WILLOW SPRINGS MISSION STATEMENT

Councilmember James Johnson, 7th District

To provide a regional park in the center of the urban core that:

1. Is a regional resource for residents of surrounding communities, including Signal Hill, to enjoy;

2. Provides open space and recreational opportunities to the underserved residents of North, Central, and West Long Beach;

3. Provides educational and interpretative opportunities, particularly for youth and students;

4. Restores wetlands and provides habitat for endangered, threatened, or otherwise precious species;

5. Is sustainable, both in minimizing water, energy, and other resources onsite, and by inspiring visitors to plant sustainable landscape themselves;

6. Is compatible with the ongoing uses on and surrounding the property;

7. Complements neighboring trail and open space plans, and is integrated with them;

8. Is financially feasible, both in its creation and ongoing maintenance;

9. Provides opportunities for exercise and encourages healthy lifestyles;

10. Improves water quality by capturing storm water and using natural processes to minimize the discharge of pollutants to the to the Los Angeles River and the Pacific Ocean;

11. Can be phased in its implementation, maximizing the opportunities for community participation and allowing for successive improvements over time; and

12. Preserves the land in perpetuity for future generation to enjoy.
CALIFORNIA GARDENS
MASTER PLAN SUMMARY REPORT
SEPTEMBER 24, 2012

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN PROCESS

On September 1, 2011, RJM Design Group, Inc. was contracted by the City of Long Beach, to provide professional workshop facilitation and planning services for the California Gardens Site.

The project team, consisting of the Office of City Council 7th District, City of Long Beach Parks Recreation and Marine representatives, and RJM Design Group, met first to review the approach and methodology. Data collection began to establish a comprehensive database through a review and analysis of available pertinent information provided by the client.

WORKSHOP #1

As part of the planning process, a workshop was held on Saturday, July 21, 2012, from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm in the EDCO Building. Seventy three (73) residents and community members attended the workshop. The workshop involved a series of exercises. First basic background information was provided and then all participated in the site awareness tour which allowed all the participants to experience the site in the same way.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION

After the site tour, participants were divided into eight (8) different working groups for the discussion process. The following is the summary consensus responses from the participants.

TOPIC 1a

What do you **like** best about the site?

- Topography/Varied Terrain
- History
- Habitat/Nature

TOPIC 1b

What do you **dislike** most about the site?

- Debris/Trash/Rubble
- Invasive Plants/Non-Native Plants
- Toxicity/Hazardous Material

TOPIC 2

What do you believe are the most important **issues** related to the development of the site?

- Funding/Income Source
- Toxicity of Soil/Contamination
- Restore/Preserve Habitat/Natural Resources

TOPIC 3

What **park amenities** would you like to see at California Gardens?

- Walkways/Trails/Accessible Paths
- Picnic/Shade Structures/Benches
- Nature Education/Visitor Center
- Restroom
GROUP CONCEPT PLANS

Each group was asked to take the consensus issues and improvements and utilize their creative energy to develop a concept plan for the site. Based upon participant input, (8) alternatives were prepared by the groups during the workshop.

Composite Analysis:
The composite plan is a combination of all the elements that came out of the group design charrette. Every element that is identified on each group plan is recorded in a matrix and then compared for similarities between the plans.

Consensus Planning:
The Diagrammatic Consensus Plan is a representation of the key ideas and concerns developed from the participants. The design team continued the planning effort by refining the consensus plan with an appropriate level of detail to accurately communicate the spatial relationships, program, and site elements in a Preliminary Conceptual Plan.
Preliminary Master Plan:
Once the Preliminary Master Plan was developed the design team presented it to participants during to establish consensus on major elements, function and arrangement.