CITY OF MONTEREY PARK

GROW MONTEREY PARK

PARK SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

GROW memories. GROW strong. GROW in-place. GROW community.



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GROW
Monterey Park
Parks System Master Plan





INTRODUCTION










MPK









OVERVIEW

Monterey Park is entering an exciting time with several new and revitalized open spaces and recreation amenities planned for development over the next few years.

The City of Monterey Park proudly presents its first comprehensive parks system master plan, named "GROW". The GROW Master Plan serves as a guiding document, directing the future design and development of the Monterey Park open space network to meet the recreational needs of residents for the next decade. The GROW Master Plan will also assist the City of Monterey Park with the strategic planning necessary for future resources; while at the same time positioning the City for anticipated growth in demand for green space and recreational opportunities. The City of Monterey Park Recreation & Community Services Department is committed to implementing the GROW Master Plan and ensuring that the Monterey Park community continues to enjoy outstanding recreation opportunities through diverse programs, events, facilities, and dedicated personnel.

The purpose of the GROW Master Plan is to provide clear and actionable recommendations and implementation strategies covering various facets of the Monterey Park open space system, such as short and long-term park planning, property acquisition, recreation facilities, maintenance, staffing, operations, and funding. The development of the GROW Master Plan involved an assessment and prioritization of recreational needs and opportunities through a data-equity and community-centered approach to planning and engagement.

The data-equity approach to planning, summarized in the "Context" section of the GROW Master Plan, involved a comprehensive and multidisciplinary study to understand the conditions of the Monterey Park open space network. Given the importance of community engagement, the findings from the public outreach are summarized and presented in the "Community" section of this Plan. The "Opportunities"section then presents an overview of the community vision, and the projects, programs, and policy opportunities that have been identified and prioritized as part of the existing conditions study and the community engagement findings. Finally, the GROW Master Plan outlines steps towards strategically implementing the community's vision for the future Monterey Park open space network.

In addition to serving as a roadmap for future open space projects and recreation programs in Monterey Park, the GROW Master Plan serves as a mechanism to establish a planning and policy framework for sustainably improving and expanding the larger open space network. The Parks Master Plan is a valuable tool for the City of Monterey Park Recreation & Community Services Department as well as other relevant government agencies to identify opportunities for future open space development, infrastructure investment, and recreational programming throughout the city.

CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Introduction

A framework of the Plan's purpose, scope, and function

Context

A profile of the Monterey Park open space network and its current planning conditions

Community

The community's knowledge and feedback captured as part of the community-led planning process

Opportunities

An overview of the Plan's open space and recreational opportunities considering existing constraints

Implementation

Recommendations and implementation strategies

Appendix

Additional information that supports the main document

WHO DOES THE GROW PLAN SERVE?

The City of Monterey Park GROW Plan adopts an equity-centered approach to ensure that its benefits reach a diverse array of target populations within the community. Embracing the principles of inclusivity and social justice, the Master Plan is designed to serve the existing residents of Monterey Park, with a keen focus on addressing social disparities and enhancing accessibility for historically marginalized and underserved groups.

Monterey Park, a city characterized by its dynamic and diverse population of approximately 61,000 residents, encompasses a rich tapestry of cultures, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds. The equity-centered approach recognizes the importance of understanding the unique needs of various demographic groups, including but not limited to low-income families, immigrants, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and youth.

For low-income families, the GROW Master Plan aims to create affordable and accessible recreational opportunities, ensuring that economic barriers do not hinder participation in vital community activities. Immigrant communities, often navigating the challenges of acculturation, will benefit from initiatives that promote cultural inclusivity, fostering a sense of belonging. Special considerations for seniors and individuals with disabilities involve the development of facilities and programs that are age-friendly and accessible, promoting health and well-being for all.

Youth, as the future of the Monterey Park community, are a central focus of the equity-centered approach. The GROW Master Plan endeavors to provide them with safe and enriching spaces, recreational programs, and educational opportunities that contribute to their holistic development. By identifying and addressing the unique needs of these target populations, the City of Monterey Park seeks to create a more equitable and inclusive park system that truly serves the diverse fabric of its community.

Engagement with community stakeholders is a key component of this equity-centered strategy. The GROW Master Plan strategically incorporated particular public outreach tools for inclusive community input, actively seeking perspectives from residents of different backgrounds, languages, and experiences. This participatory approach aimed to empower community members, giving them a voice in shaping the future of the park system and ensuring that their unique needs are considered in the decision making process. The findings from the public outreach is presented in the "Community" section of this Master Plan.

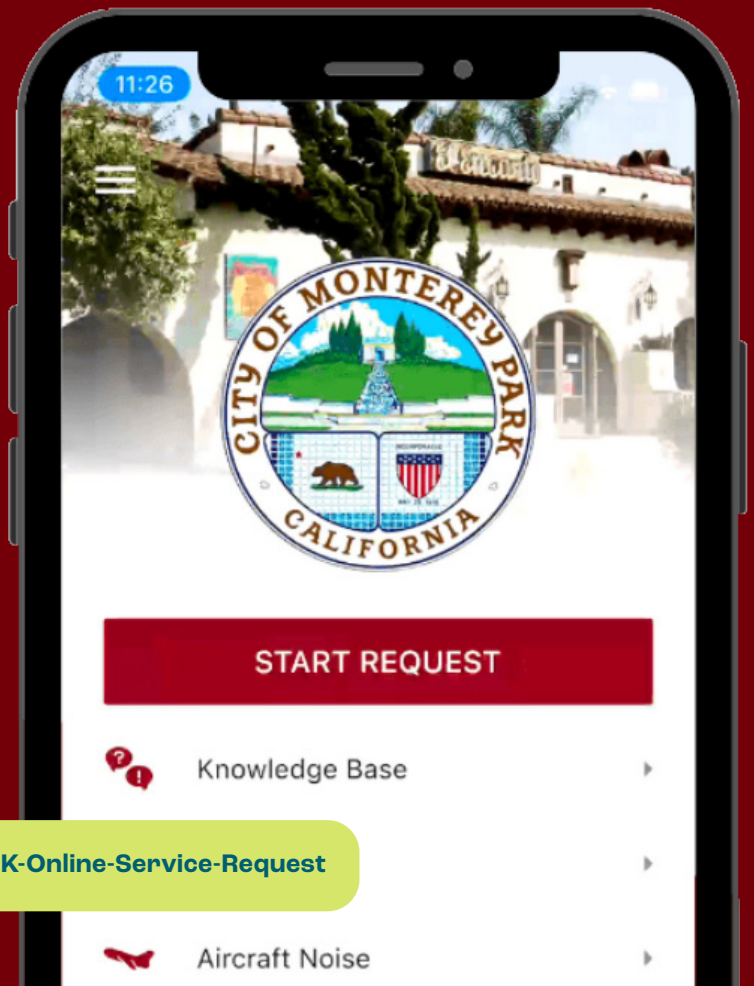
Ultimately, the GROW Master Plan is a testament to the City of Monterey Park's commitment to social equity, striving to create a park system that not only serves the immediate recreational needs of its residents but also contributes to the broader goals of inclusivity, diversity, and community well-being. By prioritizing the voices and experiences of all community members, the plan endeavors to foster a sense of belonging and shared ownership, making the benefits of the park system accessible to everyone, regardless of background or circumstance.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Download the GoMPK app & help report issues

Have you heard about the GoMPK app for your phone?

Now it is easier than ever to report neighborhood issues and contact the City of Monterey Park. Download the GoMPK app now to:

- **Access Information about the City**
- **Submit Service Requests**
- **Receive Notifications**
- **and more!**



Don't have a smartphone?

No problem!
You can use the

GoMPK website below:

montereypark.ca.gov/876/GoMPK-Online-Service-Request

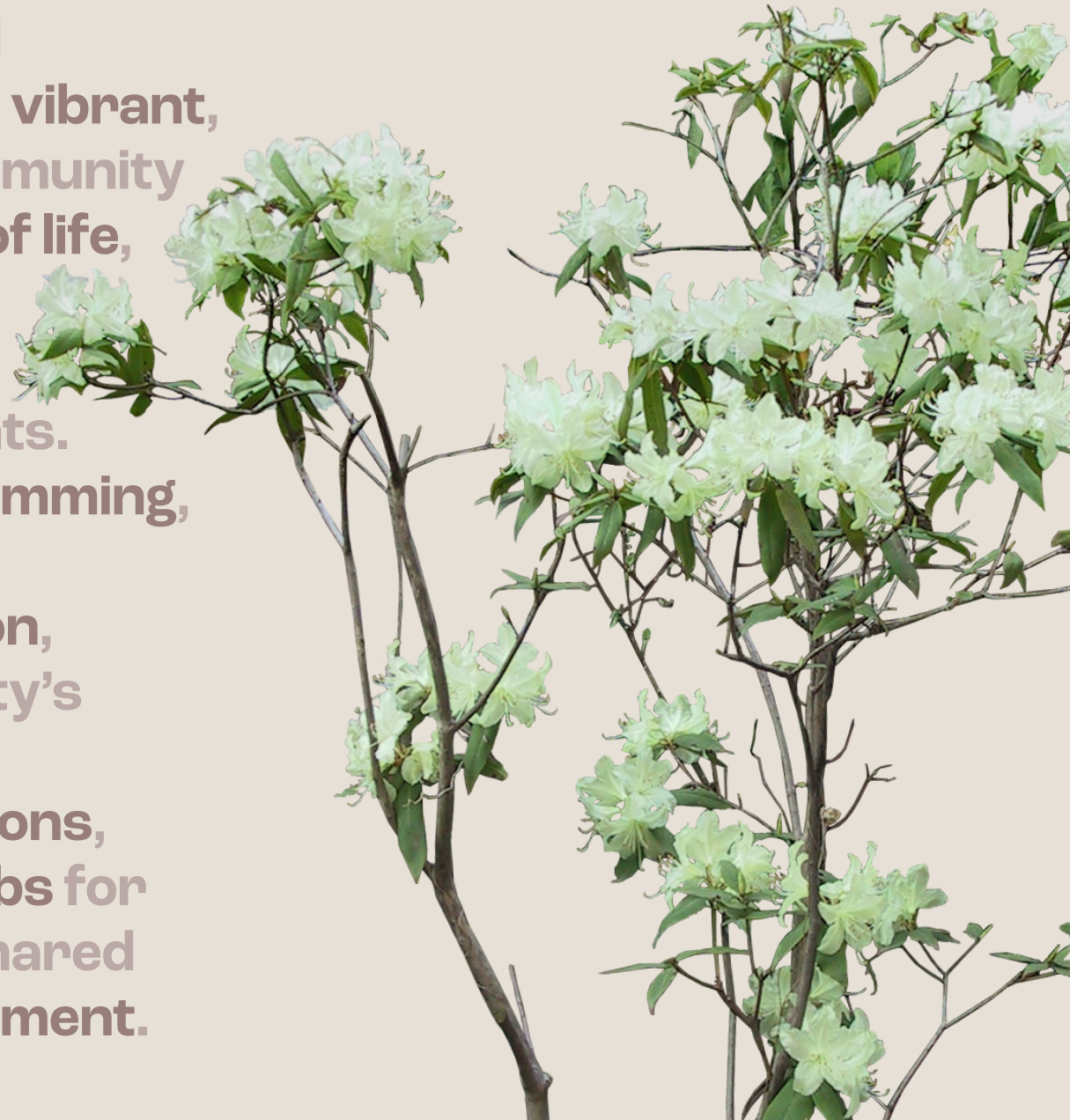
HOW WILL THIS PLAN BE IMPLEMENTED?

The GROW Master Plan is to be implemented incrementally over time as resources become available over a 10-year period, with the understanding that some larger or more complex ideas may require longer timelines to realize. The most publicly visible method of implementation is when the Master Plan is used to increase or consolidate land, programs, or services and support funding to develop new or expanded open spaces in Monterey Park. The Parks System Master Plan will provide a bridge between different administrations, ensuring that incremental development of open space remains consistent within the larger open space network in the city.



COMMUNITY VISION

Over the next decade, **Monterey Park**'s parks and open spaces will evolve into **vibrant**, **inclusive**, and **resilient** community spaces that enrich **quality of life**, foster **joy** and **belonging**, and support the **health** and **well-being** of all residents. Through intentional **programming**, thoughtful **maintenance**, and meaningful **participation**, our parks will reflect the city's **cultural richness**, nurture **intergenerational connections**, and serve as **welcoming hubs** for **learning**, **recreation**, and shared stewardship of the **environment**.





This vision statement reflects the collective voices of the Monterey Park community, shaped through feedback gathered across three phases of robust community engagement. It captures the aspirations, values, and priorities shared by residents, stakeholders, and park users, and serves as a guiding expression of what the community hopes the parks system will become over the next decade. Rooted in lived experiences and forward-looking ideas, this vision is meant to inspire and inform future investments, improvements, and programs that reflect the diverse needs of Monterey Park.

GROW MONTEREY PARK: GUIDING PLANNING PRINCIPLES

Upgrades
Enhance existing facilities before considering new park facilities

Health
Improve and expand the availability of healthy park and recreational activities

Safety
Improve safety inside and getting to parks

Equity
Increase park access to underserved communities

Sustainability
Plan and design parks for the health and safety of the natural environment

Culture
Enhance the cultural programs being offered and the spaces for them

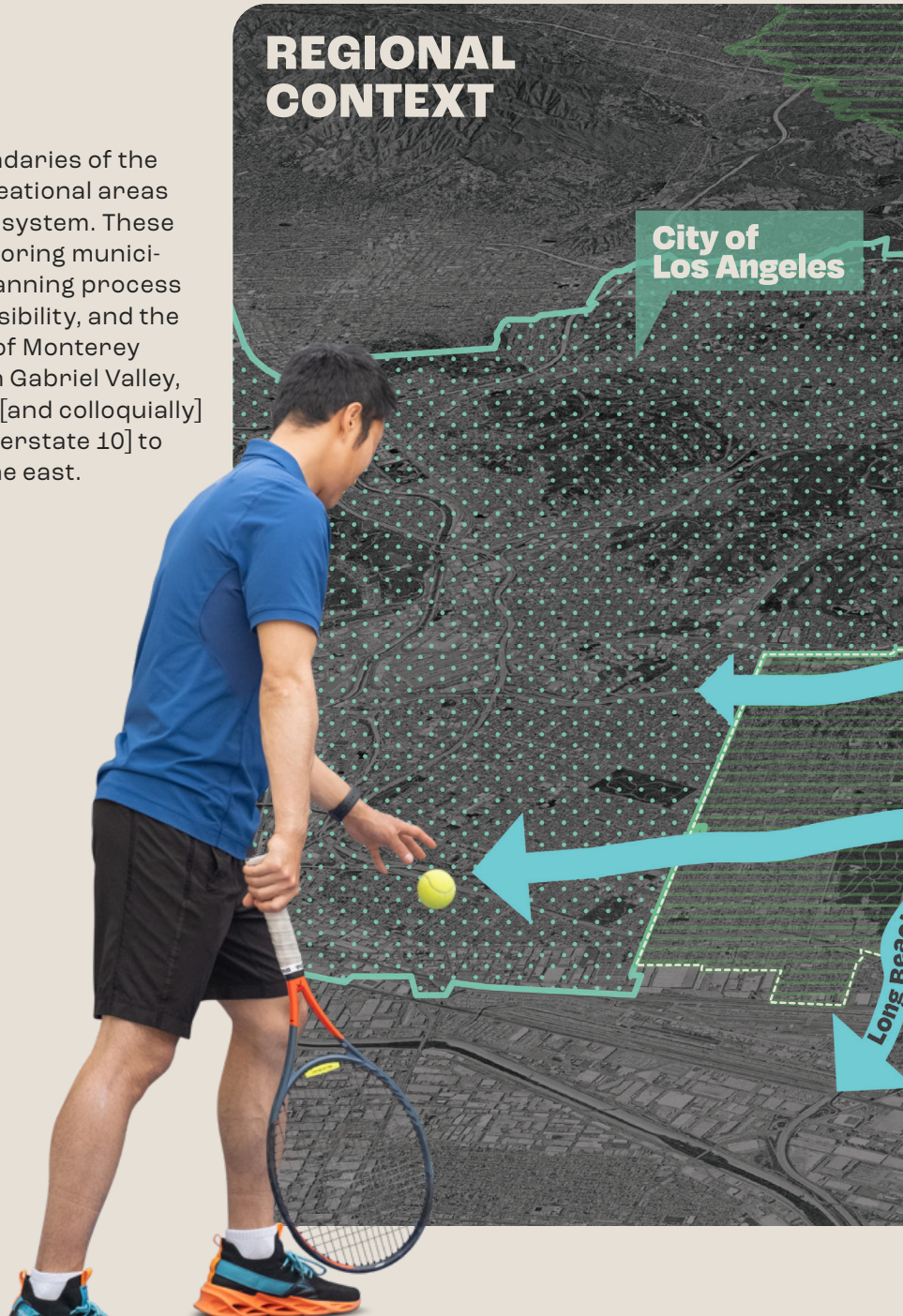
Quality
Use designs and materials that are low-maintenance but high in quality

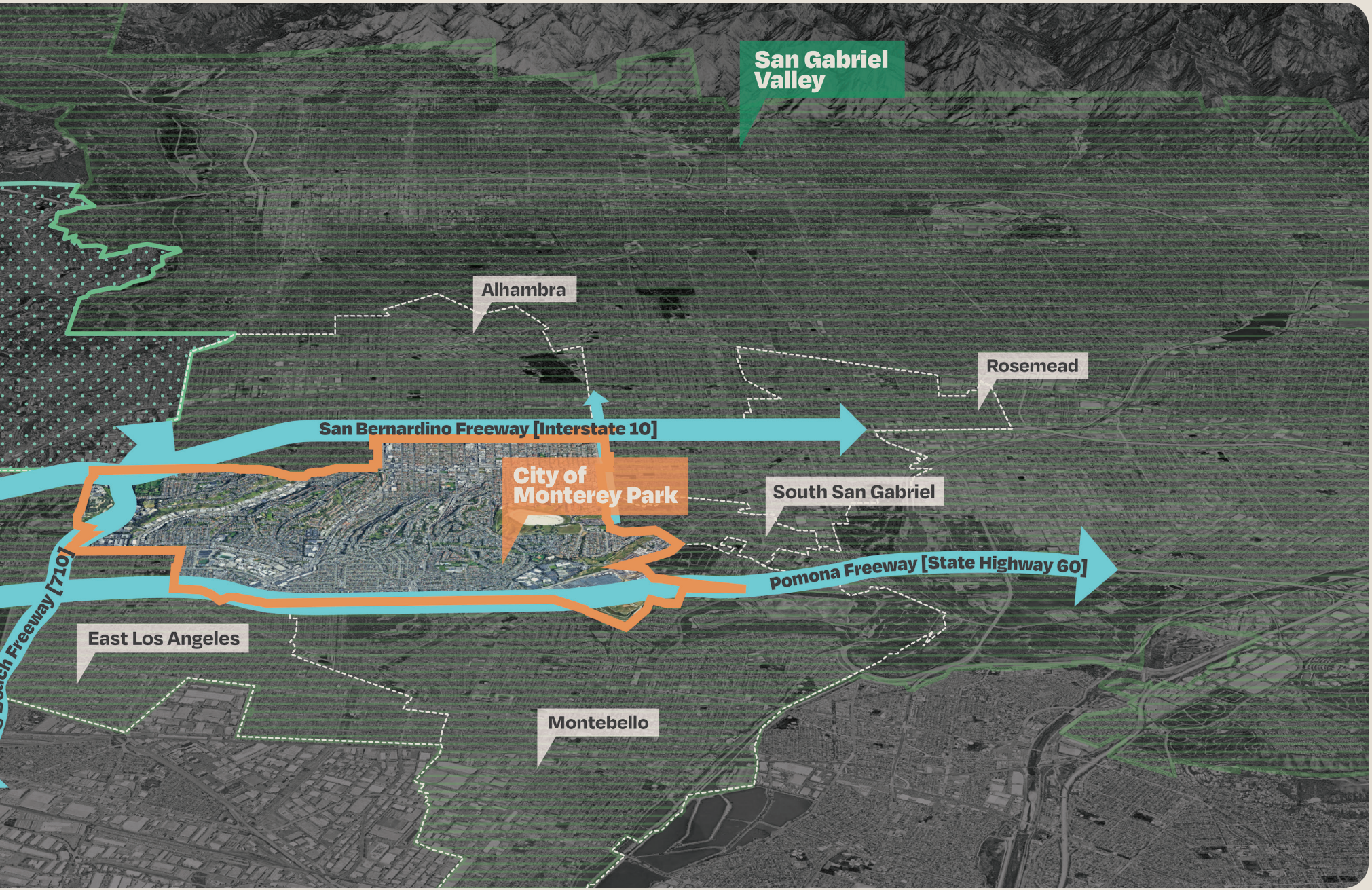
Education
Consider parks as a place to learn and teach about nature and history

(As prioritized by the Monterey Park community; Phase One)

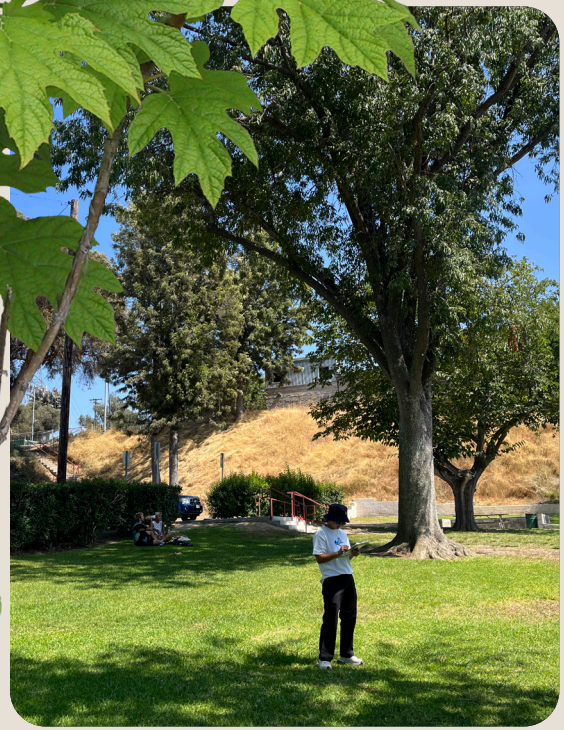
PROJECT BOUNDARIES

The scope of the GROW Master Plan is defined primarily within the municipal boundaries of the City of Monterey Park. However, it also considers adjacent open spaces and recreational areas that, while outside the city's jurisdiction, influence and enhance the overall parks system. These areas may include properties owned and managed by Los Angeles County, neighboring municipalities, or other public agencies. Incorporating these external spaces into the planning process ensures a cohesive and comprehensive approach to regional connectivity, accessibility, and the enrichment of recreational opportunities for Monterey Park residents. The City of Monterey Park itself is 7.73 square miles in size and is located at the western edge of the San Gabriel Valley, just seven miles east of the City of Los Angeles. The city boundaries are generally [and colloquially] defined by the Long Beach Freeway [710] to the west, San Bernardino Freeway [Interstate 10] to the north, Pomona Freeway [State Highway 60] to the south, and New Avenue to the east.




San Gabriel Valley
Alhambra
Rosemead
San Bernardino Freeway [Interstate 10]
City of Monterey Park
South San Gabriel
Pomona Freeway [State Highway 60]
East Los Angeles
Montebello









Related to open space development, this Master Plan takes into consideration improvements to existing park space and recreation facilities. In total, there are approximately 107.64 acres of park space throughout the city, which amounts to approximately two acres of open space per 1,000 residents. In comparison, the Los Angeles countywide average is approximately 3.3 acres of open space per 1,000 residents, which is also below the recognized standard of 4 acres of open space per 1,000 residents.

LOCAL PARK NETWORK



Mini Parks

- **Beth Ryan Park** — Park Score: 55.0/100
- **Demonstration Garden** — Park Score: 42.7/100
- **Pine Tree Park** — Park Score: 42.6/100

Neighborhood Parks

- **Sierra Vista Park** — Park Score: 58.3/100
- **Bella Vista Park** — Park Score: 45.4/100
- **Sequoia Park** — Park Score: 49.8/100
- **Sunnyslopes Park** — Park Score: 40/100
- **La Loma Park** — Park Score: 47.7/100
- **Cascades Park** — Park Score: 33.2/100
- **Highlands Park** — Park Score: 46.5/100

Community Parks

- **Garvey Ranch Park** — Park Score: 64.6/100
- **George Elder Park** — Park Score: 58.9/100
- **Edison Trails Park** — Park Score: 37.8/100

City-wide Parks

- **Barnes Park** — Park Score: 80.0/100
- **Langley Center** — Park Score: 69.5/100

Park Need Category

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- No Populatio

Source: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park & Recreation Needs Assessment

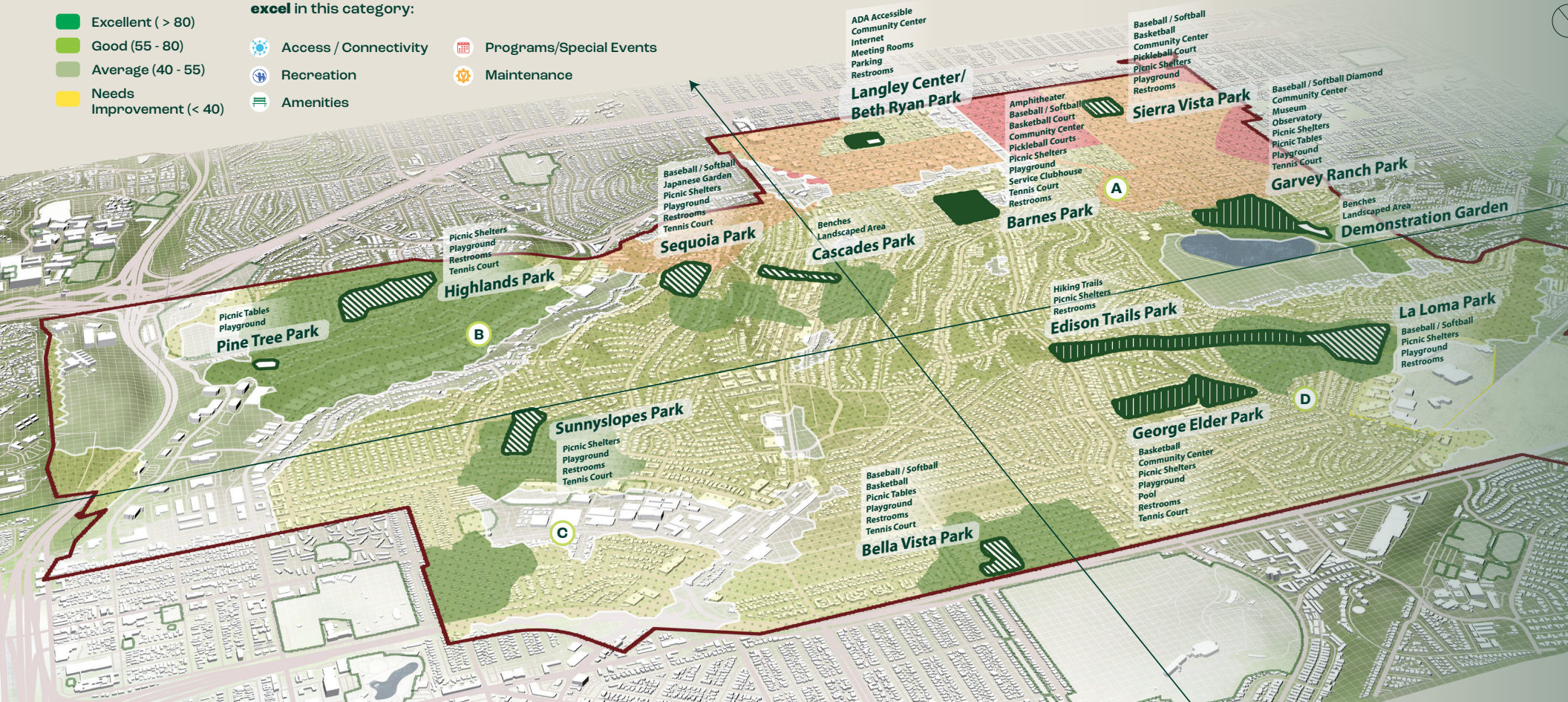
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Park Score

- Excellent (> 80)
- Good (55 - 80)
- Average (40 - 55)
- Needs Improvement (< 40)

Parks with the following icons **excel** in this category:

- Access / Connectivity
- Recreation
- Amenities
- Programs/Special Events
- Maintenance





Existing Park System

The Monterey Park park system consists of a network of well-maintained public parks that offer a variety of recreational and community amenities across the city. Anchored by larger parks like Barnes Park and Garvey Ranch Park, the park system features athletic fields, playgrounds, picnic areas, walking paths, and community centers, as well as specialized facilities such as a senior center and observatory. While most parks are nestled within residential neighborhoods, their distribution reflects the city's varied topography, with open spaces often shaped by hillsides and natural features.

MONTEREY PARK
107.6 acres
of total park space

MONTEREY PARK
1.8 acres
of park space per 1,000 residents

Barnes Park

350 S. MCPHERRIN AVENUE



Park Size

10.86 ACRES

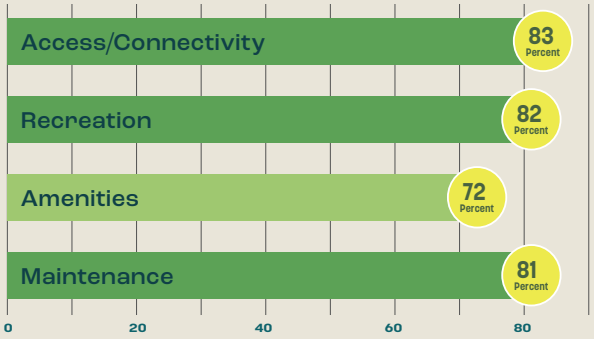
Park Type

- Mini
- Neighborhood
- Community
- **Citywide/Special**

Park Amenities

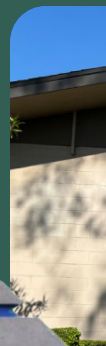
- Amphitheater
- Baseball/Softball
- Gymnasium
- Community Center
- Pickleball Courts
- Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Service Clubhouse
- Tennis Courts
- Fitness Court

Park Assessment

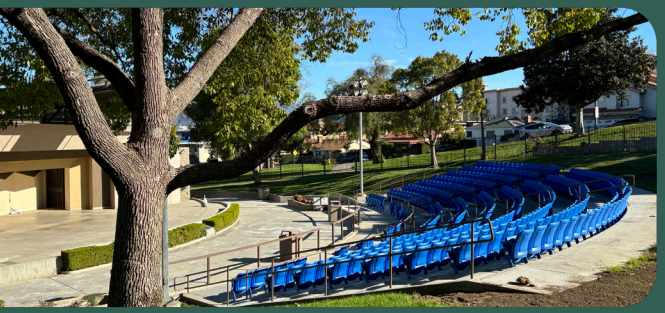














Overview

Barnes Park is a 10.86-acre city-wide park that is located on 350 South McPherrin Avenue. This park is the city's most widely used park, as it provides various events and recreational activities. It is located within a residential community and provides access to city hall, police department, fire station, and the Barnes Park service club house. There are various recreational activities available such as tennis courts, fitness court, walking loop, baseball/softball field, and a pool (although it is currently inaccessible).

Barnes Park scored an excellent park audit score, receiving an 80 out of 100. Its two highest scores were within access/connectivity and recreation. These are especially important as residents access this park daily and host some of the biggest community events for the city.

Desired Improvements

- Improve park signage for easier navigation
- Reopen and upgrade indoor basketball gymnasium
- Activate and improve amphitheater for events and programming
- Resurface tennis and pickleball courts
- Add indoor pickleball courts and ping pong tables
- Install functional and modern fitness equipment
- Add stretching equipment for running, Tai Chi, and general exercise
- Offer more classes in Chinese
- Redevelop Aquatic Center
- Upgrade Service Club facilities
- Add more restrooms and improve cleanliness
- Provide shade near the baseball field
- Repair Barnes Park sprinklers to prevent flooding between baseball and tennis areas
- Retrofit community center to include a backup generator for use as a cooling center

Langley Center

400 W. EMERSON AVENUE



Park Size

1.35 ACRES

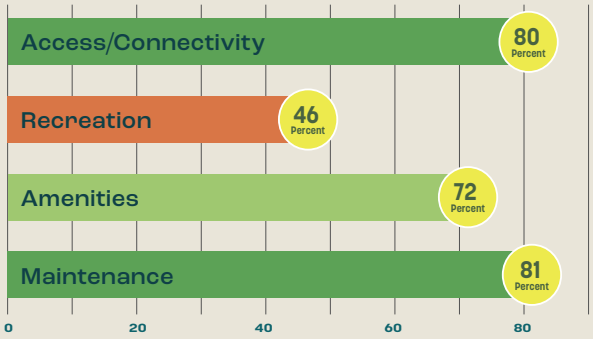
Park Type

- Mini
- Neighborhood
- Community
- **Citywide/Special**

Park Amenities

- ADA Accessible
- Community Center
- Internet
- Meeting rooms
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Billiards
- Ping Pong
- Fitness Center

Park Assessment













Overview

Langley Center is a 1.35-acre city-wide park that is located on 400 West Emerson Avenue. This center is heavily used by seniors, both locally and regionally and provides various activities. The center provides learning classes for personal growth and development, and activities such as senior lunch programs, fitness gym, ping-pong, free health screenings, and leisure classes.

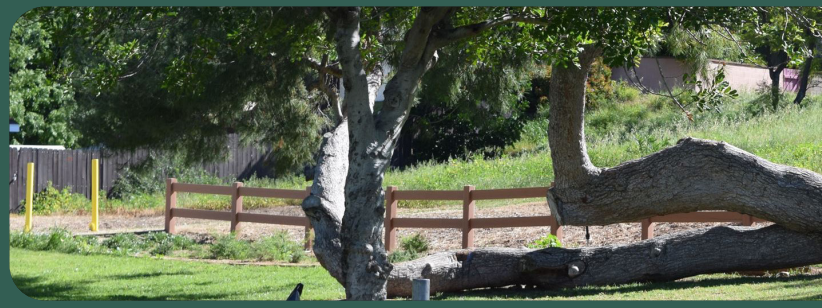
The Langley Center scored a good score on the park audit, receiving a 69.5 out of 100. Its two highest scores were in maintenance and access/connectivity, ensuring that seniors have access to the center as well as properly maintained equipment to ensure smooth and helpful programming.

Desired Improvements

- Create flexible indoor/outdoor spaces for future programs and community use
- Update HVAC system and remodel interiors to be more inviting (e.g., painting and decor)
- Hire full-time staff at Langley Center to engage with older adults through conversation and recreational activities
- Improve overall cleanliness of the facility
- Retrofit community center to include a backup generator for use as a cooling center

Edison Trails Park

1600 S. GARFIELD AVENUE



Park Size

12.37 ACRES

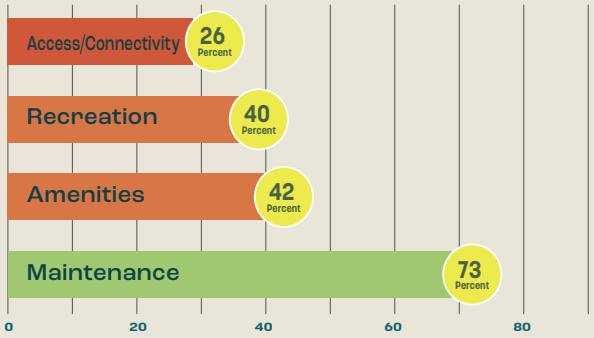
Park Type

- ~~Mini~~
- ~~Neighborhood~~
- **Community**
- ~~Citywide/Special~~

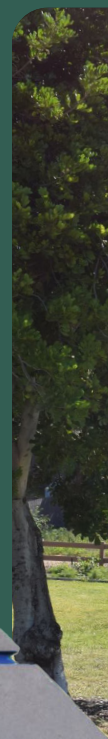
Park Amenities

- Hiking Trails
- Picnic Tables
- Restrooms
- Playground

Park Assessment













Overview

Edison Trails Park is a 12.37-acre community park that is located on 1600 South Garfield Avenue. This community park is located within a residential community and connects to La Loma Park to the east. This park offers a hiking trail for community members as well as an upgraded playground. There are also public restrooms and picnic tables available for social gatherings.

This community park scored a low score in the park audit, receiving a 37.8 out of 100. Out of the three community parks, this was ranked the lowest. Although there are not various recreational facilities within the park, there is a lot of open space available for future improvements as well as space for social gatherings or events.

Desired Improvements

- Improve ADA accessibility throughout park spaces
- Upgrade trail infrastructure
- Add more public seating and benches
- Upgrade picnic tables

George Elder Park

1950 WILCOX AVENUE



Park Size

12.85 ACRES

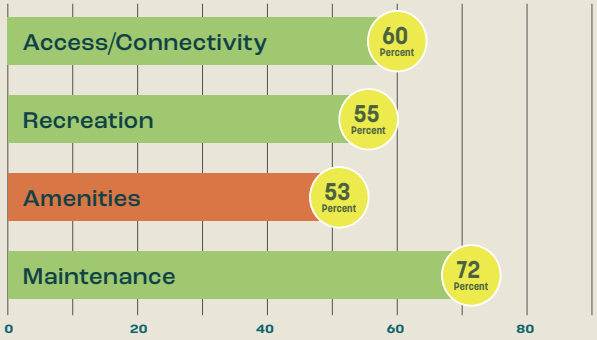
Park Type

- Mini
- Neighborhood
- **Community**
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Gymnasium
- Community Center
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Swimming Pool
- Restrooms
- Tennis Courts

Park Assessment















Overview

George Elder Park is a 12.85-acre community park that is located on 1950 Wilcox Avenue. This community park is located within a residential community and is adjacent to Jack F. Macy Intermediate School. This park offers various recreational facilities such as a gymnasium, tennis courts, a pool, and a playground. There is also plenty of open space within the park for passive activities or gathering spaces.

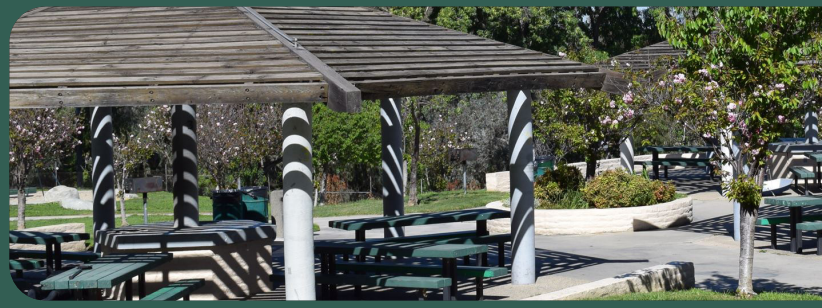
George Elder Park scored a good score on the park audit, receiving a 58.9 out of 100. This community park's two highest scores were in maintenance and access/connectivity. There are various access points to the park, which make accessibility great and multiple types of recreation available for all kinds of activities.

Desired Improvements

- Add more lighting to improve accessibility and upgrade to energy-efficient LED lights
- Add running and biking track
- Add splash zone and update pool facilities
- Improve playground
- Redevelop or remove cabin-style buildings
- Improve community room (flooring, ceiling tiles, foldable walls)
- Add public seating areas
- Add one additional public restroom
- Add or repurpose a space as a cooling center
- Resurface tennis courts

Garvey Ranch Park

781 S. ORANGE AVENUE



Park Size

18.27 ACRES

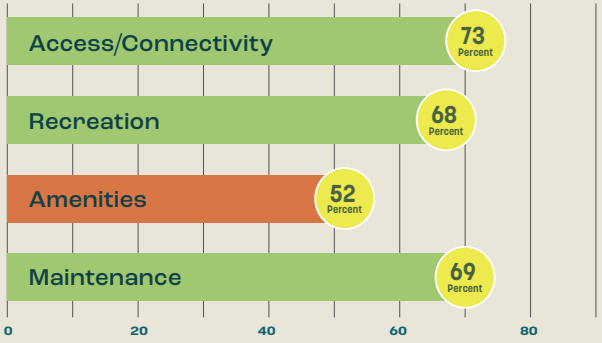
Park Type

- Mini
- Neighborhood
- **Community**
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Baseball/Softball Diamond
- Basketball Courts
- Community Center
- Museum
- Observatory
- Picnic Shelters
- Picnic Tables
- Playgrounds
- Tennis Courts

Park Assessment















Overview

Garvey Ranch Park is a 18.27-acre community park that is located on 781 South Orange Avenue. This community park is located within a residential community and adjacent to the Garvey Reservoir. This park offers various recreational activities such as a tennis court, baseball/softball diamond, and two playgrounds. There are also various passive recreational uses such as a museum, observatory, and community center for community members to enjoy.

The community park scored a good score on the park audit, receiving a 64.6 out of 100. Garvey Ranch Park two highest scores were in access/connectivity and maintenance. Given the amount of recreation available, community members living within this area have various options to choose from.

Desired Improvements

- Add more lighting to improve accessibility and upgrade to energy-efficient LED lights
- Improve ADA accessibility throughout the park
- Improve parking availability and layout
- Develop nature trails with native plants and enhanced landscaping
- Add pickleball courts
- Upgrade sports fields
- Install outdoor exercise equipment
- Increase events and programming at the museum and observatory
- Develop a butterfly and pollinator garden with educational signage
- Add or repair picnic shelters
- Add more seating and benches
- Resurface tennis courts
- Improve maintenance of observatory and meeting rooms

Cascades Park

700 S. ATLANTIC BOULEVARD



Park Size

1.43 ACRES

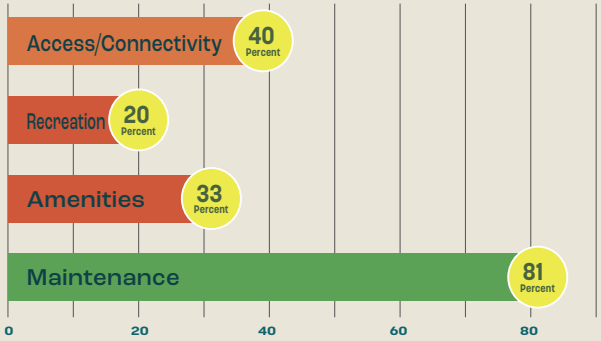
Park Type

- **Mini**
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Landscaped Area
- Benches
- Waterfall/Fountain

Park Assessment









Cascades Park

CITY OF MONTEREY PARK





Overview

Cascades Park is a 1.43-acre neighborhood park located on 700 South Atlantic Boulevard. This mini park is located within a residential community with a portion of commercial properties. This park offers a classic Spanish Revival architecture waterfall that provides scenic pictures and a relaxation for community members. This location is considered a historical landmark by many Monterey Park residents.

This neighborhood park received a low park audit score and needs improvement. Given that the park does not provide various recreational and passive amenities, the score is not fully reflective of what the park can offer. The park did receive a high maintenance score, this ensures that the park is clean and accessible for the community.

Desired Improvements

- Improve ADA accessibility throughout park spaces
- Add trees and enhance natural features for shade, beauty, and environmental benefit
- Add more seating and benches

Sunnyslopes Park

1601 SUNNYSLOPE DRIVE



Park Size

4.27 ACRES

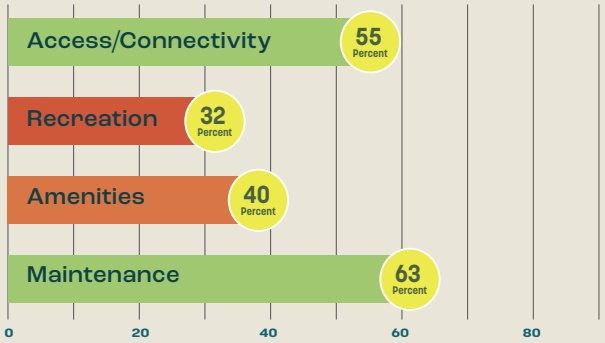
Park Type

- Mini
- **Neighborhood**
- Community
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Picnic Shelters
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Tennis Courts
- Multipurpose Field

Park Assessment















Overview

Sunnyslopes Park is a 4.27-acre neighborhood park located on 1601 Sunnyslope Drive. This park is located within a residential community and is adjacent to Brightwood Elementary School. This park offers recreational activities such as tennis and a playground. It also provides plenty of open space for gatherings or other activities.

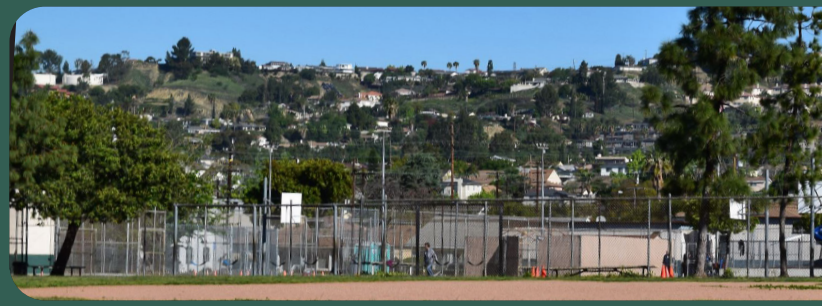
Sunnyslopes Park has an average park audit score with only a 40 out of 100. The highest ratings in this park were in access/connectivity and maintenance. This is key as having easy access to the park is good for residents and youth, as well having good maintenance to ensure that they are always accessible and safe.

Desired Improvements

- Add more lighting to improve accessibility and upgrade to energy-efficient LED lights
- Upgrade multipurpose field
- Improve overall cleanliness
- Resurface tennis court

Bella Vista Park

400 POMONA BOULEVARD



Park Size

3.93 ACRE

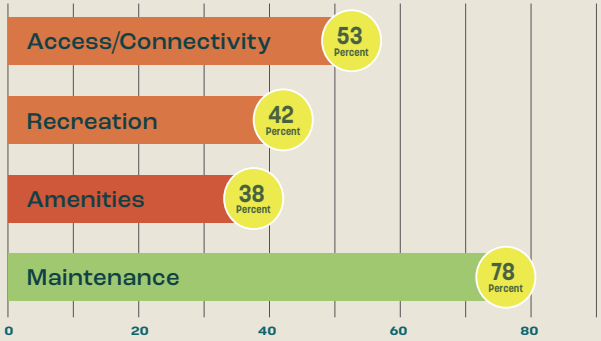
Park Type

- Mini
- **Neighborhood**
- Community
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Baseball/Softball
- Basketball
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Tennis Court

Park Assessment













Overview

Bella Vista Park is a 3.93-acre neighborhood park located on 400 Pomona Boulevard. This neighborhood park offers a variety of recreational activities such as tennis courts, basketball courts, and a baseball/softball field. Bella Vista Park is also located near a residential community and Bella Vista Elementary School; it is also adjacent to the Pomona Freeway [60].

This neighborhood park has an average overall score of 45.4 out of 100, and its two highest categories being maintenance and access/connectivity. This is key as having easy access to the park is good for residents and youth, as well as having various recreational facilities and park amenities.

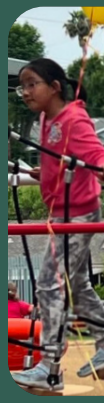
Desired Improvements

- Add more lighting to improve accessibility and upgrade to energy-efficient LED lights
- Add Public-Oriented Path
- Add Running Loop (with limited access during school hours)
- Improve Basketball Courts
- Improve Tennis Courts
- Add pickleball courts
- Open Lawn / Flexible Field
- Install outdoor exercise equipment and fitness stations
- Add additional public restroom
- Add Outdoor Classroom
- Improve Picnic Area
- Add Bioswale

Highlands Park

400 CASUDA CANYON DRIVE





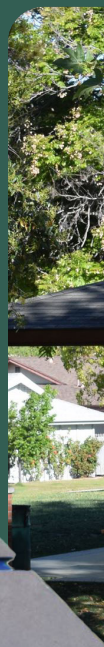
Park Size

6.92 ACRES

Park Type

- ~~Mini~~
- **Neighborhood**
- ~~Community~~
- ~~Citywide/Special~~

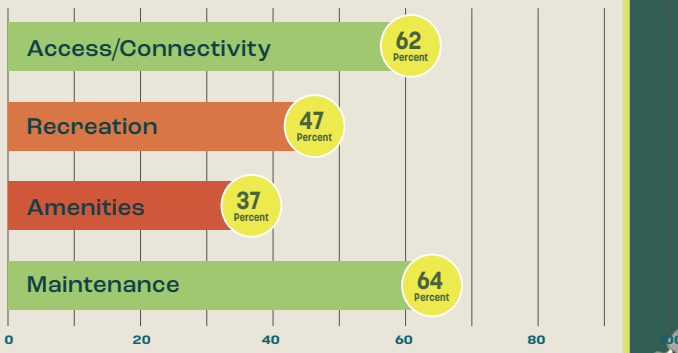




Park Amenities

- Picnic Shelter
- Playgrounds
- Restrooms
- Tennis Court

Park Assessment









Overview

Highlands Park is a 6.92-acre neighborhood park located on 400 Casuda Canyon Drive. This neighborhood park offers tennis courts for players and two themed playgrounds for the youth. There are also a picnic shelter for people to relax and have gatherings. This park is located within a residential community and Monterey Highlands Elementary School.

Highland Park has an average overall rating as it only scored 46.5 out of 100. This park received its two highest scores in access/connectivity and maintenance. Although there is a need for improvement, having easy and safe access to the park with recreational facilities for residents and local youth is important.

Desired Improvements

- Add pickleball courts
- Install outdoor exercise equipment
- Add additional public restroom
- Resurface tennis courts

La Loma Park

1902 FULTON AVENUE



Park Size

7.11 ACRES

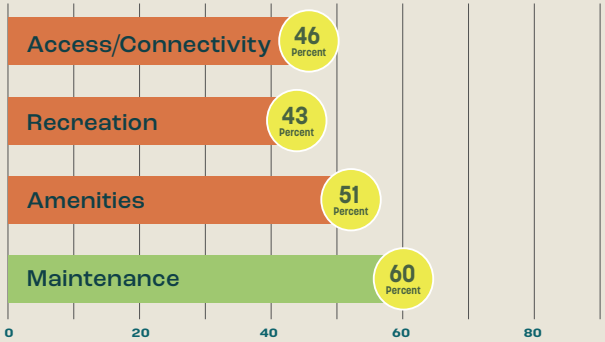
Park Type

- Mini
- **Neighborhood**
- Community
- Citywide/Special

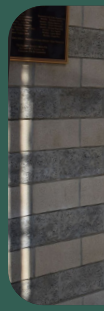
Park Amenities

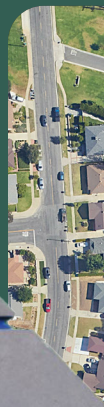
- Baseball / Softball
- Picnic Tables
- Playground
- Restrooms

Park Assessment















Overview

La Loma Park is a 7.11-acre neighborhood park located on 1902 Fulton Avenue. This neighborhood park provides recreational uses such as a playground and baseball/soft-ball field, there are also passive uses available such as picnic shelters. This park also connects with Edison Trails, providing a safe walking trail for residents. This park is located near a residential community and commercial center to the south.

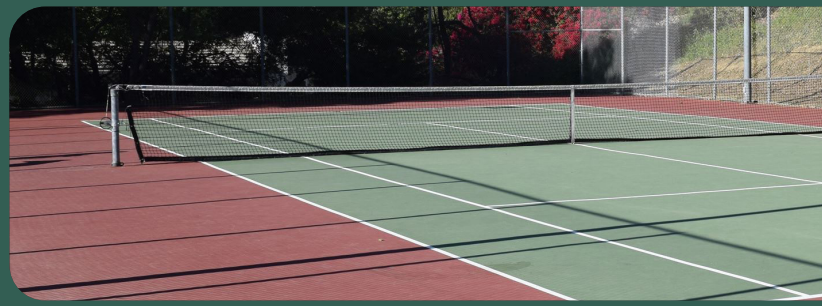
La Loma Park has an overall average score, receiving a 47.7 out of 100 during the park audit. The best scores are in maintenance and amenities; given its size and location it is important the park and recreational amenities are well maintained to ensure usage from the surrounding community.

Desired Improvements

- Improve ADA accessibility
- Replace picnic tables
- Improved cleanliness

Sequoia Park

750 RIDGECREST STREET



Park Size

5.52 ACRES

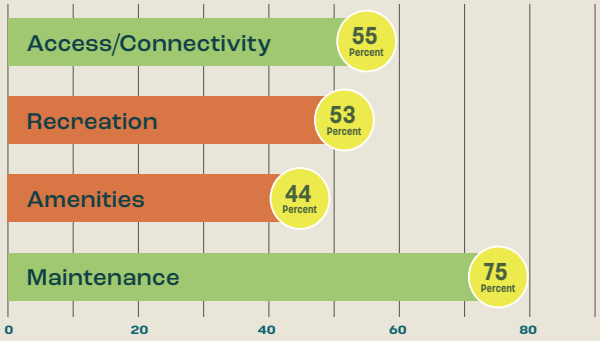
Park Type

- Mini
- **Neighborhood**
- Community
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Baseball / Softball
- Japanese Garden
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Restrooms
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball Courts

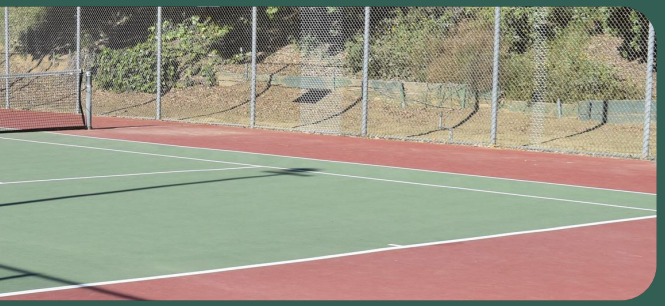
Park Assessment













Overview

Sequoia Park is a 5.52-acre neighborhood park located on 750 Ridgecrest Street. This neighborhood park provides various recreational uses such as tennis courts and baseball/softball field. There is also a Japanese Garden with an Azumaya View Deck that provides a relaxing experience for the community. This park is located within a predominantly residential community.

This neighborhood park scored an average score of 49.8 out of 100 during the park audit. Its best scores were within maintenance and access/connectivity, which are both important to ensure that park users have equipment available for their everyday use.

Desired Improvements

- Add more lighting to improve accessibility and upgrade to energy-efficient LED lights
- Install outdoor exercise equipment
- Add basketball courts
- Provide shared-use tennis and pickleball courts
- Resurface tennis courts
- Improve basketball courts

Sierra Vista Park

311 N. RURAL DRIVE



Park Size

3.16 ACRES

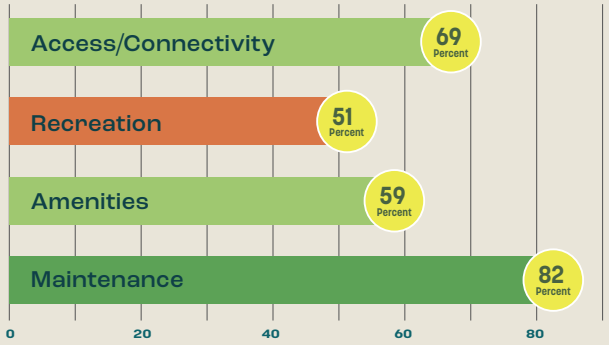
Park Type

- Mini
- **Neighborhood**
- Community
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Baseball / Softball
- Basketball
- Community Center
- Pickleball Court
- Picnic Shelter
- Playground
- Restrooms

Park Assessment













Overview

Sierra Vista Park is a 3.16-acre neighborhood park located on 311 North Rural Drive. This neighborhood park provides various uses that allows for social gathering and recreational activities. There is also a community center that provides resources to community members in need of mental health services.

This neighborhood park received a good overall score during the park audit, getting a 58.3 out of 100. Its two highest scores are in maintenance and access and connectivity. Given the amount of uses available, scoring high on maintenance is important to keep the park safe and accessible for all.

Desired Improvements

- Add more lighting to improve accessibility and upgrade to energy-efficient LED lights
- Add security cameras for enhanced safety
- Upgrade playground
- Install outdoor exercise equipment and fitness stations
- Create a courtyard garden with seating, usable as an outdoor classroom
- Upgrade benches
- Improve restrooms
- Consider retrofitting facilities to serve as cooling centers
- Improve overall park cleanliness
- Fix water fountains

Pine Tree Park

2167 ARRIBA DRIVE



Park Size

0.44 ACRE

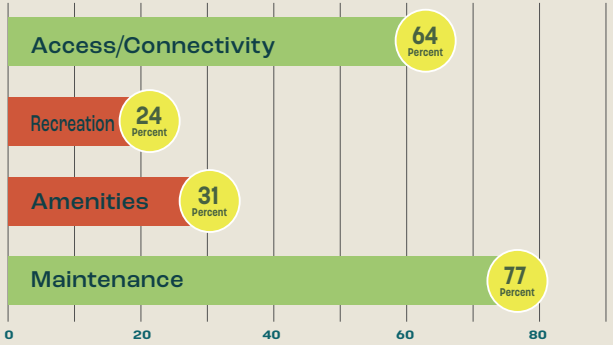
Park Type

- **Mini**
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Picnic Tables
- Playground

Park Assessment















Overview

Pine Tree Park is a 0.44-acre mini park located on 2167 Arriba Drive. This mini park is located in a residential neighborhood and provides picnic tables for eating and a children's play area. There is also a water reservoir located right next to the park, although it is not publicly accessible.

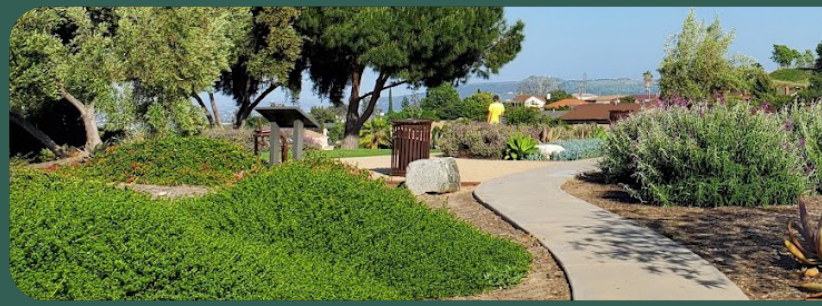
Pine Tree Park scored an average overall score during the park audit, receiving a 42.6 out of 100. The park provides active recreation and gathering spaces for families that are ideal for relaxation, socializing, and play. This mini park received a good access/connectivity score and maintenance score.

Desired Improvements

- Add public restrooms

Demonstration Gard

720 METRO DRIVE



Park Size

1.20 ACRES

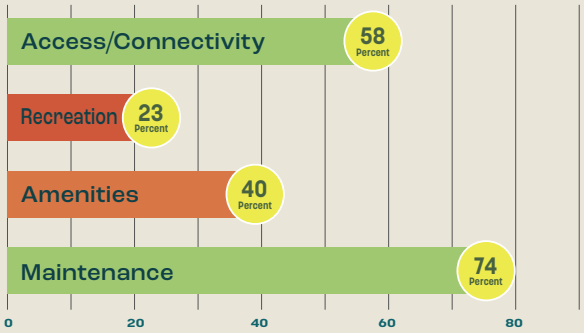
Park Type

- **Mini**
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Citywide/Special

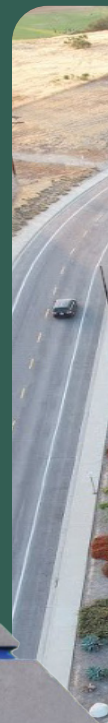
Park Amenities

- Benches
- Landscaped Area

Park Assessment









den





Overview

Demonstration Garden is a 1.2-acre mini park located on 720 Metro Drive. This mini park offers examples of various garden types such as Spanish, Asian, California Native, and Modern Mediterranean. The community will be able to identify drought tolerant plants and trees that they can potentially use in their own yards.

The park is primarily a passive recreation space that is an ideal space for relaxation, enjoyment and education. It received a park audit score of 42.7 out of 100, which is an average rating. The park offers a great maintenance score due to the limited amount of upkeep needed.

Desired Improvements

- Add more trails to enhance circulation and connectivity

Beth Ryan Park

400 W. EMERSON AVENUE



Park Size

0.27 ACRE

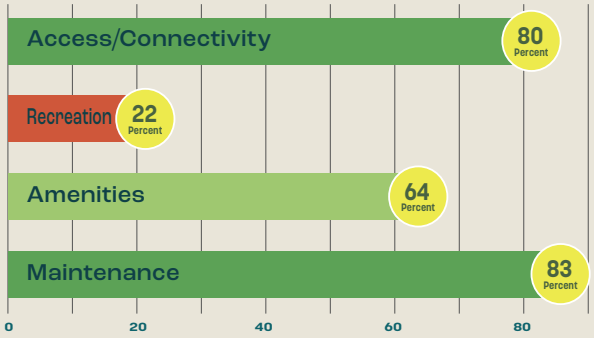
Park Type

- **Mini**
- Neighborhood
- Community
- Citywide/Special

Park Amenities

- Benches & Seating
- Lighting
- Vegetation

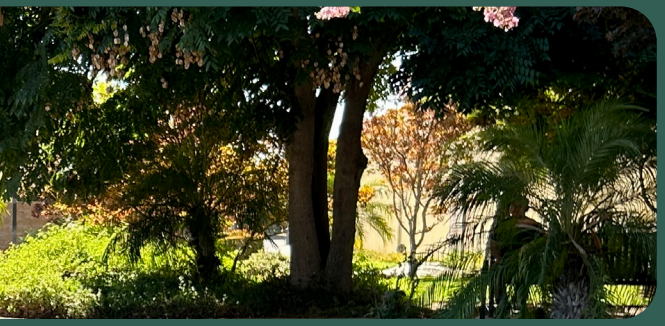
Park Assessment















Overview

Beth Ryan Park is a 0.27-acre mini park located at 400 W Emerson Avenue, at the intersection with N Ynez Avenue. This small, yet inviting park provides a serene environment for visitors and is named in honor of Beth Ryan, serving as a tribute to her legacy within the community.

The well-maintained mini-park primarily offers passive recreation opportunities, making it an ideal space for relaxation and quiet enjoyment. It received a park audit score of 55 out of 100, which is considered a good rating. It boasts excellent access and connectivity to the surrounding recreational and public facilities, including its close proximity to the Langley Center, a citywide/special use community center.

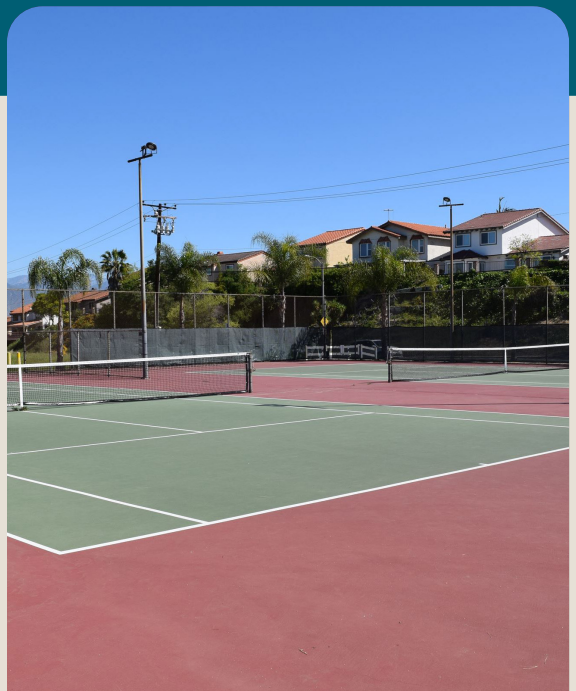
Desired Improvements

- Add spaces for meditation and mindfulness

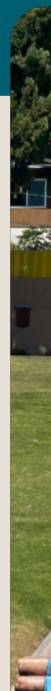




CONTEXT
















Greetings from
MONTEREY
PARK
CA.

OVERVIEW

The Context section of the GROW Master Plan provides a comprehensive foundation for understanding the planning conditions for the Monterey Park parks system.

By thoroughly examining the existing conditions and planning framework, the process to plan for the future of the parks system is rooted in an accurate and nuanced understanding of the city's current realities. A strong grasp of this planning context is essential to addressing community needs, leveraging available resources, and prioritizing equity and sustainability in park system development. It establishes a shared understanding amongst readers and lays the groundwork for informed decision making that reflects the city's unique character and challenges.

This section begins with a community snapshot, offering detailed insights into the demographics, race and ethnicity, age distribution, income levels, and housing conditions of Monterey Park. These factors highlight the diversity and needs of the city's residents, ensuring that park planning efforts are inclusive and accessible. By understanding these key statistics, park planners can identify gaps in service, target underserved populations, and promote parks that reflect the city's cultural vibrancy and multi-generational community.

The physical environment also plays a significant role in understanding the city's context. The section presents an overview of current land use conditions, local destinations, and the transportation network, providing a clear picture of how parks interact with Monterey Park's urban fabric. These elements are crucial for assessing the accessibility and connectivity of the park system, as well as for identifying opportunities for future development or improvements. Additionally, the section evaluates public health conditions, including mental health, environmental health, and the urban forest, recognizing their direct ties to the parks system's role in promoting well-being and resilience.

To provide a holistic view, the Context section presents the history of Monterey Park and its parks system, connecting past and present priorities. It also assesses the existing park network, including evaluations of each park, current funding streams, the Recreation & Community Services Department, and City Commissions involved in park-related efforts. Furthermore, this section incorporates the relevant planning and policy framework, identifying how state and local policies influence the parks system. Finally, this section introduces best practices and additional considerations drawn from regional and national examples, offering innovative strategies to address Monterey Park's unique challenges.







COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Incorporated on May 29, 1916, Monterey Park in the San Gabriel Valley is a city that combines over a century of history and tradition with a modern approach to business, neighborhoods, people, and community. This culturally diverse city spans 7.73 square miles with approximately 61,000 residents. More than in other surrounding cities, public parks play a special role in Monterey Park and are part of the everyday fabric of the community. Monterey Park also offers a wide range of recreational opportunities and programming events tailored to residents of all ages and backgrounds.

Ethnic diversity is a hallmark of Monterey Park, and communities with Chinese, Latin(e)/Hispanic, Japanese, Vietnamese, and Korean backgrounds have played significant roles in shaping the city's cultural landscape. The city has often been recognized as a vibrant Asian-American community hub, with a significant portion of its population having East Asian heritage. Monterey Park's population includes a mix of age groups, from young families to seniors. The city's family-friendly environment, coupled with recreational opportunities, makes it attractive to a diversity of residents. Additionally, the city has historically had a substantial immigrant population, contributing to its cultural richness.

The socioeconomic fabric of Monterey Park is diverse, with a mix of residential, commercial, and business-friendly areas. The city has witnessed economic development over the past few decades, and its business-friendly environment has attracted developers, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. Education is a priority for many Monterey Park residents, with a variety of schools and educational institutions serving the community. The city's commitment to providing recreational opportunities aligns with its dedication to fostering a high quality of life for residents.



Demographics

Planning for the future of Monterey Park's open space network first requires an understanding of the existing community, with consideration of future demographic trends. This section provides a comparative understanding of the city's demographic characteristics such as race & ethnicity, age, income, housing conditions, and transportation. Led by an equity-based model of data analysis, which involves uplifting the lived experiences of those who have been historically marginalized and are most vulnerable to displacement, this study of demographics helped the Project Team to identify target populations and prioritize their needs for this long-range park planning effort.



Race, Ethnicity, and Population Trends

Monterey Park is a racially and ethnically diverse city with a cultural identity shaped by its strong Asian American presence and rich immigrant history. As part of the initial planning process, the a demographic composition analysis was completed for Monterey Park and compares it to surrounding cities. According to the latest U.S. Census data[1], Monterey Parks estimated population in 2023 was 57,877, reflecting a 5.3% decrease from the official 2020 Census count of 61,096. Despite this recent decline, long-range forecasts from the Southern California Association of Governments [SCAG] project that Monterey Park's population will grow modestly from 61,600 in 2019 to 63,400 by 2050. Over the same period, the number of households is expected to increase from 20,500 to 22,600, and employment is projected to rise from 26,800 to 28,300, suggesting gradual but steady demand for housing, services, parks, and recreational infrastructure[2][3].

2020 Demographics	2050 Demographics
Population	
61,096	63,400
Households	
20,500	22,600
Employment	
26,800	28,300

The racial and ethnic composition of the city is as follows:

Race/Ethnicity	2010 Total Population	2020 Total Population
Asian	66.4%	65.6%
Hispanic or Latino	27.5%	28.5%
White	18.3%	14.0%
Other races	11.8%	4.9%
Black or African American	0.2%	0.7%
Two or more races	2.7%	1.8%

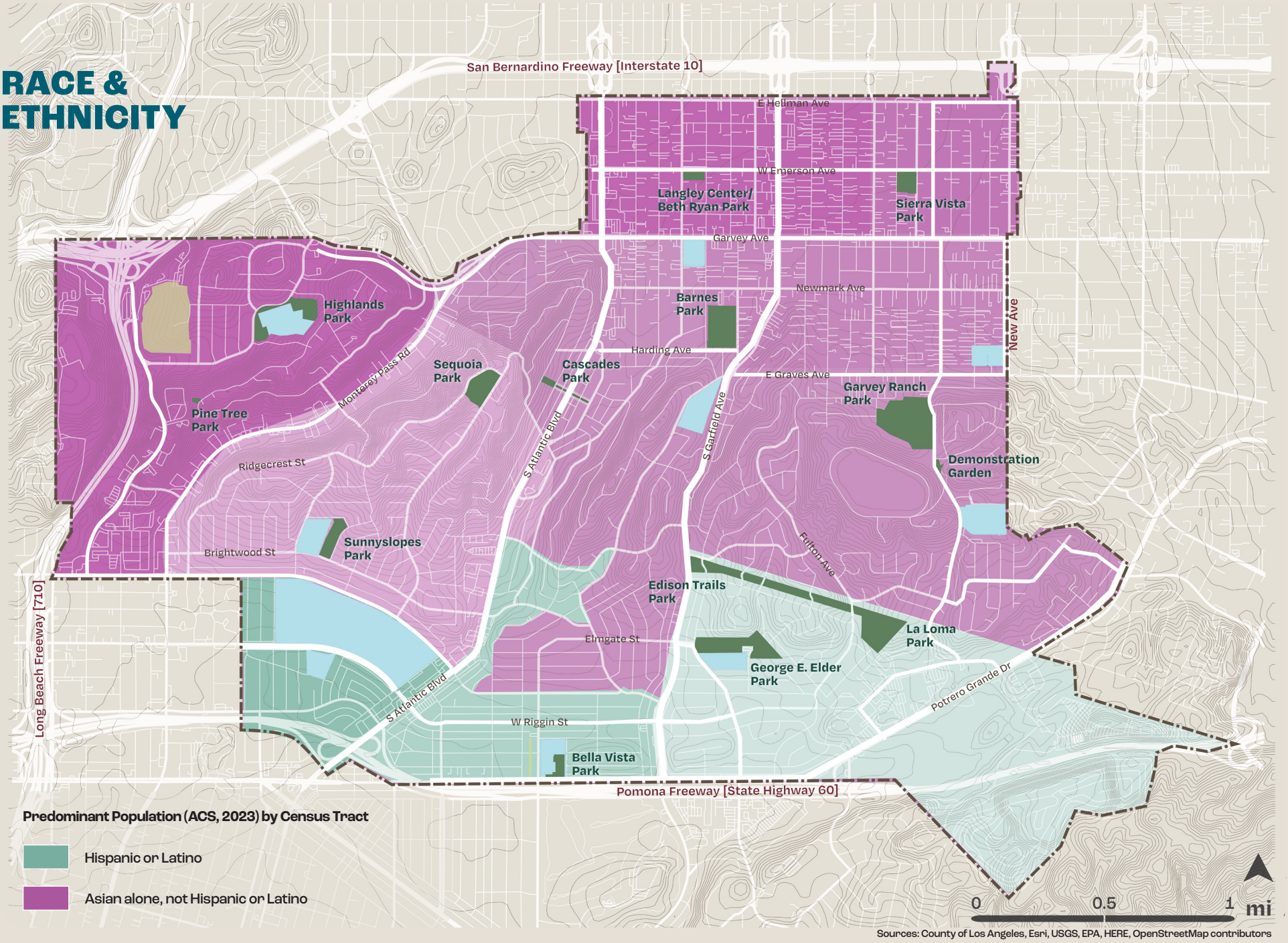
Monterey Park's demographic composition remains majority Asian, accounting for 65.6% of total residents as of the 2020 Census. This population is predominantly of Chinese descent, giving the city a unique cultural and linguistic character. The next largest group is Hispanic or Latino residents of all races at 28.5%, followed by White residents at 14%, Some Other Race at 4.9%, Two or More Races at 1.8%, and Black or African American residents at 0.7%. These figures highlight a slight decline in the proportion of Hispanic and White residents since 2010, while the Asian population has remained relatively stable.

[1] U.S. Census Bureau. [2020]. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

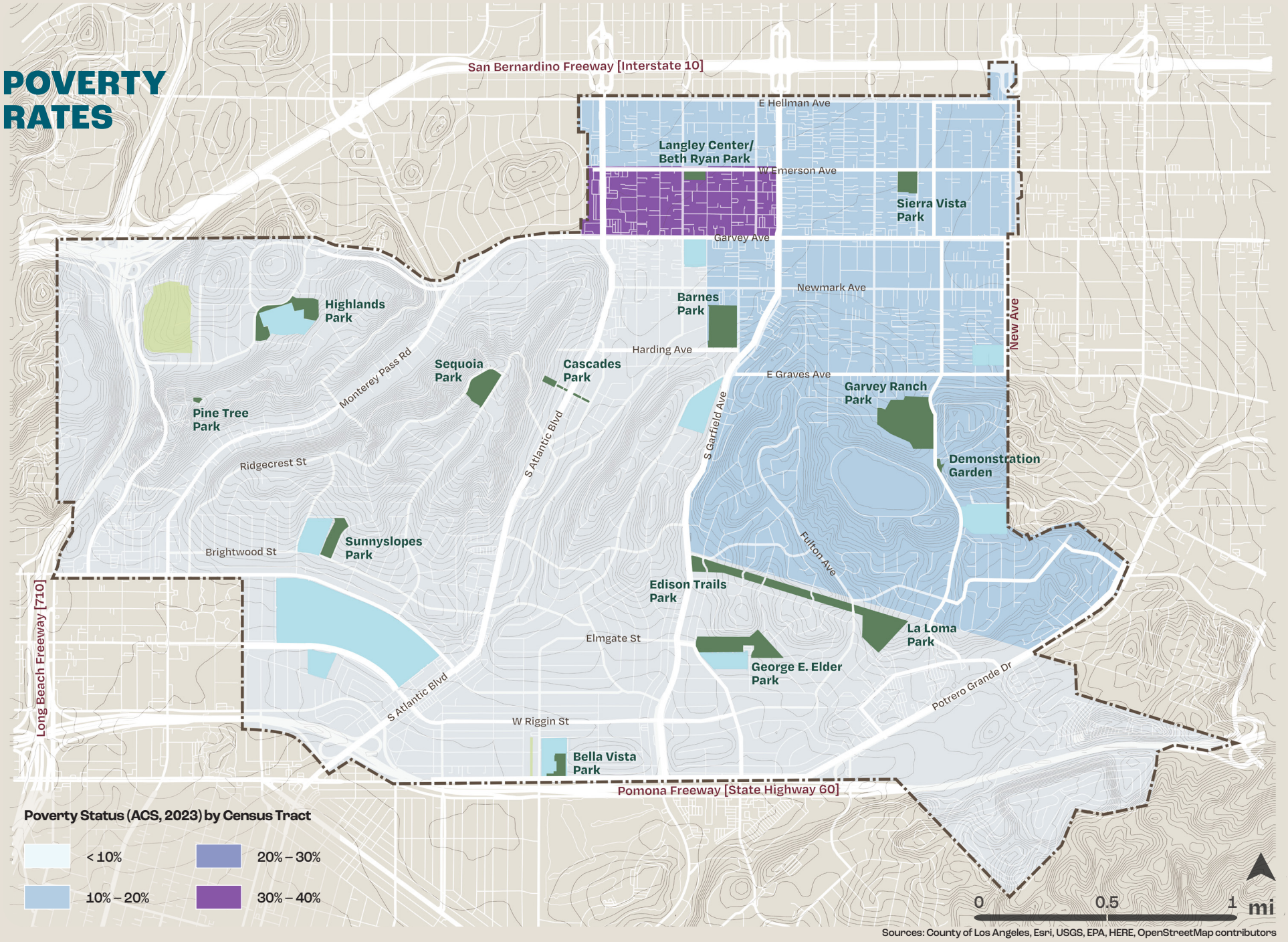
[2] Southern California Association of Governments. [2023, September 25]. City Tier 2 TAZ data for 2024 Draft RTP/SCS.

[3] U.S. Census Bureau. [2020]. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

RACE & ETHNICITY



POVERTY RATES



Sources: County of Los Angeles, Esri, USGS, EPA, HERE, OpenStreetMap contributors



Age

Monterey Park's age demographics reflect a diverse population with a relatively balanced distribution across different age groups. According to the latest U.S. Census data[4], Monterey Park's age demographics are as follows:

Age Range	2010 Total Population	2020 Total Population
Under 18	15.5%	17.9%
18 to 24	9.5%	8.1%
25 to 44	27.8%	29.5%
45 to 64	24.8%	28.5%
65 and older	18.8%	16.0%

It is important that Monterey Park youth and older adults get involved in park planning efforts for several reasons. The median age in Monterey Park is 43.1 years, notably higher than the national median of 38.7, indicating a relatively older population overall. This aging trend has planning implications, especially in terms of access to passive recreation opportunities, mobility, and senior-friendly amenities. At the same time, approximately 17% of residents are under the age of 18, and approximately 16% are over the age of 65, underscoring the need for multigenerational park design and programming. Including youth and older adults in the planning process ensures that their voices are heard and their needs are considered. This promotes a more inclusive decision-making process that reflects the diverse perspectives of the community. Youth and older adults may have specific needs and preferences when it comes to park amenities and programming. By involving them in the planning process, planners can ensure that parks are designed to be accessible and inclusive for people of all ages. Historically, certain age groups, particularly youth and older adults, have been marginalized or underserved in terms of access to parks and recreational opportunities. Engaging these groups in park planning can help address these disparities and ensure that parks are equitable spaces for everyone.

[4] *U.S. Census Bureau. [2020]. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*

Income

Monterey Park has a diverse range of income levels among its residents where, according to the latest U.S. Census data, the median household income in Monterey Park is approximately $66,929[5]. This figure represents the midpoint of all household incomes in the city, with half of the households earning more than this amount and half earning less. The income distribution in Monterey Park is varied, with significant portions of households earning between $45,000 and $149,999 annually. Specifically, the breakdown of income brackets in Monterey Park is as follows:

Income Range	2010 Total Population	2020 Total Population
Less than $25,000	26.7%	14.6%
$25,000 to $44,999	19.7%	14.7%
$45,000 to $74,999	19.4%	18.8%
$75,000 to $99,999	11.5%	13.5%
$100,000 to $149,999	12.8%	18.0%
$150,000 to $199,999	7%	8.4%
$200,000 or more	2.9%	11.9%

Monterey Park's income demographics differ from its neighboring cities. For example, neighboring Alhambra has a higher median household income of approximately $63,958 but a larger percentage of households earning less than $25,000 [16.9%] compared to Monterey Park. Nearby cities like Rosemead and Montebello also exhibit varying income distributions, highlighting the economic diversity of the region.

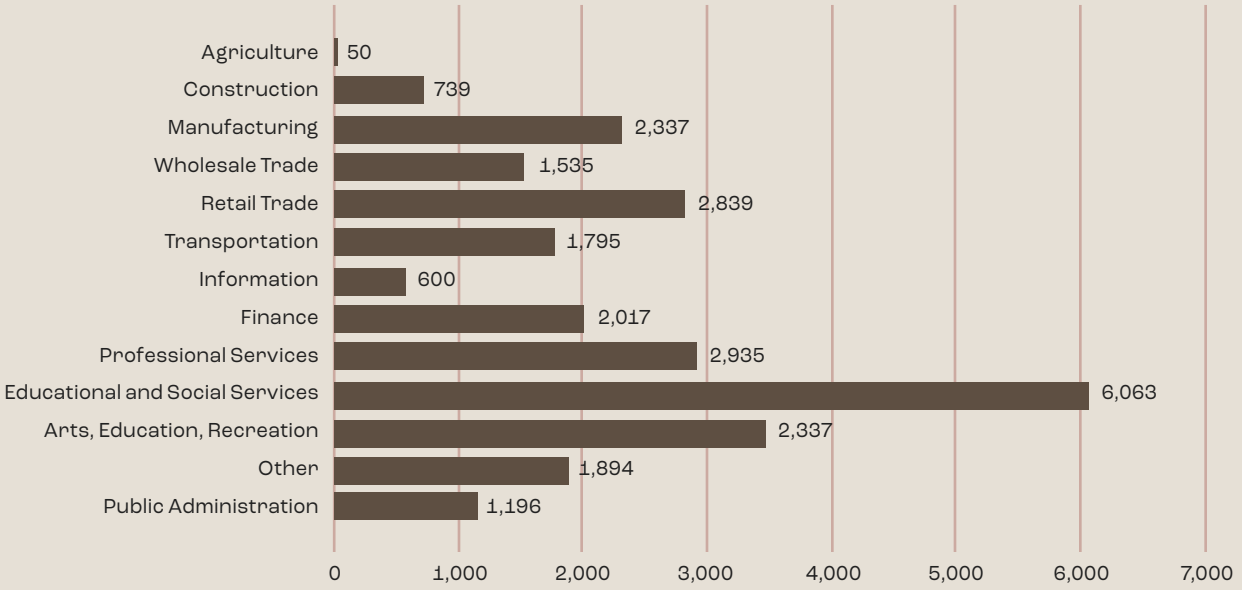
[5] U.S. Census Bureau. [2020]. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.



In Monterey Park, like in many cities across California, income inequality a significant issue that impacts residents' quality of life and access to opportunities, including limited access to quality education, healthcare, and housing for low-income residents. Income inequality is also closely connected to park access and equity. Parks and green spaces are essential components of a community's infrastructure, providing recreational opportunities, promoting physical and mental health, and enhancing the overall quality of life. However, income disparities can impact individuals' ability to access and enjoy these benefits.

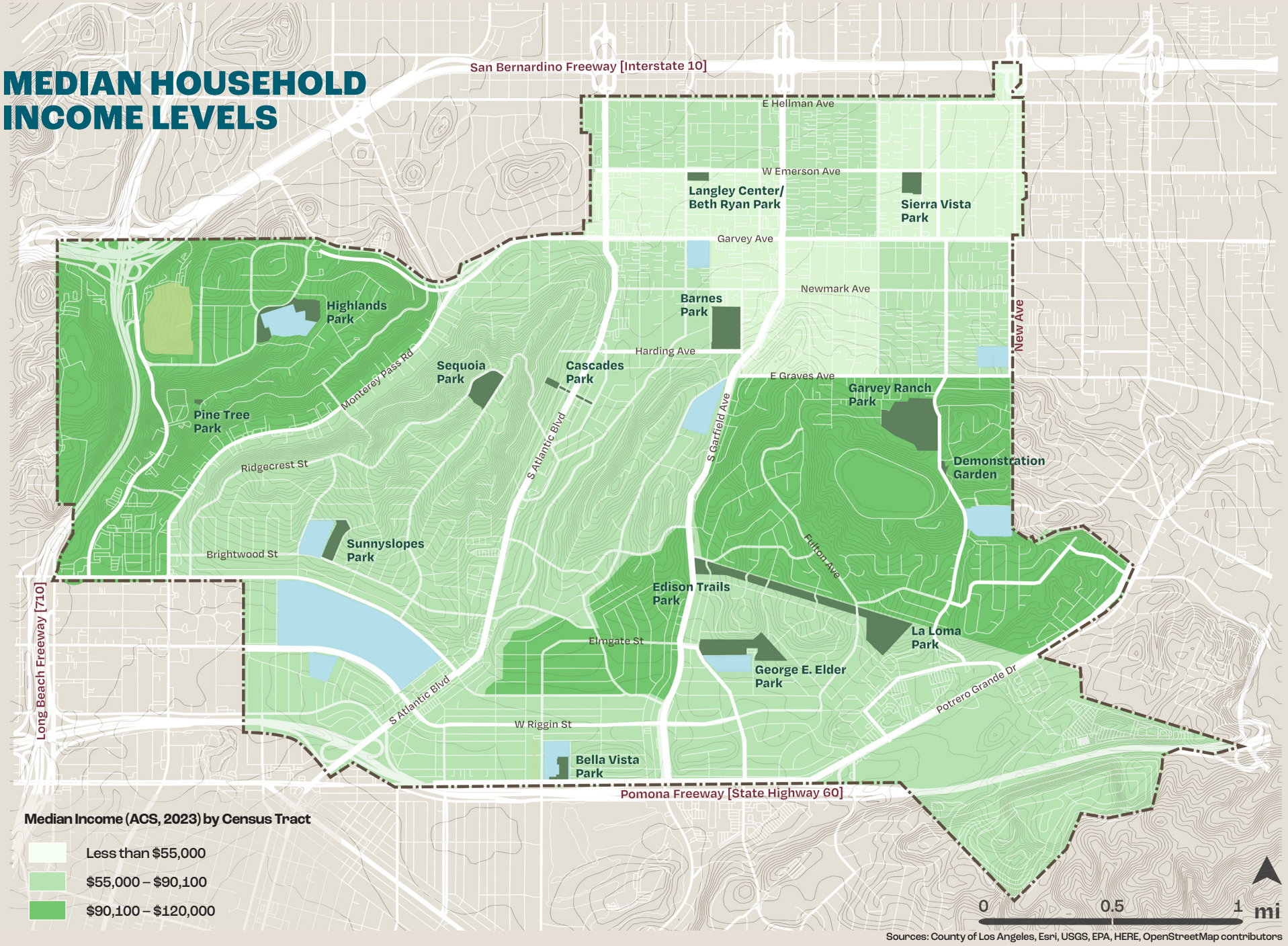
While Monterey Park has a median household income of approximately $66,929, there are disparities in income distribution within the city. One way to measure income inequality is through the Gini coefficient, which ranges from 0 to 1, with 0 representing perfect equality [everyone has the same income] and 1 representing perfect inequality [one person has all the income]. According to the latest available data, Monterey Park's Gini coefficient is 0.484, indicating a moderate level of income inequality. Approximately 14.6% of households earn less than $25,000, which is below the poverty line for a family of four. On the other end of the spectrum, 11.9% of households earn $200,000 or more.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY



Source: American Community Survey 2014-2018 5-Year Estimates using groupings of 2-digit NAICS codes.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME LEVELS



Sources: County of Los Angeles, Esri, USGS, EPA, HERE, OpenStreetMap contributors





Housing

Housing and parks are closely tied together in urban planning and development for several reasons described in later sections. Monterey Park's housing demographics reflect a diverse housing market with a relatively balanced distribution between owner-occupied and renter-occupied units. According to the latest U.S. Census data, Monterey Park has a total of approximately 24,571 housing units[6]. The housing demographics of the city are as follows:

Housing Units	2010 Total Population	2020 Total Population	2023 Total Population
Owner-occupied	55.4%	51.9%	51.9%
Renter-occupied	44.6%	48.1%	48.1%

Well-maintained parks and green spaces can enhance the desirability of a neighborhood, leading to an increase in property values of the surrounding neighborhoods. As property values rise, lower-income residents may be priced out of the area, contributing to gentrification and displacement. This concept of "green gentrification" is described on page 85. Therefore, before considering new park development, it would be important to consider anti-displacement strategies and policies that can help to limit the potential impact of development. Housing affordability often dictates where people live. Low-income households may be more likely to live in areas with higher housing burden, which could also be areas with limited access to parks and green spaces. This can result in disparities in park access based on income.

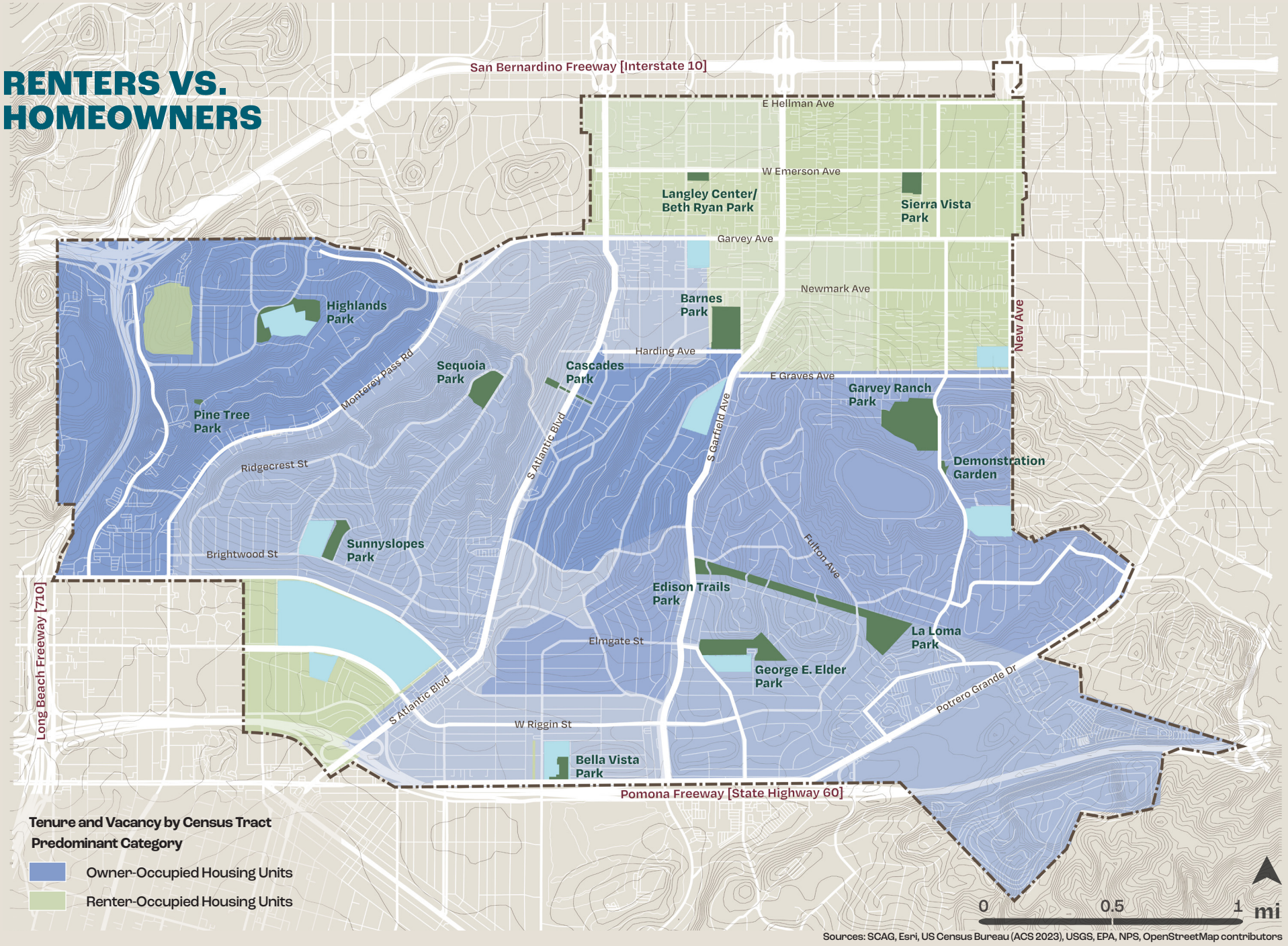
Across Monterey Park's 9,504 renter households, 5,421 [57%] spend more than 30% of gross income on housing cost[7]. These rent burdened families, are at risk of displacement from their homes. Additionally, 3,167 renter households in Monterey Park [33.3%] spend more than 50% of their gross income on housing cost. These severely rent burdened families have the greatest risk of potential displacement.

The most commonly occurring household size is of two people [31.5%] and the second-most commonly occurring household is of three people [23.6%]. The relationship between residential density and parks is complex and can vary depending on various factors, including the size of the park, the surrounding built environment, and the needs of the local population. Larger households require more space to accommodate their recreational needs. Understanding household size helps planners determine the appropriate size and number of parks needed in an area to avoid overcrowding. Additionally, these larger households may have diverse recreational interests and needs. Knowing household sizes can help prioritize the types of amenities and programs that would be most beneficial and accommodating to the community.

[6] *U.S. Census Bureau. [2020]. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.*

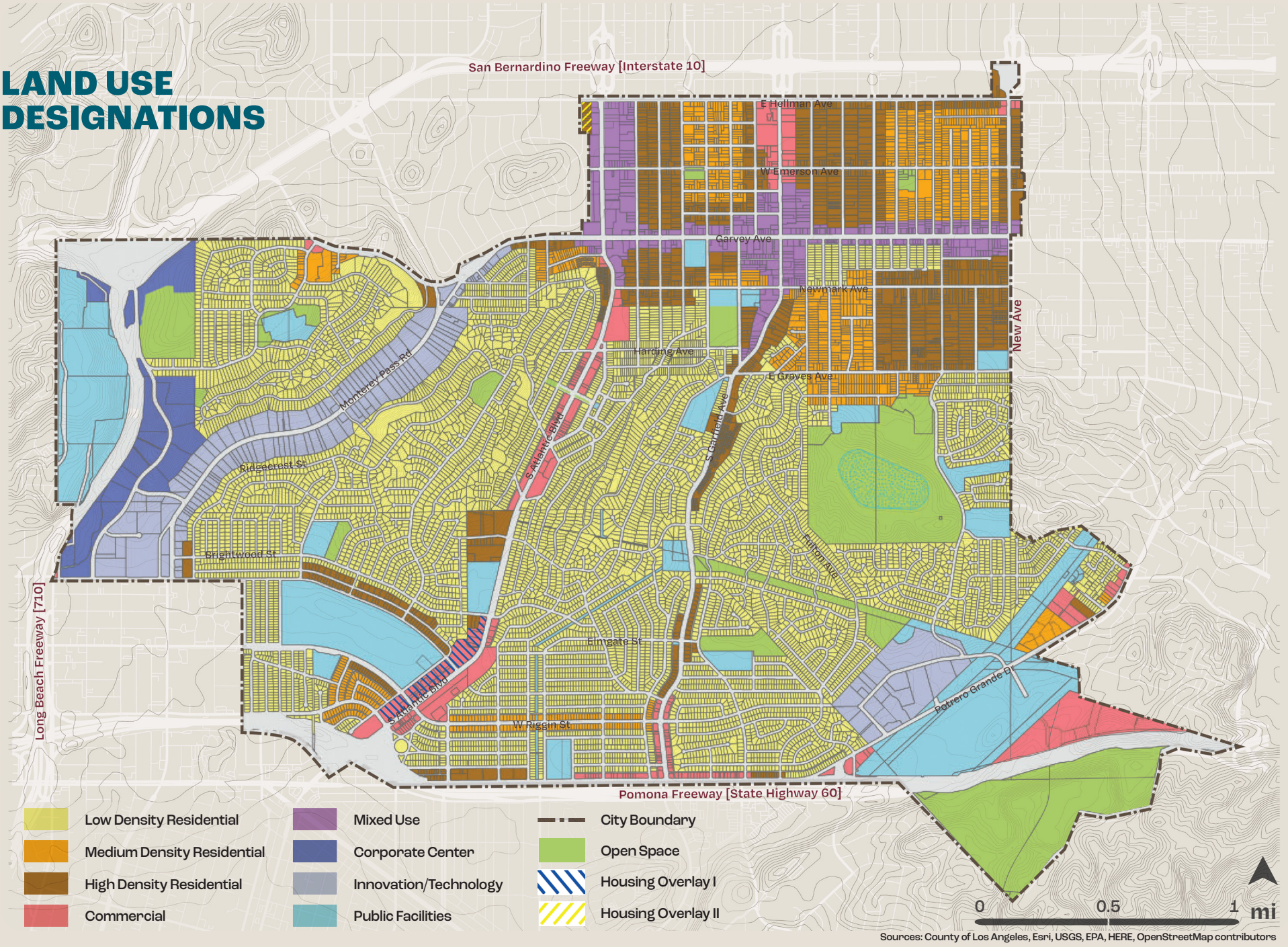
[7] *Southern California Association of Governments. [2021]. Monterey Park Housing Element Update. Retrieved from https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/monterey-park-he-0421.pdf*

RENTERS VS. HOMEOWNERS



Sources: SCAG, Esri, US Census Bureau (ACS 2023), USGS, EPA, NPS, OpenStreetMap contributors

LAND USE DESIGNATIONS



Sources: County of Los Angeles, Esri, USGS, EPA, HERE, OpenStreetMap contributors

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Land Use

According to the San Gabriel Valley Regional Bicycle Master Plan [2014], approximately 3% of Monterey Park's land is dedicated to parks, open space, and recreational facilities. In contrast, single-family residential areas comprise about 47% of the city's land area, while multi-family residential buildings account for approximately 10%. Commercial, mixed-use, and office designations collectively occupy around 10%, with commercial activities primarily concentrated along Atlantic Boulevard, Garvey Avenue, and Garfield Avenue. Industrial uses make up about 4% of the land. The remaining 26% encompasses a variety of uses, including agricultural lands [2%], educational institutions [4%], public facilities [1.2%], special use facilities [0.7%], and transportation and utilities infrastructure [10%]. Additionally, approximately 10% of the land is either vacant or undergoing construction.

Monterey Park's hilly terrain has shaped its land use patterns, resulting in neighborhoods with varying densities and character—some offering panoramic views of the Los Angeles Basin and San Gabriel Valley. The city is largely built-out, with limited opportunities for new development confined to a small number of vacant parcels and the potential redevelopment of aging or underutilized sites. This built-out context underscores the importance of strategically preserving, enhancing, and reimagining existing open spaces to meet current and future community needs. As land use continues to evolve, blending traditional suburban fabric with nodes of more urban-scale housing and commerce, open space planning must play a central role in maintaining livability, supporting equitable access to recreation, and strengthening neighborhood identity across the city.

Other Local Destinations

Developing a park network that is connected to major destinations in Monterey Park is crucial for several reasons. Such a network enhances the overall quality of life for residents by providing accessible green spaces that offer recreational opportunities, promote physical and mental well-being, and foster a sense of community. Parks connected to major destinations can create a seamless experience for Monterey Park residents and visitors, allowing them to easily access these spaces as part of their daily routines, whether it's walking to a nearby park after work or enjoying a picnic in a park near a school.

By integrating parks into the urban fabric and linking them to major destinations, cities like Monterey Park can create a more sustainable and resilient environment that benefits both residents and the ecosystem. Additionally, a well-connected park network can have economic benefits for the city. Parks enhance property values, attract tourists, and stimulate local businesses. By integrating parks with major destinations, such as schools, public gathering spaces, and businesses, cities can create vibrant, walkable neighborhoods that attract residents and visitors alike, boosting the local economy and enhancing the city's overall appeal.





Schools

Monterey Park is home to several educational institutions, including the prestigious East Los Angeles College [ELAC] offers a wide range of academic programs and serves as a hub for educational and cultural events in the community. The public schools in Monterey Park are part of the Alhambra Unified School District, Garvey School District, Los Angeles Unified School District, and Montebello Unified School District which serves a diverse student population from preschool through high school. Thinking about schools is crucial for park planning due to several key reasons. Schools and parks are often located in close proximity to each other and share resources such as open fields, playgrounds, and parking lots. Coordinating planning between schools and parks can lead to more efficient use of land and facilities, benefiting both institutions and the community. Additionally, parks and schools play vital roles in promoting health and education. Access to green spaces in parks can enhance students' physical and mental well-being, while school programs can educate students and the community about the importance of environmental conservation and outdoor activities.

Businesses

Monterey Park's business district is an active hub of commercial activity, offering residents a diverse array of shopping, dining, and entertainment options. The city's vibrant culinary scene, which features a mix of Asian and American restaurants and retail, reflects its diverse population and cultural richness. Additionally, commercial areas like Atlantic Times Square and the Monterey Park Marketplace provide residents with a range of shopping choices, contributing to the city's dynamic economy and vibrant community life. The city's small businesses encompass a wide range of industries, including retail, food and beverage, professional services, and more. These businesses play a vital role in providing goods and services to residents, creating job opportunities, and contributing to the local economy.

Civic/Community Spaces

Civic spaces can be considered "third spaces" in the sense that they serve as social hubs outside of the home [first space] and the workplace [second space]. Third spaces are essential for community building, social interaction, and civic engagement. Beyond parks, third spaces also include civic spaces, community centers, libraries, and public plazas, which create spaces to gather, socialize, and participate in public life. Monterey Park features several public gathering spaces and community spaces that play a vital role in fostering social interactions and community engagement. The Monterey Park Library, for instance, serves as a hub for educational programs, cultural events, and social activities. Similarly, Community Centers at various parks provide residents with a venue for meetings, events, and recreational activities, contributing to the strong sense of community spirit in Monterey Park.



LAND USE PLAN BUILDOUT & POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Type		Monterey Park		Sphere of Influence		Planning Area	
		Baseline (2019)	Proposed (2040)	Baseline (2019)	Proposed (2040)	Baseline (2019)	Proposed (2040)
Dwelling Unit	Single-Unit	12,219	12,039	1269	1429	13,488	13,468
	Multi-Unit	8746	12,582	248	248	8994	12,830
	Total	20,965	24,621	1517	1677	22,482	26,298
Population		64,240	75,442	4648	5139	68,888	80,581
Nonresidential Building Square Feet		14,179,900	15,426,450	37,950	68,100	14,217,860	15,494,550
Employees		31,532	34.206	58	113	31,590	34,320
Lodging Rooms		727	1334	-	-	727	1334
Students		43,234	48,211	-	-	43,234	48,211

Source: City of Monterey Park, Land Use and Community Design Element, California Department of Finance, and the Southern California Association of Governments, 2018 and 2019.

ROADWAY NETWORK



Source: City of Monterey Park General Plan

Transportation Network

Several freeways connect the City to downtown and destinations throughout Los Angeles County and beyond: the Pomona Freeway (SR-60) on the south, the San Bernardino Freeway (I-10) to the north, and the Long Beach Freeway (I-710) to the west. Regional arterial roads traversing the City include Garvey Avenue, Atlantic Boulevard, and Garfield Avenue. And for people who opt to use transit to get around, the Metro light rail system and bus lines serve Monterey Park directly, as does the Montebello bus lines.

As described in the City's Land Use and Urban Design Element, for many community members, driving is the preferred transportation option, and the large, single-family neighborhoods, hillsides, and lack of a consistent street grid in some areas create a physical environment that makes walking difficult. This also means that given the current land use pattern, connectivity to parks by foot is limited and does not accommodate the needs of all road users.

The majority of the City's current bikeway network consists of bike paths along the San Gabriel River and Rio Hondo. According to the San Gabriel Valley Regional Bicycle Master Plan [page 122], an estimated 1,887 bicycle trips are made daily in Monterey Park, which accounts for approximately 0.4% of the city's commuters.

EXISTING MODE SPLIT COMPARISON WITH NEIGHBORING CITIES

Jurisdiction	Walk	Bike	Transit	Carpool	Drive Alone
Monterey Park	1.9%	0.4%	3.8%	11.6%	75.8%
Rosemead	1.3%	0.8%	4.3%	12.2%	76.2%
South Pasadena	1.2%	0.8%	5.1%	9.2%	78.4%
Temple City	0.8%	0.4%	3.4%	12.8%	77.5%
City of Los Angeles	3.7%	1.0%	11.1%	10.3%	67.0%
County of Los Angeles	2.9%	0.8%	7.1%	10.9%	72.2%
California	2.8%	1.0%	5.1%	11.5%	73.0%
United States	2.8%	0.6%	5.0%	10.0%	76.1%

Source: 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

BIKE & BUS NETWORK



Sources: LA Metro, Mapbox, OpenStreetMap contributors, County of Los Angeles, Esri, USGS

Enhanced walkability and bikeability in Monterey Park can promote healthier lifestyles, reduce vehicle emissions, and improve accessibility to parks and green spaces, creating a more connected and sustainable urban environment. By linking neighborhoods to the larger park network, these improvements foster community engagement and equitable access to recreational opportunities. Walk Score is a tool that measures the walkability of a neighborhood based on its proximity to amenities such as parks, grocery stores, restaurants, and schools. The methodology involves assigning points to amenities based on their distance from a given location. Different types of amenities are also weighted differently, and scores for each amenity are combined, and a composite Walk Score is calculated for the location. Scores range from 0 to 100, with higher scores indicating greater walkability. Similarly, Bike Score is a metric that focuses on evaluating the bike-friendliness of a location, and assesses how suitable an area is for biking based on factors such as bike lanes, topography, road connectivity, and the availability of bike-friendly infrastructure.

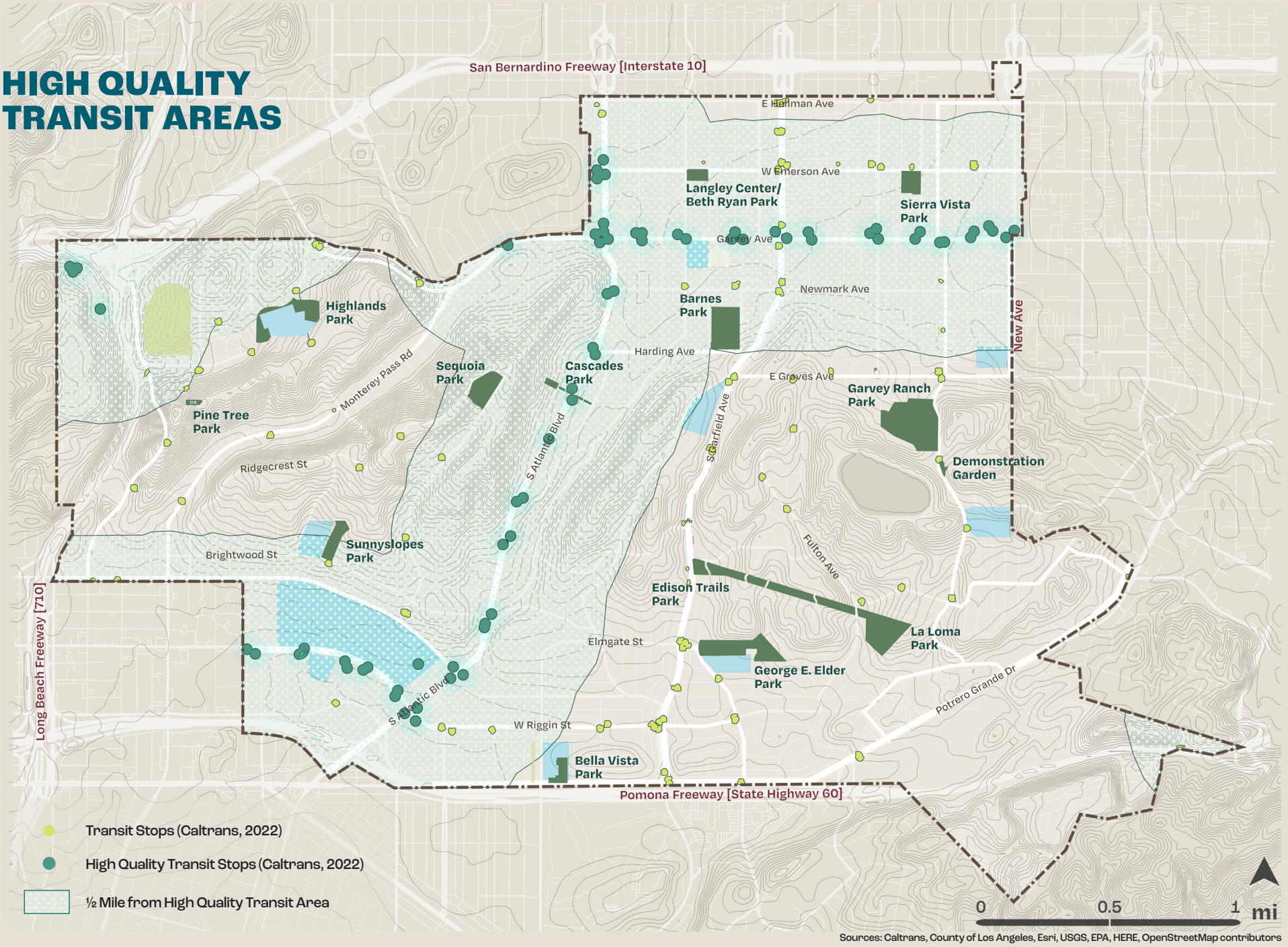
The City of Monterey Park received a Walk Score of 64 and a Bike Score of 38, meaning that the city is somewhat walkable and bikeable for residents. Monterey Park's auto-oriented land use and development patterns, hilly terrains, and limited active transportation network and amenities are three major factors that contribute to the overall walkability and bikeability of the city.

Improving walkability and bikeability will be essential for Monterey Park's open space planning to create a more connected and accessible community. As the city continues to expand its open space network, prioritizing safe, convenient, and attractive pedestrian and bicycle routes will enable residents of all ages and abilities to easily access parks, green spaces, and recreational amenities. This can include implementing greenways or linear parks that connect neighborhoods to larger parks, ensuring streets double as inviting pathways with tree-lined sidewalks and protected bike lanes. For instance, transforming underutilized streets into vibrant green corridors with benches, native landscaping, and shaded areas would provide comfortable routes for walking and cycling. Similarly, connecting key destinations, such as schools, community centers, and parks, through bike-friendly streets with clear signage and dedicated lanes would encourage active transportation. These efforts will not only enhance the city's open space network but also promote healthier lifestyles, reduce traffic congestion, and support environmental sustainability.

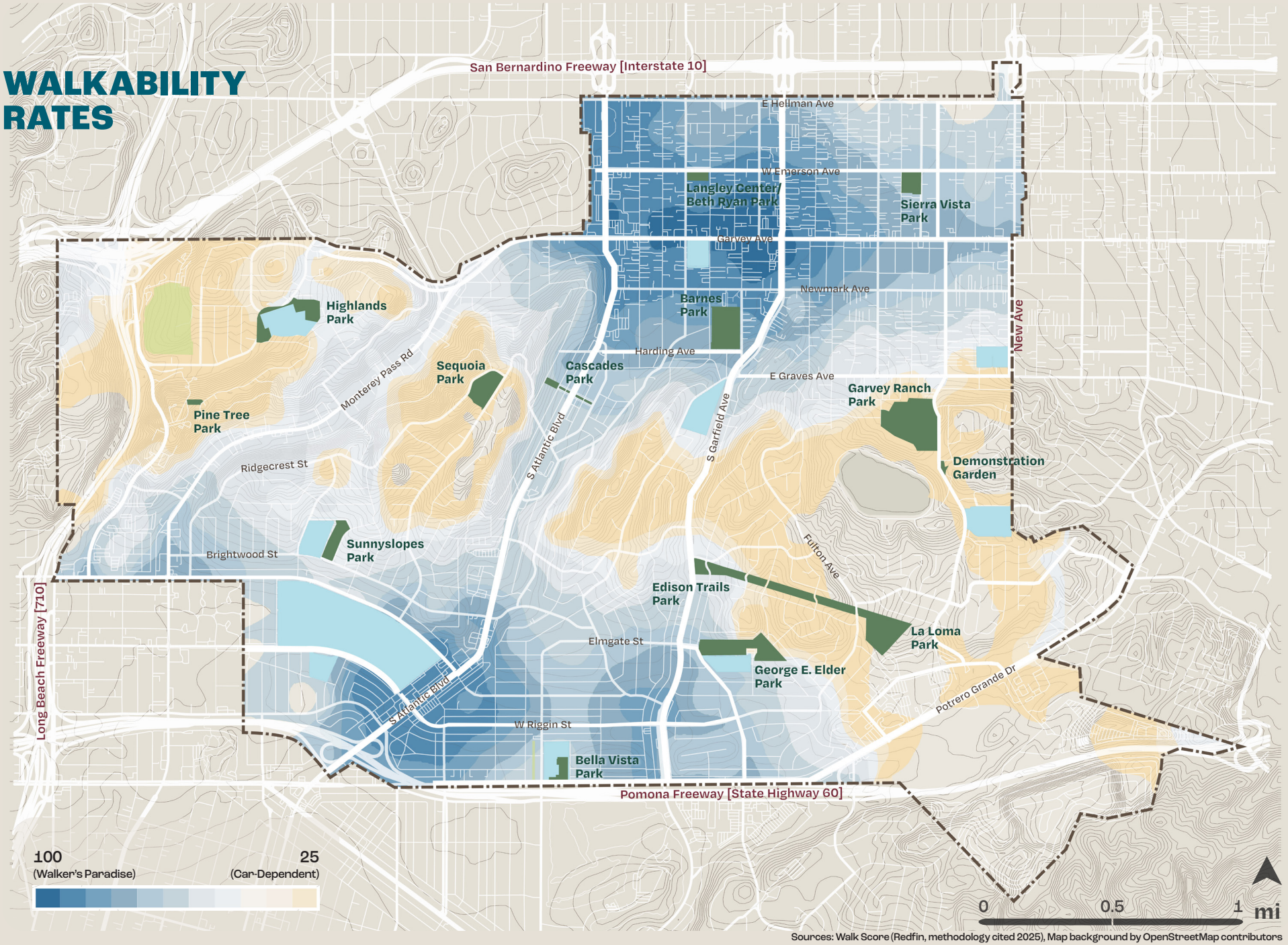




HIGH QUALITY TRANSIT AREAS



WALKABILITY RATES



Sources: Walk Score (Redfin, methodology cited 2025), Map background by OpenStreetMap contributors





Monterey Park offers a comprehensive transit network that supports local and regional connectivity while addressing the diverse mobility needs of its community. Public transportation includes the City-operated Spirit Bus (managed by the Public Works Department), a fixed-route circulator with five local routes and a shuttle connecting to the CSULA Metrolink station, as well as regional services provided by Los Angeles County Metro and Montebello Bus Lines. These options facilitate access to major destinations and provide links to the broader Los Angeles transit system, promoting sustainable and accessible transportation. The city is also exploring future innovations, such as microtransit zones, which could enhance flexibility and efficiency by utilizing on-demand technology to complement the fixed-route network.

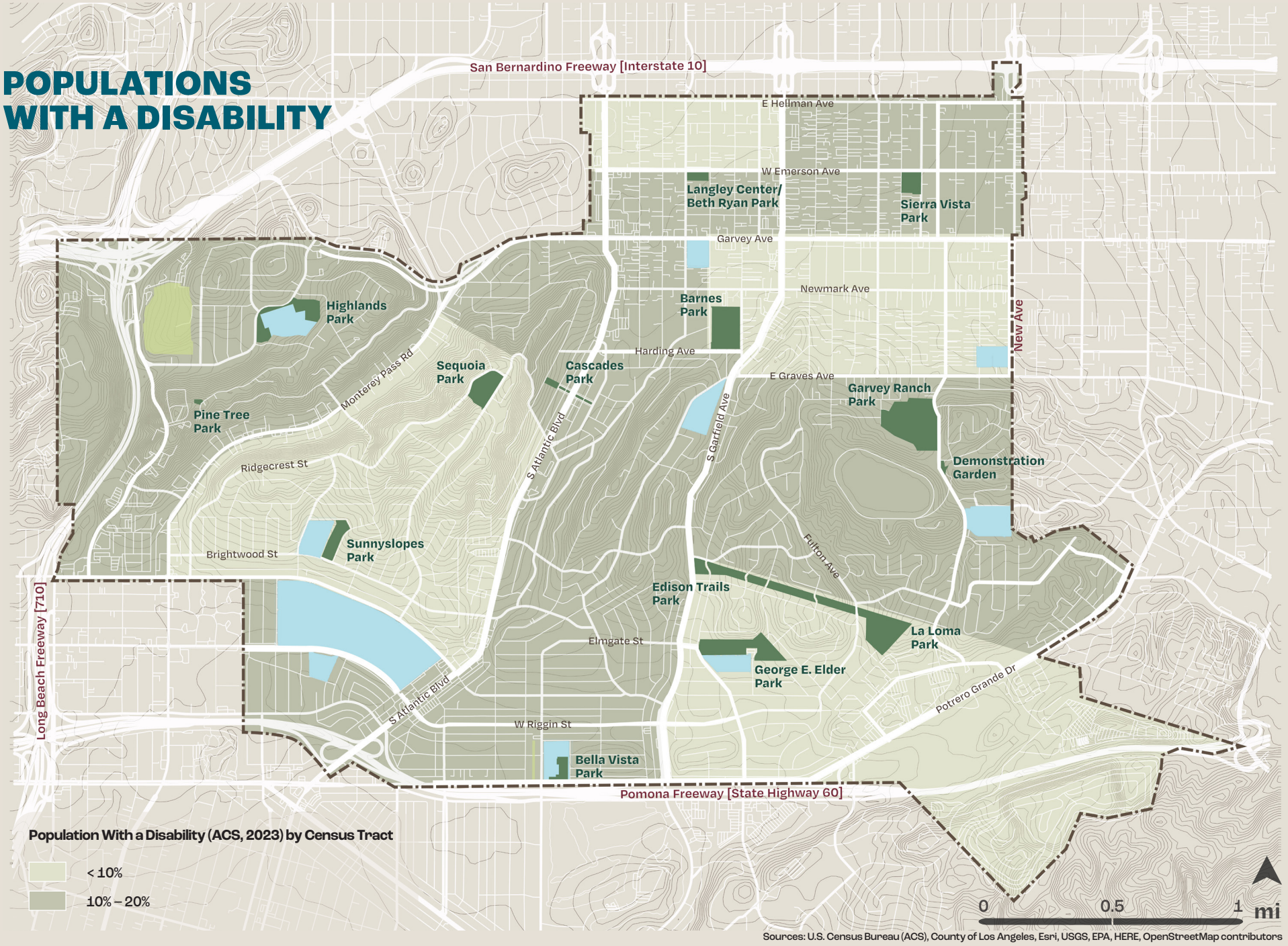
A unique aspect of Monterey Park's transit offerings is the Dial-A-Ride program, managed by the Department of Recreation and Community Services. This service provides free, door-to-door transportation for senior citizens and disabled residents within city limits, focusing on access to key locations such as the Langley Senior Citizen Center and nearby parks.

While it is uncommon for a City's recreation and parks department to oversee transit services, this arrangement aligns with Monterey Park's emphasis on supporting its aging population and ensuring equitable access to open spaces and recreational facilities.

Monterey Park has recently launched MPK Transit Express, a one-year microtransit pilot powered by Via that complements its existing Spirit Bus service. This on-demand shared-ride service operates weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. within most of the city limits, and will remain free through September 10, 2025, before switching to a $2 fare per ride. Riders can book trips via smartphone app or phone, be matched with others headed in the same direction, and enjoy enhanced accessibility options such as wheelchair-accessible vehicles.

Looking ahead, improving transit services will remain integral to the city's open space network planning. By prioritizing walkability, bikeability, and innovative transportation options, Monterey Park can create stronger connections between neighborhoods, parks, and other key destinations. This focus will enhance mobility, reduce reliance on cars, and ensure that residents of all abilities can enjoy the city's green spaces.

POPULATIONS WITH A DISABILITY



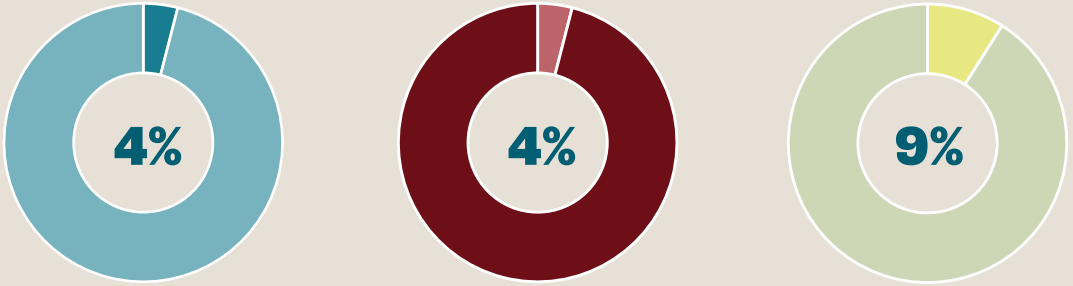
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau (ACS), County of Los Angeles, Esri, USGS, EPA, HERE, OpenStreetMap contributors

PUBLIC HEALTH

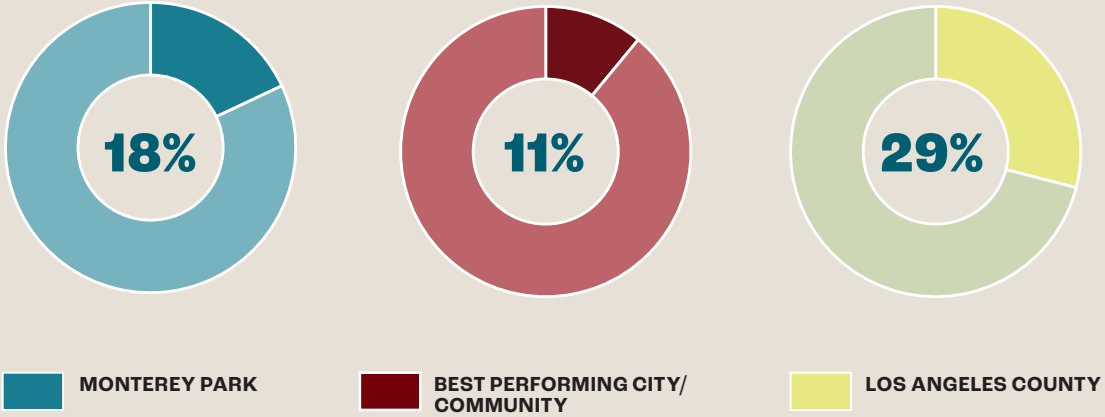
Mental Health

There is growing recognition regarding the importance of mental health, which is considered just as crucial as physical health for overall well-being. When individuals experience emotional, psychological, and social security, they are better equipped to flourish and achieve their full potential. Those exposed to persistent stressors such as financial strain, work and family pressures, job instability, unsafe living conditions, social isolation, or discrimination face heightened risks of developing mental health disorders like depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD]. Moreover, having a mental health condition elevates the likelihood of experiencing other adverse outcomes such as substance abuse or mortality due to suicide or drug overdose. While ensuring access to timely and affordable mental health interventions and services is imperative for effectively treating mental health issues, fostering community-level well-being may aid in preventing their onset. Cities and communities can play an active role in nurturing mental health by prioritizing community safety, fostering employment opportunities and economic stability, increasing access to affordable housing, offering diverse avenues for residents to engage in community matters, combating the stigma surrounding mental health, and providing support services, particularly targeting seniors and other vulnerable community members.

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS WITH DIAGNOSED DEPRESSION

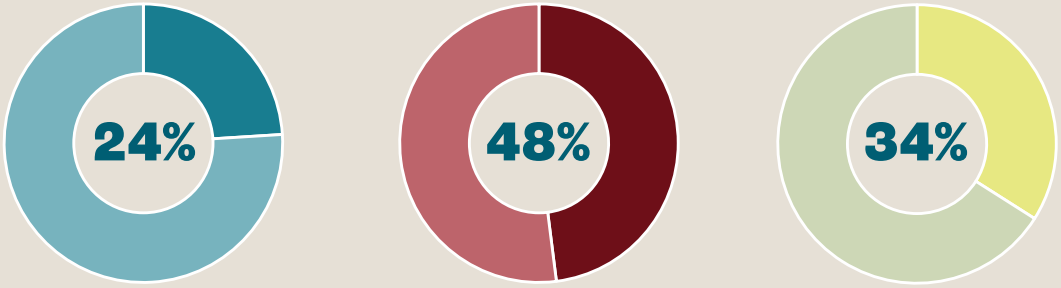


PREVALENCE OF FOOD INSECURITY AMONG HOUSEHOLDS WITH INCOMES BELOW 300% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL

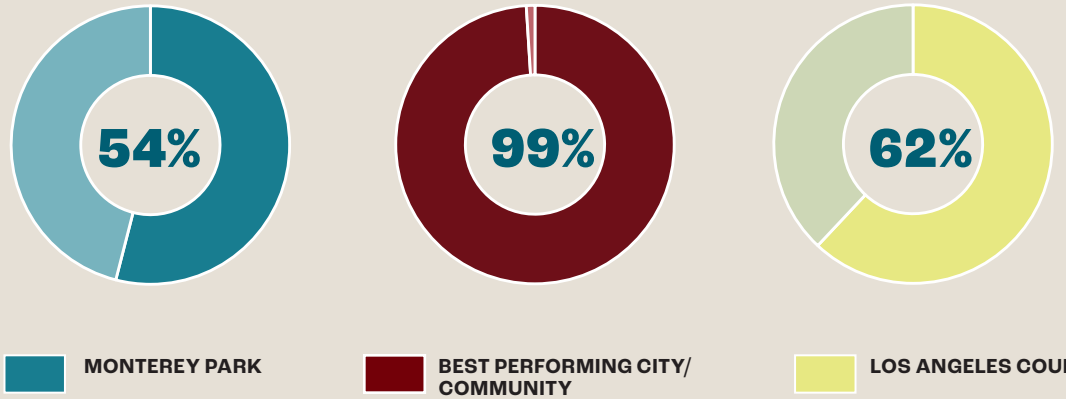


Source: Los Angeles County Department of Public, Health Los Angeles County health Survey, 2015 & US Department of Agriculture , Food Access Research Atlas, 2015

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS MEETING RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY



PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION LIVING IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO A SUPERMARKET OR GROCERY STORE



In 2018, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health conducted a study of Monterey Park in a report titled "City and Community Health Profiles: Monterey Park". In this countywide comparative study of the "social determinants of health", the mental health of residents was assessed through community engagement and public sources of data.

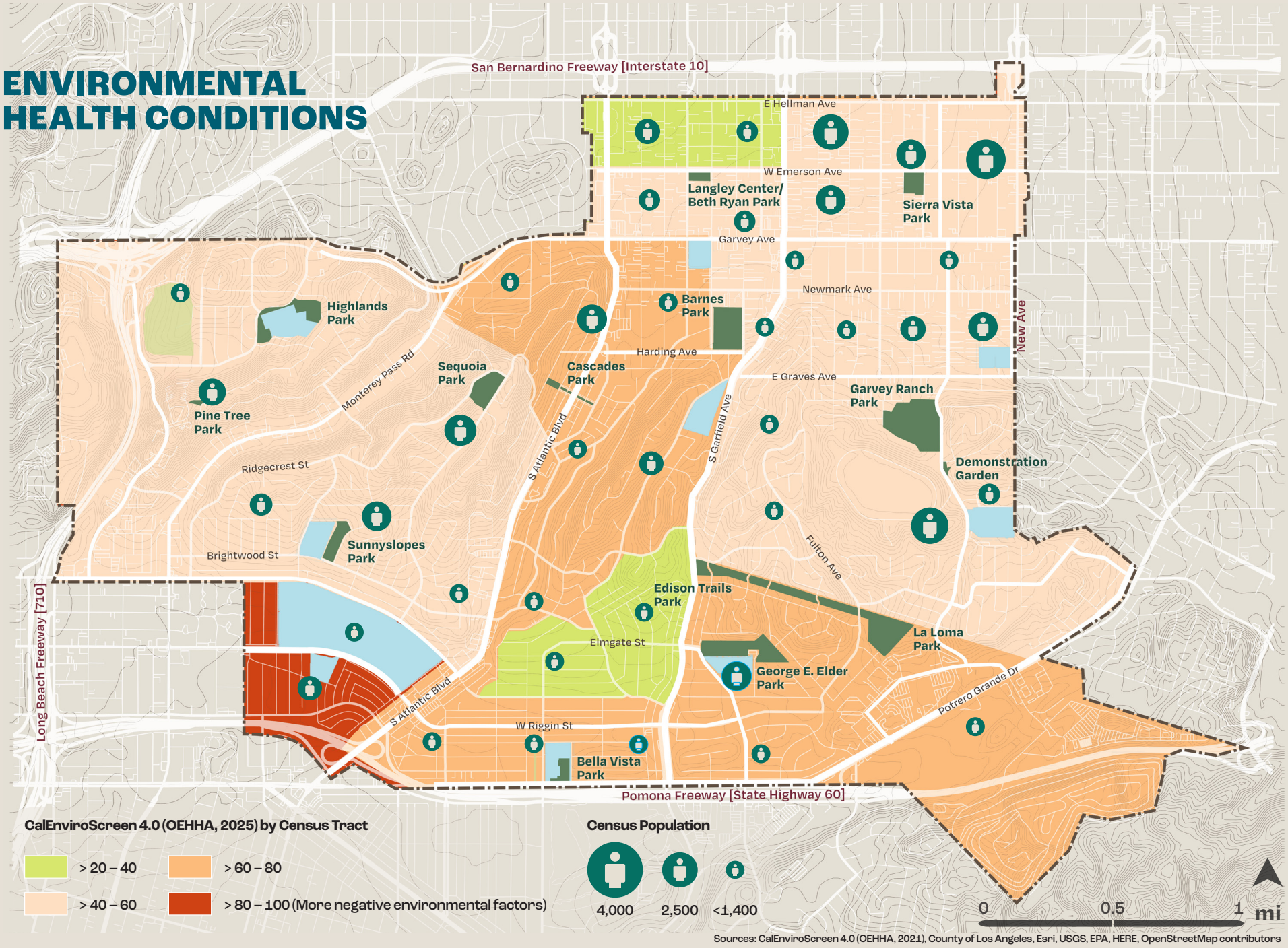
"Asian Americans have long faced barriers to care, including language access and cultural stigmas against therapy and other treatments. Overall annual average estimates for the 2008 to 2012 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health found that of all racial groups surveyed, Asian adults were the least likely to use any mental health service[8]."

The countywide study also found that Monterey Park residents who severely lacked access to public parks and open spaces, are getting less physical activity than recommended, and have limited access to healthy food options[9]. As health, including mental health, is now a priority for the City and the community of Monterey Park, it is imperative to consider how parks and open spaces can continue to support and provide spaces and programs for improved health outcomes.

[8] *The Guardian. [2023, February 12]. Asian Americans face barriers to mental health care access after California shootings. https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2023/feb/12/asian-american-mental-health-care-access-california-shootings*

[9] *Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. [2018]. Community Health Profile: Monterey Park. Retrieved from http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohae/docs/cchp/pdf/2018/MontereyPark.pdf*

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS



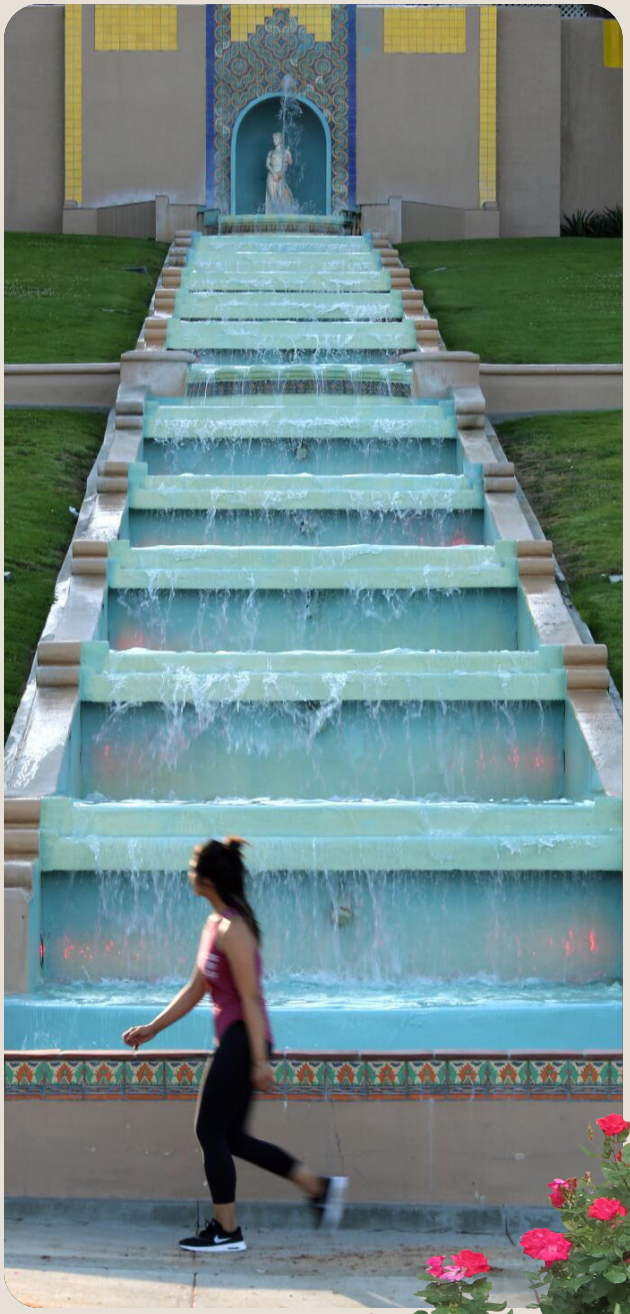
Sources: CalEnviroScreen 4.0 (OEHHA, 2021), County of Los Angeles, Esri, USGS, EPA, HERE, OpenStreetMap contributors

Environmental Health

The California Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the CalEnviroScreen tool to help identify communities that are disproportionately burdened by multiple sources of pollution. The last version of the tool, CalEnviroScreen 4.0, uses various environmental, health, and socioeconomic indicators to assess and rank communities based on their environmental vulnerability. Every census tract receives a score determined by two categories, pollution burden and population characteristics, and between both contain 21 potential indicators that are then arranged from highest to lowest in terms of potential environmental harm. A higher score indicates a greater level of environmental and socioeconomic vulnerability and burden.

Through this methodology, the California EPA determines a score for each census tract throughout California, which is important as CalEnviroScreen is the primary tool used to determine eligibility of various State funding sources, prioritize enforcement, and promote greater environmental justice. The State of California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment developed the Disadvantaged Communities Index to identify communities that qualify for the California Climate Investments program. These specifically target investments positively impact high-risk communities through the State's Cap-and-Trade program that aims to improve public health, quality of life, and economic opportunity in California's most burdened communities. Communities that are categorized as "Disadvantaged" are census tracts that were amongst the highest 25% of overall scores as determined by CalEnviroScreen 4.0.

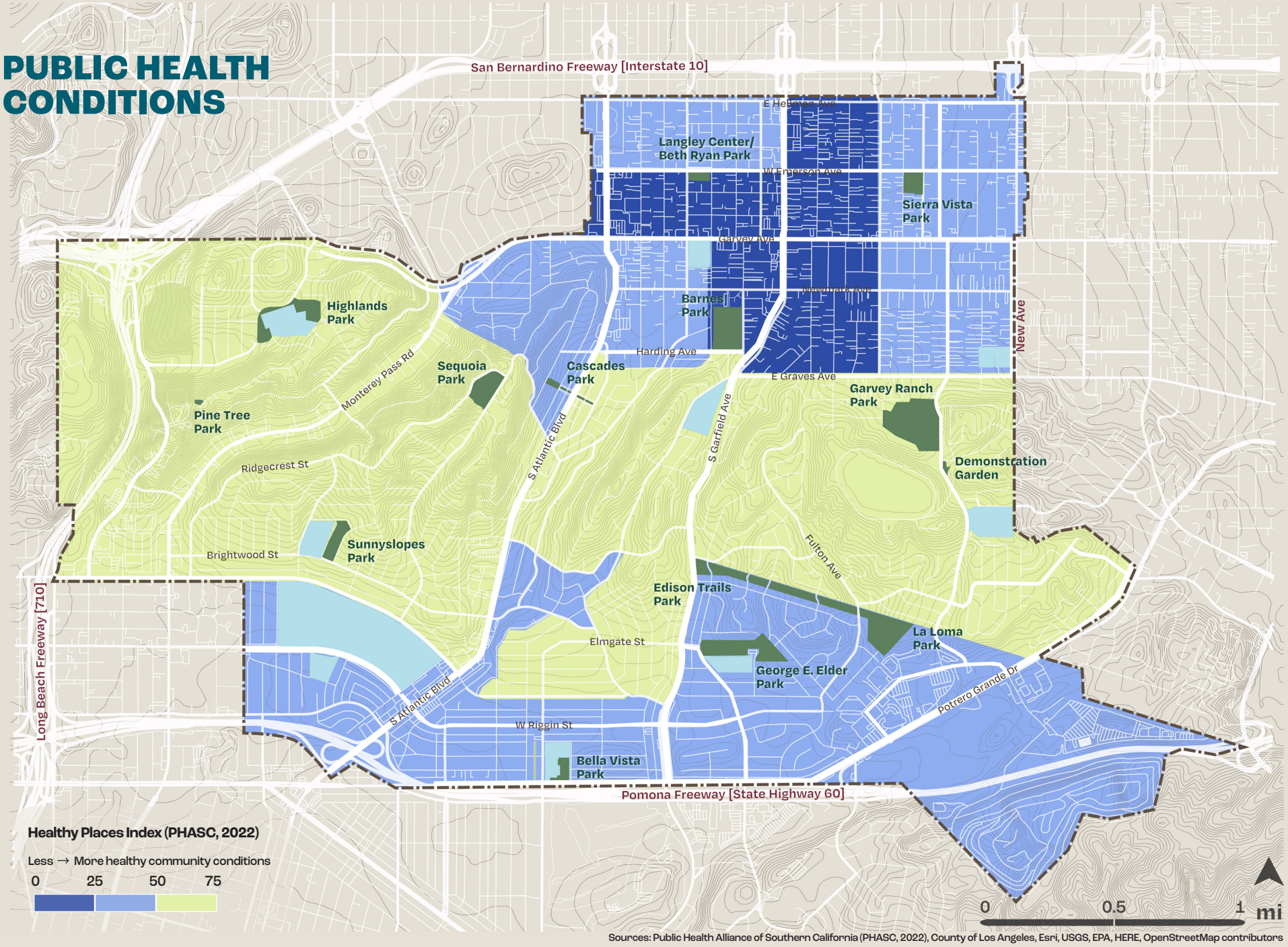




The City of Monterey Park is comprised of 15 census tracts, and the tract 6037530400 is not only the most environmentally burdened area of the city, it is one of the most environmentally burdened area in the entire state, receiving a CalEnviroScreen 4.0 score of 89%. Additionally, the census tracts 6037482701, 6037482800, 6037482102, and 6037482101 are also environmentally burdened areas, receiving CalEnviroScreen 4.0 scores that range between 60% and 70%. These scores indicate significant risks and challenges associated with pollution, environmental hazards, and socioeconomic disparities. Given that Monterey Park is generally bounded by several freeways, and the cumulative impact of vehicular emissions negatively affects the environmental health of community members. Conversely, the census tract 6037481713 received a score of 30%, representing the least environmentally burdened area in the entire city.

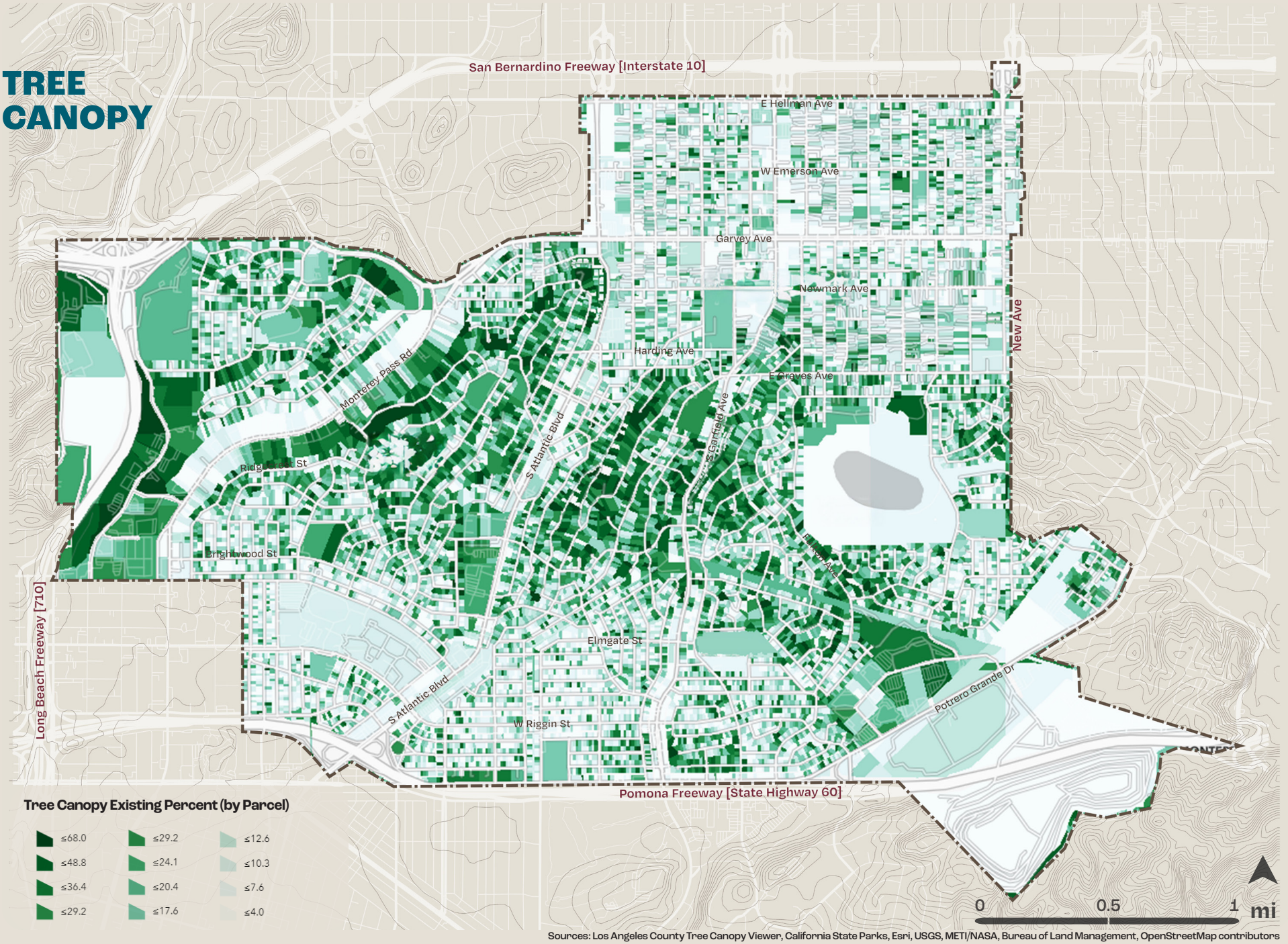
The development of parks and green spaces can greatly help to improve environmental and public health conditions of those most impacted by environmental health issues. Plants, shrubs, and especially trees sequester some of the carbon emissions. A single tree, depending on the species, climate, and other factors, can sequester around a ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Promoting active transportation travel and reducing Monterey Park's reliance on vehicular travel can also significantly reduce environmental health impacts. The City of Monterey Park Environmental Justice Element of the General Plan represents the City's vision for achieving environmental justice.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONDITIONS



Sources: Public Health Alliance of Southern California (PHASC, 2022), County of Los Angeles, Esri, USGS, EPA, HERE, OpenStreetMap contributors

TREE CANOPY



Sources: Los Angeles County Tree Canopy Viewer, California State Parks, Esri, USGS, METI/NASA, Bureau of Land Management, OpenStreetMap contributors

Urban Forest

The “urban forest” is a term used to describe a city’s network of parks, public spaces, street trees, landscaped boulevards, gardens, river and coastal areas, greenways, wetlands, nature preserves, and other natural elements. Urban forests form the green infrastructure on which communities depend, helping to filter air and water, control stormwater, conserve energy, and provide animal habitats. Urban forests also help cities reduce noise and provide places to recreate, strengthen social cohesion, spur community revitalization, and add economic value to our communities.

The Tree Equity Score, provided by American Forests, assesses the extent to which the advantages of urban tree canopy are reaching individuals who are most in need of them. The scoring system sets an equity-first benchmark to direct investments in communities characterized by low-income, communities of color, and all those disproportionately impacted by factors such as extreme heat, pollution, and other environmental factors. The distribution of tree equity scores is categorized by highest priority [0-69], high priority [70-79], moderate priority [80-89], and lowest priority [90-99].

Monterey Park has received a tree equity score of 72, which puts the city in the “high priority” category of communities in need of greater urban forestry. Out of the 40 census blocks that comprise Monterey Park, 13 were identified as being the “highest priority”, and 20 block groups were a “high priority”. Around 8,684 trees will need to be planted citywide, particularly in areas of highest priority, to achieve “tree equity” in Monterey Park. This will increase total canopy coverage up 2.4%, raise the ecosystem value by over $130,000, and sequester over 207,000 tones of carbon, which is equivalent to over 40,000 gas-powered cars [according to i-Tree Landscape which is an application that uses tree cover maps and other data to spatially estimate ecosystem services of trees]. Comparatively, the majority of Los Angeles County’s 6,544 census blocks are ranked in “highest” and “high priority”.



EIGHT BENEFITS OF TREES

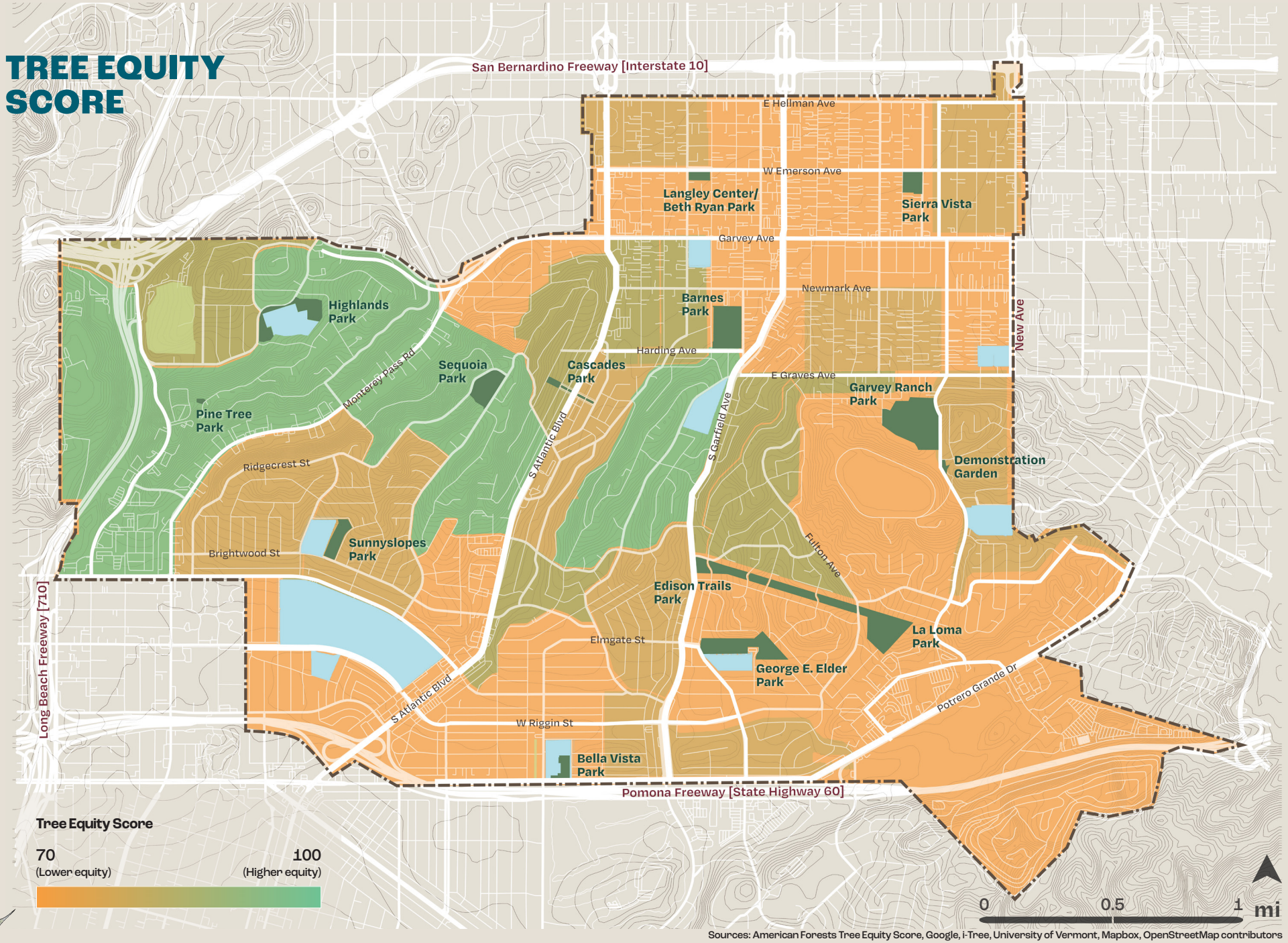
- Cooling the Air
- Improving Physical & Mental Health
- Filtering Urban Pollutants
- Reducing Air Conditioning Needs & Energy for Heating
- Improving the Water Quality & Water Flow
- Increasing Urban Biodiversity
- Providing Food
- Property Values

The Parkway Maintenance Division of Monterey Park plays a crucial role in the city's open space network by maintaining approximately 13,000 street trees and key landscaped areas such as medians and parkways. These trees, spanning 37 species and strategically placed along 203 miles of easements, provide essential environmental benefits like air filtration, noise absorption, and cooling. Additionally, they enhance the city's visual appeal and safety, contributing to a positive impression for residents, businesses, and visitors. By promoting the planting of new street trees and maintaining a five-year tree trimming cycle, the Division supports a thriving urban forest that complements and extends the city's parks and green spaces. Looking forward, filling gaps in this open space network by viewing streets as potential greenway connections will be essential. This vision ensures that Monterey Park continues to prioritize greenery and fosters a more sustainable and connected urban landscape.

Urban forestry also helps to combat the "urban heat island" effect, replacing massive amounts of pavement, buildings, and other surfaces that absorb and retain heat with a natural shade canopy that can dramatically reduce the overall temperature of the neighborhood. Expanding and enhancing a city's urban forestry also encourages greater walkability, bikeability, and transit ridership. At a regional scale, urban forests help to mitigate the effects of climate change by capturing carbon dioxide and combating heat waves. Lastly, street trees, when located near public spaces, can also help to promote social interaction and contribute to a sense of place for Monterey Park residents. In the context of Monterey Park's current built environment, urban forestry can become an integral component of the greater open space network which will help to address the deficiencies in public spaces exacerbated by a high population density. By strategically integrating trees into the urban landscape, Monterey Park can enhance connectivity and accessibility of green spaces and parks. The selection of street trees is very important in helping to create resilient ecosystems and ensuring minimal maintenance requirement and maximum shade coverage.

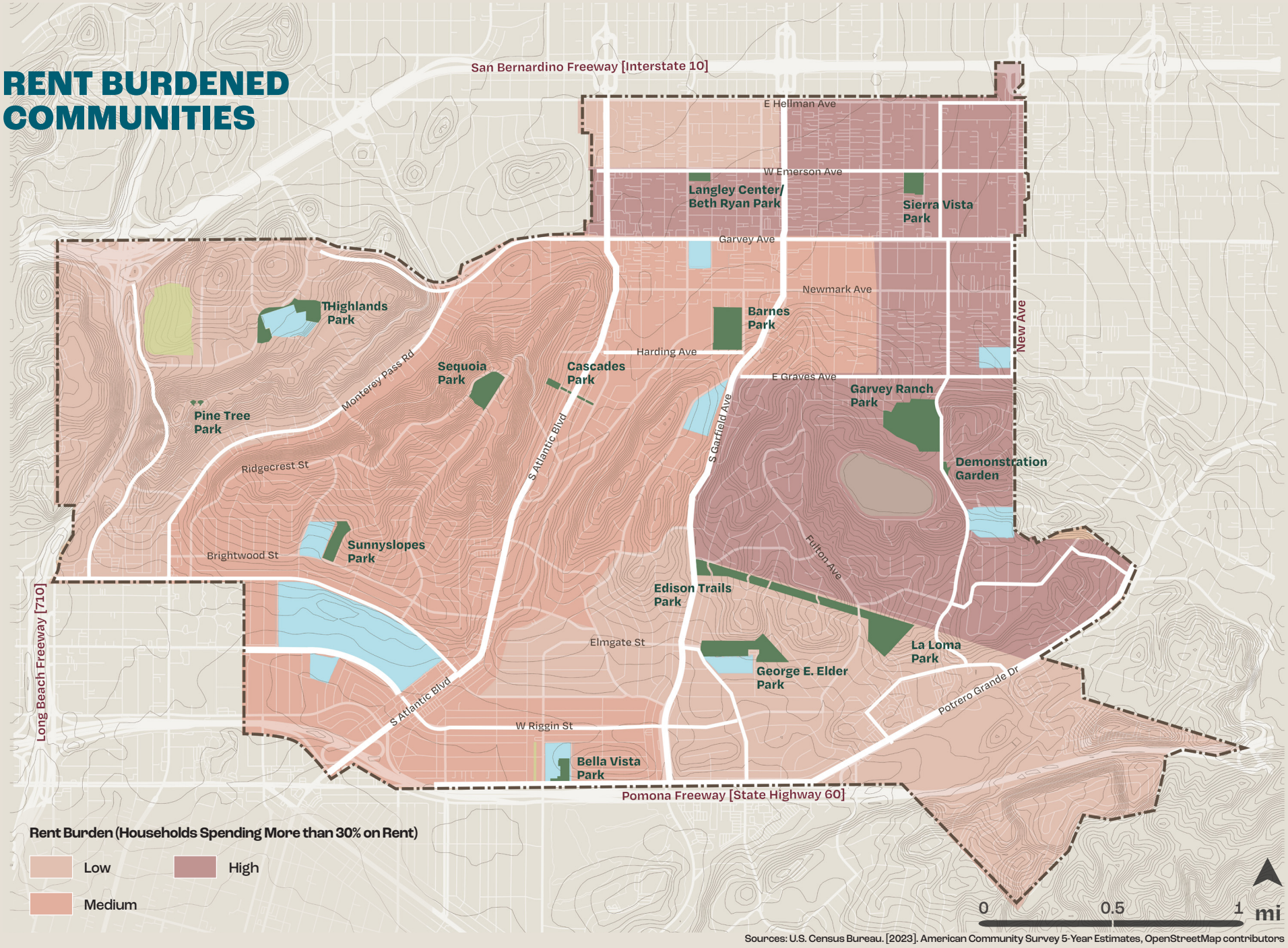


TREE EQUITY SCORE



Sources: American Forests Tree Equity Score, Google, i-Tree, University of Vermont, Mapbox, OpenStreetMap contributors

RENT BURDENED COMMUNITIES



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau. [2023]. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, OpenStreetMap contributors

Housing Security

Until recently, housing was not a typical area of study in most park master planning efforts, but as many park planners are now learning, there is a direct influence that open space has on housing, and vice versa. As cities like Monterey Park encounter the challenges of population growth and development, the concept of "green gentrification" has emerged as a topic of considerable debate. Green gentrification refers to the process by which environmentally beneficial initiatives, such as the development of parks, green spaces, and sustainable infrastructure, lead to the displacement and marginalization of low-income residents. As Monterey Park plans its open space network for the future, it is essential to consider the potential impacts of green gentrification and explore strategies to ensure that environmental progress is equitable and inclusive.

To comprehend the phenomenon of green gentrification, it is crucial to recognize the interconnectedness of environmental and park equity initiatives and urban development. Green gentrification is the concept that with public capital investment into the development or redevelopment of parks and open spaces, the surrounding neighborhood's property values will rise, and as a result, lower-income residents are displaced by wealthier newcomers.

The City of Monterey Park, like many urban areas, faces pressures to enhance its environmental sustainability while balancing the needs of its diverse population. As plans for the open space network take shape, the GROW Master Plan must consider how new park developments in Monterey Park might impact our most vulnerable communities, particularly those with limited resources or marginalized backgrounds. Failure to address the potential for green gentrification could exacerbate inequality and undermine the long-term viability of park equity initiatives.

As Monterey Park plans for the future of their open space network, it is essential to simultaneously consider residential anti-displacement strategies to protect our most vulnerable populations. Ignoring the risks of green gentrification could perpetuate cycles of displacement and exclusion, ultimately undermining the city's efforts to create a more livable and resilient community. By proactively addressing these issues, Monterey Park can ensure that its open space network benefits all residents, regardless of income or background.



PARK & COMMUNITY HISTORY

The equity-centered approach of the GROW Master Plan recognizes the importance of acknowledging and addressing historical disparities that may have disproportionately affected certain groups within Monterey Park. This includes a commitment to rectifying past imbalances in access to recreational resources, ensuring that historically marginalized communities have an equitable opportunity to benefit from the planned developments.



Community History

Prior to Spanish colonization and the subsequent displacement of Native peoples from their ancestral lands, the Tongva and Shoshone tribes inhabited the foothills of what is now Monterey Park. Throughout the 1800s, the area witnessed an extensive history of land acquisition and transactions, both before and after the establishment of the San Gabriel Mission and the Spanish Land Grant known as Don Antonio Maria Lugo Rancho.

Situated in the San Gabriel Valley to the east of Los Angeles, Monterey Park holds a strategic position in the region, relative to Downtown Los Angeles and Pasadena. The city was established in 1916 after community members fought against the threat of a sewer plant being built in the area, which was proposed by Pasadena and Alhambra[10]. Once Monterey Park was recognized as an official city, new development began to arise as land began to be bought and sold. Street enhancements were introduced with the paving of Garfield Ave which stretched to Montebello in 1923, followed by Atlantic Boulevard in 1928[11]. With new development and connectivity, the city's population began to grow during this period, but it wasn't until the end of WWII that it experienced its most significant expansion. Through the 1940s to 1960s Monterey Park established 8 new parks to accommodate its growing population. These parks were Barnes Park [1948], Garvey Ranch [1952], La Loma [1953], Langley [1954], Sunnyslopes [1958], George Elder Park [1959], Edison Trails [1965], Highlands [1965], and Sequoia [1969][12].

In Monterey Park, there have been major contributions to the city's cultural and economic development from communities such as Latinos, Japanese American, Jewish, and Armenian. In the 1980's, there was heavy foreign investment from Taiwan, China, and Southeast Asia that began to change the cultural landscape of the city and attracted Asian immigrants into Monterey Park, particularly from mainland China. Due to this influx of immigrants, the city soon became known as a Chinese suburb, and as it grew, so did its population of middle-class Chinese immigrants. White and Latino residents sold their property when they observed the influx of Asian immigrants. Monterey Park quickly evolved into an Asian American hub, drawing Asian residents from neighboring cities into the area[13].

The increasing Asian population led to racial tensions within the city. These tensions were heightened in the 1980s by former mayor Barry Hatch's degrading comments about immigration and the community's changes. Much of the non-Asian residents that still remained began to protest the expansion of Asian culture by fighting the use of Chinese signs and forcing English to be the official language[14].

The city was divided until the 1990s when politicians like Lily Lee Chen, Judy Chu, and Mike Eng fought against discrimination and formed multi-ethnic coalitions, helping to reunite the community and embracing the cultural diversity.









THERE ARE 14 CITY PARKS THAT ACCOUNT FOR 107.64 ACRES IN MONTEREY PARK:

- Barnes Park
- Bella Vista Park
- Cascades Park
- Demonstration Garden
- Edison Trails Park
- Garvey Ranch Park
- George E Elder Memorial Park
- Highlands Park
- La Loma Park
- Langley Senior Center and Beth Ryan Park
- Pine Tree Park
- Sequoia Park and Nachi Gardens
- Sierra Vista Park
- Sunnyslopes Park

Reflecting its historical and cultural diversity, Monterey Park is now home to fourteen parks spread across its approximately 7-square-mile area. These parks serve as a central gathering place for the community and a place to host important cultural events.

For instance, Barnes Park is host to events and festivals like the Cherry Blossom Festival, Cinco De Mayo Event, Lunar New Year Event, Happy Birthday Monterey Park, Play Days Carnival, Independence Day Celebration, and more. These events highlight the city's multicultural heritage and help foster unity.

Monterey Park also uses their parks for educational recreation, which is important to the residents. Garvey Ranch Park, home to the Garvey Ranch observatory and historical museum, hosts interactive events that help residents of all ages engage in learning. The city has also been dedicated to providing inclusive recreational spaces by providing facilities like picnic areas, outdoor/indoor courts, and playgrounds that allow the community to socialize, gather, and interact.

Although Monterey Park has a good amount of parks in the city, the need for additional green space has been debated as the population continues to grow. With minimal available land, the city is focused on maximizing the use of its established parks[15]. Improvements have already been made to Bella Vista, Edison Trails, Garvey Ranch, Highland, and Sequoia Parks, where outdated playground equipment has been replaced or repaired. These enhancements aim to attract more visitors by creating safer and larger spaces for youth to interact.



[10] *https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1860/Introduction?bidId=*

[11] *https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1854/Monterey-Park-in-the-1920s?bidId=*

[12] *https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1857/Monterey-Park-in-the-1950s-and-1960s?bidId=*

[13] *https://nytimes.com/1994/10/17/us/asian-investors-create-a-pocket-of-prosperity.html*

[14] *https://www.nytimes.com/2023/01/23/us/monterey-park-history-chinese.html*

[15] *https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/14211/Resources-Element?bidId=*









Below are a few key summaries of the history of park development in Monterey Park:

Cascades Park & Jardín el Encanto

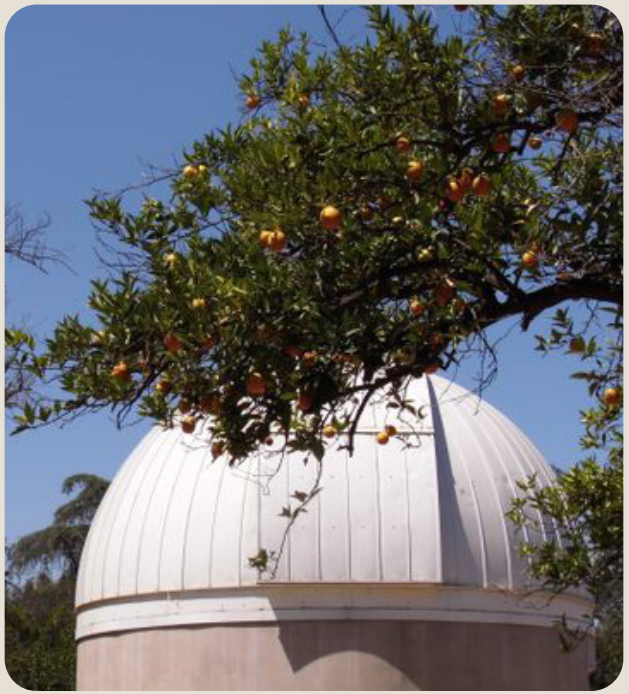
Just north of the city is the historical landmark, Jardín el Encanto and Cascades Park; the approximately two-acre park features a cascading fountain that pours downhill towards De la Fuente and the Jardín el Encanto. Both the building and the park were constructed concurrently as focal points to the Midwick View Estates in 1929. Peter N. Snyder, a real estate developer, envisioned a luxury residential area with the conceptualizations of Beverly Hills and Bel Air in mind. Even though his work of industrial, commercial, and residential expansions on Atlantic Boulevard was a component of influence to the city's business district and its neighbors, the Great Depression inhibited any real estate growth and halted Snyder's proposed plans. He also proposed an amphitheater to be constructed at the top of the cascade but was ultimately never built; at the top of the park now sits the observation terrace overlooking the neighborhood downhill. In 2021, the park was rehabilitated with sustainable irrigation practices and landscaping with native plants.

Garvey Ranch Park

Residing in the east side of Monterey Park, next to the Garvey Reservoir, is the Garvey Ranch Park. The park includes amenities like picnic tables/shelters, two baseball/softball diamond, two playgrounds, two tennis courts, outdoor basketball courts, a historical museum, and functioning observatory that serve as testaments to the history of the city. In 1879, a United States [US] Army mail carrier named Richard Garvey traversed the foothills of the land while on his way to Los Angeles. Some time after, Garvey purchased 4,000 acres of the area [former rancho land] and settled down in his home where the park currently resides. His son, Garvey Jr., constructed the observatory for leisure use as an extension of his residence in the 1930's. Garvey also has a road named after him [formerly called Coyote Pass], which prior to the freeway, was one of the prominent roads to get into Los Angeles from the San Gabriel Valley. Now, the Monterey Park Historical Museum and the Garvey Ranch Park Observatory are operated by the Monterey Park Historical Society and the Los Angeles Astronomical Society respectively. The museum even includes a tiny segment of Garvey's original home. Both of these sites garner community engagement while educating residents about the place they inhabit.





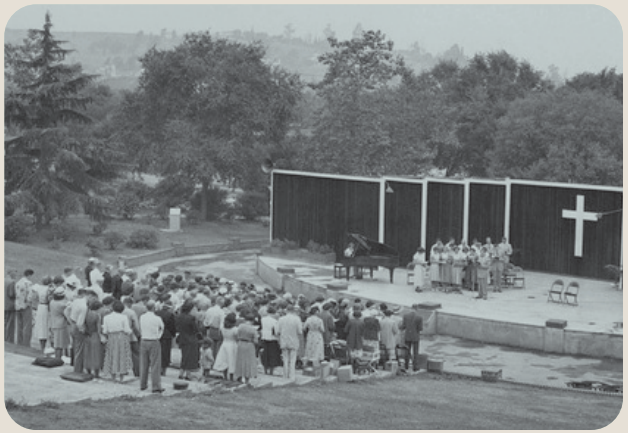




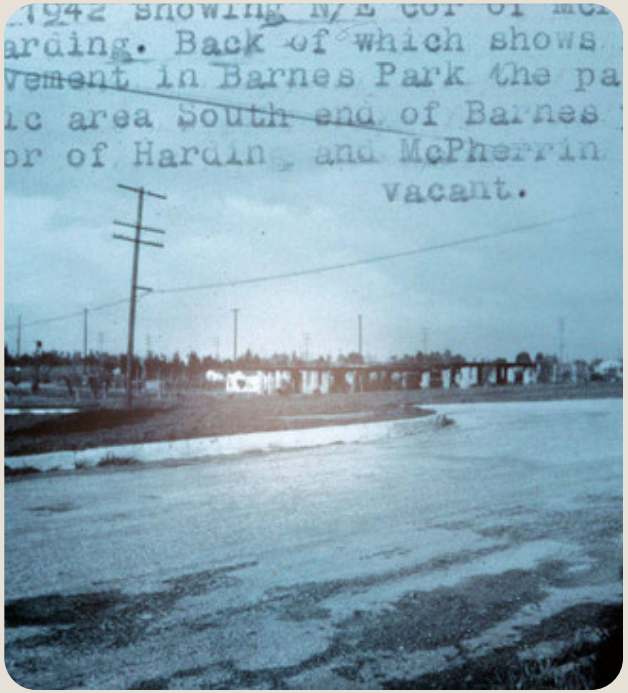
Barnes Park

The park was originally named "Monterey Park Park," but in 1948, its name changed to Barnes Park, in honor of resident Mr. B.S. Barnes, who led the park's initial acquisition. That same year, the Barnes Park Memorial Bowl and play area were inaugurated. Barnes Park became a key staple in the city and attracted many artists including Lawrence Welk and Janice Joplin, who performed in the park. Barnes Park is located within walking distance of the City Hall, library, and fire station and offers a range of recreational services including spaces for sports, picnics, and more notably the aforementioned amphitheater.









Edison Trails Park

Edison Trails Park was officially established in 1965 through a license agreement between the City of Monterey Park and Southern California Edison (SCE), making it one of the earliest examples of joint-use parkland in the region. Situated along an SCE electric transmission corridor in the southwestern hills of the city, the park transformed a utilitarian right-of-way into a publicly accessible natural space. For decades, it served the community with its network of unpaved walking trails, scenic hillside views, and informal open space for hiking and passive recreation. In the early 2010s, however, the park faced new challenges when SCE implemented stricter vegetation management guidelines, starting in 2013, which threatened the removal of many trees and vegetation due to updated safety regulations. After community pushback and negotiation, a compromise was reached in 2014 to allow selective trimming instead of widespread removal, preserving much of the park's natural character. Edison Trails Park continues to be a valuable example of how cities can creatively leverage infrastructure corridors to expand public open space.









Demonstration Garden

Located on Orange Avenue, the Demonstration Garden lays on 1.12 acres of land between Metro Drive and Tegner Drive. This park is one of the more recent parks, established in the 1990s. With the help of the San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (SGVMWD), renovations were done in 2017 to introduce a garden filled with drought tolerant plants. The garden includes international themes that celebrate the community's diversity. Some of these themes include Asian, California native meadow, Mediterranean, and Spanish gardens. Also included, is water wise irrigation which is used through the whole garden making it environmentally friendly[16].

[16] *https://ca-montereypark.civicplus.com/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/518*












FITNESS COURT









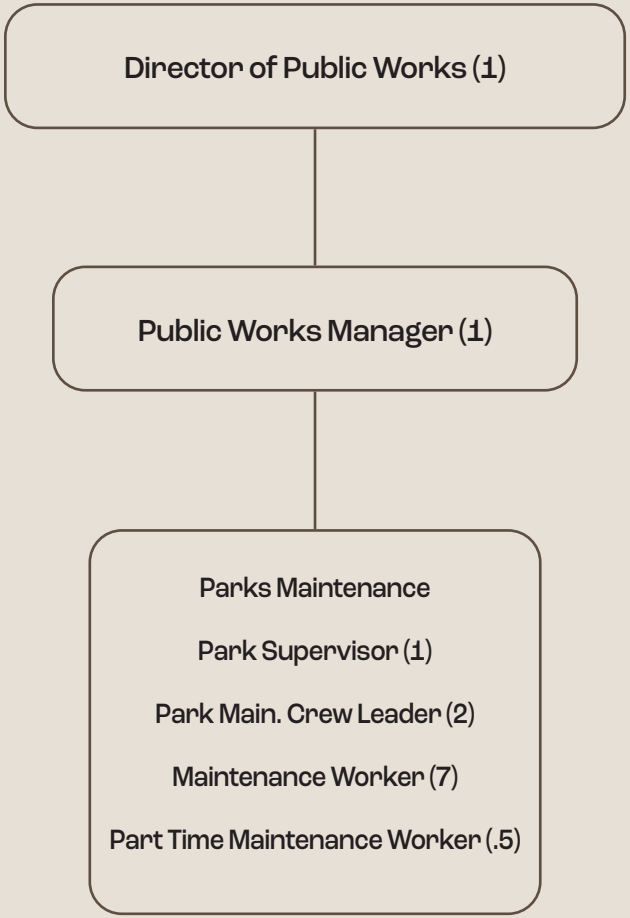







Chinese
New Year
2014

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
PARKS DIVISION



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
FY 2025–2026 ADOPTED BUDGET

Expenditures by Character	FY 2023–24 Actual	FY 2024–25 Original Budget	FY 2024–25 Projected Budget	FY 2025–26 Budget
Salary and Benefits	$497,230	$566,211	$566,211	$611,093
Services	$335,996	$285,625	$285,625	$436,795
Commodities	$86,784	$124,225	$124,225	$69,700
Internal Services	$554,376	$546,876	$546,876	$562,787
Total Expenditures	**$1,474,386**	**$1,522,937**	**$1,522,937**	**$1,680,376**
Authorized Full-Time Equivalent Positions	**6**	**6**	**6**	**6**

Funding Sources by Type	FY 2023–24 Actual	FY 2024–25 Original Budget	FY 2024–25 Projected Budget	FY 2025–26 Budget
General Fund	$1,080,093	$1,193,609	$1,193,609	$1,326,884
Special Revenue	$229,511	$223,592	$223,592	$242,447
Enterprise	$164,782	$105,736	$105,736	$111,045
Total Expenditures	**$1,474,386**	**$1,522,937**	**$1,522,937**	**$1,680,376**



EXISTING PARK FUNDING

Parks are essential community assets that provide recreational opportunities, improve public health, advance sustainability, and foster social cohesion. However, the City of Monterey Park faces challenges in securing ongoing and additional funding to maintain and operate these spaces. While grants often support new park development, long-term care and day-to-day upkeep are underfunded.

The Recreation and Community Services Department extends its impact beyond traditional programming by offering unique services and fostering community connections. It operates the Community Dial-A-Ride program, providing vital transportation services, and state-licensed childcare programs, supporting families with high-quality care. The Department also manages a volunteer program, encouraging civic engagement, and oversees Facility and Picnic Reservations to facilitate community use of public spaces. Additionally, it acts as a liaison to three City Commissions [refer to page 101 for more information] ensuring that diverse community needs are reflected in local decision making. These non-traditional services highlight the department's dedication to creating a vibrant, inclusive, and supportive community.



With regards to its Revenue Budget, the City of Monterey Park receives funding from a variety of sources such as taxes, grants, permits, and service fees. The General Fund is the main operating fund of the City and pays for the majority of police, fire, building, zoning, public works, park maintenance, recreation, and library services.

Like many cities across the United States, the City of Monterey Park's Recreation & Community Services Department is operating on a limited budget that represent a small fraction of the total City Budget. The Department funds many of its programs through alternative revenue sources. Specialized recreation classes, aquatics, day care, and reservations are partially self-supported through user fees and charges. Additionally, the Dial-A-Ride Program is financed by revenue from a Los Angeles County voter-approved one-quarter percent sales tax.

The Recreation and Community Services Department has a total expenditure of $4.2 million for the fiscal year 2024-2025, with programs and divisions focusing on enhancing facilities, expanding access, and improving services for the community. The following FY 2024-2025 budgets also include essential operational costs such as staff salaries and benefits, contracted services, and commodities:



Recreation Facilities Division

With a budget of approximately $1.1 million, the division aims to modernize and enhance Barnes Park gymnasium by renovating the indoor restrooms and replacing the gymnasium floor. Additionally, it plans to build three new picnic pavilions at Garvey Ranch Park and utilize a grant to update the Langley Center Lobby with new furniture and phone charging stations.

Aquatics Program

The Aquatics Program, also allocated $1.1 million, focuses on modernizing the pool facility by adding new lane line anchors to support simultaneous aquatic programs. The program will also reinstate summer aquatic offerings, including public night swim and adult swim lessons, to enhance access for residents.

Senior Programs Division

With a budget of $721,765, Senior Programs will renovate the east wing restrooms at Langley Center, offer emergency preparedness workshops in collaboration with the Fire Department, and compile a comprehensive list of mental health and social services resources for participants.

Youth Programs Division

Youth Programs has a budget of $241,504 and aims to modernize electronic infrastructure for online registration and payments for Day Care and Summer Day Camp programs. It will also implement youth mental health and wellness activities and develop marketing strategies to achieve a 25% enrollment increase in the Summer Day Camp.

Recreation Programs Division

This division, with $241,504 allocated, plans to expand leisure class programming by partnering with local businesses and entrepreneurs to offer classes outside city facilities. It also aims to grow the “MPK Mini’s” program to include youth soccer and volleyball clinics.

Special Events Division

With a budget of $235,253, this division will commemorate Asian American and Pacific Islander [AAPI] and Native American Heritage months through cultural activities. It also plans to increase public engagement in the Parks System Master Plan process and enhance participation in events like Santa’s Jolly Journey through expanded marketing.



Community Transportation Division

The Community Transportation Division has $989,727 in funding and plans to establish an annual leisure group excursion to the Vincent Price Art Museum for cultural and social engagement. It also aims to improve communication about subsidized M.T.A. bus fares available to seniors and students.

Reallocation of the existing budget will be critical to achieving the goals of the City of Monterey Park GROW Plan, serving as the foundation for enhancing the city's parks and recreation system. To implement the recommended actions outlined in the Final Plan, it will be necessary to strategically prioritize resources to address community needs. At the same time, the Recreation and Community Services Department must advocate for increased funding to support long-term growth and improvements, presenting compelling evidence of the plan's benefits, such as improved public health, equity, and economic development, to decision-makers.

To address the funding gap for park operations and maintenance, the City can explore various approaches, including creating dedicated funding streams like expanded municipal budgets for parks, development-related impact fees, or targeted tax measures. Currently, the City does have development impact fees, but are set at a rate that should be reassessed on a regular basis. Partnerships with private entities, community-based organizations, and nonprofit foundations can also provide critical support. Volunteer programs offer another opportunity for local residents to actively contribute through financial donations or hands-on efforts to care for the parks they value. These measures not only enhance financial stability but also foster shared responsibility for keeping parks well-maintained.

Securing sustainable funding, however, requires strong political will. Parks must be prioritized as critical infrastructure in budget decisions, and elected officials must champion policies that ensure equitable access and ongoing maintenance, especially in underserved communities. Political leaders play a vital role in rallying public support by articulating the value of parks as essential community assets that enhance public health, environmental sustainability, and social equity. By driving policy change and advocating for dedicated funding mechanisms, policymakers can ensure that Monterey Park's park system receives the resources it needs to thrive for generations to come. Additional information on the topic of park funding can be found on page 271.





Recreation & Community Services Department

The Monterey Park Recreation & Community Services Department is responsible for administering, managing, and implementing all leisure service programs for the city's residents. Currently staffed by 15 full-time and approximately 21 part-time employees, the Department coordinates a range of activities, including recreation programs, classes, special events, Dial-a-Ride transportation services, community beautification programs, and volunteer services.

Monterey Park currently provides a diverse array of recreational programs catering to various age groups and interests. In the Aquatics Division, programs include Lap Swim for those over the age of 18, Public Swim for youth and adults, Pool Rentals for youth, Swim Lessons (Tot-Level 6) for youth, and Water Aerobics for individuals over the age of 18.

The Child Care Division offers comprehensive services, such as After School Care (during the school year) for 5-12-year-olds, Spring Break Camp, Summer Day Camp, Thanksgiving Break Camp, Tiny Tots for 3-4.5-year-olds, and Winter Day Camp for 5-12-year-olds.

For those interested in skill development, the Contract Classes Division provides a range of options such as Baseball/Softball Hitting Fundamentals for 8-18-year-olds, Beginner Crochet for teens and adults, Breakthrough Sports focusing on basketball skills for youth, and Chinese Reading for 5- to 8-year-olds. Other programs include Creative Writing, Dance Fitness, Fitness classes, Karate for people over the age of 6, Kung Fu Beg/Int for individuals over the age of 18, Line Dance for those aged 18-70, Mandarin Story Time for 2-5-year-olds, Salsa Dance, Summer Swim and Water Polo Skills for 13-18-year-olds, Tennis for people over the age of 3, Folk Dance for those aged 50-99, and Tai Chi for individuals over the age of 50.

Facilities are available for rental, including the Barnes Park Amphitheater, fields, and gymnasiums, with additional offerings like Pickleball Leagues for adults, Picnic Shelter Rentals, and Service Club House Rentals.

The Seniors Division provides various activities for those over the age of 50, including rentals for Langley Center and Langley Center Kitchen, Senior Leisure Trips, monthly dances with meals, Show the Love - Gram, and a range of activities such as Billiards, Bridge Play, Crochet and Knitting, Fitness Room access, Health and Wellness Workshops, Health Screenings, Karaoke, Kimekomi Doll Making, Line Dance, Mah Jong, Meal Distribution, Ping Pong, World Culture Dance, Yoga, and Yuen Chi Dance.



The Transportation Division offers services like the Mature Driving Course for those aged 55-99, Dial A Taxi for individuals over the age of 55, Metro Tap Card Reduced Fee for those over the age of 62, and Dial-A-Ride services for those 55 and older. Free Programs Division includes Pickleball Intro for those over the age of 18 and various activities for seniors over 50. Administrative Division's Civic Superstar program targets 1st-5th graders.

Special Events Division hosts a wide range of family and adult events, such as AAPI Heritage Month Activities, the Cherry Blossom Festival, Community Health Fair, Electric Park, Farmers Market, Hispanic Heritage Month Activities, Holiday Snow Village, Independence Day Celebration, Letters to Santa for youth, Lunar New Year Festival, Mental Health and Wellness Fair, Memorial Day Ceremony, Monterey Park Birthday Carnival, Monster Mash, Movie in the Park, Native American Heritage Month Activities, Parks Make Life Better Month, Patriot Day Ceremony, SGV Pride for teens, Spring Egg Hunt for youth, Tribute to Cinco de Mayo, and Veterans Day Ceremony.

City Commissions

The City of Monterey Park has several City Commissions that are comprised of resident leaders who volunteer their time to assist and advise in civic matters. The three City commissions that are liaised with the Recreation and Community Services Department are Recreation & Parks, Community Participation, and Aging, all of which had representation during the park planning process. The Recreation & Parks Commission consists of five members who advise the City Council on all matters pertaining to parks, parkways and recreation. Further, they coordinate City recreation programs with those offered by other governmental agencies and voluntary organizations. The Community Participation Commission consists of ten adult members and five youth members, and seeks out and publicizes artistic, cultural, and historic exhibits, performances, and opportunities that would bring the community together, and involve the city's youth in community activities. The Commission on Aging consists of ten members who advise the City Council regarding the problems and services relating to the senior citizens of Monterey Park, and serves as liaison to other agencies and commissions on matters relating to senior programs.

The participation of the three commissions—Recreation & Parks, Community Participation, and Aging—adds distinct and valuable perspectives to the implementation of the City of Monterey Park GROW Plan, leveraging their specialized expertise and community connections to ensure a successful and inclusive outcome. Here's how each commission contributes:



Recreation & Parks Commission

This commission plays a pivotal role in overseeing and advising on park-related matters. Their responsibilities include reviewing park development projects, ensuring alignment with recreational goals, and coordinating city programs with other organizations. Their involvement in the GROW Master Plan ensures that the design and programming of park spaces meet community needs and adhere to best practices in recreation planning. Additionally, their advisory capacity to the City Council positions them as key advocates for funding and prioritization of park improvements.

Community Participation Commission

With a focus on fostering community connections through artistic, cultural, and historic initiatives, this commission enhances the Parks Master Plan's goals by integrating programming that celebrates Monterey Park's diversity. By engaging youth and highlighting opportunities for creative and cultural expression in parks, they help attract broader participation in park activities. Their efforts can amplify community buy-in and ensure parks serve as vibrant hubs for cultural enrichment and civic engagement.



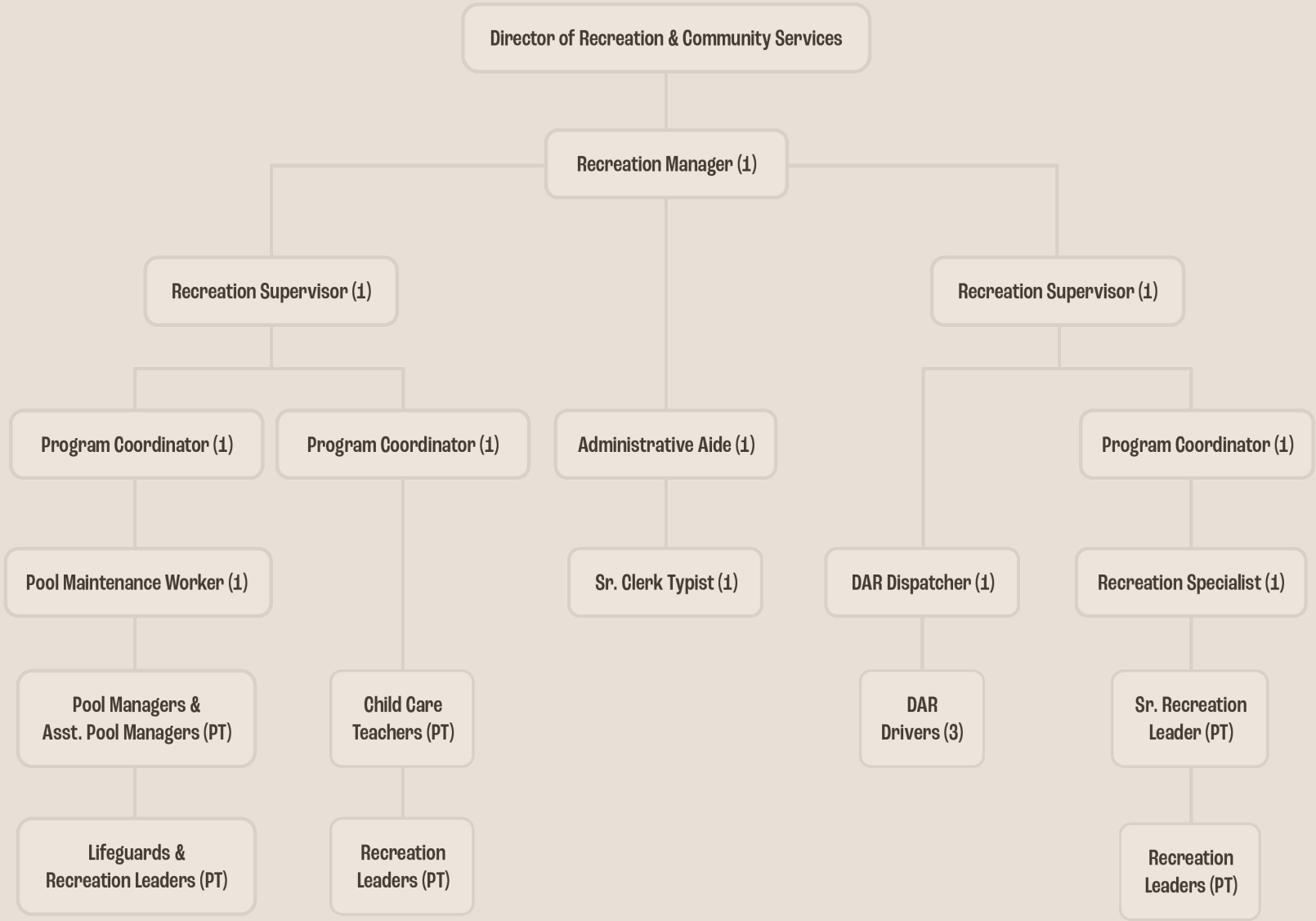


Commission on Aging

As advocates for senior citizens, a target population in this planning effort, this commission ensures that GROW Master Plan addresses the unique needs of older adults. Their input is critical for designing age-friendly features such as accessible walking paths, shaded areas, fitness equipment, and programming tailored to our elders. Serving as liaisons to other agencies and commissions, they help integrate senior-focused programs into broader recreational offerings, fostering intergenerational connections while enhancing inclusivity.

RECREATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

FY 2024 - 2025 ADOPTED BUDGET



CITY OF MONTEREY PARK RECREATION PROGRAMS

2024 -2025

Division	Program	Age
Aquatics	Lap Swim	18 and older
Aquatics	Public Swim	Youth/Adult
Aquatics	Pool Rentals	Youth
Aquatics	Swim Lessons [Tot-Level 6]	Youth
Aquatics	Water Aerobics	18-99 yrs

Division	Program	Age
Child Care	After School Care [School Year]	5-12 yrs
Child Care	Spring Break Camp	5-12 yrs
Child Care	Summer Day Camp	5-12 yrs
Child Care	Thanksgiving Break Camp	5-12 yrs
Child Care	Tiny Tots	3-4.5 yrs
Child Care	Winter Day Camp	5-12 yrs

Division	Program	Age
Facilities	Barnes Park Amphitheater Rental	Youth/Adult
Facilities	Field Rentals	Youth/Adult
Facilities	Gymnasium Rentals	Youth/Adult
Leagues	Pickleball League	18-99
Facilities	Picnic Shelter Rentals	Youth/Adult
Facilities	Service Club House Rentals	Youth/Adult

Division	Program	Age
Transportation	Mature Driving Course	55 and older
Transportation	Dial A Taxi	55 and older
Transportation	Metro Tap Card Reduced Fee	62 and older

Division	Program	Age
Contract Classes	Baseball/Softball Hitting Fund.	8-18 yrs
Contract Classes	Beginner Crochet	Teen/Adult
Contract Classes	Breakthrough Sports [Basketball Skills]	Youth
Contract Classes	Chinese Reading	5-8 yrs
Contract Classes	Creative Writing	18 and older
Contract Classes	Dance Fitness	18 and older
Contract Classes	Fitness	18 and older
Contract Classes	Karate	6 and older
Contract Classes	Kung Fu Beginner / Intermediate	18 and older
Contract Classes	Line Dance	18-70 yrs
Contract Classes	Mandarin Story Time	2-5 yrs
Contract Classes	Salsa Dance	18 and older
Contract Classes	Summer Swim and Water Polo Skills	13-18 yrs
Contract Classes	Tennis	3 and older
Contract Classes Seniors	Folk Dance	50 and older
Contract Classes Seniors	Tai Chi	50 and older

Division	Program	Age
Seniors	Langley Center Rentals	Youth/Adult
Seniors	Langley Center Kitchen Rentals	Youth/Adult
Seniors	Senior Leisure Trip	50 and older
Senior Special Events	Monthly Dance w/ Meal	50 and older
Senior Special Event	Show the Love - Gram	50 and older

Division	Program	Age
Administrative	Civic Superstar	1st-5th Grade

Division	Program	Age
Special Events	AAPI Heritage Month Events/Activities	Family
Special Events	Cherry Blossom Festival	Family
Special Events	Community Health Fair	Adult
Special Events	Tribute to Cinco De Mayo	Family
Special Events	Electric Park	Family
Special Events	Farmers Market	Family
Special Events	Hispanic Heritage Month Events/Activities	Family
Special Events	Holiday Snow Village	Family
Special Events	Independence Day Celebration	Family
Special Events	Letters to Santa	Youth
Special Events	Lunar New Year Festival	Family
Special Events	Mental Health and Wellness Fair	Adult
Special Events	Memorial Day Ceremony	Adult
Special Events	Monterey Park Birthday Carnival	Family
Special Events	Monster Mash	Family
Special Events	Movie in the Park [3-4 Separate events]	Family
Special Events	Native American Heritage Month Events	Family
Special Events	Parks Make Life Better Month	Family
Special Events	Patriot Day Ceremony	Adult
Special Events	SGV Pride	Teen
Special Events	Spring Egg Hunt	Youth
Special Events	Veterans Day Ceremony	Adult

Division	Program	Age
Transportation	Dial A Ride	50 and older

Division	Program	Age
Seniors	Billiards	50 and older
Seniors	Bridge Play	50 and older
Seniors	Crochet and Knitting	50 and older
Seniors	Fitness Room	50 and older
Seniors	Health and Wellness Workshops [Various]	50 and older
Seniors	Health Screenings [Various]	50 and older
Seniors	Karaoke	50 and older
Seniors	Kimekomi Doll Making	50 and older
Seniors	Line Dance	50 and older
Seniors	Mah Jong	50 and older
Seniors	Meal Distribution	60 and older
Seniors	Ping Pong	50 and older
Seniors	World Culture Dance	50 and older
Seniors	Yoga	50 and older
Seniors	Yuen Chi Dance	50 and older

Division	Program	Age
Contract Class	Pickleball Intro	18 and older

PLANNING & POLICY FRAMEWORK

Los Angeles County Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA)

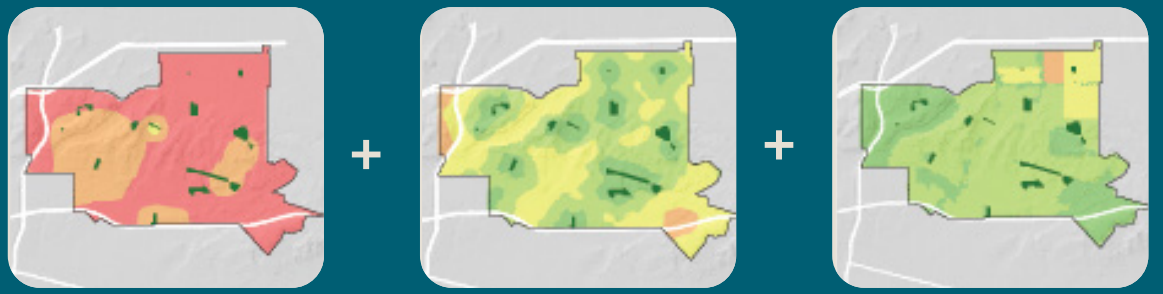
County of Los Angeles

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the 2016 Countywide Parks Needs Assessment (PNA), which comprehensively analyzed and quantified the need for parks and recreational facilities in cities and unincorporated areas throughout the county, including Monterey Park. Since its adoption, the PNA has guided the County in addressing inequities and guiding funding allocation for parks and recreation. The PNA has directly informed the development of Measure A which includes dedicated funding for Very High and High park-need study areas. In 2022, the County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation released the 2022 Parks Needs Assessment Plus (PNA+), which builds upon the 2016 assessment and incorporates a study of conservation and restoration, regional recreation, and rural recreation. The PNA+ also provides mapping and analysis tools related to studying population vulnerability, environmental benefits, environmental burdens, and priority areas for investment.

Where are Parks Most Needed?

How does Los Angeles County determine "park need"?

Calculated using the following weighing:
(20% x Park Acre Need) + (20% x Distance to Parks) + (60% x Population Density)



Park Acres Needed + Distance to Parks + Population Density

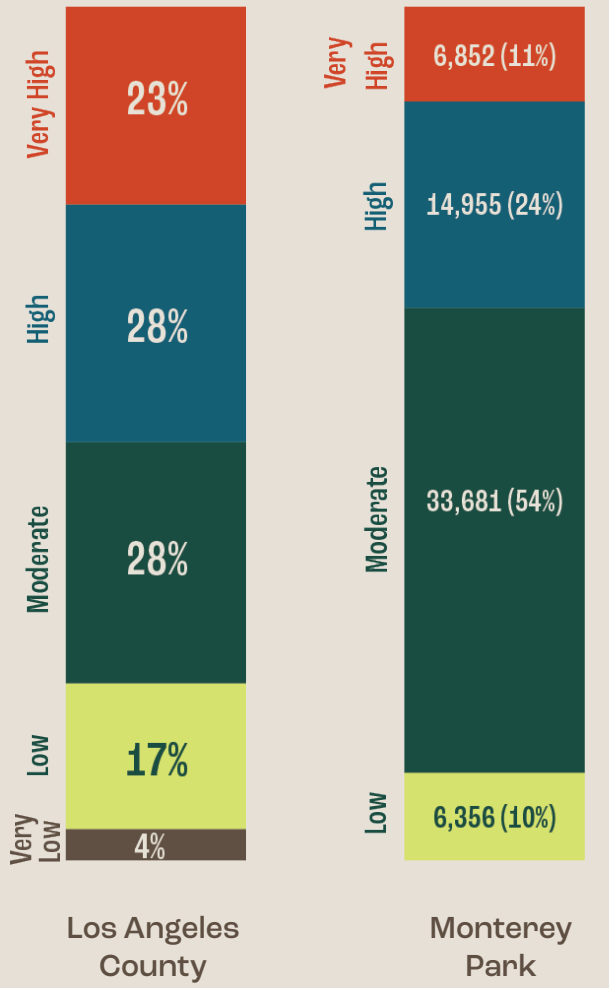
Residents living within the northeastern part of Monterey Park experience the highest levels of park need throughout the city. The closest neighborhood park, Sierra Vista Park, is approximately 3.16 acres in size, which equates to approximately 0.19 park acres per 1,000 residents.

In the 2016 PNA, Monterey Park was identified as a city with "Moderate Park Need", however, there are areas where 11% of residents experience "Very High Park Need" and an additional 24% that experience "High Park Need". With 14 parks and 107.64 acres of park space, Monterey Park as a city has only 2 acres of park space per 1,000 residents, which is lower than the countywide average of 3.3 acres of park space per 1,000 residents (also below the recognized standard of 4 acres of open space per 1,000 residents). Park need is then determined by assessing this park acreage in combination with the distance to the parks and population density. Currently, 60% of Monterey Park residents live within a ½ mile of a park, which is the typically assumed distance a person is willing to walk to a park. As the City of Monterey Park considers opportunities to enhance the open space network and recreational programming through an equitable lens.

Residents living within the northeastern part of Monterey Park experience the highest levels of park need throughout the city. The closest neighborhood park, Sierra Vista Park, is approximately 3.16 acres in size, which equates to approximately 0.19 park acres per 1,000 residents. The only other park in the area is Beth Ryan Pocket Park [0.27 acres], which serves 0.09 park acres per 1,000 residents. In contrast, George E. Elder Park is 12.85 acres in size, which equates to 4.48 park acres per 1,000 residents.

While the northeastern part of the city is experiencing the greatest park need, Monterey Park residents generally have less-than-average access to quality public open spaces. With physical limitations to park development, the City of Monterey Park must consider multi-use benefits within existing parks and its programs. As part of Los Angeles County's assessment in 2016, Monterey Park prioritized adaptive reuse and renovation projects, such as the pool renovation, outdoor fitness equipment, rubberized trail, shade structures, and A "Physics Forest" at Barnes Park, four badminton courts at Sunnyslopes Park, community garden at Elder park, and a rubberized playground at Garvey Ranch Park. A new dog park was proposed, without identifying a specific location. These projects offer a basis of understanding in 2024, nearly 10 years after, about the priorities of park development within the community.

How Many People Need Parks?



PARKS NEED ASSESSMENT



Sources: Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Monterey Park Study Area Profile. In Los Angeles Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment. May 2016, OpenStreetMap contributors

Land Use & Urban Design Element

City of Monterey Park

The City of Monterey Park updated its Land Use and Urban Design [LUUD] Element within the General Plan in 2019, providing a vision for how land uses in the city are distributed and its intensity of development for residential neighborhoods, commercial and employment districts, mixed-use environments, parks and other open spaces, and governmental and institutional uses. In particular, the Land Use Policy Map and Regulating Plan present graphical representations of land use policy. The LUUD Element also includes the urban design element which guides design standards for new development to follow, ensuring that the interrelationship of uses and the urban form are considered, further encouraging the creation of distinct places that promote interaction, community pride, and economic development.

Through community engagement, the LUUD Element supports the community's desire to protect those features of Monterey Park that distinguish the city: its diverse residential neighborhoods, cherished parks, and business districts that attract people from throughout the region and beyond to unique restaurants and shops. At the same time, the goals and policies look toward the need to ensure the City's long-term fiscal health, accommodate housing demands for all household income levels, and respond to the rapidly evolving ways in which people shop and spend leisure time. As the LUUD Element envisions Monterey Park in 2040, the City of Monterey Park GROW Plan must be internally consistent with the plans and policies related to the park and open space development established for the future.





Within its Goals and Policies section, the LUUD also sets forth a bold community vision and planning strategy for open space development in Monterey Park. For new development, parcels that are designated as Open Space allow for park land and recreational facilities, community gardens, golf courses, resource conservation areas, public utilities, and historic landfills, with a maximum floor-area-ratio of 0.35 for new building construction.

The LUUD Element features traditional concepts for open space, as well as innovative concepts such as parklets, public right-of way conversions, and urban recreation/plazas/facilities. Other Open Spaces include a former landfill and the Monterey Park Golf Club, a City-owned nine-hole facility, is available for general public use.

The 145-acre portion south of SR-60 remains a Superfund site [as designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency] and is thus unavailable for development or even passive open space use due to extensive contamination. Given the very limited opportunities to create new open space, focused creative solutions to meet demands of new residents include:

- Creating mini green spaces in conjunction with roadway enhancements
- Creating urban recreation spaces through public plazas, green alleys, and linear greenways
- Supporting urban agriculture and community gardens

There are also several open space-related policies that the LUUD Element presents that provide a framework for the future, and are identified:

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
LUUD 3.6	Public Space. Create an interconnected system of inviting, safe, and accessible public spaces that serve residents and visitors.
LUUD 3.8	Physical Activity. Provide access to recreational facilities, including parks, trails, greenways, open spaces, and community centers that allow opportunities for physical activities for all ages and abilities.
LUUD 4.1	Climate Change. Adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change.
LUUD 4.2	Sustainable Practices. Balance development with the preservation of environmental assets and the natural beauty of the area through sustainable practices in site planning, landscaping, construction, maintenance, and operations.
LUUD 4.3	Environmental Burden. Prevent and reduce disproportionate environmental burdens and compounding health risks affecting low-income and minority populations.
LUUD 4.4	Freeway Buffer Greening. Integrate greening buffers and maximize tree canopies within neighborhoods directly adjacent to SR-60 freeway to help improve air quality.
LUUD 4.6	Active Transportation. Prioritize and integrate active transportation strategies into the built environment that increase walking, bicycling, and transit modes of travel, with a focus on improving first and last mile connectivity.
LUUD 5.1	Equitable Access. Expand equitable access to community resources that improve quality of life. Community resources include cultural and natural amenities, health care services, education, commercial services, parks and recreation, and healthy foods.
LUUD 5.2	Services and Amenities. Facilitate safe, convenient, and affordable access to basic services and community-based amenities.
LUUD 7.1	Complete Neighborhoods. Ensure neighborhoods are "complete" neighborhoods by integrating schools, childcare centers, community centers, infrastructure, green spaces and parks, and other public amenities into each neighborhood.
LUUD 7.2	Identity. Foster a sense of community and facilitate engagement by encouraging residents to take pride in their neighborhoods and form neighborhood groups that address issues affecting the area where they live.
LUUD 7.7	Compatibility. Strengthen neighborhood identity with new development that is architecturally compatible with surrounding structures.
LUUD 8.1	Streetscapes. Provide and maintain high-quality public streetscapes in all neighborhoods
LUUD 8.6	Parking. Minimize the street presence and visibility of parking facilities from public streets and neighboring properties.
LUUD 17.4	Streetscape. Enrich the streetscape with themed lighting, benches, and trees. Consider using excess street width and adjacent public rights-of-way to create parklets, greenspace, and places for public art.
LUUD 17.5	Mobility. Improve pedestrian and vehicular mobility and safety with urban design interventions such as additional mid-block crossings, designated pedestrian walkways through surface parking lots, and shortened street crossings.
LUUD 17.6	Design Inspirations. Draw from the Cascades fountain, historical structures and historical influences, and landscaping within the public realm as inspirations for public space design treatments, site design and architecture, and landscaping. Use these inspirations to create a cohesive public realm plan for Mid Atlantic.
LUUD 20.1	Community Focal Point. Establish Downtown as the center for local businesses, public amenities, and public space experiences.
LUUD 20.2	Destination. Create a destination that includes uses and spaces for public gathering areas, community events, and local activities.

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
LUUD 20.5	Wayfinding. Establish a wayfinding program to assist in identifying location of Barnes Park, Monterey Park Bruggemeyer Library, the Garfield Medical Center, and other surrounding landmarks and uses.
LUUD 23.7	Parklets. Considering using side streets that intersect Garvey Avenue for adding parklets to expand outdoor dining options and add public gathering and urban green spaces.
LUUD 27.1	Functional and Flexible. Maintain multi-functional, flexible, and complementary space at Monterey Park's community buildings and spaces.
LUUD 27.2	Maximize Use. Maximize public facility use by sharing with nonprofit organizations, school districts, and community organizations.
LUUD 27.3	New Facilities. Locate new community facilities in neighborhoods and centers where they will serve populations of the greatest needs. Look for opportunities to create joint-use community space at facilities owned by private organizations such as faith-based groups, service groups, and hospitals.
LUUD 28.1	New Facilities. Locate and design new capital-intensive potable water storage and distribution facilities, particularly storage tanks, in a manner that minimizes visual, cost, and environmental impacts on the surrounding areas
LUUD 28.3	Utilities Placement. Continue to require the placement of utilities underground within new development.
LUUD 28.5	Alternative Energy. Accommodate alternative energy infrastructure as new technology evolves.
LUUD 29.1	Trails System. Create and maintain a system of trails, sidewalks, linear parks, and other connections that provide residents of all abilities with opportunities to exercise, enjoy nature, and access recreation facilities within a five-minute walk from home. Activate and encourage discovery along urban trails.
LUUD 29.2	Green Space. Consider the development of new park land or green space through the repurposing of excess street rights-of-way.
LUUD 29.4	Public Spaces. Develop guidelines for commercial and mixed-use development projects to incorporate accessible plazas, paseos, and other public spaces into project design.
LUUD 29.5	Community Gathering Spaces. Design, construct, and program community gathering spaces, plazas, and an outdoor stage/amphitheater in the Downtown Core, Garvey Corridor, North Atlantic, and South Atlantic focus areas.
LUUD 29.6	Parkland. Require parkland dedications and/or provision of usable on-site public space for significant development projects involving new residential construction.
LUUD 29.7	Surplus Land. Consider the acquisition of surplus land owned by public agencies for future open space.
LUUD 29.8	Urban Agriculture. Create urban agriculture areas to encourage property owners of vacant parcels to convert them into community gardens through the incentives made available through the Urban Agriculture Incentive Zones Act.
LUUD 29.9	Recreational Space. Enhance street corridors, parkways, and public property between buildings to serve as green space and functional recreation space [e.g., community gardens, parklets, play spaces, public seating].
LUUD 30.1	Flexible Design. Incorporate flexible design characteristics into the renovation of existing and development of new parks and community facilities.
LUUD 30.2	Environmental Responsibility. Continue to build, renovate, and maintain parks and community facilities in a manner that is environmentally responsible.

Resource Element

City of Monterey Park

The City of Monterey Park Resource Element is the guiding document that identifies a vision for the conservation and enhancement of the city's open space network [as well as other City resources such as water resources, historic resources, and air quality]. Completed in 2001, the Resource Element is currently not in compliance with the latest Land Use and Urban Design Element. However, this Element is still the guiding planning and policy document that guides where future investments into the City's resources should be targeted.

Regarding the development of new open spaces, the Resource Element identified new residential development projects as a major opportunity for additional public open space and recreation facilities. Given that established parks are surrounded by developed properties and vacant lots are scarce, a combination of pocket parks, public plazas, and multi-use community buildings are strategies that were as development opportunities. Additionally, the Resources Element identifies that such parks could be built in conjunction with private development projects along Garvey Avenue or on existing lots within residential neighborhoods. The Element also identifies commercial development projects as another opportunity for providing public open space, and these quasi-public spaces are envisioned to be landscaped plazas and similar gathering places for people of all ages.

Like other Element's within the City's General Plan, the Resources Element provides policy guidance, which is valuable both as a framework for current park planning efforts as well as a glimpse into what the City had envisioned for Monterey Park over 20 years ago – these policies are identified below:

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
RE 1.1	On a regular basis, assess usage of park facilities, and identify physical changes needed to accommodate anticipated use patterns.
RE 1.2	Preserve existing park space.
RE 1.3	Continue to work cooperatively with the school districts to maintain and expand playground use through joint-use agreements.
RE 1.4	Work with East Los Angeles Community College to make the College's recreation facilities available to Monterey Park residents.
RE 2.1	Encourage future commercial development to incorporate public squares, plazas, or similar spaces.
RE 2.2	Incorporate pocket parks, parkways, and similar recreation spaces into residential neighborhoods.
RE 2.3	Incorporate into the development review process a means for new development to contribute to existing recreational facilities and/or to address maintenance and staffing needs.
RE 2.4	Provide for the expansion of the City Library and other community services as needed to benefit all Monterey Park residents.
RE 4.2	Promote the use of drought-tolerant trees and native plant material in landscapes, especially in City-owned landscapes.
RE 4.3	Encourage use and production of reclaimed water.

Circulation Element

City of Monterey Park

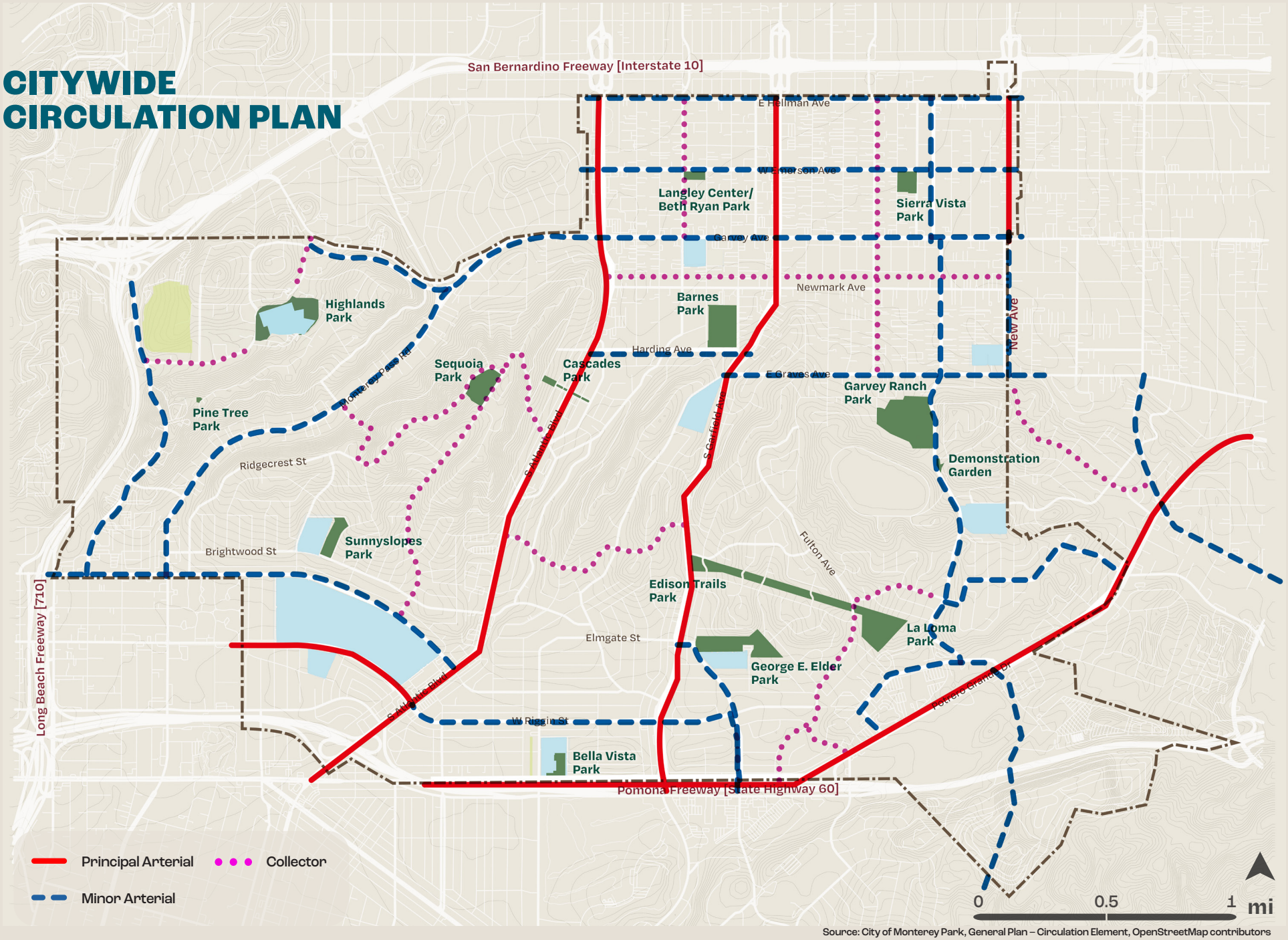
Like the Resources Element, the Circulation Element of the General Plan was last updated in 2001, which means that it offers a less-than-current perspective on the City's transportation needs for the future, especially in terms of active transportation. However, the Circulation Element does define an efficient and adequate transportation system for Monterey Park that responds to all regional and local transportation needs, including freeways, streets, bicycle routes, sidewalks, and trails, as well as supporting diverse modes of travel, including cars, buses, trucks, trains, bicycles, ridesharing, and walking. Using the traditional Level of Service [LOS] model of understanding roadway efficiency, quality, and capacity, the Circulation Element establishes a framework for transportation design for every street in Monterey Park.

The Circulation Element does promote the desire for greater active transportation facilities and improvements for pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders, and the routes shown on Figure C-4 link major park facilities in the City [Cascades Park, Barnes Park, Garvey Park, and Edison Trails Park] to the greater park network. It is important to note that the San Gabriel Valley Regional Bike Plan [page 122] presents a more recent and comprehensive bicycle network that connects to all of the city's existing public parks and the greater region.

The Dial-a-Ride service, which is currently operationalized under the Recreation and Community Services Department, is briefly mentioned as a service that the City was committed to maintaining, along with other transportation services offered by the local bus system and regional transportation agencies. As part of the planning for this Element, community members expressed that motorists use local streets to avoid congestion during peak hours on Atlantic Boulevard, Garvey Avenue, Garfield Avenue, and Pomona Boulevard/Potrero Grande Drive. Considering the future Monterey Park open space network, and the connections that form the network itself, it is important to consider strategies for safe routes to parks.



CITYWIDE CIRCULATION PLAN

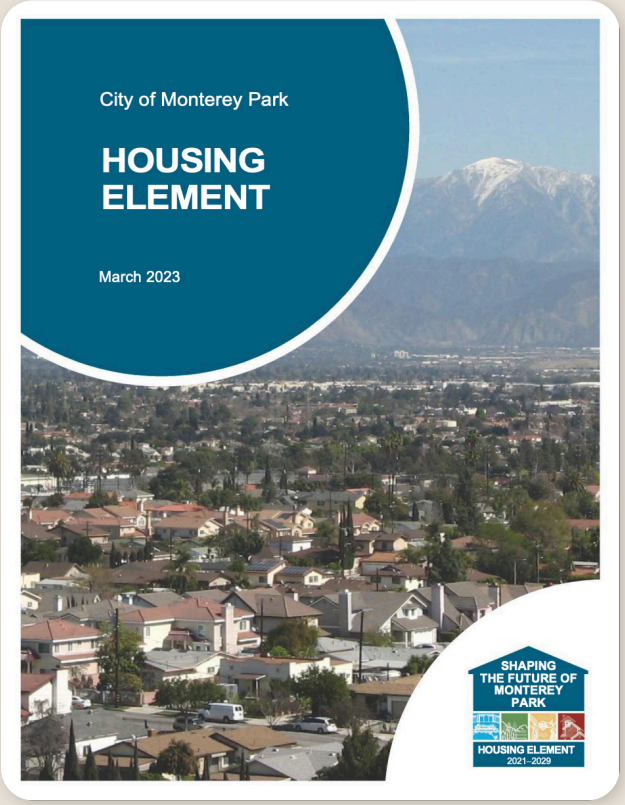


Source: City of Monterey Park, General Plan – Circulation Element, OpenStreetMap contributors

BICYCLE ROUTE PLAN



Source: City of Monterey Park, General Plan - Bicycle Route Plan, OpenStreetMap contributors



Housing Element

City of Monterey Park

As a requirement of the State of California, the City of Monterey Park updates its Housing Element regularly every eight years to identify the availability, affordability, and adequacy of housing based on the city's current housing supply and demand. It serves as a citywide strategy to address housing needs across the economic and social spectrum, with a particular focus on addressing the needs of low- and very-low-income communities. Housing need based on various income levels is determined by a process called the Regional Housing Needs Assessment. This assessment considers the existing and projected housing needs for all income segments based on a housing constraints and resources, identifying potential sites suitable to meet housing affordability needs and demands. Additionally, the Housing Element, relevant presents programs, goals, and policies for the planned period.

The topic of housing insecurity is an important consideration in comprehensive park planning as researchers now have a greater interest in understanding how investment into park and park-related infrastructure can result in a phenomenon known as "green gentrification" [see page 85]. An equitable planning approach for the future of Monterey Park's open space network must consider housing strategies that protect low-income renters from rising housing costs and potential housing displacement. Monterey Park's Housing Element shows compliance in providing strategies and resources to address housing insecurity for at-risk individuals and families, but does not include tenant protection policies that would help against displacement.

The Housing Element also outlines development standards for new residential development, which includes requirements for "common" and "private" open space. This form of privatized open space helps to relieve the demand on the city's existing public park system and is often developed in the form of balconies, plazas, and community rooms. Additionally, thoughtful integration of these open space standards with broader citywide park planning efforts can help create a cohesive open space network that supports community well-being while balancing housing needs. Such coordination is essential to ensure that new developments contribute to both housing equity and the city's goal of enhancing access to green spaces for all residents.

Citywide Zoning and Development Standards

City of Monterey Park

The City of Monterey Park Zoning Ordinance within the Municipal Code [Title 21] establishes development standards such as land use, building placement, and open space within the community. Open space requirements within zoning regulations are essential for preserving public and private green areas, enhancing community aesthetics, and promoting environmental sustainability.

Open Space Zoning (O-S Zone) Regulations

The City of Monterey Park's Open Space (O-S) Zone regulations emphasize the preservation of outdoor recreational and open space resources while preventing inappropriate development. These regulations promote uses aligned with recreational, conservation, aesthetic, and public safety goals, ensuring land remains primarily dedicated to open space purposes.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Flexible Land Use: Permitted uses focus on public recreational facilities, community centers, and landscaped areas, with opportunities for conditional uses that enhance functionality and accessibility.

Preservation Priorities: Stringent development standards limit lot coverage, require significant setbacks, and maintain low structural heights, protecting the visual and functional integrity of open spaces.

Governance and Oversight: Conditional uses, particularly those on City-owned land, are subject to strict approvals, ensuring alignment with community values and public input.







CATEGORY	DETAILS
Permitted Uses	Public recreational facilities [e.g., parks, trails, playgrounds, sports courts].
	Public community centers, enclosed recreational facilities [e.g., gymnasiums, fitness centers].
	Public restrooms, landscaped parking areas, public easements, and utility rights-of-way.
	Comparable uses approved under City zoning provisions.
Conditional Uses	Agricultural and horticultural activities.
	Food service or concessions accessory to principal use.
	Golf courses, driving ranges, greenhouses.
	Government/public facilities and private recreational facilities [e.g., gyms, community centers, commercial uses].
	Radio/television towers and transmitters.
	Conditional uses on city-owned land require City Council ordinance and may be subject to referendum.
Development Standards	Lot Coverage: Maximum of 25% of total lot area [may increase with City Council approval].
	Height Limits: Two stories or 35 feet maximum [exceptions may apply with Council approval].
	Setbacks: Front [25 ft], Interior Side [10 ft; 25 ft if adjacent to residential], Rear [25 ft], Corner Side [25 ft].
	Lot Area: No minimum requirement.

The chart above summarizes the regulations for permitted uses, conditional uses, and development standards in the O-S Zone in the city.

By blending flexibility with structured oversight, the O-S Zone regulations ensure the preservation and enhancement of Monterey Park's open space network while allowing for thoughtful integration of compatible uses. These standards are critical to achieving long-term goals for recreational opportunities and environmental stewardship within the city. Regarding park planning efforts, the permitted and conditional uses as well as the development standards for the O-S Zone are expanded or change to meet the future park need of the community.

Minimum Open Space Requirements:

Open space requirements in Monterey Park's residential zones are designed to ensure a balance of private and communal spaces, enhancing residents' quality of life and addressing recreational needs as development density increases. In R-1 (single-family) zones, open space primarily consists of private yards and setbacks, supporting neighborhood aesthetics and privacy. In R-2 (two-family) and R-3 (multi-family) zones, private open spaces must measure at least 10 feet by 10 feet and be adjacent to living areas. Additionally, common open spaces, required for developments with three or more units, must provide amenities such as swimming pools, spas, tot lots with play equipment, picnic shelters, barbeque areas, and court game facilities. These common areas must be at least 15 feet by 15 feet and are intended to support recreational needs within the development.

These open space provisions play a critical role in supporting the broader open space network, especially in higher-density zones like R-2 and R-3, where demand for public parks intensifies. By requiring both private and shared amenities, these standards not only enhance livability for residents but also help offset the burden on public recreational facilities as new housing developments increase population density.

As part of the parks master planning effort, it would be beneficial to explore increasing the common open space requirements for multi-family developments. Additionally, expanding the definition of open space to include a broader range of amenities, such as community rooms, urban agriculture spaces, green alleys, exercise equipment, and other creative uses, could better address the needs of diverse residents and align with contemporary trends in urban living. These changes would enhance the accessibility and functionality of open spaces within residential developments while promoting health, community interaction, and sustainability.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS FOR RESIDENTIAL ZONES

Open Space per Unit [sq. ft.] for 2 or less units	**R-1 Zone**	**R-2 Zone**	**R-3 Zone**
Minimum common open space	n/a	200	200
Minimum private open space	n/a	250	250
Open Space per Unit [sq. ft.] for 3 or more units	**R-1 Zone**	**R-2 Zone**	**R-3 Zone**
Minimum common open space	n/a	600	400
Minimum private open space	n/a	250	250









Monterey Park Going Green

City of Monterey Park

The Monterey Park Going Green is a sustainability plan that integrates past planning efforts and sustainable best practices to ensure a safe and healthy future for current and future generations. Completed in 2024, the Monterey Park Going Green is the City's most recent long-term planning effort to reduce negative environmental impacts and promote sustainable development by actively engaging the community. This plan builds on and adds to Monterey Park's long and active legacy in encouraging and sustainability which started as early as the early 2000s through, for example, the creation of an Environmental Commission in 2005.

The plan is centered largely around its recognition of community engagement as a key factor to successfully implement sustainability practices across the city's environment, economic sphere and its inhabitants. Through the City's Going Green Campaign, surveys identified that while many community members have the intention to lead more sustainable lives, few were aware of resources available to them that would aid in this endeavor. Using the findings from this survey, subsequent community workshops and the framework developed by the ICLEI used to inform the approach to achieving sustainability goals, the plan was able to take stock of the community's priorities, provide community members with information about relevant programs and advise the City on programs to pursue. Constant engagement

with community members at different stages of the development of this plan is in-line with this plan's strategy to use community involvement and participation to mitigate emissions in Monterey Park and ensure the City's move towards sustainability, resilience, and environmental consciousness.

Based on repeated robust community and stakeholder engagement, the Monterey Park sustainability plan has identified a number of policies that are relevant to the GROW Master Plan:

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
L1-1	Promote active transportation with investments in disadvantaged communities that improve connectivity and ease of walking or biking.
L1-2	Explore the implementation of public and shared transit programs to support increased public transit usage.
L2-3	Consider electrifying a significant portion of the City's on-road vehicle fleet and off-road equipment fleet in the coming years
L3-1	Explore the transition of a significant portion of City electricity consumption to renewable or carbon-free energy sources.
L3-6	Consider electrifying or decarbonizing all municipal buildings and facilities.
N1-2	Explore options to gradually reduce municipal water consumption over time.
N1-3	Investigate strategies to enhance resilience to potential drought-induced water shortages or fluctuations in utility rate structures.
N2-1	Consider gradually increasing the number of trees in MPK, with annual tree-planting initiatives.
N2-2	Explore options to enhance green infrastructure, with the aim of improving stormwater capacity during peak rain events, incorporating native plants and habitat restoration measures.

POLICY	DESCRIPTION
N3-1	Foster positive opportunities for the Monterey Park community to engage with the natural world.
R1-2	Reduce exposure of the community to extreme heat through a combination of cooling centers, low-cost cooling resources, building weatherization, and increased energy resilience.
R2-1	Evaluate capacity to respond effectively to emergencies and prepare for unavoidable disasters.
R2-2	Evaluate the ability of the City and its residents to adapt to climate change impacts.
E1-2	Consider increasing access to technical, financial, and educational resources to facilitate community implementation of sustainable practices.
E2-2	Evaluate health outcomes by providing residents with equitable access to public spaces and health services.
E2-3	Encourage community garden programs at schools, non-profit organizations, and religious entities to increase urban access to local food and green spaces.
E4-1	Consider investing in and prioritizing climate action implementation for historically underinvested communities.

San Gabriel Valley Regional Bicycle Master Plan

Various SGV Cities

Like the Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan, the San Gabriel Valley Regional Bicycle Master Plan [BMP] represents a strategic initiative designed to enhance cycling infrastructure and promote sustainable transportation throughout the region. By 2012, various affluent SGV communities such as South Pasadena and Temple City had developed local bicycle master plans, whereas resource-constrained areas with higher health disparities lacked comprehensive bikeway planning and facilities.

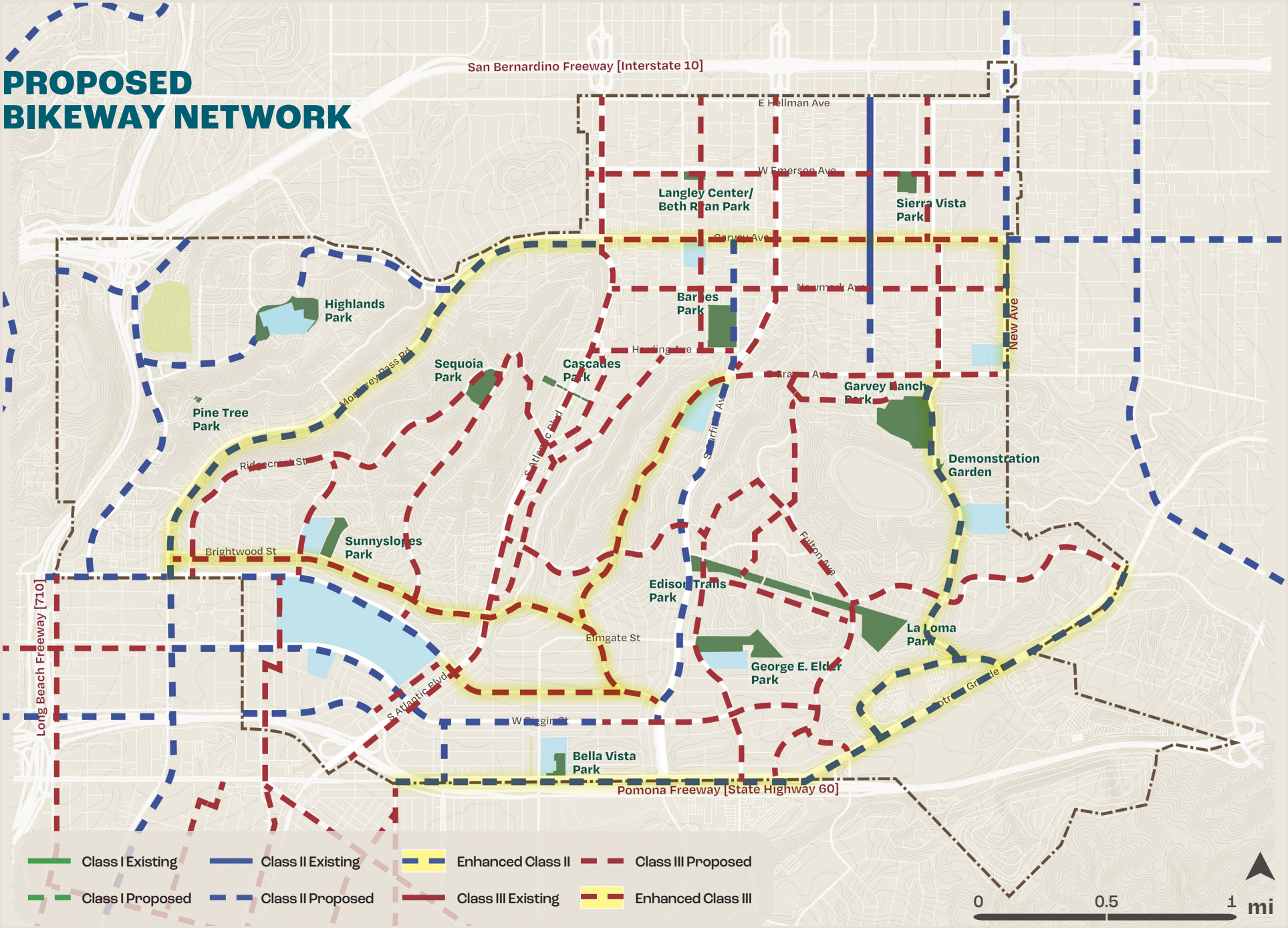
In response to these disparities, the nonprofit ActiveSGV partnered with Day One and five San Gabriel Valley communities—Monterey Park, Baldwin Park, El Monte, South El Monte, and San Gabriel—to develop and implement a regional bicycle master plan. Completed in 2014, the BMP identifies key corridors to improve existing bike lanes and design new facilities, which would improve active transportation safety conditions, reduce traffic congestion, and contribute to environmental sustainability throughout San Gabriel Valley. The adoption of the BMP has allowed the City and the other partner cities to be highly competitive when applying for State and Federal grants to implement priority bicycle projects and programs.

Through a robust community engagement process throughout the region, the BMP presents goals, objectives, and policies to guide implementation, and proposes a variety of enhancements such as shared-use paths, bike lanes, and signed bike routes.

As part of the decision making for these proposed improvements, Monterey Park's parks and recreation facilities were identified as important activity centers in the community and where it is important to provide safe and convenient bicycle access to and from homes. Through this vision, every existing park in the city would be connected to the larger regional bicycle network. The BMP also provides a policy framework to guide the implementation of bicycle-related improvements, and the following have been identified as being relevant to the Monterey Park GROW planning effort:

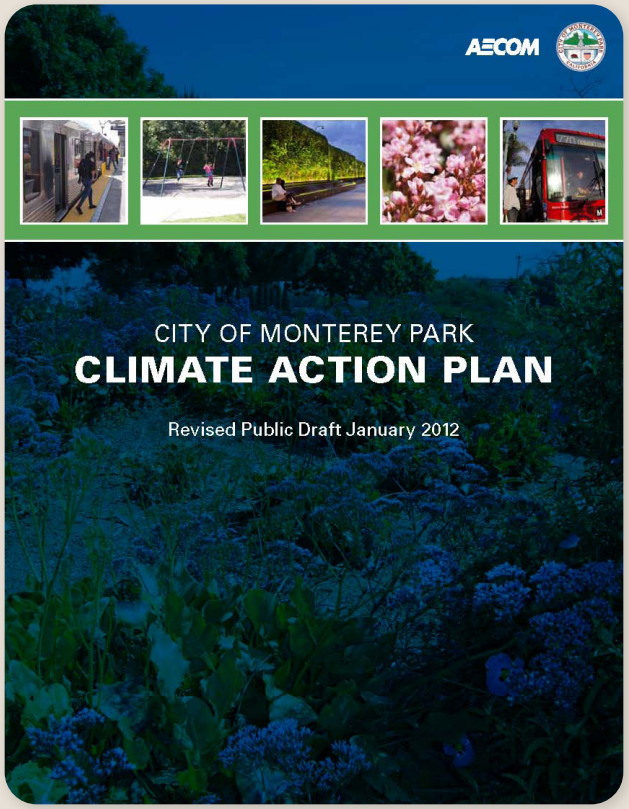
POLICY	DESCRIPTION
BMP 1.2.3	Prioritize opportunities that improve walkability and bikeability by utilizing Complete Streets standards for all Capital Improvement Projects.
BMP 1.2.4	Remove on-street motor vehicle parking to accommodate striped bike lanes, to the extent feasible.
BMP 1.2.7	Develop unique and consistent wayfinding signage for city-based routes, and utilize regional route signage that directs bicycle riders to desirable city destinations [e.g., schools, parks, shopping centers, transit hubs, etc.] and region-wide bicycle routes. Signage shall adhere to the guidelines herein.
BMP 1.2.18	Install and regularly maintain bicycle repair stations and water fountains along off-street shared-use paths.
BMP 1.4.3	Install and support high-quality bicycle parking facilities, including bike corrals, within the public right-of-way and on public property, especially in high demand locations, such as downtown.
BMP 3.2.2	Work with local bike advocacy groups, business chambers, and community-based organizations to help plan routes and educate stakeholders about the benefits of Open Street events.

PROPOSED BIKEWAY NETWORK



Source: San Gabriel Valley Regional Bicycle Master Plan, OpenStreetMap contributors





Monterey Park Climate Action Plan

City of Monterey Park

The City of Monterey Park Climate Action Plan [CAP] was completed in 2012 and defines a comprehensive strategy to address greenhouse gas [GHG] emissions related to land use, transportation, building design, energy use, water demand, and waste generation. This City roadmap to climate change and sustainability, prioritizing strategies that will have the greatest environmental benefit, have the least financial cost (or even savings), and preserve the character of the community. One of the major quantitative goals of the CAP establishes targets to reduce the City's GHG emissions to 15% below baseline 2009 levels by 2020, and sets an aspirational goal of achieving GHG emissions 49% below baseline 2009 levels by 2035.

While this long-term climate action planning does not directly address the role and opportunities of Monterey Park's open space network, its goal of increasing walking, biking, and transit use is an important consideration when considering multi-modal park access. Additionally, the goal of conserving water and implementing sustainable building practices in public facilities, such as parks, must be part of future park development and redevelopment work.



San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan

County of Los Angeles

From a regional connectivity perspective, it is important to consider how Monterey Park's open space network connects with that of the greater San Gabriel Valley. The San Gabriel Valley Greenway Network Strategic Implementation Plan outlines a roadmap for establishing a comprehensive and interconnected greenway system throughout the region. While not a traditional park space, a "greenway" transforms streams, creeks, and flood control channels into a modernized network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways. While transportation connectivity improvements to the regional greenway network are not directly identified for Monterey Park, residents may soon benefit from this proposed project.



Mixed-Use and Pedestrian Linkages Plan

City of Monterey Park

In 2004, the City of Monterey Park released the Mixed-Use and Pedestrian Linkages Plan, which sets forth plans and policies that will help to create a "livable community" as described by the following five principles:

- Mixed-use activity areas in walking distance of residences.
- A compact urban form with a variety of residential types and densities, combined with retail, employment centers, and public uses.
- A pedestrian-friendly environment that includes a street/sidewalk network that connects destinations and emphasizes a lively street life
- An approach to development that provides attractive public spaces and places value on design detail.
- Provision of alternatives to the automobile, including transit, bicycling, walking, and centralized parking facilities.

Pedestrian linkages are the connections between the numerous destinations in a neighborhood, including homes, commercial development, public facilities, and parks. When planning for an urban park network, it is important to identify potential "linkages" for all modes of travel, especially for active transportation users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders. In urban neighborhoods, pedestrian linkages are mainly provided by the sidewalk network and associated amenities like landscaping, street furniture, and wayfinding or placemaking signage.

- The Plan is focused on the three main streets of Downtown:
- Garvey Avenue (from Atlantic Boulevard to New Avenue)
- Atlantic Boulevard (from Hellman Avenue to Garvey Avenue)
- Garfield Avenue (from Hellman Avenue to Newmark Avenue)

For these areas, the Plan specifies development standards for public gathering spaces, pocket parks, or open spaces, permitting front setbacks beyond 10'. The Plan also identifies the potential for a Class II bike lane that could be installed on McPherrin Avenue, which would link several important bicycle-oriented uses, including Barnes Park, the Civic Center, Ynez School, and St. Stephen's Church and School. The Plan also identifies privately-owned public spaces (POPOs) as opportunities to alleviate additional park pressures that are the result from future residential development. Development standards for private and quasi-public open spaces, such as plazas, courtyards, and other gathering spaces are also identified as part of this Plan, emphasizing a pedestrian-scaled environment.

As part of the community engagement, community members vocalized their need for additional public space in Downtown to allow for public gathering and recreation. While, the Downtown area already includes several parks and community facilities, including City Hall, these facilities are not located directly on the major streets that form the heart of Downtown. Along these streets, additional open space will need to be provided by new development. Therefore, the Plan describes standards and guidelines for new development in Downtown, including recommendations on the provision of public open space as a part of new development. As an incentive for developers to include certain amenities needed in the Downtown areas, including open space, up to an additional 0.75 FAR is provided for "mixed use" developments may be permitted for a mixed-use project that provides a major public gathering space located adjacent to sidewalk with ample pedestrian amenities for downtown patrons or other major pedestrian amenities. Regarding private development standards for open space, the Plan specifies the following for the project areas:

Open Space Development Standards

- Open space and recreation space shall be provided for each mixed-use project. The required minimum amount of open space for a mixed-use project is two hundred (200) square feet per unit. The minimum open space may be met through a combination of common and private open spaces. All required open space shall be usable.
- The requirement for open space may not be satisfied through the utilization of parking areas, driveways, service areas, or unusable slopes.
- 50% of the open space area required may be provided in private open space such as patios and balconies; however, such private open space must have a minimum area of 75 square feet and a minimum dimension of 7 feet.
- A minimum of 25% of the common open space shall be planted area with trees, shrubs, and gardens. Planters and planting containers may be counted toward this requirement.
- Common open space shall require a minimum width of 10 feet and be a minimum area of 200 square feet. Common open space may be located on roofs, podiums, and decks.
- For development of 5 residential units or less, 100% of the open space requirement may be satisfied by private open space.
- Up to 10% of the common open space may be provided in an indoor recreational area such as a gymnasium or a community room.

While the Mixed-Use and Pedestrian Linkages parks sets a precedent for connecting people to parks and open spaces, its scope does not expand beyond three major Downtown corridors. However, the Plan does outline a vision for open space in Downtown Monterey Park that is relevant to the park systems planning work of today.





South Garfield Transit Village Specific Plan

City of Monterey Park

Adopted in 2015, the South Garfield Transit Village Specific Plan provides the development framework that focuses on revitalizing and enhancing the South Garfield Avenue corridor in Monterey Park, with a particular emphasis on transit-oriented development. This Plan outlines a vision for creating a vibrant and inviting place to walk and shop, sit and talk with friends, access transit, and comfortably bicycle around town. With a focus on mixed-use development, the Plan may propose a blend of residential, commercial, and recreational spaces designed to foster a walkable, interconnected neighborhood that encourages public transit use and minimizes reliance on personal vehicles. Key components of the South Garfield Transit Village Specific Plan include provisions for pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, improved transit facilities, and the integration of green spaces to enhance the overall livability of the area.

As an incentive for developers, the Specific Plan includes incentives for pedestrian amenities that can add to the greater open space network. Throughout the Specific Plan area, the City would like to encourage pedestrian-oriented spaces within individual building sites such as plazas, courtyards, and seating areas. Such features not only make the pedestrian environment more pleasant, but they also add to the greater open space network in Monterey Park. In order for developers to qualify for the pedestrian amenities incentive bonuses, a proposed project must meet the following requirements:

- The minimum lot or development size for projects requesting consideration for the pedestrian amenities bonus must be a minimum of 10,000 square feet.
- A qualifying plaza or courtyard must be designed as an integral part of the overall project and must be specifically related to the main circulation patterns(s) within the project.
- Leftover pieces of the site, which are not related to the primary pedestrian circulation system, may not be counted as qualified areas.
- The minimum dimension of any qualified area must be 10 feet of hardscape material. Pathways required for normal pedestrian circulation may be included.

These spaces must be designed at ground-level, with an opening to the sky [except for shade trellises and roof overhangs], and must incorporate seating, enhanced paving materials, shade trees, and/or trellises and landscaping. All such spaces must also be easily accessible to the general public during normal business hours and shall be barrier free in terms of handicapped access.

For projects meeting the above requirements, the following development bonuses may be available, which can help to incentivize its development. For every 200 square feet of useable pedestrian plaza or courtyard provided, on-site parking requirements may be reduced by one parking space; provided that a finding can be made that adequate parking will be available to the project. Through the development agreement process, the City may consider other pedestrian incentive bonuses such as reductions in processing fees, in-lieu fees or utility connection fees, and will fast-track the plan review process for approved incentive bonuses.





Proposition 68

State of California

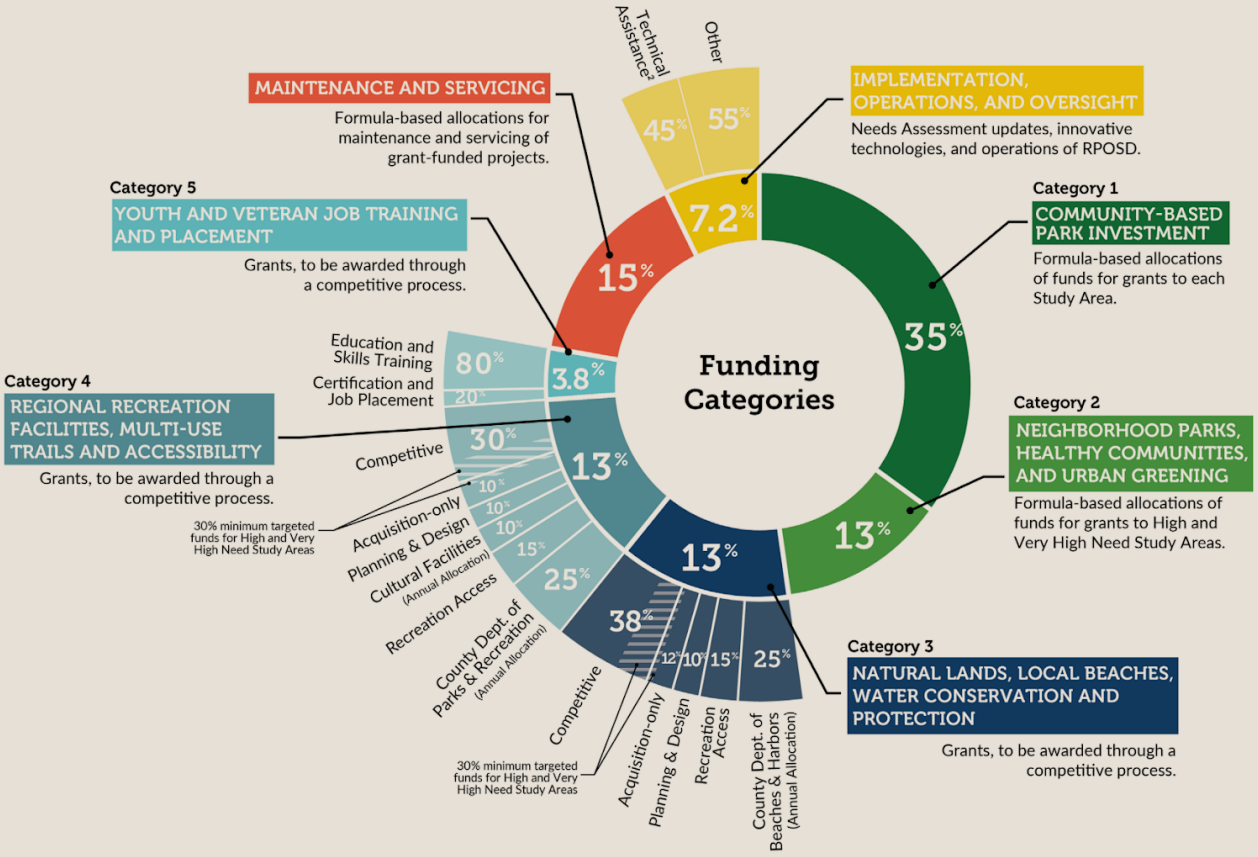
Influenced by the success of Measure A, State of California voters approved Proposition 68 in 2018, which was seen as a major win for many park advocacy groups and city governments. Prop 68, otherwise known as the "Parks, Environment, and Water Bond Act of 2018", was a $4.1 billion statewide bond measure that supported funding the development of parks, environmental projects, water infrastructure projects, and flood protection measures throughout California. Like Measure A, Proposition 68 also has a significant equity component so that parks that are currently in the construction phase or acquisition phase have the opportunity to both have Measure A funding and state funding. Prop 68 funding is competitive, and funding is currently allocated in the following distribution:

With CA Prop 68, local government agencies can bring major park and open space investments to high-need communities when leveraging Measure A funding as well. Future park planning in Monterey Park must consider potential public funding sources such as Measure A and Prop 68 to maintain and enhance their open space network.

USES OF PROPOSITION 68 BOND FUNDS

[In Millions]

Natural Resource Conservation and Resiliency	**$1,547**
State conservancies and wildlife conservation	767
Climate preparedness and habitat resiliency	443
Ocean and coastal protection	175
River and waterway improvements	162
Parks and Recreation	**$1,283**
Climate preparedness and habitat resiliency	725
Ocean and coastal protection	285
River and waterway improvements	218
Ocean and coastal protection	55
Natural Resource Conservation and Resiliency	**$1,270**
State conservancies and wildlife conservation	550
Climate preparedness and habitat resiliency	370
Ocean and coastal protection	250
River and waterway improvements	100
TOTAL	**$4,100**



Measure A

County of Los Angeles

Built upon the concept of "park equity", Los Angeles County Measure A was approved by 74% of voters who supported an annual special tax on property within the county to meet the current and future park needs, as reflected in the PNA, with a minimum of 30% of the funds to be invested in the highest-need communities in Los Angeles County. Generating more than $90 million per year for the county's local parks, beaches, and open space areas, Measure A is an annual parcel tax of 1.5 cents per square foot of improved property, and includes both formula-based allocations to PNA Study Areas and competitive grants that are open to public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and schools. Measure A funding is competitive, and funding is currently allocated in the following distribution:

With Measure A, local government agencies can bring major park and open space investments to high-need communities when leveraging CA Prop 68 funding as well. Future park planning in Monterey Park must consider potential public funding sources such as Measure A and Prop 68 to maintain and enhance their open space network.

CONSIDERATIONS & BEST PRACTICES





Recreational Trends

Recreational preferences across Los Angeles County and the San Gabriel Valley increasingly emphasize outdoor activity, physical and mental wellness, environmental sustainability, and culturally resonant programming. These trends are particularly relevant for Monterey Park, given its unique demographic composition and urban form.

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation's 2023 Strategic Plan highlights a commitment to equity-driven programming that adapts to the region's changing needs. This includes improving park access, enhancing recreational programming, and providing services that support the county's most vulnerable populations . Initiatives like "Every Body Plays" offer structured activities and field trips, ensuring that youth remain engaged and active throughout the year[17] [18].

Furthermore, the Parks Needs Assessment Plus [PNA+] emphasizes environmental conservation, restoration, and regional recreation, focusing on expanding access to parks and open spaces for nature-deprived residents . This approach aligns with the county's efforts to remediate degraded lands, such as brownfields and landfills, transforming them into usable parkland to serve underserved communities [19] [20].

Monterey Park's demographic profile, characterized by a majority Asian population, significant Hispanic/Latino community, and a substantial proportion of elderly residents, necessitates recreational programming that is culturally responsive and inclusive. Given that 71.8% of residents aged 5 and over speak a language other than English at home, and 22.5% of the population is over 65 years of age, programming should cater to linguistic diversity and the needs of older adults.

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[17] Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Strategic Plan 2023. Retrieved from https://parks.lacounty.gov/strategicplan

[18] Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation. Every Body Plays Program. Retrieved from https://parks.lacounty.gov

[19] National Recreation and Park Association [NRPA]. [2023, March]. Los Angeles County's Parks Needs Assessment Plus [PNA+]. Retrieved from https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2023/march/los-angeles-countys-parks-needs-assessment-plus

[20] Esri. Mapping Equitable Nature Access in Los Angeles County. Retrieved from https://www.esri.com/about/newsroom/blog/la-county-maps-equitable-nature-access



Based on community feedback and regional trends, the following programming avenues are recommended:

- **Culturally Specific Events:** Organize festivals and activities that celebrate the city's diverse cultural heritage, including events specific to Asian and Hispanic/Latino communities.
- **Wellness Programs:** Implement programs focused on self-improvement, such as workshops for skill-building, meditation sessions, and fitness classes tailored to various age groups.
- **Environmental Sustainability Initiatives:** Establish workshops on community gardening and sustainability practices, aligning with countywide efforts to promote environmental stewardship.
- **Intergenerational Activities:** Develop programs that encourage participation across different age groups, such as family sports leagues, dance lessons, and social games, fostering community cohesion.
- **Youth Engagement:** Provide access to after school sports and leisure activities, ensuring that younger residents have access to safe and structured recreational opportunities.
- **Senior Services:** Offer health services and recreational activities tailored to the elderly population, including low-impact exercise classes and social gatherings.

By aligning park programming with both demographic realities and community-driven interests, Monterey Park can ensure equitable, inclusive, and active public spaces that serve the needs of all residents.





Adaptive Reuse

When redeveloping parks, amenities, and municipally-owned structures in Monterey Park, best practices should address the community's needs, limited land availability, and the city's cultural and environmental context. Efforts should start with a thorough evaluation of the park system, identifying underutilized spaces and outdated amenities. Site analyses, user surveys, and equity mapping can help prioritize investments. Inclusivity and multi-generational design are essential, ensuring parks serve residents of all ages and abilities. For example, playgrounds should feature universal design, while flexible gathering spaces can accommodate both large family events and smaller cultural gatherings.

Balancing passive and active uses is key to maximizing park utility in Monterey Park's limited space. Parks should support informal activities like picnicking and yoga alongside formal programming such as sports leagues. Multi-use spaces, like convertible sports courts, offer flexibility for changing recreation trends. Adding shaded seating, walking loops, and exercise stations enhances accessibility and promotes wellness, particularly for older adults. Durable, low-maintenance materials—such as synthetic turf, solar lighting, and drought-tolerant landscaping—ensure parks remain functional, attractive, and sustainable year-round.

The adaptive reuse of building structures in Monterey Park offers an opportunity to revitalize aging facilities while promoting public safety, fiscal responsibility, and sustainability. Upgrading existing recreation centers, picnic shelters, or storage buildings into multipurpose spaces for arts workshops, fitness classes, or community events avoids costly demolition and aligns with environmental goals. Preserving and adapting architecturally significant buildings can honor their character while meeting modern energy, safety, and accessibility standards. Flexible interior designs, like moveable walls or modular furniture, allow spaces to adapt to changing community needs.

Sustainability should underpin all redevelopment efforts, supporting California's resilience goals. Green infrastructure—such as permeable pathways, bioswales, and native landscaping—addresses environmental challenges while creating low-maintenance spaces. Renewable energy features, like solar panels on buildings or carports, can reduce operational costs, while shade structures, tree planting, and cooling elements like splash pads improve user comfort during hotter summers. For parks with limited land, creative design solutions like vertical or "stacked" facilities can maximize space. Multi-level recreation buildings with rooftop gardens or fitness spaces, along with multipurpose athletic fields, allow single spaces to serve diverse user groups. Small parcels or irregular areas can be transformed into pocket or linear parks with walking paths, seating, and urban gardens, enhancing neighborhood connectivity.

Urban Park Network

As the open space network expands, community and private entities must be seen as vital partners towards implementation as municipal resources for maintaining and programming existing park facilities are strained. As the City of Monterey Park Land Use and Urban Design Element describes, while Monterey Park has well-used parks, establishing new green space will be difficult given the community's built-out character. In developing a park network in an already built-out community with high land value, the City of Monterey Park should consider several best practices to maximize the use of limited space and resources. One approach is to transform underutilized land uses into parks or green spaces. This could include repurposing vacant lots, unused parking areas, or other underutilized spaces to create new parks or expand existing ones. By creatively reimagining these spaces, the city can increase its parkland without the need for extensive land acquisition.

Additionally, the City can explore additional joint-use partnerships with entities such as Southern California Edison and local schools, similar to those already in place with Southern California Edison, Jack Macy Intermediate School and Bella Vista Elementary School. These partnerships can allow the City to leverage existing infrastructure and land resources to create shared recreational spaces. For example, expanding partnership agreements with Southern California Edison to use their right-of-way for an additional multi-use trail or partnering with schools to open up their playgrounds and fields to the community outside of school hours can increase access to recreational opportunities without the need for new land development.

Furthermore, the City should prioritize creating a connected park network that maximizes accessibility and usability. This can be achieved through strategic park placement and the development of pedestrian and bike-friendly pathways that link parks and green spaces throughout the community. By creating a network of interconnected parks, residents can easily access recreational opportunities and enjoy a higher quality of life, despite living in a densely built environment with high land value.









Parks for Mental Health

The 2023 Monterey Park shooting, a tragic event that took place during the Lunar New Year celebration, continues to have a significant impact on the Monterey Park community. In light of this tragedy, the city has focused its efforts to prioritize mental health, aiming to assist the community in its process of coping and healing.

The relationship between parks and mental health is a subject of growing interest and research. Several studies have highlighted the positive impact that parks and natural environments can have on mental well-being. For the future development of open space, Monterey Park can consider mental health benefits such as:

- **Psychological Benefits:** Parks offer psychological benefits such as increased happiness, improved self-esteem, lower levels of stress, and a greater sense of well-being. Being in natural environments can positively affect mood and emotional state[21].
- **Cognitive Benefits:** Interacting with nature in parks can improve cognitive function, including attention, memory, and creativity. Exposure to green spaces has been linked to better cognitive development in children and may help prevent cognitive decline in older adults[22].
- **Physical Benefits:** Parks encourage physical activity, such as walking, jogging, or cycling, which is known to have numerous benefits for mental health. Regular physical activity in parks can reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety.
- **Social Interaction:** Parks often serve as community gathering places, promoting social interaction and a sense of belonging. Social connections are important for mental health and well-being[23].
- **Community Benefits:** Parks and other civic spaces are becoming centers for mental health-related services. Such is the case in Monterey Park with the MPK Hope Resiliency Center formerly located at Sierra Vista Park, where residents can learn about available programs related to mental health and well-being. Programs offered include support groups, counseling, resource assistance, journaling sessions, victim services and more[24]
- **Connection to Nature:** Parks provide an opportunity for people to connect with nature, which has been shown to have a positive impact on mental health. Nature exposure can reduce rumination, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being.

[21] *Hunter, R. F., Christian, H., Veitch, J., Astell-Burt, T., Hipp, J. A., Schipperijn, J., & Turrell, G. [2015]. The Effects of Parks on Health: A Systematic Review of the Evidence.*

[22] *National Park Service. [n.d.]. Nature's benefits: Physical health. Retrieved from https://www.nps.gov/articles/naturesbenefits*

Parks & Libraries

The collaboration between the Recreation & Community Services Department and the Library Department has already resulted in a variety of successful joint efforts that reflect Monterey Park's strong emphasis on academic achievement and lifelong learning. Programs such as outdoor storytimes and StoryWalks have brought literacy into the parks, encouraging families to engage with books in fun, interactive ways. At the Langley Senior Center, library-led performances and educational programs have supported lifelong learning for older adults, highlighting the value of combining recreational and intellectual activities. These partnerships have shown how shared spaces and expertise can create meaningful and accessible programming for residents of all ages.

In recent years, both departments have worked together to extend programming beyond their traditional venues, using parks as platforms for pop-up reading events, community storytelling, and intergenerational workshops. The inclusion of outdoor Wi-Fi, modular seating, and flexible furnishings in park spaces has further enabled these types of activities, allowing residents to participate in library programming in a relaxed, open-air environment without requiring major structural investments.

Looking ahead, there are additional opportunities to build on this foundation. Parks can continue to host library-led initiatives such as book clubs, homework help sessions, or technology literacy classes in shaded areas or multipurpose rooms. Summer reading programs could be paired with outdoor activities like nature walks, scavenger hunts, or youth fitness to foster both literacy and physical activity. For older adults, continued collaboration can expand offerings like arts and crafts, health workshops, or technology mentoring. Intergenerational programming—such as storytelling, collaborative art projects, or oral history interviews—can also strengthen community ties and reflect the city's cultural richness.

In the longer term, underutilized park structures could be adaptively reused to support satellite library services, including book lending kiosks, mobile tech hubs, or quiet learning zones, expanding library access to more corners of the city. By continuing to integrate educational programming into parks, Monterey Park can maximize its limited space, engage diverse user groups, and create vibrant, multi-purpose public spaces that support recreation, learning, and community connection.



[23] *The Trust for Public Land. [2023]. The power of parks to promote health.*

[24] *City of Monterey Park. [n.d.]. Heal MPK: Resources for victims and the community. Retrieved from https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/1483/Heal-MPK-Resources-for-Victims-and-the-C*





Equitable Green Development

To avoid the potential for green gentrification, the GROW Master Plan will adopt a comprehensive approach that prioritizes strategies that promote equity, affordability, and community engagement in its open space planning effort. Residential anti-displacement strategies could include:

- **Anti-Displacement Policies:** Implement policies to protect vulnerable communities from displacement, such as rent control, tenant protections, and land trusts that preserve affordable housing.
- **Community Benefits Agreements:** Negotiate community benefits agreements with developers to secure commitments for affordable housing, job training, and other resources that support existing residents.
- **Affordable Housing:** Integrate affordable housing initiatives into park and open space development projects to ensure that low-income residents can benefit from the improvements without facing displacement.
- **Economic Opportunity:** Create pathways for Monterey Park residents to access government jobs, volunteer, and entrepreneurship opportunities related to park development, programming, and stewardship.

By incorporating these strategies into comprehensive, citywide planning efforts, Monterey Park residents can access the benefits of green development while mitigating the risks of gentrification and displacement for generations to come.



Park Maintenance

Creating new parks and playgrounds can be exciting for any community, however, planning for new parks must be balanced with the ongoing maintenance needs of existing parks and the staffing challenges that come with managing a park system. One of the primary challenges of planning for new parks is securing adequate funding. While there are various funding sources available, such as grants and bonds, these funds are highly competitive and dependent on various factors. Additionally, the cost of acquiring land for new parks can be prohibitive, especially in densely populated urban areas like Monterey Park where land prices are high.

Any future park development plans in Monterey Park, and any of its associated costs, must also take into consideration maintenance tasks such as upkeeping green spaces, managing irrigation and utilities, repairing facilities, as well as more intensive maintenance efforts such as renovating playgrounds and sports fields. The desire for more recreational programming should also consider the additional staff it would take to lead the programming efforts. Adequately funding and staffing maintenance and programming efforts is crucial to ensuring that parks remain safe, attractive, and functional. Seasonal fluctuations in park use can also create staffing challenges, requiring parks departments to adjust staffing levels to meet demand.

To address these challenges, communities can take several steps to balance park planning, maintenance, and staffing needs. One approach is to prioritize maintenance funding and staffing to ensure that existing parks remain in good condition. This may involve reallocating resources from new park development to maintenance efforts or seeking additional funding sources specifically earmarked for maintenance. Additionally, the City of Monterey Park can continue to conduct regular assessments of park facilities and infrastructure to identify maintenance needs and developing long-term maintenance plans to address them.







Park Partnerships

Establishing formalized partnerships with non-traditional entities such as community-based organizations, advocacy and service-based groups, corporate sponsors, and local businesses is critical for enhancing the funding, programming, maintenance, and advocacy of parks in Monterey Park. These partnerships can provide additional resources, expertise, and support, helping to address challenges such as limited municipal budgets, high maintenance costs, and the need for diverse, inclusive programming. By leveraging the strengths of external partners, parks can become more dynamic and sustainable community assets, better reflecting the needs and aspirations of Monterey Park residents.

School Districts

In Monterey Park, the relationship between the public school system and the City's parks infrastructure is deeply interconnected, shaped by both geography and decades of shared use. Schools serve as neighborhood anchors, and in many cases, their campuses, particularly fields and gymnasiums,function as extensions of the City's park system. This is especially true in areas with limited park acreage, where school sites help fill a gap in access to open space and recreational programming. Over the years, the City of Monterey Park has formed joint use agreements primarily with the Alhambra Unified and Montebello Unified School Districts to allow public use of facilities such as fields, courts, and open play areas during non-school hours. These partnerships have been critical in ensuring that residents, especially youth, have access to safe and convenient recreation spaces.

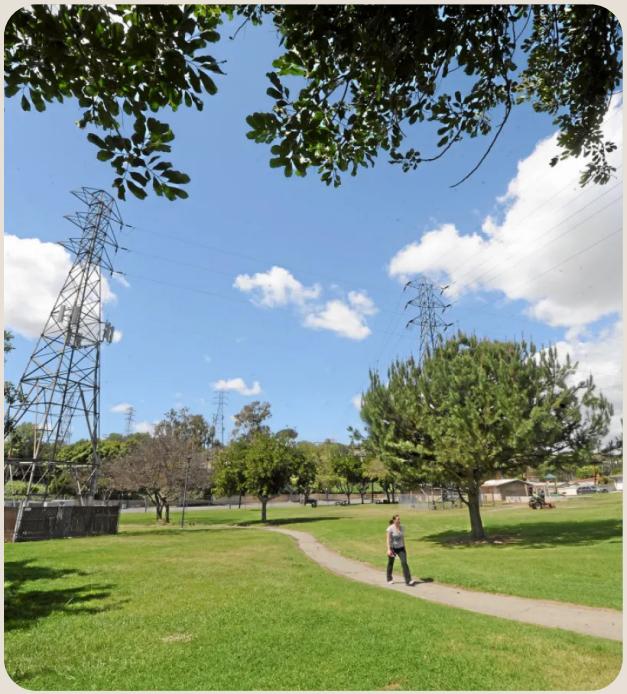
However, many of these agreements were created decades ago and no longer align with current community expectations, maintenance needs, or liability standards. They often lack clarity on key issues like scheduling protocols, funding responsibilities for upkeep, or coordination during periods of construction or renovation. In practice, this can lead to conflicts over access, uneven facility quality, and confusion about who is responsible for repairs or improvements. As the City plans for the future of its park system, the Monterey Park Parks System Master Plan identifies the need to revisit and modernize these agreements as a priority action item. Clear, updated partnerships can strengthen inter-agency collaboration, improve resource sharing, and lead to better-maintained spaces that meet both school and community needs.

School athletic programs also have a significant and ongoing impact on city park services. High school swim teams, for example, frequently use public pools for practice, especially when on-campus facilities are insufficient or undergoing upgrades. This usage creates added demand on limited space, contributes to wear and tear, and intensifies scheduling challenges during peak seasons. As another example, youth sports leagues, often coordinated in part through schools or community organizations, further increase competition for facilities. Without coordinated planning and communication, this can lead to frustration among residents, staff, and user groups. By reengaging with each of the four school districts and developing a shared framework for managing joint facilities, the City can reduce these tensions, improve efficiency, and better support both academic and recreational programming.

Looking ahead, the GROW Monterey Park offers an opportunity to create more intentional partnerships that align with broader City goals around equity, health, and community building. For example, updated agreements could prioritize shared capital investments in multi-use facilities, incorporate climate resilience improvements like shaded gathering areas or permeable surfaces, and ensure language access and equitable participation in programming decisions. They can also help unlock grant opportunities that require inter-agency collaboration or demonstrate joint benefits. Ultimately, building stronger relationships with local school districts will not only expand recreational opportunities for residents—it will also reinforce the schools' roles as central community assets, creating a more integrated and resilient park and recreation system citywide.

Southern California Edison

Southern California Edison (SCE) has played a significant role in enhancing public recreation in Monterey Park through its long-standing partnership with the City. Since 1965, the City has held a license agreement with SCE to utilize the





land beneath its transmission lines, leading to the development of Edison Trails Park. This park offers residents a natural hillside trail experience within an urban setting, providing scenic views and a tranquil environment. The collaboration between SCE and the City has transformed utility corridors into valuable community assets, demonstrating the potential of multi-use spaces[25].

However, the partnership has faced challenges. In 2013, SCE introduced new vegetation management requirements, citing safety concerns. These changes mandated the removal of trees within 50 feet of transmission towers and trimming of branches within 25 feet of poles or wires, with a height restriction of 15 feet for all trees. The City and residents expressed concerns over these stringent measures, fearing the loss of mature trees and the park's aesthetic value. After negotiations, a compromise was reached, allowing for selective trimming rather than widespread removal, thus preserving the park's natural beauty while addressing safety protocols[26].

[25] *News Flash. (n.d.). https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/Archive/ViewFile/Item/174?utm*

[26] *ibid.*

Building on the success of Edison Trails Park, there is an opportunity to expand recreational spaces along SCE's transmission corridors in Monterey Park. Other communities have successfully transformed utility rights-of-way into linear parks and trails, balancing infrastructure needs with public use. For instance, the City of Montebello's Edison Trails Study proposes a 10-acre linear park trail corridor across SCE-owned parcels, enhancing connectivity and providing recreational opportunities. By exploring similar initiatives, Monterey Park can further utilize SCE's transmission corridors to develop additional green spaces, promoting health, connectivity, and environmental stewardship.



Water District

The San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District [SGVMWD] has been a longstanding partner in Monterey Park's efforts to promote water conservation and environmental education. A notable example of this collaboration is the Demonstration Garden at 720 Metro Drive, developed in partnership with the City's Public Works and Recreation & Community Services Department. This garden showcases drought-tolerant landscaping and serves as an educational resource for residents, illustrating practical water-saving techniques and sustainable gardening practices. The garden was officially opened to the public in 2017, marking a significant step in community engagement around water stewardship[27].

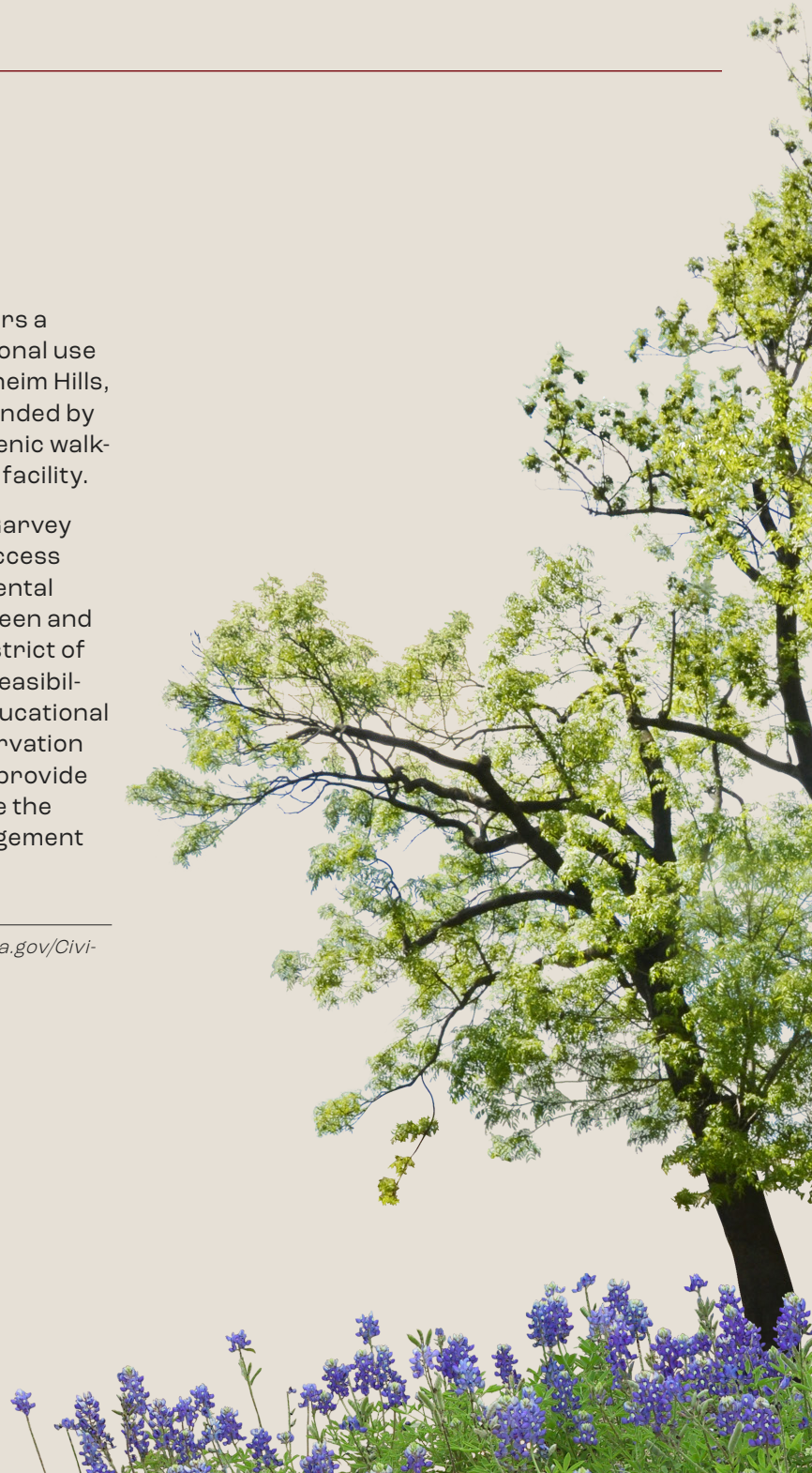
Looking forward, there is potential to expand partnerships with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, particularly concerning the Garvey Reservoir. While the reservoir primarily functions as a water storage facility, its surrounding areas could be considered for passive recreational uses, such as walking trails or educational signage, without compromising its primary purpose. Similar initiatives have been successfully implemented elsewhere in Southern California. For instance, the Hollywood Reservoir in Los Angeles features a 3.5-mile loop trail that allows public access while maintaining the reservoir's operational integrity.

Similarly, the Silver Lake Reservoir offers a pedestrian path that balances recreational use with water management needs. In Anaheim Hills, the Walnut Canyon Reservoir is surrounded by a loop trail, providing residents with scenic walking opportunities adjacent to the water facility.

Integrating such features around the Garvey Reservoir could enhance community access to open spaces and promote environmental education. Collaborative planning between and the City and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California could explore the feasibility of developing low-impact trails or educational installations that highlight water conservation efforts. Such initiatives would not only provide recreational benefits but also reinforce the importance of sustainable water management practices among residents.

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[27] News Flash. (n.d.). https://www.montereypark.ca.gov/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=351&ARC=529&utm





Community & Private Partnerships

Monterey Park has a strong foundation of partnerships with community groups, nonprofits, businesses, and other external partners that enhance the City's parks system. One key example is the City's partnership with the Chinatown Service Center, which operates the MPK Hope Resiliency Center—a hub for mental health and wellness services formerly housed in a City facility. This collaboration underscores how partnerships can extend the function of public spaces to meet broader community health and wellness needs. Community-based organizations and advocacy groups are especially important in this regard as they bring deep connections to underserved populations and offer local expertise. These groups are well positioned to deliver culturally relevant programs in park spaces, such as language-specific fitness classes, community art workshops, intergenerational activities, and youth mentorship programs. They also play a critical role in building grassroots support for park improvements, helping to promote public participation and long-term stewardship—particularly when park projects are tied to broader equity or resilience goals.

In addition to nonprofits, partnerships with businesses and corporations present opportunities to bring in new resources, programming, and visibility to the parks system. Corporate sponsors can support capital improvements or special events in exchange for branding or recognition, helping to offset costs for amenities such as playgrounds, shade structures, or fitness zones. Local businesses—whether restaurants, fitness studios, or creative firms—can also help activate parks through one-time or recurring events that attract diverse audiences and encourage ongoing community use. These public-private partnerships create shared value: businesses build community goodwill, and parks become better maintained, more vibrant, and more responsive to residents' needs. By formalizing partnership structures and clearly defining roles, the City can continue to scale these efforts, leveraging cross-sector collaboration to transform parks into inclusive, resilient, and well-loved public spaces.



Park Funding

To create a reliable funding stream, the City of Monterey Park can explore dedicated mechanisms, such as impact fees from developers, targeted parcel or sales taxes, and consistent municipal budget allocations for park maintenance. Development impact fees are intended to mitigate the impact of new development on the need for additional park space and amenities, ensuring that new development contributes to the enhancement of the city's park system. These funding sources would ensure parks remain operational without compromising other City priorities.

Additionally, state and federal grants that prioritize equity or multi-year funding for park sustainability can help supplement these resources. There are a range of funding sources available to the City of Monterey Park for future park development and maintenance, including Proposition 68, Measure A, Measure W, Measure R, state grants, federal grants, local bonds, public-private partnerships, impact fees, and community fundraising. By leveraging a combination of these available funding sources, Monterey Park can develop a funding strategy for its growing park system.

Beyond Proposition 68 and Measure A, which are described on pages 130 and 131, Measure W and Measure R are also Los Angeles County initiatives that can help to support the development of the city's open space network. Measure W, a stormwater parcel tax measure approved by Los Angeles County voters, generates funding for projects that capture, treat, and recycle stormwater. Monterey Park could potentially access Measure W funds for park development projects that incorporate green infrastructure elements to manage stormwater runoff. Measure R, another voter-approved initiative in Los Angeles County, provides funding for transportation projects that enhance connectivity and access to parks. Monterey Park can use Measure R funds to improve pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, facilitating easier access to parks and recreational facilities. Similarly, Measure M, approved by Los Angeles County voters in 2016, provides funding for transportation projects, including improvements to streets, sidewalks, and bike paths that enhance access to parks.

Beyond local funding sources, there are state and federal sources of public funding to be aware of as well. California offers various grant programs for park and recreation projects, such as the California Youth Soccer and Recreation Development Program, Recreational Trails Program, and the California Habitat Conservation Fund. These grants can provide funding for park improvements, land acquisition, and recreational facilities, enhancing the overall quality of Monterey Park's park system. The federal government provides grants through agencies like the National Park Service and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. These grants support projects that enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and protect natural resources, providing Monterey Park with additional funding options for park development.

The City of Monterey Park can also consider other common, non-public sources of park funding such as public-private partnerships, park impact fees, and philanthropy. These partnerships ensure that park maintenance is not solely dependent on municipal budgets. Collaborating with private organizations, businesses, and foundations can provide additional funding for park development. These partnerships can include sponsorship agreements, donation programs, and joint development projects, allowing Monterey Park to leverage private resources for park improvements. Collaborating with private entities, nonprofit organizations, and the community can also address the lack of community stewardship over the development and care of our public parks.

Businesses could sponsor park features, while nonprofits could assist with fundraising for specific projects. Community volunteer programs, including structured clean-up and landscaping days, foster a sense of shared responsibility and reduce operational costs. This could include events, donation drives, and crowdfunding campaigns, fostering a sense of community ownership and support for park projects.

Strong political leadership and public support are critical for advancing park funding initiatives. Monterey Park can prioritize equity by directing resources to underserved neighborhoods, ensuring all residents benefit from well-maintained parks. Public awareness campaigns and transparent reporting on park maintenance success can bolster trust and encourage community backing for dedicated funding measures. By embracing these strategies, Monterey Park can secure the long-term sustainability of its parks system while addressing the needs of its diverse population.



Open House One: Some of the Community-Generated Park Funding Ideas

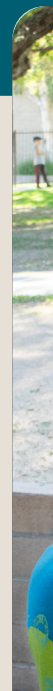




COMMUNITY VOICE








800.717.KIDS


GROW
Monterey Park
Parks System Master Plan


park equity in Monterey Park
DISTANCE TO PARKS
POPULATION DENSITY
2 PARK ACRES PER 1,000 POPULATION
The county average is 3.3 park acres per 1,000 population
Demonstration Garden


3
10
1
collect your $5 park dollars
check out the "park menu" below
decide together what to buy
put your dollars in the red envelope
come spend some "green"!

Community Voice

OVERVIEW

The City of Monterey Park led a community-centered approach to planning for its park network and system. This section summarizes the public outreach strategy as well as the findings that directly impacted the decision making at various points throughout the three-phase planning process. Before initiating public outreach in early 2024, the Project Team conducted a preliminary existing conditions analysis to contextualize the park network using available public data and research. Simultaneously, a study of the current community stakeholder landscape was done in this preliminary phase to understand the relational dynamics between various organizational entities, stakeholder groups, and community leaders, helping to refine an effective community engagement strategy.

JAN - MAR

PRE-PLANNING

socioeconomic / demographic study

Identify communities in Monterey Park that are underrepresented and are most vulnerable to planning decisions.

physical & public health study

Spatially analyze the community characteristics of Monterey Park and identifying areas of greatest park and recreation need.

planning & policy research

Review local/regional plans & policies, relevant public projects, and statewide policies & funding

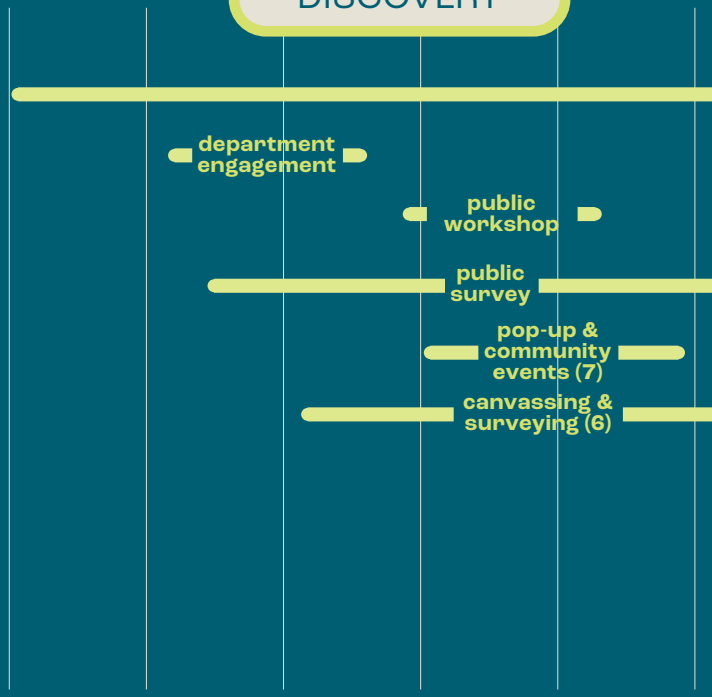
best practice & case study research

Research into:

- urban park network
- equitable park development
- parks and mental health
- programming
- maintenance & funding
- similar demographics
- similar size & population
- local preference
- innovation & equity

JAN - AUG

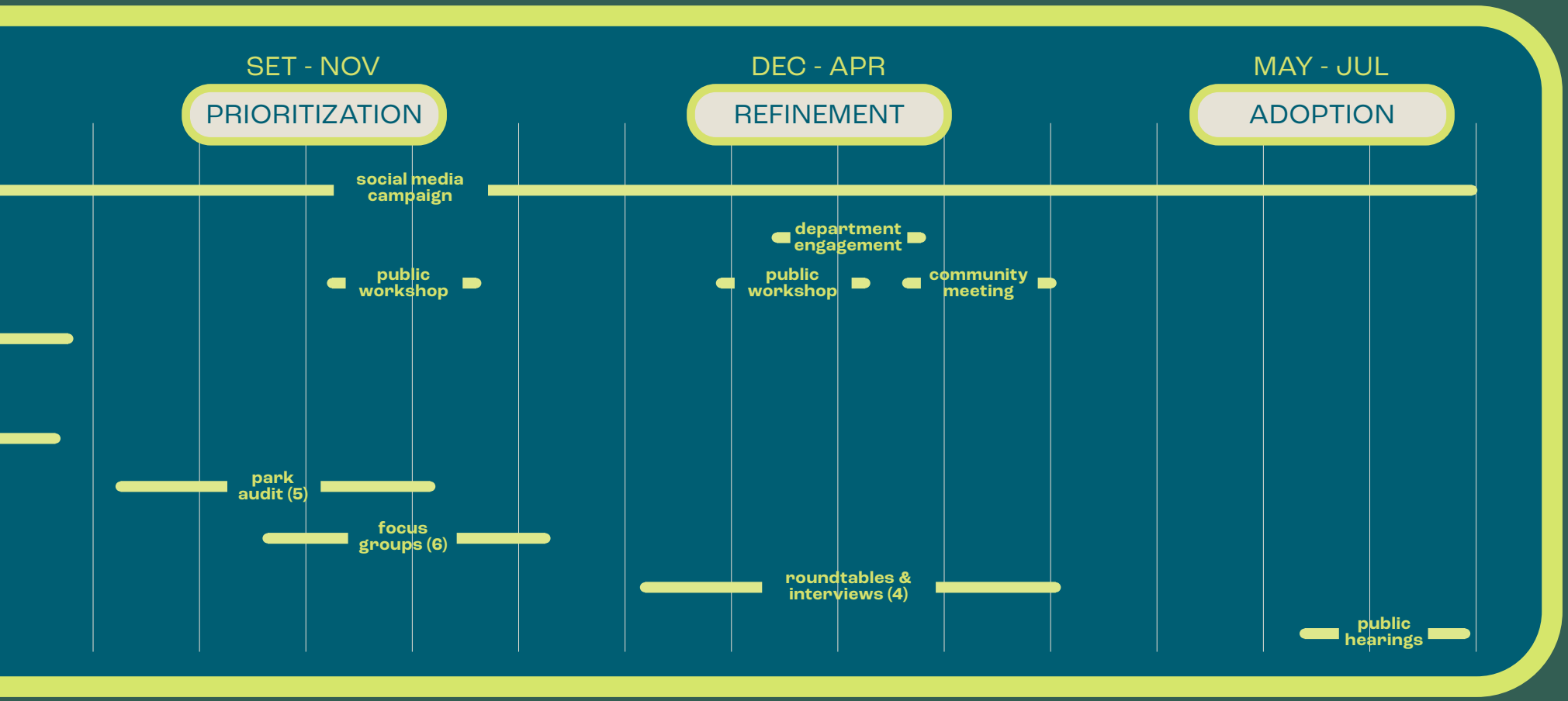
DISCOVERY



Engagement Timeline

CITY OF MONTEREY PARK: GROW PARKS SYSTEM MASTER SCHEDULE

With this initial basis of understanding, the Project Team was able to determine an equity-centered approach to community engagement by uplifting historically marginalized and under resourced populations. Based on the existing conditions analysis, it was determined that our target populations were youth (under 18 years old), seniors/elders (over 65 years old), and low-income renters living in Monterey Park. In addition to being targeted as part of the engagement process, the responses from these populations were disaggregated and uplifted in the data analysis.



Phase One
Discovery

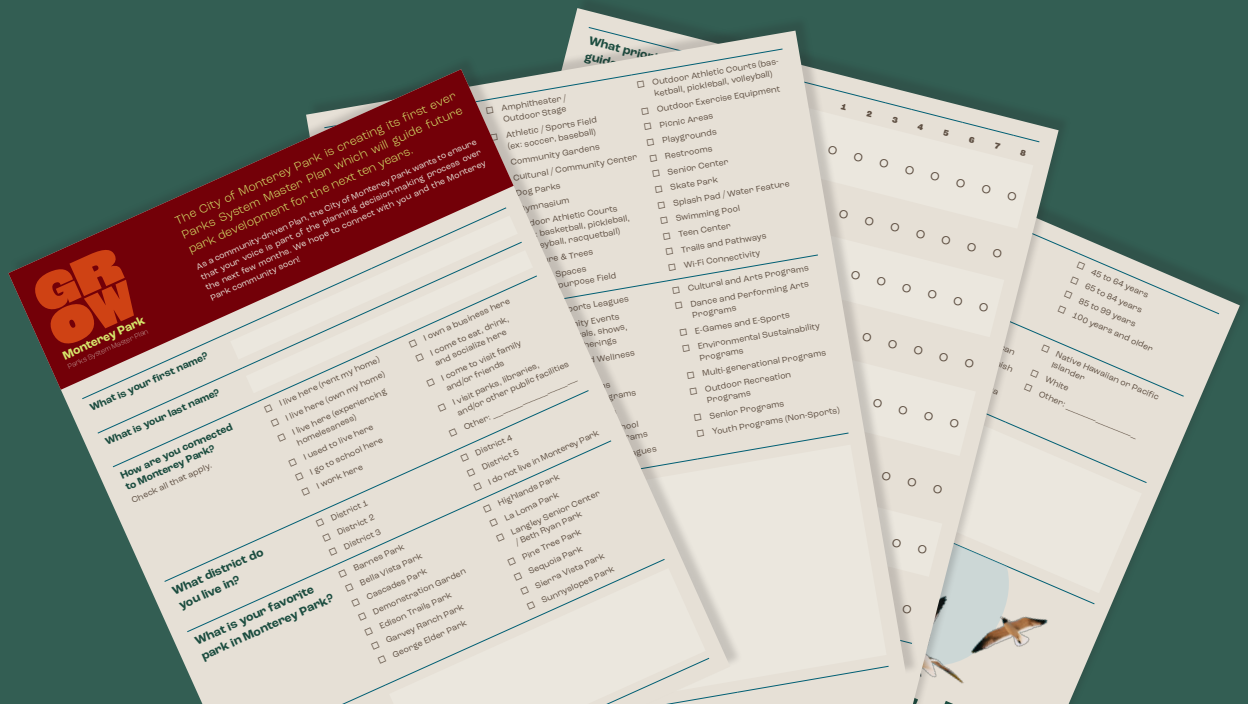
Following the preliminary data analysis, the Project Team began a three-phase public outreach process, starting with the "Discovery" phase. In this first phase, the Project Team evaluated the existing conditions of the Monterey Park park network through a spatial data analysis, literature research and review, site visits meeting with community leaders and City partners. The City of Monterey Park worked with the nonprofit consultant, City Fabrick, to develop a project branding and social media messaging campaign that was used to create promotional and marketing materials in Chinese, Spanish, and English.

1,896
Survey Participants

154
Open House One Participants

6
Canvassing & Park Survey Events

7
Pop-Ups & Events



During this time of communications development, the Project Team began to establish and build upon existing relationships with City staff, local community organizations and neighborhood groups. Additionally, the Project Team conducted a Community Visit and Assessment on January 29th, 2024 to kick-off the engagement process. This early engagement involved affirming initial data findings and research assumptions by tapping into the lived experiences of community members. This first phase of public engagement helped to refine the Project Team's understanding of the common goals and objectives for the Monterey Park open space network and park system; this feedback, as well as the data and best practice research, helped to inform the Master Plan's "Vision, Goals, and Objectives" and "Needs Assessment" for future park design, development, and programming/partnerships.

PARK SURVEY & POP-UPS

For the GROW Master Plan, the City of Monterey Park, with support from City Fabrick and identified community partners, initiated the comprehensive public engagement process with the launch of a community survey, available in Simplified and Traditional Chinese, Spanish, and English. This survey was designed for both print and online, and captures the community's preferences, needs, and aspirations related to Monterey Park's public parks and programs. The survey, promoted through social media, the City's website, Cascades newspaper, park canvassing, pop-up events, and partner listservs, served as a baseline tool for collecting quantifiable data. To encourage participation, the survey included an opportunity drawing and was supported by professionally designed visuals and marketing materials to maximize reach.

The goal for the survey was to achieve a sample size of 500 participants, a number calculated to ensure statistical significance for the city's population. A statistically significant sample size means the survey results accurately represent the views and needs of the broader community with minimal margin of error, increasing confidence that the findings reflect the population as a whole. This benchmark was far exceeded, with a total of 1,886 people participating in the public survey. This robust response greatly enhanced the reliability of the data, providing a strong foundation for understanding community priorities and informing the Plan's recommendations.

The resulting data provided critical insights and helped establish initial contacts for deeper engagement through subsequent workshops and roundtables.

In addition to promoting the survey online, the Project Team implemented a dynamic engagement strategy to provide the public with multiple opportunities to offer feedback through the survey. Park surveying days, pop-up events, Department-hosted events/programs, and a public open house allowed participants to evaluate existing park conditions and contribute ideas for improvement.

Park Surveying & Pop-Up Days:

- Spring Egg Hunt - 3/28/2024
- General Park Survey Day #1 - 4/20/2024
- Cherry Blossom Festival/Earth Day - 4/27/2024
- Cinco De Mayo/Monterey Park Birthday Festival - 5/9/2024
- General Park Survey Day #2 - 5/11/2024
- SGV Pride Parade and Festival - 6/1/2024
- Independence Day Celebration - 6/29/2024

Overview Of Survey Participants



The Community's Favorite Park In The City

1 Barnes Park
2 Garvey Ranch Park
3 Sequoia Park
4 George Elder Park
5 Highlands Park
6 La Loma Park

Renters
1 Barnes Park
2 Garvey Ranch Park
3 George Elder Park

Youth (ages 24 and under)
1 Barnes Park
2 Garvey Ranch Park
2 Sequoia Park
3 George Elder Park
3 Edison Trails Park

Seniors (ages 65 and older)
1 Barnes Park
2 Garvey Ranch Park
3 Sequoia Park
3 Sierra Vista Park

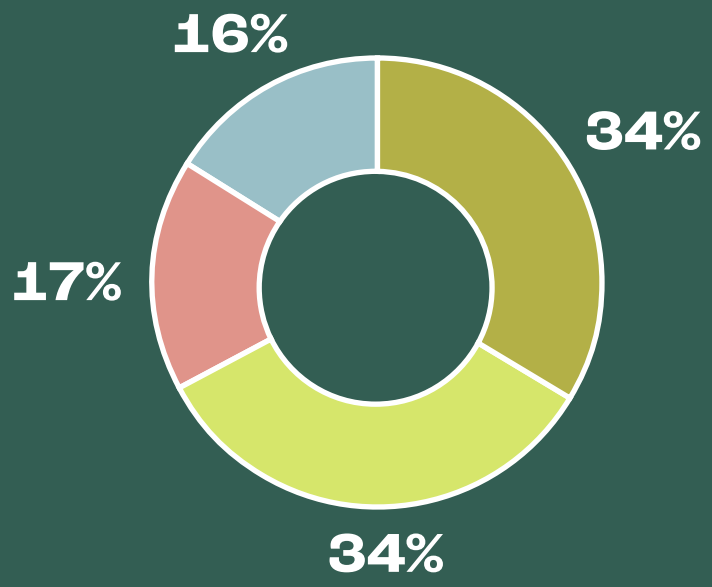
What People Like The Most About Their Favorite Park



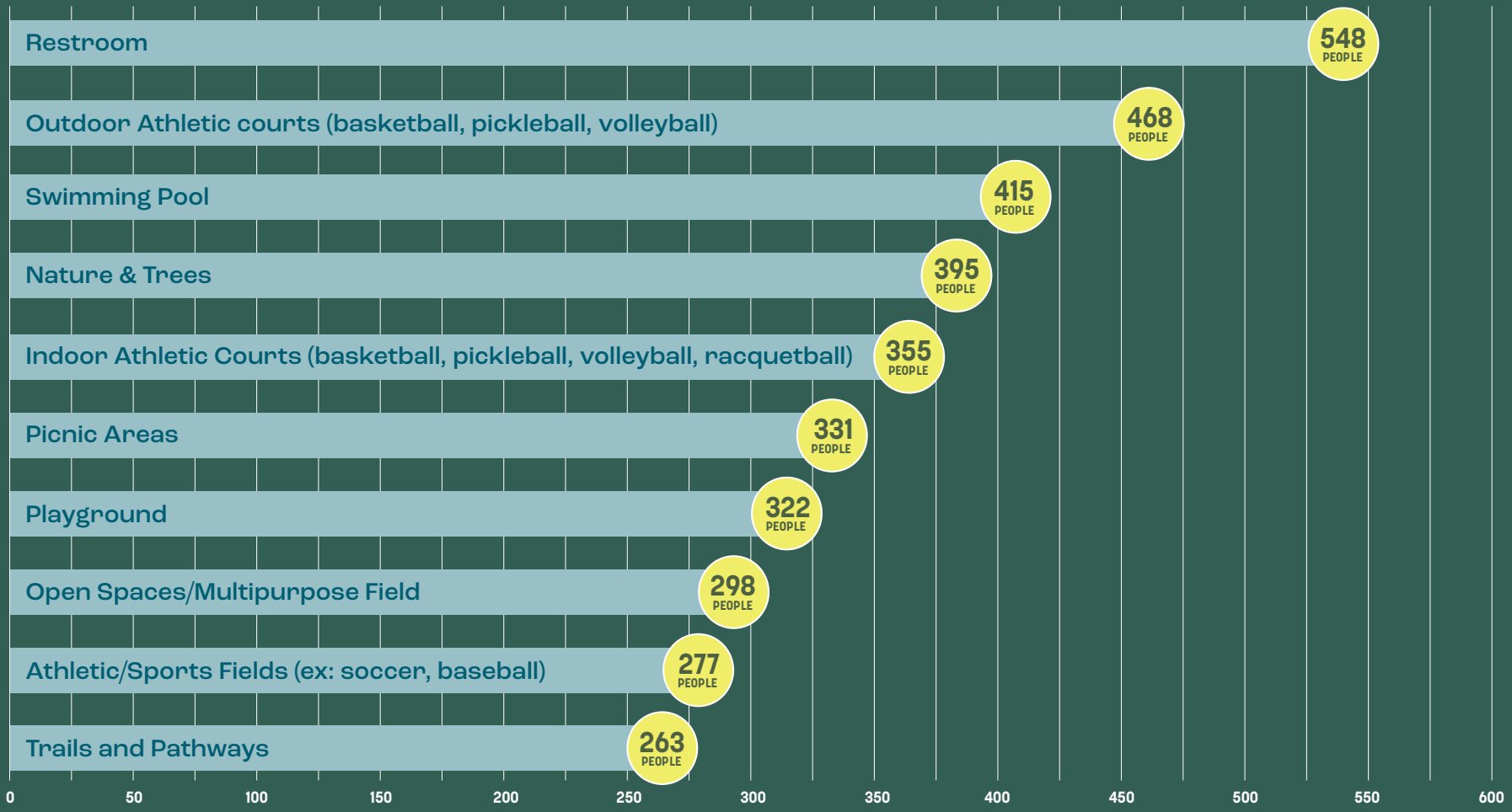
Top Priorities That Community Believes Should Guide The GROW Planning Process

- **Upgrades** — Enhance existing facilities before considering new park — 492 PEOPLE
- **Safety** — Improve safety inside and getting to the park — 457 PEOPLE
- **Sustainability** — Plan and design parks for the health of the environment — 378 PEOPLE
- **Quality** — Use designs and materials that are low-maintenance but high in quality — 361 PEOPLE
- **Health** — Improve and expand the availability of healthy activities — 360 PEOPLE
- **Equity** — Increase park access to underserved communities — 336 PEOPLE
- **Culture** — Enhance the cultural programs being offered and spaces for them — 302 PEOPLE
- **Education** — Consider the park a chance to learn about nature and history — 298 PEOPLE

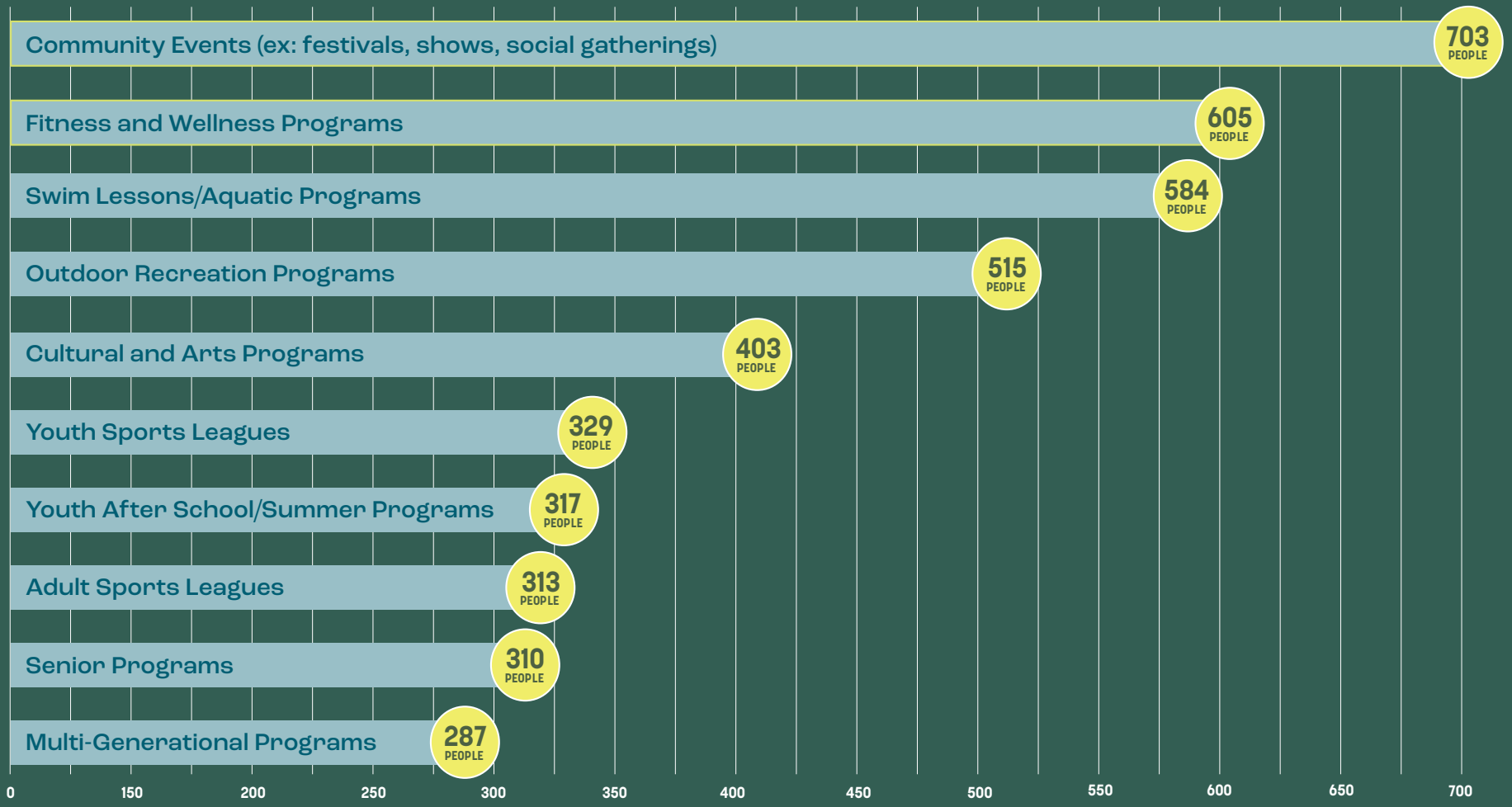
Fewer, Larger Parks & Open Spaces Versus More, Smaller Ones



Most Important/ Desired Park Amenity



Most Important/ Desired Park Program



Most Important/Desired Park Amenity & Program by Target Populations

Most Important/ Desired Park Amenity

1 Restroom

2 Outdoor Athletic courts (basketball, pickleball, volleyball)

3 Swimming Pool

Renters
1 Restroom
2 Nature & Trees
3 Swimming Pool

Youth (ages 24 and under)
1 Restroom
2 Swimming Pool
3 Nature & Trees

Seniors (ages 65 and older)
1 Restroom
2 Outdoor Athletic courts (basketball, pickleball, volleyball)
3 Nature & Trees

Most Important/ Desired Park Program

1 Community Events

2 Fitness and Wellness Programs

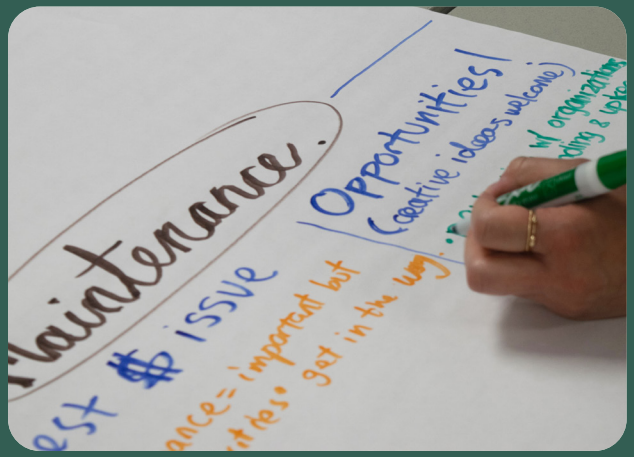
3 Swim Lessons /Aquatic Programs

Renters
1 Community Events
2 Cultural and Arts Programs
3 Swim Lessons /Aquatic Programs

Youth (ages 24 and under)
1 Community Events
2 Fitness and Wellness Programs
3 Swim Lessons /Aquatic Programs

Seniors (ages 65 and older)
1 Fitness and Wellness Programs
2 Senior Programs
3 Community Events





STAFF ENGAGEMENT

Following the launch of the park survey, key staff from the Recreation & Community Services Department were engaged in a two-part workshop to gain an institutional understanding of Departmental operations, challenges, and opportunities. The workshops provided a comprehensive platform for staff to reflect on current practices, share insights, and collectively plan for a sustainable and inclusive future for the City's parks and recreational services. These sessions were designed to foster active participation, build a shared understanding of the Master Plan's objectives, and establish clear implementation priorities.

The first session, conducted virtually on April 15th, 2024, introduced staff to the foundational elements of the Master Plan, highlighting its equity-driven, community-led approach. Participants engaged in activities that prompted them to critically review the Department's mission and goals, identify areas for growth, and reflect on how their individual and collective roles contribute to the overarching vision of the Department. This session also included updates on ongoing engagement initiatives, such as park surveys and community events, ensuring that staff were informed and aligned with the broader planning efforts.

The second, in-person session [hosted on April 19th, 2024] delved deeper into strategic planning through interactive exercises, such as SWOT analyses and priority-setting activities. Staff worked collaboratively to identify the Department's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, linking these findings to actionable goals. A key activity involved prioritizing strategic focus areas based on current and aspirational goals, fostering meaningful discussions about operational improvements and resource allocation. These exercises not only clarified immediate priorities but also empowered staff to envision a more connected and resilient parks system.

Key outcomes of the workshops included a refined mission statement, an enhanced implementation framework, and a stronger sense of shared ownership among staff. Additionally, the sessions helped build team cohesion, aligning staff across various roles toward a unified purpose. By facilitating these workshops, City Fabrick supported the Department in creating a foundation for thoughtful, community-centered growth while addressing operational challenges and fostering a collective commitment to serve Monterey Park residents effectively. These efforts underscore the Department's dedication to enhancing the quality of life through well-maintained parks, dynamic programming, and equitable service delivery.

Important Takeaways

Park Development

Reimagining Park Spaces:

- There is a need to rethink how existing park spaces are used to accommodate future events and demands, ensuring parks remain relevant and functional for diverse activities.

Navigating Tradeoffs:

- Park development often requires difficult decisions and compromises, such as removing or consolidating amenities or programs to meet evolving demands. While challenging, these tradeoffs can lead to more impactful outcomes and better alignment with community needs.

Programs and Events

Desirable Programs:

- Community feedback consistently highlights gratitude for the quality and range of programs offered.
- Recreational programs and special events remain highly popular and morale-boosting, particularly after the pandemic. These activities foster a sense of belonging and community pride among staff and residents.
- Family programs are essential due to the community's large number of families. These programs foster inclusivity and connection.
- Free programs help eliminate cost barriers, ensuring access for all residents.
- Senior programs reflect the cultural needs of the older adult community, promoting engagement and activity.
- Summer swim lessons, once held on weekends pre-pandemic, are still requested by the community but face staff limitations.
- After school activities are a priority, though the city faces challenges in addressing the needs of four school districts, requiring additional resources to ensure equitable service.
- Regular recreational programs remain essential, especially for youth and seniors experiencing post-pandemic challenges like social isolation and behavioral issues. Expanding facilities would enable more programming to meet these needs.

Desirable Events:

- Family-oriented events, including the Spring Egg Hunt, Monster Mash Halloween, and Snow Village, remain popular community traditions.





- Cultural celebrations like the Cherry Blossom Festival and Lunar New Year highlight the city's diverse heritage.
- Staff and residents place significant importance on cultural events and practices, which strengthen community identity and pride.
- There is an opportunity to expand programming for adults aged 21-35, such as hosting movie nights or food-and-drink events. The City currently hosts an annual Electric Park music event.

Challenging Programs and Events:

- Staffing limitations make event setup and management difficult.
- Licensed after-school programs need scaling to serve low-income families, with opportunities for partnerships to subsidize childcare costs.
- Contract classes face challenges in recruiting and retaining instructors due to insurance and other requirements.

Future Program Opportunities:

- Expanding youth sports, teen programs, and pickleball leagues to meet community demand.
- Increasing accessibility and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities or mental health needs.
- Introducing innovative wellness programs like yoga, meditation, and sound baths.

Staffing and Volunteers

Staff Strengths:

- Staff innovation and creativity are crucial in meeting goals of respect, participation, and compassion.
- The team excels in teamwork, innovation, creativity, and community care, with a shared commitment to improving the quality of life for every Monterey Park resident. Upholding the Department's values of public participation, respect, and compassion ensures the success of its initiatives.
- Staff members find fulfillment in directly engaging with and serving Monterey Park residents. They especially value witnessing their positive impact on youth and older adults, which reinforces their dedication to the community.
- Many team members have long tenures with the City, providing deep institutional knowledge. Despite their experience, they remain open to new ideas and innovations, especially in response to the post-pandemic landscape.

Staffing Needs:

- Part-time employees are vital as they are the department's public face, providing customer service and maintaining community connections.
- Limited staff capacity poses a risk to the quality and frequency of events. To maintain high morale and ensure successful execution of impactful programs, addressing staff workload is critical.
- The loss of experienced instructors post-pandemic has created a need to recruit and retain passionate, skilled professionals.
- Reliable mid-level positions are needed to incentivize retention and foster professional growth.
- A sense of accomplishment arises when program participants transition into roles as volunteers, part-time staff, or even full-time employees. Establishing a Community Ambassador Program could further institutionalize this progression and nurture local leadership.
- Residents express gratitude for staff efforts, acknowledging successful programming, events, and capital improvements. Recognizing and celebrating these "community victories" is vital for maintaining morale and public trust.

Volunteer Contributions:

- Volunteers play an essential role in supporting events and programs, filling gaps where staffing is limited.

- Bilingual translator volunteers enhance program accessibility for diverse populations.
- Youth-focused volunteer programs, provide growth opportunities and ensure event sustainability.

Maintenance

Current Maintenance Issues:

- Addressing aging infrastructure is a top priority for staff. Efforts to repair or upgrade facilities like playgrounds, roofs, and other park amenities are either ongoing or planned. Maintenance of high-quality infrastructure, already superior to neighboring cities, is essential to meet community expectations.
- Addressing facility safety concerns and creating inclusive outdoor spaces remain ongoing priorities.
- Barnes Gym flooring has significant damage due to water and needs to be replaced.
- Facilities, including restrooms, basketball courts, and roofing, require attention to improve safety and usability.
- Bella Vista Park lacks nighttime lighting, creating a potential safety opportunity for solar-powered solutions. Added lighting will provide an opportunity to expand park hours.

Pool Challenges:

- Maintenance costs for the George Elder Park city pool have risen due to increased chemical prices since COVID-19.
- Both the Barnes Pool and George Elder Pool is aging and future repairs will be needed to maintain operations.

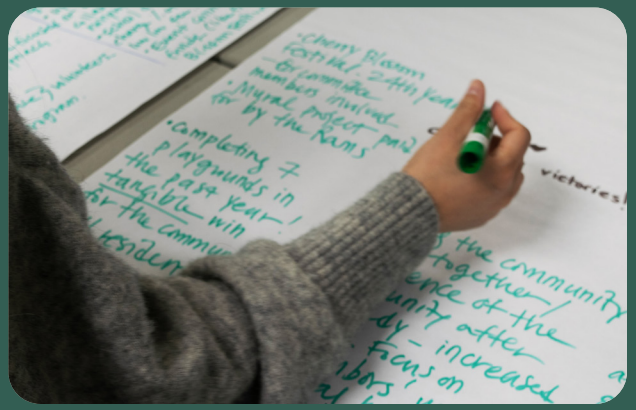
Pickleball Maintenance:

- Evaluating whether pickleball courts are a lasting need or a passing trend is critical to resource allocation.

Maintenance Opportunities:

- Staff and community members value sustainability efforts to maintain parks for future generations. Exploring sustainable practices and solutions is key to ensuring the longevity of park resources.
- Partnering with local organizations can support funding and facility upkeep.
- Training staff to handle minor maintenance issues can reduce dependency on external resources.
- Expanding in-house maintenance knowledge to help address immediate, simple repairs.









Funding Opportunities

Funding Strategies

- Maintaining existing facilities is the top priority to support future program and park improvements.
- Increased fees for facility reservations and rentals can help offset costs.
- Partnering with local school districts, water districts, or sponsorships can secure additional resources.
- Collaborative grants with nonprofits or community groups can bring diverse funding streams to the city.

Collaboration and Partnerships

Programs

- Expanding partnerships with sports organizations like the NBA and MLB can provide unique engagement opportunities.
- Collaborations with groups like Nature for All, Boys & Girls Club, and the YMCA can strengthen program offerings.
- Partnering with educational institutions can enhance access to arts and sciences.
- Residents' are vocal and provide constructive engagement that reflects their strong pride in Monterey Park.

Maintenance

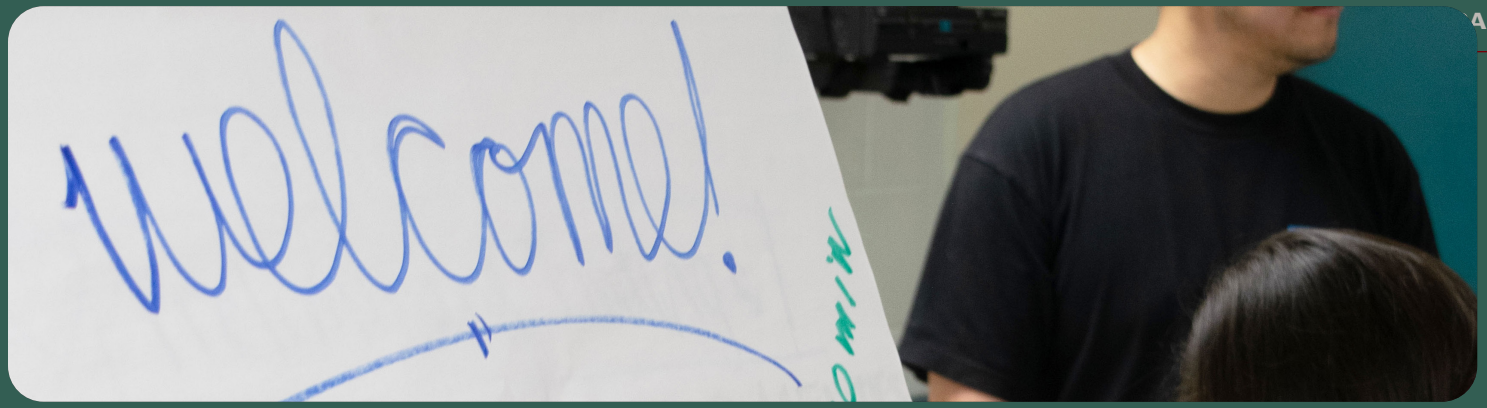
- Working with organizations like Scout BSA can encourage volunteer-led cleanups and Eagle Scout projects.
- Local high school clubs and summer camp volunteers can assist with facility upkeep and community programs.

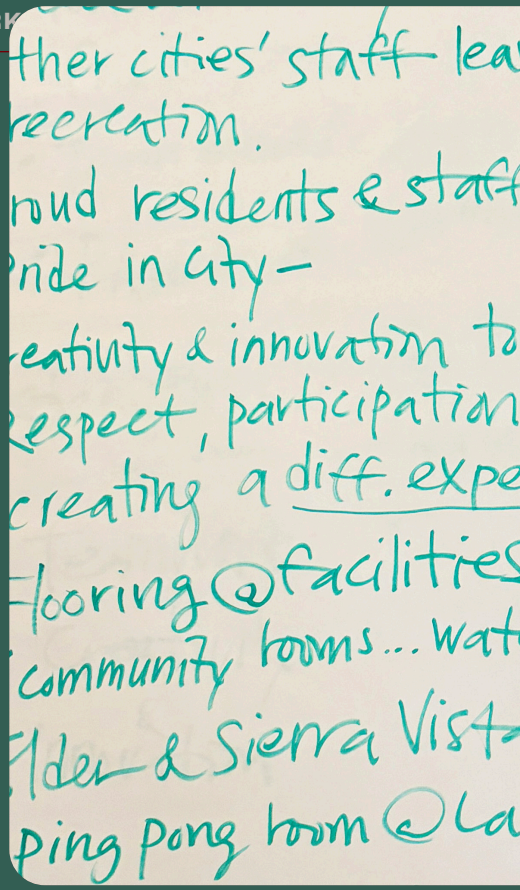
Development

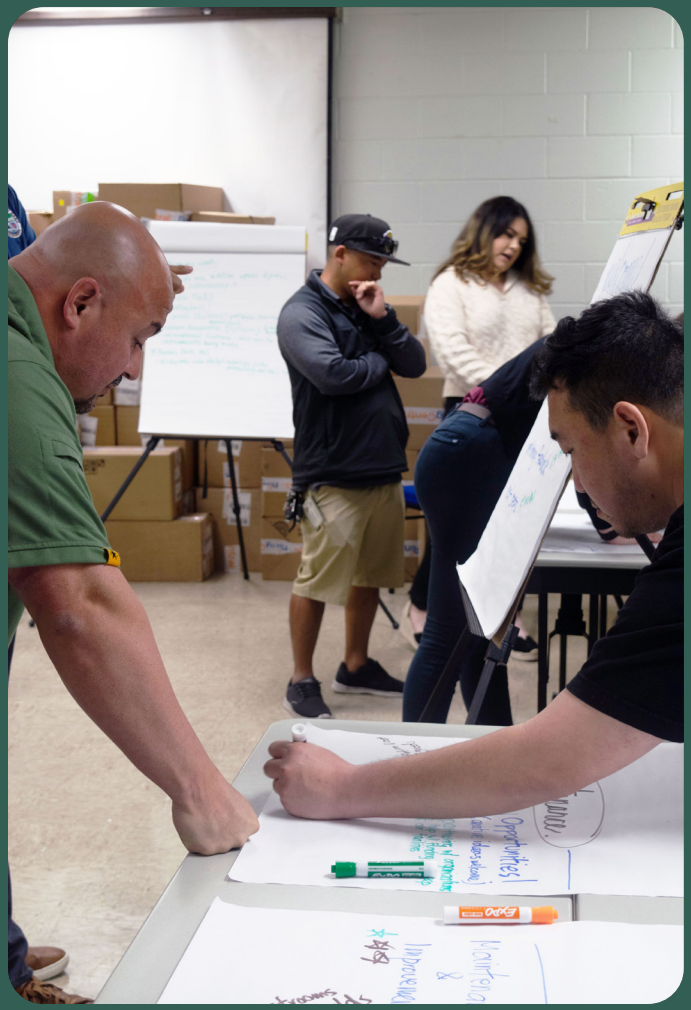
- Incorporating recreational features into housing developments can increase community usability and pride.
- Exploring innovative options like disc golf courses or interactive park elements can diversify offerings.

Community Victories

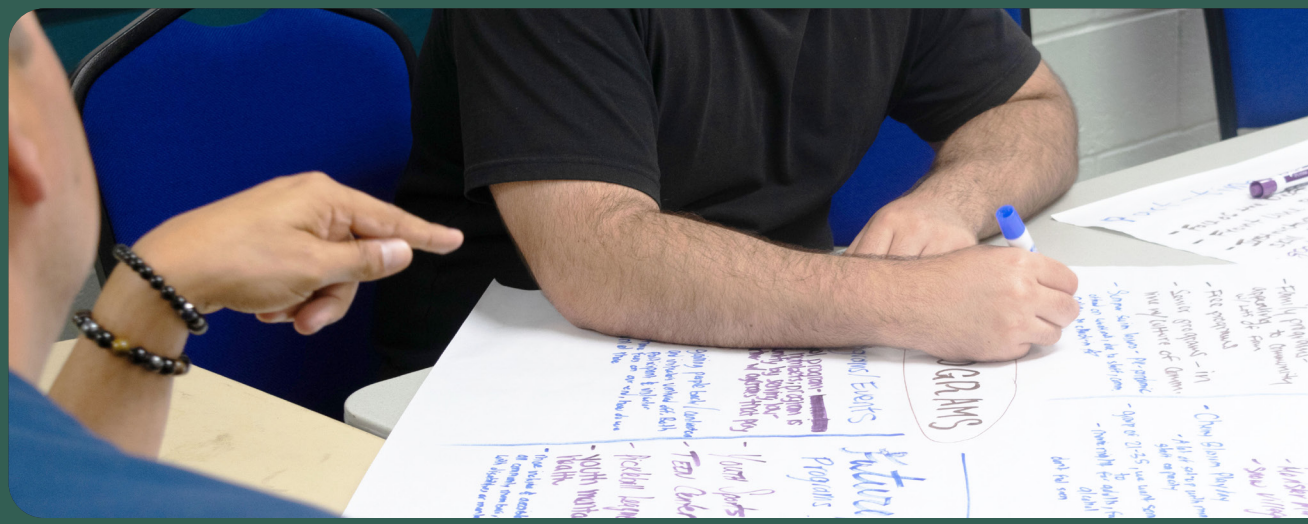
- The Cherry Blossom Festival's 25th year marks a milestone of cultural celebration.
- The community mural project funded by the LA Rams demonstrates success in arts programming.
- Completion of seven playgrounds in the past year ensures all residents live within a mile of a park.
- Resilient community spirit following recent tragedies has increased pride and focused on mental health well-being.


welcome!


ther cities' staff lea
reecreation.
roud residents & staff
ride in city-
reativity & innovation to
Respect, participation
creating a diff. expe
Flooring @facilities
community rooms... wat
Elder & Sierra Vist
ping pong room @ La




Reflections from Takeaways:
• community continues to express gratitude for the dept.
local community → programs (quality/quantity)
other cities' staff learning from MTP recreation.
proud residents & staff
pride in city-
• creativity & innovation to meet goals of Respect, participation & compassion
- creating a diff. experience for comm. members
• flooring @facilities (community rooms... water damage)
Elder & Sierra Vista)




ASHLEY
Parks System


maintain our existing parks
and make repairs as needed




survey results
35%
35%
16%
15%
We are closing the survey this weekend. If you haven't participated yet, please do so to ensure your voice is included in the final results.

OPEN HOUSE ONE

The first public open house for the GROW Master Plan was a success in participation, showcasing the importance of engaging the community in new and interactive ways. Unlike traditional town hall meetings, this event offered a dynamic and welcoming environment with multiple stations with interactive activities designed to foster meaningful dialogue. Held on Sunday, July 28, 2024, the open house was a key opportunity for residents to provide feedback on the city's parks and recreation system. By targeting youth, older adults, low-income families, and active transportation users, the event reflected a commitment to inclusivity and equity.

In total, 154 attendees registered for the open house. Given its open and interactive nature, even more unaccounted community members stopped by throughout the event to participate. The event was widely promoted in Chinese, Spanish, and English through social media, email listservs, neighborhood canvassing, and flyers distributed at parks, ensuring accessibility for Monterey Park's diverse population. Attendees were treated to free snacks and refreshments, with the added incentive of prize giveaways, creating a lively and inviting atmosphere for all.

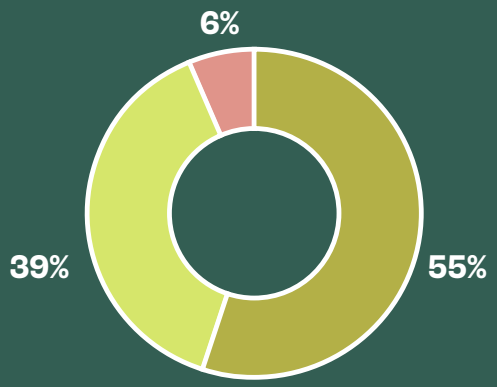
Participants engaged with various stations, each offering unique ways to share input and ideas. At the Intro Station, staff introduced the project, highlighting key findings from "Phase 1 - Discovery", including Monterey Park's park space statistics compared to regional and national medians. The "Park Ideas" Station encouraged attendees to contribute their "big park ideas" through an interactive wishing tree and prioritize potential projects using colorful sticky notes and dots. Meanwhile, the "Come Spend Some Green" Station offered a participatory budgeting activity, where attendees allocated "Monterey Park dollars" to their preferred park improvements before enjoying a complimentary boba drink.

The "Interview" Station added a personal touch, inviting participants to share their perspectives on parks and recreation in Monterey Park through written and video interviews. These insights provided invaluable qualitative data to complement the quantitative survey results. Staff at every station ensured participants felt heard and valued, creating an inclusive space where everyone's voice mattered. The open house successfully achieved its goals of sharing information about the GROW Master Plan initiative and deepening understanding of the community's needs, paving the way for the next phase of this important project.

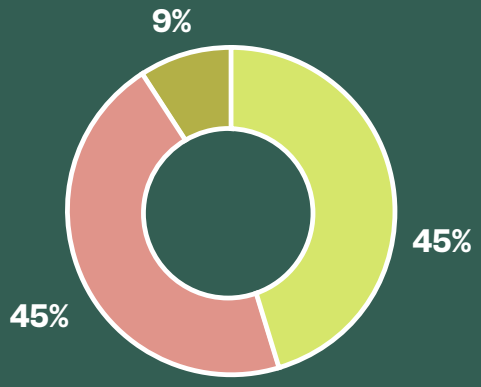




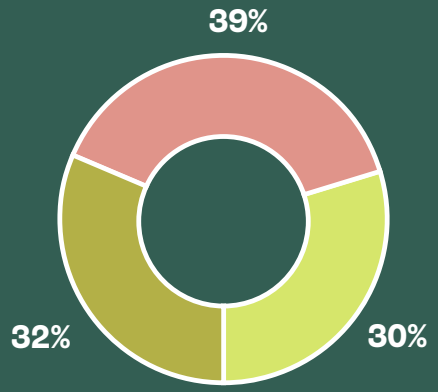
Park System Planning: Community Priorities



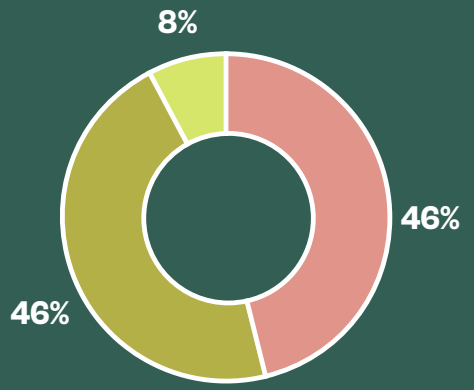
MAINTAIN OUR EXISTING PARKS AND MAKE REPAIRS AS NEEDED



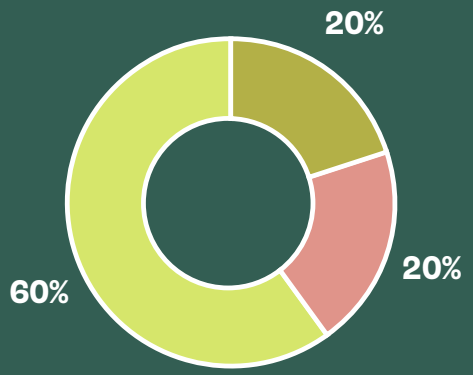
IMPROVE MOBILITY AND ACCESS TO ND FROM (AND WITHIN OUR PARKS)



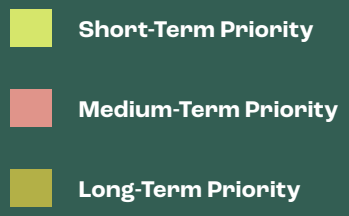
REDESIGN PARKS TO ADD MORE DESIRABLE AMENITIES AND PROGRAMS



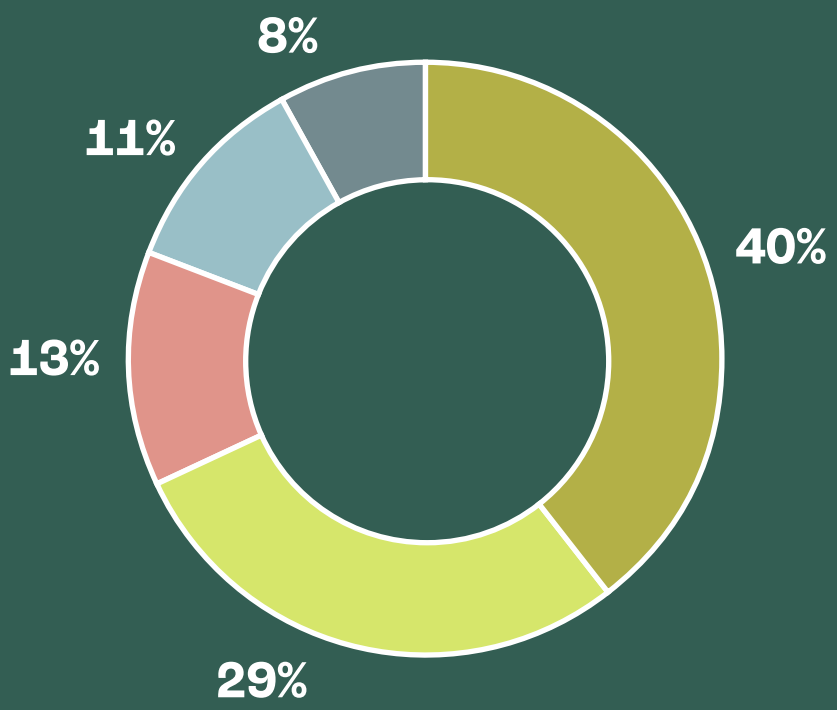
BUILD NEW PARKS FOR RESIDENTS THAT HAVE LITTLE TO NO ACCESS TO PARKS



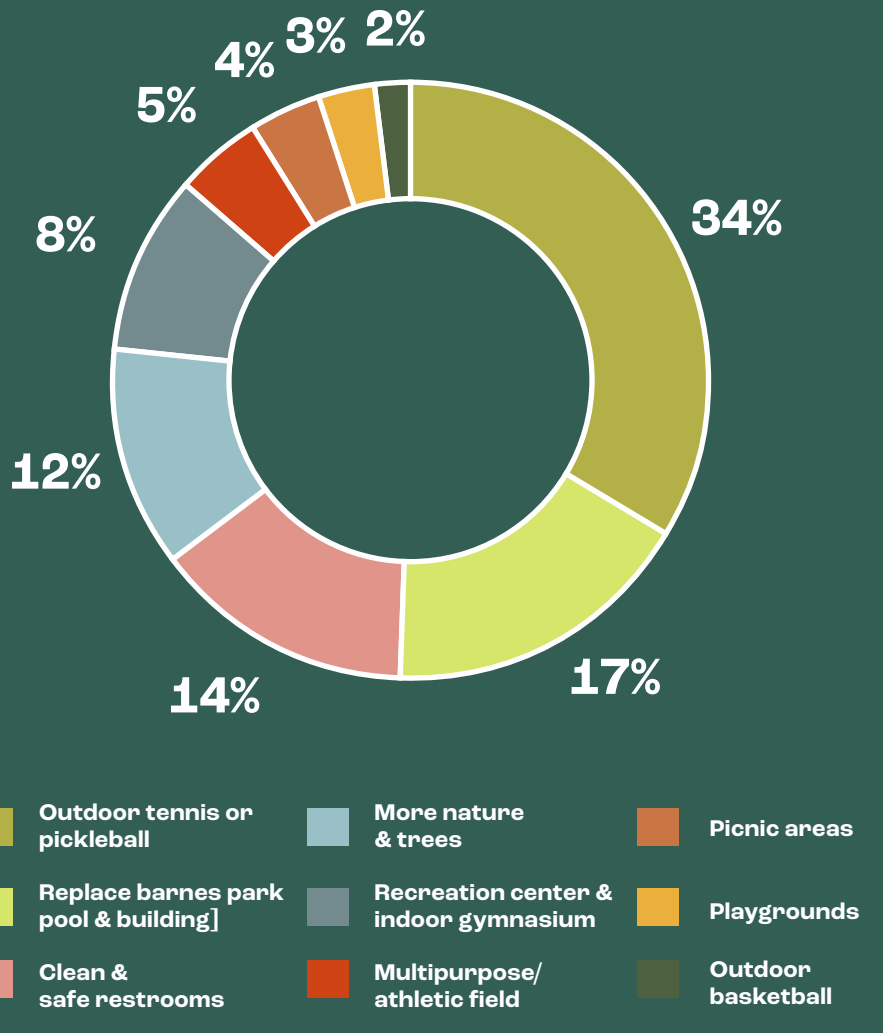
CONTINUE TO HOST AWESOME COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

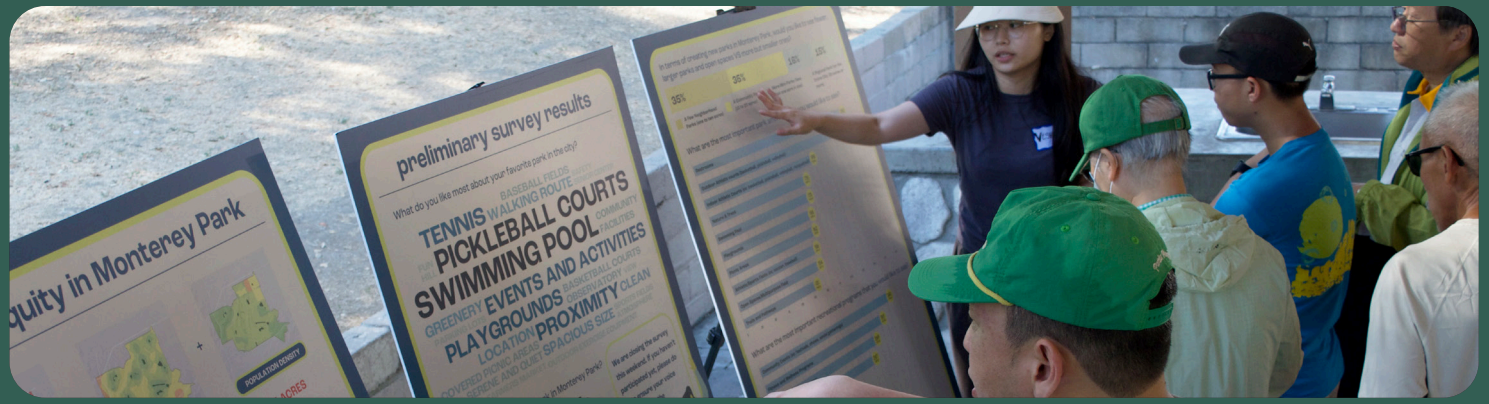


Big Ideas: Park Wishing Tree



Big Ideas: Park Budgeting Activity

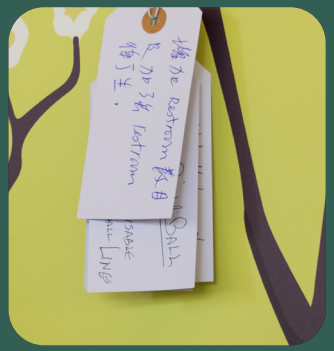



quity in Monterey Park
preliminary survey results
TENNIS
PICKLEBALL COURTS
SWIMMING POOL
EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
PLAYGROUNDS
PROXIMITY


park wishing
what cool ideas do you have for our park
new park idea
park fundraising idea


SIGN-IN SHEET






3
10
collect your $5 park dollars
check out the "park menu" below
decide together what to buy
put your dollars in the red envelope
outdoor basketball
recreation center & indoor gymnasium
picnic areas
more nature & trees


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and make repairs as nee
improve mobility and acc
to and from (and within) our
redesign parks to add m
desirable amenities and pro



Important Takeaways

Park Priorities

Short-Term

- Importance of maintaining our existing parks as opposed to spending resources developing new ones.
- Participants also felt that it was important to host community events and recreational programs.
- Redesigning parks to add more desirable amenities and programs was important as well to some participants, which could look like a phased approach to redevelopment.
- Building new parks seemed to be not important to the participants, which could be because of the limited land availability and funding to acquire and develop new parkland.

Medium-Term

- Open House participants expressed that in the medium-term, redesigning our existing parks to meet current needs should be the main priority.
- Building new parks, improving accessibility, and hosting events / programs were uplifted as medium-term priorities. Building new parks and improving park accessibility are costly and can take longer to plan for and implement.

Long-Term

- The most popular long-term idea was to maintain our existing parks and make repairs as needed. Given that this was both a short- and long-term priority, maintaining high-quality parks and facilities is important for future planning efforts.
- Redesigning our existing parks was also a highly favored long-term community priority.
- There was some interest in developing new parks for park-poor communities as a long-term goal, along with hosting high-quality events / programs.

Big Ideas

High Priority (Most Mentioned)

- Add new pickleball courts & lines.
- Refurbish and upgrade existing pickleball courts (e.g., Bella Vista).
- Paint pickleball lines on all tennis courts in Monterey Park.
- Separate dedicated pickleball courts from tennis courts.
- Consider indoor pickleball courts.
- Add splash pads for kids.
- Repair and reopen Barnes Park swimming pool.
- Expand aquatics programs with lessons and recreational swim hours.
- Upgrade pool facilities with themed designs (e.g., swimming themes, children's art).
- Renovate and upgrade all restrooms in parks to be larger and more accessible for kids and grandparents.

Medium Priority

- Add tire swings and other unique play equipment.
- Include different types of exercise equipment at Sierra Vista Park and other locations.
- Provide more shaded areas near playgrounds.
- Upgrade all park lighting to LED for evening safety.
- Install solar lighting in playground and seating areas.
- Add yellow markings or speed bumps for safer crossings.
- Create hiking paths with scenic views (e.g., Garvey hill vista).
- Provide more hiking and walking trails.





Lower Priority (Specific but Less Frequent)

- Host more arts and education events (e.g., plays, talent shows).
- Create outdoor public Wi-Fi zones.
- Encourage community gardening, urban agriculture, and educational programs.
- Reintroduce senior-focused events like "Lion Club" gatherings.
- Develop native plant gardens to attract butterflies and birds.
- Replace weeds with drought-resistant plants like Lantanas.
- Plant more trees and bushes along park edges for aesthetics and fencing.
- Maintain and refurbish tennis courts while adding hybrid pickleball lines.
- Upgrade baseball fields and consider adding volleyball, badminton, or handball courts.
- Include indoor table tennis options or classes.
- Add dog parks.
- Limit the number of dogs in some areas.

Additional Suggestions

- Add more seating and picnic areas in parks.
- Install removable covers for performance areas.
- Ensure better maintenance and cleanliness of parks, including addressing homelessness concerns.

Desirable Park Amenities

Outdoor Tennis or Pickleball

- With 139 responses, this category is overwhelmingly the most requested amenity, showing a strong community interest in expanding or enhancing outdoor sports facilities like tennis and pickleball courts.
- Residents are advocating for more courts across various parks, including:
- Garvey Ranch Park: Suggestions include using existing flat land near tennis courts or other spaces for new pickleball courts.
- George Elder Park: Some propose creating discrete pickleball courts rather than overlaying lines on tennis courts.
- Barnes Park: Many request repairs and additional pickleball courts here.
- Hybrid Courts: Several residents support painting pickleball lines on existing tennis courts to share space, provided tennis players agree to the arrangement.
- Dedicated Pickleball Spaces: Some advocate for separating pickleball and tennis entirely by building standalone pickleball courts to avoid conflicts with tennis players.

- Preservation of Tennis Courts: A vocal segment of the community opposes adding more pickleball lines to tennis courts, especially at Barnes Park and George Elder Park, citing the overuse of current courts for tennis instruction and recreational play as well as a desire to preserve at least one dedicated tennis court at Barnes Park.
- Some tennis players feel their needs are being overshadowed by the push for pickleball.

Barnes Park Pool and Building Replacement

- The second most mentioned amenity, with 70 responses, indicates a significant demand for improving or replacing the pool and related facilities, emphasizing the importance of aquatic activities.
- Many comments emphasize the need to repair or replace the Barnes Park pool as a 50-meter Olymic-sized facility, highlighting its importance to the community and the lack of comparable facilities nearby.
- Alternatively, there is interested in replacing the pool with a smaller pool with a splash pad for recreational use as well as an idea for an indoor, heated pool and therapy pool.
- Regarding availability and access, particpants request more lap swimming hours to accommodate fitness swimmers and expanded recreational swim hours, ensuring the pool serves a broad audience.
- Mark Keppel High School's championship team has been without a home pool for over four years.
- Community members highlight the importance of providing a pool for practice and competition to support the team and inspire youth athletes.

Clean and Safe Restrooms

- Garnering 58 responses, clean and safe restrooms are a high priority, highlighting a basic but crucial need for improved park infrastructure.
- Many comments express dissatisfaction with the current state of restrooms, emphasizing that they are often dirty and poorly maintained.
- Specific mention of La Loma Park highlights the distance and inaccessibility of restrooms for individuals with mobility challenges, making it difficult for all users to access these facilities.
- Community members suggest restrooms should be cleaned multiple times a day to ensure they remain sanitary and usable.
- Some comments call for new or remodeled restroom facilities, recognizing that the current infrastructure is outdated and inadequate.
- Requests include more running water to improve functionality and hygiene.







More Nature and Trees

- With 49 responses, the community values natural elements like trees and landscaping, showing a desire for green spaces and environmental enhancements.
- Many community members expressed disappointment over the removal of ficus trees, especially along Atlantic Boulevard, and requested replanting efforts to restore the canopy.
- There is a strong desire for more shaded areas in parks, particularly through the addition of shade-providing trees like oaks.
- Concerns were raised about certain activities (e.g., gambling and smoking) at Sierra Vista Park, with suggestions to plant shorter trees to discourage such behavior.
- Requests for more California native plants and milkweed aim to support biodiversity and encourage the growth of the butterfly population.
- Community members suggest adding bushes in specific areas, like along Sierra Vista Park and residential streets, to enhance the natural environment.
- A call for a cohesive, citywide tree plan suggests planting aesthetically pleasing and sustainable species, such as Palo Verde and Agave, which have been positively received in areas like Garvey Pass.

Recreation Center & Indoor Gymnasium

- This category, receiving 40 responses, reflects interest in indoor recreational facilities for activities throughout the year.
- A strong demand for dedicated indoor pickleball courts, reflecting the sport's growing popularity and the need for year-round play regardless of weather.
- Requests for spaces specifically designed for Tai Chi, accommodating seniors and those seeking meditative or low-impact physical activities.
- Interest in adding indoor table tennis facilities, particularly for children, to provide additional recreational options.
- A desire for Wi-Fi connectivity in the park and recreation center to support digital inclusion and provide a modern amenity for park users.

Multipurpose/Athletic Fields

- Gaining 20 responses, multipurpose fields are moderately popular, showcasing an interest in flexible spaces for sports and community activities.
- Request for a dedicated space for seniors, ensuring outdoor fields accommodate their needs for recreation and relaxation.
- Improvement and renovation of existing baseball fields to better serve local teams and the community.
- Suggestion to add more athletic fields at Sierra Vista Park (Rural Drive side) to enhance sports and fitness opportunities.

Other Priority Amenities:

- Picnic areas (16 responses), playgrounds (12 responses), and outdoor basketball (8 responses) we also noted as desirable amenities.
- Regarding picnic areas, there is a desire to replace damaged picnic tables, particularly in spaces like La Loma Park. Desire to add electricity & charging ports in picnic areas to enhance their usability for events and gatherings.
- Regarding playgrounds, George Elder Park playground is noted as a high-use space with unclear plans for equipment replacement. Requests include adding shade structures for sun protection, ensuring equipment is maintained or replaced as needed, and adding shading in open areas to make spaces more comfortable during hot weather.
- Additional requests include installing benches and seating for parents and other park users who need rest areas and splash pads at playgrounds, offering a fun and cooling activity for children and families.





Phase Two
Prioritization

The second phase of the Master Planning process, called Prioritization, focused on deepening engagement with the Monterey Park community. This phase built on the foundation established during the Discovery phase and concentrated on prioritizing potential ideas for the park network while identifying viable solutions. The Project Team conducted a range of activities to ensure diverse voices were heard and integrated into the planning process. These activities included roundtables and interviews with key stakeholder groups, such as local leaders, advocacy organizations, and user groups.Additionally, park audits allowed the team to gather park data that helped to standardize park need and opportunities. Lastly, a second Open House ensured that the broader Monterey Park community was also able to provide feedback in prioritizing ideas for implementation.

The outcome of this phase was instrumental in shaping the future of the park network. Through careful analysis and synthesis of community feedback, the Prioritization phase produced several implementation strategies designed to address the most pressing challenges and opportunities identified during the planning process. These strategies laid the groundwork for actionable plans, ensuring that the park network would reflect the community's collective vision while addressing gaps and enhancing equity within Monterey Park's open space system.

56+
Open House Two Participants

33
Roundtable Participants

17
Park Audits







PARK AUDITS

The GROW Master Plan Project Team conducted 17 comprehensive park audits as a foundational step in understanding the city's current park conditions, identifying needs, and uncovering opportunities for improvement. Park audits are a systematic process of observing and evaluating park facilities, amenities, accessibility, and overall usability. These audits are critical in gathering detailed information about the physical conditions of parks, as well as how they are used by the community.

By documenting elements such as park cleanliness, signage, seating, play areas, and landscaping, the team was able to establish a baseline understanding of Monterey Park's open space assets, reflected "Park Evaluations" subsections on page 16-47.

To capture a holistic picture of park usage, the team intentionally visited at different times of day, days of the week, and weather conditions. This approach allowed the team to observe variations in park activity, community engagement, and operational needs. For instance, morning visits highlighted how parks are utilized for exercise and leisure, while evening visits captured family gatherings and organized sports.

Findings from the park audits directly informed the development of the Parks Matrix, a detailed tool that synthesizes data on each park's amenities, conditions, and opportunities for enhancement. This matrix served as a critical resource in identifying gaps in the park system, prioritizing areas for investment, and aligning future improvements with the needs of Monterey Park's diverse community. By conducting these audits with consistency and diligence, the Project Team ensured that the planning process for the GROW Master Plan was rooted in a clear and comprehensive understanding of the city's existing open space network.

Park Audit Days:

The audits were conducted over multiple visits to ensure a thorough assessment of each park. The Project Team visited the city's parks on the following dates:

- July 24, 2024
- July 25, 2024
- July 27, 2024
- August 22, 2024
- August 24, 2024

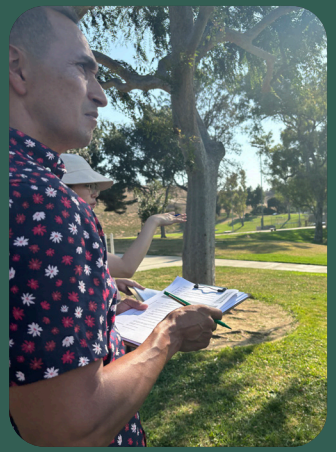









SERVICE CLUBS









ROUNDTABLES

As part of the second phase of the planning process, the Project Team conducted a series of targeted roundtables to engage with key groups identified as critical to the successful implementation of this Plan. The purpose of these roundtables was to build on findings from the first phase of engagement—community surveys, open house events, and park audits—by generating focused discussions on real-life challenges, priorities, and opportunities for the city's park system.

The roundtables were specifically designed to connect with stakeholders who play a significant role in shaping and sustaining Monterey Park's parks and recreation resources. These target groups included various City Departments, tennis & pickleball advocates, various City commissioners, aquatics advocates, and organized sports groups. By bringing these groups together, the roundtables sought to deepen understanding, gather critical feedback, and address the practical realities of the Parks Master Plan's implementation.

Each roundtable session began with a brief presentation, providing participants with an overview of the Parks Master Plan, the planning and engagement process to date, and key findings from earlier engagement efforts. This ensured participants had a shared understanding of the context before diving into more interactive discussions. The consultant team, City Fabrick, facilitated the sessions, delivering prompts that were carefully crafted based on Phase One community feedback and framed to reflect real-world challenges, priorities, and cost-benefit tradeoffs.

The interactive roundtables were designed to accommodate participants' varying schedules and availability, with both in-person and virtual options. The format fostered meaningful dialogue, leading to tough but essential conversations. Stakeholders discussed opportunities, trade-offs, and resource constraints, offering candid feedback and practical ideas for improving Monterey Park's open space network and operations. These discussions also created an opportunity for participants to build empathy and understanding across perspectives, strengthening relationships between community leaders, City Staff, and interest groups.



City Departments Roundtable Takeaways

Tuesday, 10/29/2024 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

The City Departments roundtable gathered representatives from various City of Monterey Park Departments to discuss challenges and opportunities with the Recreation and Community Services Department. Following a virtual presentation about the planning effort and findings from the first phase of engagement, the main topics of conversation included park maintenance, safety improvements, and potential partnerships. The key takeaways from this conversation are presented to the right:

Restroom Maintenance

- Responding to the fact that survey respondents desired better-maintained restroom facilities, roundtable participants recommended starting a public education campaign to share accountability for the upkeep of restrooms and encourage community to clean up after themselves.
- Acknowledgment that there is limited staff capacity to maintain restrooms resulting in these services being contracted out.
- Recommendation to install educational signage at park restrooms to keep them clean, highlighting shared responsibility.

Cleanliness

- Related to issues of illegal dumping, cigarette butts, and dog waste, especially at parks like Sierra Vista Park and Garvey Ranch Park, roundtable participants recommended more trashcans with more-frequent pick-ups, along with educational signage (in multiple languages) to encourage greater stewardship and information to report areas that need maintenance.
- Recommendation for the creation of a program to better engage and educate community members around the shared responsibility of maintaining the cleanliness of parks and providing the materials to do so.
- Recommendation to better promote the Monterey Park GoMPK app, which is another way for regular park users and visitors to report issues, even installing signage that encourages park users to this app.

Personal Safety

- Recommendation to improve park safety through better lighting at parks, multilingual emergency signage, and community programs that provide personal safety resources and guidance.
- Recommendation to extend lighting hours and improve visibility to address late-night park use, vandalism, and safety concerns for both visitors and park maintenance crews working after hours.
- Recommendation to install signage for reporting suspicious activity to deter criminal behavior and promote a sense of security among park users.

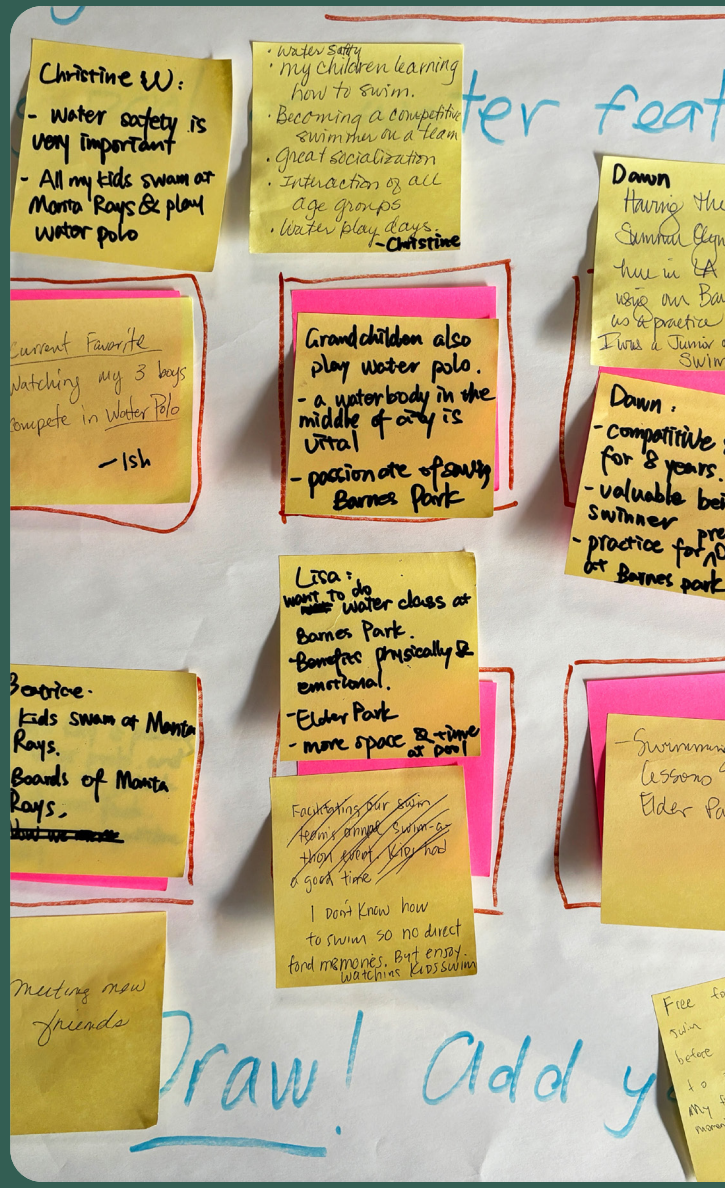
- Recommendation to hold community meetings and increase park events hosted by city departments to enhance resident safety and foster stronger community connections through visible engagement.

Park Design for Safety

- Recommendation to implement CPTED design, safety phone towers (drawing inspiration from university campuses), and energy-efficient lighting in dimly lit pathways and high-traffic areas to improve visibility and prevent crime, benefiting both park visitors and maintenance staff, especially during nighttime.
- Recommendation to improve walking and biking accessibility to parks by enhancing transportation safety and creating safer pathways for pedestrians and cyclists.

Partnerships

- Recommendation to collaborate with the Library Department to develop and formalize more programs for children, teens, and adults, emphasizing skill-building activities.
- Recommendation to rotate classes and events among different parks, not just Barnes Park, offering diverse programs like environmental projects, safety training, and emergency preparedness in collaboration with groups such as the Eagle Scouts, Keep California Beautiful, the Police Department, and the Fire Department.
- Recommendation to partner with local nonprofits, vendors, and community groups to host fundraising efforts, tree planting events, and beautification projects across all parks in Monterey Park to promote civic engagement and equity.
- Recommendation to host regular community meetings at various parks throughout the city to share community updates and foster stronger connections between residents and City resources.



Aquatics Community Roundtable Takeaways

Saturday, 11/2/2024 | 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

The Aquatics Community roundtable was held in person and brought together Monterey Park residents and community leaders to discuss opportunities and challenges related to the revitalization of the Elder and Barnes Park pools. Following a presentation about the planning effort and findings from the first phase of engagement, there was a facilitated discussion on potential improvements. The main topics included the possibility of re-establishing an Olympic-sized pool at Barnes Park, funding strategies, and community programming. Participants highlighted the importance of water safety education, partnerships with local schools, and revenue-generating opportunities such as facility rentals and sponsorships. While competitive swim events were a key focus, attendees emphasized the need to balance diversified programming and funding realities. The key takeaways from this conversation are presented to the right:

Pool Redevelopment and Programming

- Offer a variety of aquatic programs, including water aerobics, physical therapy, and swimming lessons for children, to ensure accessibility and water safety for different ages and abilities.
- Balance swim meets with other community programs to serve a diverse range of users, including children, teens, adults, and the elderly.

Barnes Park Pool

- There were strong opinions to redevelop and reopen the Barnes Park pool and building meaning that Elder Park pool becomes a recreational water park and Barnes Park pool becomes a state-of-the-art Olympic-sized facility for competitions and rentals.
- Understanding the funding challenges that this may imply, there is vocal support for the redevelopment of the Olympic-sized pool at Barnes Park to attract large-scale competitions, increase tourism, and generate revenue through event ticket sales, sponsorships, and partnerships with local businesses and corporations.

Alternative Pool Concepts

- If full redevelopment of the Olympic-sized facility is not financially feasible, there was a discussion to consider instead a smaller-sized pool with additional water features that can accommodate various ages, abilities, program interests, and skill levels.
- Acknowledgement that conversion of the Barnes Park pool complex into recreational space may be a lower-cost alternative to a pool and building redevelopment at Barnes Park, though it may not serve the needs of the competitive swimming community.

Revenue Generation

- Explore multiple funding sources, including membership passes, facility rentals, concession stands, and partnerships with local schools and organizations.
- Pursue corporate sponsorships with businesses such as Costco and hotels in Monterey Park to help fund pool redevelopment.
- Recommendation to engage local alumni and former swim team members, such as Manta Rays alumni, to support fundraising efforts for the new pool.
- Consider community-driven fundraising efforts, including partnerships with local businesses and outreach to residents, to help meet funding goals.

Tennis/Pickleball Roundtable Takeaways

Thursday, 11/7/2024 | 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

The Pickleball and Tennis Community roundtable was hosted in person, and brought together Monterey Park residents and advocates to discuss challenges and opportunities related to court access and shared use. Following a presentation about the planning effort and findings from the first phase of engagement, there was a facilitated discussion on current issues and potential improvements. The main topics of conversation included the tensions between both pickleball and tennsus due to limited space, safety concerns, and the need for additional dedicated courts. Participants explored potential solutions such as shared courts, improved regulations, and the development of new pickleball courts. While tensions remain, attendees emphasized the importance of creating a fair and organized system that allows all players to enjoy the game. The key takeaways from this conversation are presented to the right:

Court Expansion and Space Allocation

- Participants from both sports desired to Increase the number of courts and provide more space between them to address overcrowding and safety concerns.
- Discussion around exploring opportunities to repurpose space at Barnes Park, including the area near the closed pool, inside the closed pool, and the closed gym for additional pickleball courts.
- Recommendation to develop more pickleball courts at Garvey Ranch Park to alleviate demand on shared courts.

Shared Use and Safety Considerations

- Recommendation to establish clearer regulations for court use to reduce tensions between pickleball and tennis players, particularly at Elder Park.
- Recommendation to develop a structured system for court access to replace the informal, inconsistent rules currently in place, particularly at Elder Park
- Recommendation to enhance safety measures by ensuring adequate separation between courts to prevent injuries, especially for advanced tennis players whose serves may land in pickleball play areas.
- Need to encourage mutual respect between sports communities by addressing tensions and ensuring fair access to playing time.
- Acknowledgment that shared courts are not truly equitable as pickleball players regularly use tennis courts, while tennis players do not use designated pickleball spaces.

Funding and Resource Allocation

- Pickleball advocates expressed that the City should assess the feasibility of maintaining two pools in Monterey Park, as some community members believe it may not be sustainable given redevelopment and ongoing maintenance costs.
- Desire from both sports groups to maximize existing park resources by utilizing available space efficiently, such as repurposing areas adjacent to courts for additional recreational use.

Organized Sports Groups Roundtable Takeaways

Saturday, 11/23/2024 | 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM

The Organized Sports Group roundtable virtually gathered representatives from local sports organizations to discuss challenges and opportunities for improving organized sports programs in Monterey Park. Following a virtual presentation about the planning effort and sharing findings from the first phase of engagement, the main topics of conversation included facility maintenance, program expansion, safety enhancements, and funding opportunities. The key takeaways from this conversation are presented to the right:

ADA Accessibility & Park Access

- Discussion on the need for improved ADA accessibility at parks, particularly at Garvey Ranch Park, where a higher senior population and sports participants would benefit from switchbacks for safer access to lower areas.
- Recommendation to implement switchbacks to facilitate easier movement for seniors and individuals carrying heavy sports equipment.
- Proposal to establish designated walking trails and improve connectivity between park amenities to enhance accessibility.

Field Maintenance and Safety

- Acknowledgment of maintenance issues at Sequoia Park and Garvey Ranch Park, including lumpy grass, gopher holes, and dog waste, which pose safety hazards for park users.
- Recommendation to replant the field and improve upkeep to prevent injuries, particularly for baseball, football, and soccer players.
- Suggestion to install dog waste dispensers to maintain cleanliness and prevent waste from accumulating on sidewalks and fields.
- Recognition of poor lighting as a safety hazard for both sports participants and general park users. Recommendation to install energy-efficient LED lighting to extend safe park use after dark.
- Suggestion to implement emergency “blue button” call stations, similar to those on college campuses, to improve security at parks; questions on the feasibility and cost of such improvements.

Facility Improvements & Expansion

- Recommendation to construct additional indoor basketball courts to meet increasing demand and address permit challenges.
- Suggestion to install bat and helmet racks for better equipment organization, following examples from other communities.
- Advocacy for increased shade structures at baseball fields to enhance spectator comfort and encourage greater community engagement.

Funding & Cost Offsets

- Recommendation to seek corporate partnerships with organizations such as MLB, NBA, and the Dodger Foundation to sponsor events and facility improvements.
- Suggestion to host sports clinics and training sessions with ticketed enrollment to generate funds for park enhancements and maintenance.

Commissioners Roundtable Takeaways

Saturday, 11/23/2024 | 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

The Commissioners roundtable met virtually on two occasions (to address participant availability issues) to discuss challenges and opportunities related to youth programs, senior access, and community participation. Following a presentation on findings from the first phase of engagement, the discussion focused on expanding youth environmental programs, improving senior access to park resources, and increasing volunteer participation. Key takeaways included the need for habitat restoration programs at Garvey Ranch Park, better outreach and transportation options for Spanish-speaking seniors, and clearer roles for volunteers to encourage greater community involvement. A school-based volunteer program was also proposed to engage parents and foster civic engagement across generations. The key takeaways from this conversation are presented to the right:

Youth Programs and Environmental Initiatives

- Discussion around having youth programs focused on environmental education and habitat restoration.
- Recommendation to introduce initiatives that engage youth in enhancing park biodiversity, such as planting native species near the Historical Museum at Garvey Ranch Park.

Senior Accessibility & Participation

- Participants discussed how seniors, particularly Spanish-speaking residents in the southern part of the city, face transportation and language barriers limiting their access to Langley Center programs.
- Recommendation to improve outreach efforts to ensure seniors are aware of available transportation options and provide multilingual resources to increase participation.
- Discussed the need for a more inclusive environment at Langley Center to better serve diverse senior populations.

Community Engagement & Volunteerism

- Recommendation to create clear role descriptions and provide accessible information on flyers to encourage volunteer engagement.
- Discussion to develop school-based volunteer opportunities to involve parents and foster long-term civic engagement.

Funding & Sponsorship Opportunities

- Concerns over funding sources for park improvements and community programs.
- Recommendation to explore partnerships with local businesses and organizations, offering sponsorship opportunities in exchange for public recognition in parks.



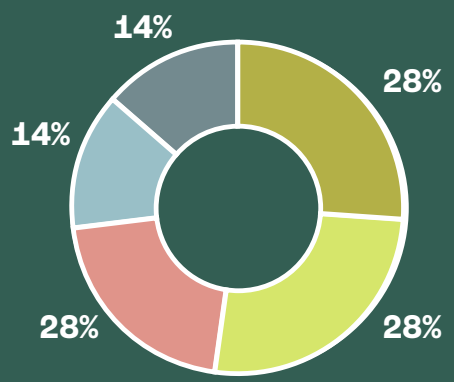
OPEN HOUSE TWO

On January 25, 2025, the City of Monterey Park hosted a public open house at Sierra Vista Park to conclude the second phase of community engagement for the GROW Master Plan. The event provided an opportunity to share updates on the planning process and its potential impact on the City's parks and recreation system while encouraging community members to stay involved.

The open house targeted feedback from youth, older adults, low-income families, and active transportation users to ensure diverse community input. Interactive boards and activities allowed participants to share their perspectives on the distribution of amenities across the park network and explore opportunities to enhance connectivity between parks.

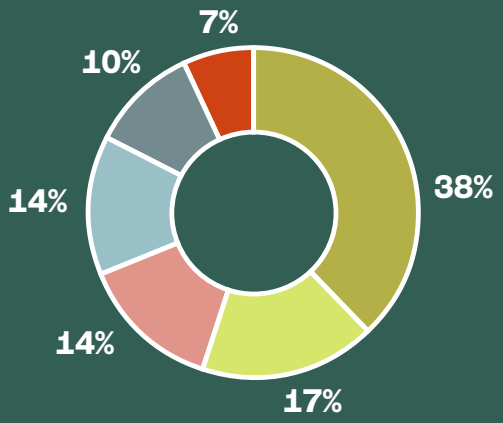
The feedback gathered deepened the City's understanding of community needs, helping to inform the next steps of the GROW Monterey Park initiative. The event was well-attended, with approximately 50 participants actively contributing their insights. The following represents what the public shared:

Maintenance & Cleanliness



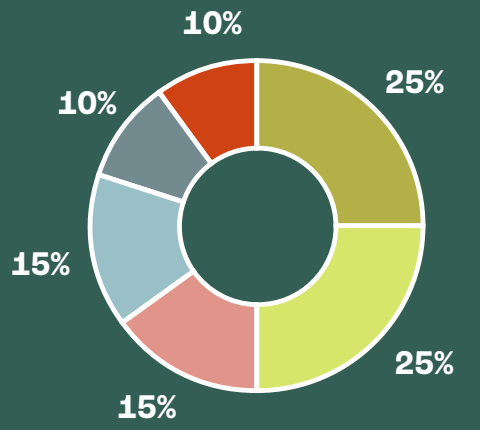
- Upgrade/Maintain Existing Facilities
- Waste Management (pets, trash, etc.)
- Improve Restroom Cleanliness
- Surveillance
- Community Partnerships

Access to Park Amenities



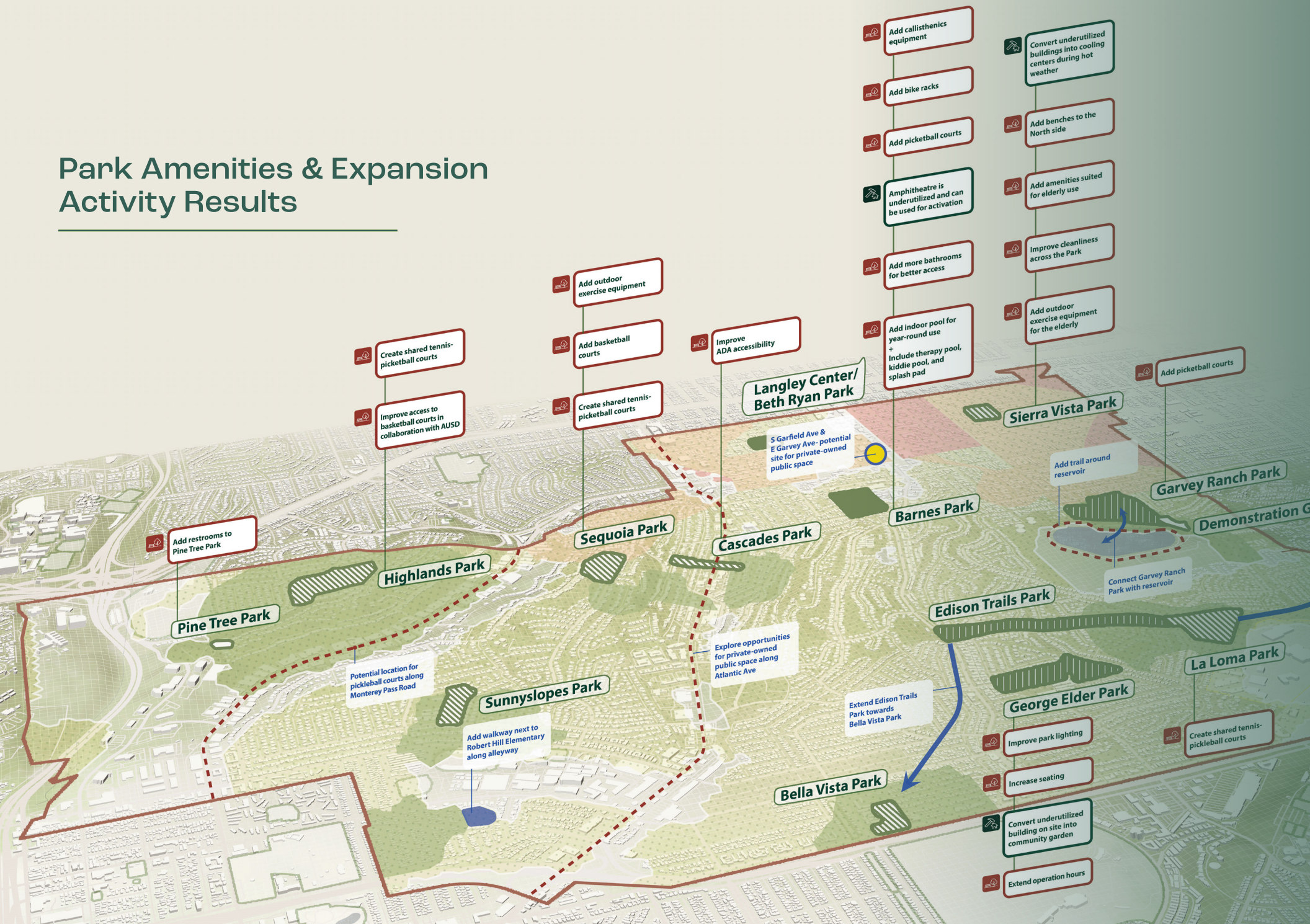
- Improve Sports Facilities & Amenities
- Improve Park Access for the Elderly
- Incewase Seating and Shade
- Improve Cleanliness
- Community Center Access
- Restroom Upkeep

Improve or Adapt Underused Land



- Improve Design & Space Utilization
- Add/Improve Sports Facilities
- Add Walking Trails
- Acquire Privately Owned Land
- Community Gardens
- Rest Areas

Park Amenities & Expansion Activity Results

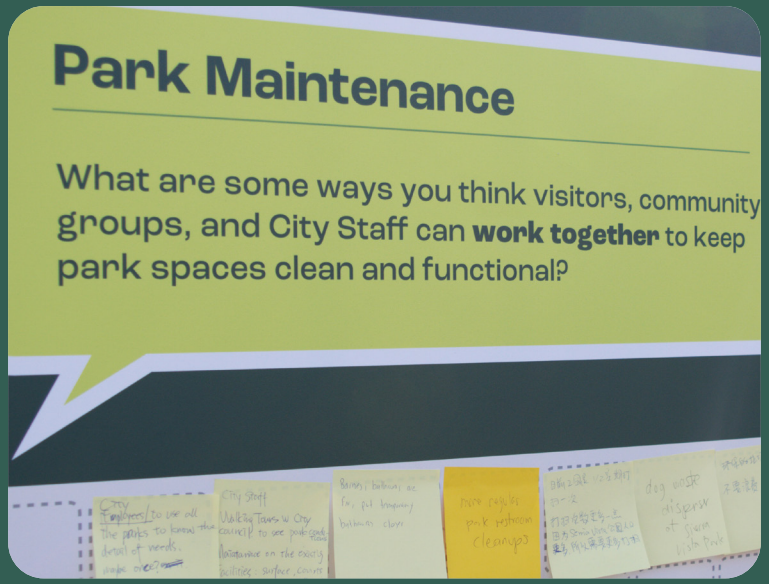




Important Takeaways

- Improve and regularize park upkeep with attention to maintenance of restroom facilities.
- Foster increased collaboration with community groups to increase localized participation in park operations and space activation.
- Improve operation of sports facilities at parks by reworking operation hours and establishing an online reservation system
- Identify underutilized components of park systems and convert their use for more requested and relevant functions.
- Explore the implementation of a fee-based model for the use of select park amenities, specifically sports facilities.

  Upgrade and redesign pool facilities (Barnes Park) to cater to wide variety of users.
- Explore possibility of acquiring private property for public use to increase available space for amenities.
- Improve communication with the local community to better inform residents about park programming and other updates. Additionally, create spaces for community meetings, workshops, and gatherings.
- Improve ADA accessibility across all parks.
- Redesign park systems to cater to elderly community members and their use of park spaces.


Park Maintenance
What are some ways you think visitors, community groups, and City Staff can **work together** to keep park spaces clean and functional?






Park Development
How could **underused areas** in our parks **be improved or adapted** to meet the community's needs without acquiring new land?


Park Funding
What **creative ideas** do you have for **increasing funding** to support our parks and recreation programs? E.g. **membership programs, sponsorships, or reservable amenities** such as swimming pools, courts, or event spaces, with **associated fees.**




Park Audit Results
Neighborhood Parks
City-wide Parks
Park Score
Barnes Park
Sunnyslopes Park
Cascades Park
Highlands Park
Langley Center/
Ryan Park
Barnes Park


NIKE


timeline
we invite you to be a part of this planning process
DISCOVERY


hello
I am a
(example: MP resident, student, mother, etc.)


Columbia
USA

Phase Three
Refinement

The third and final phase of the Master Planning process, called Refinement, focused on finalizing and polishing the prioritized strategies developed in the earlier phases. During this phase, the Department, key stakeholders, and the general public collaborated to refine the strategies into actionable and implementable recommendations. To engage the community, City Fabrick hosted a public open house event as part of a celebratory gathering. This event, widely promoted through various media and outreach channels, provided a platform for community members to review and provide feedback on the proposed ideas. It also served to build excitement and momentum for the Plan's eventual adoption and implementation.

The recommendations developed during the Refinement phase were designed to be action-oriented and aligned with the Plan's established Goals and Objectives. These recommendations included clear assignments of responsibility, feasible timelines for implementation, and specific strategies for achieving desired outcomes. A key deliverable from this phase was the production of a highly visual and accessible final document. This document was carefully crafted to ensure that it could be easily understood by both City staff and the public, maximizing its utility as a reference and guiding tool.

Beyond its practical applications, the Master Plan developed during the Refinement phase was intended to serve as a powerful advocacy tool. By clearly outlining strategies and assigning accountability, the Plan encouraged stewardship among various stakeholders and fostered a shared sense of responsibility for its successful implementation. Ultimately, the Refinement phase ensured that the Master Plan was not only a strategic roadmap for enhancing Monterey Park's open space network but also an instrument for driving long-term engagement and equity within the community.

101+ Open House Three Participants

19 Roundtable Participants

87+ Community Workshop Participants


Bella Vista Park
Upgrades & Quality
Safety
policies & programs will make our parks even better?


I ♥
GROW
Monterey Park


citywide & special use parks
Edison Trails Park
Barnes Park
George Elder Park


2nd FLIP ME OVER
3rd
5th
6th
7th




Community
2nd FLIP ME OVER!
6th FLIP ME OVER!




Monterey Park, we hear you!
mini-parks
La Loma Park
Sequoia Park
Sierra Vista Park
Beth Ryan Park



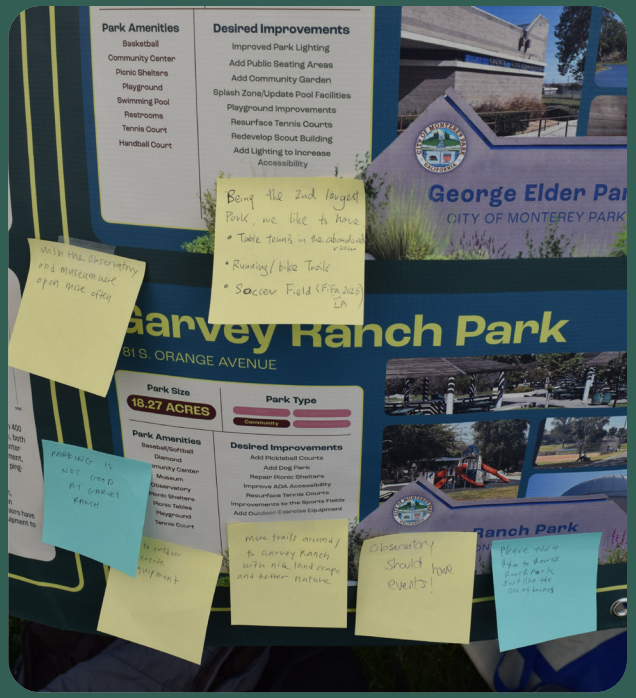
OPEN HOUSE THREE

On April 12, 2025 the City of Monterey Park hosted its third and final public open house for the GROW Parks Master Plan. Held as a culminating event in the citywide planning process, the public open house offered a unique opportunity for residents and community members to review and reflect on the collective input gathered throughout the project. Display materials summarized key findings from previous engagement activities, such as surveys, workshops, and pop-ups, showcasing the range of community priorities, ideas, and aspirations that have helped shape the draft vision for the City's park system. These engagement activities allowed Monterey Park community members to clarify their priorities using the provided data, helping to sharpen the focus and enhance the effectiveness of planning efforts.

In addition to community feedback, the materials presented also incorporated insights and guidance from City staff, highlighting the City's internal goals, operational needs, and planning priorities. The event featured a series of interactive engagement banners, which invited attendees to respond to the draft ideas and share additional input on projects, programs, and policies under consideration. This final round of public feedback plays a critical role in ensuring the GROW Master Plan is aligned with both community desires and the City's long-term objectives for its parks and recreational spaces.

Important Takeaways

- Explore the usage of the parks as outdoor learning hubs, introducing educational programs to children, teens, and adults.
- Foster greater community engagement at additional parks throughout Monterey Park to promote more family fun events and programs for residents in different areas.
- Explore the expansion of new adult sports leagues in collaboration with local organizations encouraging physical health benefits, community cohesion, social development and skill building.
- Improve existing parks by addressing maintenance and layout refinements for long-term sustainability rather than expansion or the creation of new parks.
- Explore the implementation of resiliency hubs in various Monterey Parks for disaster preparedness and community recovery.
- Explore the redesigning of the Monterey Park Community Center to implement cooling/heating centers, backup power sources, emergency storage, water stations, and communication infrastructures to support long-term community resiliency.
- Improve collaborations with youth organizations to help foster more programs for younger Monterey Park residents ensuring the youth have a voice in shaping their communities.
- Improve cultural programming for youth and adults to encourage meaningful connections through shared cultural experiences.
- Redesign current park layouts to implement meditation space, providing water elements for a peaceful environment.
- Improve lighting and landscape maintenance for better visibility and decreased crime.





ROUNDTABLES

As part of the third phase of stakeholder engagement, the Project Team hosted a second series of virtual roundtable discussions. These sessions built upon the insights gathered during the earlier phases of engagement intended on engaging key groups and stakeholder representatives to take a closer look at emerging draft ideas and community priorities. Through a series of interactive activities using Mural, these groups incorporated community input and identified priority park amenities.

Each session began with a presentation that provided updates on the Parks Master Plan process, including key takeaways from the previous two phases. Participants were then guided through an interactive activity where they shared input on the feasibility, refinement, and level of support for various proposed park projects, programs, and policies. These discussions surfaced a wide range of ideas and practical considerations, helping to align the vision for Monterey Park's parks system with operational realities and community needs. The feedback collected during these roundtables has been instrumental in shaping the strategies and recommendations that will appear in the final Parks Master Plan.

City Commissioners Roundtable Takeaways

Monday, 4/28/2024 | 6:00PM - 7:00 PM & Tuesday, 5/6/2025 | 6:00PM - 7:00 PM

The Commissioners roundtable met twice virtually to address the prioritization and implementation of policies, programs, and projects for Monterey Park. Following a virtual presentation about the finalizing and polishing of the prioritized strategies, phase three aims to refine this plan into actionable and implementable recommendations. Key takeaways included improving upgrades and enhancements of current policies such as implementing more outdoor learning hubs, incorporating cultural and educational programs, and addressing current concerns that may cause a decrease in park engagement.

Outdoor Learning Hubs

- Discussion on using parks as extensions of the classroom by introducing educational programs for children and teens, supported by signage, interpretive trails, and interactive activities.
- Recommendation on using the Monterey Park Museum and Observatory as a helpful resource for educational programs.
- Recommendation to implement a themed playground to foster learning on local ecosystems, native plants, history, and sustainable practices.

Family Fun Series

- Participants discussed the high level of events at Barnes Park and advocated for the need of more family events at the other parks such as movie nights, game nights, and outdoor concerts in the local parks and community centers.
- Recommendation on using surveys to see what specific family-centered programs the community would want more of.

Expand Adult Social & Cultural Recreation

- Discussed the need to expand and create new adult sports leagues either though the city or with collaboration of an organization, including basketball, flag football, softball, pickleball, soccer, etc.

Department Staff Roundtable Takeaways

Thursday, 5/1/2024 | 9:00AM - 10:00 AM

The Recreation and Community Services roundtable met twice virtually to discuss and prioritize policy, program, and project upgrades and enhancements for Monterey Park. Following a presentation on the previous Open Houses, a park priority list was presented to staff showcasing engagement results on the planning and design process. The results showcased a higher need for enhancing existing facilities, improving safety inside and around the parks, and implementing more sustainable design within the parks. Key takeaways included prioritizing the maintenance of existing facilities, utilizing recreation centers as resiliency hubs, youth engagement initiatives, and fostering programs that aid in bridging generations and addressing mental and health wellness needs.

Prioritizing Maintenance of Existing Facilities

- Recommendation to prioritize improvements of existing parks in Monterey Park—rather than expansion—including addressing maintenance issues in the community rooms at George Elder and Garvey Ranch Park.
- Discussion on maintaining and improving existing park facilities to ensure long-term sustainability to support future program and park enhancements.

Recreational Centers as Resiliency Hubs

- Participants discussed the need for resiliency hubs in multiple locations for the community to congregate in case of a disaster, including improving existing community and recreation centers for disaster preparedness.
- Recommendation to support long-term community resiliency in providing maintenance to current Community Centers within the Monterey Parks by implementing cooling/heating centers, backup power sources, emergency storage, water stations, and communication infrastructures.

Youth Engagement Initiatives

- Recommendation to partner with more youth organizations to offer more programming ensuring younger residents have a voice in shaping public spaces.
- Discussion to integrate public art, murals, and interactive installations into the city through park activities that help engage children and adults of the community.

Bridging Generations

- Participants acknowledged the success of the Intergenerational Culture & Knowledge Exchange Program and suggested creating additional programs like it to foster meaningful connections between older adults and youth through shared cultural experiences, storytelling, and skill-building activities.
- Recommendation to introduce recreational and cultural programming for adults aged 21-35 which aims to implement fitness classes, cultural workshops, and food festivals for adults.

Mindfulness and Wellness

- Recommendation to create more space for meditation within the parks that have water nearby to provide a relaxing environment for yoga and other mental health programs.
- Recommendation to expand the park behind the Langley Center for more outdoor space and a peaceful atmosphere for organizations that offer mindful and mental health programming.

Executive Team Roundtable Takeaways

Thursday, 4/23/2025 | 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The City of Monterey Park Executive Team met once virtually to discuss future park development, programs, and operations of Monterey Park. Following a presentation on community priorities, data from previous engagement activities displayed the need for sustainability, safety, and quality upgrades for the existing parks. Improvements focused on expanding recreational offerings for community events, fitness and wellness, and swim lessons, with aquatic, cultural, and arts programs identified as top priorities by community members. The main topics of discussion included enhancing park safety by addressing strategies to combat crime, implementing outdoor learning and nature exploration for students, expanding youth sports groups and environmental programming, and bridging generations to continue intergenerational culture.

Mindfulness & Wellness Enhancing Park Safety Through Crime Prevention & Design Strategies

- Participants discussed the need for better lighting and landscape maintenance for improved visibility for park users and law enforcement, promoting natural surveillance.
- Recommendation to incorporate a volunteer park patrol program in collaboration with the Police Department Citizen Patrol to address safety concerns proactively.
- Recommendation for more renovations and maintenance improvements for all park restrooms, accessibility, and safety.
- Recommendation to enhance all park lighting to energy-efficient LED fixtures throughout the parks for better visibility during evening play and decreased crime.

Outdoor Learning and Nature Exploration for Students

- Recommendation to expand library hours to include more recreational programming providing local students with opportunities to study and engage in educational activities in the City's parks and open spaces.
- Recommendation to focus on maximizing spaces for programming before building more facilities by collaborating with local schools, libraries, and environmental organizations.
- Participants discussed the lack of staff and the need for more full time positions to hire more individuals community-based organizations such as Nature for All, Boys & Girls Club, and the YMCA.
- Recommendation to implement gardening programming and promote environmental and sustainability initiatives that enhance environmental stewardship for residents of all ages.

Expanded Youth Sports, Teen Activities, and Pickleball Leagues

- Recommendation to expand program offerings at Barnes Park, including dance programs that promote cultural education and engagement.
- Recommendation to introduce additional teen programming at the Langley Center by sharing space with senior programs, fostering intergenerational engagement and participation from residents of all ages.

Bridging Generations

- Participants discussed the availability of the Senior Center after hours to utilize for intergenerational programs.
- Recommendation to promote Tai Chi programs for youth participants and allocate dedicated space at the Langley Center for teen dance groups who currently lack adequate facilities.
- Recommendation to explore more options for programming at the library to foster meaningful connections between older adults and the youth.

COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

On the evening of May 5th 2025, the City of Monterey Park hosted a community workshop at Bruggemeyer Library. The workshop, which was made available virtually, was attended by approximately 87 community members, including all City Councilmembers. The event included a presentation outlining the current park planning process, a summary of community engagement conducted to date, and ongoing park improvement efforts, culminating with an opportunity for attendees to provide input.

This workshop served as an important opportunity to listen directly to community priorities as the City continues shaping a long-term vision for its park system. A key theme that emerged from participants was the strong support for saving and revitalizing Barnes Park Pool, emphasizing its historic and social importance, especially for local competitive swim team and high school swim programs. There is growing frustration that the City has neglected Barnes Park Pool, allowing it to deteriorate and now planning to fill it with dirt due to safety and liability concerns—creating fear that it will be lost permanently. Many felt that Barnes Pool has not been prioritized, even though it is centrally located and meaningful to generations of residents. Multiple community members shared personal testimonies of swimming at Barnes and how its loss affects local competitive teams and morale. Some residents also expressed distrust in the planning process, especially the public survey and prioritization metrics that appear to favor pickleball and courts over aquatics. Residents want to see actionable financial strategies and commitments, including bold moves like a municipal bond, phased improvements, and better use of existing funds and partnerships.

The participants also raised broader park concerns, including missing swings at Elder Park, dislike of a recently installed play infrastructure, and a desire for more hiking trails. A resident who attended the recent parks funding emphasized the urgent need for local investment in trees and gardening spaces, framing this as essential to environmental resilience and community well-being. They shared that federal inaction on climate and public health calls for local solutions. They advocated for localized resource management, regenerative practices like composting, and the creation of park spaces that serve as living, healing environments. Their message urged a shift from passive aesthetics to active, sustainable, and communal hope.





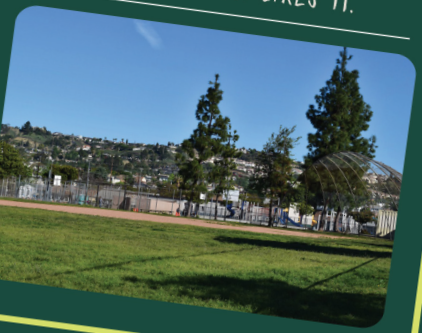
STORYTELLING CAMPAIGN

As part of the GROW Parks Master Plan, the City of Monterey Park launched a storytelling campaign to collect and share personal stories from parkgoers at all three public open houses and throughout the broader engagement process. These stories captured how residents use parks in their daily lives, what spaces mean to them, and the role parks play in building community. By showcasing these stories on social media, the City kept community members engaged during the final phase of the process and leading up to the City Council meeting. The campaign highlighted that parks are not just physical spaces, but living places shaped by the people who use and care for them.



because...

MY DAUGHTER LIKES IT.





hello

I am a

MP RESIDENT

my favorite park in Monterey Park is

C BARNES PARK



because...

IT'S CLOSE TO HOME.



because...

I LIVE AROUND THIS PARK!





hello

I am a

MP RESIDENT

my favorite park in Monterey Park is

A LANGLEY SENIOR CENTER



because...

IT'S GREAT FOR SENIORS.



because...

TO SWIM AND WALK,
A SCHOOL JOINT USE.





hello

I am a

MP RESIDENT

my favorite park in Monterey Park is

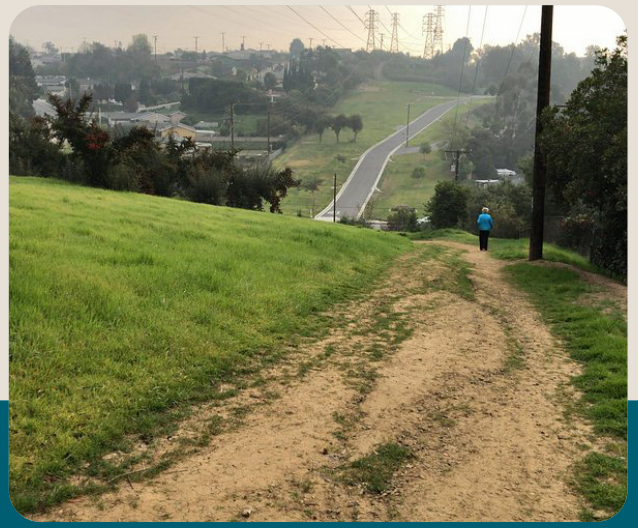
C BARNES PARK

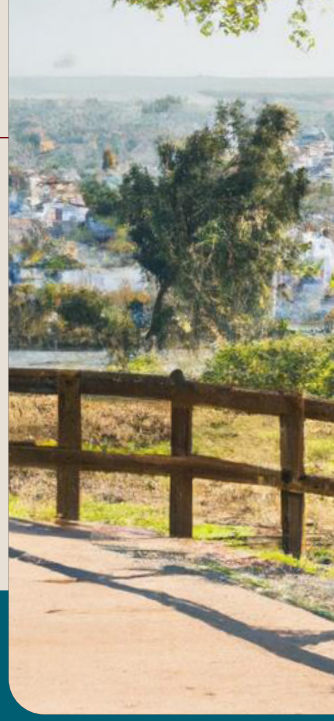


because...

IT HAS MORE
PICKLEBALL COURTS.



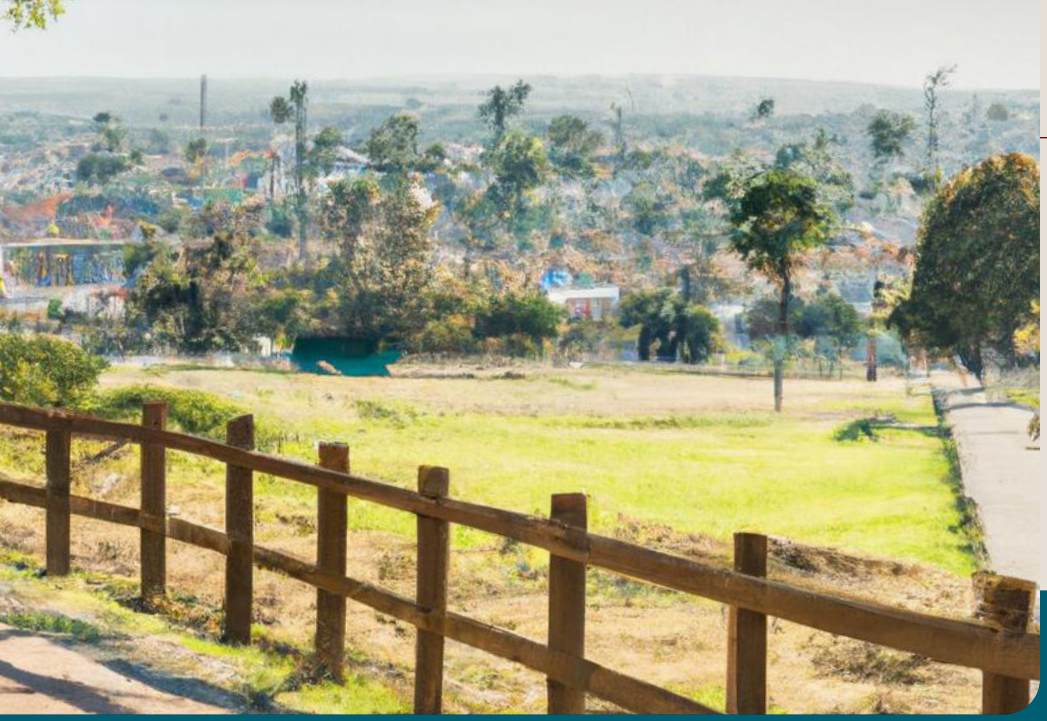




OPPORTUNITIES

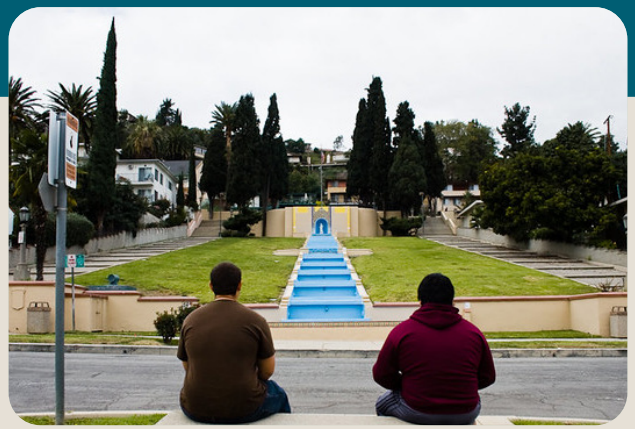









Farmers Market
BUY LOCAL
Thursdays







OVERVIEW

The GROW Monterey Park parks system master plan represents a pivotal step in shaping the city's recreational future, addressing key challenges while identifying opportunities to enhance the quality, accessibility, and connectivity of park amenities and programs.

Despite the limited availability of vacant land and high development costs, Monterey Park is uniquely positioned to leverage its robust existing network of parks and recreation facilities. With all residents currently within a 15-minute walk of a park, the challenge—and opportunity—lies in evolving this network to ensure that every amenity is of high quality and equitably accessible. This planning effort integrates a comprehensive review of existing conditions data, best practices, policy and planning frameworks, funding strategies, and, most importantly, robust community engagement to chart a path forward that reflects the aspirations of its residents.

The ultimate challenge for Monterey Park is the opportunity to plan for the short-, medium-, and long-term. In the short-term, the focus is on enhancing connectivity and accessibility within the existing park system. Strategies include leveraging and expanding the Dial-A-Ride program, managed by the Department of Recreation and Community Services, and to strengthen multimodal transportation connectivity between parks. Concurrently, upgrading existing amenities, improving maintenance practices, and fostering a strong volunteer-to-staff pipeline will be key priorities to elevate the immediate user experience.

In the medium-term, the emphasis shifts toward maximizing the potential of existing park spaces rather than creating new parks. This includes identifying opportunities for shared or underutilized land uses to host desirable park amenities and expanding programming to meet the evolving needs of the community. Partnerships and collaborations with local organizations, other City departments, and stakeholders will be critical to delivering innovative programs and services.

Long-term opportunities revolve around substantial investments to address park equity and expand park access, particularly in park-poor areas. Strategies include park expansion, land acquisition, and joint-use agreements to activate underutilized spaces for community recreation. This phased approach allows Monterey Park to build on its strong foundation while continuously adapting to emerging needs, ensuring that its parks system remains a vibrant and inclusive resource for generations to come.

Enhance connectivity within the current park system.
Expand and improve Dial-A-Ride services.
Strengthen multimodal transportation links between parks.
Upgrade existing park amenities.
Improve maintenance practices.
Develop a volunteer-to-staff pipeline.

Short-Term Priorities

Immediate improvements to existing system



Maximize use of current parkland instead of creating new parks.
Identify shared/underutilized spaces for new amenities.
Build partnerships with local organizations and City departments.
Deliver innovative community programs and services.
Expand and diversify park programming.

Medium-Term Priorities

Optimization of existing park spaces



Invest in addressing park access gaps in underserved areas.
Ensure inclusivity and long-term vibrancy of the park system.
Establish joint-use agreements for community recreation.
Adapt to long-term and evolving community needs.
Pursue park expansions and land acquisition.

Long-Term Priorities

Expanding equity and access across the city



COMMUNITY VISION

Monterey Park envisions a parks system that is inclusive, resilient, and deeply connected to the needs and aspirations of its residents. Rooted in the city's strong tradition of neighborhood parks and community programming, the GROW Monterey Park Plan reflects a shared desire to elevate the quality of existing parks while creating more opportunities for wellness, connection, and environmental stewardship. This vision is shaped not only by a comprehensive review of existing conditions and best practices, but also by robust community input that speaks to both practical needs and long-term hopes for the city's public spaces.

Residents consistently expressed a desire for improved accessibility, enhanced safety, and more equitable access to high-quality amenities. From ADA improvements and expanded trail connections to increased seating, restrooms, and better lighting, the community has identified clear and actionable steps to make parks more welcoming and functional for all. There is also strong interest in activating underutilized spaces, such as old buildings, vacant parcels, and overlooked corners of existing parks, to support a wider range of programming, including cooling centers, community gardens, and event spaces. These ideas speak to the creativity and adaptability of Monterey Park's residents, and their commitment to making parks central to everyday life.

At the same time, the community emphasized the importance of parks as places of wellness and intergenerational connection. Many voiced support for amenities such as outdoor fitness equipment, pools, splash pads, and shaded gathering areas—features that can support seniors, children, and families alike. Residents also underscored the need for nature in the city: more trees, views, natural trails, and pollinator gardens that contribute to mental health, environmental education, and a sense of place. These desires reflect a broader vision of parks not just as recreational spaces, but as vital infrastructure for community health and resilience.

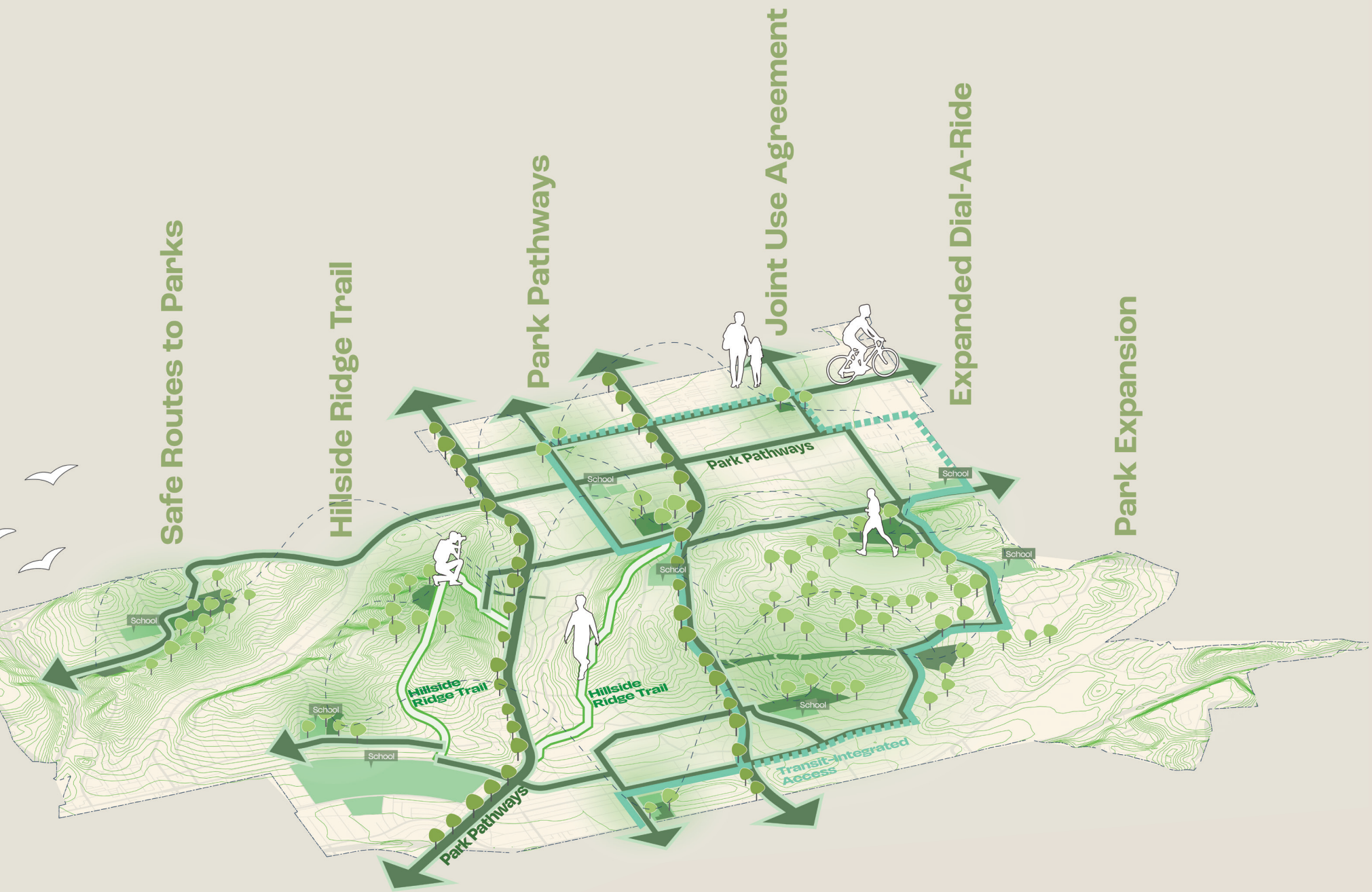
Ultimately, the vision for Monterey Park's parks system is one of thoughtful evolution. It is a commitment to build upon the city's strong foundation, where every resident already lives within a 15-minute walk of a park, by enhancing the quality, diversity, and inclusiveness of the experience each park provides. Through a combination of physical improvements, expanded programs, and community-driven partnerships, Monterey Park aims to create a parks system that grows with its people, enriches its neighborhoods, and endures for generations to come.

Connection

Connecting parks, neighborhoods, and green spaces through safe, accessible, and scenic pathways.

Key opportunities include creating park pathways with bike lanes, shaded walkways, and improved sidewalks; developing a Hillside Ridge Trail with scenic overlooks; expanding transit options like shuttles and Dial-A-Ride for seniors and residents with limited mobility; and identifying park expansion to enhance connectivity and access across the city.




Safe Routes to Parks
Hillside Ridge Trail
Park Pathways
Joint Use Agreement
Expanded Dial-A-Ride
Park Expansion
Park Pathways
School
School
School
School
School
School
School
Hillside Ridge Trail
Hillside Ridge Trail
Transit-Integrated Access
Park Pathways

OPPORTUNITY TYPOLOGIES

Next Generation Upgrades

Monterey Park has a robust network of parks, but many facilities require modernization to meet current standards and community expectations. Opportunity lies in renovating outdated infrastructure, such as restrooms, aquatic centers, and playgrounds, to enhance usability, cleanliness, and universal accessibility. Upgrading sports fields, lighting, seating, and Wi-Fi connectivity will help create more welcoming and better-functioning spaces for everyday use. Prioritized investments also include the refurbishment and hybrid striping of tennis and pickleball courts, along with evaluations of baseball fields to improve safety and playability.

Parks for Wellness

To promote lifelong health, the City can expand wellness-focused amenities that cater to all ages and abilities. Opportunities include developing indoor pickleball courts, fitness zones, hydration stations, and nature-based walking loops such as the Reservoir Trail. Additional wellness strategies include Tai Chi and meditative movement spaces and the redevelopment of aquatic facilities to include year-round indoor pools, therapy pools, and splash pads—encouraging active living in all seasons.

Everyday Safety & Long-Term Resilience

Residents voiced a strong desire for safer and more secure park environments. Opportunities include upgrading lighting systems to LED, improving restroom conditions, and increasing visibility and signage. Retrofitting community centers as resiliency hubs will further strengthen emergency preparedness and climate adaptation. Shaded seating, cooling areas, and well-maintained paths ensure that parks remain safe, comfortable, and accessible for all users.

Equity & Access Expansion

With all residents already living within a 15-minute walk of a park, the next step is ensuring that every park is equally high-quality and responsive to community needs. Targeted investments in underserved areas—such as ADA upgrades, seating, and additional restrooms—can reduce access barriers. Strategic partnerships, like joint use agreements with Mark Keppel High School and ELAC, can unlock new recreational and educational opportunities, particularly for youth, seniors, and residents with limited mobility.

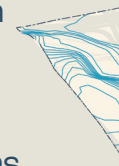
Resilience

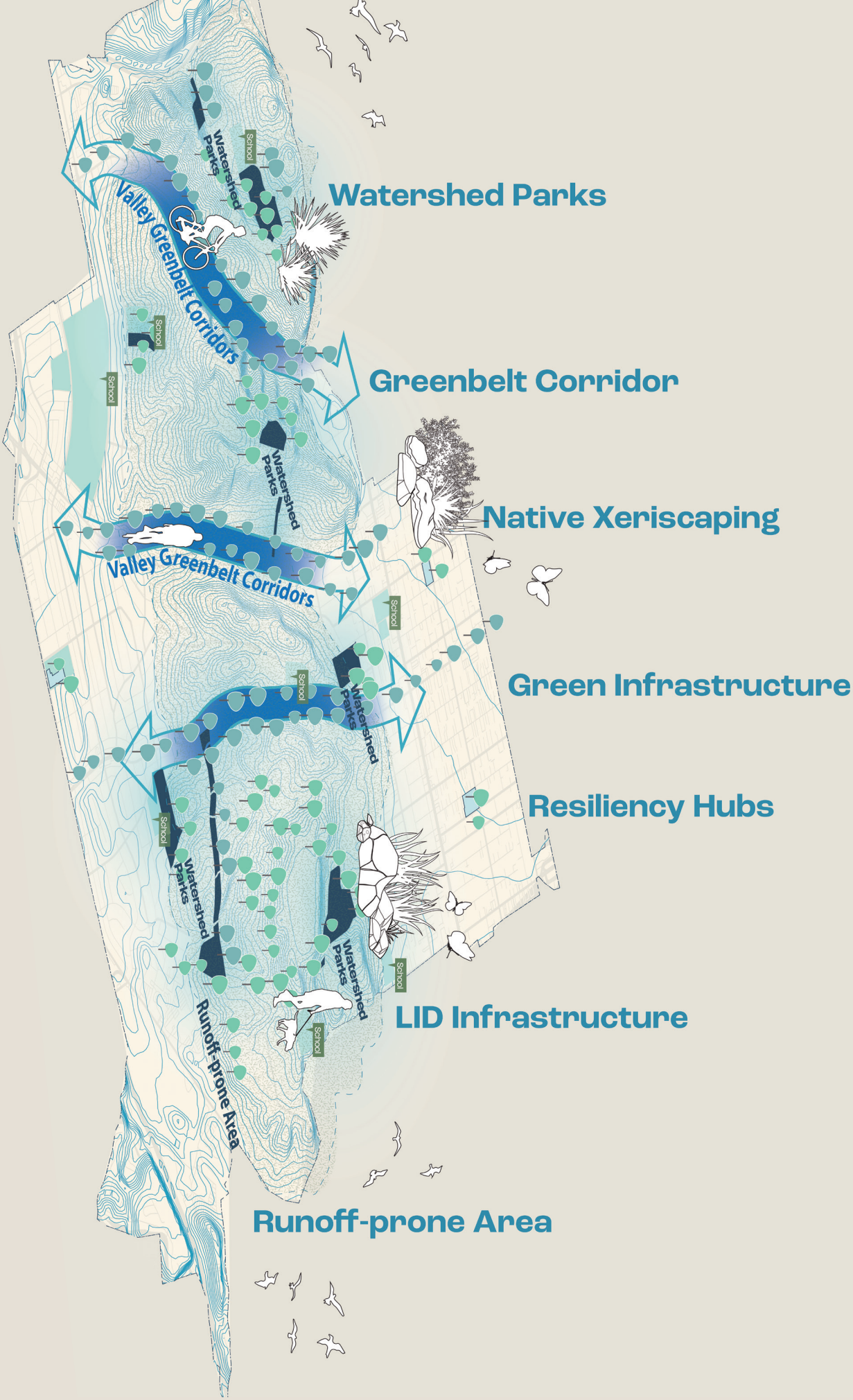
The city's mountainous terrain and valleys present a key opportunity to build a multifunctional green infrastructure system.

High-runoff areas can be managed by placing green infrastructure and watershed parks at the base of slopes to capture and filter rainwater.

Additionally, valley greenbelt corridors using bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable paths can help absorb stormwater and reduce downstream flooding and pollution.

To support sustainable transportation, these green corridors also incorporate bike racks and EV charging stations, encouraging eco-friendly access while reinforcing environmental goals.




Watershed Parks
Greenbelt Corridor
Native Xeriscaping
Green Infrastructure
Resiliency Hubs
LID Infrastructure
Runoff-prone Area
Valley Greenbelt Corridors
Valley Greenbelt Corridors
Watershed Parks
Watershed Parks
Watershed Parks
Watershed Parks
Watershed Parks
School
School
School
School
School
School
School
Runoff-prone Area

Sustainability & Green Infrastructure

Monterey Park's natural topography provides an opportunity to incorporate green infrastructure throughout its parks and corridors. Expanding watershed parks at runoff-prone areas, integrating rain gardens and bioswales, and establishing the Valley Greenway network will address stormwater issues while creating ecological, educational, and recreational value. Permeable trails, tree planting, native landscaping, and passive recreation elements like scenic overlooks further enhance environmental sustainability.

Culture & Community Activation

Community programming is essential for creating active, vibrant public spaces. Opportunities include activating parks with multilingual signage, amphitheaters, art classes, outdoor classrooms, and seasonal events such as cultural festivals, nature pop-ups, and concerts. Expanded community programming can also support language-specific workshops, intergenerational exchange, and inclusive learning spaces. Youth leadership, wellness education, and after-school programs can enrich park spaces as hubs for lifelong learning and cultural expression.

Connected Parks & People

Improving access between parks and neighborhoods is a key opportunity for system-wide impact. Enhancing walkable routes through the Safe Routes to Parks program, adding shaded rest areas, and expanding the Dial-A-Ride and shuttle services will improve mobility, particularly for seniors and youth. The Park Connection Network, including park pathways and the Hillside Ridge Trail, will create a city-wide spine for movement, recreation, and access to nature.

Shared Ownership & Stewardship

Sustaining a vibrant park system depends on local involvement. Expanding volunteer programs, organizing clean-up events, regular park audits, and programming with others empowers residents to care for and shape their parks. Parks can also serve as platforms for community voice and pride through pop-up programs, neighborhood events, and partnerships that amplify local culture and environmental stewardship.

Program

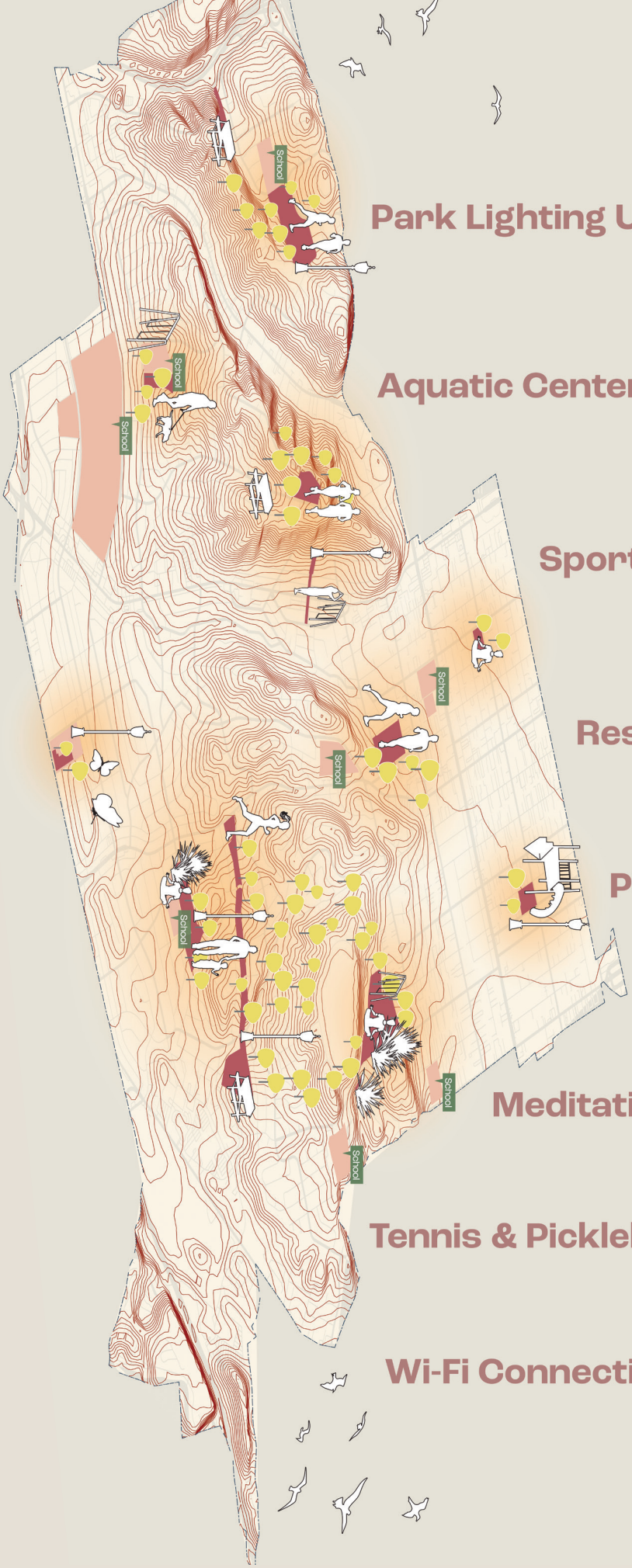
Activating parks with inclusive amenities and diverse programs creates spaces that promote wellbeing, cultural expression, and lifelong engagement.

This includes adaptable features like shaded gathering areas, ADA-accessible trails, community rooms, and multilingual signage.

Resilience and safety infrastructure—such as clean restrooms, emergency call stations, and clear wayfinding—ensure accessibility for all.

Community-driven programming like stewardship events, youth leadership, and cultural pop-ups further encourage local participation, lifelong learning, and intergenerational connection.





Park Lighting Upgrades

Aquatic Center Redevelopment

Sports Field Upgrades

Restroom Renovation

Playground Upgrades

Meditative Movement Spaces

Tennis & Pickleball Court Upgrades

Wi-Fi Connectivity

CASE STUDIES



Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine Strategic Plan

LOCATION: City of Long Beach

ADOPTION DATE: 2022

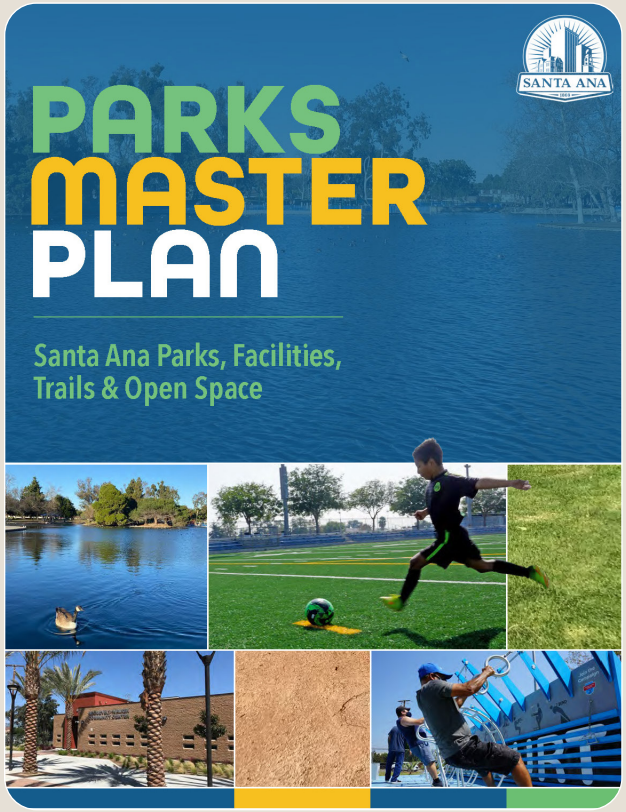
SUMMARY:

The Long Beach Strategic Plan for the Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department aims to address park management, park accessibility, and address systematic inequalities in open space while promoting equity among marginalized communities. The Strategic Plan included community voices through outreach efforts through multiple rounds of community and stakeholder surveys, workshops, and events. By promoting park equity, the Long Beach Strategic Plan is committed to improving the community's safety, institutional reform in policing, and allocation of resources.

The PRM Strategic Plan aims to transform the historically inequitable distribution and use of parks and recreational spaces. To achieve park equity, the Plan outlines several goals related to increasing safety and access to existing parks and open spaces, promoting health equity across the city, building innovative and lasting partnerships, and creating a financially secure and resilient operations. The Plan also outlines a strategy for increasing park development and programming to park-poor areas of the city, particularly West, North, and Central Long Beach.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Park equity as a central concept to this Strategic Plan and implemented an equitable planning and outreach process to engage with underserved communities historically marginalized from the decision making process.
- The strategic planning process was built upon both data and community engagement, with thousands of community members participating in a variety of strategies in four languages.
- Reimagines underutilized uses as potential public recreation opportunities to better serve the community; such as joint-use agreements with local schools.
- Identifies strategies to increase and formalize community partnerships and interdepartmental coordination to meet ever-growing park programming needs.
- Emphasis on developing pathways for increasing volunteerism, which could be pathways to part-time and full-time employment as well as opportunities to advance their professional careers.
- Considers parks and green space as essential aspects to community climate resiliency and adaptation.



Santa Ana Parks Master Plan

LOCATION: City of Santa Ana

ADOPTION DATE: 2022

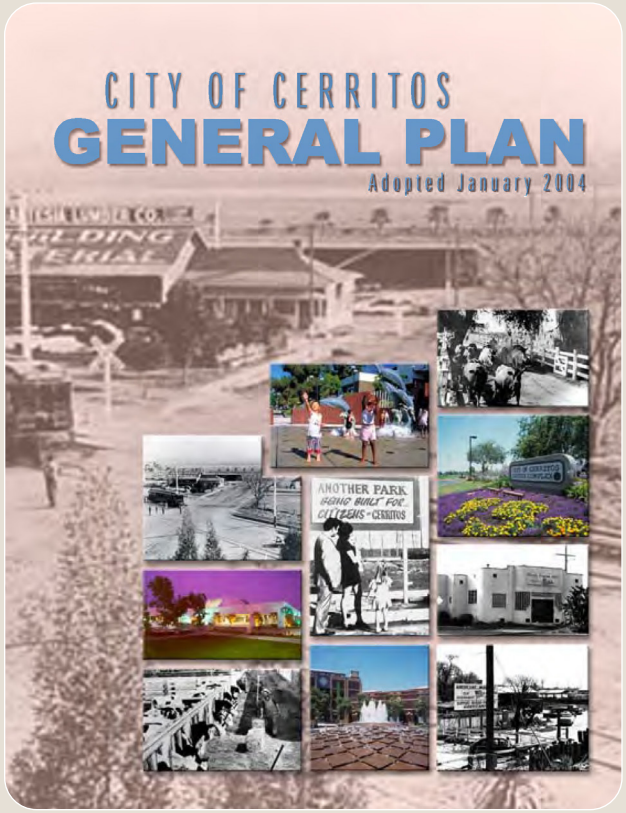
SUMMARY:

The City of Santa Ana Parks Master Plan (PMP) provides a 10-year roadmap for enhancing the city's parks, recreation facilities, trails, and open spaces to improve access, equity, and quality of life for residents. Through an 18-month, community-driven process with over 2,000 residents, city staff, and stakeholders, the plan prioritizes park system improvements, sustainable asset management, and diverse recreational options. Key actions include increasing funding through park impact fees, exploring new funding sources like voter-approved tax measures, enhancing partnerships with local schools, and expanding parkland through strategic acquisitions and trail development, such as the proposed Golden Loop.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Diversifies funding, generate revenues, and support the capital and operational investment needed to enhance the park and recreation system.
- Strategies to expand joint-use agreements, including collaboration with public school districts, private schools, faith-based organizations, and community organizations to expand shared-use sites and facilities through cooperative agreements to maximize recreation options.
- Updates the joint-use agreement with SAUSD to explore options to ensure public access to sports fields and outdoor facilities especially in park deficient and unserved areas.
- Interest in allowing developers a reduction in on-site open space requirements by giving credits for park land for public use.
- Partners with community organizations to offer programs that are accessible to residents who live in areas underserved by open space and recreational facilities.
- Identifies enhanced lighting, cameras, or other security features that would enhance the safety or perceived safety of parks, trails, and other public spaces.

- Interest in allowing developers a reduction in on-site open space requirements by giving credits for park land for public use.
- Partners with community organizations to offer programs that are accessible to residents who live in areas underserved by open space and recreational facilities.
- Identifies enhanced lighting, cameras, or other security features that would enhance the safety or perceived safety of parks, trails, and other public spaces.



Cerritos Open Space and Recreation Element

LOCATION: City of Cerritos

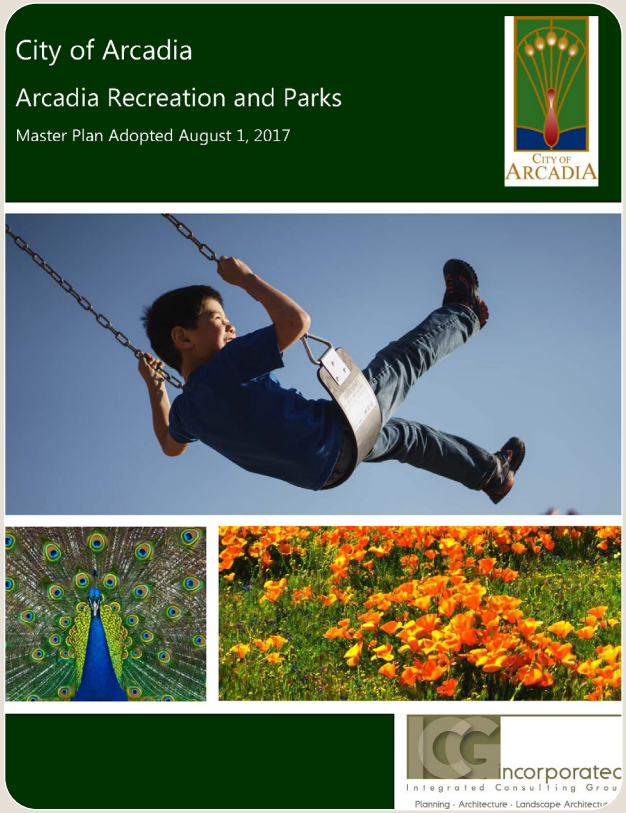
ADOPTION DATE: 2004

SUMMARY:

The City of Cerritos Open Space & Recreation Element outlines strategies to preserve and enhance open space areas to meet residents' recreational needs and promote public health and safety. As part of the City's General Plan, this Element encompasses plans for various public resources, including neighborhood, community, and regional parks, community centers, trails, golf courses, aquatic facilities, open space easements, and other accessible outdoor and indoor facilities. Open space resources are categorized into three key areas: Outdoor Recreation, Day Residents, and Public Health and Safety. The City intends to keep these efforts aligned with community needs through regular plan reviews and community feedback from residents and business owners.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Uplifts the importance of collaborative agreements between the City of Cerritos and the school district to enhance community open space and recreation resources by maximizing shared use of school facilities, meeting local needs through resource-sharing efforts.
- Develops cooperative arrangements with adjacent jurisdictions and park departments for providing a coordinated set of recreational programs that provide a broader range of recreational programs than are already available.
- Coordinates with various civic and private groups to provide an overall recreation program that is well coordinated and responsive to the needs of the community.



Arcadia Recreation and Parks Master Plan

LOCATION: City of Acadia

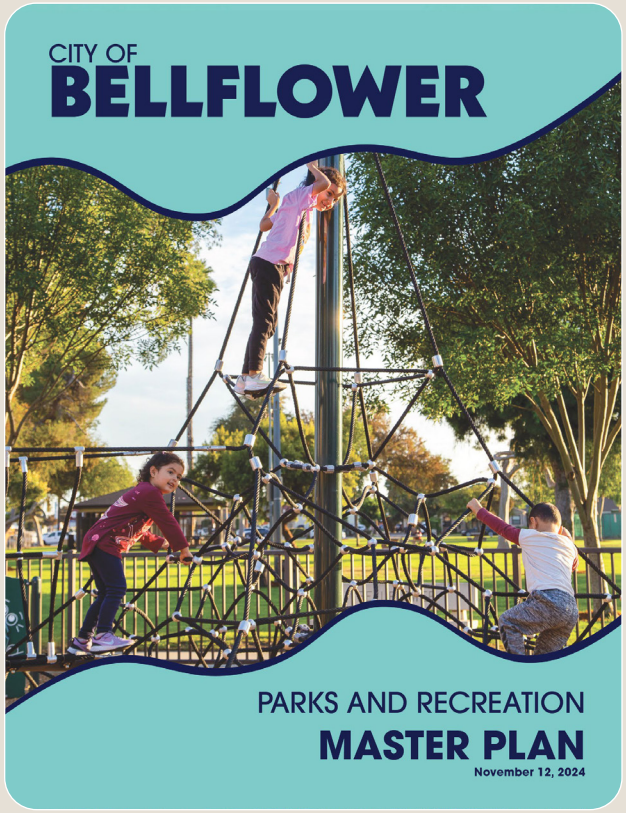
ADOPTION DATE: 2017

SUMMARY:

The City of Arcadia's updated Recreation and Parks Master Plan provides a strategic framework through 2037 to enhance residents' quality of life by expanding and maintaining parks, recreation facilities, and leisure programs for all ages. Much like Monterey Park, Arcadia is a mostly suburban community with a population around 60,000, featuring a predominantly Asian American demographic and a strong commitment to supporting public health, accessibility, and inclusive community spaces. Key objectives of the plan include enhancing park facilities with improved lighting, ensuring ADA compliance, expanding joint-use agreements with schools, and broadening programs in early childhood, sports, and academics to address the needs of a diverse and growing population.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- The City had engaged with the public through conducting 21 interviews with selected community leaders, civic organizations, and representatives of agencies the City had partnered with.
- Development and/update of plans/schematics of all existing parks and recreation
- Study and analysis of current public demand for parks, recreation, and cultural facilities
- Developments of Programs and Services
- Expansion of preschool programs
- Expansion of sports and academic programs
- Expansion of joint-use with schools for greater accessibility
- Improvement of transportation opportunities
- Signage and banners of both English and Chinese at public parks



Bellflower Parks and Recreation Master Plan

LOCATION: City of Bellflower

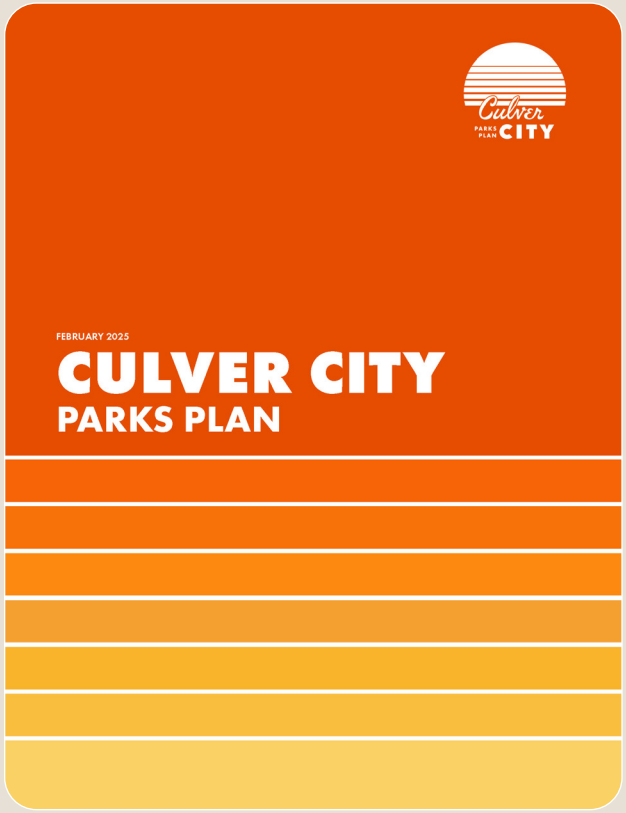
ADOPTION DATE: 2024

SUMMARY:

The nearby City of Bellflower developed its Parks Master Plan to create a more accessible, diverse, and well-maintained park system that meets the evolving needs of the community. Rooted in community input and data-driven analysis, the plan reflects residents' priorities and provides a roadmap for the next decade of parks and recreation improvements. By incorporating feedback from public engagement efforts, surveys, and demographic studies, the plan identifies key initiatives to enhance park access, introduce new programs and services, and ensure the long-term health and sustainability of Bellflower's recreational spaces. Additionally, the plan emphasizes equity, environmental stewardship, and strategic partnerships to maximize resources and improve overall park quality. These initiatives will guide future investments, ensuring that Bellflower's parks remain vibrant, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of its growing and diverse population.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- To involve the community, the City of Bellflower held pop-up events and workshops, collecting 723 surveys from residents on evaluating the city's park and recreation facilities.
- Respondents of the survey had reported the most significant facilities and services include community/neighborhood parks, trails, pathways, and open space areas. Additionally, the respondents found improvising amenities (restrooms, picnic areas) important priorities.
- Prioritize the future of parks the City has interest in acquiring private land or partnering with other entities to improve park access.
- Create a distinct place within Bellflower parks and recreation facilities showcasing the city's diversity, culture, and history; while ensuring the parks are designed with sustainability.
- Strategies potential funding sources for specific park projects from state grants. In addition to funding programs, traditional funding and financing tools would be used to advance parks projects.



Culver City Parks Plan

LOCATION: City of Culver City

ADOPTION DATE: 2023

SUMMARY:

The Culver City Parks, Recreation, and Community Services Department developed a comprehensive Parks Plan to shape the next generation of parks and recreational facilities with a strong focus on equity, accessibility, and community well-being. Through an extensive engagement process involving residents, city departments, and local organizations, the plan reflects community-driven priorities and identifies opportunities for enhancing park spaces, expanding recreational programming, and improving overall accessibility. The Parks Plan outlines strategic recommendations for infrastructure upgrades, facility enhancements, and new programming that address the evolving needs of Culver City's diverse population. Additionally, it explores funding opportunities, partnerships, and innovative strategies to support long-term implementation and sustainability. By guiding future investments in parks and recreation, the Parks Plan ensures that Culver City's public spaces remain inclusive, well-maintained, and vibrant for generations to come.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Culver City had outreached to its community through pop-ups, online posting, and analog flyers. This outreached had surveyed 857 Culver City residents on the uses of parks and facilities.
- To increase resident access to parks, Culver City is suggested to a MOU with Culver City Unified School District. Blacno Park is a joint use between the school the city.
- In exploring funding sources, the City had found potential funding options in county, state, and federal levels.
- At the county level, Culver City could potentially find funding in developer fees, park bonds, and county measures. While at the state and federal level grants would be awarded.
- To create revenue from the parks, it is suggested that the parks have rental fees for commercial uses and create events for food and beverage partners. However, parks must be remained free and open to the public.



San Gabriel Parks and Open Space Master Plan

LOCATION: City of San Gabriel

ADOPTION DATE: 2018

SUMMARY:

The San Gabriel Community Services Department developed an Open Space Master Plan to establish a long-term vision for improving and expanding open spaces in the city. This plan aims to enhance accessibility, equity, and recreational opportunities for all residents, ensuring that parks and public spaces serve the diverse needs of the community. Through an extensive community engagement process, including surveys, workshops, and stakeholder meetings, residents provided input on their priorities, highlighting the need for expanded park amenities, improved maintenance, and additional programming. The findings emphasized that further development of community resources is necessary to address gaps in access, particularly in underserved areas. The plan outlines strategies for increasing parkland, improving existing facilities, and integrating sustainable and inclusive design principles to create a more resilient and welcoming public space network. By guiding future investments and policy decisions, the Open Space Master Plan ensures that San Gabriel's parks and recreational spaces continue to evolve in response to community needs and environmental challenges.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- San Gabriel had held six focus group meetings with residents and staff for community input in addition to a public presentation.
- A community survey was sent to a random sample of San Gabriel residents with a total of 581 complete responses.
- Respondents had commented on a desire for a beautification and enhanced maintenance of parks and facilities
- The City maintains five outdoor parks, for a total of 19 acres of parkland. Joint-use agreements are in place at two elementary schools, but not all facilities provide open access for residents.
- With the current park deficiencies in San Gabriel, future opportunity sites had been identified throughout the city for the creation of pocket parks, further joint-agreements, acquiring more spaces, and further installation for walkability and transportation.
- From community surveying, meetings, and service analysis it is recommended for San Gabriel to address issues of: expand open space and parks, expand bike paths and trail connectivity, maintain and improve facilities and amenities, improve ADA accessibility at all facilities, build on opportunities to increase partnership within the community



Uptown Open Space Vision Plan

LOCATION: City of Long Beach

DATE OF ADOPTION: 2018

SUMMARY:

The Uptown Open Space Vision Plan serves as a strategic and guiding document for the Long Beach Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department, shaping the future development of public open spaces in the Uptown area. This vision plan establishes a comprehensive framework for creating, enhancing, and sustaining green spaces, ensuring they are accessible, well-maintained, and responsive to community needs. It provides a roadmap for expanding recreational opportunities, improving connectivity between parks, and integrating sustainable design principles to promote environmental resilience. By outlining key priorities, such as park expansion, multi-benefit green infrastructure, and equitable access to recreation, the plan helps guide decision-making, funding strategies, and future implementation efforts. Ultimately, the Uptown Open Space Vision Plan plays a critical role in shaping a healthier, greener, and more vibrant public realm for Long Beach residents.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

- Guide the public investment of open space and greenway projects for the City of Long Beach as well as public and private partners.
- Demographics: 11 neighborhoods, 58% Hispanic, 19% black, 12% Asian, 10% non-Hispanic whites
- Highly extensive engagement process that involved thousands of residents over a multi-phase outreach process.
- Identified over 170 unique open spaces, mostly underutilized land uses
- Strategies to Improve active transportation in a variety of places.
- Introduce bike boulevards on various neighborhood streets to connect parks.
- Add Class II bike lanes on several streets.
- Enhance active transportation connection to the LA River Trail.
- Improve active transportation east-west connections of the LA River and I710.
- Incorporate an urban forests to address environment and public health hazards.





IMPLEMENTATION

















OVERVIEW

The City of Monterey Park has developed and adopted a number of foundational policies and plans that inform and support GROW Monterey Park, the City's Parks System Master Plan. This plan seeks to guide the equitable expansion of publicly accessible open spaces and community amenities throughout the city.

GROW Monterey Park brings together these relevant projects, programs, and policies and organizes them according to Open Space Opportunity Types. These Implementation Measures can be pursued comprehensively through citywide initiatives or advanced through targeted actions specific to each Opportunity Type.

The Implementation Measures are intended to support the realization of the open space, park, and connectivity projects proposed in this Plan. For instance, rather than approaching each site individually, the City may consider broader strategies—such as creating a standard framework or agreement with institutional or private landowners—that streamline partnerships and establish consistent design and programming expectations. These frameworks would create clarity and efficiency for all parties involved.

This section is organized by Opportunity Types, each representing a distinct category of open space development with unique opportunities and challenges. By classifying Implementation Measures in this way, GROW Monterey Park lays the foundation for coordinated policy development, interagency collaboration, and strategic community partnerships. In addition, this section outlines approaches to financial sustainability, offering general funding strategies aligned with each Opportunity Type and supporting long-term park system growth.

ACTION PLAN

The GROW Master Plan is intended to serve as a living, guiding document that supports the long-term vision for parks, recreation, and open space in the City of Monterey Park. Grounded in community-identified priorities, key data findings, and alignment with the City's broader strategic goals, the plan outlines a phased approach to implementation that can adapt over time. Its recommendations are designed to be flexible and responsive, advancing as funding becomes available for projects, programming, operations, and maintenance. By prioritizing equity, access, and sustainability, the GROW Master Plan provides a clear roadmap for enhancing the city's public spaces and recreation offerings in a way that reflects the voices and needs of Monterey Park residents.

The following section presents a comprehensive set of recommendations that includes suggested projects, programming, and policy initiatives, organized by priority. These priorities are informed by extensive research and meaningful engagement with the Monterey Park community and City Officials. The recommendations are intended to improve and expand the city's parks system and recreational facilities by enhancing accessibility, increasing safety, promoting health and wellness, and fostering greater inclusion. By centering the needs and values of residents, these proposed actions aim to create sustainable, intergenerational, and high quality public spaces that celebrate the diversity of Monterey Park and meet the long term needs of its growing population.







Projects

The City of Monterey Park plans to implement a wide range of park improvements across its entire park system, with a strong emphasis on enhancing accessibility, safety, and community wellness. These initiatives are intended to encourage active and healthy lifestyles for residents of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds. Proposed upgrades include the renovation of existing sports facilities, the enhancement of outdoor fitness zones, and the integration of new public safety features such as lighting and visibility improvements to ensure that public spaces are welcoming and secure.

In addition to these system-wide improvements, signature proposed projects demonstrate the city's commitment to expanding the availability of open space and enriching recreational experiences. These projects will provide residents with increased opportunities for nature access, exercise, and leisure, while also enhancing the city's environmental resilience.

Recognizing the cultural richness and diversity of Monterey Park's communities, the City also aims to implement inclusive design strategies, including multilingual signage and dedicated spaces for culturally relevant programs such as Tai Chi, family gatherings, and intergenerational play. These improvements are thoughtfully categorized across various levels of priority, allowing for a phased and strategic approach to implementation. Collectively, the proposed efforts strive to build a parks and recreation system that reflects community values, fosters social connection, and meets the evolving needs of Monterey Park's residents now and into the future.





POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Timeline	Project Name & Statement	Project Rationale
[Varies]	**Citywide Park Amenity Upgrades and Additions:** This effort aims to improve the quality, safety, and usability of existing parks across the city by enhancing or replacing core amenities based on direct community input. This effort prioritizes the modernization of park infrastructure—such as restrooms, sports courts, picnic tables, lighting, water fountains, shade structures, building repairs, and ADA accessibility improvements—to meet current community needs and create more welcoming, functional public spaces.	Through extensive community engagement, residents overwhelmingly expressed a desire to invest in and upgrade the existing park system before expanding the park network. Rather than calling for entirely new parks, participants emphasized the importance of bringing current parks up to a higher standard, repairing what's worn, replacing what no longer serves, and adding amenities that reflect how parks are actively used today. These desired upgrades vary by location and are detailed in the park profiles in the Introduction section of this Plan. This citywide approach ensures that every neighborhood benefits from targeted, community-informed improvements that enhance comfort, accessibility, safety, and programming potential.
Short-Term	**Restroom Renovation and Maintenance Improvements:** Proposal for a a citywide renovation and maintenace update of all park restrooms to improve accessibility, safety, and ease of maintenance. The project aims to expand restroom facilities to better accommodate children, seniors, and families while incorporating best practices in restroom design to enhance cleanliness, security, and long-term sustainability.	Upgrading park restrooms is essential to improving accessibility, safety, and overall park user experience for Monterey Park residents; this was the top park idea that came from the community engagment. Many existing restroom facilities are outdated, undersized, and not designed to accommodate families, seniors, youth, and individuals with mobility challenges. By improving the upkeep of our existing park restrooms (incorporating best practices such as ADA-compliant layouts, family-friendly features, and touchless fixtures), the City can create more safe and accessible park experiences that encourages longer park visits and promotes a greater sense of community pride. Additionally, promoting cleanliness through clear signage (highly visual, multiple City langauges), installing security cameras outside for added safety, and using durable, low-maintenance materials will help ensure that these restrooms remain welcoming and functional for years to come. Investing in modernized restroom facilities aligns with the City's commitment to providing high-quality public amenities that enhance comfort, usability, and public health in Monterey Park's parks. The community identified that the maintanence of public restrooms is a top priority, and that there is potential to identify a vendor(s) that can provide restroom upkeep services multiple times per week at each park.
Short-Term	**Citywide Tennis and Pickleball Court Upgrades:** Maintain and refurbish existing tennis courts while exploring the opportunity for dedicated pickleball courts to accommodate growing demand for both sports. The city will look to resurface tennis courts and upgrade existing pickleball facilities, such as those at Bella Vista Park. Where space and design allow, dedicated pickleball courts may be developed to reduce conflicts between users.	Pickleball have experienced tremendous growth nationwide, and the San Gabriel Valley has become a hub for the sport, with Monterey Park—particularly Barnes Park—serving as a key gathering place for players of all ages. As more residents take up pickleball for its accessibility, social nature, and health benefits, demand for quality courts has surged. Tennis courts in the city are heavily utilized and in need of resurfacing. By resurfacing the tennis courts and providing dedicated pickleball courts at Barnes, Sierra Vista, and Bella Vista Parks, the City can ensure that courts remain in excellent condition while reducing scheduling conflicts. Investing in these upgrades will support Monterey Park's role as a regional destination for tennis and pickleball, strengthen community recreation options, and enhance the long-term usability of park facilities.
Short-Term	**Indoor Pickleball Courts:** To meet the growing demand for year-round pickleball play, explore the development of indoor pickleball courts. These facilities would provide a weather-proof option for players of all skill levels, ensuring access regardless of heat, rain, or other outdoor conditions. The courts could be incorporated into an existing or new multi-use recreation center, maximizing space efficiency while supporting the city's role as a regional hub for pickleball.	Pickleball has seen a dramatic rise in popularity, particularly in the San Gabriel Valley, where Barnes Park and other locations attract large numbers of players. However, the lack of indoor courts limits opportunities for play during extreme weather conditions or when outdoor courts are unavailable. By investing in indoor facilities, the City can provide a more consistent playing experience, reduce strain on existing outdoor courts, and support a growing community of players who rely on the sport for social and physical activity. Additionally, engagement with nearby residents will be essential in determining the best location, hours of operation, and facility design to ensure minimal impact on surrounding neighborhoods. Addressing noise concerns, parking availability, and scheduling coordination with other recreational programs will help create a facility that benefits the entire community while maintaining harmony with adjacent land uses.

= Priority Recommendation (Top 5 from Community Survey)

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Cost Range	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department	✓	[Varies]	★	●		✓				
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department	✓	$$$$ $$	★	●		✓	✚			
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department	✓	$$$$ $	★			✓	✚		☺	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations - Park Advocacy Groups	✓	$	★			✓	✚		☺	

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Timeline	Project Name & Statement	Project Rationale
Short-Term	**Highly Visual Graphics & Multilingual Signage:** Implement highly visual, multilingual signage throughout parks and public spaces to ensure accessibility, clarity, and cultural inclusivity for all Monterey Park residents and visitors. This includes park rules, wayfinding, interpretive signs, and program information designed with clear icons, illustrations, and translations in the city's most spoken languages.	Monterey Park is one of the most linguistically and culturally diverse cities in the region. Community engagement revealed a need for clearer communication in parks—especially for seniors, non-English speakers, and new users unfamiliar with available resources or expectations. Residents asked for signage that is easy to understand, visually intuitive, and reflective of the community's language diversity. Whether directing someone to a restroom, sharing rules for a sports court, or explaining a new program, clear and inclusive communication builds trust, improves user experience, and affirms cultural belonging.
Short-Term	**Citywide Pet Waste Dispenser Project:** Expand the installation of dog waste bag dispensers at all major park entrances and along popular walking routes throughout Monterey Park. This initiative promotes responsible pet ownership, keeps parks clean and enjoyable for all users, and supports a safer, more welcoming experience for families, seniors, and pet owners alike.	Community members have repeatedly highlighted the need for cleaner parks and more resources for dog owners—especially in high-traffic parks and along walking trails. A common concern was the lack of pet waste dispensers at key entry points, leading to uncollected waste that affects cleanliness, sanitation, and overall park enjoyment. By installing clearly visible dispensers at entrances and along paths, the City encourages responsible pet care while reducing the burden on maintenance staff. This simple, low-cost improvement helps keep lawns, trails, and play areas free of waste, creating a more comfortable and hygienic environment for all.
Short-Term	**Sierra Vista Park Playground:** Sierra Vista Park is an essential recreational space in Monterey Park, serving a diverse and growing community. This project proposes upgrading the playground to serve users of all ability levels , ensuring diverse and inclusive play opportunities for children of all abilities. Additionally, the playground will incorporate a unique theme that aligns with Monterey Park's broader network of city parks, creating a cohesive and engaging experience for families.	LA County and the Monterey Park community has identified Sierra Vista Park as a priority for improvements, particularly given its role in serving a high-need community. Enhancing the playground with accessible and inclusive features supports the city's commitment to equity and recreational access for all residents. A themed design will not only make the playground more inviting but also strengthen its connection to the city's overall park system, encouraging broader community engagement. This project will provide lasting social, physical, and mental health benefits while addressing the critical need for high-quality, inclusive play spaces in Monterey Park.
Medium-Term	**Safe Routes to Parks:** Collaborate with the Public Works Department to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections to parks, particularly in areas with limited vehicle access. Many Monterey Park residents rely on walking, biking, or public transit to reach public spaces. Enhancing infrastructure such as sidewalks, crosswalks, lighting, and wayfinding signage will improve safety and promote active transportation. Prioritized improvements should include sidewalk upgrades citywide and implementation of Complete Streets along Monterey Pass Road—an important corridor for multimodal access. Additionally, a map of the safe bike routes across the city should be developed and widely shared to help residents navigate safe, bike-friendly routes to parks and community destinations. This approach supports broader climate and mobility goals while ensuring equitable, safe, and convenient access to parks for all residents.	Many Monterey Park residents rely on walking, biking, or public transit to access public spaces. Improving pedestrian, bicyclist, and transit infrastructure, such as crosswalks, lighting, bicycle parking, and wayfinding signage, will enhance safety and encourage active transportation to parks. This approach also aligns with regional climate and mobility goals.
Medium-Term	**Outdoor Fitness Zones:** Install free-to-use outdoor fitness equipment and designate walking loops to promote physical activity.	Providing free-to-use fitness equipment and walking loops encourages physical activity, such as stretching, muscle-building, and cardio, which is essential for physical health. These installations promote exercise opportunities for residents who may face financial or time constraints that limit access to gyms or fitness centers.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Cost Range	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Recreation & Parks Commission - Community-Based Organizations	✓	$$	★					♥	☺	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Recreation & Parks Commission - Community-Based Organizations	✓	$	★			✓	✚			
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department	✓	$$	★			✓				
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Community Development Department - Community-Based Organizations	✓	$$$	★	⛨		✓	✚	♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		$$	★			✓	✚			

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Timeline	Project Name & Statement	Project Rationale
Medium-Term	**Joint Use Agreement with Mark Keppel High School:** Pursue a formal Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with Mark Keppel High School and the Alhambra Unified School District to expand community access to recreational and educational facilities. This partnership will allow shared use of designated spaces such as athletic fields, gymnasiums, and classrooms to enhance recreational programming, community services, and youth development opportunities for Monterey Park residents. A formal JUA will ensure clear roles, responsibilities, and funding mechanisms for maintenance, scheduling, liability, and operations.	Given Mark Keppel High School's proximity to Monterey Park, this agreement would provide residents with greater access to recreational and educational spaces without requiring significant new infrastructure investments. This collaboration will help increase the availability of sports fields and courts for youth and adult recreational programs, provide indoor and outdoor spaces for after-school activities and cultural programming, and support technology and skill-building workshops. Additionally, a JUA will allow the City and the Alhambra Unified School District to maximize public resources by ensuring efficient use of existing facilities while minimizing duplication of services. The City will work closely with the school district to develop a mutually beneficial agreement that prioritizes community access while respecting the school's primary function as an educational institution.
Medium-Term	**Cool Monterey Park - Retrofit Community Hubs for Climate Resilience:** Retrofit existing community and recreation centers to serve as Resiliency Hubs—safe, accessible spaces that support residents during climate-related emergencies such as extreme heat, power outages, or other disasters. These hubs will provide essential services including cooling and heating centers, backup power, emergency supply storage, clean water stations, and communication infrastructure. As part of the citywide Cool Monterey Park initiative, these hubs will anchor a broader network of heat relief resources, including shaded splash pads, tree-covered rest areas, and a formalized cooling center policy. Barnes Park will serve as the first pilot site, followed by other high-priority locations in areas with dense residential populations and large senior communities.	As climate change increases the frequency and severity of extreme heat and other climate-related hazards, Monterey Park must take proactive steps to protect its most vulnerable residents—especially seniors, families, and low-income households who may lack access to air conditioning or safe outdoor areas during heat events. Community and recreation centers are ideally positioned to serve as Resiliency Hubs due to their accessibility, central locations, and trusted role in neighborhoods. Retrofitting these facilities with backup power, cooling systems, water stations, emergency supplies, and communication infrastructure will enhance the City's ability to respond during emergencies while fostering year-round education on disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, and community resource-sharing. Community engagement has highlighted the urgent need for indoor cooling spaces, shaded areas, and water-based features. Parks such as Barnes Park, Sierra Vista Park, and George E. Elder Park were identified as key locations for expanded cooling infrastructure. The Cool Monterey Park initiative proposes a multi-layered strategy—combining Resiliency Hub retrofits, shaded splash pads, expanded tree canopy, and a citywide cooling center policy—to deliver immediate heat relief and long-term climate resilience.
Medium-Term	**Improved Green Infrastructure and Watershed Parks:** Improve stormwater management within its park system by integrating green infrastructure solutions that address runoff in hilly and impervious areas. Given the city's natural topography, many parks experience significant water runoff during rainfall, leading to erosion, localized flooding, and water quality issues. To mitigate these impacts, the City will prioritize the installation of bioswales, rain gardens, permeable pathways, and other nature-based solutions within City-owned parks. These interventions will be strategically placed in areas most affected by runoff to capture, filter, and slow rainwater before it enters the drainage system, reducing pollution and enhancing groundwater recharge.	By implementing green infrastructure in Monterey Park's public parks, the City will not only improve water management but also create multiple environmental and community benefits. These improvements will help stabilize soil, reduce maintenance costs associated with erosion damage, and enhance the ecological function of park landscapes. Additionally, incorporating green infrastructure will provide shade, improve air quality, and create more visually appealing and functional park spaces for residents. The City will engage community members in the planning and stewardship of these projects to foster public awareness and long-term sustainability. Furthermore, Monterey Park will seek partnerships with regional water agencies and pursue grant funding to support the design, installation, and maintenance of green infrastructure within its parks. Regular monitoring will ensure the long-term effectiveness of these systems, reinforcing the City's commitment to sustainability, resilience, and high-quality public spaces for all residents.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Cost Range	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- School Districts - Neighborhood Groups	✓	$$$$ / $	★					♥	☺	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		$$$$ / $$$	★			✓	✚	♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Community Development Department		$$$$ / $$	★			✓				

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Timeline	Project Name & Statement	Project Rationale
Medium-Term	**Park Lighting and Safety Upgrade:** Upgrade all park lighting to energy-efficient LED fixtures and expand lighting coverage throughout the park to enhance safety, visibility, and usability—particularly in key areas such as pathways, sports courts, playgrounds, and parking lots. The project includes adding new lighting where needed, integrating select fixtures with security cameras, and improving lighting for evening use of sports courts. These enhancements will support extended park hours, increase recreational access, and address safety concerns for all park users.	Through recent community engagement efforts, residents expressed ongoing concerns about park safety—especially the lack of adequate lighting and limited emergency response options. Families, seniors, and evening park users emphasized the need for better visibility and accessible security measures to feel safe using parks after dark. Many existing lighting systems rely on outdated, inefficient fixtures that fail to provide sufficient illumination, contributing to visibility issues and higher energy costs. Upgrading to modern LED lighting will significantly improve brightness, visibility, and energy efficiency across key areas such as pathways, playgrounds, parking lots, and sports courts—enhancing both user comfort and player safety. The project also includes expanding lighting to currently underlit areas and integrating select light fixtures with security cameras to deter vandalism and support emergency response. By increasing public confidence in park safety, this initiative will encourage more evening use, support social interaction, and promote equitable access to parks for all residents. It aligns with Monterey Park's goals of sustainability, public safety, and enhanced recreational access—creating a more welcoming and secure environment for community members of all ages.
Medium-Term	**Tai Chi and Meditative Movement Spaces:** Identify and develop designated spaces in parks for Tai Chi and other meditative, low-impact physical activities. These spaces could include smooth, even surfaces for safe movement, shade-providing trees, and calming natural elements such as gardens or water features. Thoughtful placement of these areas will ensure accessibility for seniors and community members seeking gentle exercise and relaxation. Establish a reservation system for these spaces. These spaces could be tied in with the Nature Therapy and Mindfulness and wellness (programs).	Tai Chi is a deeply rooted practice in Monterey Park, particularly among older adults who rely on it for balance, flexibility, and overall well-being. However, existing park spaces do not always provide ideal conditions for practice, with uneven terrain, limited shade, and competition for space. Dedicated Tai Chi areas will create welcoming environments where residents can engage in mindful movement while benefiting from improved accessibility, shade, and natural surroundings. Community engagement will be key to determining the best locations for these spaces, ensuring they are easily accessible while minimizing conflicts with other park uses. Nearby residents should be consulted to address concerns related to noise, placement, and potential impacts on existing park activities. By incorporating community input, the City can develop spaces that support wellness while enhancing the overall park experience for all users.
Medium-Term	**Citywide Park and Recreation Center Wi-Fi Connectivity:** Explore the expansion of Wi-Fi connectivity across all City parks and recreation centers to support digital inclusion and provide a modern amenity for park users. This initiative will ensure that residents of all ages have reliable internet access in outdoor and community spaces, enabling opportunities for learning, recreation, and connection. The project will explore partnerships with internet service providers, grant opportunities, and infrastructure improvements to deliver strong and secure public Wi-Fi.	Expanding Wi-Fi access in parks and recreation centers will help bridge the digital divide by providing free internet access to residents, particularly students, job seekers, and seniors who may lack reliable connectivity at home. Parks can serve as outdoor learning hubs, where students can complete homework, access educational resources, and participate in virtual learning programs. Recreation centers can support digital literacy workshops, workforce development training, and community engagement efforts. Beyond education, public Wi-Fi will allow residents to access City services, stay connected with family and friends, and enhance park experiences through interactive programs and mobile-guided activities. Implementing this amenity aligns with modern urban park planning strategies and ensures that Monterey Park's public spaces remain relevant and accessible in a digital age. Thoughtful planning, including community input and security measures, will be critical to ensuring a reliable, equitable, and beneficial network for all park users.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Cost Range	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Police Department										
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations - Park Advocacy Groups										
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Community Development Department - Community-Based Organizations - School Districts										

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Timeline	Project Name & Statement	Project Rationale
Medium-Term	**Baseball/softball Field Evaluations and Upgrades:** Assess and improve existing baseball fields citywide to better serve local teams and the broader community. This initiative will focus on enhancing field conditions through increased daily to weekly maintenance, adding equipment to support infield upkeep, and improving organization of maintenance tools. It will also enhance spectator comfort by upgrading benches, fencing, and lighting—ensuring facilities are safe, well-maintained, and welcoming for all users.	Well-maintained baseball fields are essential for player safety, team development, and community engagement. Upgrading fields—including replanting turf, improving upkeep, and preventing injuries for baseball, football, and soccer players—will enhance playability and longevity. Acknowledging ongoing maintenance issues at Sequoia Park and Garvey Ranch Park, such as lumpy grass, gopher holes, and dog waste, addressing these hazards will improve safety and usability for players and parkgoers. Additionally, advocating for more shade structures will increase comfort and encourage greater attendance at games and events. Installing bat and helmet racks, following best practices from other communities, will promote better organization and facility cleanliness. These upgrades will strengthen Monterey Park's commitment to quality recreational spaces, benefiting athletes, families, and sports organizations citywide.
Medium-Term	**Grow Native Monterey Park:** Promote the use of native and drought-tolerant plant species across all Monterey Park parks and public landscapes. This initiative will prioritize habitat restoration, sustainable landscape practices, and climate resilience by incorporating native plants in new park projects, retrofits, medians, parkways, and community gateways.	Through recent community engagement, residents consistently voiced a desire for greener, more sustainable parks that support both environmental stewardship and long-term maintenance efficiency. Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil conditions, requiring significantly less water, fertilizer, and maintenance than non-native species. Their use enhances biodiversity, supports local pollinators, and improves habitat for birds and beneficial insects. By incorporating native species citywide—including in medians, rights-of-way, and along major corridors—Monterey Park can reduce irrigation costs, increase climate resilience, and create a more unified ecological identity across public spaces. This initiative also aligns with regional sustainability goals and complements green infrastructure strategies such as stormwater management and urban heat mitigation. A coordinated effort to introduce native planting palettes in all park projects and city landscapes will demonstrate environmental leadership and respond directly to community priorities for a greener, healthier city.
Medium-Term	**Citywide Trail Network - Walk, Connect, Explore:** Develop a cohesive citywide trail network by enhancing existing walking loops and nature trails in parks, installing clear mileage signage, and mapping out trail connections across Monterey Park. This initiative promotes walking for recreation and transportation, encourages healthy habits, and positions trails as both local amenities and connectors between neighborhoods, parks, schools, and city destinations. As part of this effort, the Citywide Trail Network will integrate larger regional trail experiences—such as the Scenic Hillside Trails & Overlook Project—offering residents access to both everyday walking loops and destination trails that celebrate Monterey Park's natural topography and views.	Community feedback highlighted strong interest in walking trails, especially those with clear mileage markers that encourage daily movement, goal setting, and social walking habits. Parks like Barnes Park and Highlands Park already serve as informal walking loops, and adding clear, standardized signage—for example, "4 laps = 1 mile"—would help residents of all ages engage in accessible, low-cost exercise. In addition to enhancing existing park trails, Monterey Park can utilize trails as an alternative mobility network, linking parks, schools, neighborhoods, and commercial areas. This supports regional climate and health goals by encouraging non-vehicular travel, reducing emissions, and increasing physical activity. A publicly available trail map, combined with wayfinding and trail signage, will help residents navigate and fully utilize the network. Creating a more connected, legible, and inviting trail system across the city addresses both recreation and transportation needs, while advancing equity and wellness.
Medium-Term	**Citywide Solar Canopy Project:** Install solar panel systems above parking lots in parks and public facilities to generate renewable energy, provide shaded parking, and contribute to the city's climate goals. These solar structures will support energy needs for park operations, EV charging stations, and potential emergency power backup, while making underutilized paved areas more productive and environmentally responsible.	As part of Monterey Park's broader commitment to sustainability, installing solar panels over parking lots offers a practical, high-impact strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and operational costs. Community feedback has consistently supported green infrastructure and climate resilience, with residents calling for more visible action on clean energy and smarter use of space. Parking lots, which are often wide and exposed, present an ideal opportunity to integrate solar energy without taking up additional space. This initiative aligns with regional and state sustainability targets and positions Monterey Park as a leader in environmentally responsible park and facility design.

	Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Cost Range	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Police Department	✓	$$$	★			✓	✚	♥	☺	
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Development Department - Public Works Department	✓	$$$$	★		❧	✓		♥		🎓
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department	✓	$$$$	★			✓	✚	♥	☺	
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department	✓	$$$$	★		❧	✓	✚	♥	☺	

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Timeline	Project Name & Statement	Project Rationale
Long-Term 	**Barnes Park Aquatic Center Redevelopment:** Redevelop the Barnes Park Aquatic Center to provide a modern, high-quality facility that meets the community's recreational, fitness, and competitive swimming needs. The project will replace the aging infrastructure with a new, energy-efficient aquatic center that ensures long-term sustainability and enhanced programming opportunities.	Barnes Park Aquatic Center has been a cornerstone of Monterey Park's recreational and competitive swimming community for decades. It serves as a gathering space for families, a training ground for student-athletes, and an essential venue for water safety programs. Redeveloping the facility will allow the city to maintain and enhance this vital resource, incorporating modern aquatic amenities, improved accessibility, and sustainable design practices to ensure its continued use for future generations. A recent assessment of the existing Olympic-sized pool at Barnes Park determined that the overall condition of the facility—including the pool structure, filtration systems, and surrounding building—necessitates a full redevelopment. The assessment further revealed that the supporting structures have deteriorated significantly, requiring extensive upgrades that would make simple repairs impractical. The estimated total cost of redevelopment is approximately $15+ million, excluding ongoing maintenance expenses. To ensure accessibility and water safety for different ages and abilities, the new aquatic center should offer a variety of aquatic programs, including water aerobics, physical therapy, and swimming lessons for children. Additionally, balancing swim meets with other community programs will help serve a diverse range of users, including children, teens, adults, and the elderly. The city should explore multiple funding sources, including membership passes, facility rentals, concessions, and partnerships with local schools and organizations. Corporate sponsorships from businesses such as Costco and hotels in Monterey Park should also be pursued to help fund pool redevelopment. Engaging local alumni and former swim team members, such as Manta Rays alumni, could support fundraising efforts for the new pool. Consideration should also be given to community-driven fundraising efforts, including partnerships with local businesses and outreach to residents to help meet funding goals. The redevelopment of the Barnes Park Aquatic Center will provide expanded programming, including swim lessons, senior water aerobics, and community events, fostering health and wellness citywide. A splash pad and therapy pool should also be considered to expand offerings and meet the needs of diverse groups. Investment in this redevelopment will not only preserve the site's rich history but also reaffirm Monterey Park's commitment to high-quality public amenities that support community well-being.
Long-Term	**Edison Trails Park Expansion:** Expand the footprint of the existing Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with Southern California Edison (SCE) to extend Edison Trails Park eastward toward La Loma Park and beyond to the northeast. This expansion would create a more connected and accessible open space network while respecting the constraints of the electrical transmission corridor.	Edison Trails Park is a valuable recreational asset, providing residents with walking trails, open space, and scenic views. Expanding the park's footprint under the SCE transmission corridor would enhance connectivity between existing parks and provide additional recreational opportunities for the community. This project would take advantage of underutilized land while adhering to SCE's safety regulations and land-use limitations. Given the terrain, the expansion would ideally integrate natural topography into trail design, creating a seamless extension that promotes passive recreation such as walking, jogging, and nature observation. However, due to the presence of high-voltage power lines, development will be restricted to low-impact uses such as trails, drought-tolerant landscaping, and limited recreational features that comply with SCE's guidelines. By leveraging the existing JUA and expanding it strategically, the City can maximize the use of open space without the high costs associated with traditional parkland acquisition. This effort aligns with Monterey Park's commitment to increasing park access, promoting health and wellness, and enhancing environmental sustainability for residents.

= Priority Recommendation (Top 5 from Community Survey)

	Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Cost Range	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Parks Advocacy Groups	✓	$$$$ $$$$	★			✓				
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Southern California Edison	✓	$$$$ $	★			✓				

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Timeline	Project Name & Statement	Project Rationale
Long-Term	**Establish a Joint Use Agreement with East Los Angeles College (ELAC):** Pursue a formal Joint Use Agreement (JUA) with East Los Angeles College (ELAC) to expand community access to recreational and educational facilities. This agreement will facilitate shared use of designated spaces, such as athletic fields, gymnasiums, and classrooms, to support expanded recreational programming, workforce development, and lifelong learning opportunities for Monterey Park residents. A formal JUA will outline clear roles, responsibilities, and funding mechanisms for maintenance, scheduling, liability, and operations, ensuring a sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership.	ELAC is a vital community resource with facilities that could greatly benefit Monterey Park residents by providing additional space for recreation, educational programs, and community events. Given the demand for more accessible recreational and learning spaces, a formalized agreement with ELAC would alleviate pressure on existing City facilities while fostering collaboration between municipal and educational institutions. This partnership aligns with the City's goals of enhancing recreational opportunities, promoting lifelong learning, and optimizing public resources for the benefit of all residents.
Long-Term	**Greenway Corridors:** Creation of Greenway Corridors along Monterey Pass Road, Atlantic Boulevard, and Garfield Avenue to integrate green infrastructure into these key public streets. This initiative aims to transform these high-traffic corridors into sustainable greenways that manage urban runoff while enhancing the streetscape. The project will incorporate bioswales, rain gardens, and permeable pathways to capture, filter, and slow stormwater, reducing flooding and improving water quality before it enters the drainage system. Strategically placed tree canopies and native landscaping will further contribute to urban cooling, air purification, and improved walkability for pedestrians.	Atlantic Boulevard and Garfield Avenue experience significant stormwater runoff due to their large paved surfaces and the city's hilly topography, leading to erosion, flooding, and water pollution. By integrating green infrastructure, the Greenway Corridors will help manage runoff while enhancing walkability, air quality, and urban cooling. These improvements will also create safer, more inviting streetscapes for pedestrians and cyclists. Through community engagement and partnerships, this project will position Monterey Park as a leader in sustainable urban design, balancing environmental responsibility with improved public spaces.
Long-Term	**Scenic Hillside Ridge Trail Overlook Points:** The Scenic Hillside Trails & Overlook Points project proposes the transformation of prominent hillside properties in Monterey Park into a network of scenic trails, overlook points, and passive recreation areas. The project includes identifying locations that offer panoramic views of the San Gabriel Valley, Downtown Los Angeles, and surrounding mountain ranges. Through thoughtful design and planning, these sites will be developed with low-impact hiking trails, rest areas with seating, interpretive signage, and native landscaping that celebrates the area's natural beauty. Together, they will provide residents with expanded access to passive recreation in natural hillside settings, promoting outdoor wellness, neighborhood connectivity, and appreciation for the region's geography and ecology.	Monterey Park's hillside terrain presents unique opportunities to expand the City's open space network while addressing community interest in trails, scenic viewpoints, and outdoor wellness amenities. By identifying underutilized properties for passive recreational use with elevation, views, and natural topography, this project aligns with the City's goals of promoting healthy lifestyles, conserving open space, and enhancing quality of life. With strategic partnerships and potential grant funding, the Scenic Hillside Trails & Overlook Project will become a cornerstone of Monterey Park's outdoor recreation network—offering spaces to explore, relax, and take in the city's breathtaking views.
Long-Term	**Garvey Ranch Park Expansion:** Monterey Park will collaborate with the Metropolitan Water District to expand Garvey Ranch Park south along Orange Avenue, adding approximately two acres of park space. Given the area's higher topography, a system of switchback trails will be incorporated to provide safe and accessible connections between the existing park and the underutilized land. The expansion will create new opportunities for recreational use, passive open space, and environmental education, enhancing the overall park experience for residents.	Expanding Garvey Ranch Park addresses the City's need for more parkland and recreational opportunities while making use of underutilized land in a way that respects the existing terrain. The addition of switchback trails will ensure safe and ADA-accessible pathways, making the expanded area more usable for all visitors. Partnering with the Metropolitan Water District will allow for coordinated planning to integrate sustainable water management features, such as native landscaping and erosion control measures. This project will improve park connectivity, access to green space, and community engagement while preserving the natural hillside character of the area.

	Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Cost Range	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- School Districts - Neighborhood Groups	✓	$$	★					♥	☻	
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Development Department - Public Works Department	✓	$$$$	★		❦		✚			
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Development Department - Public Works Department	✓	$$$$			❦	✓	✚			
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations - Park Advocacy Groups	✓	$$$	★		❦	✓	✚			

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Timeline	Project Name & Statement	Project Rationale
Long-Term	**Dedicated City Dog Park:** This project proposes the creation of a dedicated dog park facility to meet growing community demand for safe, accessible spaces for dogs to exercise and socialize off-leash. The project would include designated areas for both large and small dogs, seating, shade, water access, and appropriate fencing. The dog park could be developed as part of a larger park redevelopment or through new site acquisition and development. Potential existing park locations under consideration are Garvey Ranch Park and Barnes Park, due to their central location and available open space, though community feedback and further analysis would be required to determine feasibility.	Throughout the community engagement process, residents expressed the need for a dog park as a top amenity lacking in the city's current park system. Presently, dog owners frequently use sports fields, courts, and other general-use open spaces to exercise their pets—often resulting in conflicts over space and wear on facilities not designed for this purpose. Establishing a dedicated dog park would alleviate pressure on existing recreational infrastructure while promoting responsible pet ownership and improving quality of life for both dog owners and non-dog-owning park users. Including both large and small dog areas ensures safety and broader usability. While the idea of locating a dog park at Garvey Ranch Park has generated mixed opinions, it remains a viable option worth further discussion due to its size, visibility, and accessibility.

	Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Cost Range	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Development Department - Public Works Department										

Programs

The following sections outline recommended programming that reflects a community-driven vision for enhancing parks and recreational services in the City of Monterey Park. These recommendations are grounded in extensive community input and are organized in descending order of priority to address the most pressing and widely shared needs. They aim to promote equitable park use, respond to programmatic preferences expressed by residents, and foster a deeper connection between the community and its public spaces.

Top-priority recommendations include programs that support cultural expression, intergenerational engagement, and mental wellness. These focus areas were identified as particularly important given the city's recent challenges and its rich cultural diversity. Such programming not only meets immediate community needs but also fosters long-term civic pride, emotional resilience, and social cohesion.

Additionally, the proposed programs emphasize inclusive access for residents across all age groups and abilities—especially seniors, youth, and individuals with physical or mental health needs. These efforts include expanded educational partnerships with institutions like East Los Angeles College [ELAC], the development of lifelong learning and wellness programs, and an increased variety of recreational and sports offerings that can be adapted to different interest levels and abilities.

Together, these programming recommendations aim to strengthen the City's parks system by creating welcoming, supportive, and culturally meaningful spaces that promote community health, learning, and belonging.






FREE
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HUGS
City of Monterey Park
#LOVE
PRIDE TOUR

PROPOSED PROGRAMS

Priority Level	Program Name & Statement	Program Rationale
Very High	**Cultural & Heritage Celebrations:** Continue to enhance cultural and heritage programming by introducing cultural spotlights, storytelling events, and themed markets that celebrate the city's diverse population. This program could include workshops on cultural crafts, traditions, and performances in partnership with local artists and community leaders.	Monterey Park is home to a richly diverse community, and celebrating different cultural traditions fosters inclusivity, pride, and cross-cultural understanding. Expanding these offerings beyond existing festivals will provide year-round opportunities for residents to connect with their heritage while learning about others.
High	**Bridging Generations:** Continue Intergenerational Culture & Knowledge Exchange Program designed to foster meaningful connections between older adults and youth through shared cultural experiences, storytelling, and skill-building activities. This program would celebrate Monterey Park's rich cultural diversity, promote lifelong learning, and strengthen social bonds across generations.	Monterey Park's demographics — with a significant population of older adults and a rich cultural landscape — make it an ideal setting for intergenerational programming. Such initiatives can reduce social isolation among seniors, improve mental well-being, and provide youth with mentorship opportunities that foster respect for cultural traditions. By centering activities around cultural exchange, the program can promote inclusivity, social cohesion, and pride in Monterey Park's multicultural identity. Consider reprogramming and reorganizing spaces like the Langley Center to also serve as a community center during designated hours, while still supporting intergenerational programming and opportunities for casual community engagement.
High	**Mindfulness and Wellness:** Collaborate with local mental health organizations and wellness practitioners to offer a structured Mindfulness and Wellness Program. This initiative would provide guided meditation, yoga, and breathing exercises in designated park spaces, promoting stress reduction, emotional well-being, and overall mental health. Sessions can be adapted to accommodate various age groups, physical abilities, and cultural backgrounds to ensure inclusivity.	As the City of Monterey Park continues to heal from recent traumatic events, prioritizing mental well-being through accessible and inclusive programming is crucial. Research consistently shows that mindfulness practices such as meditation, yoga, and breathwork can reduce stress, anxiety, and symptoms of depression while improving overall emotional resilience. By offering guided sessions in park settings, the City can create safe, welcoming spaces for residents to gather, reflect, and heal. Incorporating mindfulness into public recreation programming provides an affordable, community-based resource that supports mental health in both individual and social contexts. Expanding on existing partnerships with organizations like Chinatown Service Center should be explored.
High	**Nature Therapy and Therapeutic Gardening:** Develop a Nature Therapy and Therapeutic Gardening Program in partnership with mental health professionals, horticultural experts, and community groups. This program would combine guided nature walks, mindfulness practices, and therapeutic gardening activities to promote mental well-being. By incorporating culturally relevant plants and traditions, the program can provide a meaningful and inclusive experience for Monterey Park's diverse community.	In light of the City's ongoing recovery process, integrating nature-based healing practices into recreational programming can offer residents meaningful pathways to improved mental well-being. Studies demonstrate that exposure to green spaces and engaging in therapeutic gardening can lower stress, boost mood, and foster social connection. By introducing guided nature walks, mindfulness practices, and hands-on gardening activities, the City can create supportive spaces for residents to reconnect with nature and each other. Incorporating culturally relevant plants and traditions can further ensure that these programs resonate with Monterey Park's diverse community, strengthening social ties and promoting collective healing.
High	**Family Fun Series:** Expand and enhance family-oriented recreational programming through a Family Fun Series, featuring movie nights, game nights, and outdoor concerts in local parks and community centers. These events will be designed to be free or low-cost to ensure accessibility for all residents. Explore potential for these events to be hosted at different parks throughout the city.	Families play a central role in the Monterey Park community, and recreational programs provide essential opportunities for connection and engagement. Expanding family-friendly events helps strengthen community bonds, create lasting traditions, and ensure equitable access to recreational opportunities, especially for those facing financial barriers.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Participation Commission - School Districts - Community-Based Organizations	✓	Community Engagement							●	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Aging Commission - School Districts - Library Department	✓	Community Engagement							●	●
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations - Mental Health Professionals	✓	Community Engagement					●		●	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations - Mental Health Professionals	✓	Community Engagement					●		●	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Participation Commission - School Districts - Neighborhood Groups	✓	Community Engagement							●	

PROPOSED PROGRAMS

Priority Level	Program Name & Statement	Program Rationale
High	**Culturally Relevant Senior Programs:** Expand and enhance senior recreational programs by incorporating language- and culture-specific activities, technology training, and intergenerational programming. These efforts will help older adults stay active, socially engaged, and connected to younger generations.	Monterey Park's senior population is linguistically and culturally diverse, requiring programs that reflect their backgrounds and social needs. Expanding culturally relevant offerings will ensure seniors remain engaged in the community while reducing social isolation and promoting mental well-being.
Medium	**Develop Arts and Science Education through Educational Partnerships:** Develop partnerships with local educational institutions—including school districts, East Los Angeles College (ELAC), private tutoring services, and nonprofit organizations—to expand access to arts and sciences programming in public parks.	Parks can serve as community learning hubs, offering enriching arts and sciences programming that may not be fully accessible through traditional education settings. By partnering with schools, colleges, and nonprofits, the city can provide workshops, hands-on learning experiences, and public events that foster creativity, innovation, and lifelong learning. These collaborations will help bridge educational gaps, support youth development, and create vibrant, knowledge-driven public spaces for residents of all ages.
Medium	**Outdoor Learning & Nature Exploration for Students:** Establish an Outdoor Learning & Nature Exploration program, providing local students with opportunities to study and engage in educational activities in the City's parks and open spaces. The program will be designed in partnership with local schools, libraries, and environmental organizations to create structured outdoor learning experiences. Activities may include guided nature walks, hands-on science experiments, reading circles, and art workshops inspired by nature. Parks will be equipped with designated outdoor learning spaces, such as shaded seating areas, educational signage, and interactive elements that encourage curiosity and engagement.	By partnering with the Library Department, this program can bridge education and recreation, encouraging students to engage in learning beyond the classroom while fostering a love for reading and the outdoors. Research shows that outdoor learning enhances cognitive development, creativity, and mental well-being, particularly important for youth recovering from pandemic-related social and academic disruptions. Additionally, this initiative supports equity in education by bringing free, high-quality learning experiences to public spaces, ensuring all students—including those from low-income families—have access to enrichment opportunities. This collaboration strengthens community engagement while promoting literacy, environmental awareness, and lifelong learning in a dynamic and accessible way.
Medium	**Seasonal Swim Program:** Revive weekend summer swim lessons, prioritizing group swim sessions to address staffing limitations. Partnerships with nearby aquatic facilities will be explored to expand access.	The community has expressed strong interest in bringing back weekend swim lessons that were available pre-pandemic. Given staffing challenges, structured group sessions and partnerships will help optimize resources while ensuring that children and families continue to have access to life-saving water safety education.
Medium	**Expanded Youth Sports, Teen Activities, and Pickleball Leagues:** Aim to meet the growing demand for recreational opportunities in Monterey Park, it is recommended that the City expand youth sports programs, teen activities, and pickleball leagues. These expansions should focus on increasing program offerings, improving facilities, and promoting access for all residents. Specifically, efforts should be made to expand pickleball leagues due to the rapidly growing interest in the sport, as well as enhance opportunities for youth sports and teen activities to better serve the community's diverse age groups and interests.	The demand for recreational opportunities in Monterey Park has been steadily increasing, particularly with the rise in popularity of pickleball, which attracts both seniors and younger generations due to its low-impact nature and social aspects. However, the city currently lacks sufficient dedicated pickleball courts, and existing leagues are often overcrowded, highlighting the need for expanded facilities and more programming. Additionally, there is a growing need for expanded youth sports programs and teen activities to provide safe, engaging spaces where young people can stay active, build social skills, and engage with their community. Expanding these programs will help foster a sense of belonging, promote physical fitness, and support youth development, all while contributing to the city's goal of enhancing the overall quality of life for residents of all ages.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community-Based Organizations - Recreation & Parks Commission	✓	Community Engagement						♥	☺	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Participation Commission - Recreation & Parks Commission - School Districts - Community-Based Organizations	✓	Community Engagement							☺	🎓
Recreation and Community Services Department	- School Districts - Library Department	✓	Community Engagement								🎓
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community-Based Organizations - Recreation & Parks Commission	✓	Community Engagement					✚		☺	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community-Based Organizations - Recreation & Parks Commission	✓	Community Engagement					✚		☺	

PROPOSED PROGRAMS

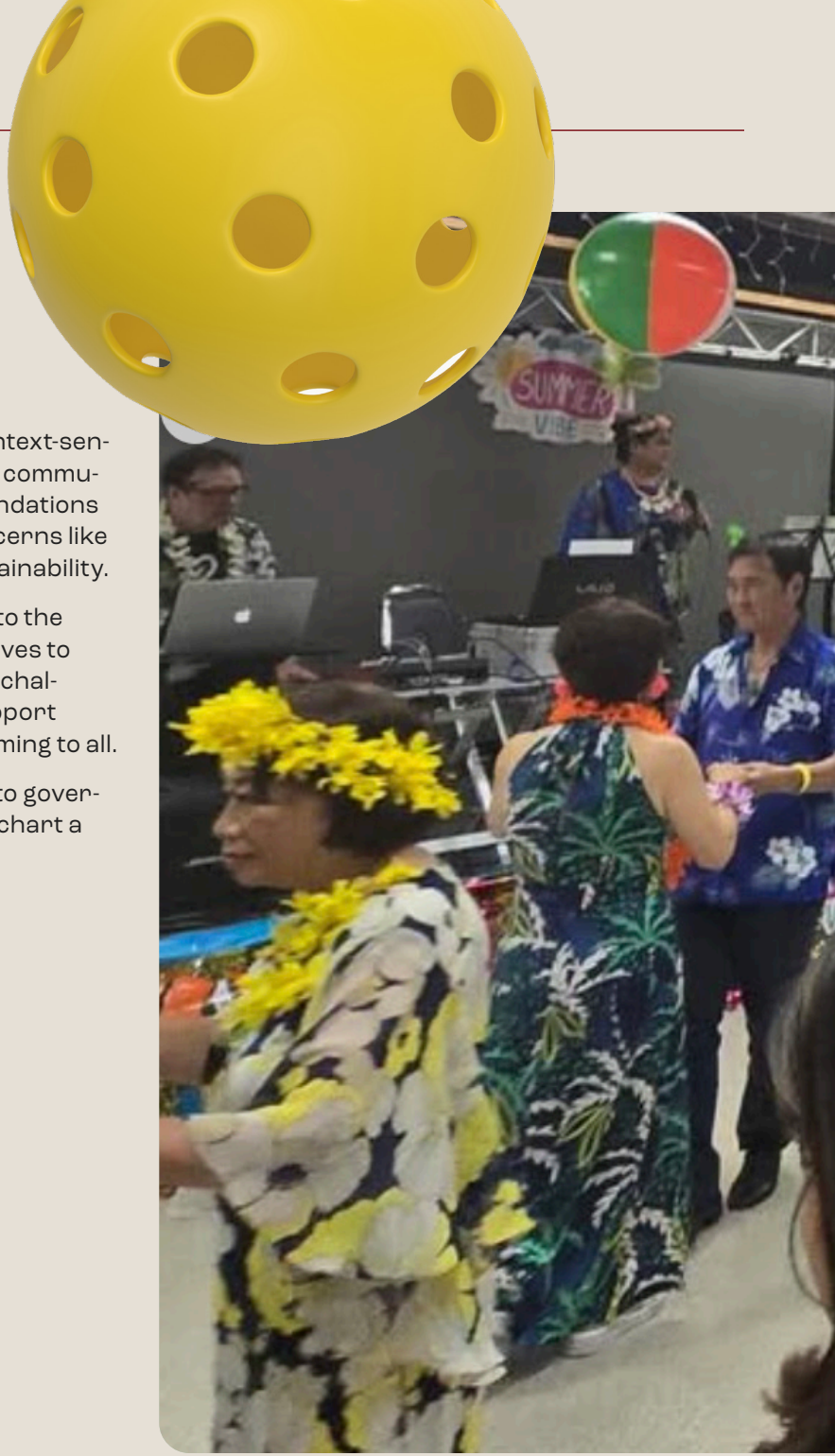
Priority Level	Program Name & Statement	Program Rationale
Medium	**Expanded Adult Social & Cultural Recreation:** Introduce recreational and cultural programming tailored for adults aged 21-35, including evening fitness classes, cultural workshops, food festivals, and networking mixers. Additional offerings may include community-led art nights, cooking demonstrations, and local history tours to provide engaging, social opportunities for young professionals.	Recreational programming in Monterey Park currently focuses on families, youth, and seniors, with fewer offerings targeted toward young adults. Expanding social and cultural activities that reflect the interests of the city's diverse population will provide new opportunities for connection, wellness, and community engagement while strengthening civic participation among younger residents.
Low	**Increasing Accessibility and Inclusivity for Individuals with Disabilities and Mental Health Needs:** Enhance the well-being of all residents, it is recommended that Monterey Park implement initiatives focused on increasing accessibility and inclusivity for individuals with disabilities or mental health needs. This will include expanding accessible recreational programs, ensuring public spaces and facilities are fully inclusive, and offering specialized wellness programs tailored to the needs of individuals with physical or mental health challenges. The City should also form partnerships with local organizations that support these communities, such as disability advocacy groups and mental health service providers, to help design and deliver these programs effectively.	As Monterey Park continues to grow, it is crucial to ensure that all residents, including those with disabilities or mental health needs, have equal access to public resources and recreational activities. Many individuals in these communities face barriers to participation in traditional wellness or recreational programs, whether due to physical limitations, mental health concerns, or a lack of tailored resources. By partnering with local organizations that specialize in disability advocacy and mental health support, the City can develop inclusive programs that accommodate diverse needs. Expanding on existing partnerships with organizations like Chinatown Service Center should be explored. This initiative will promote greater social inclusion, reduce isolation, and improve mental and physical well-being, contributing to a more equitable and supportive community for all residents.
Low	**Expand Recreational and Environmental Programming through Strategic Partnerships:** Identify and establish partnerships with community-based organizations and nonprofits such as Nature for All, the Boys & Girls Club, and the YMCA to enhance park programming, increase recreational opportunities, and promote environmental stewardship for residents of all ages.	Collaborating with established community organizations will diversify and expand the range of programs offered in Monterey Park's parks, making them more accessible and engaging. Organizations like Nature for All can introduce nature education and outdoor experiences, while the Boys & Girls Club and YMCA can provide youth-focused recreational, wellness, and mentorship programs. Additional partnerships can include collaborating with organizations such as Chinatown Service Center, Women's Club, Boys & Girls Club, the Gabrielino Tribe, Los Angeles Astronomical Society, Eastern Los Angeles Regional Center, and Center for Asian Americans for Self Empowerment. These partnerships will help optimize the use of park spaces, leverage external resources, and ensure programming meets the needs of a diverse community.
Low	**Encourage More Walking Groups:** Support the formation and promotion of community walking groups as part of its broader effort to foster a healthier, more connected, and active community. This initiative could provide safe, inclusive, and accessible opportunities for residents of all ages to engage in regular physical activity, strengthen social ties, and promote the use of neighborhood streets and parks as welcoming public spaces. Moreover, walking groups can reinforce the visibility and safety of pedestrians, helping to build community trust in the City's pedestrian infrastructure and informing future investments in safe routes, crossings, and park access. By actively supporting walking groups, the City affirms its commitment to a healthier, more inclusive, and connected Monterey Park.	Encouraging walking groups aligns with the City's health, mobility, and equity goals. Walking is a low-cost, low-barrier form of exercise that supports cardiovascular health, mental well-being, and social connection. In a diverse city like Monterey Park, walking groups can also help reduce social isolation—particularly among older adults—and foster intergenerational relationships. Moreover, walking groups can reinforce the visibility and safety of pedestrians, helping to build community trust in the City's pedestrian infrastructure and informing future investments in safe routes, crossings, and park access. By actively supporting walking groups, the City affirms its commitment to a healthier, more inclusive, and connected Monterey Park.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community-Based Organizations - Recreation & Parks Commission	✓	Community Engagement							●	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community-Based Organizations - Recreation & Parks Commission	✓	Community Engagement					✚	♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Participation Commission - Community-Based Organizations	✓	Community Engagement			●				●	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Participation Commission - Community-Based Organizations - Neighborhood Groups - School Districts	✓	Community Engagement					✚		●	

PROPOSED PROGRAMS

Priority Level	Program Name & Statement	Program Rationale
Low	**Activate the Barnes Park Ampitheater for Community:** The City of Monterey Park will activate the Barnes Park Amphitheater as a vibrant community space by allowing local groups to use it for dance rehearsals, meditative movement (such as tai chi or yoga), and other inclusive, low-impact programming. By formalizing community access to the amphitheater, the City aims to support cultural expression, wellness, and social connection in a highly visible and central public space.	Activating the Barnes Park Amphitheater creates an accessible, low-cost space for wellness, cultural expression, and community connection. By allowing local groups to use the amphitheater for activities like dance rehearsals, tai chi, yoga, spelling bees, and informal gatherings, the City can support physical and mental health, celebrate cultural traditions, and foster a stronger sense of community—especially among older adults and intergenerational participants. Regular use also helps enhance safety and visibility in the park while maximizing the value of existing public infrastructure.
Low	**Integrating Parks & Recreation Programming into Library Facilities:** Enhance collaboration between the Library and Parks & Recreation departments by introducing recreational and educational programming into existing library facilities, including its four service points. This shared-use strategy aims to expand public access, extend library hours, and deliver more diverse community offerings within existing infrastructure.	With limited resources and increasing demand for programs, the City has an opportunity to better utilize existing spaces by integrating Parks & Recreation programming into library facilities. While the Library and Parks & Recreation traditionally operate separately, strategic collaboration can extend service hours, bring new audiences into library spaces, and fulfill goals outlined in the Library's Strategic Plan. Rather than limiting hours due to budget constraints, activating library spaces with city-run programs allows the City to meet community needs more efficiently. This approach maximizes facility use, supports interdepartmental collaboration, and helps expand programming capacity without requiring new construction.

	Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community-Based Organizations	✓	Community Engagement	☆	⛨	🍃	✓	✚	♥	☺	🎓
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Library Department	✓	Community Engagement	★	⛨	🍃	✓	✚	♥	☺	🎓



Policies

As Monterey Park continues to invest in its park systems and networks, thoughtful and context-sensitive policy development is essential to ensuring these public spaces remain responsive to community needs while fostering inclusivity, resiliency, and long-term impact. The policy recommendations presented in this section are designed to address a wide range of issues—from urgent concerns like aging infrastructure to broader, future-focused goals such as climate adaptation and sustainability.

Prioritized in descending order of importance, the recommendations span improvements to the physical conditions of parks, strategies for expanding and enhancing programming, initiatives to deepen community involvement, and policies that help the City prepare for climate-related challenges. By centering equity and adopting a proactive, long-range outlook, these policies support Monterey Park's commitment to creating a parks system that is safe, adaptable, and welcoming to all.

These policy interventions—ranging from capital investments and maintenance strategies to governance, community engagement practices, and green infrastructure planning—collectively chart a course for achieving the City's vision of a high-quality, inclusive, and resilient park system.



PROPOSED POLICIES

Priority Level	Policy Name & Statement	Policy Rationale
Very High	**High-Quality Infrastructure Upgrades:** Prioritize the use of high-quality infrastructure in future park upgrades and improvements whenever possible to ensure long-term durability, safety, and community satisfaction.	Maintenance and long-term upkeep of park facilities are highly valued by both City staff and the community. Monterey Park's park infrastructure is recognized for being of higher quality than in surrounding cities, and residents have come to expect this standard. Investing in durable, high-quality materials will help preserve this reputation, reduce maintenance costs over time, and ensure parks remain safe, accessible, and enjoyable for all.
Very High	**Design Park Amenities with Flexibility for Evolving Community Needs:** Prioritize the design of park amenities and spaces with adaptability in mind, ensuring that parks can accommodate a wide range of recreational activities, community events, and future demands. This includes incorporating multi-use facilities, modular seating, open lawn areas, and flexible infrastructure that can be reconfigured as community needs evolve. Park spaces should be designed to support both daily use and large-scale events while maintaining accessibility, comfort, and usability for all residents.	As community needs change over time, parks must remain functional and relevant. Designing amenities with flexibility allows parks to serve diverse user groups, host special events, and adapt to emerging recreational trends without requiring costly renovations. Multi-purpose spaces encourage broader participation, maximize land use efficiency, and enhance the overall value of public parks. By planning with adaptability in mind, Monterey Park can ensure its park system remains a vibrant and inclusive resource for future generations.
Very High	**Prioritizing Maintenance of Existing Facilities:** Maintaining and improving existing park facilities will be the City's top funding priority to ensure long-term sustainability and support future program and park enhancements. Prioritize the maintenance, repair, and upgrade of aging infrastructure across its parks, recreation facilities, and public spaces. This includes a comprehensive assessment of current infrastructure conditions, the development of a prioritization plan, and the allocation of resources toward addressing the most urgent needs. We will review current restroom service contracts to ensure more frequent cleanups during peak park usage times, enhancing overall cleanliness and safety for park-goers.All new developments and improvements will follow a sustainable approach to ensure long-term durability and accessibility.	Well-maintained parks and facilities provide safe, high-quality spaces for residents and reduce long-term repair costs. Prioritizing maintenance ensures that existing infrastructure remains functional and accessible, preventing the need for costly replacements while supporting future park improvements. Regular restroom cleaning is also vital to maintaining a safe and welcoming environment, especially during busy periods. Engaging local groups will also foster community ownership and investment in the City's parks while alleviating pressure on the City's budget for facility upkeep.As Monterey Park's infrastructure ages, there is an increased risk of safety hazards, reduced accessibility, and diminished user experience for residents. Aging infrastructure can limit the City's ability to deliver high-quality services and programming, particularly in parks and recreational areas. Prioritizing the maintenance and improvement of this infrastructure will ensure that facilities remain safe, functional, and accessible for all residents, particularly in high-use areas. This proactive approach to upgrading aging assets will also support the City's commitment to sustainability, equity, and the long-term viability of its recreational spaces. By investing in infrastructure upgrades now, the City can prevent costly repairs down the line and continue to provide welcoming, high-quality public spaces.
High	**Outdoor Fitness and Wellness Zones:** Install free-to-use outdoor fitness equipment and designate walking loops to promote physical activity.	Providing free-to-use fitness equipment and walking loops encourages physical activity, which is essential for public health. These installations promote exercise opportunities for residents who may face financial or time constraints that limit access to gyms or fitness centers. Community members expressed the desire to have outdoor fitness zones located along trails as exercise nodes.
High	**Free & Reduced Cost Recreational Programs:** Expand the availability of free recreation programs to better serve low-income families earning below the LA County poverty line. This initiative aims to improve equitable access to recreational opportunities, promote physical and mental well-being, and foster community engagement for underserved residents.	Expanding free recreational programs will help address financial barriers that limit participation for low-income families. Providing access to quality programming supports youth development, encourages healthy lifestyles, and strengthens social connections. This policy aligns with Monterey Park's broader goals of equity, inclusion, and improved public health outcomes.

	Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		Community Engagement								
	Recreation and Community Services Department	N/A		Community Engagement								
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		Community Engagement								
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		Community Engagement								
	Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community-Based Organizations - Local Businesses		Community Engagement								

PROPOSED POLICIES

Priority Level	Policy Name & Statement	Policy Rationale
High	**Outdoor Learning Hubs:** Monterey Park will collaborate with the Library Department and local school districts to expand educational programming for students and lifelong learners by utilizing parks as outdoor learning hubs. This initiative will include educational signage with QR codes, interpretive trails, and programming that connects library resources and school curricula with outdoor spaces, fostering learning about local ecosystems, native plants, history, and sustainable practices.	Parks provide an ideal setting for interactive, place-based learning that complements both school curricula and lifelong education. By partnering with the Library Department and local school districts, the City can offer diverse programs that engage residents of all ages, support environmental literacy, and promote hands-on learning. These partnerships will enable the development of field trips, outdoor classrooms, and workshops that enhance student learning while offering the broader community opportunities to engage in sustainability, conservation, and local history education. Integrating these efforts into park spaces will strengthen community engagement and foster a deeper appreciation for Monterey Park's natural and cultural resources.
High	**Expansion of Senior Transit Services:** Explore the expansion of its Community Transportation programs to improve access for older adults. This expansion aims to enhance mobility, promote social engagement, and support older residents in maintaining their independence and quality of life.	Monterey Park's aging population requires reliable, accessible transportation options to meet their daily needs, including healthcare visits, grocery shopping, social services, and recreational activities. Expanding these services will help ensure that older adults can safely and conveniently access essential resources and community spaces.
High	**Community "Adopt a Park" Program:** Establish a Community "Adopt a Park" Program to promote leadership and civic engagement park with program participants and user groups. This program will offer opportunities for individuals and groups participating in City recreation programs to volunteer as ambassadors or community park rangers for specific parks for programming, light maintenance, and overall stewardship.	Creating a 'Community Adopt a Park" Program builds on the City's recognition that participants in its parks program often feel a sense of pride in the condition of the parks and facilities. By formalizing this pathway, the City can foster community ownership and improve communication. This program would empower residents while supporting the City's ongoing efforts to promote healing, connection, and resilience. Collaborations can also be with volunteer organizations, including the Boy Scouts, local high school clubs, and summer camp programs, to support park maintenance, community programs, and special projects such as cleanups and Eagle Scout initiatives.
High	**Retrofit Community and Recreation Centers as Resiliency Hubs:** Assess and implement tenant improvements to retrofit an existing community or recreation center into a Resiliency Hub. This hub will serve as a resource for residents during climate-related disasters and emergencies, while also supporting long-term community resiliency. Improvements may include backup power sources, cooling and heating centers, emergency supply storage, water stations, and communication infrastructure. Additionally, the facility will provide year-round programming focused on disaster preparedness, climate adaptation, and community resource-sharing to ensure residents are equipped with the knowledge and tools to respond effectively to crises.	As climate-related disasters become more frequent, Monterey Park must invest in community-based resilience infrastructure to protect vulnerable populations. Existing community and recreation centers are well-positioned to serve as Resiliency Hubs due to their accessibility, central locations, and established role in providing services to residents. By equipping these spaces with emergency preparedness resources and climate adaptation programming, the City can enhance its ability to respond to disasters while fostering a culture of preparedness and mutual aid among community members.
High	**Enhance Park Safety Through Crime Prevention and Design Strategies:** The City of Monterey Park shall prioritize safety in park planning and design by incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and other best practices. This includes improving visibility through strategic lighting and sightlines, promoting natural surveillance by activating park spaces, using durable and vandal-resistant materials, and fostering a sense of community ownership through programming and design. Additionally, the City will collaborate with local law enforcement, community organizations, and park users to identify and address safety concerns proactively.	Safe and welcoming parks encourage greater community use and engagement. By implementing CPTED strategies, the City can reduce opportunities for crime and improve the overall perception of safety in public spaces. In each phase of the engagement process, creating a better sense of safety at parks, as well as to and from parks, was an important community priority. Well-lit pathways, clear sightlines, and active programming deter negative behavior while promoting positive social interactions. Ensuring that parks are designed with safety in mind will enhance public trust, increase park utilization, and improve overall quality of life for Monterey Park residents.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Library Department - School Districts - Community-Based Organizations	✓	Community Engagement	★						☺	🎓
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department	✓	Community Engagement	★	⛨				♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department	✓	Community Engagement		⛨					☺	🎓
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		Park Planning & Best Practices	★	⛨	🍃		✚	♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Police Department - Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations - Parks Advocacy Groups	✓	Community Engagement	★	⛨		✓				

PROPOSED POLICIES

Priority Level	Policy Name & Statement	Policy Rationale
High	**Volunteer Park Patrol Program:** Seek to establish a Volunteer Park Patrol Program in collaboration with the Monterey Park Police Department's Citizen Patrol to enhance safety, visibility, and community stewardship in local parks. Trained volunteers will serve as additional eyes and ears in the park, assist with wayfinding and reporting maintenance issues, and help foster a welcoming and respectful park environment.	A Volunteer Park Patrol strengthens the City's commitment to safe, accessible public spaces by empowering residents to take an active role in park stewardship. Collaborating with the Police Department's Citizen Patrol leverages existing training and infrastructure to support a visible, non-enforcement presence in parks. This program promotes community trust, deters nuisance behavior, and builds stronger relationships between residents and city departments—all while encouraging more consistent and positive use of public space.
High	**Expansion of Part-Time Parks Staff to Full-Time Positions:** The City of Monterey Park will explore the conversion of part-time parks staff roles into full-time positions to improve the quality, consistency, and responsiveness of parks maintenance, programming, and operations. This effort aims to strengthen the City's ability to meet growing community needs and better support staff retention and development.	Converting part-time parks staff to full-time positions addresses critical gaps in service delivery while providing greater job stability and professional growth for employees. Full-time staff are better positioned to manage ongoing maintenance, support community programs, and respond quickly to issues in the parks system. This investment also improves continuity, builds institutional knowledge, and enhances the City's ability to meet rising expectations for safe, well-maintained, and actively programmed public spaces—especially in a city with limited parkland and increasing demand for park access. To assess the need for full-time staff expansion, the City can conduct an internal staffing audit to evaluate current coverage, workload distribution, service gaps, and turnover trends among part-time employees. Community feedback and usage data from parks and recreation programs can also help determine areas where additional staffing would improve service delivery. Based on this assessment, the City can prioritize positions for conversion, estimate associated costs, and identify potential funding sources—such as grants, budget reallocations, or partnerships—to support implementation.
Medium	**Inclusive Design Standards:** Require that all park improvements and new facilities follow universal design principles to ensure accessibility for people of all ages and abilities.	Ensuring parks are accessible to all residents — regardless of age, ability, or mobility — is critical to promoting equity in public spaces. Universal design principles, such as ADA-compliant pathways, sensory-friendly play equipment, and accessible seating, create environments where all residents can comfortably gather, exercise, and socialize. By embedding these standards in park planning, Monterey Park can proactively address barriers to inclusion.
Medium	**Equity-Based Resource Allocation:** Utilize the LA County Parks Needs Assessment, a needs-based framework, to prioritize investments in underserved neighborhoods, ensuring all residents have access to high-quality parks and recreational opportunities.	Historically underserved neighborhoods often have fewer park resources and amenities. By adopting an equity-based framework, the City can prioritize park investments in areas that lack green space or recreational facilities. This approach aligns with state and regional goals for park equity and ensures that residents in lower-income or marginalized communities benefit from improved amenities.
Medium	**Green Infrastructure Integration:** Incorporate features such as bioswales, permeable surfaces, and drought-tolerant landscaping to improve stormwater management and reduce heat impacts.	Integrating green infrastructure into parks will improve stormwater management, reduce urban heat island effects, and enhance local biodiversity. By installing bioswales, permeable pavement, and drought-tolerant landscaping, Monterey Park can reduce maintenance costs while improving environmental sustainability. Additionally, there is an opportunity to install EV charging at all parks, where appropriate.
Medium	**Continue Cultural Celebration Spaces:** Create dedicated spaces for cultural festivals, performances, and storytelling that celebrate the city's rich history and diverse communities.	Monterey Park's rich cultural diversity can continue to be celebrated through dedicated park spaces that support festivals, performances, and storytelling. These spaces can foster cross-cultural understanding and provide opportunities for residents to showcase their traditions.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Police Department - Neighborhood Groups	✓	Community Engagement		●					●	
Recreation and Community Services Department	N/A	✓	Community Engagement							●	
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		Park Planning & Best Practices	★	●		✓		♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Development Department		Park Planning & Best Practices	★				✚	♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		Park Planning & Best Practices	★		●	✓				
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Participation Commission - Library Department - Community-Based Organizations	✓	Community Engagement					✚	♥	●	

PROPOSED POLICIES

Priority Level	Policy Name & Statement	Policy Rationale
Medium	**Climate-Resilient and Sustainable Park Design:** Prioritize park designs that promote climate resilience and environmental sustainability by incorporating cooling zones, shade structures, and green infrastructure. Emphasize drought-tolerant and climate-appropriate landscaping, native plantings, and habitat restoration to support local biodiversity. Efforts will focus on increasing tree canopy coverage, managing stormwater through permeable surfaces and rain gardens, and preserving natural habitats. The City will also pursue partnerships and funding opportunities to advance these sustainability and resilience initiatives throughout the park system.	Preserving and enhancing natural ecosystems in urban parks provides multiple environmental and public health benefits, including improved air and water quality, reduced urban heat effects, and increased climate resilience. Native plantings and habitat restoration efforts support local wildlife while reducing water and maintenance needs. Additionally, a well-maintained and ecologically rich park system contributes to the well-being of residents by offering shaded, green spaces that encourage outdoor recreation, relaxation, and community gathering. By integrating sustainability into park planning, Monterey Park can foster a more resilient and environmentally responsible future.
Medium	**Creative Placemaking Projects:** Integrate public art, murals, and interactive installations into city spaces to foster cultural expression and engagement.	Integrating public art, murals, designs, and interactive installations in parks, walkways, and other public open spaces enhances community identity and attracts visitors. Placemaking projects can also reflect Monterey Park's cultural heritage, encourage fun and games, and create memorable public spaces.
Medium	**Silver Parks and Programs:** Prioritize the expansion and enhancement of recreational facilities and programs to support ongoing programs specifically designed for seniors / elders. This will help address the unique challenges faced by the senior population, including social isolation and mental health concerns, which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.	Seniors in Monterey Park have experienced significant challenges due to the pandemic, including increased social isolation and behavioral health issues. Regular, senior-focused recreational programs provide crucial opportunities for social engagement, mental stimulation, and physical activity. Expanding recreational facilities dedicated to seniors will allow the City to offer more programs tailored to their needs, enhancing their quality of life and fostering a greater sense of community. By prioritizing senior engagement through these programs, Monterey Park can help mitigate the negative impacts of isolation and support the long-term well-being of its older residents.
Medium	**Support the Creation of More "Third Spaces" in Monterey Park:** Support the creation of more "third spaces," including community hubs, plazas, green alleys, and cultural gathering places, to provide additional recreational and social opportunities outside of parks.	Public parks are heavily used as gathering spaces, but Monterey Park lacks an abundance of alternative "third spaces" that foster social interaction, creativity, and cultural expression. Third spaces—such as libraries, community centers, coffee shops, and pedestrian-friendly plazas—offer accessible environments for people to gather, work, and engage in community activities. By supporting the development of these spaces through policies, incentives, and partnerships, the City can help alleviate park congestion while enriching the social and cultural fabric of Monterey Park.
Medium	**Placemaking at Parks:** Strengthen the sense of place within Monterey Park's parks and recreation facilities by showcasing the city's rich cultural diversity, history, and identity, while ensuring designs incorporate sustainable and environmentally friendly practices.	Monterey Park's parks serve as essential gathering spaces that bring together a diverse community. By integrating culturally inspired public art, interpretive signage, and themed gathering spaces, parks can better reflect the city's unique heritage and foster a stronger sense of belonging. Sustainable design elements, such as native landscaping, energy-efficient lighting, and eco-friendly materials, will ensure long-term environmental resilience and operational efficiency. Enhancing the sense of place in Monterey Park's parks will promote community pride, encourage greater public engagement, and create more inclusive and inviting recreational spaces for all residents and visitors.
Medium	**Utilize Reclaimed Water:** Prioritize the use of reclaimed water, where available, for the irrigation of public landscapes, parks, and open spaces by expanding and utilizing the purple pipe infrastructure.	Using reclaimed water for landscaping supports the City's sustainability goals by conserving potable water, reducing environmental impact, and lowering long-term maintenance costs. Expanding purple pipe infrastructure aligns with regional water conservation efforts and enhances the City's resilience to drought conditions.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Community Development Department		Community Engagement	★							
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Community Participation Comm. - Local Artists		Park Planning & Best Practices								
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Commission on Aging - Public Works Department		Community Engagement	★				✚	♥		
Community Development Department	- Recreation and Community Services Department - Local Businesses		Park Planning & Best Practices					✚			
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Local Artists		Park Planning & Best Practices	★							
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department - Water Department		Park Planning & Best Practices	★							

PROPOSED POLICIES

Priority Level	Policy Name & Statement	Policy Rationale
Medium	**Park Cleanliness Campaign:** Develop an outreach camapign to engage the community in maintaining Monterey Park's parks by fostering a shared responsibility for cleanliness. The campaign will include the installation of educational signage in parks, encouraging proper waste disposal, responsible pet ownership, and cigarette butt disposal. Signage will be multilingual to ensure accessibility. The Monterey Park GoMPK app will be promoted to allow park users to report cleanliness issues and areas needing maintenance, with signage throughout the parks providing easy access to the app. Additionally, the city will encourage community clean-up programs, inviting residents to volunteer and take an active role in keeping parks clean.	This policy recognizes the importance of engaging the community in maintaining park cleanliness. By educating park users on their shared responsibility and promoting tools like the GoMPK app, the city empowers residents to help keep parks clean and report issues in real-time. Community clean-up programs further involve residents, building a sense of ownership and pride in public spaces. Partner with volunteers, nonprofits, and City-supported organizations (such as the Woman's Club) to host an annual park cleanup event. This approach will lead to cleaner, safer parks while strengthening community bonds and improving the overall park experience.
Medium	**Enhancing the Operation and Accessibility of Sports Facilities:** Enhance the operation and accessibility of its sports facilities by adjusting operational hours to better meet community needs, implementing an online reservation system, adding LED lighting, and strengthening collaboration with local coaches and league organizers. The City will work to improve both the physical infrastructure of sports facilities and the clarity of programming to ensure equitable access and an improved experience for all users.	Modernizing the management of sports facilities will maximize their use and ensure they serve a wide range of community members. Improving the online reservation system will streamline access, reduce scheduling conflicts, and improve transparency for teams, leagues, and casual users. Adjusting operational hours based on demand will make facilities more accessible, while closer coordination with local coaches and league organizers will help align programming with community needs. Additionally, investing in physical improvements—such as better LED lighting, seating, and playing surfaces—will enhance safety and usability. By improving both infrastructure and operations, Monterey Park can create a more efficient, inclusive, and well-maintained sports facility network that supports active recreation for all.
Medium	**Support Organizations Advocating Urban Agriculture and Gardening:** Support access to gardening experiences and urban agriculture education through partnerships, while continuing to prioritize City park space for recreation and open space uses.	Gardening activities can offer meaningful opportunities for education, wellness, and community connection. While City parkland is not designated for gardening use, the City supports access to gardening experiences through partnerships with local organizations. For example, the City is developing an agreement with Mercy, an organization serving individuals with developmental disabilities, to host monthly gardening-related activities and classes on-site. These programs provide access to hands-on education and resources that support community interest in sustainable growing practices, without dedicating public park space for cultivation. This approach allows the City to encourage inclusive and educational gardening experiences while maintaining parks for broader public recreation and open space needs.
Low	**Language Access and Multicultural Programming:** Ensure signage, outreach materials, and programs are available in the City's primary languages (English, Spanish, and Chinese) to reflect the community's diversity.	Monterey Park's diverse population requires engagement strategies that meet residents where they are. Multilingual signage, culturally relevant programming, and diverse outreach efforts will help ensure all residents feel welcome and informed about park services. This aligns with the City's Language Access Policy and strengthens community cohesion.
Low	**Youth Engagement Initiative:** Engage Youth members from the Community Participation Commission, Environmental Commission, and Junior Friends of the Library, collectively functioning as a Youth Advisory Council to guide park programming, ensuring younger residents have a voice in shaping public spaces.	Engaging youth in park planning and programming creates opportunities for leadership development while ensuring parks are designed to meet the needs of younger generations. A youth advisory council can provide valuable insights on play spaces, social gathering areas, and recreation programs. Working with school districts to offer students volunteer hours and leadership opportunities could incentivize participation.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations - Park Advocacy Groups	✓	Community Engagement	★	●		✓	+	♥	☺	🎓
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Recreation & Parks Commission	✓	Park Planning & Best Practices	★			✓	+	♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Development Department - Community Based Organizations - Public Works Department		Community Engagement	★		●		+	♥	☺	🎓
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Public Works Department		Park Planning & Best Practices					+	♥	☺	🎓
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Participation Commission - Library Department - School Districts	✓	Park Planning & Best Practices					+		☺	🎓

PROPOSED POLICIES

Priority Level	Policy Name & Statement	Policy Rationale
Low	**Ongoing Park Evaluations:** Conduct a comprehensive park audit every two years to assess the condition, accessibility, and overall functionality of park facilities and amenities. This audit will be used to inform ongoing maintenance, upgrades, and improvements to meet the needs of the community. The citywide goal should be to increase these scores by 2035 by 50%.	Regular park audits ensure that facilities remain safe, well-maintained, and responsive to the evolving needs of the community. By conducting these audits every two years, the City will be able to proactively identify areas requiring attention, track the effectiveness of previous upgrades, and prioritize resources for improvements. This ongoing evaluation will support the City's commitment to providing high-quality recreational spaces that are accessible, safe, and enjoyable for all residents. Additionally, a regular audit process helps align park management with community expectations and allows for informed decision-making regarding future park development.
Low	**Update Joint Use Agreements with Schools:** Conduct a comprehensive study and reevaluation of its Joint Use Agreements with local school districts to assess maintenance responsibilities, facility upkeep, and best practices for shared use. This review will ensure that agreements remain equitable, sustainable, and aligned with community needs, while fostering stronger partnerships between the City and school districts.	Joint use facilities play a vital role in expanding recreational opportunities for residents, yet challenges related to maintenance responsibilities, funding allocations, and facility conditions can impact their effectiveness. City staff have identified the need to reassess these agreements to ensure that expectations for upkeep and cost-sharing are clearly defined and aligned with best practices. By conducting a thorough evaluation, Monterey Park can identify opportunities to improve facility conditions, streamline maintenance responsibilities, and enhance public access while strengthening collaboration with school districts. This effort will help maximize the long-term benefits of shared resources and ensure that joint use facilities continue to serve the community effectively.
Low	**Explore Strategies to Increase Open Space Requirements and Incentives for Multifamily Developments:** Study potential alternatives to increasing zoning requirements for open space in multifamily developments to ensure residents have adequate access to private and shared green spaces, reducing the burden on public parks and open spaces. This can include open space requirements thare are percentage-based as opposed to requirements that are based on square footage. Additionally, the City can explore expanding the definiton of "open space" to include non-traditional forms of open space such as rooftop gardens, community centers, community gardens, playgrounds, parkway gardens, green alleys, and public plazas.	With limited opportunities for new park development in Monterey Park and increasing demand for recreational space, private open spaces in multifamily housing can help alleviate pressure on public parks. Requiring additional open space within new developments—such as courtyards, rooftop gardens, or shared recreation areas—ensures that residents, particularly those in higher-density housing, have immediate access to green space. This policy aligns with best practices in urban planning and can enhance both livability and long-term sustainability in the city.
Low	**Preserve Views in Park Design:** The City of Monterey Park shall prioritize the preservation of scenic views and vistas in park planning, design, and development whenever feasible. Future park improvements, tree plantings, and facility placements should consider sightlines to natural landscapes, city landmarks, and open space features to enhance the recreational and aesthetic experience for residents.	Preserving scenic views contributes to the community's quality of life by fostering a stronger connection to nature and the surrounding environment. Monterey Park's topography offers unique vantage points that provide visual relief in an increasingly urbanized setting. Ensuring that park improvements are designed with consideration for sightlines enhances the user experience, promotes mental well-being, and aligns with community desires for visually appealing and accessible public spaces. Thoughtful planning can balance tree canopy expansion with the protection of key views, creating parks that are both shaded and visually engaging.
Low	**Integrate Health-Oriented Design in Park Planning:** Prioritize health-focused planning and design in all park developments and improvements to support the physical, mental, and public health of residents. This includes incorporating active recreation amenities such as walking and biking trails, fitness stations, and sports courts; integrating passive wellness spaces such as meditation areas, therapeutic gardens, and shade structures; and ensuring access to clean drinking water, proper sanitation, and air-quality improvements. The City will also explore partnerships with health organizations to promote wellness programs within parks.	Parks play a critical role in community health by providing spaces for physical activity, stress relief, and social interaction. Thoughtful park design can encourage active lifestyles, reduce the risk of chronic diseases, and improve mental well-being. Additionally, enhancing public health infrastructure—such as clean water access and safe, shaded areas—helps create a more resilient and health-conscious community. By integrating health considerations into park planning, the City can ensure that parks serve as vital community resources for wellness and quality of life.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Neighborhood Groups - CBOs - Parks Adv. Groups - Recreation & Parks Commission	✓	Community Engagement	★			✓				
Recreation and Community Services Department	- School Districts		Park Planning & Best Practices					✚			
Community Development Department	- Recreation and Community Services Department		Community Engagement								
Recreation and Community Services Department	N/A		Park Planning & Best Practices				✓				
Recreation and Community Services Department	N/A		Park Planning & Best Practices	★				✚		☻	🎓

PROPOSED POLICIES

Priority Level	Policy Name & Statement	Policy Rationale
Low	**Expanding Collaborative Grant Opportunities:** The City will actively pursue grants in partnership with nonprofits and community groups to secure diverse funding streams for park improvements and recreational programs.	Leveraging grant opportunities can provide supplemental funding for park enhancements without relying solely on City resources. Partnerships with nonprofits and local organizations will increase access to funding while fostering community collaboration and investment.
Low	**Strengthening Partnerships with Major Sports Organizations:** Monterey Park will seek expanded partnerships with professional sports organizations such as the NBA and MLB to provide funding, equipment, and engagement programs for youth and community recreation.	Collaborating with major sports organizations can introduce new recreational opportunities, funding for facility upgrades, and sports programming that benefit the local community. These partnerships can also enhance youth development through mentorship and athletic training programs.
Low	**Establishing a Park Dedication and Sponsorship Program:** Develop a park dedication and sponsorship program that allows individuals, families, and businesses to fund amenities such as benches, playgrounds, and facilities in honor of community members.	A sponsorship program provides a meaningful way for residents to contribute to park enhancements while honoring loved ones or supporting community spaces. This approach creates a sustainable funding source for park amenities and fosters a sense of local ownership and pride in Monterey Park's public spaces.
Low	**Expand Urban Tree Canopy and Native Plantings:** Aim to enhance the Monterey Park urban tree canopy and natural landscaping by planting at least 100 new trees over the next 10 years, prioritizing shade-providing species in parks, native plants for biodiversity, and strategic plantings to address community concerns. This effort will focus on increasing shaded areas in parks, discouraging unwanted activities in certain locations, and supporting local ecosystems with California-native species.	Expanding the city's tree canopy will provide critical shade, reduce air pollution, and improve public health outcomes. Strategic tree planting in parks and along streets will help lower temperatures and reduce heat-related risks, particularly in underserved neighborhoods with limited greenery. The community has expressed a strong desire for more shaded areas in parks, especially through the addition of large, shade-providing trees such as oaks. Increasing tree cover will improve comfort for park users, mitigate urban heat, and enhance park aesthetics. Additionally, concerns about certain activities, such as gambling and smoking at Sierra Vista Park, suggest a need for strategic planting of shorter trees and shrubs to deter such behavior while maintaining visibility and safety. Beyond shade and safety, the City aims to support local biodiversity by incorporating more California native plants, including milkweed, to encourage butterfly populations and other pollinators. Requests for added greenery, such as bushes along Sierra Vista Park and residential streets, highlight the community's interest in enhancing natural beauty while improving environmental sustainability. By setting a clear tree-planting goal and incorporating native plantings, Monterey Park can create healthier, more inviting public spaces that align with community priorities and long-term ecological resilience.
Low	**Themed Playground Network:** Continue to develop a network of themed playgrounds across the city, encouraging young families to explore different parks and their unique play experiences. The City will inspire children and caregivers to visit multiple locations while discovering other park amenities and recreational opportunities. Create a graphic playground passport, gameified as a scavenger hunt, and to be made accessible through the GoMPK app and with a QR code.	Themed playgrounds provide unique, engaging play spaces that promote physical activity, creativity, and social interaction. A network of distinct themes—such as nature, space, or cultural heritage—will encourage families to explore parks beyond their usual visits. This initiative will increase park visitation, promote active lifestyles, and enhance awareness of Monterey Park's recreational offerings, fostering stronger community connections to local green spaces.

Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations - Park Advocacy Groups	✓	Community Engagement	★			✓				★
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Corporations and Large Organizations	✓	Community Engagement	★			✓				
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Local Businesses - Neighborhood Groups - Community-Based Organizations	✓	Community Engagement	★			✓				★
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Community Development Department - Public Works Department	✓	Community Engagement			★	✓		♥		
Recreation and Community Services Department	- Neighborhood Groups	✓	Community Engagement	★							★

PROPOSED POLICIES

Priority Level	Policy Name & Statement	Policy Rationale
Low	**Update Quimby Fees to Support Park Development:** Conduct a comprehensive review and update of the City of Monterey Park's Quimby Act and other development impact fees fees to ensure they reflect current land values and adequately support park acquisition and improvements. This update will align with Section 66477 of the Government Code, which grants local jurisdictions the authority to require parkland dedication or in-lieu fees from new developments.	As Monterey Park continues to grow, maintaining adequate parkland and recreational facilities is essential for community well-being. The current Quimby fees may not fully account for rising land costs and the increasing demand for quality open spaces. Updating these fees will help fund park expansion, upgrades, and maintenance, ensuring that new developments contribute equitably to the city's recreational infrastructure. A thorough assessment will evaluate fee structures in comparable cities, legal considerations, and potential impacts on development to create a balanced approach that supports both growth and park accessibility for all residents.
Low	**Site Acquistion for Parks:** Explore opportunities to acquire private property for public use to expand available space for parks, recreation, and community amenities. This effort will prioritize areas with limited open space and underserved neighborhoods to enhance equitable access to public facilities. Focus park development efforts in park-poor areas, particularly in older parts of the city that were not originally designed to accommodate dense populations and lack sufficient green space.	As Monterey Park faces constraints on available land for new parks and recreational spaces, acquiring private property presents a potential solution for increasing public amenities. However, this approach comes with challenges, including high land acquisition costs, limited availability of suitable parcels, and potential community concerns regarding land use changes. Additionally, securing funding through grants, partnerships, or city resources will be essential for feasibility. The City must carefully evaluate opportunities based on location, community benefit, and financial sustainability to ensure that any acquisition aligns with long-term planning goals and maximizes public value.
Low	**Monterey Park Golf Club Partnership:** Pursue a partnership with the Monterey Park Golf Club to explore the feasibility of joint programming and joint development opportunities that enhance public access, community benefits, and recreational offerings.	Collaborating with the Monterey Park Golf Club offers a unique opportunity to expand recreational programming and explore shared development strategies that serve broader community needs. A joint approach may improve land use efficiency, create new amenities, and foster long-term partnerships that support health, wellness, and inclusivity in Monterey Park.

	Responsible Party	Partner Parties	People Powered?	Primary Source	Upgrades	Safety	Sustainability	Quality	Health	Equity	Culture	Education
	Community Development Department	- Recreation and Community Services Department		Park Planning & Best Practices	★					♥		
	Community Development Department	- Recreation and Community Services Department - Property Owners	✓	Community Engagement	★					♥		
	Community Development Department	- Recreation and Community Services Department - Property Owners		Park Planning & Best Practices				✓				

FUNDING RESOURCES



In today's evolving funding landscape, Monterey Park must embrace a multi-faceted approach to secure sustainable resources for parks, maintenance, and recreational programming. While traditional public funding sources—such as general funds, federal infrastructure dollars, and competitive state grants—remain foundational, they are often stretched thin. According to the Trust for Public Land and other park equity advocates, there has been a notable shift toward philanthropic giving, private partnerships, and collaborative funding models to meet the rising demand for high-quality, accessible green spaces. Climate change, public health challenges, and the increasing recognition of parks as essential infrastructure are also driving new opportunities through environmental, health, and resilience-focused funding streams.

Given these complexities, a capital stack approach is essential—one that blends diverse funding sources to create a resilient financial foundation for project implementation. Monterey Park can combine Measure A funds, California Department of Parks and Recreation grants, federal programs like the Highway Safety Improvement Program, and philanthropic support from foundations focused on health equity and climate justice. Layering these with private donations, nonprofit partnerships, and even revenue from social enterprise models or sponsorships can fill critical gaps, especially for maintenance and long-term operations. The City can also benefit from aligning project proposals with broader state and federal goals such as active transportation, climate resilience, and environmental justice to strengthen competitiveness for funding.

Equally important is the role of the community in shaping and supporting Monterey Park's park system. Community-driven planning not only results in more meaningful and responsive park spaces, but it also builds momentum for innovative funding models like participatory budgeting, neighborhood improvement districts, or local fundraising campaigns. Community ownership fosters stewardship and helps ensure the long-term success of parks and recreational programs. As this plan is implemented, engaging residents as co-investors—not just beneficiaries—will be key to building a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable park system that reflects Monterey Park's diverse values and future vision.

Traditional Funding Sources

The table below outlines a range of potential funding sources that may be pursued to support specific park-related projects, depending on their scope and eligibility. These funding opportunities include a mix of federal, state, and local programs, with a significant portion offered through state-administered grant programs. These grants can support a variety of project types, including park planning and design, infrastructure improvements, programming, and trail development. Identifying and applying for these funding sources can help leverage external resources to advance community goals related to parks, open space, and recreation.

Type	Funding Name	Source	Purpose/Description	Funding Cycle	Infrastructure	Planning	Program	Trail	Project Examples
Federal Program	Highway Safety Improvement Program	Federal Highway Administration / Caltrans	Funds work on public roads, bike/ped pathways, and trails to improve safety.	Every 1 to 2 years	X		X		Install hybrid pedestrian signals at trail crossings; Install RRFBs near parks, trails, and schools
Federal Program	Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program	U.S. Department of Transportation	Grants to mitigate harm from transportation infrastructure: displacement, pollution, degraded health, etc.	Annual (through 2026)	X	X	X		Study/removal of transportation barriers; Create linear parks/ trails
State Program	Los Angeles County Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches (Measure A)	Los Angeles County	Funding derived from property tax for park improvements and planning.	Annual	X	X			Park infrastructure projects; Park planning and design projects
State Program	Arts in California Parks: Local Parks Grant Program	California Department of Parks and Recreation / Parks California	Funds projects to enhance cultural history and art programming in parks.	Annual	X	X	X	X	Community events; Art programming; Permanent/ temporary art installations
State Program	Habitat Conservation Fund Program	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Funds wildlife and trail conservation projects, including public education and amenities.	Annual	X	X	X		Build/rehabilitate trails; Install seating/lighting along trails; Educational programs
State Program	Land and Water Conservation Fund	National Park Service / California Department of Parks and Recreation	Funds acquisition/development of land for outdoor recreation.	Annual	X	X			Land acquisition for parks, trails, or wildlife corridors
State Program	Outdoor Equity Grants Program	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Supports outdoor education and recreation in underserved communities.	Annual		X			Community nature trips; Environmental education programs

Type	Funding Name	Source	Purpose/Description	Funding Cycle	Infrastructure	Planning	Program	Trail	Project Examples
State Program	Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program	National Park Service / California Department of Parks and Recreation	Funds new parks and renovations in underserved urban areas.	Annual	X	X			Land acquisition; Recreation feature development
State Program	Recreational Trails Program	U.S. Department of Transportation / Federal Highway Administration / California Department of Parks and Recreation	Funds development and maintenance of recreational trails and facilities.	Annual	X	X			Land acquisition; Trail rehabilitation; Trail construction; Maintenance
State Program	Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program	California Department of Parks and Recreation	Funds to create new parks and recreation in critically underserved communities across the state. Project selection is based on several aspects, including need-based criteria, such as critical lack of park space, significant poverty, community challenges, and more.	Annual	X			X	Land acquisition; Rehabilitation of existing or development of new recreation features, such as, an aquatic center, athletic fields, amphitheater, community gardens, dog parks, open space, trails, skate parks, public art, picnic areas, etc.
State Program	Wildlife Conservation Board Grants	Wildlife Conservation Board	Funds for habitat acquisition, conservation, and restoration, as well as development of compatible public access facilities. Project benefits should include one or more of the following: protected biodiversity, increased climate resilience, enhanced public access, conserved/enhanced working landscapes, conserved/ enhanced water-related projects, and/or support of the State Wildlife Action Plan.	Ongoing	X	X		X	Open-space corridors or trail linkages; Publicly accessible hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and other wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities; Climate adaptation and resilience projects; Habitat restoration
State Program	Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program	CAL FIRE	Funds for planting, protection, and management of urban trees across California. It aims to enhance the long-term benefits of urban forests—such as shade, air quality, and community well-being—majorly prioritizing projects in disadvantaged or low-income neighborhoods .	Annual	X	X	X		Tree planting & green infrastructure; management & inventory of the urban forest, and neighborhood forest acquisition

Type	Funding Name	Source	Purpose/Description	Funding Cycle	Infrastructure	Planning	Program	Trail	Project Examples
Philanthropy	Energize the Environment Grant Program	Quadratec	Quadratec offers small one-time grants for projects that promote environmental connection, responsibility, and/or stewardship.	Annual		X			Trail building or restoration projects, Park beautification events, Environmental education projects, Youth educational engagement events
Philanthropy	Fruit Trees For Your Community	The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation	The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation donates fruit orchards where the harvest will best serve communities for generations, at places such as community gardens, public schools, city/state parks, low-income neighborhoods, Native American reservations, and other high impact areas.	Ongoing	X				Planting of high-quality fruit trees and shrubs at a local park
Philanthropy	Humanities Projects Grants	National Endowment for Humanities	The National Endowment for Humanities offers a range of different grant programs on an ongoing basis. Different grant programs provide funding for a variety of outputs, including but not limited to infrastructure, equipment, programming, curriculum, research, media, and more.	Ongoing	X	X	X		Art or science exhibitions, Community discussions, Films and documentaries, Climate adaptation planning, Cultural preservation
Philanthropy	PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program	PeopleForBikes	The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program supports bicycle infrastructure projects and targeted initiatives that make it easier and safer for people of all ages and abilities to ride.	Annual	X		X		Bike paths, lanes, trails and bridges, Mountain bike facilities, Bike parks and pump tracks, BMX facilities, End-of-trip facilities such as bike racks, bike parking, bike repair stations and bike storage
Philanthropy	Rails to Trails Grant Program	Rails to Trails	Rails to Trails provides funding to organizations and local agencies that are working to develop and connect equitable trail networks.	Annual	X	X	X	X	Rail-trail, Greenway, Multi-use trail, Shared-use path

Type	Funding Name	Source	Purpose/Description	Funding Cycle	Infrastructure	Planning	Program	Trail	Project Examples
Philanthropy	The Skatepark Project Grants	The Skatepark Project	The Skatepark Project offers grants to help underserved communities create safe and inclusive public skateparks for youth.	Annual	X				New Skatepark Construction, New Skate Spot Construction, Skateable Art Sculptures, Active City Space Conversion (legalizing skateboarding in shared spaces), Accessibility Improvements/ Repairs
Philanthropy	The Soccer Fund	U.S. Soccer Foundation	The Soccer Fund provides funding for mini-pitch and sports lighting projects. Mini-pitches are ideal for urban areas and other communities where finding a safe place to play can be difficult. These small, customized, hard-court surfaces are perfectly suited for organized soccer programs and pick-up games.	Ongoing	X				Mini-pitch project, Soccer lighting project
Philanthropy	USTA Facility Funding Grant Program	United States Tennis Association	The United States Tennis Association offers grants to upgrade existing and build new tennis facilities.	Ongoing	X				Construction of new tennis facility, Resurfacing of existing tennis court, Tennis court amenity improvements
	Youth Development Foundation	MLB/MLBPA	MLB-MLBPA Youth Development Foundation (YDF) is a joint initiative by MLB and MLBPA to support efforts that focus on improving the caliber, effectiveness and availability of amateur baseball and softball programs across the United States and internationally.	Ongoing	X		X		Field lighting, renovations, and construction, Equipment and/ or fees for baseball and softball programs, Programs to promote baseball and softball

Funding Tools

In addition to the funding programs provided in the previous tables, there are also many traditional funding and financing tools available to local governments that may be used to advance parks and recreation projects.

These funding and financing tools include, but are not limited to:

- Community Facilities District
- Easement Agreements/Rules
- Equipment Rental Fees
- Facilities Benefit Assessment District
- Facility Use Permit Fees
- Recreation Service Fees
- Food and Beverage Tax
- General Fund Allocation
- General Obligation Bonds
- Infrastructure Financing District
- In-Lieu Fees
- Intergovernmental Agreements
- Lease Revenues
- Mello Roos District
- Park Impact Fees
- Pouring Rights Agreements
- Private Development Agreements
- Residential Park Improvement Fees
- Revenue Bond Revenues
- Sales Tax Revenues
- Surplus Real Estate Sale Revenues
- Traffic Impact Fees
- Transient Occupancy Tax Revenues
- Utility Taxes
- Wastewater Fund Reserves
- Business Improvement District
- Maintenance Assessment District
- Property-Based Improvement District
- Landscape Maintenance District
- Targeted Fundraising Activities
- Special Habitat Conservation Programs
- Special Parks and Recreation Bond Revenues





CONCLUSION

The GROW Monterey Park: Park System Master Plan is more than just a document—it is a vision for the future of parks, open spaces, and recreation in our community. Rooted in extensive research, community engagement, and a deep understanding of local needs, this Plan lays out a path forward through its key components: Introduction, Context, Community, Opportunities, and Implementation. It identifies challenges, celebrates successes, and provides a clear framework to expand access, enhance facilities, and create a more vibrant and connected park system for all.

However, a Plan alone does not create change—its success depends on the commitment of City leadership, community partners, and, most importantly, the park-goers who bring these spaces to life. Over the next ten years, GROW Monterey Park will serve as a guide to ensure that every decision about parks, recreation, and green spaces aligns with the needs of the people who use them. It is a call to action for policymakers, local organizations, and residents to work together in stewarding and strengthening our parks to foster a healthier, more inclusive, and more sustainable future.

As we look ahead, the opportunity is ours to transform this vision into reality. By prioritizing thoughtful investment, strategic partnerships, and continuous community engagement, Monterey Park can cultivate a park system that not only meets today's needs but also enriches the lives of future generations. Parks are more than just spaces—they are the heart of a community, places where people connect, play, and thrive. Now, with this Plan as our foundation, it is up to all of us to GROW Monterey Park into the best version of itself.

The next decade will bring new challenges and opportunities, but with a shared commitment to this Plan, Monterey Park can continue to evolve as a city that values its parks and open spaces as essential to community well-being. With every new tree planted, every playground revitalized, and every program introduced, we reaffirm our dedication to creating a more accessible, resilient, and dynamic park system for all. The work begins now, and together, we will ensure that Monterey Park's parks remain a source of pride, joy, and connection for generations to come.




CITY OF MONTEREY PARK
CALIFORNIA