LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Parks Needs Assessment establishes a new way to understand and think about parks, recreation, and open space by:

- Considering parks as key infrastructure needed to maintain and improve the quality of life for all County residents
- Using a new series of metrics to determine park need
- Supporting a need-based allocation of funding for parks and recreation
- Emphasizing both community priorities and deferred maintenance projects

**INVENTORY**

Accurate data about the size and location of all existing parks in the county were critical to completing the Parks Needs Assessment. These data were not available in a single database; therefore, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation collaborated with 86 cities to complete the first ever Countywide inventory of existing parks.

LOCAL PARKS are under 100 acres and contain active amenities such as athletic courts and fields, playgrounds, and swimming pools.

REGIONAL RECREATION PARKS are over 100 acres and contain active amenities such as athletic courts and fields, playgrounds, and swimming pools.

REGIONAL OPEN SPACE includes facilities that are more than 5 acres and generally contain only passive amenities such as visitor centers, trails, picnic shelters, or restrooms.

NATURAL AREAS are generally larger than 100 acres and contain no reported amenities.

**PARK METRICS**

For more information, visit LACountyParkNeeds.org

June 2016

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The results of the analysis of the park metrics were combined to determine an overall park need level for each Study Area. This approach creates a framework for assessing park need from a Countywide perspective.

Population in Each Need Category*

- **Very High**: 32.2%
- **High**: 16.5%
- **Moderate**: 20.4%
- **Low**: 26.2%
- **Very Low**: 4.6%

*0.1% Not Participating

Average Acres per 1,000 Residents in Each Need Category

- **Very High**: 0.7
- **High**: 1.6
- **Moderate**: 11.5
- **Low**: 12.5
- **Very Low**: 52.0

Population reached via media

- **2.5 million+** Traditional Media
- **1.1 million+** Social Media
- **30K+** views Project Website

Community Workshops Process

1. Review existing parks and metrics.
2. Develop comprehensive list of potential projects.
3. Prioritize top ten park projects.

Cost estimates were developed for the top ten prioritized park projects from each community workshop and for all deferred maintenance projects.

- **Prioritized Projects**: $8.8 billion
- **Deferred Maintenance**: $12 billion
- **Specialized Facilities**: $0.7 billion

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**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A Countywide education and awareness effort informed residents about the Parks Needs Assessment and encouraged them to attend a community workshop in their Study Area, where residents prioritized their communities’ top ten parks projects.