

Parks and Recreation
Working Group #3 Summary

Please use this summary sheet to share some of the discussion and key takeaways from your group. On the second page, you will find a blank matrix to transfer your notes from the breakout activity. Thank you!

Summary of Activity 1 - Goal Refinement Notes:

Overall, the Parks and Recreation goal was well received. The group wanted to clarify a few terms such as equity, multi-benefit, proximity, and prioritize areas of need. The working group also wants the goal to define parks by their purpose and benefits, and not necessarily tie partnerships to the definition of parks. The group felt that the goal should remain in present tense to stress the importance of the current values we share as a City.

A Bountiful and Enriching Park System: *Abundant and accessible parks in close proximity to where people live and work are fundamental components to complete, healthy communities. Strong partnerships between public and non-governmental entities help design, develop, and maintain common spaces of respite that support physical and mental health, offer safe havens for families and children, and provide opportunities for creative solutions to adapt to a changing climate. Los Angeles is a city that provides access to existing parks by prioritizing new parks that serve the needs of the most underserved neighborhoods to encourage recreational opportunities for all communities.*

- **What were the itemized concerns that were expressed during the initial presentation and during the breakout groups?**
 - Include “equitable solutions” and prioritize DAC / underserved communities
 - Discussion about the possible structure of the goal statement
 - Define what parks are: park systems, differentiate parks from more general open space element concept, multi-benefit
 - How do we get there
 - Park use beyond recreational opportunities
 - Prioritize parks in high need areas
 - Providing quality park lands for all age groups
 - Providing safe parks
 - Unpacking ‘multi-benefit’
 - More than 1 use
 - Serving various groups
 - Environmental benefits such as treating storm water, recharging water in the park, energy
 - Public access
 - Wildlife habitat
 - Educational
 - Programming
 - Cultural
 - Unpacking ‘park layers’
 - Environmental, vegetation, cooling
 - Educational

- Cultural
- Active recreation – sports
- Economic – concessions
- Unpacking ‘equity’
 - At the end of this discussion, equity was defined as a combination of access and quality of amenities.
 - Incorporate Measure A park Equity Principles
 - Access: ease of access, location of access points, close proximity of parks
 - Use: multi-benefit
 - Metrics: discussion about what metrics are currently used and how they’re interpreted i.e. parks/capita. The group felt that the county did a great job defining park need.
 - Quality: types and condition of amenities. Do they meet the needs of the community? Youth? Seniors? Residents?
 - Size of parks
 - Land use issues: availability of land/space, zoning
 - Connections/connectivity
 - Distribution
 - Safety
 - Race

Summary of Activity 2 - “Area of Need” Matrix Notes:

Overall, the Working Group agreed with the placement of the items in this chart. The group had prioritized the following to “achieve”, respectively: Park Equity Gap, Community Involvement in Design and Programming, Stronger Partnerships between Government and Non-Governmental Organizations, Multiple Benefit Parks, Parks Proximal to Residences, Park Safety and Safe Routes for Park Users, Healthy Communities with Equitable & Measurable Health Outcomes, Community Based Amenities / Facilities, Ecological Benefits. These “Areas of Need” to achieve are something that should make their way into the goal.

- **What are the verbs needed to implement each “Area of Need”?**
 - N/A
- **Does it belong in multiple quadrants? If so which one? Explain.**
 - The group felt that this chart accurately captured most of the issues, Non-Native / Water Intensive Plants should be moved from avoid, to preserve and achieve.
- **Are there additional “Area of Need” that have not been identified?**
 - *See chart*

Summary of Worksheet Responses:

The group identified key areas of discussion through the initial exercise.

- **Does the “Area of Need” Matrix reflect the goal for this chapter of the Open Space Element?**
 - Yes, however clarification and incorporation on key terms such as multi-benefit, equity, and proximity were suggested.

- **What are the available resources the City can leverage to accomplish the goal and policies of this chapter?**
 - Measure A equity principles
 - Minneapolis Decision Making Tool for Equity.
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-109092.pdf>
 - LA County needs assessment metrics for equity
 - “Parks are open spaces for everybody”
 - Inter-city tourism in parks, “territorial-ness” is a roadblock to this
 - Park Acquisition
 - Acquire private lands. Preservation current land from development
 - Diverse vegetation
 - Eliminate plagues / disease of native plants by utilizing a diverse group of flora.
 - Street tress
 - These are comprehensive resources that serve multiple benefits
 - Storm management
 - Shade
 - Beautification
 - Park Safety
 - Patrols were emphasized during this working group
 - Having patrols or someone present in the parks is important to keeping parks safe
 - Patrols also have the dual effect of making parks seem unsafe / undesirable
 - What is the balance?
 - Be careful about language. Present political environment is sensitive to the word “policing” and “patrol/patrolling”
 - Parks need to be safe spaces for EVERYONE (undocumented, minorities, genders, ...)
 - Park safety happens through community engagement. Build parks that people want to go to.
 - \$\$\$ + Adaptive Programming
 - Do not “monetize” park experience
 - Create spaces for events and corporate sponsors
 - Partnerships are essential to park funding
 - Quimby land dedication
 - Parks need to be spaces for everyone. How do we get land dedications to reflect the needs of communities
 - Have developers create an outreach plan for approval by RAP?
- **What future resources can the City leverage to accomplish the goal and policies of this chapter?**
 - Flexible spaces
 - Equity definition will change over time, multi-benefit parks need to serve diverse populations
 - Aging population
 - What will LA look like in 2040?
 - Funding Transparency

- This was a question that remained unsolved by the group. Many bond programs require reporting on the use of funding, so this might just be a program within the general plan and not a policy
- Funding Acquisition is more important.

DRAFT

Revised “Area of Need” Matrix

		Do we currently <i>have</i> it?	
		No	Yes
Do we <i>want</i> it by 2040?	Yes	<p align="center">Achieve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diverse plant palette • Acquisition of private land / preservation from development • Community gardens / edible gardens • Existing / ongoing maintenance • Community based amenities / facilities that are responsive to that immediate vicinity / community • Funding transparency & availability • Ecological benefits: biodiversity, GHG reduction, smart water planning • Concessions to support parks operational needs / to support a quality experience. • Community involvement in design and programming to provide multiple opportunities to engage • Build individuals sense of ownership in parks • Park Safety is addressed through <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community involvement ○ Park ownership ○ Community Based amenities 	<p align="center">Preserve / Improve</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Native / water sipping plants
	No	<p align="center">Avoid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p align="center">Mitigate / Address</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentrification • Improve availability of safe spaces, immigration • Urban heat island • Lack of connectivity • Crime in parks • Prioritize public safety – understanding community context & relationship to police • Increase funding to organizations / entities that do programming at parks • Decrease “territorial –ness” approaches to park use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Access for all ○ Inter-city tourism