



Date: December 21, 2015
To: Patrick H. West, City Manager *T.H.W.*
From: Stephen P. Scott, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine *S.P.S.*
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment – “We All Need Parks”

On February 3, 2015, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved a plan to produce a Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment (Assessment) that will analyze current public parks, open space, cultural and recreational assets and needs, including all 88 cities, State and local agencies and non-profit organizations in the County.

The goals of the Assessment are to conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of park, infrastructure, and recreational needs and opportunities while building a constituency of support; establish a list of priority projects; and outline costs for future project opportunities. The steps of the Assessment include:

1. Establishing Planning Areas
2. Conducting Countywide inventory of recreational assets and existing infrastructure needs
3. Developing project priorities through City and community engagement
4. Preparation of a summary report

Attachment A is the County's Fact Sheet describing the Assessment.

The County has been divided into 189 Planning Areas, of roughly equal population, for the purpose of gathering comparable information throughout the County. The City of Long Beach has been divided into five Planning Areas: North, East, South, West, and Central. The County's Planning Areas do not coincide directly with the City's nine Council Districts, therefore, several Council Districts may be represented by multiple Planning Areas. Attachment B shows the Planning Areas Countywide.

The Assessment is on an aggressive timeline, with completion scheduled for June 2016. The Assessment is a County effort, and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) is the lead on the Assessment for the City of Long Beach, and is required to follow the County's process.

PRM staff created inventories of park amenities and their conditions for the five Long Beach planning areas. This amenities information, along with park location and acreage, was uploaded to the Assessment's web portal in September 2015. The Assessment included regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks,

pocket parks, and tot lots. Recreational facilities were inventoried including (but not limited to) swimming pools, recreation centers, gyms, and skate parks. School recreation facilities with joint use agreements were also included, as were trail corridors along flood control channels and other public trail rights-of-way outside of parks. Golf courses, cemeteries, and beaches were not included.

The County's process mandates that an outreach workshop must be held by the City in each Planning Area and the County has developed a Facilitator Toolkit to ensure a consistent feedback process across all Planning Areas. Training in the use of the Toolkit was provided and a stipend of \$2,500 per Planning Area is available to defray event costs. The purpose of each outreach workshop is to develop a list of potential park projects within the Planning Area and conduct a voting exercise to prioritize those projects.

Five community outreach workshops will be held in January 2016, with one meeting scheduled in each Planning Area. The workshop schedule below will be posted on the City's Parks website (lbparks.org) and on the County's website (LACountyParkNeeds.org), which has a tool where community members can enter their address and be shown the closest meeting to their residence. The County's website also accepts online feedback, for residents who are unable to attend the community workshops. Flyers will also be distributed to Council offices, City Hall, parks, and libraries, messages will be distributed via LinkLB, and a press release will be distributed. Additionally, information will be posted to social media and made available to other local online outlets and the Neighborhood Services distribution list. (Attachment C shows the Planning Areas in the City overlaid on the Council Districts, along with the locations of the outreach events).

Community Outreach Workshop Schedule

Location	Address	Day	Date	Planning Area	Council District
Veterans Park	101 E. 28 th St.	Wed	1/6/2016	West	1,6,7
Miller Family Health Education Center	3820 Cherry Ave.	Mon	1/11/2016	Central	5,7,8
Houghton Park	6301 Myrtle Ave.	Thu	1/14/2016	North	8,9
Whaley Park	5620 Atherton St.	Mon	1/25/2016	East	3,4,5
Bixby Park	130 Cherry Ave.	Thu	1/21/2016	South	1,2,3,4

Following the outreach workshops, PRM staff will meet with Councilmembers individually for their input on the prioritized project lists. The final lists will be agendized for City Council in February 2016 and will be submitted to the County by the end of February 2016 deadline. It is the City's understanding from the

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County that each list is not intended to capture all priority projects of a given Planning Area, and as a result, the lists will not limit projects for future funding.

Once all priority lists are provided to the County, the rough order of magnitude total costs for future projects by Planning Area will be estimated based on land acquisition costs, park amenity costs, and existing infrastructure needs. A Summary Report will be prepared by the County and will include an executive summary, an introduction and description of the planning context, a description of existing conditions, the community outreach strategy, a list of future projects, and an appendix containing the full list of projects Countywide. The County list of prioritized park projects is intended to be used to identify future investment in parks Countywide.

For additional information, please contact Stephen P. Scott, Interim Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine at (562) 570-3170.

Attachments

Cc: Charles Parkin, City Attorney
Laura Doud, City Auditor
Patrick H. West, City Manager
Tom Modica, Assistant City Manager
Arturo Sanchez, Deputy City Manager
Jyl Marden, Assistant to the City Manager
Department Heads

Attachment A. Park Needs Assessment Fact Sheet

We all need PARKS



Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park & Recreation Needs Assessment

What is the Park Needs Assessment?

The County of Los Angeles is initiating a countywide assessment of the need for parks and recreation in both cities and unincorporated areas. The goal of the Park Needs Assessment is to engage all communities within the County in a collaborative process to gather data and input for future decision-making on parks and recreation. The Park Needs Assessment will increase our understanding of existing park and recreation assets, and help us to determine how to improve, expand, and make them more accessible. Specifically, the final report will determine Study Areas and will identify, prioritize, and outline costs for potential park projects within each Study Area.

Why complete an assessment?

- The assessment will result in a visionary list of projects and cost estimates, in order of priority, for each Study Area.
- It will identify future opportunities for parks and recreation throughout the County by Study Area.
- The Park Needs Assessment will assist cities and unincorporated areas in future park planning.
- The Park Needs Assessment may be used as a guide for potential development of future funding mechanisms.
- Results could also be used to leverage Federal and State resources, and guide local funding decisions.

Who will be involved?

- You! All communities within the County, including cities and unincorporated areas.
- A Steering Committee comprised of:
 - ✦ Supervisorial Districts
 - ✦ Councils of Government (COG)
 - ✦ Community-Based Organizations
 - ✦ Community Members
 - ✦ County Departments and Partnering Agencies
- Local agencies and community-based organizations will be trained to hold community engagement events in each Study Area to determine Park and Recreation needs and priorities.
- A Technical Advisory Committee will provide review of the GIS and mapping methodology.
- A Consultant Team led by PlaceWorks, with support from DakeLuna Consultants and David Taussig & Associates will facilitate the process and prepare the Park Needs Assessment.

How will study areas be determined?

- The Park Needs Assessment will be organized around Study Areas, which will be used to identify community-specific needs, and determine priority projects.
- The Steering Committee, with support from the consultant team, will develop criteria to identify Study Areas.

What standards will be used to determine need?

- The Steering Committee will establish a set of Park and Recreation standards to compare needs across the entire County.
- This set of standards will be used for the Park Needs Assessment, but is not intended to replace municipal Park and Recreation standards.

What will be included in the analysis?

- City and County parks including community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks and tot lots
- City and County recreational facilities including swimming pools, recreation centers, gyms, and skate parks
- Regional parks
- School recreation facilities with joint use agreements
- Trail corridors along flood control channels
- Separately owned public trail rights-of-way outside of parks

What will not be included in the analysis?

- Golf courses
- Cemeteries
- Plazas and public art installations
- Beaches
- Schools (except recreation facilities with joint use agreements)

When will the assessment occur?

- The Park Needs Assessment will be conducted and completed over 15 months, between March 2015 & May 2016.



For more information, contact:

Rita Robinson, Department of Parks and Recreation | rrobinson@parks.lacounty.gov | (213) 351-5198

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Clement Lau, Department of Parks and Recreation | clau@parks.lacounty.gov | (213) 351-5198

Visit: www.lacountyparkneeds.org

Attachment C. Long Beach Planning Areas, Council Districts, and Outreach Event Locations

Houghton Park
6301 Myrtle Avenue
6:30 PM
Thursday, January 14, 2016

Miller Family Health Education Center
3820 Cherry Avenue
6:30 PM
Monday, January 11, 2016

Whaley Park
5620 Atherton Street
6:30 PM
Monday, January 25, 2016

Veterans Park
101 E. 28th Street
6:30 PM
Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Bixby Park
130 Cherry Avenue
6:30 PM
Thursday, January 21, 2016

