon bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*) (19.7 percent), Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*) (13.6 percent), California palm (*Washingtonia filifera*) (7.6 percent), mimosa (*Albizia julibrissin*) (6.1 percent), evergreen ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*) (6.1 percent), white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*) (4.5 percent), Afghan pine (*Pinus eldarica*) (4.5 percent), ipe-roxo (*Tabebuia avellanadae*) (4.5 percent), shiny xylosma (*Xylosma congestum*) (4.5 percent), and southern magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) (3 percent). While it is notable that lemon bottlebrush (*Callistemon citrinus*) comprises more

10 Clark, et al. 1997.

than 10 percent of the Park Forest population, it is possible that if trees outside of parks were to be inventoried, the species diversity may be more balanced. However, the diversity within parks suggests that diversity should be a key consideration for additional plantings and/or replacement planting.

Inclusion of native species in the urban forest can be beneficial as native species are well-suited to the local climate and provide valuable habitat. While native species are not always well-suited to the constraints of urban environments, such as small tree wells and clearance requirements along roadways, many species are highly suitable for park environments. It is notable that California native species within Lennox's Park Forest are limited to 9 trees, or 14 percent of the forest. These trees include 5 California palm trees (*Washingtonia filifera*), 3 white alder trees (*Alnus rhombifolia*), and a single Modesto ash tree (*Fraxinus velutina*). While these species are native to California, not all of them are native to or appropriate for Los Angeles County. The diversity within parks suggests that improving diversity, including number of native species, should be a key consideration for additional plantings and/or replacement planting.

RELATIVE AGE DISTRIBUTION

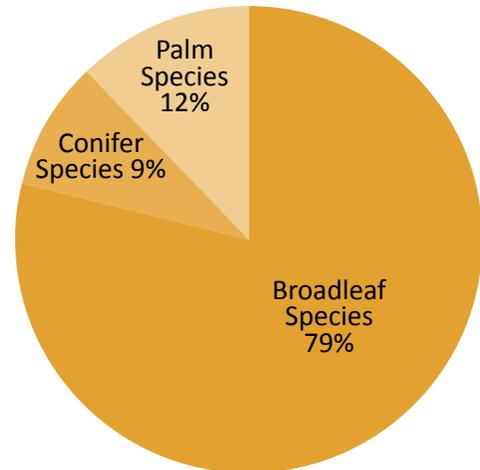
Age distribution is an important consideration when assessing an urban forest since every tree has a limited life span and different considerations are necessary depending on the age of a tree. For instance, urban trees are often planted at the same time (such as during the construction of a new park or street) and thus will reach the end of their life span at the same time. This makes it challenging to preserve an area's character, while addressing safety issues and removing trees. It is beneficial to a forest's health to have an uneven age distribution.¹¹ Studies suggest that the bulk of the tree population (approximately 40 percent) be composed of young trees in order to offset the loss of older and diseased trees.¹²

Given the difficulty of determining the age of each tree, diameter-at-breast-height (DBH), or 4.5 feet above ground level, is often used as an indicator of age distribution with a smaller DBH representing younger trees and a larger DBH representing more established trees. Lennox's Park Forest has a near-equal distribution of young to established trees. Approximately 30.3 percent are relatively young with a DBH less than 12 inches; 36.4 percent are established trees with a DBH of 12 to 24 inches; and 33.3 percent have a DBH of over 24 inches.

¹¹ Clark, et al. 1997.

¹² Richards NA. 1982/83. "Diversity and stability in a street tree population." *Urban Ecology*. 7:159–171.

FIGURE 2.8 SPECIES COMPOSITION



CONDITION

The condition of a tree can help determine its health. In this analysis, each tree was evaluated as being dead, critical, poor, fair, or good with consideration to the structural condition (the woody components) and the functional condition (the foliage).

The Park Forest in Lennox is relatively well-managed, with all of the trees (100 percent) receiving a fair rating.

MAINTENANCE NEED

As part of the tree inventory, maintenance needs were categorized for each tree based on CAL FIRE grant guidelines. Maintenance needs identified for Lennox's Park Forest are described in Table 2.6.

While there are few trees recommended for removal, 61 percent of the trees are identified as requiring Priority 1 pruning, which indicates a high level of potential hazards need to be addressed and may indicate that maintenance has been deferred.

CONFLICTS WITH EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES

Urban trees exist in close proximity to other features of the urban environment and can interfere with other systems. Common issues include sidewalk damage from tree roots and tree canopy interference with overhead utility lines.

The majority of Lennox's Park Forest (83 percent) does not cause any sidewalk damage. This is primarily because many of the trees are planted on the interior of the park space and provide ample space for root growth. Although the overall Park Forest population does not pose a significant problem for sidewalks, certain tree species cause greater issues than others. Following is a list of problematic trees and the percentages of their total population where sidewalk damage was found:

- Evergreen ash (*Fraxinus uhdei*): 50 percent of species population
- Ipe-roxo (*Tabebuia avellanedae*): 33.33 percent of species population
- Siberian elm (*Ulmus pumila*): 22.22 percent of species population

Similarly, the majority of Lennox’s Park Forest (86 percent) does not conflict with overhead utility lines. Three evergreen ash and three siberian elm trees conflict with overhead utility lines.

TABLE 2.6 MAINTENANCE NEEDS

Maintenance Need	Description (Based on CAL FIRE Grant Guidelines)	Number of Trees
Priority 1 Removal	Trees that have defects that cannot be cost-effectively or practically treated, and pose hazards to people or property. These trees are the first to be removed.	3
Priority 2 Removal	Trees that should be removed but do not pose a liability as great as the first priority.	2
Priority 1 Pruning	Trees that require priority 1 trimming to remove hazardous deadwood, hangers, or broken branches. Hazardous limbs or leaders are greater than four inches in diameter.	40
Priority 2 Pruning	Trees that have dead, dying, diseased, or weakened branches between two and four inches in diameter and are potential safety hazards.	18
Training Pruning	Young, large growing trees that require pruning to minimize future maintenance requirements.	3

FOREST BENEFITS

The benefits of an urban forest population can be measured both in environmental impacts and economic value. These benefits can be estimated and quantified based on tree size, type, and condition to provide a value for the urban forest. Following is a summary of both the environmental and economic benefits of Lennox’s Park Forest, based on iTrees Streets’ analysis. As iTrees Streets was designed for the analysis of street trees rather than park trees, the analysis assumes that trees are set along roadways, and therefore the estimated benefits are likely on the high side for park trees. A full summary of the impacts of the individual tree species in Lennox’s Park Forest can be found in Appendix B.

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS

Environmental benefits include the interception of stormwater runoff, improvement of air quality, and reduction of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Larger trees with more established canopies and roots tend to have greater impacts. It is important to maintain a young population, as well as to replace dying or removed trees, thereby maintaining continuous urban forest benefits. These benefits are summarized in Table 2.7.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

Many of these environmental benefits also have economic value, although this value is difficult to quantify since the services that trees provide are generally considered free. However, iTrees Streets can be used to quantify the economic value trees provide. Based on the analysis using this program, Lennox’s Park Forest currently has an estimated gross value of \$11,566, in the combined benefits related to energy savings, carbon dioxide sequestration, air quality, stormwater management, aesthetic and other benefits.

- **Energy Savings.** Trees save energy by reducing the need to heat and cool buildings. The value of energy savings is calculated by iTrees Streets based on assumptions for tree species regarding shading, canopy coverage, species size, and assumptions relating to regional climate and wind patterns.
- **Carbon Dioxide Reduction.** The value of reductions in carbon dioxide are calculated by iTrees Streets based upon costs associated with global warming. The amount of carbon dioxide sequestered depends upon tree size and species. Carbon dioxide released and generated by tree maintenance (use of chain saws, etc.) and by decomposition of trees are also considered by iTrees Streets.
- **Stormwater Runoff Reduction.** The implied value of stormwater reduction considers the amount of stormwater captured and the general cost of urban stormwater management.

TABLE 2.7 **SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NET ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AT LENNOX PARK**

Stormwater (Gallons of Stormwater Intercepted)	Air Quality (Pounds of Reduced Air Pollutants)*	Carbon Dioxide (Tons of CO2 Sequestered per Year)
154,806	158	11,589

* Air Quality pounds includes deposition of Ozone (O3), Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2), Particulate Matter (PM10) and Sulfur Dioxide (SO2) and avoidance of NO2, PM-10, Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), and SO2, but does not take into account potential Biogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (BVOCs) emissions.

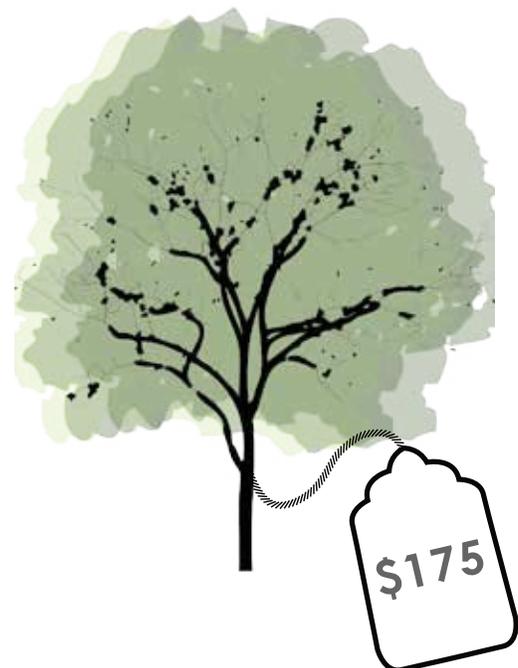
TABLE 2.8 **SUMMARY OF ANNUAL NET ECONOMIC BENEFITS**

Energy	Stormwater	Air Quality*	Carbon Dioxide	Aesthetics	Total
\$1,809	\$851	\$439	\$56	\$8,411	\$11,566

* Air quality includes deposition of ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), particulate matter (PM-10) and avoidance of NO2, PM10, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), and sulfur dioxide (SO2), as well as Biogenic Volatile Organic Compounds (BVOCs) emissions.

- **Aesthetic and Other Benefits.** The fiscal value of beautification, shade, habitat, privacy, comfort, and great urban spaces is difficult to quantify. iTrees Streets estimates the fiscal value of these benefits based upon estimated property values. Research shows that buyers are willing to pay more for houses and properties with trees, and therefore trees increase property value.

Average economic benefit of one tree in Lennox is \$175 per year.



Considering these benefits as a whole, the average annual economic benefit of a tree within Lennox’s Park Forest is \$175. As previously stated, estimates are based on benefits provided by street trees and therefore may be higher for park trees. These benefits are summarized in Table 2.8.

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Existing community facilities and infrastructure, as well as community indicators, were mapped and evaluated in order to gain a better understanding of Lennox’s physical environment and examine social factors such as a crime, safety, and public health.

This analysis provides insight on the issues and conditions relative to existing parks. In addition, it informs the site evaluation and eventual selection for potential new parks and recreational projects.

This analysis includes six components:

- Park Access
- Population Density
- Vacant Lands
- Transit and Transportation
- Crime
- Health

PARK ACCESS

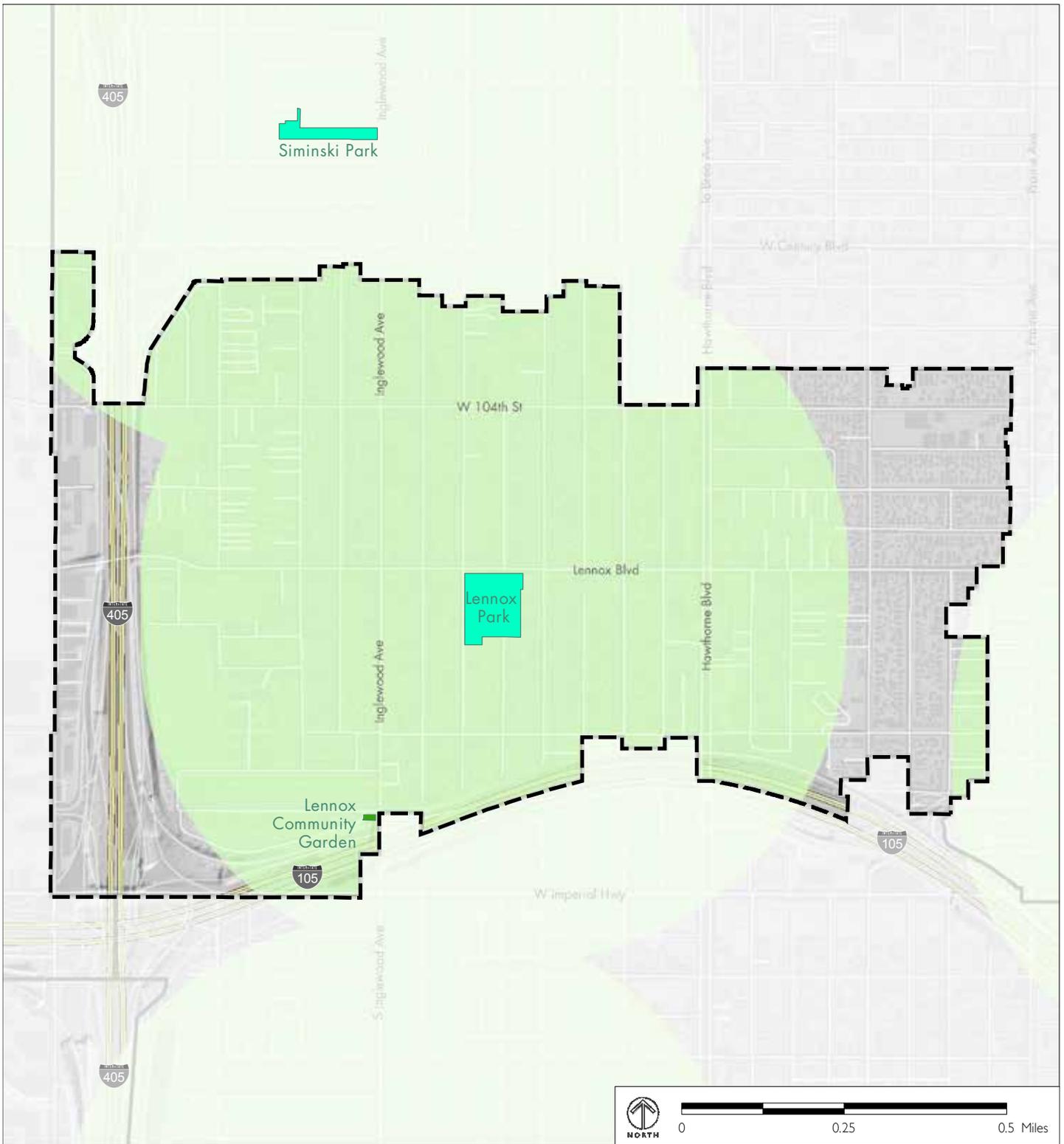
Traditionally, DPR considers a local park to be accessible to residents within a half-mile of the park. Half of a mile is considered a distance residents can typically walk to within ten minutes. Larger regional parks generally draw from a larger area, up to 25 miles away; however, park users may drive or use public transit to visit these facilities. These access boundaries for parks in and around Lennox are shown in Figure 2.9.

Additional analysis suggests that park usage might be limited by the existing street network and pedestrian access conditions. For this study area, the half-mile distance threshold was combined with street data and common pedestrian routes to determine if residents have walkable access to a park.



Spatial analysis includes a series of maps that provide a geographic assessment at the community scale. Together, they help to provide a comprehensive picture of community conditions, including opportunities and constraints, as well as need for new parkland development.

FIGURE 2.9 SERVICE AREAS - LOCAL AND REGIONAL PARKS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

Park Access

- Area Not Within 1/2 Mile of a Local Park
- 1/2 Mile Service Radius from Local Park

Parklands

- Park Included in Analysis (includes parks within 1/2 mile of Community Boundary)
- Other Green Space (Community Garden)

PARKLAND GAP AND WALKABILITY

The parkland gap/walkability analysis was completed using the Network Analyst tool in ArcGIS, as well as field visits, to identify areas with and without walkable access to parks. All parks within the community boundary were used in the analysis along with parks up to a half-mile outside the community boundary. Fieldwork was used to identify pedestrian access points to the park, barriers, and connections affecting walkability. Residential and non-residential areas were differentiated using Los Angeles County’s Assessor parcel land use information.

Lennox Park is located in the center of the community, and it can be reached by the majority of Lennox’s population. As shown in the Figure 2.10, approximately 64.3 percent Lennox’s residents are within a 10-minute walk of Lennox Park. It shows that the park is well-situated to serve the community; however, access to Lennox Park does not reach the western and eastern peripherals of the community. Along the western border, a large portion of inaccessible areas are non-residential areas due to Interstate 405, but the eastern edge has a large residential population. The majority of the 35.7 percent residents who are not in close proximity to a park are concentrated on the eastern portion of the community, east of Hawthorne Boulevard and continuing to the City of Inglewood. Additional park space would be needed in the eastern portion of the community in order to serve Lennox residents. This would also benefit neighboring cities such as Inglewood.

Siminski Park in Inglewood is the only park that is within a half-mile of the community boundary. This park serves a small portion of residents in the northern portion of Lennox, but it does not sway the findings in a substantial way. While there is a need for additional parkland in Lennox, there are bi major barriers blocking access to the existing parks in and around the community.

FIGURE 2.10 POPULATION NEAR A PARK

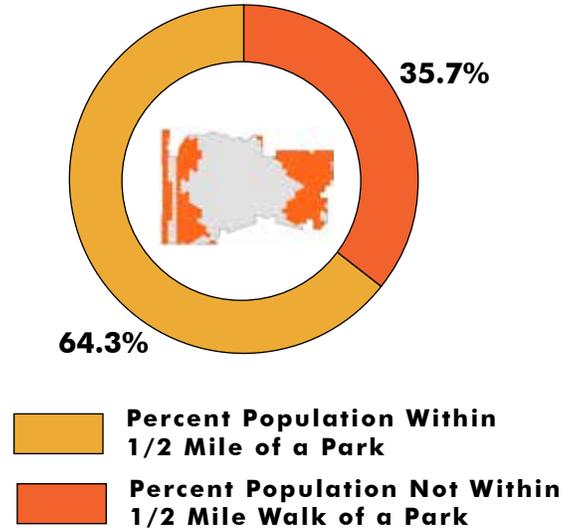
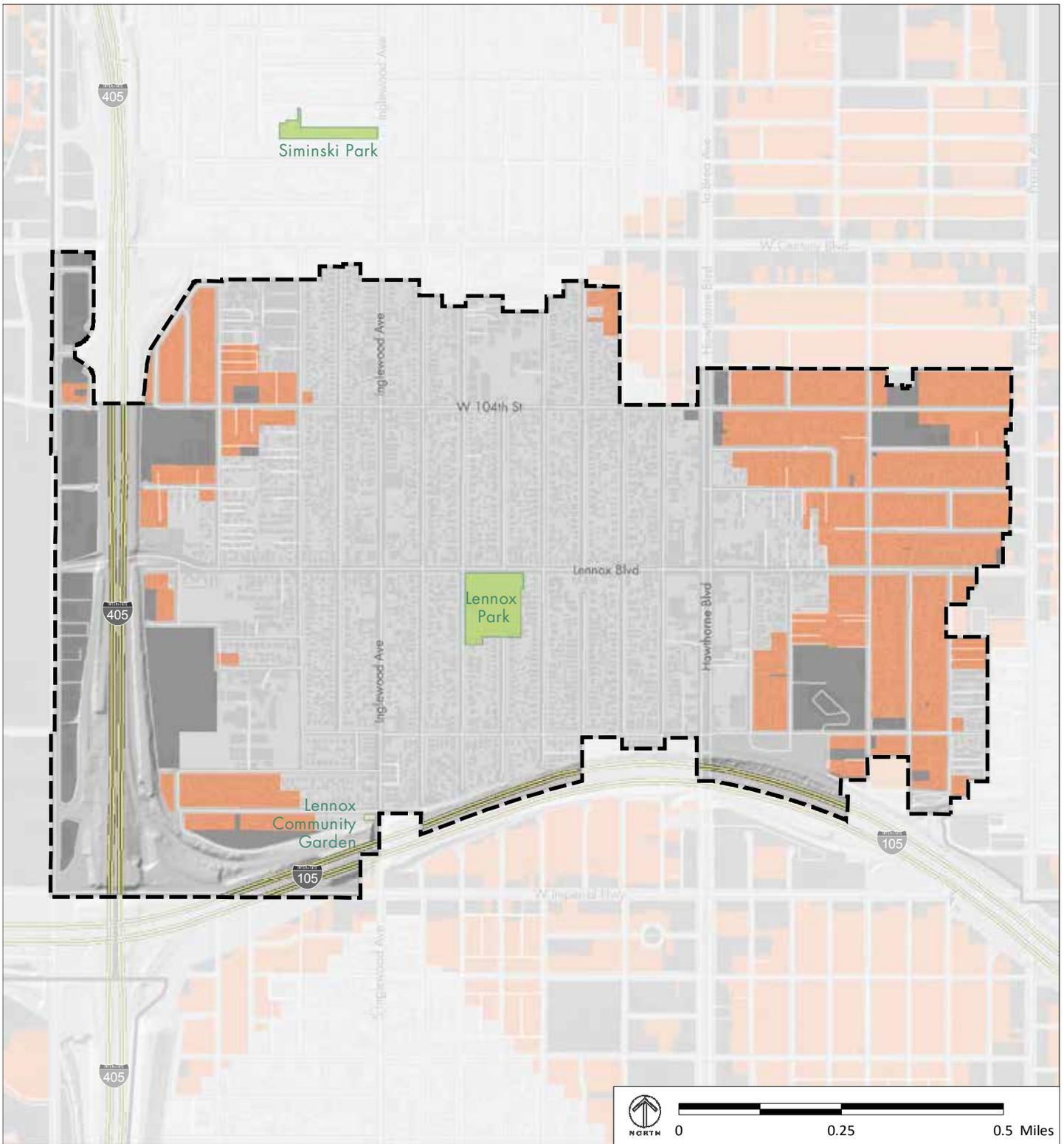
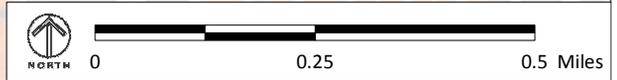


FIGURE 2.11 **PARKLAND GAPS/WALKABILITY**



- Park Access**
- Area Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park
 - Non-Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park
 - Residential Area Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park

- Park Included in Analysis
- Other Green Space (Community Garden)



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

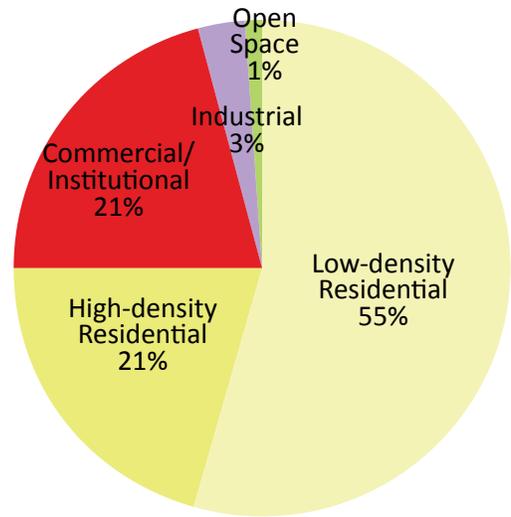
LAND USE

As shown in Figure 2.12, Lennox is predominately a residential neighborhood. Over half the community (55 percent) is low-density residential and 22 percent is high-density housing. The majority of “high-density” residential are also typically small in number with five to ten units rather than large structures common to dense downtown areas. Generally, housing units are located on small lots, which produce a low but dense pattern of development across the community.

Commercial uses are concentrated on Hawthorne Boulevard, Inglewood Avenue, and some sections of Lennox Boulevard. Businesses along these corridors are typically low-density and cater more directly to vehicular traffic. There are some small chain and “mom and pop”-style restaurants, as well as small delis and grocery stores, although there are no large scale grocery retail centers, as discussed below. There are a significant number of vehicle sales or repair businesses located on Hawthorne Boulevard, which have asphalt parking lots rather than street front buildings. Independent sellers will sometimes utilize these open lots and set up informal, unsanctioned sales areas for various products, such as flower, beauty supplies, or home items.

The small areas of industrial use are east of the 405 Freeway near LAX. These spaces are typically large, light industrial facilities, characterized by large buildings on large open lots.

FIGURE 2.12 LAND USE TYPES

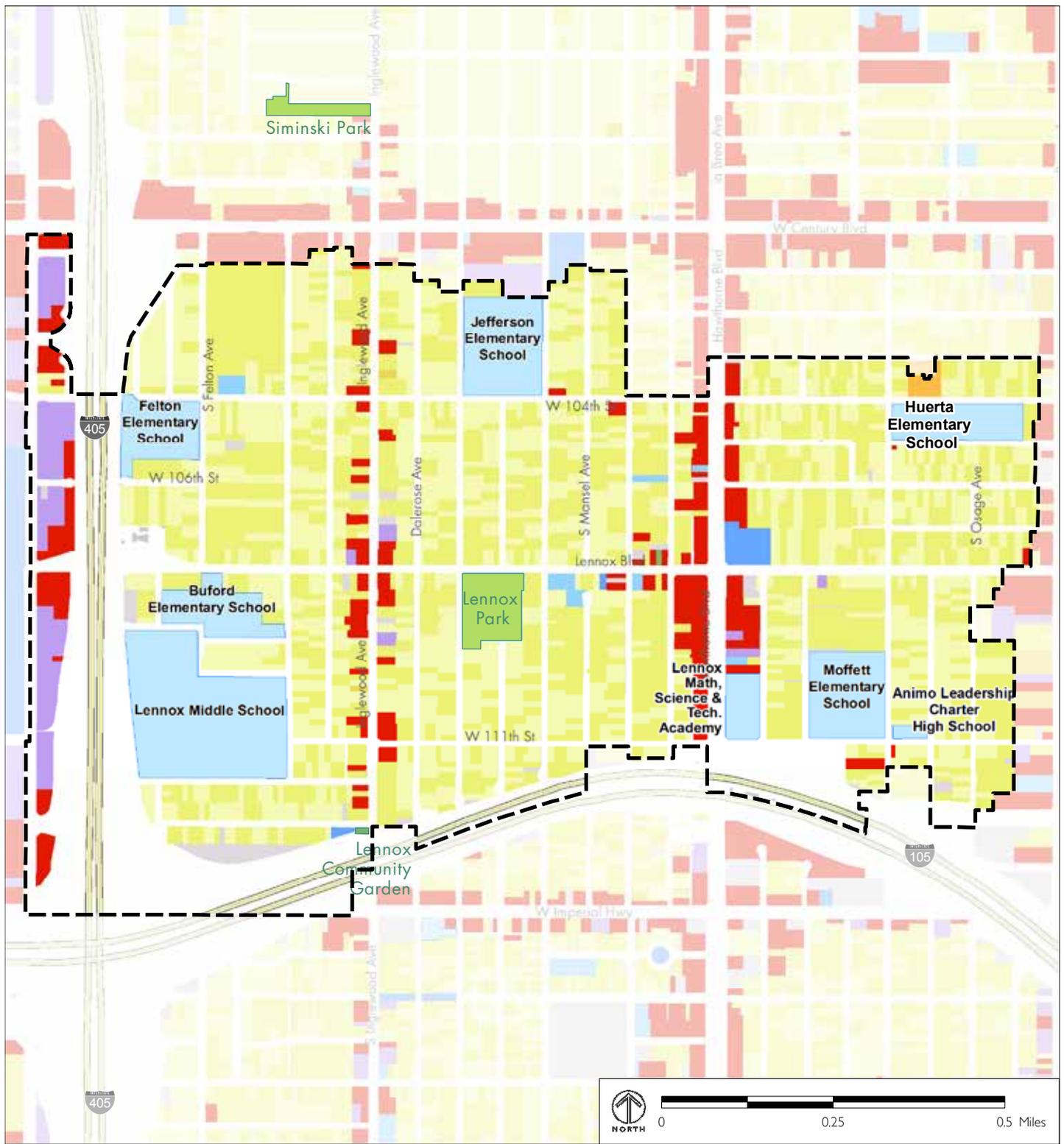


Vendors along Hawthorne Boulevard
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



Commercial business along Hawthorne Boulevard

FIGURE 2.13 LAND USE



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Assessor 2012; PlaceWorks, 2015.

Lennox	Land Use	Commercial	Miscellaneous
Green Space and School	Residential Single-family	Industrial	Recreational
County Park	Residential Multi-family	Institutional	Agriculture
Other Green Space	Residential Manufactured Homes	Government Owned	Vacant Land
School	Residential Rooming/Boarding House		

POPULATION DENSITY

Lennox’s population patterns directly correspond with land use within the community. Since the community is predominately low-density residential, population is generally evenly distributed throughout the community, with the exception of the area near the 405 Freeway where population is lower due to the presence of industrial uses, and the pockets of high-density residential where population is slightly higher. Figure 2.14 shows the population density patterns within the community.

Parks and recreation facilities are public amenities and intended to be used by people, so facilities within close proximity to dense areas can provide service to large numbers of residents. However, park development within these areas is especially challenging due to limited land availability and close proximity to neighboring properties.



Typical Low-density Residential in Lennox
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

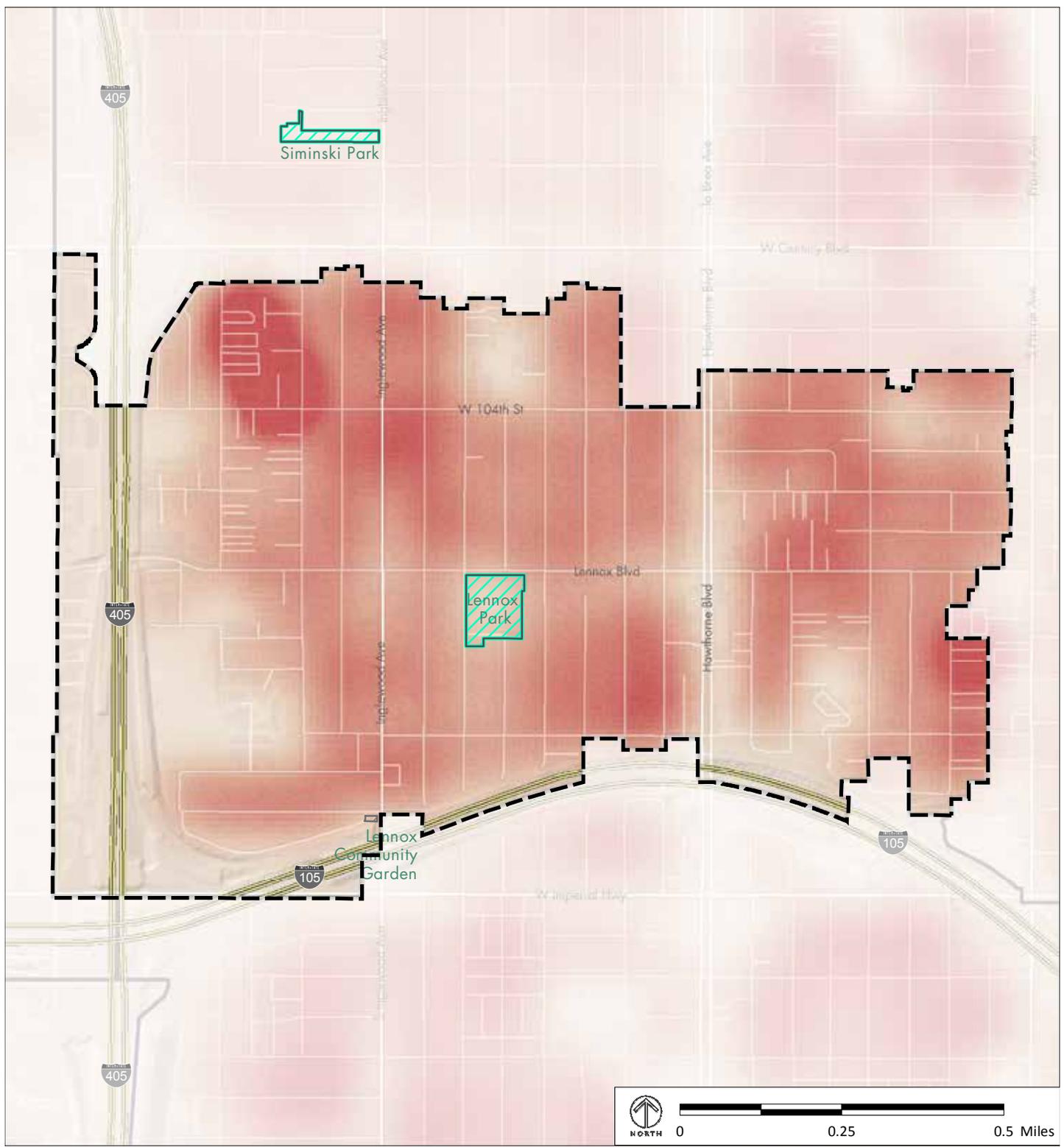


Typical High-density Residential in Lennox
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



Typical Density Pattern in Lennox
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

FIGURE 2.14 POPULATION DENSITY



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; United States Census Bureau, 2010; Los Angeles County Assessor, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- Parklands**
-  Parks Included in Analysis
 -  Other Green Space
- Population Density (Persons per half square mile)**
-  High
 -  Low

TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION

Figure 2.16 shows the existing transportation network and the concentration of pedestrian and bicycle collisions in Lennox between 2002 and 2010. Pedestrian and bicycle collisions represent any collisions involving either pedestrians or bicyclists. The figure uses a gradient overlay to show areas with a high concentration of collisions using a distance of 500 feet as the threshold for combining collisions into clusters. This summary provides a description of the most problematic areas and considers these areas as they relate to Lennox Park and other community spaces in Lennox.

OVERVIEW

Lennox has a Green Light Rail Station, Hawthorne/Lennox Station, which serves the community. Six different Metro bus lines also serve the community, including four local lines and two shuttles and circulators. Currently, Lennox has 1.57 miles of striped bikeways: along Hawthorne Boulevard between W. 104th Street and W. 111th Street, 104th Street between Hawthorne Boulevard and Prairie Avenue, and Freeman Avenue between 111th Street and 104th Street. DPW is planning to install additional bikeways, mainly along major streets and connections between schools.¹³ The community is bordered by 405 Freeway to the west, limiting pedestrian and bicycle access to areas to the west.

Looking at the data on concentration of pedestrian and bicycle collisions between 2002 and 2010, high concentration areas are along the major streets in Lennox. The most problematic areas are listed in Table 2.9.

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

Lennox Park is located on Lennox Boulevard, a major street located in the center of the community. The three highest collision areas, as shown in Table 2.9, are located near the park. These high collision areas are also adjacent to schools. Areas with a high concentration of collisions are along the major streets serving the community, which are also the corridors with Metro bus service (Inglewood Avenue, Lennox Boulevard, and Hawthorne Boulevard).

Despite the above findings, Lennox has a lower rate of pedestrian and bike collisions compared to Los Angeles County. The rate of pedestrian collisions in Lennox is similar to that in the County (4.57 in Lennox and 4.73 in the County), but bike collisions have a much lower rate than the County (1.76 in Lennox and 3.04 in the County).

Currently, there is no sidewalk on Felton Avenue at 106th Street. Some sidewalks are in bad condition, particularly in the area bounded by 104th Street, Interstate 405, Prairie Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard. Improvements to sidewalks and the pedestrian environment should be considered as part of any future park and green space planning in Lennox.

FIGURE 2.15 PEDESTRIAN, BICYCLE COLLISIONS PER 1,000 RESIDENTS

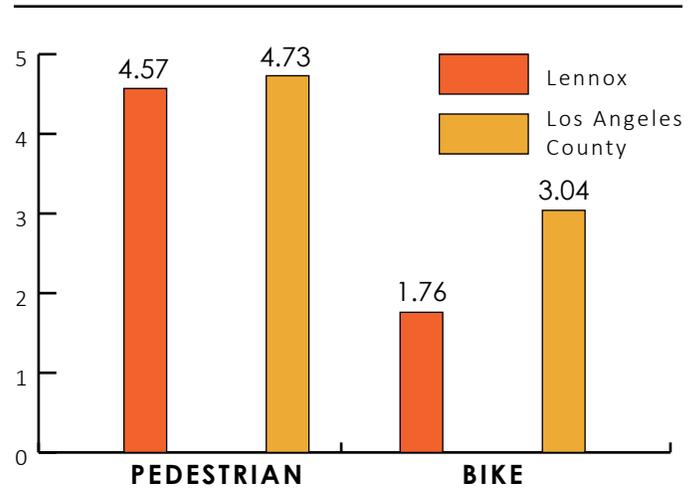


TABLE 2.9 PROBLEMATIC AREAS FOR PEDESTRIANS

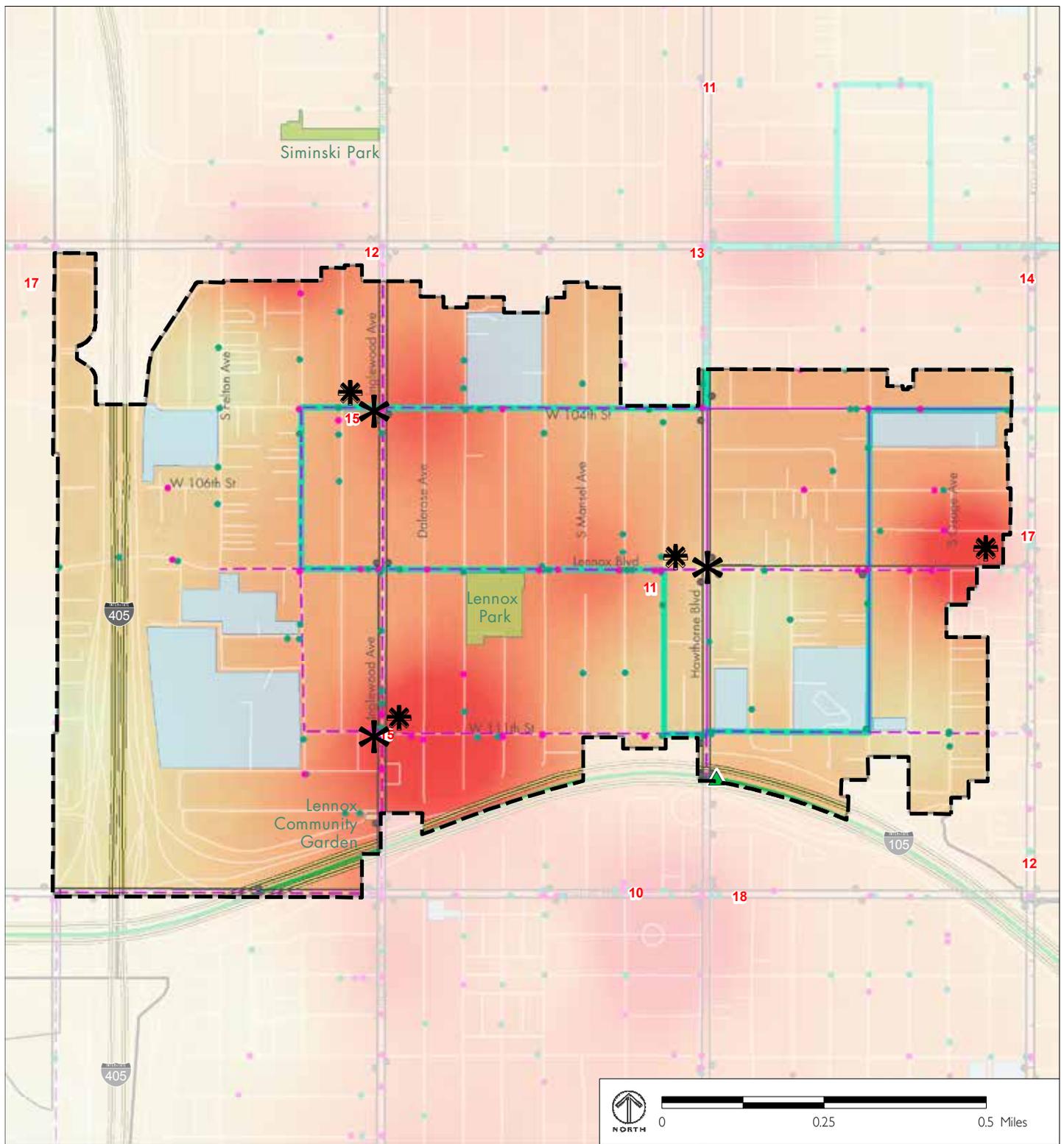
Location ^A	Number of Collisions ^B
W 111th Street & Inglewood Avenue	15
W 104th Street & Inglewood Avenue	15
Lennox Boulevard & Hawthorne Boulevard	11

^AThe Location column describes the closest intersection near problematic areas

^BThe Number column indicates concentration collision locations within 500 feet from one another

¹³ Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan. Alta Planning + Design. County of Los Angeles, March 2012.

FIGURE 2.16 TRANSPORTATION, SAFETY, AND CONNECTIVITY



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Agency, 2012; Transportation Injury Mapping System (TIMS), 2002-2010; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Park Included in Analysis | Public Transit Network | Bicycle Network | High Concentration (38) |
| Other Green Space (Community Garden) | Green | Proposed Bike Routes | Low Concentration (1) |
| School | Metro Rail Green Line | Pedestrian and Bicycle Collisions | Collisions involving Pedestrians |
| | Bus Stops | Problematic Area | Collisions involving Bikes |
| | Bus Routes | Problematic Areas | 37 Concentration of Collisions within 250 feet |
| | The Link Shuttle Route | | |

CRIME AND SAFETY

For this study, the crime data analyzed spans from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2012. The crime analysis used Esri's Hot Spot Analysis Tool in ArcGIS to identify areas of crime concentration. This tool analyzed both the spatial clustering and intensity of each crime location. Each crime category was weighted differently in order to give greater importance to more violent crimes. Any crime that was viewed as being a major concern to public safety received a higher intensity ranking, from 300 to 600. Non-violent offenses were ranked from 0 to 200. Table 2.10 lists crime intensity ranking categories.

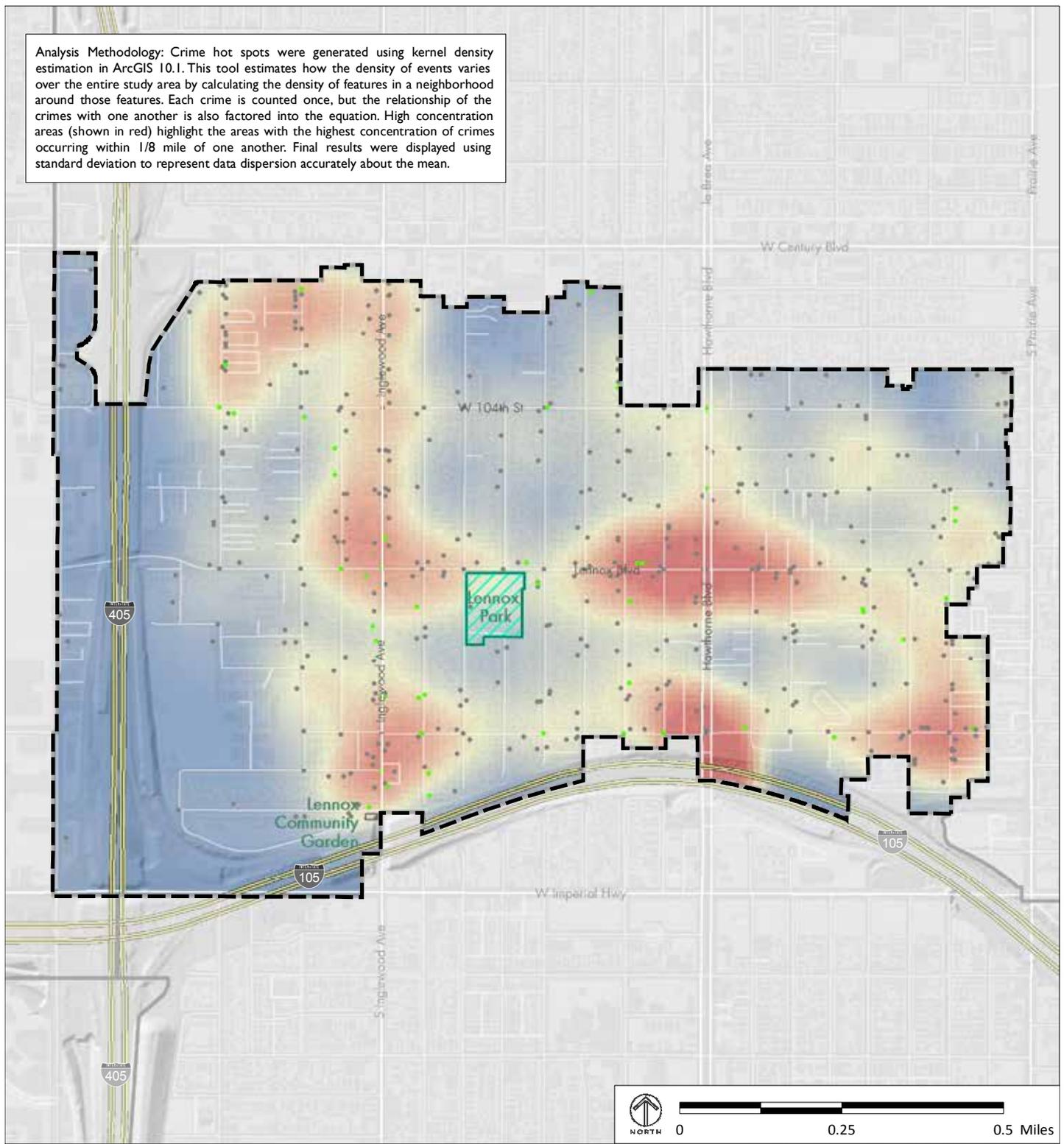
As shown in Figure 2.17, there are a few crime hot spots dispersed throughout the community, but this report will focus on hot spots near existing parks. Lennox Park is the only park within the community boundary and does not appear to have high concentrations of crime adjacent to its location. The closest hot spot is within a few blocks of the park's northwestern corner. This area also appears to have the highest concentration of gang-related crimes within the community.

TABLE 2.10 **CRIME CATEGORY INTENSITY RATIO***

Intensity	Crime Categories
0	Accidents miscellaneous, accidents traffic/vehicle/boat, commitments, miscellaneous non-criminal, persons dead, suicide and attempt
100	Disorderly conduct, federal offenses without money, federal offenses with money, forgery, fraud and nsf checks, fraud and nsf checks, gambling, juvenile non-criminal, liquor laws, mentally ill, misdemeanors miscellaneous, offenses against family, persons missing, receiving stolen property, vagrancy, vandalism, vehicle / boating laws, warrants
200	Drunk / alcohol / drugs, narcotics, weapon laws
300	Burglary, drunk driving vehicle / boat, felonies miscellaneous, larceny theft, non-aggravated assaults, sex offenses misdemeanors
400	Grand theft auto, robbery
500	Arson, aggravated assault, forcible rape, sex offenses felonies,
600	Criminal homicide

*Source: Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, 2012. Crimes were categorized and given an intensity ranking in order to give more weight to violent offenses.

FIGURE 2.17 **CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS**



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, 2010,2011, 2012; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Parklands | Crimes Against Persons* | Concentration of Crimes Against Persons |
| Park Included in Analysis | Gang-related | High |
| Other Green Space (Community Garden) | Not Gang-related | Low |

Note: Los Angeles County crime data included in this analysis covers a 3 year time period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2012. Over this time period there were a total of 1,890 reported crimes against persons within the community. *Crimes Against Persons includes the following crime categories: criminal homicides, forcible rape, both aggravated and non-aggravated assaults, sex offenses, and robberies.

VACANT LAND

A vacant land analysis was used to preliminarily identify opportunity sites for new parks in Lennox. Vacant land was identified using three different sources: Los Angeles County Assessor's vacant land data according to its use code; property lots with no improvement value; and input from community members, when provided. Once identified as vacant, the parcels were verified using aerial images to ensure that they were indeed vacant. Parcels were then categorized into vacant lands owned by Los Angeles County and by other public agencies. Additionally, tax-default properties were included in the analysis as they may serve as additional opportunities for parkland development. Figure 2.18 shows the location of vacant land in Lennox.



source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

Not all vacant land is equally valuable for use as parks. Many vacant parcels or buildings or tax default properties are located in unsuitable areas, such as mid-block locations or areas with site restrictions.



FIGURE 2.18 VACANT LANDS



Source: Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, 2013; Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, 2013; Neighborhood Land Trust, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| Green Space | Other Potential Vacant Lands | Vacant Land |
| ■ County Park | ■ Tax Defaulted Properties | ■ Assessor's Data |
| ■ Other Green Space (Community Garden) | ■ Identified by Community | |

FOOD ACCESS

For this study area, a distance threshold of a half-mile (10-minute walk) was used to determine whether residents have walkable access to a food outlet selling fresh fruits, meats, and vegetables.

The healthy food access analysis was completed using Esri’s Network Analyst tool in ArcGIS to identify areas with and without walkable access to healthy food. Any food outlet selling fresh fruits, meats, and/or vegetables was categorized as healthy. This analysis only includes neighborhood markets, full-service grocery stores, and specialty/farmers markets inside the community and within one-half mile of its boundary. No restaurants were included in this analysis.

Figure 2.19 identifies walkable and non-walkable areas within a half mile to/from each food outlet. Residential and non-residential areas were differentiated using Los Angeles County Assessor parcels’ existing land use information.

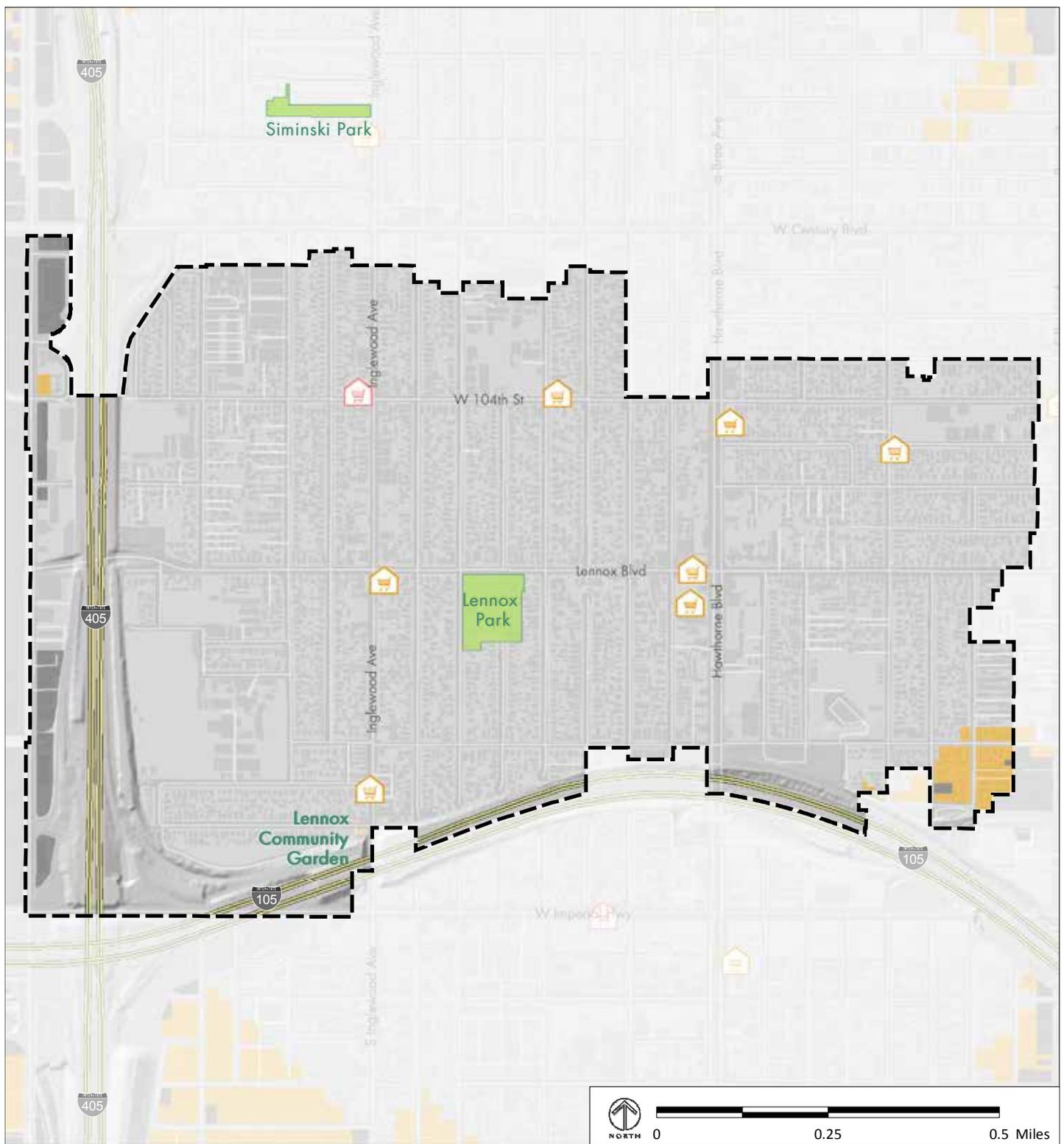


Grocery Store at the corner of Hawthorne Boulevard and Lennox Boulevard
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015



La Playa Market and Lennox Market and corner of Inglewood Avenue and Lennox Boulevard
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

FIGURE 2.19 FOOD ACCESS



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013; Esri, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.

Supermarkets

-  Full Service Grocery Store
-  Neighborhood Market
-  Specialty Market

Healthy Food Access

-  Non-Residential Areas Not Within 1/2 Mile of a Grocery Store/Produce Market
-  Residential Areas Not Within 1/2 Mile of a Grocery Store/Produce Market
- Green Space**
-  County Park
-  Other Green Space (Community Garden)

AIR QUALITY

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) recommends that a minimum 500-foot buffer be maintained between freeways and new parks with active outdoor facilities. Best practice mitigation measures are required for any new parks with active outdoor facilities if located within 1,500 feet of freeways.

In accordance with the DPH’s recommendations, 500-foot and 1,500-foot buffers from freeways were added to analyze potential new park sites. These buffers are displayed in the air quality map in Figure 2.20.



Parks and recreational facilities provide great benefits to community residents including increased levels of physical activity, improved mental health, and opportunities to strengthen social ties with neighbors. However, siting parks and active recreational facilities near freeways may increase public exposure to harmful pollutants, particularly while exercising. Studies show that heavy exercise near sources of traffic pollution may have adverse health effects. However, there are also substantial health benefits associated with exercise. Therefore, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health recommends the following cautionary approach when siting parks and active recreational facilities near freeways:

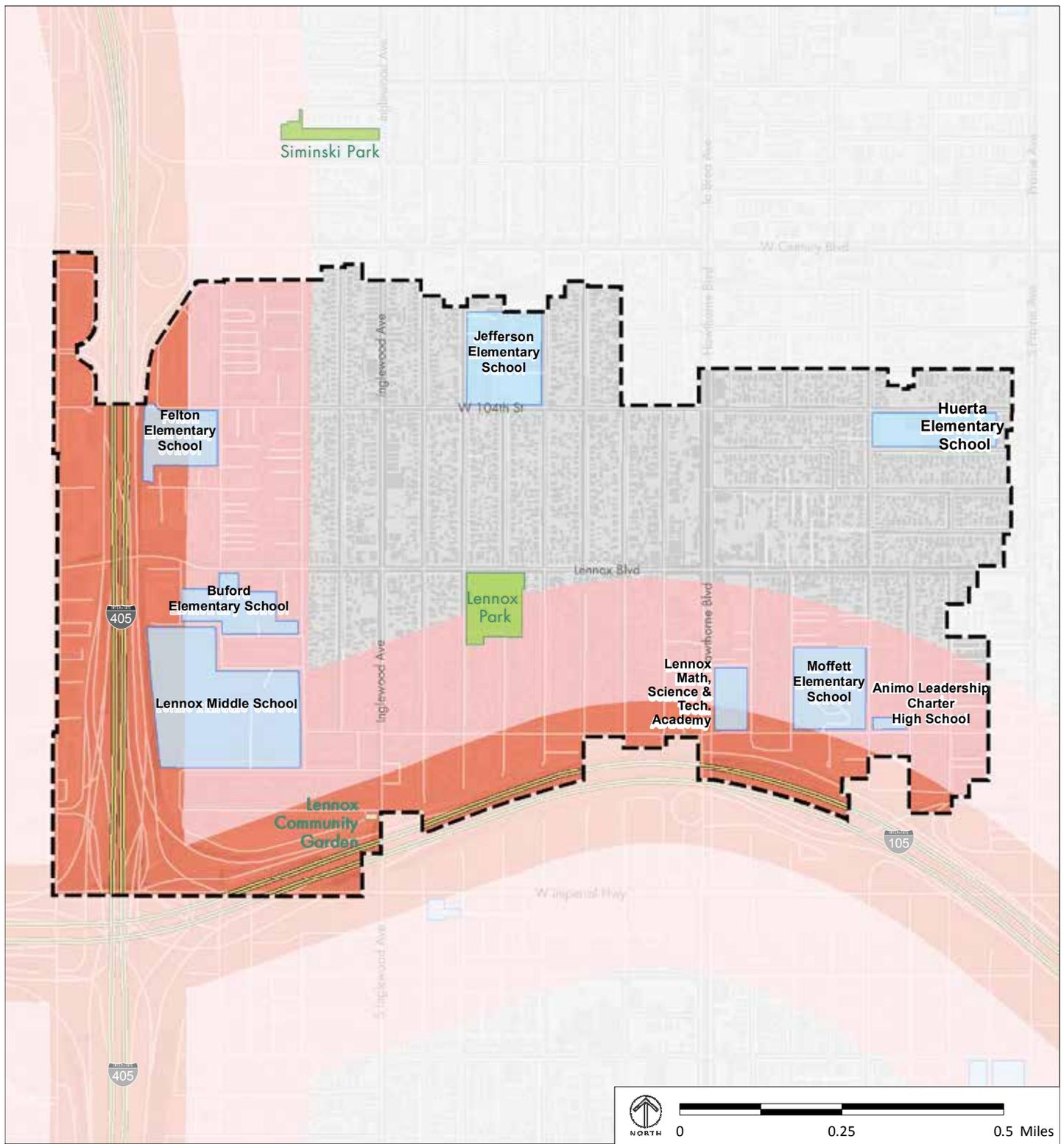
- *New parks with athletic fields, courts, and other outdoor facilities designed for moderate to vigorous physical activity, should be sited at least 500 feet from a freeway. Consideration should be given to extending this minimum buffer zone based on site-specific conditions given the fact that unhealthy traffic emissions are often present at greater distances. Exceptions to this recommended practice should be made only upon a finding by the decision-making body that the benefits of such development outweigh the public health risks.*
- *New parks built within 1,500 feet of freeways should adhere to best-practice mitigation measures that minimize exposure to air pollution. These include the placement of athletic fields, courts, and other active outdoor facilities as far as possible from the air pollution source.*

- Air Quality Recommendations for Local Jurisdictions from Los Angeles County Department of Public Health



View of Lennox from the 105 Freeway
source: Google, DigitalGlobe, 2015

FIGURE 2.20 AIR QUALITY



- | | |
|---|--|
| ■ Park Included in Analysis | ■ Air Quality Buffers |
| ■ Other Green Space (Community Garden) | ■ 500 feet from Freeways |
| ■ School | ■ 1,500 feet from Freeways |

Sources: Los Angeles County, 2013; PlaceWorks, 2015.



3 - COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach is at the heart of this planning process. The community outreach strategy was developed based on the project goals, as well as an understanding of the issues in the community. For Lennox, From Lot to Spot and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust facilitated the outreach process. These efforts took place between May and August 2013, and included surveys, focus groups, stakeholder interviews, a community workshop, a youth bicycle tour, and a community walking tour.

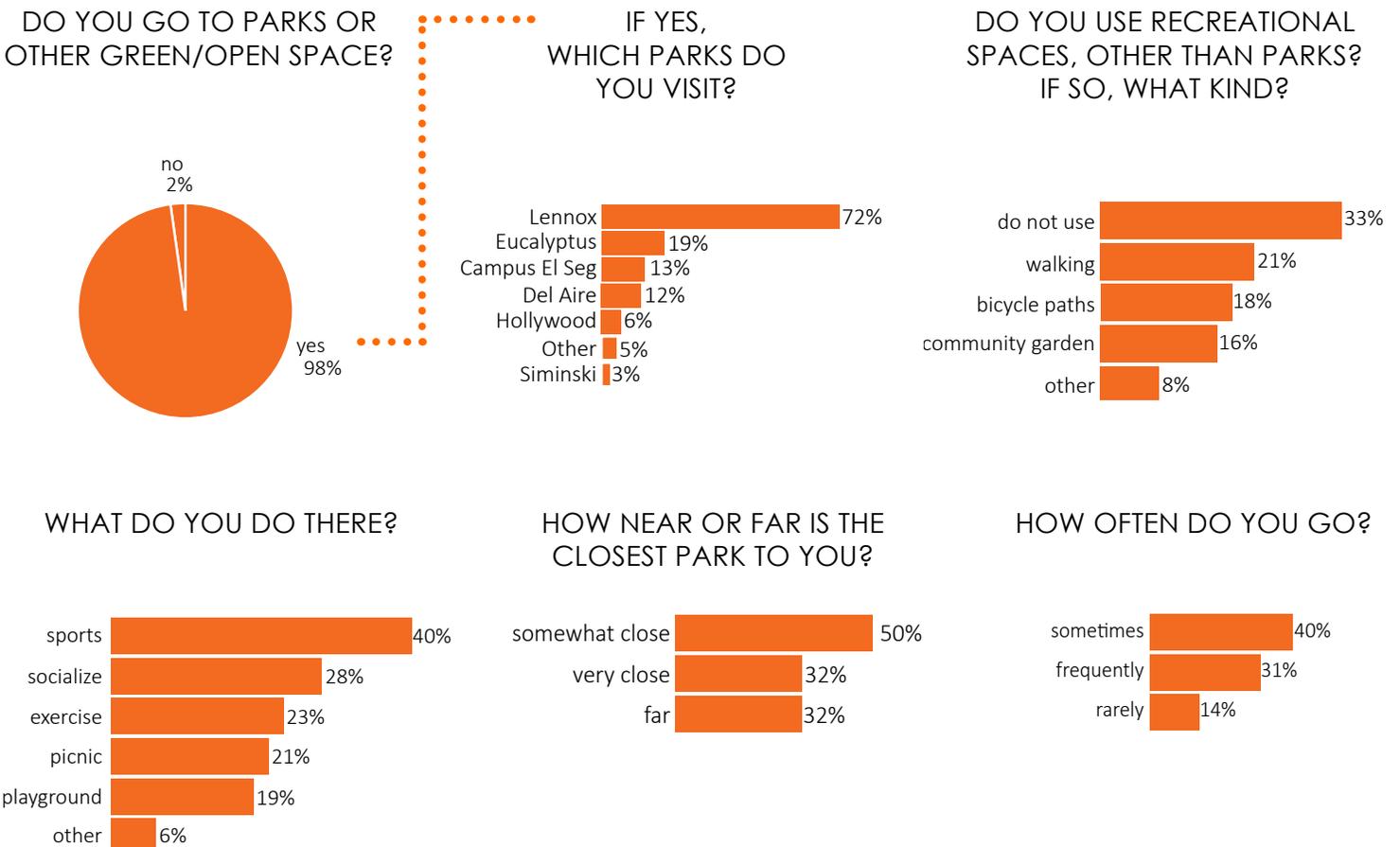
Key findings on desired park facilities, amenities, and programs are described below. Descriptions of the events and results are described more in depth in the outreach summaries in Appendix C. Due to the variety of outreach events, responses varied from recommendations for specific projects to more general requests for increased green space.

SURVEYS (MAY-OCTOBER 2013)

Two hundred (200) questionnaires were distributed while tabling at Lennox Park during key community events, such as the LCC Family Festival, the Non-Profit Resource Fair, and the annual Cinco de Mayo celebration. Results suggested that most park visitors are traveling to parks by foot or by car and they do not always feel safe getting to their local park or while spending time in the park.

The results additionally show sports as the predominant activity in parks, followed by socializing, exercising, picnicking, and using the playgrounds. Popular programs are categorized as youth sports and exercise classes. An interest in community gardens was more strongly expressed over bicycle paths, exercise facilities, and walking paths.

FIGURE 3.1 SURVEY RESULTS

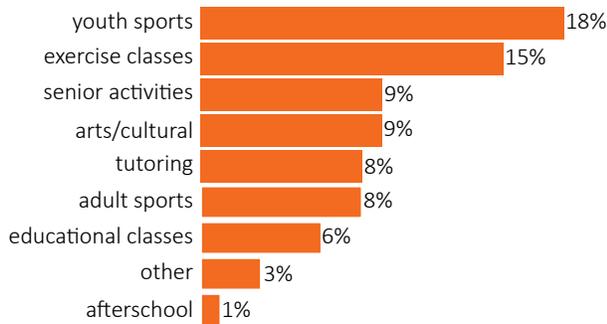


respondents could select more than one answer

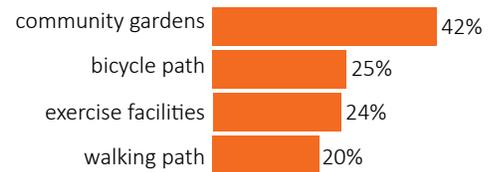
TABLE 3.1 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM SURVEY RESULTS

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN YOUR COMMUNITY?			
Programs		Facilities	
Youth Sports	18%	Exercise Facilities	24%
Exercise Classes	15%	Walking Path	20%
Adult Sports	8%	Community Gardens	42%
Senior Activities	9%	Bike Path	25%
Afterschool Daycare	1%		
Arts/Cultural Activities	9%		
Educational Classes	6%		
Tutoring/Homework Assistance	8%		
Other	3%		

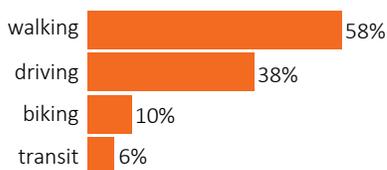
WHAT TYPES OF PROGRAMS DO YOU PARTICIPATE IN?



WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE OF IN YOUR COMMUNITY?



HOW DO YOU GET THERE?



WHAT TIME OF DAY DO YOU USUALLY VISIT?



DO YOU FEEL SAFE IN PARKS?



DO YOU FEEL SAFE GOING TO PARKS?



respondents could select more than one answer

FOCUS GROUPS

(MAY-JUNE 2013)

In Lennox, four (4) focus groups were held with key representatives from community-based organizations, educators, and community leaders to provide insight on concerns and priorities for key parks and recreation users. Participating organizations included Lennox Coordinating Council (LCC), St. Margaret’s Center, Youth Build, Lennox School District (LSD), Tongan United Methodist Youth Group, and T.H.E. Clinic.

Based on their local knowledge, the focus group participants identified the three key issues that have historically and recently affected the community: 1) the air and noise pollution from the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and nearby freeways; 2) a lack of investment by Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA) in the Lennox community; and 3) the presence of gangs. It was emphasized that Lennox Park is an important “gateway” that provides access to additional resources in the community, such as medical care, immigration services, and health and wellness opportunities.

The top needs that emerged from the focus group feedback included:

- Create additional green space in Lennox
- Implement more community improvement projects in Lennox
- Improve environmental mitigation in Lennox
- Increase access to healthy food and nutrition education

There was consensus about perceived safety at Lennox Park in regards to gang activity and the need for more positive presence of law enforcement, community empowerment events, and clear communication between the Department of Parks and Recreation and the community. Participants acknowledged that additional funding would be needed to properly upgrade Lennox Park, and emphasized the need for proper planning. They noted that park planning processes can be repetitive and do not necessarily produce actual projects for the community.

Potential Partnerships Identified during Focus Groups and Stakeholder Interviews:

- Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)
- Lennox Coordinating Council (LCC)
- Youth Build
- From Lot to Spot
- Lennox School District (LSD)
- Tongan United Methodist Church
- Local Businesses
- Lennox Sheriff’s Department
- T.H.E. Clinic
- St. Margaret’s Center
- APIOPA
- Lennox Little League

TABLE 3.2 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM FOCUS GROUPS

Facilities	Amenities/Elements
Walking Trails	Less fencing in parks
Community Garden	Wider sidewalks and street trees for shade
Bicycle Paths	Better street lighting to encourage walking on the street
Pocket Parks	
Youth Center	
Outdoor Exercise Equipment	
Bike Lanes and Traffic-Calming Measures	
	Events
	CicLAVia
	Maintenance/Operations
	“Park Ranger” at Lennox Park

STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

(MAY 2013)

Nine (9) stakeholder interviews were held with leaders from local organizations:

1. Lennox Coordinating Council (LCC)
2. St. Margaret’s Center
3. Youth Build
4. From Lot to Spot
5. Lennox School District (LSD)
6. Lennox Sheriff’s Department
7. Asian Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance (APIOPA)
8. T.H.E. Clinic

Stakeholders emphasized the lack of green space in Lennox and noted that Lennox Park, the only significant park, is the cultural center of the community and in great need of improvements. For example, lighting is poor and the “futsal” fences are unattractive and obscure the line of vision to the playground and bathroom. They unanimously agreed that the park is in constant use and the space cannot keep up with the demand.

Another priority need is improved pedestrian connections throughout the community. Suggested locations included along the right-of-way adjacent to the 105 and 405 Freeways, and along Lennox and Hawthorne Boulevards. Enhanced walking facilities would help address the lack of physical activity in the community and the high obesity rate among both adults and youth.

Additionally, stakeholders noted that schools in Lennox are used as recreational spaces both formally and informally. Some groups, such as Lennox Little League and some soccer organizations have permits with the Lennox School District. However, some schools, such as Lennox Middle School, leave the gates open to allow use of the track and fields.

Key Issues and Concerns

- Land encroachment by the Cities of Inglewood and Hawthorne
- Lack of access to healthy and organic fresh fruits and vegetables
- Lack of adequate green space
- Lack of investment to create aesthetic appeal of the community
- Little to no representation at the planning level regarding Lennox and implementing a plan for the future.
- Not enough communication between DPR and the community in regards to changes at Lennox Park.

In terms of programming, stakeholders voiced the importance of holding significant community-building events, like the Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival, at Lennox Park. The event recently moved to an empty Metro Park & Ride lot on 111th Street due to maintenance issues at Lennox Park, and the move has had a major impact on the community.

The perception of safety was an overwhelming issue that surfaced during the interviews. Stakeholders noted that although the same gangs still exist today, gang-related crime has decreased significantly since the 1980s and 1990s. Isolated incidents in and around Lennox Park tend to influence the perception of safety. However, there is not much crime at the park, according to the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. Residents felt that regular and open dialogue between the community and the Sheriff’s Department would help address their concerns.

TABLE 3.3 NEEDS IDENTIFIED FROM STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

Programs/Activities	Facilities/Amenities/Elements
More programs for seniors and youth	Walking trail at Lennox Park
Health and wellness opportunities	Improved lighting at blind spots in parks
Community gardens	Cost-effective and sustainable LED lighting
Latino- and Tongan-inspired activities	
Events	
Cinco de Mayo Parade and Festival	

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP (JULY 15, 2013)

About 40 community members attended a workshop held at Lennox Park Community Room and provided input on the current and future green space opportunities in their neighborhood. Participants engaged in collaborative planning activities that recorded their views on both current and future green space.

The first activity, Dot-Voting, asked participants to identify the types of activities they do at local parks, as well as what they would like to see. It was noted that they participate in playing organized sports and exercise. Future needs that were prioritized included walking paths, lighting for safety, and natural areas or features. Overall, the community members expressed the need for more actual projects and less planning.

The second activity, Group Discussions, encouraged residents to describe their vision for a greener Lennox. Discussions revolved around the issues of safety, the need to shift from planning to project implementation, and the appropriation of vacant or underutilized lands in Lennox. Key words that came up during discussions were “exercise”, “culturally-relevant programming”, and “project implementation”.



The third activity, Input Mapping, offered stakeholders a chance to draw on a map of their community to show their current sources of green space, obstacles and accessibility issues, and locations where they would like to see future green space development. Community members identified Lennox Park as their primary source of green space and the playgrounds at Lennox schools as their improvised public parks. Current obstacles in Lennox include absence of traffic-calming measures on all major intersections, lack of street trees, and lack of publicly-owned vacant land. Residents identified Caltrans land adjacent to the 405 and 105 Freeways and the underutilized Metro Park & Ride lot as potential green space opportunities.

TABLE 3.4 SUMMARY OF NEEDS IDENTIFIED DURING GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Amenities/Elements	Facilities
Better crosswalks	Walking trail along Caltrans ROWs from 112th/Inglewood to Lennox Middle School
Improved lighting	Bike paths throughout the community
Flashing pedestrian lights	Exercise equipment
Walking signs at major intersections	Plaza reflecting community culture
Large screen on new Civic Center that details events	
Public spaces for youth to display their art	
Address flooding issues on Lennox Park’s grassy areas	
New trees to mitigate air and noise pollution	
Green Vacant Lots	Programs/Activities
Caltrans ROW lands along 105 and 405 Freeways	Lantio- and Tongan-based programs, activities, and events
Metro Park & Ride lot	
	Green Major Streets
	Lennox Boulevard
	Hawthorne Boulevard
	Inglewood Avenue

Dot-Voting Preference Exercise

Using images of typical parks and recreation facilities and programs, workshop participants voted on the types of activities they currently do in Lennox and the types of amenities that they would like to see more of in Lennox parks. Participants were given two stickers to vote with and were asked to choose their highest priorities.

Current Activities:

- Exercise (16)
- Play organized sports (8)
- Take kids to playground (3)
- Socialize (3)
- Swim (2)
- Read (2)
- Picnic (2)
- Watch wildlife (2)

What you want to see:

- Lighting and security (10)
- Walking paths (10)
- Exercise facility (8)
- Natural areas or features (7)
- Public art (4)
- Bicycling (3)
- Play fields (2)





Input Mapping Exercise

Using a map of Lennox, workshop participants identified places where they currently recreate, areas they felt were dangerous or difficult to travel, and spaces where they would like to see new open space or recreation amenities. Residents identified County parks as major sources of green space, sidewalk conditions and illicit activities in and along routes to parks as major obstacles to use, and vacant lots as important sites for future projects



What parks or green spaces do you use?

Participants identified Lennox Park as the most frequented recreation area. Informal recreation use is given to green space within the nine schools in Lennox. Residents also utilize the underused Metro Park & Ride lot as recreational space. The Tongan community has constructed a playground and basketball courts at the Tongan United Methodist Church specifically for the Tongan community to use, due to their fear of using Lennox Park.

Where is it hard to walk?

Participants highlighted essentially every major street of Lennox as difficult for pedestrians to travers or walk on. Particular attention was placed on streets near the schools. Lennox Boulevard was identified as a difficult street to walk, particularly near the intersections around Lennox Park. The lack of street trees was also noted as a factor.



Where do you want new green space?

Overwhelming support from community members was given to a walking paths alongside the 105 and 405 Freeways right of way, along with the creation of green space at the Metro Park & Ride lot on 111th Street. Joint-use agreements with the Lennox School District for use of recreation space were also a popular point of discussion. The greening of Lennox Blvd, Hawthorne Blvd and Inglewood Avenue was seen as a necessity by community members. Community members identified vacant spaces outside Lennox, suggesting that community members frequently use areas outside Lennox for recreation but are perceived as spaces belonging to the Lennox residents.

COMMUNITY WALKING TOUR (JULY 2013)

The main goal of the walking tour was to capture community input for the Lennox Community Parks & Recreation Plan. To do this participants were asked the question, *“What would make you invite your friends on a Saturday over to Lennox Park and then walk over to the Civic Center?”* Participants were asked to envision what would make Lennox Park feel safe and easily accessible, and what specific features would improve the park.

Secondary goals of the tour were to promote walking in Lennox and help the community envision pedestrian-friendly streets. Through a walkable streets presentation, community members were provided information on pedestrian-friendly measures, such as walking trails, bike lanes, wider sidewalks, street trees, and traffic-calming measures. In total, 15 community members were briefly introduced to pedestrian-oriented streets and their connection to successful green spaces through a short presentation led by From Lot to Spot.

After the presentation, community members were led on a walking tour of Lennox Boulevard, which culminated at the new Civic Center on Hawthorne Boulevard. On the walk, participants identified specific sites and features on the streets that could be potentially improved to create a more pedestrian-friendly experience. They were asked to re- envision the observed section of the street or features on the walk. As the walking tour progressed along, From Lot to Spot provided historical context and/or examples of features. Participants documented these locations through pictures and by gathering as much information about that space as possible using different information gathering techniques, including field notes and pictures.

Most participants acknowledged that they have never walked along Lennox Boulevard to Lennox Park or the Civic Center. The top reasons participants said they do not walk on Lennox Boulevard were:

- Not Safe: vehicular traffic and velocity
- Not Inviting: dirty sidewalks and a lack of shade trees and benches
- Not Active: adjacent commercial uses are not appealing

All participants acknowledged the need for community to become engaged in more physical activity. However, they felt that the lack of crosswalks and traffic-calming measures made it unsafe for pedestrians. Participants noted that commercial buildings were not aesthetically pleasing and did not encourage them to walk. Facades are in need of updating and redevelopment. One participant stated: “It is ugly out here. The buildings are ugly.” In addition to façade improvements, most participants agreed that the lack of street trees and seating opportunities made the street less attractive and inviting. A

third issue regarding walkability that emerged pertained to the commercial tenants on Lennox Boulevard. Community members noted that they were not places that they frequented and if they did, there were not compatible uses.

Overall sentiments were that Lennox in general is not very walkable. Lack of trees, unattractive commercial activities, and the perception of crime in Lennox creates an environment that is not conducive to walking.



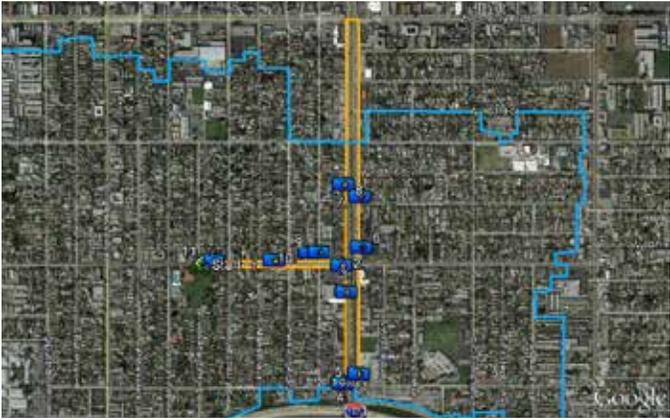
YOUTH ART RIDE (JUNE 1, 2013)

Lennox youth have been active in voicing their ideas about beautifying Lennox through a variety of means. In particular, during the initial stages of community engagement, many identified art as an important unifying theme to have in the community.

From Lot to Spot organized a youth bike tour to capture input from local youth and get them involved in the planning process, teach them about how public art is established in public spaces, and promote bicycle advocacy in Lennox. A total of 19 youth assembled in Lennox Park, went through a bike safety training, and attended the Art & Public Space Presentation. From Lennox Park, they then road along Hawthorne Boulevard from 111th to Century Boulevard.

The youth participants for this activity were all at the high school students, and most were male. The group collectively identified blighted spaces to be beautified by art, green walls with climbing vines, or street furniture and pedestrian features.

Participants documented spaces through pictures and made a quick assessment as to why that space would work (i.e. attract pedestrian traffic and/or create community pride). After the ride, participants gathered at Lennox Park to mark locations on a large map of Lennox which From Lot to Spot then translated onto a Google Earth map as shown in upper left.



SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

KEY ISSUES

LACK OF PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIVITY. Key destinations are within walking distance from each other, but the routes between are not pedestrian-friendly.

LACK OF GREEN SPACE. Lennox Park is the only significant park space in the community and the community is lacking in green infrastructure such as street trees.

PROGRAMMING. Residents would like to see a more diverse array of park programs that are culturally-relevant and promote healthy lifestyles.

LACK OF SPACES FOR YOUTH AND SENIORS. There is a strong interest in creating spaces for groups of all ages, especially youth and seniors.

SAFETY. Residents feel very insecure in public spaces and have a relatively negative view of law enforcement.

PARTNERSHIPS. There are many local organizations that are open to collaborating with each other and the County to improve the parks and recreational opportunities in Lennox.

LACK OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARK STAFF AND THE COMMUNITY. Residents desire more power in the decision-making process for projects affecting Lennox.

COMMUNITY SUGGESTIONS

1. Increase green space in Lennox.
2. Build pedestrian connections that are safe and inviting.
3. Add more outdoor exercise equipment and create new spaces for community fitness.
4. Install lighting to address night-time blind spots in parks and along streets.
5. Create community gardens to increase access to healthy, organic, local food.
6. Increase opportunities for cultural events and activities.
7. Enhance the appearance of the community so that it is more aesthetically-pleasing.
8. Promote additional recreation opportunities for youth and seniors.
9. Improve communication between the community and parks staff.



4 - NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Lennox community-based needs assessment brings together existing conditions, recreational trends, community input, and spatial analysis. This chapter builds on the results presented in Chapters Two and Three of this plan and incorporates recreational trends and standards, as well as spatial analysis, to present an overall picture of parks and recreational needs in Lennox.

These needs can be categorized as facility need and spatial need. Facility need refers to the types of facilities, amenities and programs Lennox residents want to have or what is missing in their parks and recreational spaces. Spatial need addresses the question of, where are parks most needed in Lennox.

Facility need was identified through existing conditions analysis, review of existing trends and standards, and community outreach results, while spatial need was developed through a geographical analysis of existing open space and its service area considering the site size, adjacent population density, and walkability around these spaces.

The spatial needs analysis additionally identified potential parkland opportunity sites in Lennox. These sites have potential for new park development and serve as the basis for the green space vision presented in Chapter Five. These sites were further analyzed and ranked based on their park development potential and ability to meet identified need.

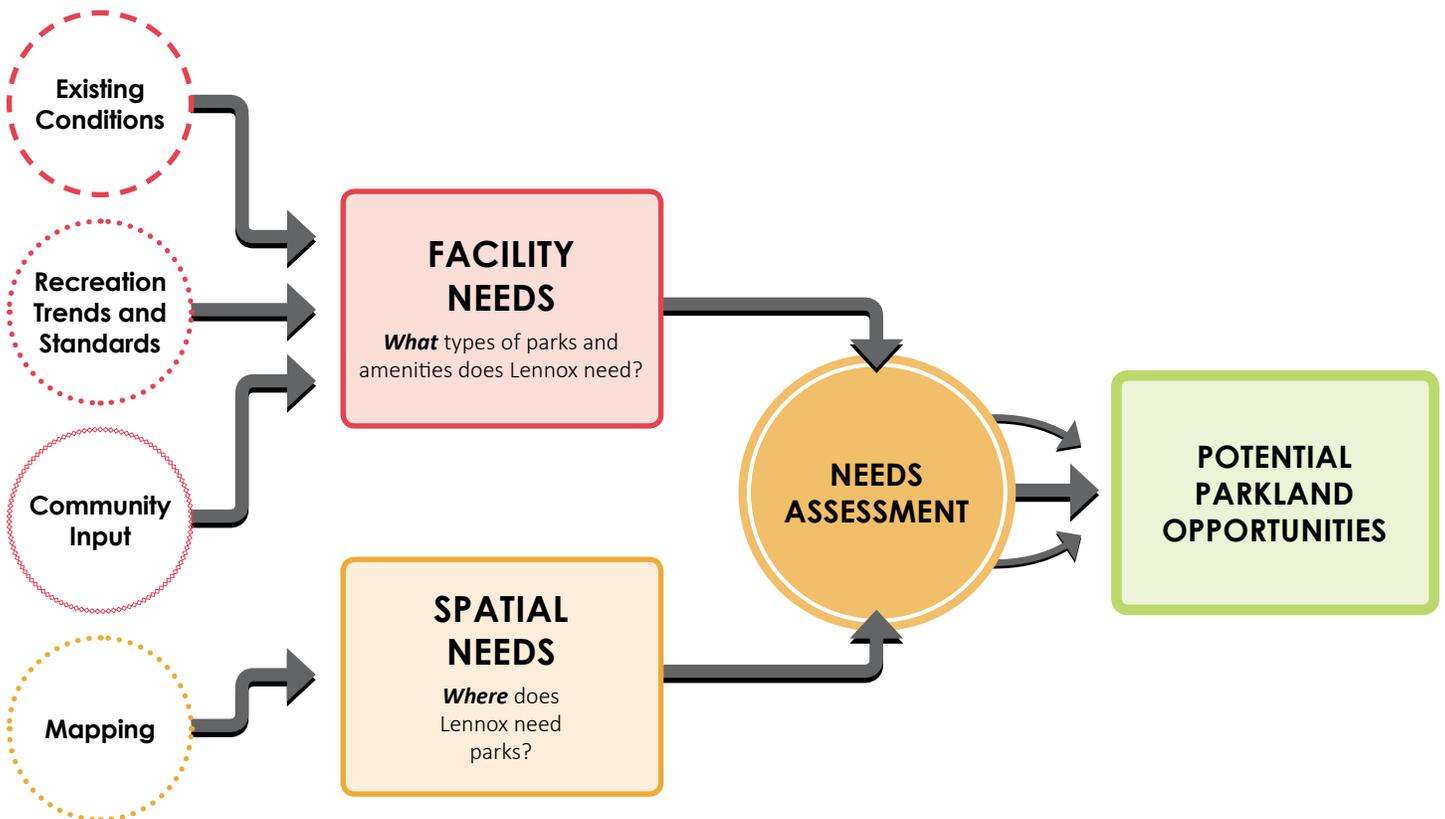
FACILITY NEEDS EXISTING CONDITIONS

As described in Chapter Two, Lennox Park is the only park in Lennox. The park is 5.6 acres in size and the population of Lennox is approximately 23,000 people. This translates to slightly more than 0.2 acres per 1,000 residents, which is significantly lower than the Los Angeles County General Plan goal of 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 people.

PARK AMENITIES

Lennox Park is a well-loved and heavily used facility. However, it is not sufficient to fill the demand for parks and recreational spaces in the community. In addition to simply not providing enough recreational space for the resident population, Lennox Park is missing some key facilities that are common in parks throughout the County, such as **splash pads, fitness zones, stages or performance spaces, tot lots, multi-purpose fields, tennis courts, volleyball courts, skate and bike skills parks, walking tracks, and gymnasiums.** Spatially, Lennox Park can

FIGURE 4.1 LENNOX NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND SITE IDENTIFICATION PROCESS



not accommodate these new uses, although park renovation might allow for some expanded use, particularly of the Toy Loan Building and the surrounding area.

Park deficiency in Lennox is mitigated to a limited extent by the schools, most of which have outdoor recreational space, including sports fields and courts. As there are no joint-use agreements between DPR and the schools in Lennox, these facilities are limited to students. Some of the programs at schools, particularly arts programs, might be more likely to utilize park facilities if they existed, such as an outdoor stage for music or dance events.

CONNECTIVITY

Lennox Park is well located in the center of Lennox, along Lennox Boulevard, one of the most well traveled pedestrian corridors in the community. *Vision Lennox* proposed to make streetscape improvements to Lennox Boulevard to transform it more formally into the “Main Street,” of the community. Enhancements, such as expanded sidewalks, separated bike lanes, and tree plantings, as well as programmatic events, such as street fairs and farmer’s markets, would expand the capacity of the street as a alternative type of open space. New parks along this corridor could strengthen it as a green network.

Additionally, since Lennox Boulevard is such a popular pedestrian corridor, there are numerous “eyes on the park,” making Lennox Park a potentially safer space than parks off major corridors. New parks in Lennox would likely have similar success and use if located along well-traveled corridors.

Existing and proposed bicycle routes in Lennox connect public spaces, such as Lennox Park and the Community Service Center, with schools, other major gathering places, and transit, including the Green Line Station. This strategy is a major step towards building a safe alternative transit network within the community. Enhancing these bikeways with separated cycle tracks and pedestrian improvements could create a more dynamic and multi-beneficial green network through the community.

PARK NODES

Other major corridors in Lennox, Hawthorne Boulevard and Inglewood Avenue, have a more commercial focus, although they are both popular places for residents to hangout, regardless of the lack of formal gathering space on either corridor. *Vision Lennox* additionally proposed the creation of plaza-style green spaces, or “*placitas*” in commercial areas, specifically at the intersection of Hawthorne Boulevard and Lennox Boulevard near the Community Service Center.

Other communities in Los Angeles County are utilizing parklets along commercial streets. These recreational pockets, located within streets, are typically associated with businesses, such as restaurants or bike stores, and create gathering spaces that activate the streets in those areas. Parking lots along Hawthorne Boulevard and Inglewood Boulevard are commonly

used by informal vendors to sell wares. Plaza space could formalize this use and provide a new mix of commercial and recreational space.

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

In addition to providing recreational resources to Lennox residents, Lennox Park also provides important ecological services, such as air quality improvements, stormwater runoff treatment, and wildlife habitat. In particular, as noted in Chapter Two, the trees in Lennox Park provide significant environmental benefits. Improvements in existing parks and new parklands could incorporate more green infrastructure features, such as low-impact design strategies, to treat more stormwater runoff, provide potential habitat space, and sequester greenhouse gases. Some parks throughout the County are utilizing green techniques, such as reduced irrigation strategies, energy production through solar panels, or water conservation facilities. Lennox Park is not currently taking part in any of these initiatives.

Lennox is located between two major freeways and very near Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). These conditions directly impact air quality in the community and urban greening initiatives could potentially mitigate some of these issues.

PARK USER DEMOGRAPHICS

Several demographic factors will have potential impacts on the types of facilities needed in Lennox. This community, according to US Census data, is experiencing a growth in population that is predominately Latino¹ as well as a growth in the number of adults approaching retirement. Additionally, the community on average has significantly more households with children (63 percent) than the average for Los Angeles County (32 percent).

Compared to the County as a whole, Lennox has a higher percentage of residents who commute by public transit, as well as a higher percentage of residents without access to a vehicle (11 percent versus 7 percent, respectively), making pedestrian or non-motorized access to parks is particularly important.

RECREATIONAL TRENDS AND STANDARDS

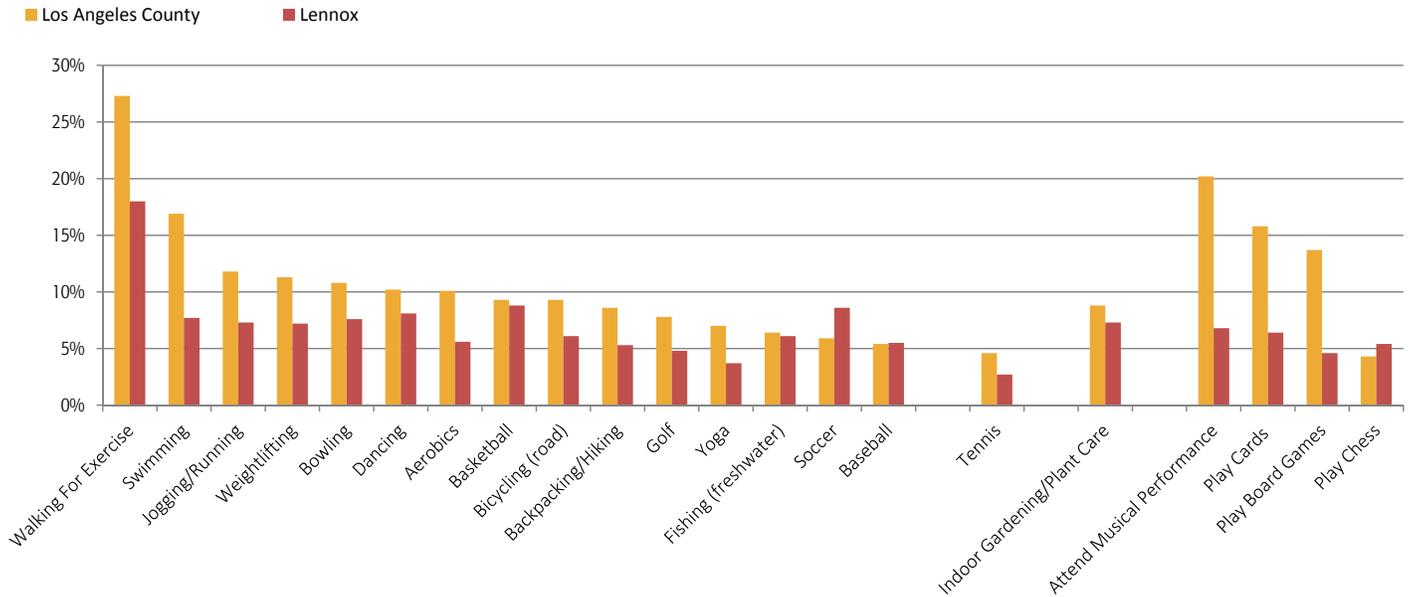
ESRI BUSINESS ANALYST

ESRI’s Business Analyst software provides a breakdown of market potential for sports and leisure activities. This report presents the percentage of the adult population of an area that currently participates in various sports and leisure activities. Figure 4.2 shows a sampling of high ranking activities in Lennox and Los Angeles County that impact parks and recreation development.

Walking for exercise is the dominant form of physical activity for adults in Lennox and Los Angeles County. This is consistent with current trends in the State of California and was also evident in the results from the community outreach, discussed

1 The race and ethnicity categories used in this document are derived from the 2010 US Census.

FIGURE 4.2 SUMMARY OF PARTICIPATION RATES FROM ESRI BUSINESS ANALYST



below. Swimming is the second most popular recreational activity in Lennox. This further suggests a need for splash pads or additional water-based activities in the community. Soccer is more popular in Lennox than the County as a whole. This is also true for baseball, though to a lesser degree. Attending musical performances is significantly lower than the County; however, this might be due to the lack of performance space in the community or the high cost of attending these types of events.

STATE AND NATIONAL TRENDS

Several State and national studies discuss the impact of population and demographic trends on outdoor recreation. An understanding of these trends and their most-likely implications is essential as the population increases and the rate of demographic change accelerates. Understanding the most likely direction of change may enable providers to position their services and respond more quickly to market changes.²

Studies by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and California State Parks report several trends and survey results which have implications for park and recreation planning in Lennox.

- Recreation patterns will be greatly influenced by California’s rapidly increasing Latino population. When surveyed, many Latino residents indicated a desire for parks that feel safe, a preference for features and amenities that support day-long outings with extended family, and the need for parks nearby and in urban areas.³

- Future park users will have a greater range of physical abilities, speak a wider array of languages, and represent more diversified age groups.
- Park proximity plays an important role in promoting higher levels of park use and physical activity, particularly for youth. Youth who reside close to parks and open space were found to be approximately two to three times more likely to take a walk within a two-day period than their counterparts that had no parks near their homes. Similarly, adults who reside within a half mile of a park were found to exercise five or more times a week more than those who reside further away from parks.
- Urban populations are typically associated with higher density, lower levels of vehicle ownership, and increased reliance on public transportation. As the urban population continues to increase over time, proximity to mass transportation should be considered when siting outdoor recreation areas.
- There are specific types of facilities that promote higher levels of physical activity than others. For example, park users engage in higher levels of physical activity in parks that have playgrounds, sports facilities, and trails, compared to those without these facilities. Walking is expected to continue to be the most popular activity for Californians; to support this, an expanded network of pedestrian facilities is needed to connect parks and green space.

2 California State Parks, 2005, Parks and Recreation Trends in California.

3 California Department of Parks and Recreation, December 2003, Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California – 2002: An Element of the California Outdoor Recreation Plan.

CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE COMPREHENSIVE OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN (SCORP)

California State Parks released a statewide assessment of recreation in September 2015. As part of this process, the state completed a Survey of Public Opinions and Attitude on Outdoor Recreation (SPOA) in California.⁴ Through phone interviews and mail or online questionnaires with adults and youth, California State Parks compiled information on how residents were using park facilities and what they would like to use them. Although many California State Parks are not located in urban environments and provide significantly different services than Los Angeles County parks, the results of this survey can be beneficial in determining public perception on park use.

Adult responses were categorized by region and 29 percent were from the Los Angeles region.⁵ Youth responses were for the state as a whole. In both the mail or online questionnaires and phone surveys, adults were asked what types of activities they participated in at parks. Figure 4.3 illustrates findings from the phone survey. Similar to other recreational trends in the state, walking or hiking is by far the most popular use of parks. Other highly common activities include eating/picnicking, playing, sedentary activities, jogging/running, sports, and dog walking.

In the phone survey for adults, respondents were asked to evaluate the importance of various recreation facilities at park spaces. Figure 4.4 presents some of these findings. The complete list includes: outdoor areas and facilities, field sports, court sports, court sports, multipurpose buildings, play areas for young children, day youth camps, facilities for overnight camping, dog parks, swimming pools, skateboard parks, picnic sites, single use trails, multi-use trails, paved trails, RV facilities and sites, rustic lodging facilities, commercial visitor services, areas for dirt bikes and ATVs, areas for driving, wilderness areas, developed fishing areas, public hunting areas, boating facilities, water-side recreation facilities, and community gardens.

The survey engaged youth participants through online engagement and a youth-focused survey. In total, 410 youth were questioned about their use patterns in parks and preferences for facilities. Figure 4.5 illustrates the age groups that participated in the survey. In addition to responding about what they would like to do in parks (Figure 4.6), youth were asked about how they access parks, their thoughts about the purpose of parks and open space, why they spend time outdoors, and attitudes that they have about parks and nature.

4 State of California. California State Parks. Natural Resources Agency. Survey on Public Opinions and Attitudes on Outdoor Recreation in California 2012: Complete Findings. Sacramento, CA: California State Parks Office, 2014.

5 Responses are available at: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/SPOA>

FIGURE 4.3 ADULT RESPONSES TO USUAL ACTIVITIES ENGAGED AT PARKS IN LOS ANGELES

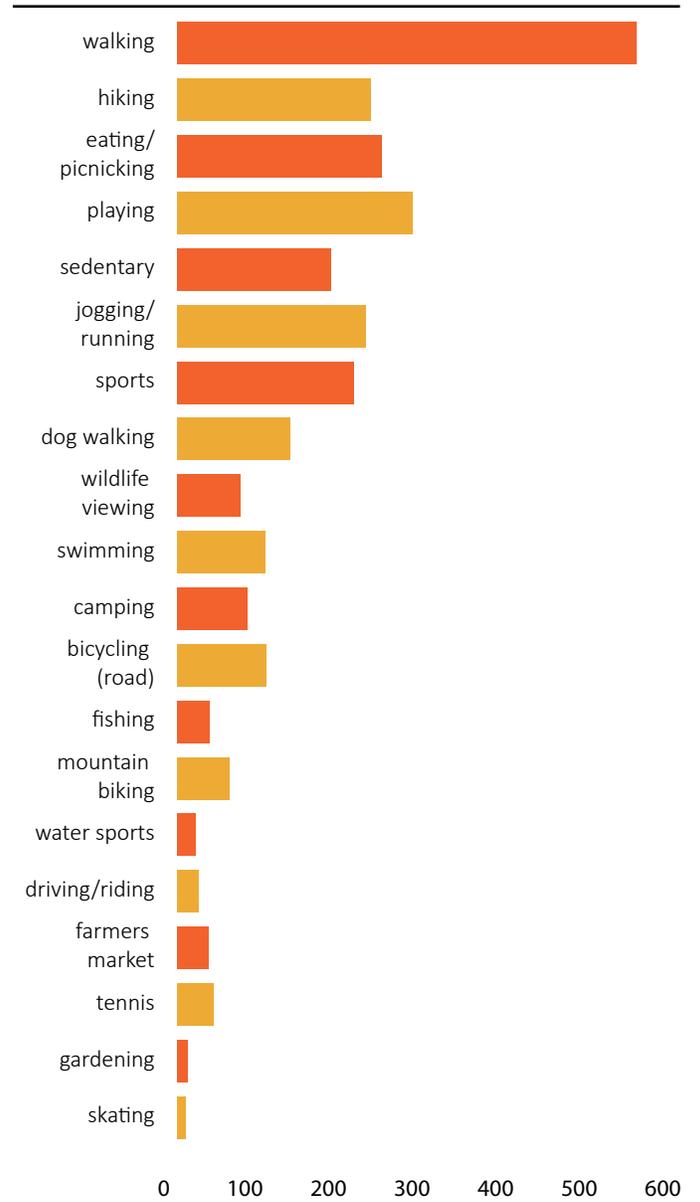


FIGURE 4.4 ADULT RESPONSES TO IMPORTANCE OF FACILITIES

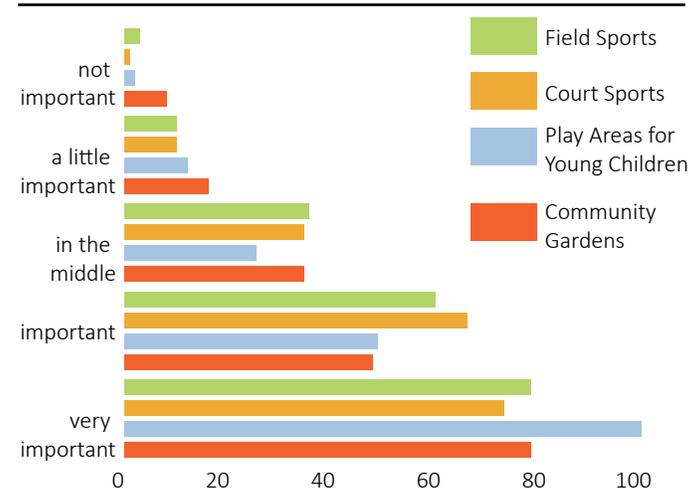


FIGURE 4.5 AGE GROUPS OF YOUTH RESPONDENTS

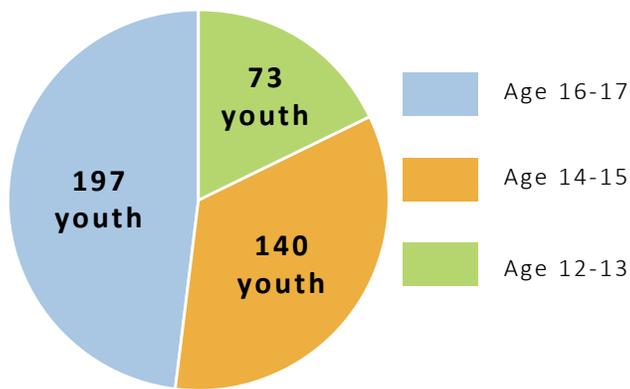
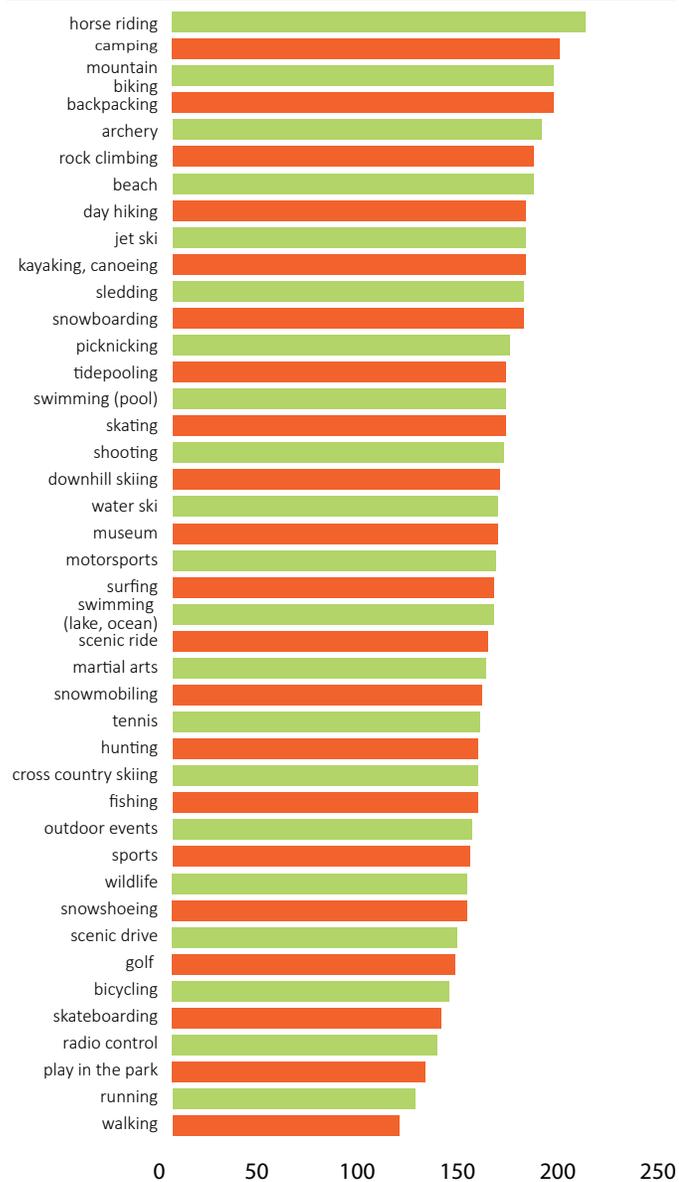


FIGURE 4.6 YOUTH RESPONSES TO WHAT THEY WOULD LIKE TO DO IN PARKS

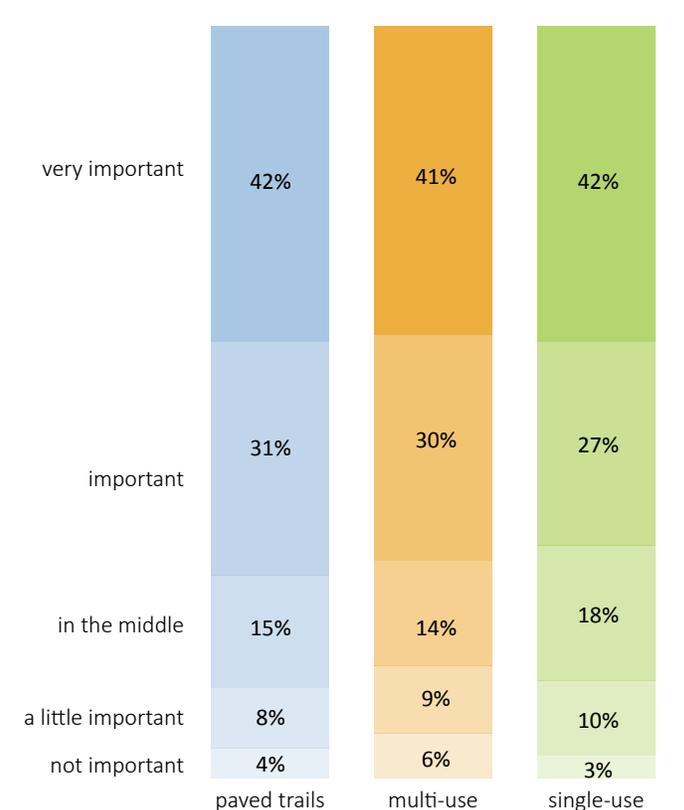


The mail or online questionnaire for adults additionally asked respondents to evaluate the importance of various trail types, including paved trails, multi-use trails, and single-use trails. Most respondents indicated that all trail types were “important” to “very important.” Respondents could weigh the importance for all trail types, but were not asked to provide a preference, although single-use trails and paved trails received slightly higher “very important” scores than multi-use trails. The results suggest that the public both values trails and would like to see different types of trails.

COMMUNITY INPUT

Through participation in the *Vision Lennox* plan and the *Inglewood/Lennox Greening Plan*, Lennox residents have developed some clear goals for green space and green amenities in their community. Generally, residents believe that Lennox Park cannot meet all of the parks and recreational needs of their community and they would like to see additional green space in or near Lennox. Furthermore, the community considers street and remnant spaces, such as land adjacent to freeways to be opportunities for green infrastructure, such as trees and plantings, as well as recreational opportunities, such as walking paths. Transformation of to Lennox Boulevard as a green “Main Street,” has significant support in the community.

FIGURE 4.7 ADULT RESPONSES TO IMPORTANCE OF TRAILS



In particular, Lennox community members emphasized a growing concern with obesity and unhealthy lifestyle choices. Residents would like to see more opportunities for designated sports, as well as more flexible spaces for a wider variety of fitness activities. Some residents specifically indicated that a designated walking path at Lennox Park would be a good addition to the community to provide a safe space to exercise. Community members are deeply concerned with air quality due to emissions from nearby freeways and LAX, as well as noise from this infrastructure. Tree planting efforts have significant support in the community as an effort to mitigate air quality issues.

For purposes of the needs assessment, responses relating to needed activity spaces or facilities were accumulated and synthesized to provide a picture of the types of green space and public amenities that residents would like to see in their community, shown in Table 4.1.

- **COMMUNITY-WIDE GREENING** includes strategies to approach greening for the entire community.
- **PARK ELEMENTS** include larger scale improvements that would require large development efforts.
- **PARK AMENITIES** include smaller scale improvements that could be incorporated into new developments or renovations.
- **LENNOX PARK** include recommendations to improve Lennox Park.
- **ACTIVITIES/EVENTS** include suggestions for specific activities or events.

PROGRAM FEEDBACK

Community residents indicated that parks programs, specifically park events, are a great way to bring people together in Lennox. Stakeholders specifically praised the Cinco de Mayo parade, which historically took place at Lennox Park and now occurs at the Metro Park & Ride lot on 111th Street, as a great source of community pride. Stakeholders suggested that they would like to see more cultural events at parks, specifically ones that highlight the Latino or Tongan heritage of many Lennox residents.

Community outreach indicated that there is also an interest more physical fitness programs, particularly youth sports programs. Although, Lennox Little League uses Lennox Park for its baseball program, the County does not currently manage any sports programs in the neighborhood. Two new futsal fields at Lennox Park provide the infrastructure for a new youth soccer league at the park. Residents also showed interest in exercise classes and other opportunities for cardiovascular fitness, as well as nutrition and healthy lifestyles programs.

TABLE 4.1 COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

Community-wide Greening

- Increased Access to Healthy Food and Nutrition Education
- Pedestrian Oriented Development
- Tree-lined Streets
- Lennox Boulevard as a “Flexible” Street
- Traffic Calming Measures on Large Streets (Hawthorn Boulevard, Inglewood Avenue, and Lennox Boulevard)
 - Improved Crosswalks
 - Median Plantings
- Bicycle Routes
 - Expand network
 - Improve existing bike lanes
- Way-finding Signage

Park Elements

- Placitas*
- Walking Paths and Trails
 - Walking Paths along the 105 and 405 Freeways
- Community Gardens
 - Expansion of Lennox Community Garden
- Active Youth Center with Multiple Programs
- Natural Areas or Features
- Performing arts space

Park Amenities

- Outdoor Exercise Equipment and Exercise Stations
- Lighting
- Kiosks
- Green Walls
- Street Furniture
- Murals

Lennox Park

- Less Fencing
- Increased lighting

Activities/Events

- Culturally Relevant Programming and Events(Latino and Tongan based)
- Health and Fitness Programming

SUMMARY OF FACILITY NEEDS

Facilities help define a park or recreational space. Based on the research presented earlier, the following is a summary of the facilities that Lennox residents want to see in their parks and recreational spaces, as well as facilities that are currently missing or could add to the overall sustainability of Lennox Park and potential future parks.

Generally, Lennox needs more parkland. Specific facilities needed are:

1. New Field Space

To accommodate more sports activities and sports programming, Lennox needs additional field space. All of the field space in Lennox Park is dedicated to existing uses. Outside of schools, there are no additional fields in Lennox for informal field sports.



2. Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk

Lennox residents would like to see more opportunities to exercise in their community. New facilities can be integrated into the parkland network to provide new opportunities to stay healthy, including new walking and running paths, as well as exercise equipment or facilities at new parks to accommodate new fitness programs.



3. Play Spaces and Tot Lots

About 9 percent of Lennox's population is under five years of age and about 33 percent are under eighteen. Safe places to play within close proximity to their homes is a popular idea with the community and an important attribute of a park network. In particular, Lennox does not have any "tot lots," or play facilities designated for youth under five.



4. Spaces for Teens

Recreational options for older kids is important in areas with high population of youth, as these spaces are safe places for youth to spend time. Potential facilities include sports facilities, such as skate parks, bike skills tracks, basketball courts, dance centers, or equestrian centers, as well as more passive gathering areas for hanging out in a supervised environment.



5. Safe Connections to Parks for Pedestrians and Cyclists

Safe, green routes to parks and community spaces improve access and provide new opportunities for exercise. Walking and biking are popular in the community and an expanded trail network is a good method of linking together green space. Increasing amenities for pedestrian, bicycle, and other non-motorized modes of transportation help decrease vehicle use and contribute to reductions in emissions.



6. Gathering Places and Spaces for Cultural Identity

Lennox Park is considered an important gathering place for Lennox residents. New space for both large-scale gathering, such as within a large park, and in smaller nodes throughout the community are important.



7. Healthy Food

Access to fresh fruits and vegetables makes a dramatic impact on public health, a major concern of Lennox residents. Lennox Community Garden is the only public garden in Lennox. New gardens or regular farmers markets could bring new sources of produce into the community.



8. Splash Pad

Splash pads are common at parks throughout the County but there are not currently any in Lennox. These spaces provide relief from hot weather; however, they will need to be constructed with attention to water conservation principles.



9. Arts Facility

Outside of the schools, there are no arts programs in Lennox. A new facility with public programs could expand capacity within the community, as well as create an arts-based hub for local residents who are beyond school age or not involved in school programs.



10. Performance Space

Outdoor performance facilities for small community gatherings, in the form of a small stage, or large events, with an amphitheater, provide opportunities to bring people into public spaces.



11. Energy Conservation and Production

Lennox Park does not produce any energy on-site through solar panels or other alternative means. New infrastructure could increase sustainability potential at parks and recreation spaces.



12. Green Infrastructure

Trees and plantings can be used to provide vital ecological services throughout the community. These facilities are currently underutilized and could be significantly expanded.



13. Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space

Residents expressed an interest for more connection with nature in their parks and recreational spaces. Utilizing native plants, providing habitat space, and highlighting natural features, such as water pathways, can enhance a visitors experience with the natural world and provide opportunities for environmental education.



- **NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS** are typically 3 to 10 acres, and serve residents living within a half mile radius of the park. Neighborhood parks provide space, programs, and recreation activities to create healthy social networks within residential communities. The common objective of all neighborhood parks is to bring people together to recreate and socialize close to home. 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 for neighborhood parks can 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 onsite parking.
- **POCKET PARKS** are less than three acres in size, and serve residential or business areas within a quarter mile radius or within 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 onsite parking. Amenities for pocket parks can include both active and passive features, depending on the community’s setting and needs, such as 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.

CONNECTING FACILITY NEEDS TO PARK TYPES

The Parks and Recreation Element from the Los Angeles County General Plan defines the County’s classification for parks and recreation facilities, outlined in Table 4.2. Following are descriptions of the parkland facilities from the General Plan:

- **COMMUNITY PARKS** are typically 10 to 20 acres, and serve several neighborhoods within a 1 to 2 mile radius of the park. Community parks that are located in residential neighborhoods serve both the needs of the community park service radius and neighborhood park service radius. Community parks provide opportunities for a wide variety of active and passive recreation activities. 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. Amenities for community parks can include informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, group picnic areas with overhead shelters, barbecues, lighted sports fields, basketball and tennis courts, public restrooms, concession buildings, maintenance buildings, onsite parking and information kiosks.

TABLE 4.2 **PARKLAND CLASSIFICATION**

System	Facility	Suggested Size/Width
Local Park Types	Community Park	10-20 acres
	Neighborhood Park	3-10 acres
	Pocket Park	< 3 acres
	Park Node	¼ Acre or less
Regional Park Types	Community Regional Parks	20-100 acres
	Regional Park	>25 acres
	Special Use Facility	Varies
Trails	Type A Urban/Suburban	6’-10’ wide
	Type B Rural	4’-8’ wide
	Type C Primitive	2’ or less
	Type D Shared Pathway/Service Road	10’-12’
Other	Multi-Benefit Parks	Varies
	School Sites	Varies
	City Parks and Facilities	Varies
	Private Recreational Facility	Varies
	Greenways	Varies

- **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.
- **COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARKS** are typically 20 to 100 acres, and have a service radius of 20 miles. Community regional parks protect and conserve natural resources, preserve open spaces, and provide recreational facilities that are not available in neighborhood or community parks. Amenities for community regional parks can include a jogging exercise course, informal open play areas, children’s play apparatus, 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 onsite 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 scenic views and vistas.
- **REGIONAL PARKS** are typically greater than 100 acres in size, and have 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 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 for regional parks can include picnic areas, nature centers, trail systems, scenic drives, campgrounds, water areas for swimming, fishing and boating, and in some cases, sport fields.
- **SPECIAL USE FACILITIES** are generally single purpose facilities that serve greater regional recreational or cultural needs. One notable example is the Hollywood Bowl. Special use facilities require adequate public access and sufficient buffers to protect adjacent residential users and to insulate the park from commercial or industrial development. Special use facilities can meet both passive (e.g., historic and cultural facilities, natural areas, habitat preservation areas, arboreta and botanical gardens, and nature centers) and active (e.g., golf courses and driving ranges, equestrian centers, off-highway vehicle parks, water parks) needs within the region. There are no size criteria or service radius areas associated with special use facilities.
- **MULTI-BENEFIT PARKS** and open spaces are created through collaborative efforts among city, county, state, and federal agencies; private organizations; schools; 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 protection basins that can serve as areas for active or passive recreation; school sites located adjacent to parks that can share facilities, such as parking and park amenities; watershed areas that can protect critical wildlife habitats, preserve open space, provide trails for recreation, and contribute to water conservation objectives; and water districts, where trails can be located adjacent to flood protection channels and trailhead parks.
- **SCHOOL SITES.** The County works with school districts to organize, promote, and conduct 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. A park does not have to be adjacent to a school (i.e., share a common boundary) for an agreement to be viable.
- **CITY PARKS AND FACILITIES** that are located close to the borders of the unincorporated areas are enjoyed by city and County residents alike. Similarly, local County parks that are located within or close to the borders of 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.
- **PRIVATE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES** play an important role in meeting recreational needs. The network of private recreational facilities consists of churches, health and fitness clubs, and other organizations that offer a variety of programs and facilities. This plan does not include an inventory of private recreational facilities. Since the County does not control, maintain, or program private recreational facilities, these resources are not credited toward the County’s acreage goals for public parks.
- **GREENWAYS** provide a linear area along natural corridors, and often follow features such as rivers, man-made waterways, drainage channels, and utility easements. Greenways can accommodate various modes of uninterrupted pedestrian travel on pathways, including walking, jogging, and bicycling, and can include recreation areas and natural landscape features.

Considering the needs identified through this process, Table 4.3 demonstrates which types of parklands are needed in Lennox. In addition to the parkland classification types, the table also includes existing park improvements, as some needs can be met within existing facilities.

TABLE 4.3 TYPES OF PARKLAND TO MEET NEED

		Lennox Park Improvements	Community Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Pocket Parks	Park Nodes	Trails	Multi-Benefit Parks	School Sites	City Parks and Facilities	Private Facilities	Greenways
New Field Space			•	•					•	•	•	
Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk		•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•	•
Play Spaces and Tot Lots		•	•	•	•				•			
Spaces for Teen			•	•	•				•			
Safe Connections to Parks for Pedestrians and Cyclists							•					•
Gathering Places and Spaces for Cultural Identity			•	•	•	•			•			•
Healthy Food		•	•	•	•				•		•	
Splash Pad		•	•	•	•				•			
Arts Facility			•	•					•			
Performance Space			•	•					•		•	
Energy Conservation and Production		•	•	•	•							
Green Infrastructure		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•			•

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SPATIAL ANALYSIS

The spatial analysis takes into account all land within Lennox and identifies those areas with park development needs ranked from highest to lowest. These need areas were derived by calculating multiple factors within proximity of each land unit. A one-acre hexagon grid was used to capture all spatial relationships across the community. An example of this methodology for one grid cell can be found in Appendix D.

Population is the highest weighted factor for determining park needs. Population was calculated in two ways in order to best capture the need of each area. First, total population in Lennox was summed for areas within one-half mile of each grid cell. Second, unserved population residing in the parkland gap areas in Lennox was calculated using the same methodology. Parkland gap areas are the areas of the community that are not within a 10-minute walk of a park. This methodology utilizes the existing street network to calculate walking distance and takes into account any barriers to reaching the park, such as impassable freeway crossings or dead end streets.

Ranking was determined using ArcGIS 10.3 to create five equally distributed ranking categories for both population measures. These categories were given rankings from 2 to 10, with 2 representing areas with the least population and 10 representing areas with the most population. This ranking was applied to each grid cell for both measures.

Healthy food access and urban forest cover were also factored into the park needs equation. Access to healthy food was similarly calculated but given less weight relative to other factors. If the grid cell has access to a full service grocery store or farmers market it received a ranking of 0, if it does not have access it received a ranking of 2.

For urban forest cover, the percent of tree canopy coverage was calculated within one-quarter mile of each grid cell. A ranking value of 1 to 4 was given to each cell based on the percent of canopy coverage, with 1 representing areas with the most tree cover and 4 representing areas with the least.

The final need value was calculated by summing Total Population Rank, Total Unserved Population Rank, Healthy Food Access Rank, and Urban Forest Cover Rank. Higher values indicate higher need. Figure 4.9 shows the map resulting when the methodology is applied to the entire study area. Park need is displayed as a gradient of orange with the areas of the highest need displaying the darkest color.

Note that the area around Lennox Park is ranked higher need than other parts of the community. This is due to the high concentration of people living in this area and the generally low canopy coverage in the area outside of the park.

Spatial factors that determine areas of high parkland need?

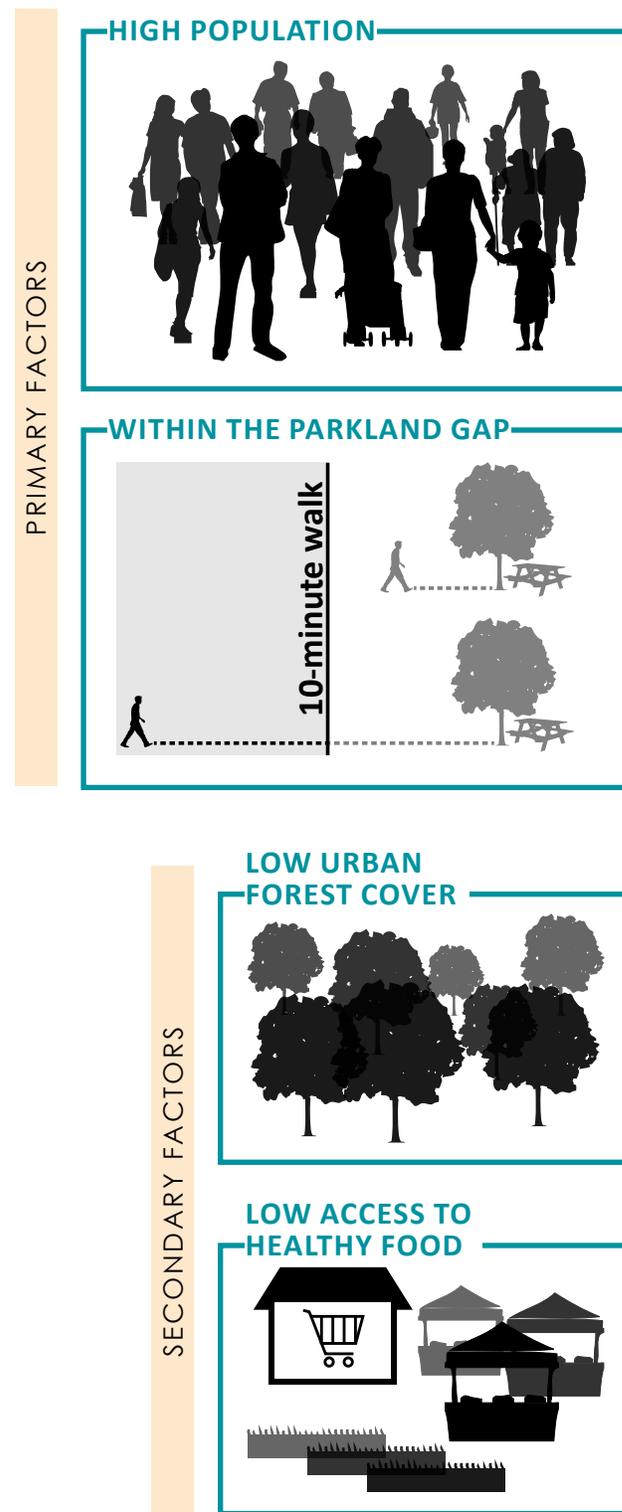
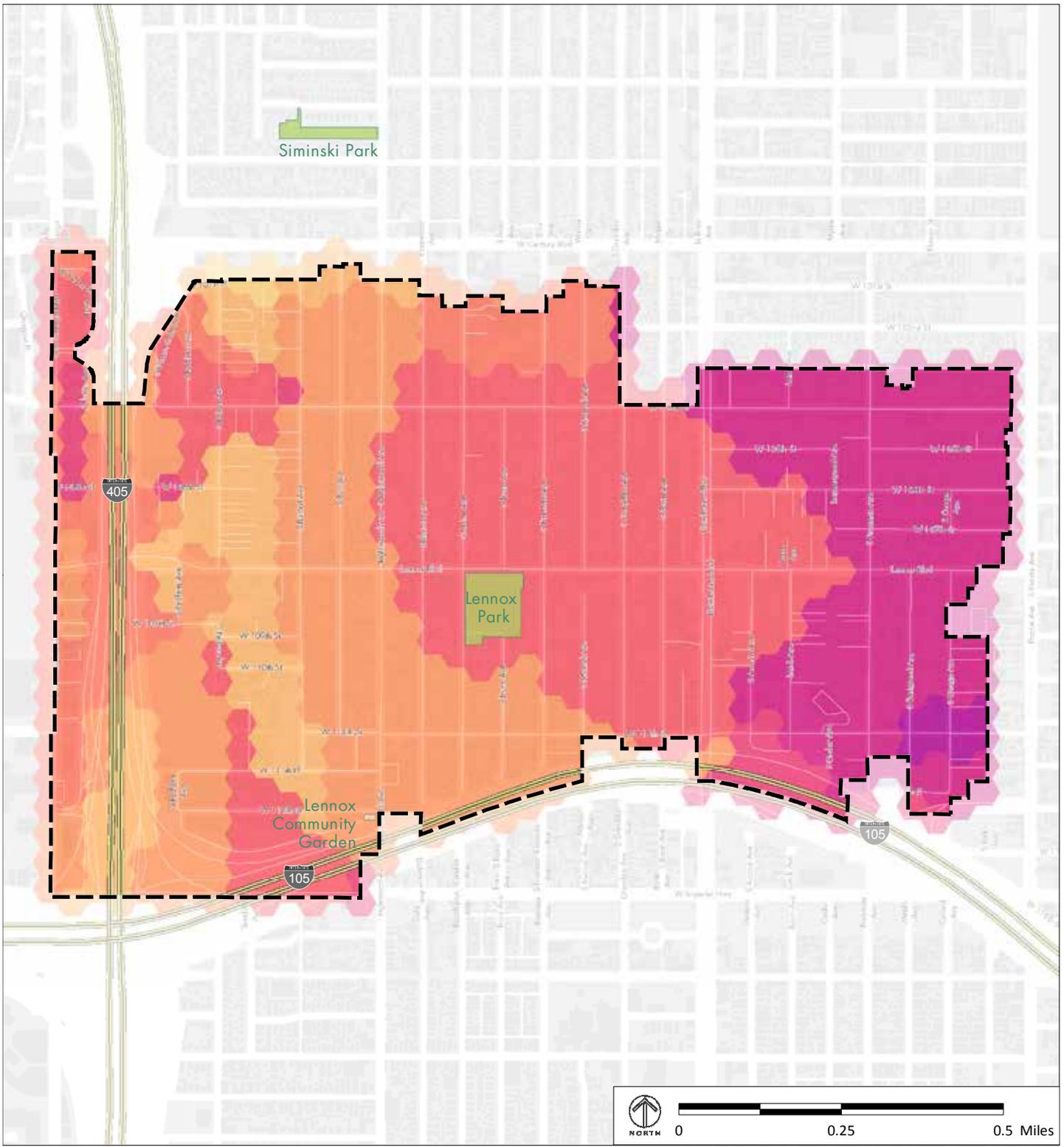
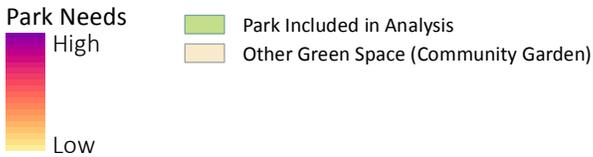


FIGURE 4.8 LENNOX SPATIAL NEEDS MAP



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.



PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES

A major factor limiting new park development in urban areas is the ability to acquire new land. There are limited opportunities in Lennox available for new park development. Following is a list of the opportunity types in Lennox. Figure 4.10 illustrates these potential opportunity types.

VACANT LAND OR BUILDINGS

Properties classified as vacant by the Los Angeles County Assessor's Office, as well as sites identified as vacant by the community were mapped in Lennox. In total, there are 32 parcels of vacant land or parcels with vacant buildings, equaling a total of 7.1 acres of vacant land. However, most of these sites are small parcels, each with an area of less than 0.5 acres. Additionally, with the exception of some parcels at the end of dead-end streets, all of these parcels are on the interior sections of blocks, making them less feasible for public parkland.

SCHOOL SITES

There are eight public or charter schools in Lennox. With the exception of Animo Leadership Charter High School, all of the schools have field, lawn, or court space that is used by the schools for programming during the school day or afterschool. In total, schools occupy approximately 68 acres within Lennox. Most of this area is occupied by school buildings; however, Lennox Schools have a total of approximately 27 acres of green space on their campuses. There are currently no joint use agreements between DPR and the Lennox School District. Potential joint use at other schools could be explored to expand recreational options to the greater community outside of the school population and provide improvements to school facilities.

PARKING LOTS

Although not truly "vacant," an abundance of parking lots can create a sense of underutilization or inactivity. In Lennox there are some key areas where parking lots might be considered for park and recreation use.

METRO PARK & RIDE LOT

The parking lot for Green Line station, located on the southeast corner of W. 111th Street and Hawthorne Boulevard, is intended to serve as a park-and-ride location, where transit users can leave their cars while using Metro. Since the lot is generally not full, it is commonly leased to outside groups for events, such as carnivals or fairs, as well as to community groups for cultural events, such as the Lennox *Cinco de Mayo* event. There is potential to formalize an agreement with Metro to provide recreational uses of the lot during non-peak parking hours, such as evenings and weekends.

TABLE 4.4 POTENTIAL ADDITIONS TO PARKLAND INVENTORY

Potential Parkland Opportunity Type	Parcels	Acres
Vacant Land and Vacant Buildings	32	7.1
School Sites	8	68.31
Parking Lots (Public Agency)	1	3.59
Parking Lots (Private)	2	0.3
Freeways	n/a	n/a
Sidewalks and Street Right-of-ways	n/a	n/a

COMMERCIAL LOTS

Many corners along Hawthorne Boulevard and Inglewood Avenue are used informally for gathering. Many of the businesses along these corridors have parking lots that reach the street. Similar to the parklet concept, in which a parking space is transformed into a small park node, portions of some of the parking lots on these corridors could be considered for park node or "*placita*" development. This would provide gathering areas along these popular streets and potentially enhance pedestrian and commercial vitality in these areas.

FREEWAYS

The 105 and 405 Freeways pass along the southern and western boundaries of Lennox, respectively. Both of these freeways are separated from the community with a landscaped buffer. In some areas, this buffer is somewhat large, particularly areas near interchanges. These areas could potentially be used for expanded green infrastructure, such as stormwater runoff mitigation and urban forestry, or recreational use, such as walking paths or small parks.

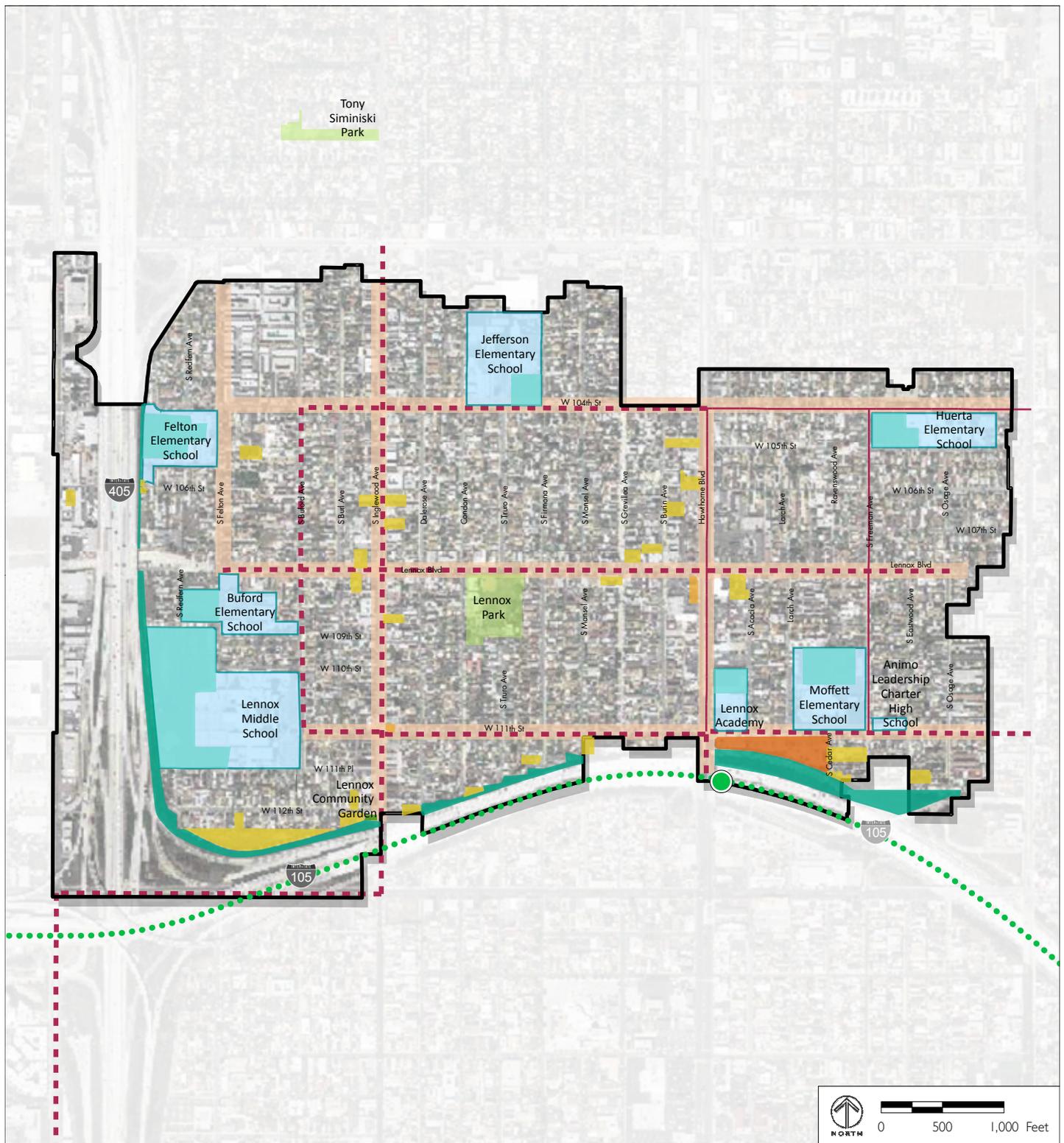
Due to issues with air quality around freeways, enhanced emissions mitigation would need to be included in any park development in these areas. Additionally, it is recommended that Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH) advise on projects in these areas to ensure that these projects practice best practices in terms of air quality emission reductions and proper siting of facilities.

SIDEWALKS AND STREET RIGHT-OF-WAYS

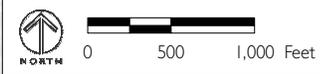
Public streets also offer important opportunities for green infrastructure, such as street trees and stormwater retention facilities. Additionally, safe and comfortable sidewalks can significantly increase a resident's desire to walk in their community. Improvements could include wayfinding and sidewalk surface enhancement, as well as street furniture to promote community gathering, or exercise equipment to create fitness circuits within neighborhoods.

The Los Angeles County Bicycle Master Plan and *Vision Lennox* could serve as a guide for planning sidewalks and streets that could be enhanced with pedestrian and bicycle improvements.

FIGURE 4.9 POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITY TYPES



NEEDS ASSESSMENT



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

- Lennox
- Green Line
- Schools
- Existing Park
- Green Line Station
- Green Space on School Campus
- Existing Community Garden
- Existing Bike Routes
- Vacant Land or Vacant Building
- Parking Lot (Public Agency)
- Proposed Bike Routes
- Parking Lot (Private Owner)
- Key Corridors
- Freeway Buffer

In conjunction with bicycle infrastructure, there could be additional enhancements to improve the overall functionality of the street, in terms of improved walking condition as well as new green infrastructure improvements. Lennox Boulevard, serving as the community’s “Main Street,” offers an excellent opportunity to create a green streets model in Lennox.

EVALUATION

To determine which sites would have the highest potential for potential parkland development, vacant and underutilized parcels were analyzed for their feasibility to become new green spaces. These spaces were scored based on their potential for meeting needs in terms of location and parkland type. Each site was evaluated based on nine criteria including:

PARKLAND GAP. Sites that are located within the high spatial need area were prioritized as opportunities to provide walkable parkland to residents who do not currently have green space near their residence.

POPULATION. Parts of Lennox are more populated than others. Sites in denser areas were prioritized over areas that were less dense, in order to serve a greater population.

SIZE. Larger sites were prioritized over smaller ones based on the anticipated uses for the sites.

OWNERSHIP. Sites owned by public agencies were generally considered more desirable than privately owned sites due to the increased ease of acquiring these sites for park use.

VACANCY. Sites that were identified as vacant or underutilized were prioritized over ones with non-vacant land uses.

TRANSIT. Sites located in areas of high public transit ridership were considered more desirable than ones where public transit ridership was low.

AIR QUALITY. Sites outside of the 500-foot buffer from freeways were more desirable than ones inside the buffer area, although sites within the buffer area were considered for urban forestry or air quality improvement projects.

PROXIMITY TO SCHOOLS. Sites in closer proximity to schools were prioritized over ones that were farther away from schools.

PARCEL AGGREGATION. Some sites were composed of a number of adjacent lots. Sites composed of fewer parcels were prioritized over ones that were composed of many parcels.

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

The sites with the highest potential and the sites selected by the community were visited and further analyzed through research on ownership and historic uses. The resulting Potential Parkland Opportunities Map, Figure 4.12, shows the recommended sites for park and trail development in Lennox in the future. The map is accompanied by Table 4.5 and 4.6, which summarizes site conditions and identifies what type of parkland or trail the site could be used for, respectively.

Sites were ranked using the same evaluation criteria above; however, additional preference was given to projects that could potentially be implemented in the short term, as well as those that could meet an identified facility need regardless of its location in the neighborhood. Sites were categorized as high, medium, or low priority. Potential uses at these sites are described more in depth in Chapter Five.

Major factors impacting final prioritization included:

- **NEED.** Sites located in areas with the highest park need were prioritized over sites near existing facilities, as well as sites that could provide the facility needs identified earlier in this chapter.
- **SIZE.** Larger sites are preferred due to their ability to provide more green space resources. Even though the majority of the opportunity sites in Lennox fit within the category of pocket parks, larger sites were still prioritized.
- **TIMING.** Sites that could be developed sooner were prioritized over sites that had impediments to development, such as site contamination, existing structures, or use restrictions.
- **OWNERSHIP.** Sites owned by a public agency or utility company were prioritized over privately owned sites. Sites owned by a Los Angeles County agency were prioritized above all other sites.

FIGURE 4.10 **SITE SELECTION PRIORITIZATION CRITERIA**

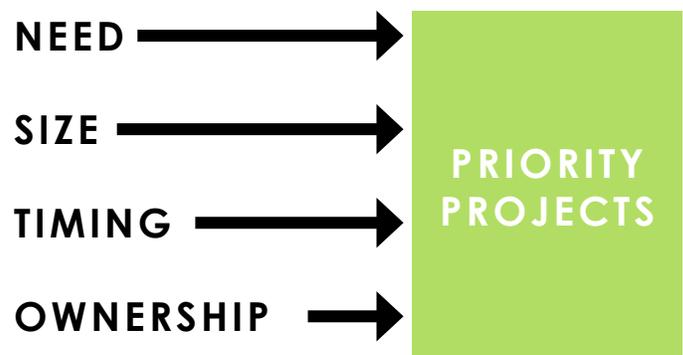


TABLE 4.5 SUMMARY OF LENNOX POTENTIAL PARKLAND OPPORTUNITIES

Priority Level	Site	Publicly Owned	Privately Owned	Size (acres)	Existing Parks Improvements	Community Parks	Neighborhood Parks	Pocket Parks	Park Nodes	Trails	Multi-Benefit Parks	School Sites	City Parks and Facilities	Private Facilities	Greenways
High	1	●		12.06								●			
	2	●		2.15								●			
	3		●	0.24				●							
	4	●		n/a	●										
	5		●	0.19					●						
	6	●		3.59			●				●				
	7	●		1.36*				●							
Medium	8	●		3.5								●			
	9	●		3.58								●			
	10	●		1.42								●			
	11	●		1.19								●			
	12	●		2.96								●			
	13		●	0.13					●						
Low	14		●	0.12					●						
	15		●	0.06					●						
	16		●	0.23				●							
	17		●	0.12					●						
	18		●	2.35				●							
	19		●	0.51				●							

* Approximately 0.66 acres of Site 7 is located within the Lennox community boundary.

TABLE 4.6 SUMMARY OF LENNOX POTENTIAL TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

Priority Level	Site	Publicly Owned	Privately Owned	Length (miles)	Type A Urban/ Suburban	Type B Rural	Type C Primitive	Type D Shared Pathway/ Service Road
High	A	●		0.78	●			
	B	●		0.2				●
Low	C1	●		0.65	●			●
	C2	●		0.76				●
	C3	●		0.22	●			
	D	●		0.48				●
	E	●		0.52	●			



5 - OPEN SPACE VISION PLAN

Based on the needs assessment and parkland development opportunities in Lennox, a community plan for new, near-term parkland development evolved. This chapter explores the vision and goals of the Lennox Community Parks and Recreation Plan, a strategy for community-wide urban forest enhancement, and potential long-term benefits of implementing the projects identified here.



VISION AND GOALS

The green space vision and goals are driven by community needs and input. The theme of “Greening Lennox through Partnerships,” emphasizes the need for creativity and relationship building in expanding the community parkland system. Lennox has limited space for new parkland development. To effectively provide parks and recreation services, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) must work collaboratively with other groups, entities, and agencies to create multi-beneficial projects that enhance the community as a whole.

Parks and urban greening should be ubiquitous throughout Lennox. The intrinsic value of nature to human health cannot be underestimated. Research has shown the multiple benefits from close proximity to tree canopies and green open space, which include reduced stress, improved attention span, decreased at-risk behavior among inner-city youth, and improved recovery from illness or injury. Therefore, increased open space for exercise and recreation, expanded walking trails, and the creation of a healthy urban forest, as described in this Vision Plan, will improve the quality of life for Lennox residents in multiple ways.

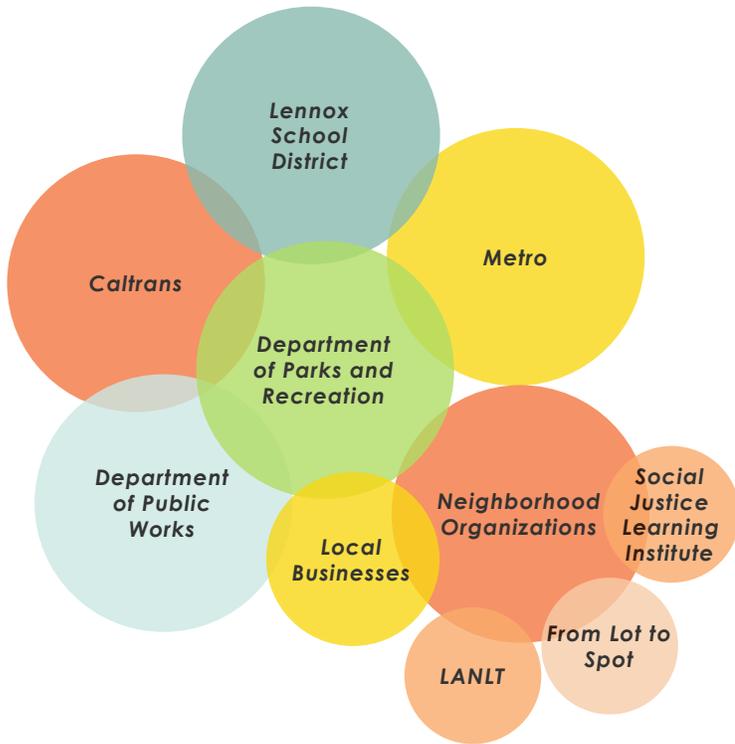
“This principle holds that a reconnection to the natural world is fundamental to human health, well-being, spirit, and survival.”

- Richard Louv,
The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of
Nature-Deficit Disorder

GOALS

1. Develop a working model with Lennox schools to formalize joint use.
2. Partner with community groups to develop small green spaces to fill the parkland gap.
3. Utilize “pop-up” interventions to create green space in the short term.
4. Ensure that facilities and programs meet community needs and that the community is included in decision-making processes.
5. Expand recreational opportunities within Lennox to include civic spaces that support community interaction, cultural identity, and commercial enterprise.
6. Increase the sense of nature within Lennox Park, future green spaces, and in the everyday lives of Lennox residents.
7. Maintain and enhance Lennox’s urban forest.
8. Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.
9. Create a community walking trail network along sidewalks, freeway buffers, and public land.

FIGURE 5.2 KEY GREENING PARTNERS



The Green Vision Map in Figure 5.1 shows a mix of new pocket parks, park nodes, and community trails throughout Lennox, as well as joint use at the schools and key corridors for green streets. This range of sites could help to meet the needs identified in Chapter Four.

The Green Vision Map builds on the features from previous planning efforts and on-going community development projects in Lennox. *Vision Lennox* called for enhancing major street corridors, including Hawthorne Boulevard, Inglewood Avenue, and Lennox Boulevard; creating a civic center hub around the intersection of Hawthorn Boulevard and Lennox Boulevard; utilizing school sites as open space; and creating an employment-generating site at the Metro Park & Ride lot on Hawthorne Boulevard.

Some of the planning ideas from *Vision Lennox* have been carried out, including streetscape improvements along Hawthorne Boulevard and the development of the Community Service Center and Lennox Library at the intersection with Lennox Boulevard. Other features of *Vision Lennox* are carried through in the Green Vision Map for this project. In particular, the utilization of open space at schools, the creation of a plaza and gathering space at Lennox Boulevard and Hawthorne Boulevard, and the enhancement of Lennox Boulevard as the community's "Main Street" with urban greening and park nodes.

PARKLANDS

The Vision Plan shows a variety of potential parks and recreation opportunities including:

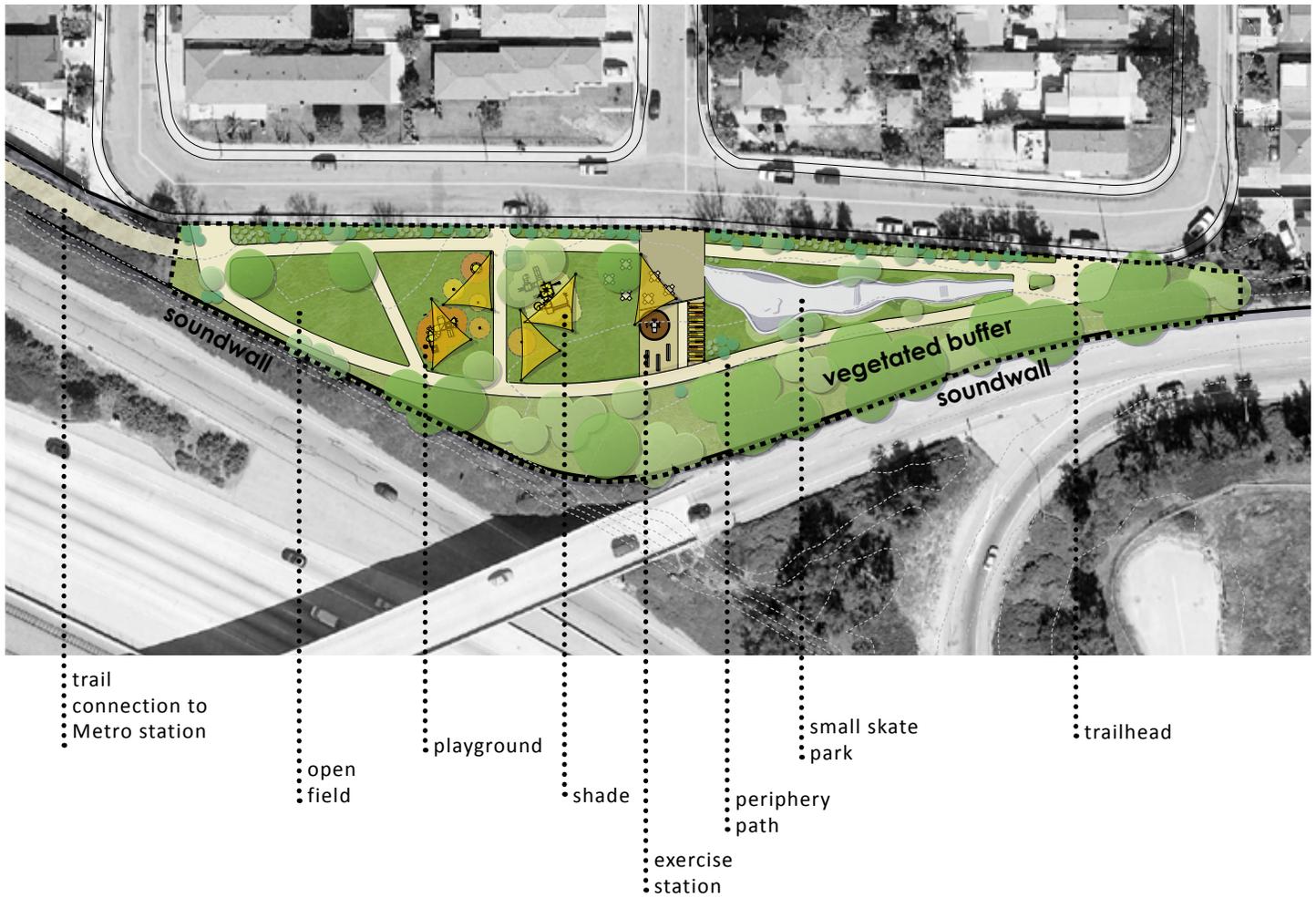
- **JOINT USE AT LOCAL SCHOOLS.** The Vision Plan identifies potential joint use opportunities at all of the schools in Lennox that have green space. The two highest priority joint use agreements are with Lennox Middle School and Huerta Elementary School.

Lennox Middle School has more field and green space than other schools in the community. The school grounds include a running track, a large multipurpose field (used predominately for soccer), three baseball fields, eight basketball courts, eight tennis courts, three volleyball courts, and a wooden par course (no longer in use). L.E.A.P. additionally has a facility on campus to provide afterschool programs. Potential joint-use partnership could include refurbishments of turf areas on the campus, which are significantly degraded from overuse. DPR could also partner with the school to develop a water conservation program to maintain their turf areas with the highest water efficiency possible. This school might also be a potential site for a new arts facility in Lennox.

Huerta Elementary School is located in the highest park need area in the community. The school has a large turf area on the western end of its campus, two playground areas, a fitness zone, and an asphalt court area with surface games, such as basketball, four-square, and tether ball. A joint use partnership could potentially involve the refurbishment of the turf area, the installation of shade structures in the play areas, or enhancement of street trees and planting areas of the school. Opening the school grounds up after school hours as a park space would also provide green space to an area of the community that has the highest need for this type of space.

- **POCKET PARKS.** The Green Vision Map identifies potential pocket parks at various sites throughout the community. These green spaces would help to distribute park resources throughout the community and provide small spaces to experience nature, gather as a community, and allow children to play. Typically, these spaces would have one central element, such a playground, picnic area, or garden space. Although the program for these sites can be determined through a future design process, the Green Vision Map identifies some potential areas for pocket park creation.
 - **Freeway Pockets.** The 105 and 405 Freeways form the southern and western boundaries of Lennox and are intimidating masses of infrastructure in stark contrast to the communities alongside them. Although Lennox is buffered from freeways with vegetated berms, the planting is patchy and these areas can seem more like impassable wastelands rather than striving green infrastructure. Due to the lack of alternative green

FIGURE 5.3 CONCEPTUAL FREEWAY POCKET PARK



space, some residents suggested utilizing these remnant spaces for recreational uses, such as walking trails and small parks. The Green Vision Map includes two pocket parks at the places along the freeways where the buffer area is largest.

- **Lennox Boulevard Pockets.** Vision Lennox called Lennox Boulevard the “Main Street” of Lennox because it is a popular corridor for residents. Lennox Park is located along Lennox Boulevard and has become a central gathering place, which causes some of the high pedestrian traffic along Lennox Boulevard and is enhanced by the high traffic volume along it. New pocket parks along this route would also benefit from the heavy pedestrian travel as many people watch the parks and visit them as part of their daily routine.
- **Internal Block Pockets.** Lots located on the interior of a block, not on a corner, are difficult to develop for park space because they have significantly lower pedestrian traffic and potentially less use. However, in Lennox, many of the few available vacant lots are located in these interior areas. These spaces are potentially good opportunities for partnerships with community garden groups or other green space advocacy groups. These

FIGURE 5.4 LOCATION OF POTENTIAL FREEWAY POCKET PARK





MLK Fitness Garden
Willowbrook, CA



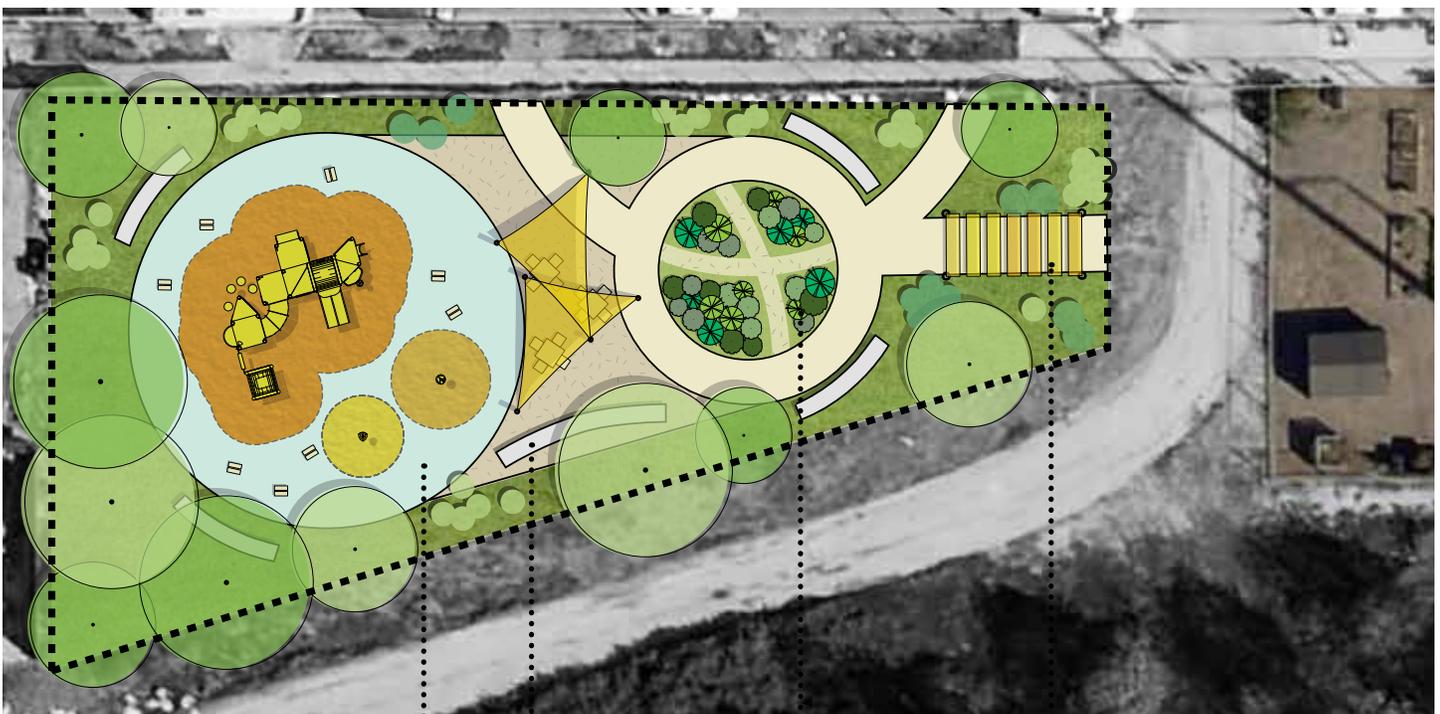
Public Art Plaza
El Sereno Arroyo Park, El Sereno
source: City Parks Alliance

groups work with community residents and ensure that the park would have an active user base. For some facilities, such as community gardens, quiet spaces are actually quite beneficial, and internal block spaces might be preferred.

- **PARK NODES/PLACITAS.** Park nodes and *placitas* can help enliven an urban area and encourage more people to spend time in public spaces. Typically, these spaces are located on heavily-trafficked areas or along a corridor to draw people and prevent them from being underutilized. The style and function of these small spaces can vary, but the Green Vision Map identifies the following potential opportunities:

- **Commercial Plazas.** Major intersections along Hawthorne Boulevard and Inglewood Avenue draw large numbers of residents even though there are no formal plazas or gathering spaces. Typically, residents congregate in parking lots or along business. The two *placitas* called out in the Green Vision Map are both key nodes for community gathering. Creating a plaza in these locations or partnering with local businesses to create parklets near these areas could create a more pleasant atmosphere for gatherings, potentially increasing their popularity and enhancing commercial vitality around them.

FIGURE 5.5 CONCEPTUAL INTERNAL BLOCK PARTNERSHIP POCKET PARK



- benches
- playground with fitness stations for adults
- children's garden
- shade

- **Exercise and Fitness Nodes.** Lennox residents would like to see more opportunities for exercise and fitness in their community. Small fitness park nodes along popular pedestrian routes or future trails could increase opportunities to exercise in Lennox. These spaces would be intended for very short-term use and could include a few exercise stations. Situating them throughout the community could create a circuit, encouraging residents to walk to various stations.

- **LENNOX PARK.** Although there is limited capacity to expand Lennox Park, there are some key opportunities within the existing park.

The Toy Loan Building and the area surrounding it are currently underutilized. The building could be refurbished to provide additional space for programs or community events. Alternatively, this area could be re-purposed to meet other identified needs, such as a tot lot, splash pad, or habitat garden.

Additionally, due to the high interest in greening initiatives in Lennox, the park could potentially be a new DPR’s Green Pilot Project to improve its overall environmental efficiency. Potential upgrades could include installation of solar panels or smart water meters, conversion to drought-tolerant plant species, or utilization of Low Impact Design (LID) stormwater management techniques.

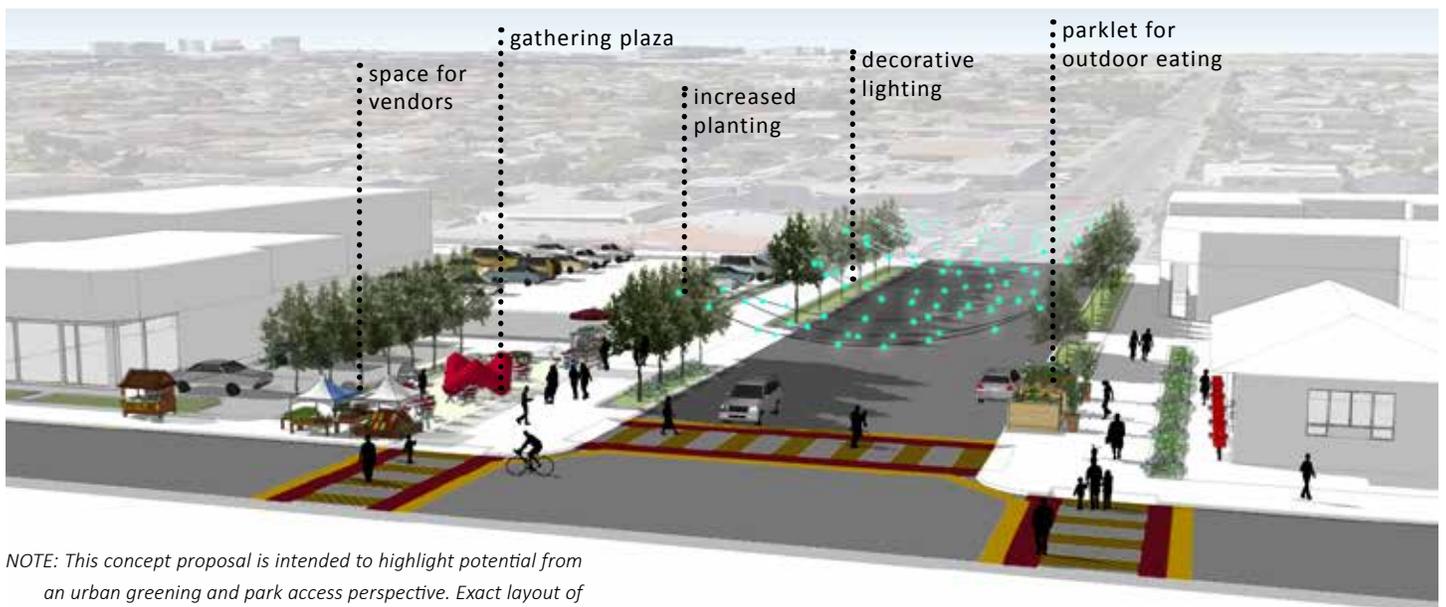


Bradley Avenue Plaza
Paicoma, Los Angeles, CA
source: People Street; photo by LADOT/Jim Simmons



Leimert Park Village Plaza
Leimert Park, Los Angeles, CA
source: People Street; photo by LADOT/Jim Simmons

FIGURE 5.6 CONCEPTUAL HAWTHORNE PLACITA



NOTE: This concept proposal is intended to highlight potential from an urban greening and park access perspective. Exact layout of features would require future engineering study and partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.

CONNECTIONS AND CORRIDORS

With limited available land for new park development, some of the environmental and recreational benefits of parks will need to be created outside of park boundaries. Key opportunities include the enhancement of city streets and the development of new trails. These linear spaces can expand greening potential throughout the community and create new recreational options for residents. Figure 5.8 illustrates key connections and corridors in Lennox. These connections build off previous planning efforts and on-going infrastructure development projects.

- LENNOX BOULEVARD GREEN STREET.** *Vision Lennox* calls Lennox Boulevard the “Main Street” of Lennox and includes a series of streetscape improvements along this corridor to improve the pedestrian experience, increase tree canopy, and reduce vehicular traffic volumes. In its current state, Lennox Boulevard offers little to value to resident other than simply providing a connection to major activity centers in the community. Lennox residents noted that their current experience getting to Lennox Park via Lennox Boulevard is significantly impacted by the poor quality of the street. The improvement recommended in *Vision Lennox* are steps toward creating a “Green Street.” Green Street improvements include increased plantings along a street through the addition of street trees and stormwater treatment basins, as well as traffic calming elements such as bulb outs and lane width reductions. Although these types of improvements would require partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW), improving pedestrian and bicycle amenities along Lennox Boulevard could significantly affect access to Lennox Park and provide residents with a new place to exercise.

By improving the street and creating smaller pocket parks along it to complement Lennox Park, Lennox Boulevard could become a major green asset for the community. As noted in Chapter Two, approximately 11 percent of Lennox residents do not have access to a car. Non-motorized routes to parks are especially important for this group. Additionally, by making walking or biking to parks easier or more enjoyable, even residents with access to cars may be less likely to use them to get to green spaces, potentially decreasing overall greenhouse gas emissions in the area.

- COMMUNITY TRAILS.** Lennox residents would like more places to walk safely in their community. The Green Vision Map includes community walking paths along street sidewalks and along freeway buffers to create a walking pathway network. Trails along the freeway buffer could include low-impact pathway materials like decomposed granite (DG) or rubber.

Trails along sidewalks could include widened sidewalks, where possible, or sidewalk markings, surface treatments, and directional signage to direct trail users. Partnered with the exercise and fitness park nodes, previously described, these circuits could significantly change the landscape of health and fitness in Lennox.

A similar project is taking place along the 405 Freeway south of Lennox Boulevard near Hawthorne Boulevard. DPR is leasing land from Caltrans to develop the Wiseburn Walking Path along the buffer zone for the 405 Freeway and S. La Cienega Boulevard. The project includes a meandering walking path with nodes for community gathering and exercise.

FIGURE 5.7 PRECEDENT PROJECT: WISEBURN WALKING PATH

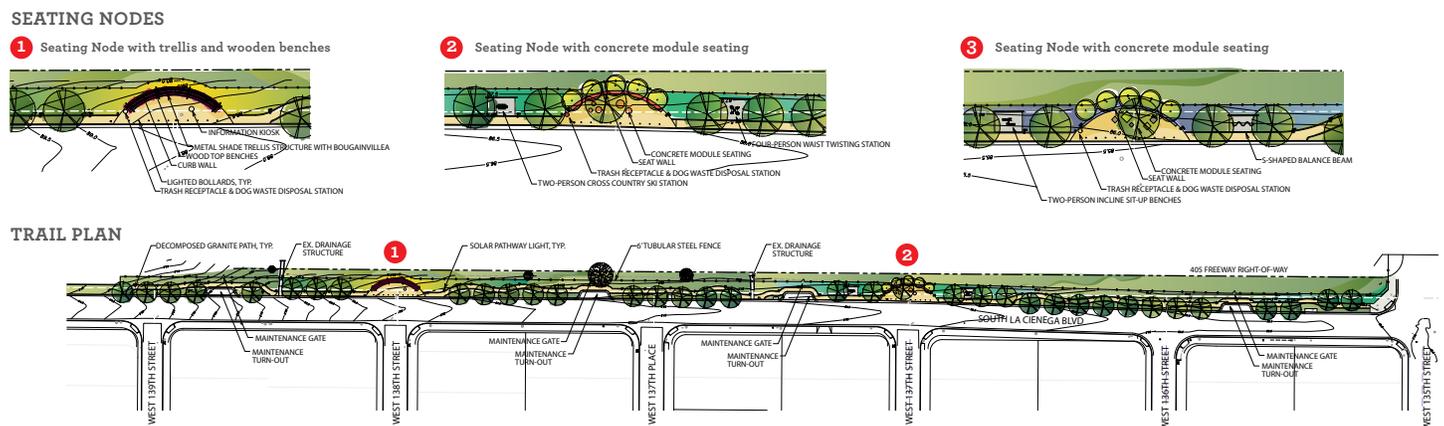
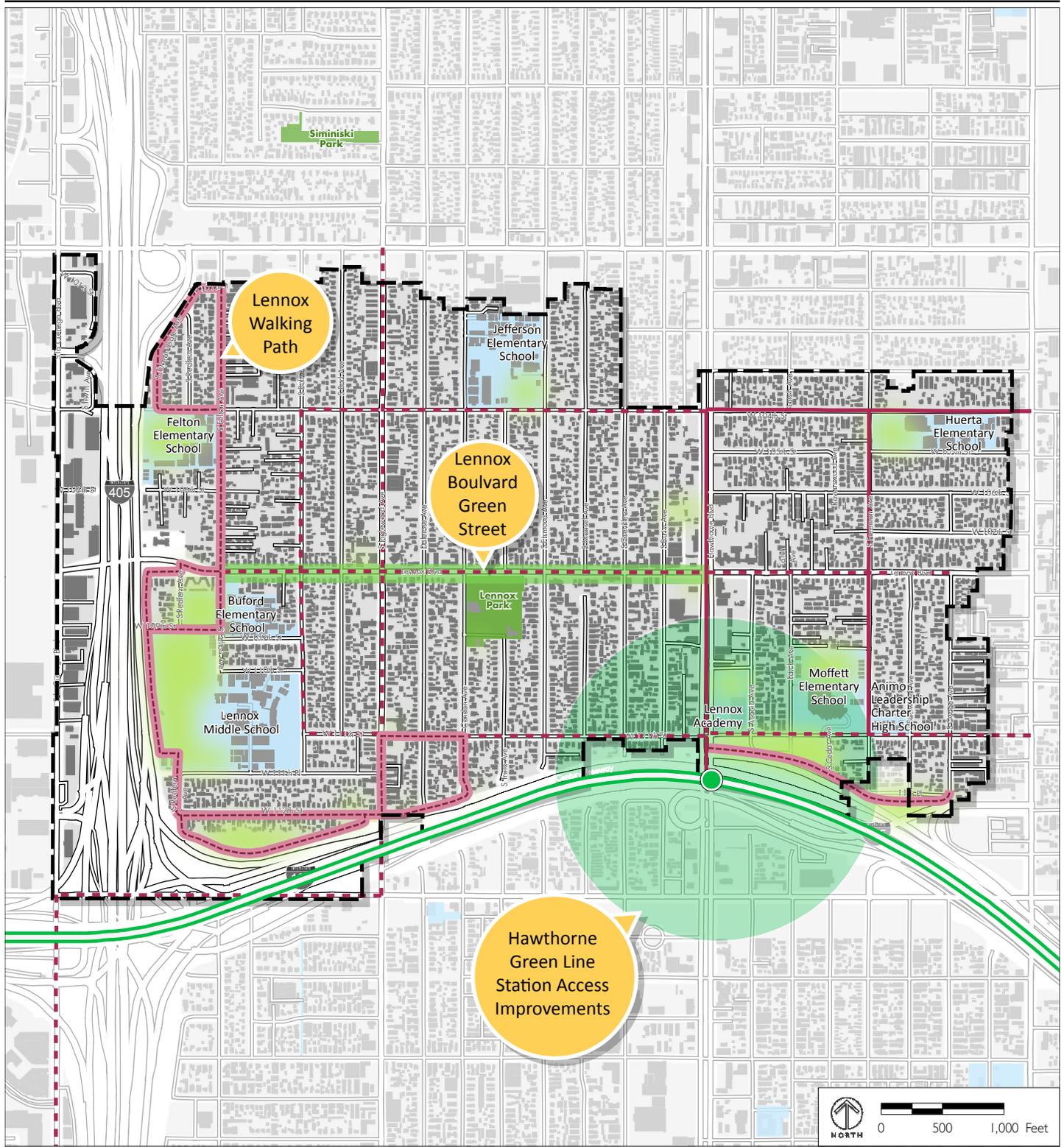


FIGURE 5.8 CURRENT AND POTENTIAL FUTURE CONNECTIONS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2013.

- Lennox
- Existing Parks
- Existing Gardens
- Schools
- Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Potential Trail Opportunities
- Potential Green Streets
- Existing Bike Lanes
- Proposed Bike Lanes
- Metro Green Line
- Metro Green Line Station
- 1/4 Mile Buffer from Station

CREATIVE STRATEGIES TO INCREASE ACCESS TO RECREATION

Lennox’s parks and recreational needs are significantly greater than the space available in their community. Although the green corridors would help to meet some of the recreational needs and green the community, there would likely continue to be need for additional recreational resources. In addition to new park and trail developments in Lennox, DPR could expand their capacity in Lennox by developing new initiatives to bring temporary recreational activities into the community.

- **POP-UP PARKS.** A “Pop-up Park” is a temporary park space that occupies a site for a period of time. The Metro Park & Ride lot at Hawthorne Boulevard and W. 111th Street could provide space for this type of project. The lot currently provides space for other events, such as carnivals or public parties. Through a formal agreement, DPR could

utilize the space for recreational activities, such as sports days, concerts, or farmer’s markets, while returning the site to parking when needed. Some improvements to the site, such as surface painting, lighting, or planting, could be permanent, if they do not interfere with parking, and could improve the site for parking lot users and passersby.

- **GREEN SPACE SHUTTLES.** Los Angeles County utilizes free and reduced-price shuttles to provide access to public spaces for residents without vehicles. In Lennox, the Link connects people through the community. In other communities, the County provides shuttles to destinations outside of the community, such as the Beach Bus that shuttles residents of Altadena, Castaic, Charter Oak, Duarte, East Los Angeles, La Cañada Flintridge, La Crescenta, Lancaster, Palmdale, and Topanga Canyon to the beach in Santa Monica. DPR could potentially partner with DPW to expand this route to include pickup locations in Lennox. Alternatively, routes to other recreational locations, such as the Santa Monica Mountains or the Hollywood Bowl could be considered.

FIGURE 5.9 PRECEDENT POP-UP FEATURES



Mobile Exercise Stations
source: David Garza, CyclingInspired™



Play Pieces
source: Stefano Giovanni, Brooklyn Paper Community News Group



Farmer's Market at Sunset Triangle Plaza
Silver Lake, Los Angeles, CA
source: People Street; photo by LADOT/Jim Simmons



Movie Screenings
source: Elizabeth Bernstein, East Bay Express

FIGURE 5.10 CONCEPTUAL POP-UP PARK AT METRO PARK & RIDE LOT



Existing

Farmer's Market and Health Fair

Partner with healthy food activists to create a regular fresh produce market.



Night Market

Contract food trucks and performers for evening events.



Field Day

Bring in sports equipment, moveable equipment, and sod surfacing for active recreation.

URBAN GREENING

Parks and trails serve the public not only as recreational amenities, but also provide valuable ecological services through the landscape elements and infrastructure they contain. These “green” features can significantly benefit urban areas by improving air and water quality, providing habitat areas for wildlife, and improving comfort levels for local residents. For example, trees in parks absorb carbon dioxide, pollutant gases, and filter out particulates.

In addition to urban forestry, urban greening can include efficiency measures, such as energy and water use reductions, stormwater treatment, and transportation initiatives to increase walking and biking to reduce vehicular emissions and improve health.

It is important that parks serve as a model for urban greening in the community where they are located, utilizing efficient technologies, maximizing ecological potential, and advocating for sustainable actions community-wide. Lennox Park has good tree coverage and a substantial amount of permeable surfaces. However, to maximize benefits, additional measures could be implemented at Lennox Park, as well as in potential new parks and trails. Partnerships with other agencies, local non-profits, and residents could expand the greening potential for the community as a whole. Following are areas where change could be implemented to improve urban greening in Lennox:

WATER

Water in California is valuable and limited. As of 2015, the State is in the fourth year of an extreme drought, which is considered to be one of the most severe in the last 30 years. Actions are being taken across the State to conserve and protect water resources. Local actions include both water conservation to prevent overuse, as well as water treatment and management to protect water quality.

WATER CONSERVATION

In April 2015, Governor Jerry Brown declared a State of Emergency throughout the State due to severe drought conditions and issued an Executive Order, requiring a 25 percent reduction in water use through February 2016. Lennox’s water is provided by the Golden State Water Company Southwest, which was placed in Tier 2 from the State Water Board, and mandated to reach a 20 percent reduction.

WATER QUALITY

Limited water capacity, stormwater capture and aquifer recharge are important services. Furthermore, soil and plants filter pollutants out of stormwater, reducing the amount of polluted runoff into creeks and waterways. Such capture and treatment can be achieved through implementation of bioretention basins and swales.

AIR QUALITY

Greenhouse gas emissions in urban areas can have negative impacts on human health, including cancer and respiratory disease, and negative environmental impacts, such as increased heat island effect or plant growth stagnation. Lennox is located within the South Coast Air Basin, which has some of the most polluted air in the nation. Pollutants typically come from two sources: ozone and particulate matter (PM). Ozone (or smog) is created by chemical reactions and sunlight. Pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are called “ozone precursors.” They combine in the presence of hot, stagnant, sunny weather to create ozone (or smog). Ozone precursors in Los Angeles County come from cars, trucks, ships, buses, petroleum production, and waste disposal. Lennox is additionally located directly adjacent to LAX and is in the flight plan of airplanes taking off and landing at the airport, which adds emissions to the community’s airspace.

Parks and recreation facilities in Lennox can affect air quality by reducing the need for vehicular access to these spaces, increasing tree canopy within the community, and maintaining healthy soil ecosystems.

ENERGY

Although significant progress has been made to increase renewable sources of energy, the majority of electricity in California comes from fossil fuels, with natural gas making up 44 percent of the total power supply.¹ Energy needs at parks can be substantial, including lighting for sports fields, walkways, and indoor facilities; irrigation meters; heating and cooling systems; computer labs and technical equipment; as well day-to-day use of electrical equipment by office and program staff.

In 2010, DPR initiated a pilot project to install solar panels at Obregon Park in East Los Angeles. The project reduced electricity consumption by 20 percent at the park and reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 40,000 pounds. Currently, Lennox Park does not produce energy on site through solar panels or other alternative means.

WILDLIFE AND HABITAT

Parks, green space, and other pieces of green infrastructure serve as sanctuaries for birds, animals, reptiles, amphibians and insects living within an urban area. These species add life to a green space and give residents the opportunity to engage with creatures outside of the human race. Connected spaces serve best for a habitat as it expands the species’ range and increases mobility. This is particularly important in urban areas where there is limited green space and species can be trapped. For many species, these spaces do not need to be extremely large and small elements, such as street trees, and can provide valuable foraging and habitat resources.

1 2013 Total Electricity System Power. Energy Almanac. California Energy Commission. <http://energyalmanac.ca.gov/electricity/total_system_power.html>

Green connection within Lennox can serve as both corridors for humans as well as urban wildlife. Additionally, modifications to Lennox Park, including more native plants can enhance habitat potential.

PUBLIC HEALTH

In addition to being beneficial for the environment, clean air and water benefit humans living nearby. Urban conditions, such as high levels of vehicle exhaust and low levels of trees and landscape, can be difficult on human respiratory and neurological systems and detrimental to their psychological health. Parks and green infrastructure can help offset these negative physiological and psychological conditions.

Furthermore, people are more likely to exercise when there are safe places to do so near their homes. Increased exercise can help reduce or prevent obesity and related diseases. Additionally, exercise is important for cardiovascular health and can help counteract the impacts of stress on the body.

URBAN FORESTRY

The urban forest represents a significant component of urban greening and its quality and diversity has a direct effect on how the public perceives the environmental characteristic of their community. Specifically, residents of Lennox considered addressing the urban forest as an important phase in developing the Community Parks and Recreation Plan.

The vision for Lennox's urban forest is to increase existing canopy coverage throughout the community by creating greener streets that encourage people to walk and exercise, establishing green buffers from the freeways that divide the community, and focusing on other multi-benefit greening opportunities. Within existing parks, the vision is to increase the canopy coverage, while maintaining visibility and existing park uses, and to transition the park forest into one which provides optimal benefits for the community.

Realization of this vision would maximize environmental, social and economic benefits associated with the urban forest thereby enhancing the quality of life and the public health enjoyed by the Lennox community. Potential benefits of the urban forest are identified next based on research by the United States Department of Agriculture and the Alliance for Community Trees.^{2,3}

2 Southern Center for Forest Benefits and Benefits of Urban Trees, USDA Tree Benefits brochure. <<http://www.urbanforestrysouth.org/resources/library/benefits-of-urban-treesbooklet>> accessed March 23, 2010.

3 Alliance for Community Trees, Benefits of Trees and Urban Forests (Resource List), http://www.actrees.org/files/Research/benefits_of_trees.pdf, accessed February 25, 2014.

URBAN GREENING TARGETS

1. Provide at least **15 percent** canopy coverage within new parks.
2. Work with other jurisdictions, agencies, and property owners to increase tree plantings outside of parks, working towards a community-wide canopy coverage target of **17 percent**.
3. Reduce water usage at all existing parks by **20 percent** of 2013 use levels.
4. Capture **100 percent** of stormwater runoff onsite at existing and potential future parks.

CANOPY TARGETS

As discussed in Chapter Two, while coverage within Lennox Park is approximately 25 percent, the community as a whole has an overall canopy coverage of 8.5 percent due to low coverage within street corridors, residential areas and other land uses. This is far less than the 21 percent coverage maintained within the City of Los Angeles or the 25 percent recommended by American Forests as appropriate for urban areas in temperate and arid climates. Furthermore, American Forests sets higher standards for areas with predominately residential land uses: up to 35 percent. Since the majority of Lennox is residential, it is expected that the overall canopy coverage target for the community should be higher.

It is recommended that DPR maintain the current canopy coverage at Lennox Park and work with other departments, organizations, and agencies to increase overall canopy coverage. Based on American Forests' standards, the target canopy coverage for existing land uses and coverage in Lennox, including a high percentage of residential properties, is approximately 27 percent. However, based on existing coverage, a preliminary target in Lennox would be 17 percent, which represents a doubling of existing canopy community-wide. Since it is not feasible or desirable for parkland to support all new plantings, community-wide efforts are needed to increase canopy in non-park areas, including residential areas and along streets.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE URBAN FOREST WITHIN PARKS

Tree canopy coverage at Lennox Park is high and should not be expanded due to the need for field space for baseball, futsal, and other recreational uses. However, around the edges of the park, there are a number of mature trees serving as a valuable urban forestry asset. They should be monitored and maintained as a resource for the community and continue to act as a buffer for the park from neighboring streets.

The development of new parks provides great opportunity for new trees. The number of trees and their location depends on the programming and design of the site. Gathering places, plazas, playgrounds and pathways all benefit from shade provided by trees. For other types of programming, such as community gardens and sports fields, trees would need to be located.

Within Lennox Park and any new parks, the replacement of existing trees and planting of new trees are central to enhancing the trees within the “Park Forest.” Trees in existing parks that are either unhealthy or do little to contribute to the urban forest should be replaced with species that provide greater urban forestry benefits, such as trees with larger and fuller canopies. New trees should be located where they would have the most benefit in existing parks. For example, planting trees around gathering areas or in open areas where the tree canopy is lacking, providing ample shade, trees should be arranged so that they do not conflict with programming such as sports fields.

KEY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENHANCING THE URBAN FOREST BEYOND PARK BOUNDARIES

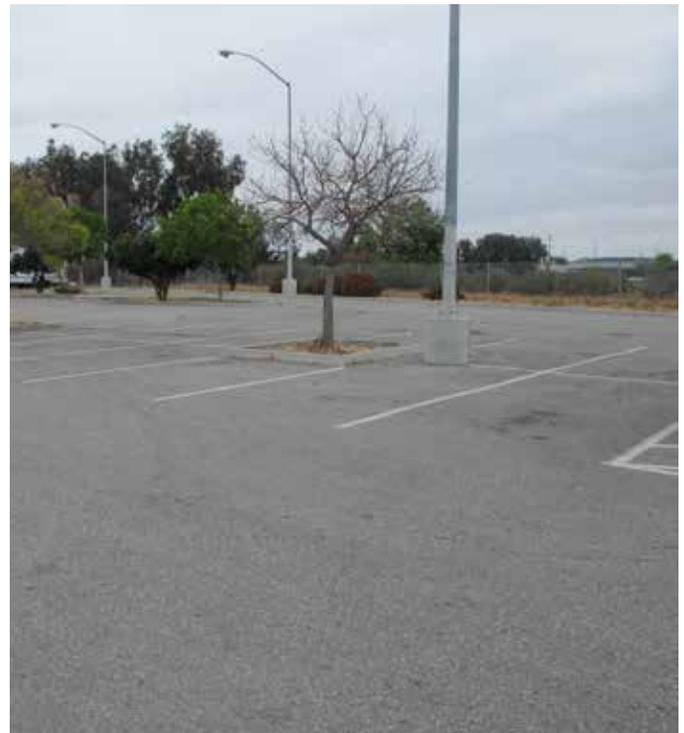
Due to the low canopy coverage throughout the neighborhood, expansion of the park forest would not be sufficient to improve the overall urban forest. Some opportunity sites to plant trees in non-park areas include along public street right-of-ways or sidewalks, on land adjacent to freeways, and in vacant lots. Although these areas are typically beyond the jurisdiction of County Parks, DPR can plant new trees in partnership with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) and Caltrans, and can also encourage private property owners to plant trees on their respective properties.

Areas that were identified as having a high need for additional street tree plantings and specific opportunity sites are identified in Figure 5.11 and described below. The Preferred Tree List in Appendix E identifies species that are appropriate for each of the opportunity types identified.

- **STREET CORRIDORS.** Increasing canopy coverage on urban streets can significantly improve pedestrian conditions by creating a cooler and more aesthetically pleasing walking and cycling environment. In particular, increased street tree planting should occur along the streets with high priority of better urban canopy

(identified in Figure 5.11) and along the corridors that connect parks and major community amenities, such as schools, churches, and recreational facilities.

- **FREEWAY BUFFERS.** The 105 and 405 Freeways pass along the southern and western edges of Lennox, respectively. Planting trees or enhancing existing planting along the spaces adjacent to these freeways would offset the noise and pollution from the freeway and beautify the area. Trees that are known for pollution reduction and that have high canopies should be selected for these spaces. See trees designated as suitable for freeways in the preferred tree list in Appendix E.
- **POCKET FORESTS OR POCKET ORCHARDS.** Some pocket parks in Lennox could be utilized exclusively for urban forestry. These parks would be planted densely with trees. This use might be appropriate in lots near the industrial areas in the southwest part of the community where dense tree plantings could mitigate potential air quality issues. Additionally, fruit trees could be planted in conjunction with a community garden or school if the trees are maintained and harvested on a regular basis.
- **RESIDENTIAL YARDS AND PRIVATE PARKING LOTS.** Private individuals can have a significant effects on the public urban forest. Educational resources and incentive programs can encourage residents or property owners to plant trees on their property or request planting from their landlord.



Tree Pit in Metro Park & Ride Lot

FIGURE 5.11 POTENTIAL URBAN FORESTRY OPPORTUNITIES IN LENNOX



- Lennox
- Existing Parks
- High-Priority Street Opportunities (street corridors with low existing tree canopy)
- Medium-Priority Street Opportunities (street corridors with low existing tree canopy)
- Planned Street Tree Plantings
- Site Opportunities
- B** Freeway Buffer
- P** Potential Future Park

Source: Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

MEETING THE NEEDS

At 0.2 acres per 1,000 residents, Lennox is severely deficient in meeting the Los Angeles County target for local parkland (4 acres per 1,000 residents). Additionally, outside of school grounds, there are very few large spaces available in the community to create new parks. However, through strategic intervention and partnership with local organizations, agencies, and private groups, many of the facility needs (identified in Chapter Four) could be addressed, alleviating some of the demand on Lennox Park as the only recreational space in the community. Although site-specific layout and design would need to be considered for each new project, Figure 5.12 illustrates which sites could potentially meet these identified needs.

As the figure demonstrates, this Community Parks and Recreation Vision allows resources to be more spread out through the community. Generally, Lennox residents indicate that their community has a lack of “green.” Developing spaces throughout the community would help to put more “green” into the everyday lives of Lennox residents. The Vision also builds off existing assets, such as the existing schools and the strong central corridor of Lennox Boulevard, ensuring that new amenities would be easily accessed by residents.

The Vision includes numerous new gathering places, partnership spaces for larger facilities, and walking and biking corridors. The Vision also offers new opportunities to exercise and expands the potential for new facilities, such as new playgrounds, splash pads, or sports courts, and new programs, such as temporary “Pop-up Parks.”

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| New Field Space |  | Splash Pad |  |
| Exercise Facilities and Opportunities to Walk |  | Arts Facility |  |
| Play Spaces and Tot Lots |  | Performance Space |  |
| Spaces for Teens |  | Energy Conservation and Production |  |
| Safe Connections to Parks for Pedestrians and Cyclists |  | Green Infrastructure |  |
| Gathering Places and Spaces for Cultural Identity |  | Wildlife Habitat and Natural Space |  |
| Healthy Food |  | | |



GREENSCORE

Achieving the vision and expanding Lennox's parks and recreation system will take time, long-term investment, and political will. There are a wide range of project types and site conditions with different levels of feasibility. As noted in Chapter Four, projects with the highest potential for park development and that could meet the most need were prioritized for consideration and possible implementation in the short-term.

Parks with high priority were used in the Greenscore analysis to examine the potential effect of new parkland and trail development. The high-priority projects used in the analysis are shown in Figure 5.14. Renovation of the Toy Loan Building at Lennox Park is a high-priority project; however, since it is located within an existing park, it does not increase total acreage of parkland in the community.

Following are discussions and illustrations of how these new potential parks and trails would affect service areas, spatial need, and population served. Additionally described, are the greening benefits of the development of new parks as well as urban greening goals community-wide like meeting the target canopy coverage of 17 percent.

IMPACT ON SERVICE AREAS

Figure 5.15 displays the service areas of existing parks and new parks identified as high priorities based on DPR's standard service area buffers. As seen in the figure, almost all of the area within Lennox is within a half mile of a local park or 1 mile from a regional facility.

IMPACT ON PARKLAND GAP AND WALKABILITY

METHODOLOGY

Using Esri ArcGIS's network analyst, the service areas for potential park sites were calculated. The threshold used was an average 10-minute walking distance (quarter-mile radius). The existing street network and pedestrian conditions as well as potential trails proposed were used to calculate distance and create the service area to determine each potential future park site's walkable service areas. The US Census Bureau's American Community Survey's 2012 5-Year Estimate data was used for the community characteristics analysis. The community's characteristics data needed to be adjusted due to the irregular shape of the walkable service area, which did not correspond with the block group polygons. The ratio of the block group acreage and clipped block group acreage were calculated and applied to the demographics data to estimate the park served population.

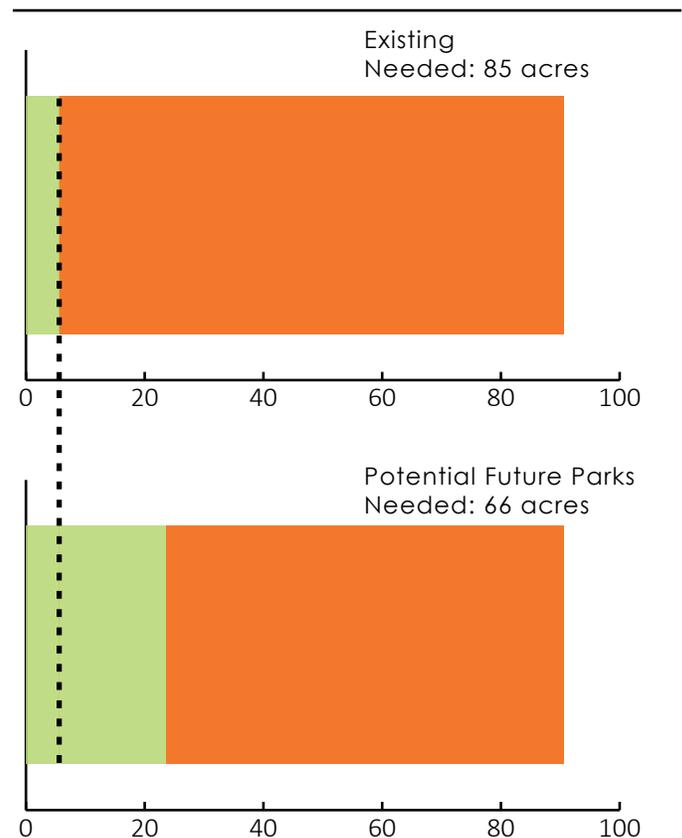
PARKLAND GAP

As shown in Figure 5.16, the parkland gap area would be significantly reduced with the implementation of the high-priority park projects. Only a small portion of Lennox would not be within a 10-minute walk to a park. Additionally, when potential trail opportunities are added to the street network, pedestrian access routes to existing and potential future parklands are increased.

IMPACT ON SPATIAL NEED

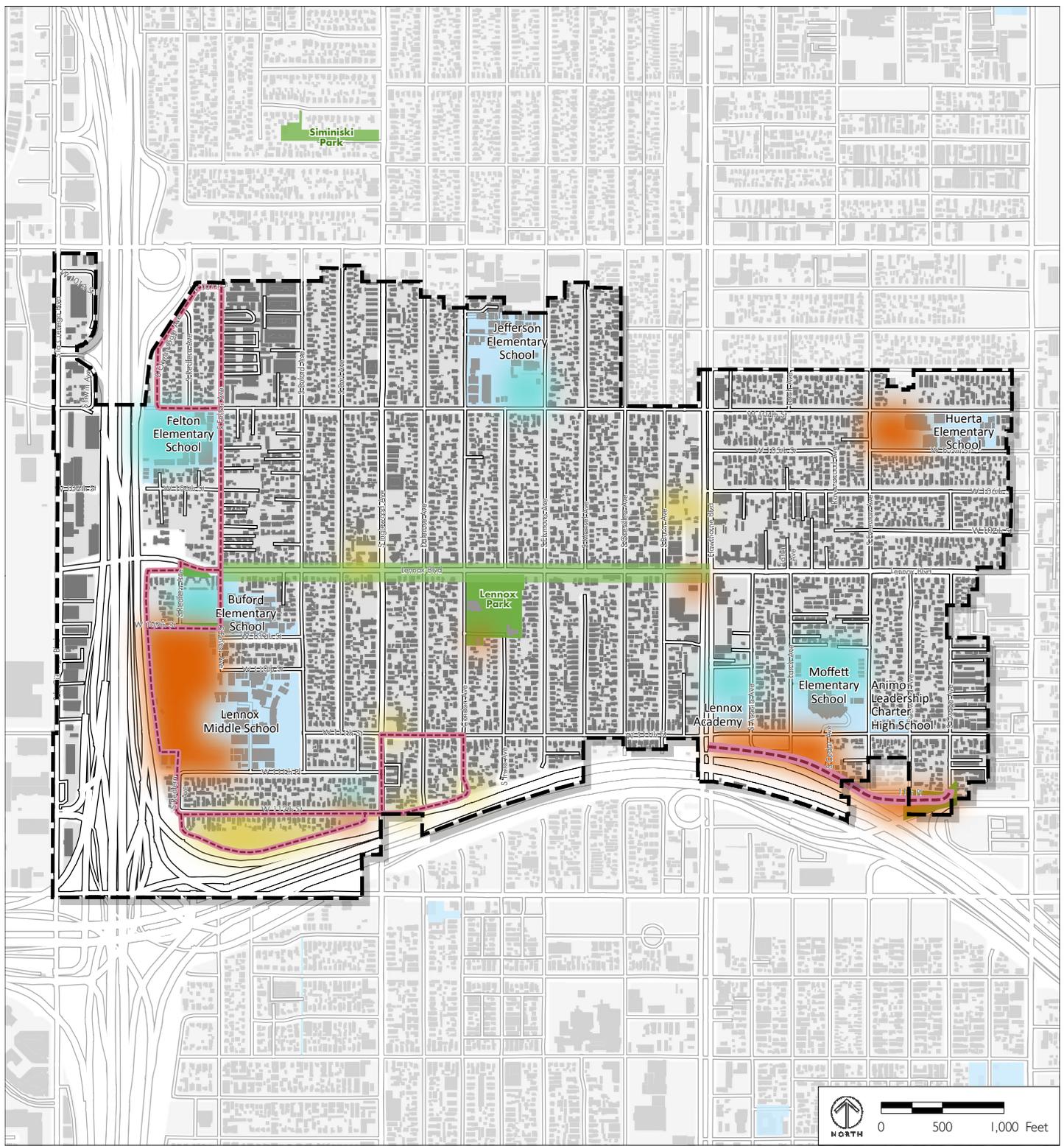
With the size of its current population, Lennox needs approximately 91 acres of local parkland to fulfill the General Plan standard of 4 acres of parklands per 1,000 residents; however, Lennox Park, the only existing park in the community, is only 5.6 acres. The development of the identified high-priority sites would add approximately 19 acres of new parklands, which would reduce the parkland needs from 85 acres to 66 acres. This calculation of new acreages includes school grounds, but does not include areas where there are existing buildings. This new acreage amount also only includes area within Lennox, although some sites, such as sites along the freeway, might be expanded in size if allowed to extend into neighboring communities when developed.

FIGURE 5.13 **IMPACT ON PARK NEED ACREAGE**



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

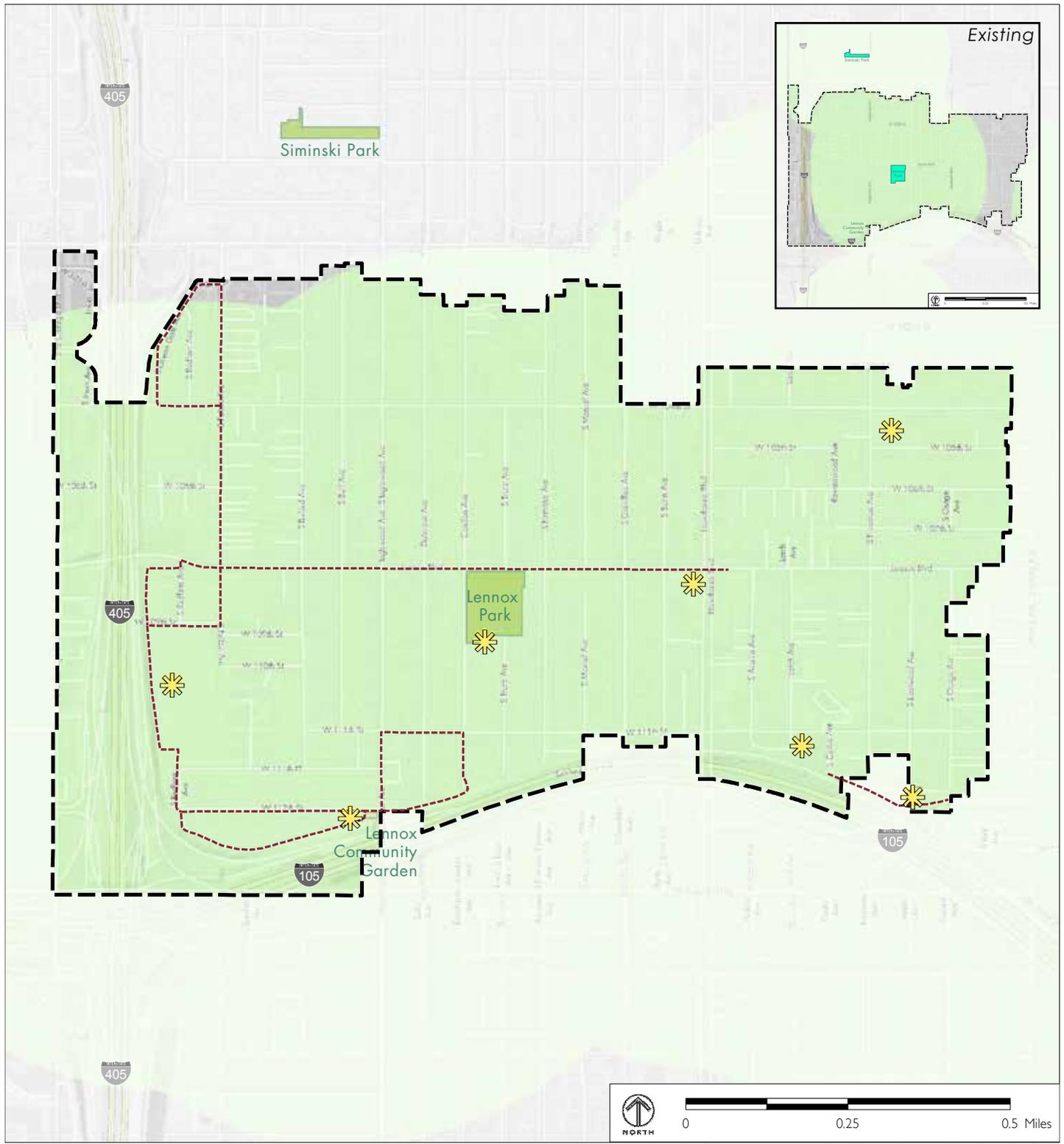
FIGURE 5.14 LENNOX PRIORITY PARKLAND AND TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2013.

- Lennox
- Existing Parks
- Existing Gardens
- Schools
- High Priority Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Medium Priority Potential Parkland Opportunities
- Low Priority Potential Parkland Opportunities
- High Priority Potential Trail Opportunities
- Low Priority Potential Trail Opportunities
- Potential Green Streets (High Priority)

FIGURE 5.15 SERVICE AREAS - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

VISION PLAN

Park Access

1/2 Mile Service Radius from Local Parks (Includes Existing and Potential Future Parks)

Parklands

Park Included in Analysis

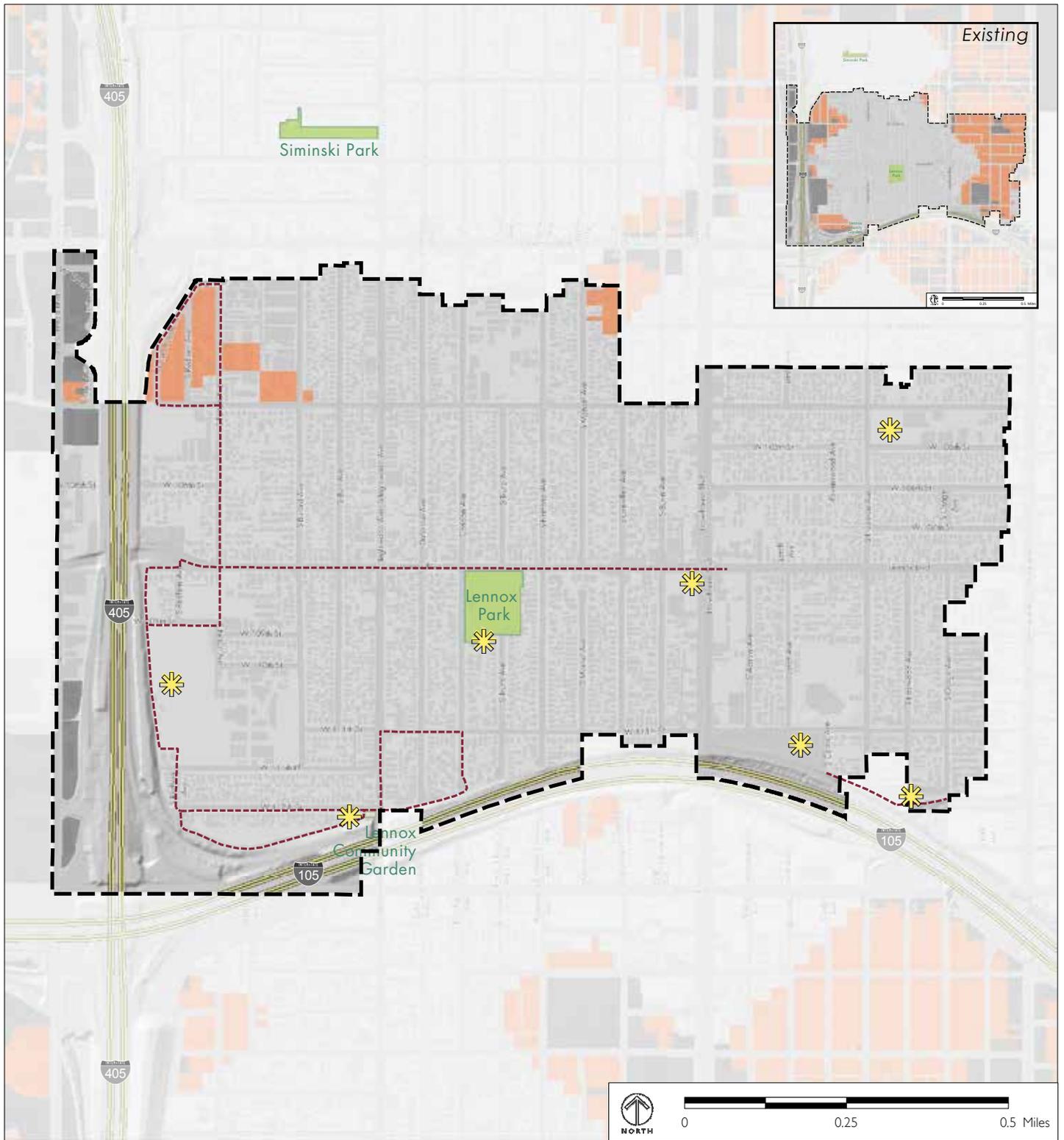
Potential Trails

Potential Future Trail



Potential Future Park included in Analysis

FIGURE 5.16 PARKLAND GAPS/WALKABILITY - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

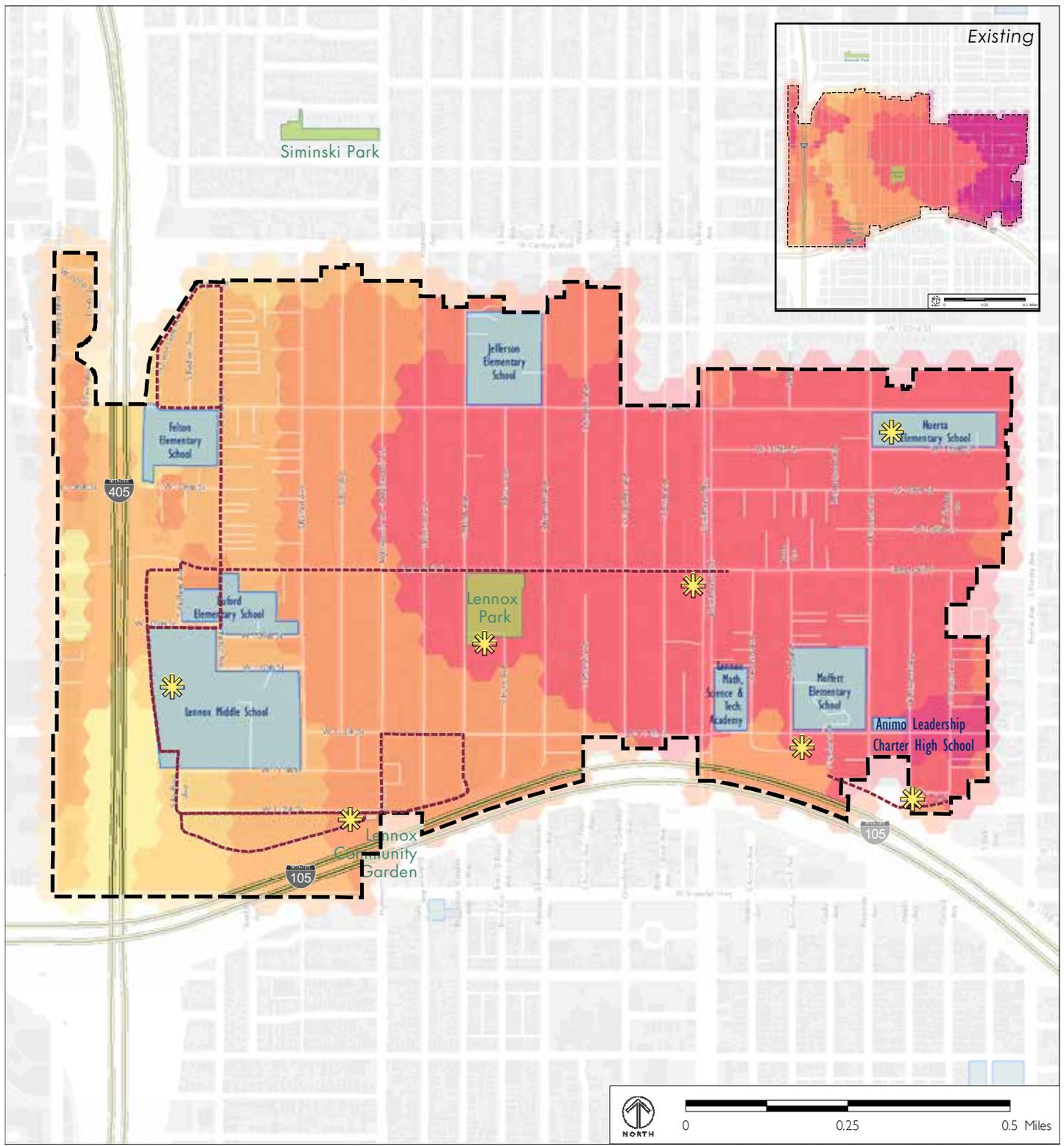
Park Access

- Areas Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park
- Non-Residential Areas Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park
- Residential Areas Not Within 1/2 Mile (10 minute walk) of a Park

Parklands

- Park Included in Analysis
- Other Green Space (Community Garden)
- ✱
 Potential Future Park included in Analysis

FIGURE 5.17 SPATIAL NEED - EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS



Source: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, 2013, PlaceWorks, 2015.

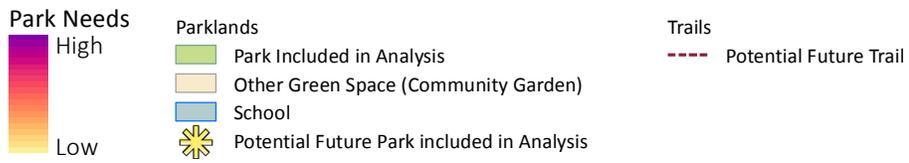
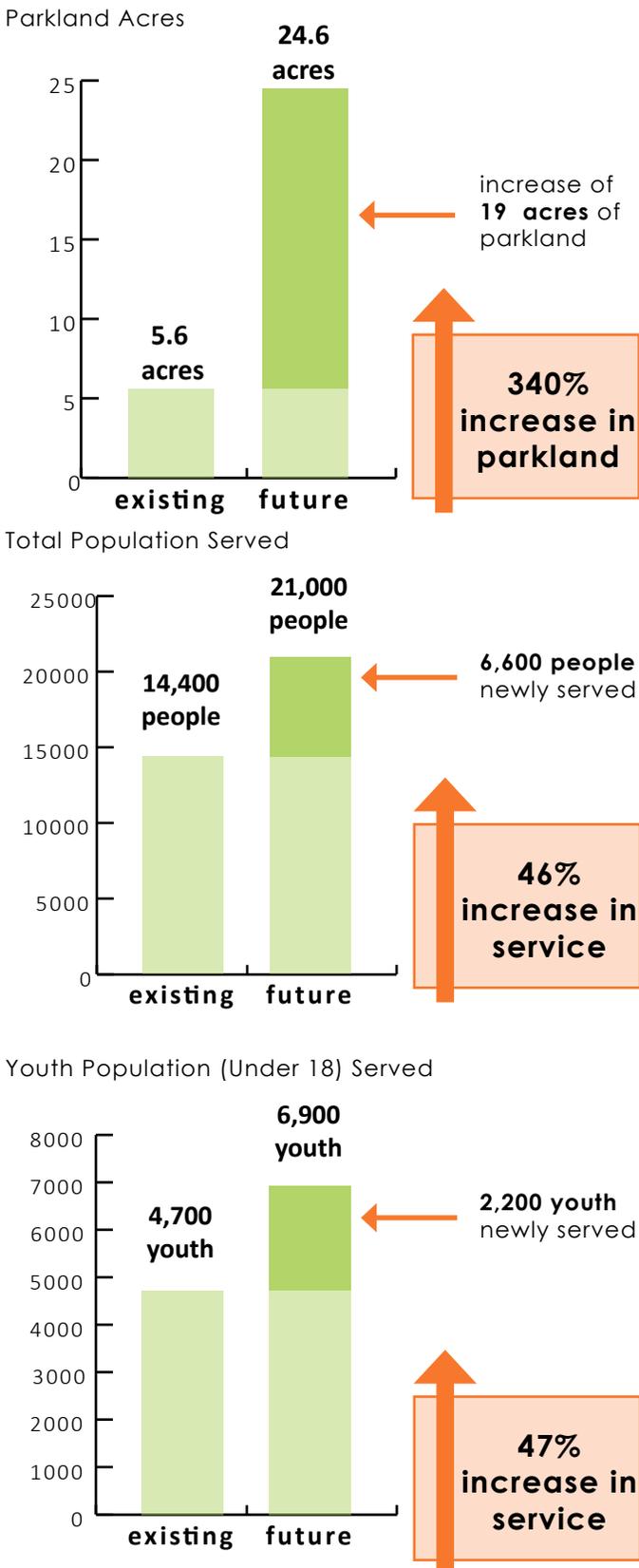


FIGURE 5.18 SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE ADDITION OF POTENTIAL NEW PARKS



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

Although there would still be need for new parks and recreation facilities, the overall community need would decrease with the addition of the recommended new parkland. Furthermore, with park resources spread out through the community, more Lennox residents would be within walking distance of a green space. As seen in Figure 5.17, spatial need throughout the community has decreased, particularly in the northeast corner of the community, which currently has the highest need.

POPULATION SERVED WITH NEW PARKLAND

Meeting the overall park need in Lennox is challenging due to the limited availability of vacant land and the high-level of need. However, the addition of 19 acres of parkland would have a noticeable effect on parks and recreation service to Lennox residents, as shown in Figure 5.18.

With the addition of potential future park sites, the population within walking distance of any parks would increase by 46 percent from approximately 14,400 to 21,000 residents. Within that group, the population under 18 years old would increase from approximately 4,700 to 6,900, representing a 47 percent increase from the existing population served. This indicates that the additions of potential future park sites would increase the possibility of providing more access to the parks and green spaces to the overall population and especially for residents under 18 years old.

IMPACT ON STORMWATER INTERCEPTION

Utilizing Low Impact Development (LID) technologies, such as stormwater swales, bioretention basins, or green roofs to intercept water runoff within existing parks and in potential future parks, would provide significant benefits to water storage and improve water quality running into nearby waterways. Additionally, increasing the community-wide tree canopy to 17 percent would store and treat significant quantities of stormwater outside of the parks' boundaries, reducing impacts to existing stormwater infrastructure.

Although current rain levels are below normal, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) estimates the average rainfall for downtown Los Angeles to be 14.93 inches per year. Utilizing this estimate for the 19 acres of additional parkland in Lennox, annual rainfall in these areas would equal more than 7 million gallons. A significant amount of this volume would infiltrate into the parks' pervious surfaces; however, a presumed runoff of 10-20 percent is expected in the typical park or open space resulting in approximately **1.5 MILLION GALLONS** that could be intercepted and treated with LID.

IMPACT ON WATER CONSERVATION

Changes to maintenance and landscape installation within existing and potential future parks can provide dramatic water conservation. Key water saving strategies include:

- Utilizing **DRIP IRRIGATION** instead of spray heads (estimated 16% water savings)
- Planting **LOW WATER USE PLANTS** and replacing high water use ones (estimated 62% water savings)
- Applying **COMPOST** in planting areas and in turf areas (estimated 10-13% water savings)
- Utilizing **MULCH** regularly to retain soil moisture (estimated 20% water savings)

Figure 5.19 demonstrates how these savings could be applied to a 10,000-square foot sample park project in Lennox.

FIGURE 5.19 SAMPLE PARK PROJECT WATER SAVING

<i>project size</i>	<i>10,000-square feet</i>
<i>project description</i>	<i>conventional high water use lawn with spray</i>
<i>estimated water use (gallons per year)</i>	349,994

Action	Estimated water use (gallons per year)	Estimated Water Savings (gallons per year)
Switch spray heads to drip irrigation	292,348	57,646
Switch high water use plants to low water use plants	131,248	218,746
Add 3.5% or 5% organic matter content compost	307,995	41,999
Add 3 inches of mulch to planting areas	279,995	69,999

IMPACT ON GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION

Implementing the vision plan and urban greening goals in Lennox would include many actions that could reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase carbon sequestration.

- Improving the pedestrian network that encourage more people to walk more would **DECREASE VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED** and reduce emissions.
- Utilizing **ON-SITE ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PRODUCTION**, would limit dependence on fossil fuels for energy needs.
- Increasing **TREES** in the urban environment would improve capacity to “sequester” carbon by removing it from the atmosphere and storing it in their wood and in the soil.

It is also possible to quantify the benefits of new trees in Lennox. As described in Chapter Two, Lennox’s Park Forest (existing trees with parks only) is estimated to sequester 11,589 pounds (5.3 Metric tons) of carbon annually. There is limited opportunity to increase tree canopy and carbon storage at Lennox Park. Adding more parks with healthy urban canopy coverage is one strategy to increase the overall carbon stored by the park forest. However, the complete benefits of the urban forest are best understood at the neighborhood scale rather than limited to trees within parks. As shown in Table 5.1, it is estimated that the current forest sequesters 286.8 Metric Tons of carbon dioxide per year and that approximately 573.6 Metric Tons would be sequestered by the target canopy.

It is important to consider that the planting of trees along streets, at parks, and throughout communities can contribute to greenhouse gas reduction in ways other than carbon sequestration, including but not limited to: providing shade for buildings, thus reducing air conditioning usage; reducing the urban heat island effect; and creating streets and paths that encourage people to walk or bike, thus reducing vehicle trips.

Maintaining canopy coverage at Lennox Park at 25 percent and ensuring coverage of at least 15 percent for new parks would ensure sustained or increased carbon sequestration by the park forest. In addition, selecting trees that have high capacity for carbon sequestration, especially for sites near freeways and other sites that have high levels of air pollution, can improve the contribution of the urban forest to greenhouse gas reduction. Trees that are highly effective at sequestration are identified in the Preferred Tree List in Appendix E.

TABLE 5.1 **LENNOX CARBON SEQUESTRATION UNDER EXISTING AND TARGET CANOPY COVERAGE**

Land Use ¹	CANOPY COVER		ANNUAL CARBON SEQUESTRATION (CO ₂ METRIC TONS) ²	
	Existing	Proposed	Existing	Proposed
Low Density Residential	42.2	200.8	84.4	401.6
High Density Residential	11.7	55.6	23.4	111.2
Commercial/Institutional	4.8	22.8	9.6	45.6
Industrial/Utilities/ Transportation	0.5	2.2	1	4.4
Open Space ¹	1.1	5.4	2.2	10.8
Total	60.3	286.8	120.6	573.6

- 1 Land use areas are based on land use of tax parcels and adjacent streets and canopy coverage was calculated using LiDAR data from 2006. The land use designation of “Open Space” was applied to Lennox Park, Lennox Community Garden, and adjacent streets. Canopy coverage estimates are higher than data collected through iTrees sample (described above), which only inventoried trees at Lennox Park.
- 2 Increase in carbon storage resulting from increased canopy coverage was estimated using the following assumptions: (1) 150 pounds stored/tree/year, based on the average iTrees estimates for existing trees in East Los Angeles parks (East Los Angeles was selected as the sample measurement due to the diversity of the existing park forest in that community); (2) 70 trees per acreage of cover, assuming approximate spacing of 25 feet between trees. Based on these assumptions, it is estimated that 10,500 pounds of carbon would be sequestered for each additional acre of canopy coverage, regardless of land use.



6 - IMPLEMENTATION

Implementation of the Lennox Community Parks and Recreation Plan will require long-term financing and strategic administrative policies for construction, acquisitions, and maintenance. This chapter includes recommendations of strategies, implementation actions, funding resources, and partnership agreements for achieving “Greening Lennox Through Partnerships.”

SUMMARY OF GOALS

As presented in the Vision Plan in Chapter Five, goals for improving parks, recreation, and greening in Lennox include:

1. *Develop a working model with Lennox schools to formalize joint use.*
2. *Partner with community groups to develop small green spaces to fill the parkland gap.*
3. *Utilize “pop-up” interventions to create green space in the short term.*
4. *Ensure that facilities and programs meet community needs and that the community is included in decision-making processes.*
5. *Expand recreational opportunities within Lennox to include civic spaces that support community interaction, cultural identity, and commercial enterprise.*
6. *Increase the sense of nature within Lennox Park, future green spaces, and in the everyday lives of Lennox residents.*
7. *Maintain and enhance Lennox’s urban forest.*
8. *Focus on multi-benefit urban greening projects that optimize environmental services.*
9. *Create a community walking trail network along sidewalks, freeway buffers, and public land.*

These goals are achievable through new park development, updates to existing facilities, and partnerships between Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and other agencies and community groups.

STRATEGIES

Strategic policy and development action at various places throughout Lennox would be necessary to achieve these goals and increase overall parkland in Lennox. Below is a summary of the key strategies to implement this project. Importantly, these strategies work together to achieve the vision of this plan and many of the strategies address multiple goals.

1. **CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN AND IMPROVE LENNOX PARK TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS AND SUPPORT DPR’S SUSTAINABILITY GOALS.** Lennox Park is a key community asset that is well-loved by residents. Directed improvements to the park would ensure that the space operates efficiently and continues to meet the needs of the local community.
2. **STRATEGICALLY ACQUIRE VACANT LOTS FOR GREENING THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY.** Existing and underutilized parcels could be transformed into new open space for recreational and green infrastructure use.
3. **DEVELOP POCKET PARKS, PARK NODES, AND WALKING PATHS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY’S DESIRE FOR EXERCISE AND FITNESS.** New wellness opportunities need to be explored at existing facilities and new locations. These interventions could include new walking paths, exercise equipment, or spaces for outdoor wellness events. New community paths provide opportunities to walk and create connections between green space facilities and community centers. The implementation of the Los Angeles County Bike Master Plan would improve opportunities for cycling in the community. In addition to providing new places for exercise, these resources could improve non-vehicular access in the community and decrease emissions on roadways.
4. **CREATE A GREEN CORRIDOR ALONG LENNOX BOULEVARD.** Often referred to as Lennox’s “Main Street,” Lennox Boulevard is a priority corridor within the community that connects major commercial areas and civic spaces, including Lennox Park and the Lennox Community Service Center. Green interventions along this corridor, such as new pocket parks, increased street tree plantings, and bicycle and pedestrian improvements could formalize it’s role at the center of Lennox.

5. **USE PARK NODES AND PLACITAS TO ENHANCE COMMERCIAL VITALITY AND CULTURAL IDENTITY.** Sites along Inglewood Avenue and Hawthorne Boulevard are already popular for community gathering without a formal plaza or gathering space. These spaces could be enhanced through community greening efforts in the form of plaza or parklet development. Currently, there are limited opportunities for outdoor performance in Lennox. A new performance space or outdoor gathering venue could significantly add to the cultural life of Lennox residents.
6. **DEVELOP CURRENTLY UNDERUTILIZED SPACES FOR GREEN SPACE OR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.** Lennox is relatively “built out,” with minimal opportunities to create new open space. There are remnant undeveloped parcels that could be used for new open space. Examples of this type of opportunity include parking lots and underutilized land adjacent to freeways.
7. **CREATE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH.** Healthy and safe recreation options for young people in Lennox is important, as it provides an alternative to more dangerous activities such as gang activity. Youth-focused programs and facilities ensure that young people have places within the community where they can recreate in a fun and safe way. Joint-use with existing schools could be an important opportunity for expanding the green space capacity of Lennox’s parkland system, particularly in areas frequented by youth.
8. **PROVIDE NATURE SPACES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND PEACEFUL PLACES TO RELAX.** There are few opportunities within Lennox to experience natural processes. New sites and projects in Lennox Park could incorporate ecological features, such as wildlife habitat, California native plants, and hydrologic processes to allow residents to learn about these phenomena. Additionally, these serene places could provide important stress reducing experiences. Existing resources, such as Compton Creek and sites near schools, provide excellent nature learning opportunities.
9. **MAXIMIZE URBAN FORESTRY POTENTIAL AND UTILIZE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE.** In addition to having a park deficit, Lennox faces numerous challenges when it comes to green infrastructure. It surrounded by two major freeways, is in the flight path of planes landing at and taking off from LAX, and has extremely low urban tree canopy coverage. Residents feel that their community is generally lacking in “green” and over-exposed to environmental hazards, such as vehicle emissions and limited healthy food options. Greening projects, including park development, can improve this condition and the public perception of the area. In particular, the urban forest is a valuable ecological resource. Throughout Lennox there exist opportunities to expand and enhance the existing urban tree canopy. Within Lennox Park, DPR

must ensure that the tree population is healthy and well-maintained. Other local agencies, community groups, and local residents could also work to improve the overall urban forest in the community.

10. **ENSURE THAT EXISTING AND POTENTIAL FUTURE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES ARE SAFE AND HEALTHY SPACES.** Concern for safety is a potential impediment to using parks and green space. A strong commitment to public safety would ensure that park facilities are enjoyable and accessible to all residents.
11. **CONTINUE DIALOGUE WITH COMMUNITY ABOUT PARK NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN PARK ADMINISTRATION.** The planning process for the Lennox Community Parks and Recreation Plan started an important community outreach relationship between DPR and local residents. Participants in outreach events expressed interest in continuing to work on parks and recreation issues in their community and should be considered valuable advocates for implementation of this plan.
12. **SUPPORT INITIATIVES THAT INCREASE ACCESS TO PARKS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES, AND REGIONAL DESTINATIONS.** The Lennox park network can be enriched through improved pedestrian and bicycle amenities in the community and shuttle services to bring residents to green spaces and community centers. Programs to take residents to regional open space destinations throughout the County would further expand the reach of parks and recreation in the community.

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

The following actions provide specific direction and are categorized as short, medium, or long-term.

Short-term actions represent items that DPR and/or partner agencies could begin to explore in the next five years. Medium-term projects require more coordination and could be pursued within five to ten years. Long-term actions require extensive coordination, planning, and long-range strategies appropriate for ten to fifty years in the future. In addition, some actions are ongoing and require interim monitoring or progress. These actions are detailed in the following tables.

STRATEGY 1: Continue to maintain and improve Lennox park to meet community needs and support DPR’s sustainability goals.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	<p>1.1 Complete planned improvements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigate and landscape turf adjacent to the senior citizen building. Install drinking fountain near senior building. Automate ball field lighting on one baseball field. Provide grading and subterranean drainage system. Reconstruct basketball court, including replacing slab for proper drainage, new backboards and player benches. Provide landscaping improvements near Toy Loan Building and provide security gates and fencing. Replace existing playground. 		•		•
	<p>1.2 Install three (3) new bike racks at Lennox Park.</p>	•			
	<p>1.3 Repurpose Toy Loan Building and renovate area surrounding the park.</p>	•			
WATER CONSERVATION					
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	<p>1.4 Ensure Lennox Park meets requirements set forth in Executive Order B-29-15 to address State drought actions.</p>	•			
	<p>1.5 Perform a preliminary water audit of all existing County parks and perform additional audits biannually.</p>	•			•
	<p>1.6 Install smart controllers at Lennox Park and any new parks, or implement maintenance schedule to adjust irrigation frequency monthly to reflect evapotranspiration rate expected in the next month.</p>	•			•
	<p>1.7 Replace all high water use plumbing fixtures with low water use ones and use only low water use fixtures in new County parks and recreation facilities.</p>	•			
	<p>1.8 Monitor regularly for potential leaks in plumbing and replace quickly when leak is identified.</p>				•
	<p>1.9 Ensure that all planting areas are provided with a two-inch (2”) layer of organic mulch (free of weed seed), consistent with plant palette in DPR’s Park Design Guidelines and Standards. At minimum, replenish mulch once per year in November.</p>	•			•

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	<p>1.10 Use California native and drought-tolerant plant species, consistent with plant palette in DPR’s Park Design Guidelines and Standards, in existing and new County parks.</p>				●
	<p>1.11 Explore opportunities for demonstration spaces that highlight water efficient planting and irrigation.</p>		●		
	<p>1.12 Introduce recycled water for irrigation at existing and new County parks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Los Angeles County Department of Public Works (DPW) and water purveyors in connecting County parks to recycled water lines where available. Participate in meetings and discussions on expansion of service areas for recycled water. • Systematically replace plants unsuitable for reused water irrigation with suitable species with higher salt tolerance, identified in the “Preferred Plan List- Recycled Water” from DPR’s Park Design Guidelines and Standards. • Research replacing active turf grass areas with drought tolerant, high salt tolerant turf grass, such as <i>Paspalum vaginatum</i> (seashore paspalum or platinum paspalum) and research replacing cool turf areas with drought and salt tolerant utility groundcovers, such as <i>Lippia nodiflora</i> (Kurapia). 		●		●
	<p>WATER QUALITY</p>				
	<p>1.13 Increase stormwater management potential at existing parks and ensure that new parks maximize stormwater retention on-site.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the design of new parks, use the standards of a “designated project” outlined in Chapter 12.84 of the Los Angeles County Code: Low Impact Development Standards, requiring either 100-percent stormwater retention on-site or low-impact design strategies to mitigate whatever is not retained on-site. • Research capacity to utilize park spaces as urban sponges for street runoff by integrating curb cuts along park edges and creating stormwater basins along parks. • Replace existing paving with permeable paving in parking lots and use pervious surfaces in new County parks. 				● ● ●

Smart controllers were installed at seven Los Angeles County Parks, which resulted in a 219 million gallon water reduction over a 12 month monitoring period, signifying a 23% reduction of water usage.

Source: Los Angeles County DPR

The California State Water Resources Control Board proposed that Golden State Water Company Southwest, which provides water to Lennox, reduce usage by 20% to achieve mandatory statewide conservation goal of 25% reduction.

Source: State Water Resources Control Board

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND GREEN BUILDINGS				
	1.14 Install solar panels in exposed parking lots or on roofs at existing and new County parks.		●		
	1.15 Utilize paving materials with low albedo to reduce surface temperatures.				●
	1.16 Construct all new County park buildings and park building remodels to meet U.S. Green Building Council LEED Rated Silver, as directed in the Park Design Guidelines and Standards, and ensure that all new buildings on County parks properties conform with the County's Green Building Ordinances.				●
	1.17 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.				●
	1.18 Select buildings in existing parks to pursue LEED EB (Existing Building) certification for existing buildings on park properties by addressing whole-building cleaning and maintenance issues (including chemical use), recycling programs, exterior maintenance program, and systems upgrades; and implement certification.	●			
	CARBON SEQUESTRATION				
	1.19 Maintain and enhance park forest following the recommendations set forth in the urban forestry implementation actions below.				●
	1.20 Utilize an organic approach to soils management to improve organic matter content, which will in turn increase carbon sequestration in the soil. See "Healthy Soil" below.				●
	HEALTHY SOIL				
1.21 Perform soils analysis of existing multipurpose fields to assess drainage, compaction, and organic matter content. Test shall include recommendations to increase soil organic matter content to 5 percent using quality green-waste compost. If needed, implement recommendations to improve soil tilth, drainage, and carbon sequestering potential.		●		●	
1.22 Turf maintenance shall include grass recycling and topdressing turf with finely screened quality compost after aeration and/or 1-4 times per year to maintain a healthy, living soil profile.				●	

DPR's Energy and Water Efficiency Program seeks to further reduce energy and water consumption at County Parks by establishing specific reduction targets and a formal reporting system process to measure DPR's progress towards these targets.

Implementation Actions		Phasing				
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing	
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS	1.23 All landscaped areas shall receive a regular reapplication of organic mulch, preferably shredded tree/shrub trimmings, to a minimum depth of three inches (3”) for all exposed soil to minimize evapotranspiration, protect against compaction, and maintain overall soil health.				●	
	1.24 Plant and soil amendments for maintenance shall be specified as compost, compost tea, or other naturally occurring and non-synthetic fertilizers for all landscaped areas.				●	
	ADMINISTRATIVE PROTOCOLS					
	1.25 Establish and implement guidelines for operation, design, and development of existing and new park facilities that will meet the needs of the Lennox community while minimizing impact on the natural environment. The guidelines will address a variety of issues including, but not limited to, the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems designs which promote efficient use of water and energy. • Landscape design which uses drought tolerant and native plants where appropriate. • Use of construction material with recycled content. • Reduce generations of waster during construction and occupancy. • Use of construction material with reduced or no release of harmful gases. • Building design and operation which promotes 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 materials and building maintenance products. 				●	
	EXISTING INITIATIVES					
1.26 Implement the County’s Energy and Environmental Policy at Lennox Park, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy and Water Efficiency Program • Environmental Stewardship Program • Sustainable Design Program 				●		

The Environmental Stewardship Program aims to reduce DPR’s environmental footprint through a series of environmental impact actions.

The Sustainable Design Program provides integration of sustainable, green building technologies into the design of park improvement and refurbishment projects. The program seeks to extend the life cycle or useful life of buildings in County parks and maximize energy and water use efficiency.

STRATEGY 2: Strategically acquire vacant lots for greening throughout the community.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	<p>2.1 Reach out to owners of currently vacant lots identified in this plan for potential acquisition.</p>	●			
	<p>2.2 Conduct an annual review of vacancies along key corridors to identify potential new acquisitions, including vacant buildings and foreclosed properties.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prioritize search for high need areas of the community, including the northeastern portion. 				●
	<p>2.3 When pursuing new acquisitions and potential projects on vacant lots, focus on opportunities for fitness and exercise, nature experiences, and potential for places to gather and promote cultural identity.</p>				●



STRATEGY 3: Develop pocket parks, park nodes, and walking paths to support the community’s desire for exercise and fitness.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	3.1 Create new walking paths along existing streets and between key community destinations, as identified in this plan.		●		
	3.2 Install park nodes with exercise equipment along walking paths, popular pedestrian routes, and near schools.		●		
	3.3 Create mobile program unit to travel to provide programs, such as exercise classes, yoga, and dance, at small pocket parks and at “pop-up” events.		●		
	3.4 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) to implement pedestrian improvements and street tree planting throughout the community to encourage walking along sidewalks.	●			●



STRATEGY 4: Create a green corridor along Lennox Boulevard.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	<p>4.1 Improve entrance to Lennox Park from Lennox Boulevard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace chain-link fence with decorative fence. • Create gateway at western end of park. 	•			
	<p>4.2 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) to implement green street concepts along Lennox Boulevard, including new street tree plantings, sidewalk enhancements, and stormwater treatment basins.</p>	•			
	<p>4.3 Create a series of pocket parks along Lennox Boulevard to complement plans for greening the street.</p>		•		



STRATEGY 5: Use park nodes and *placitas* to enhance commercial vitality and cultural identity.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	5.1 Explore the possibility of utilizing a portion of the existing parking lot at Lennox Boulevard and Hawthorne Boulevard to create a community plaza.		●		
	5.2 Partner with business owners at the intersection of Inglewood Avenue and W. 111th Street to create a community plaza.			●	
	5.3 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) and private businesses, particularly restaurants, to create parklets along Hawthorne Boulevard.	●			●
	5.4 Partner with the Los Angeles County Arts Commission to create public art for plaza space that is representative of the cultural identity of the community and will encourage residents to gather in these spaces.	●			



IMPLEMENTATION

STRATEGY 6: Develop currently underutilized spaces for green space or recreational activities.

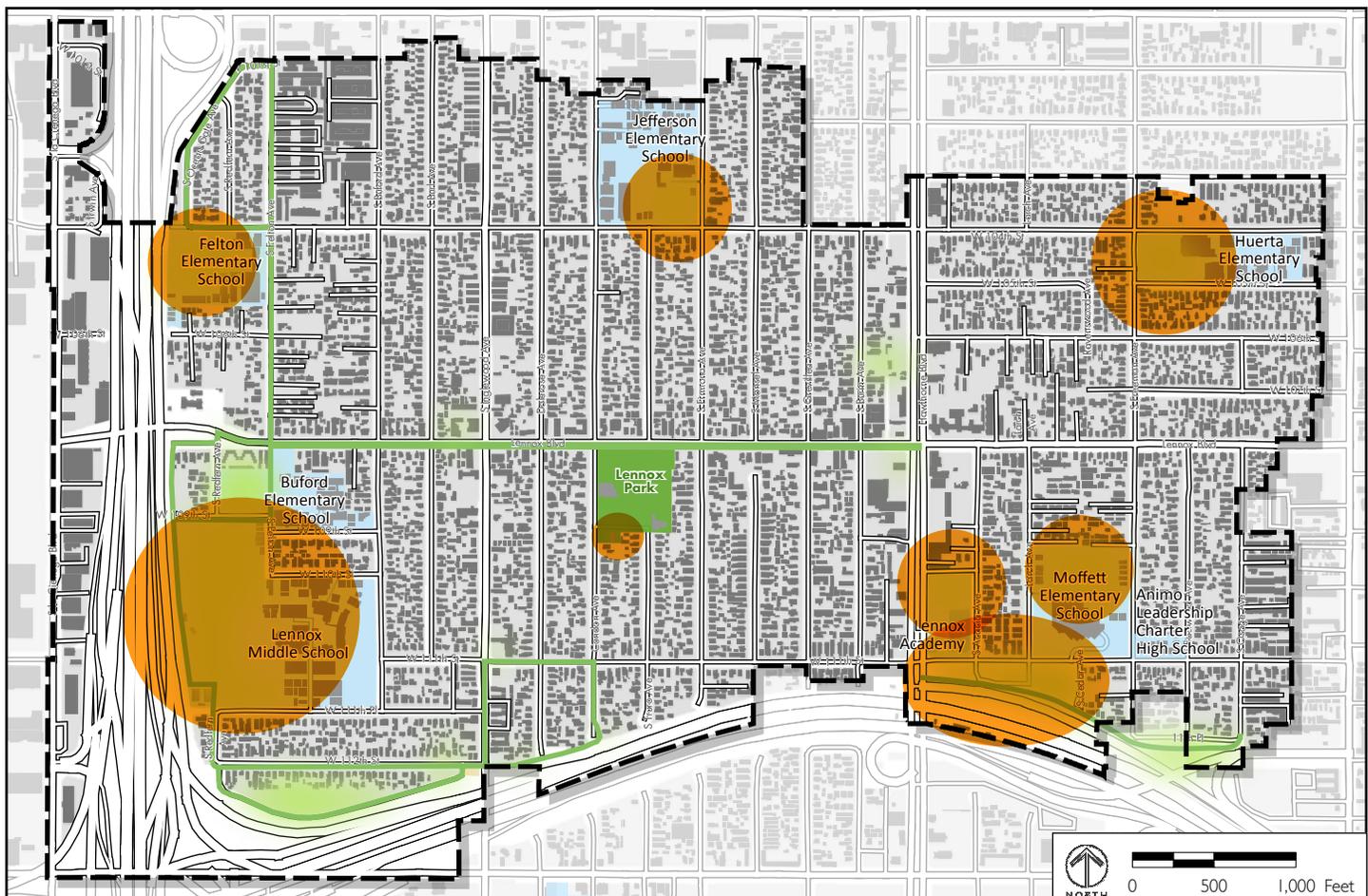
Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	6.1 Coordinate with Metro to create a “Pop-up Park” at the parking lot for Hawthorne Station on the Green Line.	●			
	6.2 Coordinate with Caltrans and the City of Hawthorne to develop the parcel adjacent to the Prairie Avenue exit off the 105 Freeway into a pocket park.			●	
	6.3 Coordinate with Caltrans to develop walking paths and exercise nodes along the 105 and 405 Freeways.		●		
	6.4 Partner with local businesses with large parking lots for “pop-up” recreational uses, accommodating public seating or gathering spaces, or greening through urban forestry or stormwater treatment project.	●			



IMPLEMENTATION

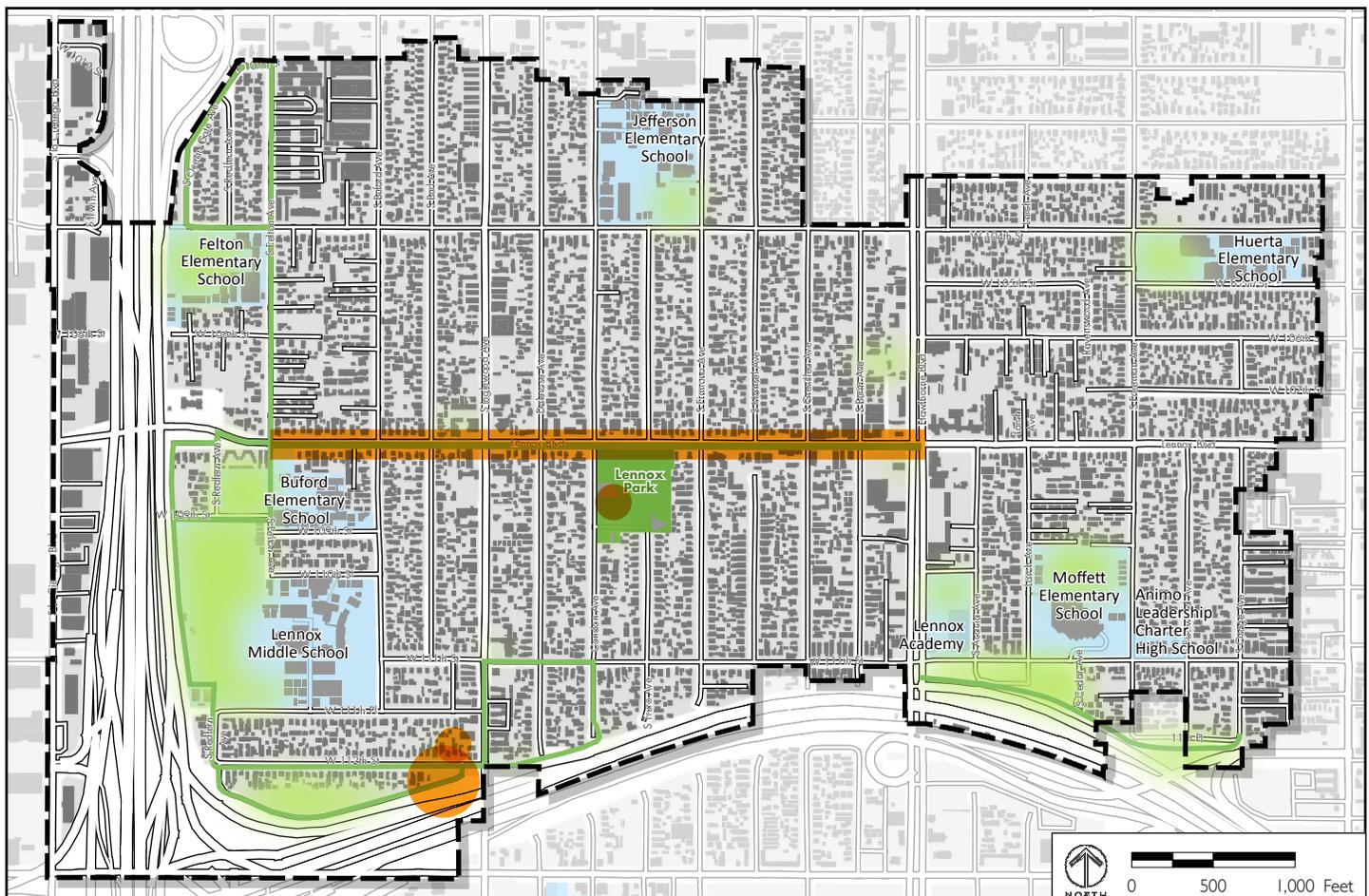
STRATEGY 7: Create new opportunities for children and youth.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	<p>7.1 Develop joint-use agreement(s) with Lennox Unified School District to create partnership green space at existing schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiate pilot project at Lennox Middle School (largest green space within existing schools) or Huerta Elementary School (located in the highest need area in the community). 	•			•
	<p>7.2 Partner with Lennox School District to expand arts-centered programs and develop new events, such as community performances or movie screenings.</p>	•			
	<p>7.3 Create new pocket parks with central play area or splash pad for younger children or more active area, such a skate park or bike skills park for older youth.</p>		•		
	<p>7.4 Create new tot lot, a play area for children under five, at Lennox Park or at new pocket park.</p>	•			
	<p>7.5 Utilize the Metro site parking lot for programming focusing on older youth such as temporary skate parks, concerts, or food truck events.</p>				•



STRATEGY 8: Provide nature spaces and opportunities for environmental education and peaceful places to relax.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
Lennox Park	8.1 Augment plantings near playground area at Lennox Park with native plant species that provide habitat.	●			
New Projects	8.2 Create a habitat and native plant garden for children as part of a new pocket park.			●	
	8.3 Integrate California native plants and informational signage into site designs of new parks.				●



STRATEGY 9: Maximize urban forestry potential and utilize green infrastructure.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
EXISTING PARKS	<p>9.1 Enhance and maintain forest in Lennox Park. Monitor and replace trees as needed.</p>	●			●
	<p>LENNOX PARK 5.64 Acres 66 Existing Trees 25% Canopy Cover TARGET CANOPY COVER: 25%</p> <p>Opportunities to enhance the existing park forest include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace palms and small trees planted along Condon Avenue, which provide limited shade for this section of the park, with larger shade trees. • Reduce the total number of or reduce length of parking spaces to create space for new trees to shade cars and reduce heat impact of asphalt. • Replace low shrubs in dry garden adjacent to the community center with drought-tolerant tree species. 	●	●		
NEW	<p>9.2 Ensure maximum of 15 percent urban forest cover at new County parks.</p>				●
	<p>9.3 Partner with other agencies and groups to enhance urban forest throughout the community.</p>				●
County DPW and From Lot to Spot	<p>Street Corridors</p> <p>Add street trees, particularly along the street corridors in high need areas (see Figure 5.10).</p> <p>Trees should be planted along Lennox Boulevard to create a green corridor to Lennox Park, to the east to connect to Hawthorne Boulevard and the new library and community center. Improving the pedestrian environment along this corridor will help to address residents’ desire for increased walking and exercise opportunities.</p> <p>Explore opportunities to bury utility lines to increase planting opportunities.</p> <p>Create a Community Forestry Group to advise on tree preferences along Lennox Boulevard to define the character of the neighborhood.</p>	●		●	●
Caltrans	<p>Freeway Buffers</p> <p>Create buffers from freeways by planting trees along remnant parcels and vacant lots adjacent to the 105 and 405 Freeways.</p> <p>Actively collaborate with Caltrans regarding projects within the Caltrans right-of-way.</p>		●		●

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
Private Property Owners	Vacant Lots (Orchards)	Building off the community’s desire for gardening, consider using larger vacant lots for community orchards.			●
		Recommended fruit trees include but are not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citrus varieties (blood orange, Meyer lemon, other) • <i>Persea americana ‘Gwen’</i> (Gwen avocado) • <i>Persea americana ‘Reed’</i> (Reed avocado) • <i>Prunus armeniaca ‘Blenheim’</i> (Blenheim apricot) • <i>Prunus persica ‘Lovell’</i> (Lovell peach) • <i>Punica granatum ‘Wonderful’</i> (wonderful pomegranate) • <i>Macadamia ‘Beaumont’</i> (Beaumont Macadamia) 			
	Residential Yards	Educate residents about benefits of tree planting and offer tools to encourage and inspire residential projects, including through community involvement in urban forest projects.			●
		Encourage development of programs for utility companies to provide shade trees to home owners to increase community forest canopy and reduce residential energy use (The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (HR2454) appropriated funds from the US Department of Energy to local utility companies for strategic tree planting).			●
		Encourage the use of Preferred Tree List in Appendix E.			●

STRATEGY 10: Ensure that existing and potential future parks and green spaces are safe and healthy spaces.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
	10.1 Expand the Parks After Dark program into Lennox Park.		●		
NEW PARKS	10.2 Contract with the Parks Bureau of the Sheriff’s Department to conduct regular walking patrols through new parks that are located outside of crowded areas.				●
	10.3 Install facilities that are attractive to large groups at new parks that are located outside of high pedestrian traffic and high visibility areas.		●		
	10.4 For new parks located within 500 feet of freeways, utilize the best possible technologies and strategies for reducing emissions and noise exposure, including increased tree planting and sound walls.		●		

STRATEGY 11: Continue dialogue with community about park needs and opportunities to be involved in park administration.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	11.1 Develop a suggestion and/or complaint system at local parks, such as a drop-box for community feedback. Ensure that questions and concerns receive a follow-up call in a timely manner. Invest in additional “relationship building” training for park staff and Parks Bureau deputies.	•			
	11.2 Create a position for an on-site “Lennox Park Ranger” for Lennox Park to serve as community liaison between Department of Parks Recreation (DPR) and community members who want to participate in park events and volunteer with the department.	•			

STRATEGY 12: Support initiatives that increase access to parks, recreational facilities, and regional destinations.

Implementation Actions		Phasing			
		Short	Medium	Long	Ongoing
RECREATION ACTIONS	12.1 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) to ensure that The Link shuttle provides service to new parks developed in Lennox.				•
	12.2 Partner with Department of Public Works (DPW) to create Beach Bus service during summer months.	•			
	12.3 Create shuttle program to regional recreational destinations, such as the Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area and the Santa Monica Mountains.		•		

PARTNERSHIP

Partnering with other agencies, local non-profit groups, and individuals is key to improving parks and recreation in Lennox. Most of the identified potential parkland opportunity sites are managed by other agencies or privately-owned, requiring collaboration to move forward. Furthermore, one of the best strategies for building support for a green space and keeping it safe is to have community support. Community-based partnerships build momentum for a greening project and help community members have greater ownership over a space.

PUBLIC AGENCIES

COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Much of the community feedback received during the planning process included a desire for more streetscape and pedestrian improvements. Although these actions are outside of DPR's typical jurisdiction, they can help to improve park access and public perception of the overall greening of the community and should be considered via partnership with County Department of Public Works (DPW).

COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION

Los Angeles County Arts Commission helped to create the mural at Lennox Park. Partnership with the Arts Commission could be beneficial in developing new plaza areas as well as creating new arts programs or events.

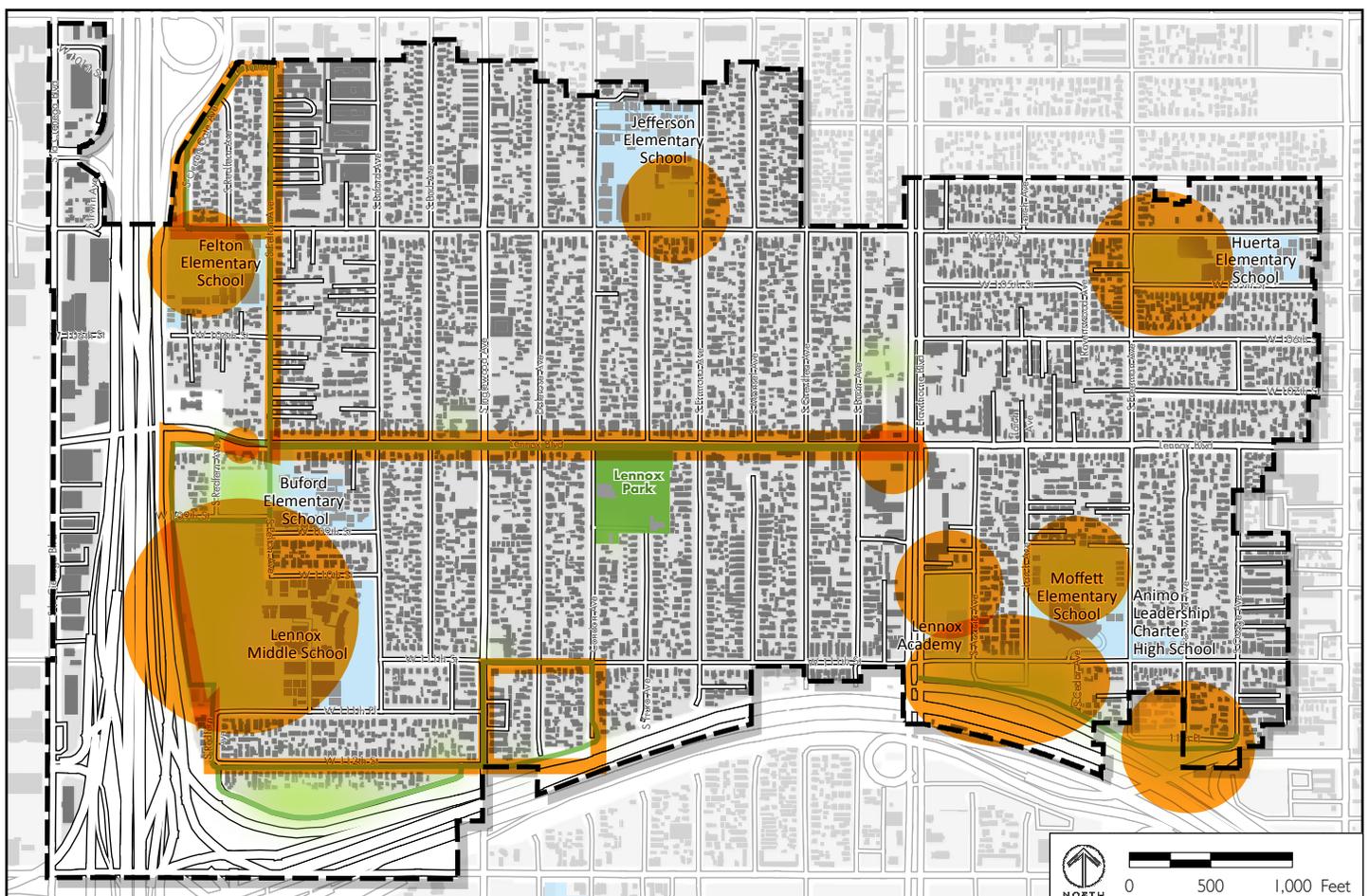
SCHOOLS

Joint use at public schools in Lennox would significantly increase overall public parkland in the community. Currently there are no joint use agreements between DPR and Lennox School District. Creating a relationship with the school district and offering potential facility improvements would be key to expanding the park network onto school campuses.

LOS ANGELES METRO AND CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (CALTRANS)

In addition, a lease agreement with Caltrans and Metro would enable the development of the parks and trails properties along the freeways and the "Pop-up Park" at the Metro parking lot. DPR has experience working with public agencies through lease agreements to develop recreation amenities on their property. These projects could potentially be beneficial to Caltrans and Metro who would receive infrastructure improvements to their properties. Additionally the development of the "Pop-up Park" at the Metro parking lot is in line with Metro's vision for enhanced pedestrian amenities near existing transit lines.

FIGURE 6.1 PARTNERSHIP WITH PUBLIC AGENCIES



IMPLEMENTATION

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT YOUTH ACTIVITY LEAGUE (YAL)

Currently the County Sheriff's Youth Activity League (YAL) does not operate at Lennox Park. However, these programs are popular in other areas and could potentially be expanded into Lennox through partnership with the Sheriff's department.

ADJACENT CITIES

Some of the sites identified in the plan are located at community boundaries, which would require partnering with neighboring communities, including Hawthorne and Inglewood. These facilities could be resources for residents from both communities.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Partnership agreements with community-based organizations are another tool for development. The Lennox Community Garden was constructed through partnership with From Lot to Spot and Caltrans. The garden fulfilled a need that the community identified, and the group continues to be active in improving the environmental quality of their neighborhood.

Partnership with From Lot to Spot or other green space advocacy groups would broaden the range of green space opportunities, including sites located on the interior of blocks,

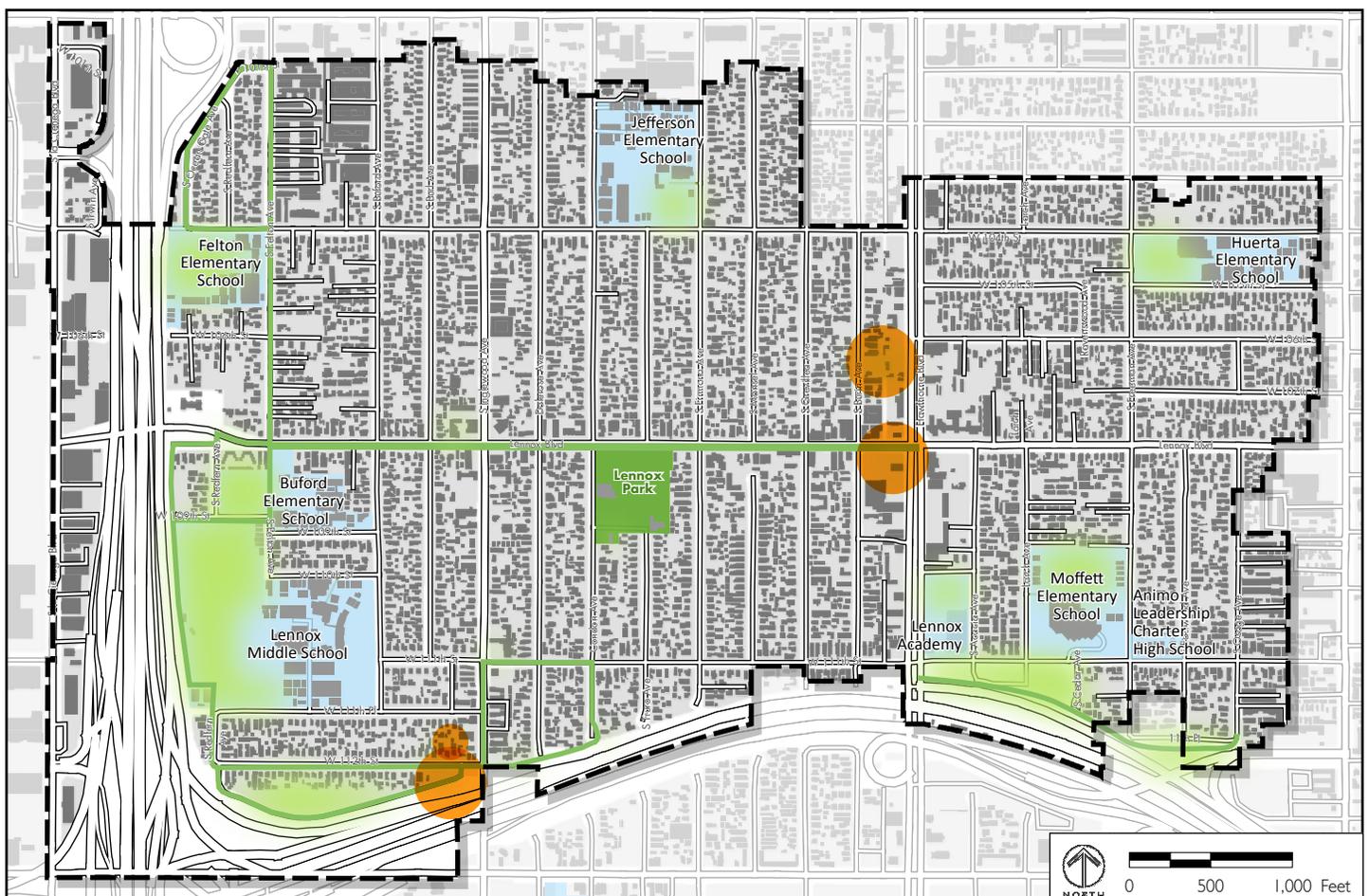
and ensure that there is community investment. This would be especially important in developing sites located away from central activity zones where it would be important for safety to have "eyes on the park."

A number of community-based organizations have entered into partnerships with public agencies to develop park and greening projects in the Los Angeles area.

Potential community partners for projects in Lennox include (but are not limited to):

- From Lot to Spot
- St. Margaret's Center
- Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust
- Social Justice Learning Institute
- Los Angeles Parks Foundation
- Los Angeles Community Garden Council
- Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority
- Restore Neighborhoods LA
- Trust for Public Land
- Los Angeles Bicycle Coalition
- Youth Build
- Asian Pacific Islander Obesity Prevention Alliance (APIOPA)
- T.H.E. Clinic

FIGURE 6.2 PARTNERSHIP WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PRIVATE OWNERS



PRIVATE OWNERS AND LOCAL BUSINESSES

Some of the identified potential parkland opportunities require partnering with local businesses or land owners to utilize a portion of their land. There are numerous parking lots in Lennox where a portion of the site could be dedicated to public plaza use. In particular, the parking lot near the intersection of Lennox Boulevard and Hawthorne Boulevard has significant potential to be a valuable gathering plaza for the community.

In other communities in Los Angeles County, DPW is partnering with local businesses to create parklets in front of their properties. Businesses along Hawthorne Boulevard, particularly those that serve food, would potentially benefit from parklet development. These spaces would provide new nodes for gathering, or exercise if fitness equipment is integrated into the design, as is found in other parklets in Los Angeles.

FUNDING SOURCES

There are consistent sources of funding for developing new parks and renovating existing parks. However, this funding is typically in short supply in relation to the need. While funds from California's Proposition 84 have facilitated new parks over the past several years, these funds have largely been expended.

The following sources of parks construction funds are divided into traditional funding sources, financing and other revenue-raising mechanisms, partnerships and other creative solutions, and grants. It may take more than one of these sources to build or renovate a park. Because there are many grants available that may apply to parks in Los Angeles County, the bulk of this section describes those grants.

CONVENTIONAL FUNDING SOURCES

The primary traditional sources of parks funding are the County's General Fund and developer dedication of land or in-lieu fees.

QUIMBY ACT FEES

Since the passage of the 1975 Quimby Act,¹ cities and counties have been authorized to pass ordinances requiring that developers set aside land, donate conservation easements, or pay fees for parks. Revenues generated through the Quimby Act cannot be used for the operation and maintenance of park facilities.² A 1982 amendment (AB 1600) requires agencies to clearly show a reasonable relationship between the public need for the recreation facility or park land, and the type of development project upon which the fee is imposed. Cities and counties with a high ratio of park space to inhabitants can set a standard of up to 5 acres per thousand persons for new development. Cities with a lower ratio can only require the provision of up to 3 acres of park space per thousand people.

1 [California Government Code §66477](#)

2 [Westrup, Laura, 2002, Quimby Act 101: An Abbreviated Overview, Sacramento: California Department of Parks and Recreation. \(<http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/795/files/quimby101.pdf>\).](#)

In Los Angeles County, in order to determine the local park space obligation for a subdivision, a formula is used which considers the number of dwelling units in the subdivision, the average household size by Park Planning Area (PPA) (which differs for single family, multifamily, mobile home developments, and by PPA), and the adopted ratio of 3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, per the Quimby Act. However, it should be noted that in accordance with the County's General Plan parkland dedication standards, as a condition of zone change approval, General Plan amendment, Specific Plan approval, or Development Agreement, the County may require a subdivider to provide 4 acres of local parkland per 1,000 residents in unincorporated areas, and 6 acres of regional parkland per 1,000 residents in the county as a whole.³

It should also be noted that Lennox has very limited Quimby funding because there have been very few new residential subdivisions in the community.

GENERAL FUND

The County's General Fund is primarily comprised of revenues from property taxes, and a portion is allocated annually to parks to address existing needs. In 2013-2014, recreation and cultural functions cost \$722 million, or 3 percent of Los Angeles County's budget, with parks and recreation receiving \$112 million.⁴

FINANCING AND REVENUE MECHANISMS

To raise new sources of revenue, DPR can consider various mechanisms. These include relying on private development to finance parks, privatizing parks services, or developing parks services that charge a fee to users.⁵

BONDS AND LEVIES

Taxpayer-approved measures to issue a bond or levy a tax are commonly used financing tools, but they require significant political support. Proposition A, approved in 1992, provided \$52 million per year through a tax levy of an average of \$13 per year per homeowner in the County to fund parks. Proposition K, passed in 1996, provides \$28 million per year and will expire in 2019. A new bond or tax levy would need to be approved in order to continue this source of funding for parks in the County.

LEASE FINANCING

Lease-purchase agreements allow an agency to lease a facility while purchasing it in order to obtain a facility with a smaller investment up front. Cities have used the sale of Certificates of Participation to finance park improvements and the purchase of open space. Lease-purchase financing does not require voter approval.⁶

3 [Draft 2035 General Plan, Policy P/R 3.1.](#)

4 <http://ceo.lacounty.gov/pdf/budget/2013/2012-13%20Recommended%20Budget%20Charts.pdf>

5 <http://www.pps.org/reference/financeparks1/>

6 <http://ceres.ca.gov/planning/financing/chap6.html>

RAISING REVENUES

There are several ways to raise revenues by using existing parks infrastructure. Some strategies tend to be controversial, such as privatizing or outsourcing services, while others are more common, including soliciting business sponsorships of facilities or events. Charging a fee to use facilities is another controversial source of revenue. However, many parks and recreation departments already do this with some services, such as swimming pool use. The most profitable fee-for-service facilities include golf courses, tennis courts, and event facilities.⁷ To reduce inequitable access to parks facilities, many parks departments will provide subsidies for low-income users. Another option is to charge voluntary annual fees, allowing residents to choose whether to donate or fill out a form in order to receive a membership card.

GRANTS

Grants are available for parks and parks-related construction. In addition to grants intended to build parks, specialized grants that may apply to various Los Angeles County Parks include environmental, trails, community development, waterways, urban forestry ,or landscaping funds. The grants described below are organized by these categories. Grants may require a local match in either funds or volunteer labor.

PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

- **EXCESS FUNDS GRANT PROGRAM.** These grants were established through the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 and are intended to provide funding for “high priority” parks and recreation projects in Los Angeles County. Competitive grants can be received for projects that include urban tree planting, restoration of natural land, and at-risk youth recreation, among others.⁸
- **CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS FOUNDATION PARK ENRICHMENT GRANTS.** These grants are small, suitable for programming or small repair/restoration projects. Only State Parks are eligible.⁹
- **LISC/NFL FOUNDATION GRASSROOTS PROGRAM.** Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) and the National Football League (NFL) provide grants to restore or build football fields as gathering places and recreational facilities to support the development of young people and their parents, particularly in poorer communities.¹⁰

- **LISC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM.** The Los Angeles branch of LISC has a Youth Development Recreation component of their Health & Environment program, listing recreation facilities in addition to football fields.¹¹
- **NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RIVERS, TRAILS, AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.** This provides technical assistance only, offering a National Park Service employee to help recipients organize, strategize, build capacity and public participation, and implement a conservation or recreation project. Examples include parks and trails, conservation and access improvements to rivers and natural areas, and creation of recreation opportunities through locally led partnerships.¹²
- **US FOREST SERVICE BALTIMORE RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP.** The US Forest Service (USFS) recently implemented a unique commitment between the USFS and the City of Baltimore to foster partnered attention on the sustainability and social-ecological restoration of its inner-city neighborhoods. While this agreement currently exists only in Baltimore, the County of Los Angeles could explore the innovative partnerships the USFS might be open to in order to support Los Angeles’ disadvantaged neighborhoods.¹³
- **URBAN PARK AND RECREATION RECOVERY (UPARR) PROGRAM.** The federal UPARR program was designed to offer matching grants and technical assistance for rehabilitation to economically distressed urban communities. However, UPARR has not been funded since 2002.¹⁴
- **CORPORATE GRANTS.** Many small-scale grants and sponsorships are available to support the development and revitalization of parks and recreation. Some of these are through established corporate giving programs such as PowerBar’s Direct Impact on Rivers and Trails program, which has provided funds up to \$5,000 to create, maintain, improve, or restore access to valued recreational areas. While smaller companies are less likely to have established programs, local businesses often designate funds for donation to their community and can be tapped for sponsorships of local projects that support the community.¹⁵

7 <https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/ccpe-localparks-localfinancingvol2-textonly.pdf>

8 http://file.lacounty.gov/dpr/cms1_196810.pdf

9 <http://www.calparks.org/whatwedo/grants/park-enrichment.html>

10 http://www.lisc.org/docs/resources/ydr/2014_NFL_Grassroots_Program_Description.pdf

11 http://www.lisc.org/los_angeles/programs/health_&_environment.php

12 <http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

13 <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/prc/home/?cid=stelprd3804156&width=full#Baltimore Restoration Partnership>

14 <http://www.nps.gov/uparr/>

15 <http://www.americantrails.org/resources/funding/DIRTfund.html>

ENVIRONMENTAL

- **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION BOARD.** The Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) provides public access funding and can enter into cooperative project agreements with local agencies or nonprofit organizations for the development of facilities for “public access for hunting, fishing, or other wildlife-oriented recreation,” such as wildlife viewing and bird watching. The WCB may fund the construction of project elements such as trails and interpretive facilities. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis.¹⁶
- **URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP.** This partnership between federal agencies and nonprofit organizations is intended to improve water systems and promote their economic, environmental and social benefits. The Urban Waters small grants give \$40-60k to support activities that improve water quality while supporting community revitalization and other local priorities. The Los Angeles River Watershed is one of the designated Urban Waters locations. Both Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) and the UCLA Institute of the Environment and Sustainability received grants for education and engagement in the 2013-2014 funding round.¹⁷
- **HABITAT CONSERVATION FUND.** This State fund provides support for nature interpretation programs, protection of plant and animal species, and acquisition and development of wildlife corridors and trails. These funds require a 50 percent match.¹⁸
- **FEDERAL LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND (LWCF).** This fund can be used by cities and counties to reimburse development costs for outdoor recreation areas and facilities. These are matching funds and will cover up to 50 percent of project costs.¹⁹
- **TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL REVOLVING LOAN FUND.** The Department of Toxic Substances Control Revolving Loan Fund provides subgrants or loans for the redevelopment of brownfields to municipalities, nonprofits, or developers who are bona fide purchasers, innocent land owners, or contiguous property owners.²⁰

- **CA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD ORPHAN SITE CLEANUP FUND (OSCF) PROGRAM.** The OSCF program provides grants to clean vacant sites in urban areas contaminated by a petroleum underground storage tank. Such abandoned sites, upon cleanup, might become available for recreation.²¹
- **CA WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD PETROLEUM UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK CLEANUP FUND.** This State fund reimburses the cost of remediation for underground petroleum storage tanks. Such abandoned sites, upon cleanup, might become available for recreation.²²
- **EPA BROWNFIELDS CLEANUP GRANTS.** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides funds to clean and reuse former toxic and industrial sites. California recipients have included the City of Brea, which received \$200,000 to clean a former railroad row, the City of Los Angeles, which received \$200,000 to clean a former industrial site in South Los Angeles for use as a natural wetlands park, and Nevada City, which received \$600,000 for three mine cleanup grants to incorporate the areas into a trail system.²³
- **EPA FINANCIAL TOOLS AND FUNDING SOURCES.** The EPA has a web page where it announces information about existing and upcoming financial tools and funding.²⁴
- **US EPA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.** The EPA Environmental Justice program is available to fund partnerships and programs. While these grants are not used for construction or implementation of projects, partnerships and programs are a key aspect of developing and operating successful parks and recreation facilities.²⁵
- **CLEANUP AND ABATEMENT ACCOUNT.** These State funds support cleanup or abatement of a condition of pollution when there are no viable responsible parties available to undertake the work.²⁶
- **CALIFORNIA RIPARIAN HABITAT CONSERVATION PROGRAM.** This State program of the Wildlife Conservation Program provides grants for protecting, restoring, and enhancing riparian habitat systems.²⁷

16 <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/>

17 <http://www.urbanwaters.gov/>

18 http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=21361

19 <http://www.nps.gov/lwcf/index.htm>

20 https://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Brownfields/Loans_Grants.cfm

21 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/oscf.shtml

22 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ustcf/

23 http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/cleanup_grants.htm

24 <http://www2.epa.gov/envirofinance/tools>

25 <http://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/index.html>

26 http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/caa/

27 <http://rlch.org/funding/california-riparian-habitat-conservation-program>

- **HABITAT ENHANCEMENT AND RESTORATION PROGRAM.** This California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) program provides funds for restoring and enhancing fish and wildlife resources. Eligible projects include native fisheries restoration; restoration of wetlands; and restoration of coastal, tidal, or fresh water habitat. Other native habitat restoration projects include coastal scrub oak, grasslands, and threatened and endangered species habitats, in-stream restoration projects, including removal of fish passage barriers and other obstructions, and other projects that improve the quality of native habitat throughout the State.²⁸

HEALTH

- **PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES BLOCK GRANT.** These are federal funds available for State use. The California Department of Public Health’s Project Leaders Encouraging Activity and Nutrition (LEAN), has used this funding.²⁹
- **NATIONAL NATURE SACRED AWARDS PROGRAM.** This program is unique in that it supports projects that combine the creation of tranquil, restorative spaces in urban environments with rigorous study of their impact on users’ well-being and resilience. Recent research has shown that careful design and maintenance of urban greening facilities can also provide human health and well-being benefits, such as stress recovery, improved mental health, faster healing, and improved community situations. This program is designed to both facilitate such facilities and support further research into their impacts.³⁰

TRAILS

- **FEDERAL RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM.** These federal transportation funds are administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The 2013 California apportionment was over \$5.7 million. The funds are intended to benefit recreation, including hiking, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel driving, or using other off-road motorized vehicles. The program requires at least a 12 percent local match and encourages applicants to develop cooperative agreements with qualified youth conservation or service corps to perform trail construction and maintenance.³¹
- **NATIONAL TRAILS FUND.** The American Hiking Society provides micro-grants to trail crews to support hiking trails. Grants are available in amounts between \$500 and \$5,000 to members of the American Hiking Society’s

Alliance of Hiking Organizations for projects that have hikers as the primary constituency; are seeking to secure trail lands; and build and maintain trails resulting in visible and substantial ease of access, improved hiker safety, or avoidance of environmental damage. Higher preference is given to projects with volunteer labor.³²

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- **NEIGHBORHOOD STABILIZATION PROGRAM.** These federal funds are intended to stabilize communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. The Housing and Community Investment Department of the City of Los Angeles (HCIDLA) was awarded \$13.7 million and is using these funds to acquire, rehabilitate, and resell foreclosed homes. City Recreation and Parks partnered with the Housing Department to establish neighborhood parks where the rehabilitation of a foreclosed possible is not reasonable (see Consolidated Plan). As of 2014, Quarter 2, \$10.1 million of the funds had been expended.³³
- **PROPOSITION 1C. HOUSING RELATED PARKS PROGRAM.** The Housing Related Parks Program is funded by Proposition 1C, the \$2.85 billion affordable housing bond component of California’s Strategic Growth Plan, which invests \$2.85 billion for housing and infrastructure programs to produce an estimated 118,000 housing units, 2,350 homeless shelter spaces, and infrastructure projects that help infill housing development such as water, sewer, parks, and transportation improvements. Run by the California office of Housing and Community Development (HCD), the program offers housing-related park grants in urban, suburban, and rural areas, expected to result in over 52,000 housing units. As of June 2013, there was \$163.6 million left of \$200 million designated from Proposition 1C.³⁴
- **INFILL INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM.** The Infill Infrastructure Grant Program is administered by HCD and funded by Proposition 1C. Grants are for the development of public infrastructure projects that facilitate or support infill housing construction estimated to result in about 32,000 housing units. Projects could include water, sewer, and transportation improvements; traffic mitigation; brownfield cleanup; and up to an additional \$200 million for parks. As of June 2013, there was \$80 million left of \$850 million.³⁵

32 <http://www.americanhiking.org/national-trails-fund/>

33 http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs/neighborhoodspg

34 <http://www.bondaccountability.hcd.ca.gov/>

35 <http://www.hcd.ca.gov/fa/iig/>

28 <https://www.wcb.ca.gov/Programs/Habitat-Enhancement>

29 <http://www.cdc.gov/phhsblockgrant/index.htm>

30 <http://naturesacred.org/our-approach/overview/>

31 http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/

- **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT.** The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is a locally-administered federal program that addresses capital construction needs in low-to-moderate income neighborhoods. Parks and playground improvements are an allowed use of CDBG funds under Public Facilities & Improvements. Both the City and County of Los Angeles are granted annual entitlements.

The Community Development Commission runs the County program. According to the County's Consolidated Plan, Community Development and Housing Needs, the highest need reported by survey respondents total was for parks and recreational facilities.³⁶

WATER AND WATERWAYS

- **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF BOATING AND WATERWAYS.** The California Department of Boating and Waterways has grants available for recreational boating facilities with public access. Grants are restricted to qualifying public agencies to fund boat launching ramps, boarding floats, and associated parking areas, restrooms, and lighting.³⁷
- **FLOOD CORRIDOR PROGRAM.** The California Department of Water Resources' Flood Corridor Program is intended to protect and restore floodplains and preserve or enhance wildlife habitat and agriculture.³⁸
- **URBAN STREAMS RESTORATION PROGRAM.** This California Department of Water Resources program funds stream restoration projects that reduce flooding or erosion; restore, enhance, or protect the natural environment; and promote community involvement, education, and stewardship in urban streams.³⁹
- **PROPOSITION 1 WATER BOND.** This Statewide bond measure, passed in 2014 to fund investments in California's aging water infrastructure, includes \$1.89 billion for habitat and watershed programs. It also includes \$810 million for water reliability, including stormwater capture. It is not yet clear how these funds will be made available.⁴⁰

- **U.S. FOREST SERVICE OF CALIFORNIA ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION WITH POWER AND WATER UTILITIES INITIATIVE.** Half of all surface water in California originates from national forest watersheds, with downstream consumers realizing an estimated value of nearly \$10 billion every year. This partnership brings together beneficiaries of these watersheds to support ecological restoration and reduction of wildfire threat in critical headwaters and near key utility transmission lines. They also strive to maintain the biomass infrastructure needed to increase the pace and scale of restoration activities in California's forests.⁴¹
- **THE COASTAL AND ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM.** The California Coastal Conservancy is the lead agency for the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP, pronounced "kelp"), a program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that provides matching funds up to \$1 million to state and local governments to purchase threatened coastal and estuarine lands or obtain conservation easements. To be considered, the land must be important ecologically or possess other coastal conservation values, such as historic features, scenic views, or recreational opportunities. These matching funds require an equivalent amount of non-federal funds, and that the general public has appropriate access to the subject property. The funds cannot be used for development of active recreation facilities.⁴²

URBAN FORESTS/LANDSCAPING

- **CALFIRE URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY GRANTS.** CalFire provides several urban and community forestry grants to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG), ranging from \$200,000 to \$1.5 million. Each of these grants requires a 25 percent local match. The following CalFire grants all fall under this category of Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) grants.⁴³
- **CALFIRE GREEN TREES FOR THE GOLDEN STATE PROGRAM.** Grants are available for urban tree planting projects, including years of tree establishment care, with preference to communities identified as environmental justice communities using CalEnviroScreen 2.0. Preference is given to the planting of trees to optimize the multiple benefits of urban forests in environmental justice communities, with special attention given to GHG sequestration and avoided GHG emissions.⁴⁴

36 http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/comm_planning/communitydevelopment/programs

37 <http://www.dbw.ca.gov/Funding/>

38 <http://www.water.ca.gov/floodmgmt/fpo/sgb/fpcp/>

39 <http://www.water.ca.gov/urbanstreams/>

40 <http://www.acwa.com/spotlight/2014-water-bond>

41 <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/prc/home/?cid=stelprd3804156&width=full#California%20Ecological%20Restoration%20with%20Power%20and%20Water%20Utilities>

42 <http://coast.noaa.gov/czm/landconservation/?redirect=301ocm>

43 http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgmt/resource_mgmt_urbanforestry_grants.php

44 http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgmt/resource_mgmt_urbanforestry_grants.php

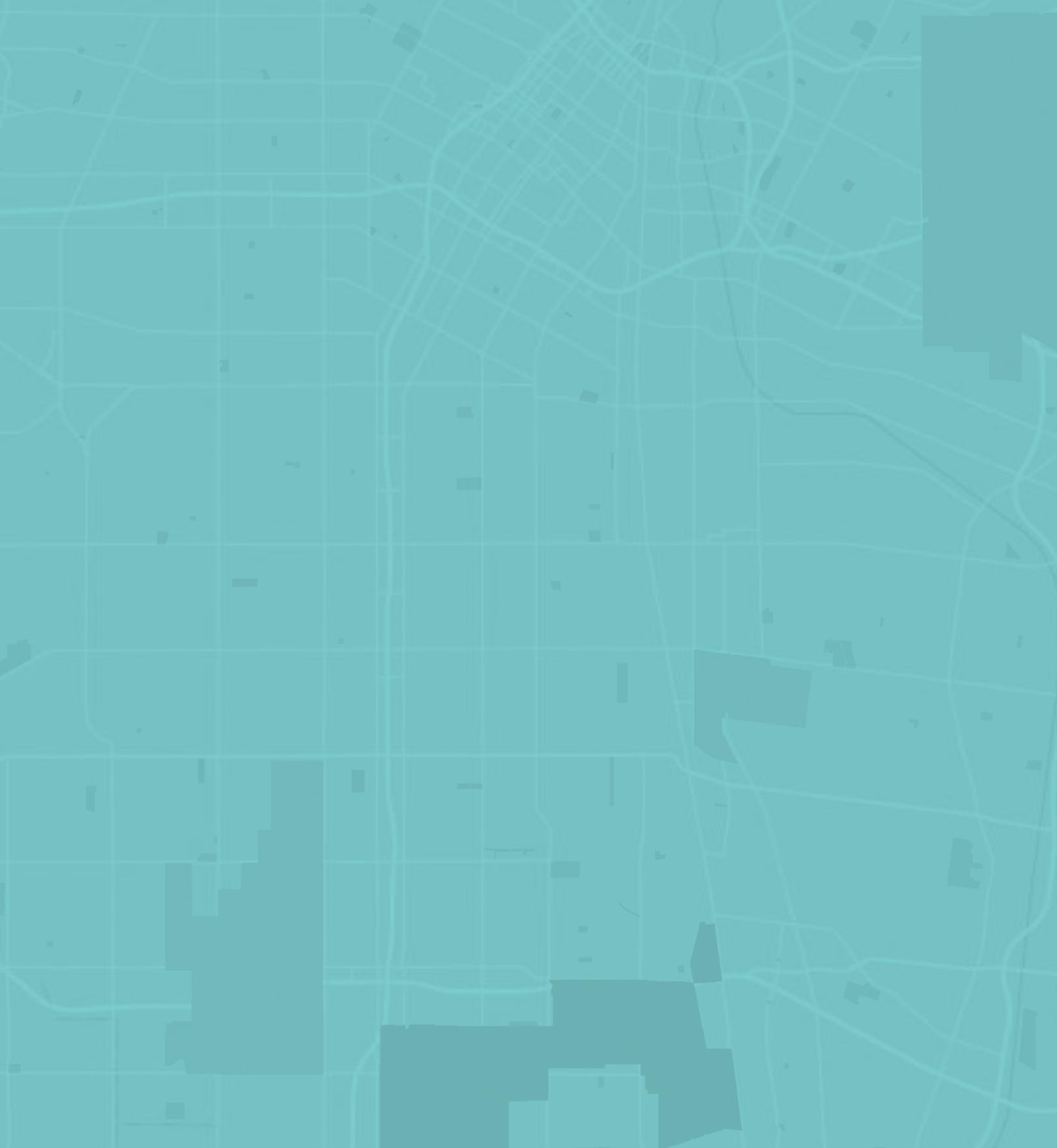
- **CALFIRE WOODS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD PROGRAM.** The woods in the neighborhood program offers funds ranging from \$200,000 to \$1.5 million to assist local entities with purchasing and improving unused, vacant urban neighborhood properties in environmental justice communities or to serve such communities for purposes consistent with the Urban Forestry Act. These projects must demonstrate how GHG emissions will be reduced.⁴⁵
- **CALFIRE GREEN INNOVATIONS GRANT PROGRAM.** The Green Innovations program offers grants to further AB 32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, by reducing GHG emissions and improving greening in urban areas. These projects should be unique and forward-thinking and not fit one of the other CalFire greening grants. Projects must show how GHG emissions will be reduced. Selection will be strongly focused on environmental justice communities.⁴⁶
- **U.S.D.A. FOREST SERVICE NATIONAL URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY CHALLENGE COST-SHARE PROGRAM.** This grant program of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council provides funding to help enhance urban forest stewardship, support new employment opportunities, and help build resilience in the face of a changing climate. Categories in 2014 included: making urban trees and forests more resilient to the impacts of natural disasters and the long-term impacts of climate change, green infrastructure jobs analysis, and utilizing green infrastructure to manage and mitigate stormwater to improve water quality.
- **CALIFORNIA WELLNESS FOUNDATION.** The California Wellness Foundation’s program includes a grantmaking portfolio focused on promoting healthy and safe neighborhoods, which include access to safe parks, open spaces, and recreational activities to improve fun opportunities and social cohesion. The target population for these grants is low-income communities of color.⁴⁷
- **CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION (CCF).** The CCF provides grants in a range of priority areas to serve low-income or underserved communities in Los Angeles County. While parks are not one of the priority areas, elements of parks and recreation projects may be eligible for funding in one of the areas such as arts and culture.⁴⁸

45 http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php

46 http://calfire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/resource_mgt_urbanforestry_grants.php

47 http://www.calwellness.org/grants_program/

48 <https://www.calfund.org/page.aspx?pid=742>



PLACEWORKS

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Preserving Open Space and the Values of a City

