We all need PARKS

Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park Needs Assessment
Welcome

Russ Guiney, Director

Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation
Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Steering Committee Overview
- Project Overview

BREAK

- Service Standards Overview and Discussion
- Planning Areas Overview and Discussion
- Public Comment
- Adjournment
Introductions
Introductions: Steering Committee Composition

- Community-Based Organizations
- Community-at-Large
- Supervisorial District Staff
- Councils of Government (COGs)

County Departments:
- Parks and Recreation
- Public Health
- Community & Senior Services
- Chief Executive Office

Partnering Agencies:
- Regional Parks and Open Space District
- First Five LA
- Youth Conservation Corps
Introductions: PlaceWorks

- Master Plan for Sustainable Parks and Recreation and Trail Assessment and Mapping for the Department of Parks and Recreation
- General Plan Program EIR for the Department of Regional Planning
Introductions: PlaceWorks

- **David Early**, AICP, LEED ND, Principal
  - Lead Steering Committee Facilitator

- **Marissa Aho**, AICP, Senior Associate
  - Project Manager

- **C.C. LaGrange**, ASLA, Associate
  - Assistant Project Manager
Introductions:
Department of Parks and Recreation

- **Russ Guiney**, Director
- **Norma E. Garcia**, Deputy Director
- **Rita Robinson**, Project Director
- **Adrian Garcia**, Project Manager
Contact Information

Rita Robinson

or

Adrian Garcia

(213) 351-5198
Introductions

What is your favorite park in Los Angeles County? Why?
Steering Committee Overview
Steering Committee Overview

- Guiding Principles
  - Purpose and Role
  - Conduct
  - Expectations
  - Decision-Making
  - Brown Act
Steering Committee: Guiding Principles – Purpose and Role

Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment

- Board of Supervisors
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Outreach Partners
- Steering Committee

County of Los Angeles
Department of Parks and Recreation

PlaceWorks

Key Facilitators/Project Management
Parks Needs Assessment
GIS/Mapping

DakeLuna Consultants
Outreach, Engagement and Training

David Taussig & Associates
Economics, Real Estate Acquisition

GreenInfo Network
Online GIS Mapping
Steering Committee: Guiding Principles

Purpose and Role – Four Main Functions

- Provide feedback and direction, with the goal of creating a document that is responsive to community goals, conditions and aspirations
- Make recommendations at key project milestones
- Communicate information about the Park Needs Assessment to county residents and to encourage participation in the process
- Review the final Park Needs Assessment Report
Steering Committee: Guiding Principles

Purpose and Role – Major Tasks

- Discuss Key Issues and Concerns
- Provide Guidance on Park and Recreation Metrics
- Provide Input to Coordinate Data Acquisition
- Review Planning Areas
- Review Inventory Web Portal/Map Collaborator
- Review Community Engagement
- Assist in Prioritization of Future Projects
- Review Final Report
Steering Committee: Guiding Principles

**Conduct**

- Constructive dialogue
- Mutual respect
- Commitment to collaboration
Steering Committee: Guiding Principles

Expectations

- Participation
- Communication
- Information Sharing
Steering Committee: Guiding Principles

Decision-Making

- Problem Solving Approach
- Consensus-Oriented Decision Making
- Absence when Decisions are Made
Steering Committee: Guiding Principles

- **Ralph M. Brown Act**
  - Steering Committee meetings are subject to the Brown Act, which sets standards for public notice as to meeting time, date, and location, as well as items to be discussed and opportunities for public comment.
  - Public comment will be limited to 15 minutes total at the end of each Steering Committee meeting.
  - The Brown Act prohibits discussion of committee business by a majority outside of committee meetings.

- **Email Communication**

- **Conflicts of Interest**
Steering Committee: Meeting Schedule

- **Meeting #2: Thursday, June 4, 2015**
  Draft Planning Areas Review

- **Meeting #3: Thursday, July 9, 2015**
  Inventory Web Portal/Map Collaborator Review

- **Meeting #4: Thursday, October 29, 2015**
  Existing Conditions Analysis Review; Community Engagement Review

- **Meeting #5: January 2016**
  Draft Future Projects Review

- **Meeting #6: February 2016**
 Prioritization of Projects

- **Meeting #7: May 2016**
  Administrative Draft Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment Review
Project Overview
Project Overview

- Project Goals
- Tasks
- Timeline
Project Overview: Goals

- Conduct a comprehensive needs assessment of the park, infrastructure and recreational needs and opportunities
- Establish a transparent and best practices approach
- Engage the County, Cities and Communities in a collaborative and shared process
- Gather data and information for future decision-making
- Building a constituency of support and understanding of the park, infrastructure and recreational needs and opportunities
- Establish a list of priority projects
- Outline costs for future project opportunities
Project Overview: Tasks

- Planning Areas
- Inventory of Countywide Recreational Assets and Existing Infrastructure Needs
- Existing Conditions Analysis and Baseline Establishment
- Land Inventory and Opportunity Analysis
- Community Engagement
- Project Prioritization
- Summary Report
Determine geographic boundaries to use in identifying priority projects by community

Based initially on:

- County Park Planning Areas
- Cities’ Planning Areas
Project Overview: Inventory of Recreational Assets and Existing Infrastructure Needs

TASK C | Beginning in May | Approx. 18 weeks

- Review existing tools and documents
- Use GreenInfo Network’s “California Protected Areas Database” (CPAD) as starting point
- Web portal/map collaborator to collect additional information
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 right-of-way outside of parks
What will not be included in the analysis:

- Golf courses
- Cemeteries
- Plazas and public art installations
- Beaches
- Schools (except recreational facilities with joint use agreements)
Project Overview: Existing Conditions Analysis & Baseline Establishment

TASK D | Beginning in July | Approx. 14 weeks

- Community Profiles

- Spatial need analyses (park and recreation metrics, buffer and network analysis, inventory toolkit responses, Census data)

- Baseline of park acreage and spatial needs (given population, access, demographics, and tree canopy coverage)
Project Overview: Land Inventory and Opportunity Analysis

TASK E | Beginning in September | Approx. 14 weeks

Data Sources

- Existing plans
- Web portal responses from cities and communities
- Real estate data
- Assessor data
- Other sources as available
- Identify potential strategies
Project Overview: Community Engagement

TASK F | Beginning in October | Approx. 19 weeks

- Local outreach events in each Planning Area
- Stipend for public outreach
- Outreach toolkit for consistent feedback process throughout the County
- Outreach training for local agencies and community organizations
Project Overview: Project Prioritization

TASK G | Beginning in December | Approx. 16 weeks

- Develop draft project needs, opportunities and priorities based on:
  - Steering Committee guidance
  - Feedback from community engagement and inventory toolkit
  - Population and spatial need analyses
  - Park and recreation opportunity inventory
  - Existing planning documents

- Estimate total costs for all future projects by Planning Area, including:
  - Land acquisition costs
  - Park amenity costs
  - Existing infrastructure needs
Project Overview: Summary Report
TASK H | Beginning in April 2016 | Approx. 6 weeks

- Executive Summary
- Introduction and Planning Context
- Existing Conditions
- Community Outreach Strategy
- Future Projects
- Full List of Projects (Appendix)
Project Overview: Timeline

**Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park Needs Assessment**

**Steering Committee Meeting Schedule**

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**Key Dates**

- **April 30, 2015**: Park Service Standards and Planning Areas Approach
- **June 4, 2015**: Draft Planning Areas Review
- **July 9, 2015**: Inventory Web Portal/Map Collaborator Review
- **October 29, 2015**: Existing Conditions Analysis Review
- **TBD 2016**: Draft Future Projects Review
- **TBD 2016**: Prioritization of Projects
- **TBD 2016**: Administrative Draft Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment Review

= Work Period  = Steering Committee Meeting  = TAC Meeting
Park and Recreation Metrics
Park and Recreation Metrics
Overview and Discussion

- Purpose of Metrics
- Metrics Categories
- Metrics Recommendation
Park and Recreation Metrics: Purpose

Establishing a set of park and recreation metrics to evaluate all Planning Areas that will guide data collection and inform project prioritization
Park and Recreation Metrics: Categories

- Park Land
- Park Access
- Park User Density
- Park Amenities
- Park Condition
Park and Recreation Metrics: Park Land

Is there enough park land for the population?

- Commonly measured as acres of park land per 1,000 people
- Metric may vary based on type of park (neighborhood, community, regional)
- For cities within the county, this metric ranges from less than 1 acre/1,000 people up to 9 acres/1,000 people
- Approved Los Angeles County Standard is 4 acres/1,000 people
- Standards outside of Los Angeles County
  - 1969 APA Paper: 10 acres/1,000
  - San Diego: 2.8 acres/1,000
  - San Francisco: 5.5 acres/1,000
  - Sacramento: 8 acres/1,000
Park and Recreation Metrics: Park Access

Is park land located where everyone can access it?

- Distance to a park from each household
  - Miles or minutes of walking
  - Access via public transit
  - Common metrics include 1/2 mile or 10 minute walk
  - Can be measured “as the crow flies” or on actual paths
Park and Recreation Metrics: Park User Density

What is the population density around each park?

- The density of the population surrounding a park affects how heavily the park is used.
- Parks surrounded by high density neighborhoods can be affected by “park congestion”.
- Measured in park acres per 1,000 population within a defined park service area.
What activities are available to users?

- **Active**
  - Sports fields, basketball, tennis

- **Passive**
  - Picnic shelters, walking paths, benches

- **Playground**
  - Play structures, nature play, universal access play areas

- **Trails**

- **Aquatic Facilities**
  - Splash pad, swimming pool
Park and Recreation Metrics: Park Condition

*Is the park safe and well-maintained?*

- Initial Quality of Park
- Level of Maintenance since Installation
- Safety
Park and Recreation Metrics: Recommendation

Assess metrics in the following categories for existing parks in all Planning Areas:

- Park land (acreage per 1,000 people)
- Park access (actual path distance)
- Park user density (acres per person with park service area)
- Park amenities (variety)
- Park conditions
Planning Areas
Planning Areas

- Purpose of planning areas
- Methodology for creating planning areas
- Initial boundaries of planning areas
Planning Areas: Purpose

- Determine geographic boundaries to use in ensuring that communities receive equal representation in the assessment and prioritization of projects
- Data and needs analysis may be based on other geographies
Planning Areas: Methodology

- Rely primarily on existing boundaries (supervisorial district, city borders)

- Generally, no planning area should be under more than one jurisdiction.

- Planning areas for unincorporated areas based on County’s existing designations
Planning Areas: Methodology

City of Los Angeles Planning Areas (37)

LAX and Port of LA combined with neighboring Planning Areas (35)

Split Large Planning Areas >150K (8) to (16)

City of Los Angeles Planning Areas = 43

Preliminary Division by:
- Park Planning Areas
- City Council Districts
- Major Roads/Freeways
- Natural Features (Rivers)

Planning areas from subdivided cities = 17

Other Cities (87)

Larger Cities: ~150k + (8)

Smaller Cities: <137k (79)

One planning area per city

One planning area per city = 79

Unincorporated Communities (187)

Geographically isolated communities with small populations (18)

Distinct and/or Geographically Isolated Communities (18)

Geographically adjacent communities with small populations (151)

One planning area per unincorporated community

One planning area per unincorporated community = 18

Grouped into planning areas according to:
- Community name and geography
- The County’s board approved statistical areas used as guide
- Population Distribution

Grouped Unincorporated Communities = 38

Total = 197
Planning Areas: Initial Boundaries

- Every city has at least one planning area

- Cities over 150,000 have more than one planning area:
  - Los Angeles, Long Beach, Glendale, Santa Clarita, Lancaster, Palmdale, Pomona, Torrance and Pasadena

- Some cities may include adjacent unincorporated areas:
  - List of these cities (if approved)

- Integrate Steering Committee input before finalizing boundaries
Planning Areas: Recommendations

- Committee to discuss work to date
- Consultant team will continue developing the planning areas based on the criteria outlined above
- Present revised planning areas at next steering committee meeting
We all need PARKS

Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park Needs Assessment