



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE



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February 15, 2018

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the Uptown Open Space Vision Plan. (District 9)

DISCUSSION

In 2015, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine was awarded a \$50,000 HEAL Zone grant for the production of an open space plan in North Long Beach. The Healthy Eating and Active Living, or HEAL Zone, is a place-based healthy community initiative in North Long Beach sponsored by Kaiser Permanente. The purpose of the grant was to develop an open space plan that expanded the total park space and enhanced linkages between residents and available park space to create healthy, active and safe places to recreate in Long Beach's ninth district. The HEAL Zone grant was supplemented by \$5,000 in one-time funding by Vice Mayor Rex Richardson.

The Uptown Open Space Vision Plan (Vision Plan) serves as a visionary document to guide future development of open space and identifies new and creative opportunities to fill community needs for publicly accessible open space and recreation facilities in North Long Beach. The Vision Plan includes an existing conditions analysis, examination of Opportunity Types, summary of the public outreach process, community-driven vision and Implementation Strategies. The Vision Plan looks back to how the park system has evolved to its current state and the previous efforts in planning and development that informed the path forward. It also develops a blueprint for the creation and preservation of open spaces, recreation facilities, and parks.

The Vision Plan is built upon years of previous work related to analyzing the North Long Beach environment, and incorporated the Los Angeles County Park Needs Assessment (2016), Mobility Element (2013), Community Livability Plan (2008), Long Beach RiverLink Plan (2008), North Long Beach Design Guidelines (2005), General Plan and Open Space and Recreation Element (2002), and several Los Angeles River Plans (in development). The analysis uses several types of indicators that all affect a person's access to open space including public health, transportation, land use, environmental health, and demographic information.

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Building upon these previous planning and outreach efforts, three unique engagement activities were developed to obtain robust community input, including: 1) the Open Space Game, which empowered participants to identify potential open space locations and amenities within realistic planning obstacles; 2) the Dot Game, which gave participants the opportunity to prioritize the open space ideas based on neighborhoods, and finally; 3) a one-day pop-up park program, which demonstrated the most popular, community-identified open space idea and provided opportunity for conceptual design feedback. Thousands of residents, business owners, and other stakeholders participated in various phases of the outreach, ensuring that the community was fairly represented. The community engagement process resulted in 14 priority projects across North Long Beach where all of the neighborhoods are represented.

The Vision Plan is designed to provide a complete picture for why, where, when and how to expand publicly accessible open space in North Long Beach. The Uptown Open Space Vision Plan is grounded by case studies, best practices, statistics, considerable community input and adopted policy, insuring the projects, programs and policies proposed in the Vision Plan contain significant value.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost of the Vision Plan was \$55,000 and was paid for by the HEAL Zone grant (\$50,000) and one-time funds from Council District 9 (\$5,000). The Vision Plan will guide the public investment of open space and greenway projects for the City of Long Beach as well as public and private partners. The Vision Plan also establishes larger open space goals and builds the framework for future funding. As the open space network expands, greater stewardship from community and corporate partners will be necessary as municipal resources for maintaining and programming existing park facilities are already strained.

The Vision Plan is intended to be the framework for future investment, and provides initial cost estimates for priority projects. This work done throughout the Vision Plan process will become the basis of future grant funding requests. The Vision Plan is a long-term plan, intended to be phased in over time, as project, operations and maintenance funding becomes available.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,



STEPHEN SCOTT
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

APPROVED:



MARIE KNIGHT
DIRECTOR

MK:SS:MR

Attachments: Uptown Open Space Vision Plan