

2760 N. Studebaker Road Long Beach, CA 90815 562.570.3100

October 20, 2020

R-12

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL City of Long Beach California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file a report on the DeForest Park Vision Plan; and, accept Statutory Exemption SE-20-082. (District 9)

DISCUSSION

On July 24, 2018, the Uptown Open Space Vision Plan was adopted by the City Council, which identifies new and innovative opportunities to fill the need for publicly-accessible open space and recreation facilities in North Long Beach's Ninth City Council District. Since that time, several projects and plans included in the Uptown Open Space Vision Plan have been pursued. One such effort is planning for the future of DeForest Park, which was produced in partnership with Conservation Corps of Long Beach (Conservation Corps), Camp Fire Angeles, the DeForest Park Neighborhood Association, and the Parks, Recreation and Marine Department.

The DeForest Park Vision Plan (Vision Plan) serves as a visionary document to guide potential future development of DeForest Park (Attachment A). The Conservation Corps was awarded \$100,000 from the Rivers and Mountain Conservancy State Proposition 1 (Water Bond) grant to fund the Vision Plan. The Vision Plan includes an existing conditions analysis, examination of opportunity types, summary of the public outreach process, and 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 have informed the path forward. The Vision Plan is a plan for future park investment, anticipated over a long-term horizon, which will be implemented incrementally over time as productive sponsorships or partnerships can be established or as capital, maintenance, and operating resources allow.

The Vision Plan empowered community members to examine and reimagine their seemingly limited park environment with creativity and imagination, while setting expectations in reality through a series of forced-choice decision-making workshops. The Project Team coordinated with the DeForest Park Neighborhood Association to host a series of community workshops, a series of design charrettes, and online digital engagement over the course of eight months. As part of the existing conditions analysis, the park review involved creating a reliable survey tool designed to evaluate the physical condition of parks and their potential to promote physical activity. All outreach and activity materials were introduced consistent with the City's Language Access Policy.

The first workshop series involved gathering information from the community and through research about the existing conditions of the park. This information was collected through in-person surveys, park walk assessments, and a prioritization exercise on what guiding principles future improvements to the park should reflect. The survey was made available online and in-person at public workshops and was promoted through social media and by postcards sent to each household in the DeForest Park neighborhood.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL October 20, 2020 Page 2

The second workshop series focused on identifying potential opportunities for the park to best serve the needs of all park users. Through a 'Design Your Park' activity, players broke out into small groups with an illustrative map of DeForest Park and with board game pieces worked together to decide what activities and programs they imagine taking place in the park's future. The third workshop series included a park design charrette where community members evaluated two alternative park design concepts that each included consensus-based park elements. This was done virtually, in response to the COVID-19 Safer at Home Health Order, and an online survey captured feedback from those who were not able to participate in the live design charrette. To promote the survey, 12 temporary park pole signs that advertised the survey were installed throughout DeForest Park along the walking path, attracting parkgoers practicing social distancing to take the survey. Additionally, a robust digital strategy was created involving sharing to North Long Beach community listservs and spreading promotional content on various stakeholder social media platforms.

The Vision Plan is designed to provide a complete picture for why, where, when, and how to improve publicly-accessible open space in DeForest Park. It is grounded by case studies, best practices, park data and statistics, considerable community input, and adopted policy, ensuring that the projects, programs, and policies proposed in the Vision Plan contain significant value. The Vision Plan also helps address the 0.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in North Long Beach versus the 5.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents citywide by identifying amenities, more effectively lays out the park to effectively maximize open space programming, and is an important step in seeking future grant funding opportunities. On July 16, 2020, the Parks and Recreation Commission approved the Vision Plan (Attachment B).

This matter was reviewed by Deputy City Attorney Arturo D. Sanchez and Revenue Management Officer Geraldine Alejo on September 30, 2020.

TIMING CONSIDERATIONS

City Council action is requested on October 20, 2020, to allow for the implementation of partner projects where funding has been identified and position the City to be eligible and competitive for upcoming grant funding.

<u>SUSTAINABILITY</u>

While the Vision Plan has no immediate sustainability impact, individual projects developed through the implementation of the Vision Plan support the City's existing pedestrian, bike, and park plans. These plans provide for safe connectivity between neighborhoods, commercial corridors, and parks, and create additional improvements to acres of open space in an underserved part of Long Beach. Future projects are anticipated to incorporate sustainable elements and materials, wherever possible, and comply with the City's green building and water efficiency policies.

The Vision Plan was reviewed in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and was issued Statutory Exemption SE-20-082 (Attachment C).

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL October 20, 2020 Page 3

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of the Vision Plan was \$100,000. The cost was directly paid for by the Conservation Corps through a Rivers and Mountain Conservancy State Proposition 1 (Water Bond) grant. The Vision Plan is intended to be the framework for future investment and provides initial cost estimates for priority projects. Funding for projects has not yet been identified and further detailed cost estimates will be determined as implementation resources are identified. As municipal resources for ongoing maintenance and programming of existing park facilities are already strained, the Vision Plan is long-term, intended to be phased in over time, as projects, operations, and maintenance funding becomes available, or as greater stewardship from community and corporate partners is identified. This recommendation has no staffing impact beyond the normal budgeted scope of duties and is consistent with the existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this recommendation.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

BRENT DENNIS

DIRECTOR OF PARKS.

RECREATION AND MARINE

Attachments: A - DeForest Park Vision Plan

B - Parks and Recreation Commission Approval

C - Statutory Exemption SE-20-082

APPROVED:

THOMAS B. MODICA CITY MANAGER



ATTACHMENT A

DEFOREST PARK VISION PLAN PRESENTATION OVERVIEW









Camp Fire Angeles Council



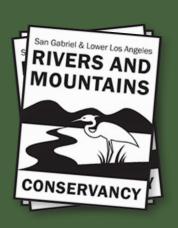


City ofLong Beach
Department of Parks
Recreation and Marine



City Fabrick

Funded by RMC Prop 1 a coalition of local nonprofits have partnered with the City of Long Beach to create a "Vision Plan" for DeForest Park.



WHAT IS RMC Prop 1?

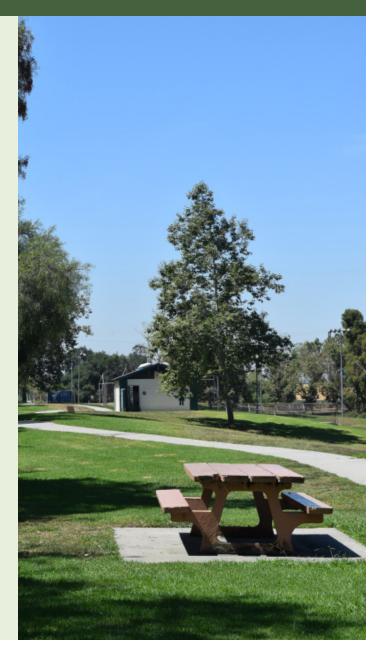
California voters approved the Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014 (RMC Prop 1) which authorized \$7.5 billion dollars in general bonds for the acquisition, development, rehabilitation, restoration, and protection of land and water resources.

DEFOREST PARK VISION PLAN ABOUT THE VISION PLAN

The DeForest Park Vision Plan will serve as a guiding policy document for what the community believes are priorities for future park investment.

Our team devoted to a "community-driven" effort, which means that community members were closely involved in every step of the decision-making process.

Simultaneously, the Conservation Corps of Long Beach and Camp Fire Angeles Council have secured initial funding for new improvements.



DEFOREST PARK VISION PLAN ABOUT THE VISION PLAN

Q 2016

LA County identifies North Long Beach as having a "very high" need for parks and open space.

- Citywide Average: 5.6 acres of park per 1,000 residents
- North Long Beach Average: 0.9 acres of park per 1,000 residents

2018

The City of Long Beach studied the potential for new parks and open spaces in North Long Beach.

2019

August: Site Analysis

- Walking tours
- Demographic, health, and spatial study
- Site survey & photo documentation
- Relevant planning and policy efforts

September: Park Assessment

- Community & project team park assessments

DEFOREST PARK VISION PLAN ABOUT THE VISION PLAN



October: First Workshop Series

- Public workshops
- DeForest Park Neighborhood Association
- Stakeholder group outreach
- Print & online survey

2020

January: Second Workshop Series

- Public workshops
- DeForest Park Neighborhood Association
- Stakeholder group outreach
- Print survey

March: Third Workshop Series

- Workshops at public events
- DeForest Park Neighborhood Association
- Signs and posters

- Stakeholder group outreach
- Online survey
- Conceptual Design & Vision Plan Draft



June: Long Beach Parks and Recreation Commission



DEFOREST PARK VISION PLAN EXISTING CONDITIONS





DEFOREST PARK VISION PLAN EXISTING CONDITIONS

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DATA

CalEnviroScreen 3.0 LA County Public Health

DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

US Census

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS

Park Asessments
LA County Needs Assessment
Park Score + Walk Score

RELEVANT PLANNING EFFORTS

Open Space Element
PRM Strategic Plan
Other General Plan Elements
Uptown Open Space Vision Plan
The RiverLink Plan
Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan
Lower Los Angeles River Revitalization Plan
...and many more

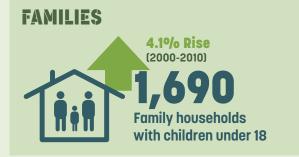


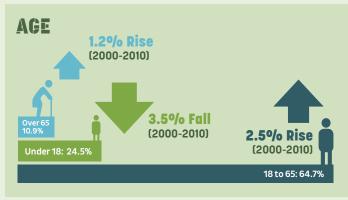
DEFOREST PARK VISION PLAN EXISTING CONDITIONS

DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

Sources: US Census 2010 & 2000 & CalEnviroScreen 3.0

8.6% Rise (2000-2010) 11,577 people live in the Study Area









44.36 kg/dayDiesel Particulate Matter

12.13 ug/m3 Particulate Matter 2.5

Risk of heart & lung disease, irregular heartbeat, asthma decreased lung function, and other serious issues

ASTHMA RATES



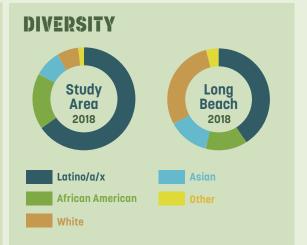
88th percentile - higher than 88% of other tracts in CA

CHILDHOOD OBESITY



38% LBUSD 5th graders

31.9% Long Beach



FOREIGN BORN

32º/o

26.8% 35.1% LA County



ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

計 13

Public Workshops & Stakeholder Meetings



156

Park Assessments & Community Surveys



Park Ideas Created by the Community





















PARK ASSESSMENT

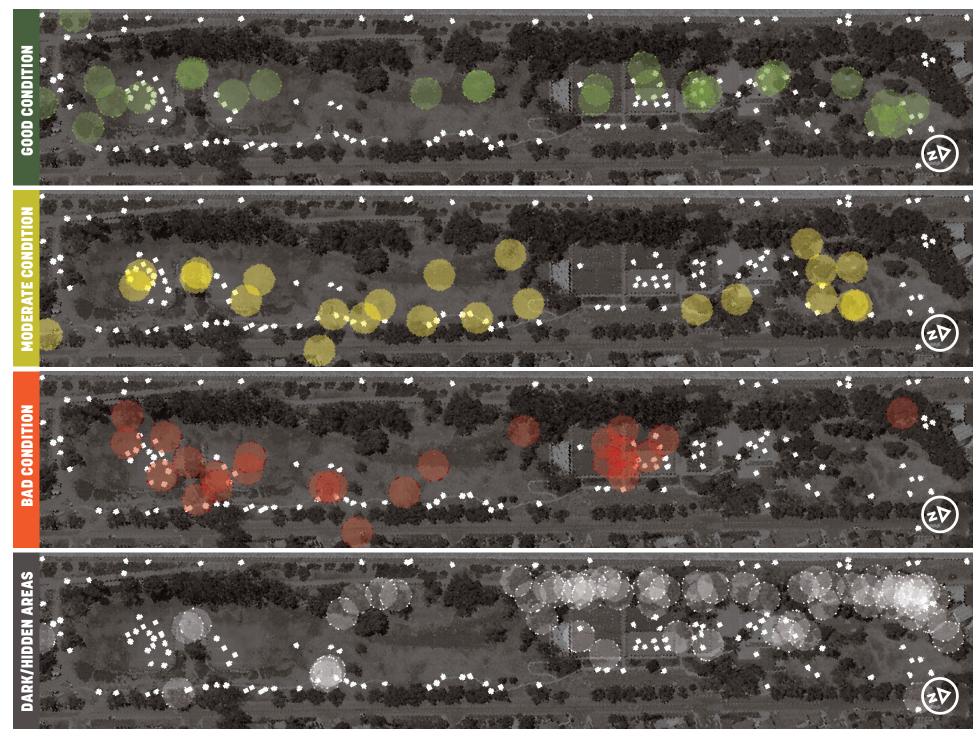
A Park Assessment is a user-friendly and reliable tool designed to evaluate the physical condition of parks and their potential to promote physical activity.

- 2 Public Park Assessments
- 22 Park Assessments Participants
- Available in Multiple Languages
- Build Community Trust

SUMMARY OF PARK ASSESSMENT FINDINGS:

- The park has a diversity of options to play, exercise, and participate in recreational activities.
- Wetlands restoration is good example for improvement.
- Having open grassy areas in the park is a valuable asset for the community.
- There are opportunities to enjoy the park in passive recreation, such as strolling or experiencing nature.
- The playground and tennis court are in good condition.
- The park is built at an appropriate scale.

- There are several areas that are dark or hidden, making these areas feel unsafe.
- The general infrastructure of the park and its amenities need improvement and maintenance.
- Community center is aging and needs improvement.
- The park and its facilities have limited ADA accessibility.
- Not enough areas to sit down.
- Unsafe driving behavior limits park access for pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Litter and illegal dumping makes the park unattractive.



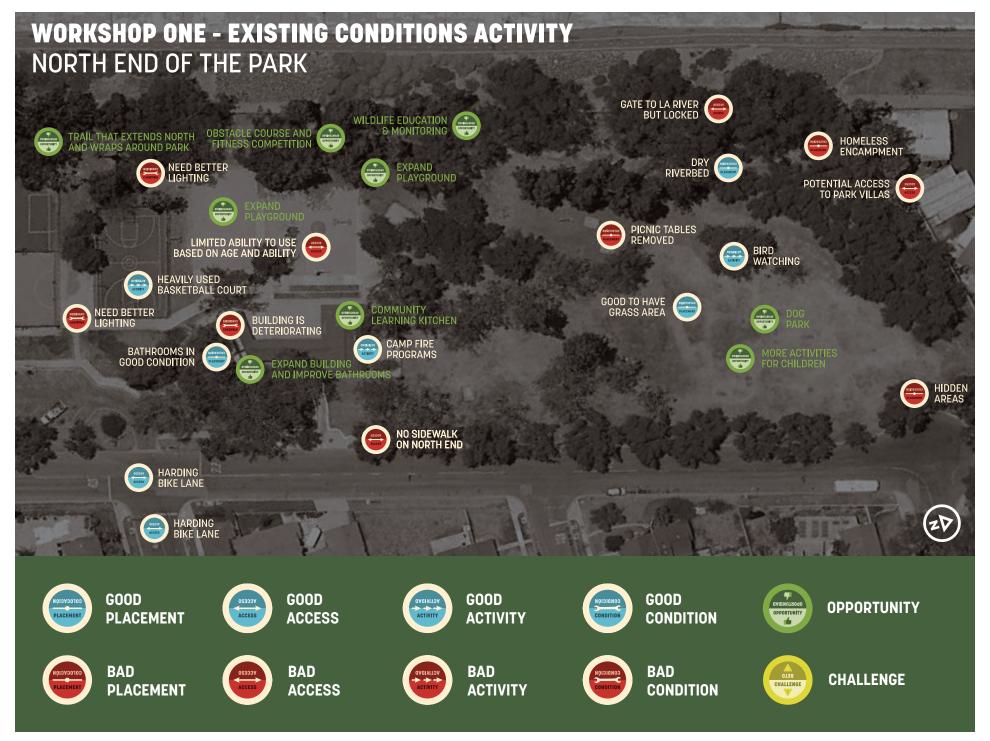


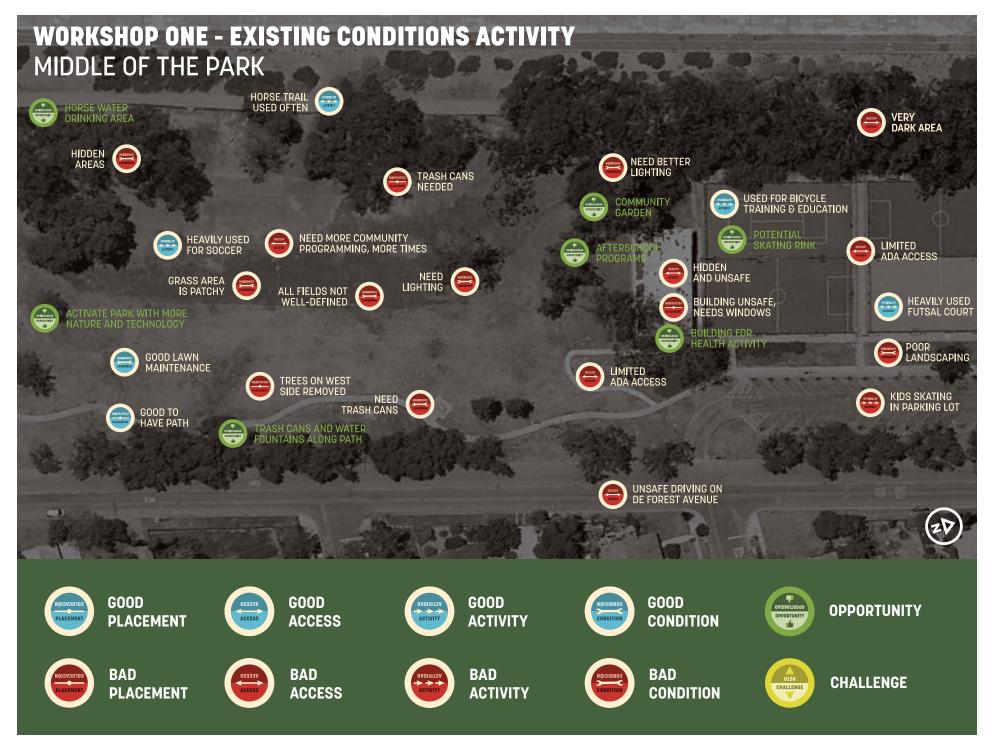
WORKSHOP SERIES 1 [DISCOVERY]

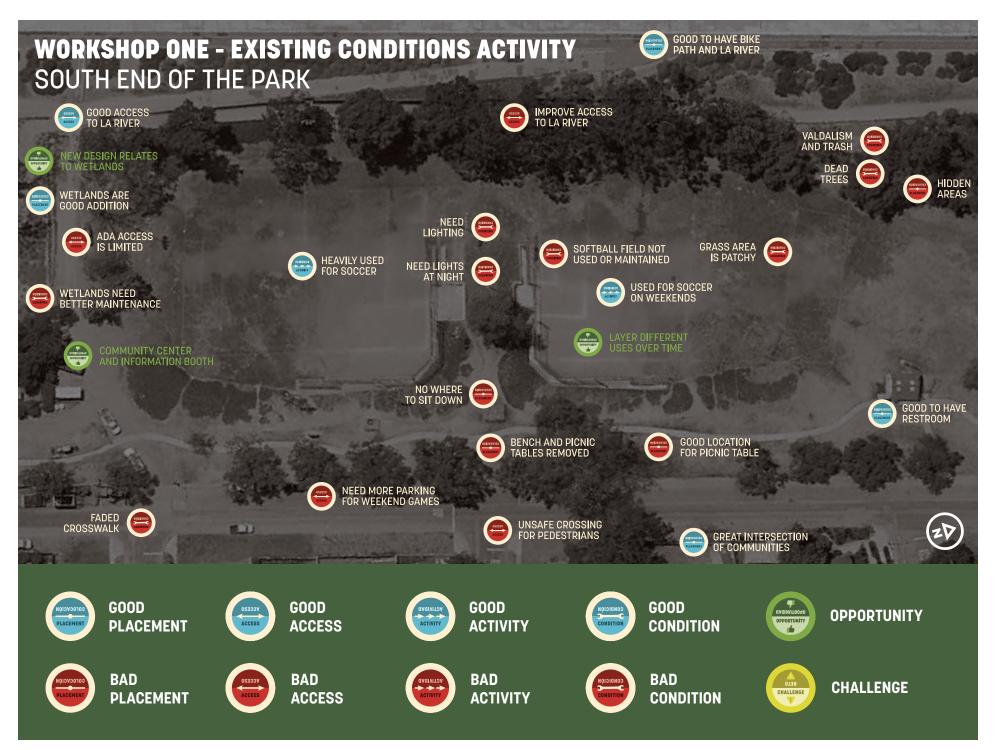
The activity asked community members to share their knowledge about the existing conditions of the park, considering the needs of others through role-playing.

- 3 Public Community Workshops
- 33 Existing Conditions Activity Participants











PUBLIC SURVEYS

Short surveys were distributed in-person and online and in multiple languages to understand how community members use DeForest Park.

- 52 Responses

SUMMARY OF SURVEY FINDINGS:

- The park is active both during the day and night, and throughout the entire week.
- Getting here is very convenient.
- Most people access the park by walking over. Some people drive or bike over to the park.
- People are attracted to the park because of the walking trail, wetlands, and its close proximity to people's homes.
- The top community priority for the future of the park is "safety", "upgrades", and "education".

- The secondary community priorities are "accessibility", "sustainability", and "health".
- The community believes that the population group we should be most mindful of is "families".
- Community members are willing to get involved with the change, mainly by reporting any issues to the police or by using the "Go Long Beach" app.
- People are also willing to help participate in neighborhood cleanups and attending public meetings.

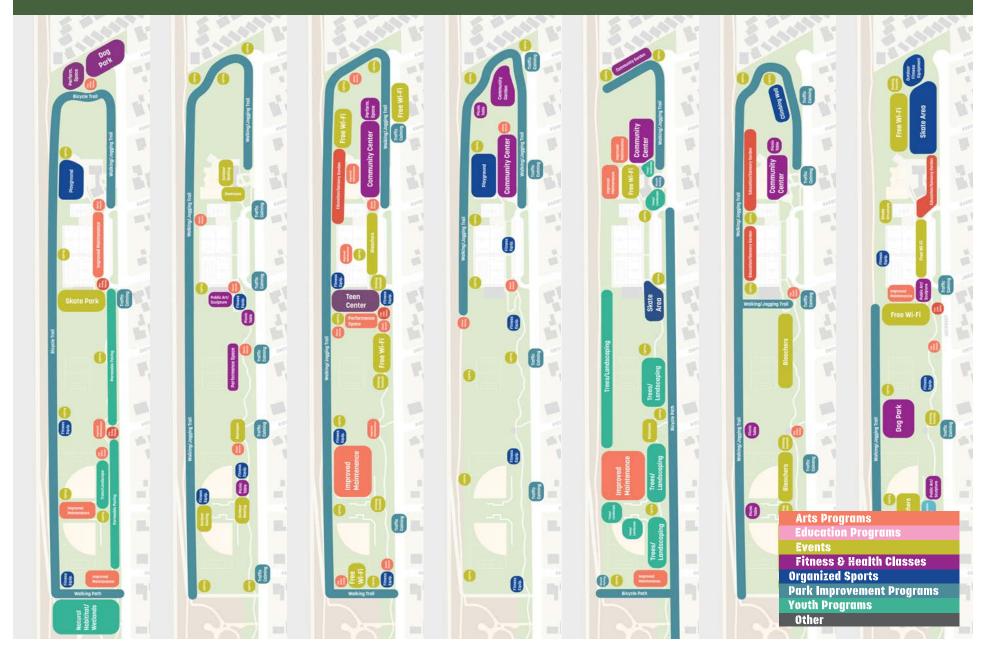


WORKSHOP SERIES 2 [OPPORTUNITY]

The activity asked community members to identifying potential park opportunities for the park to best serve the needs of all park users through a board game.

- 4 Public Community Workshops + 3 Stakeholder Workshops
- 63 Design Your Park Activity Participants







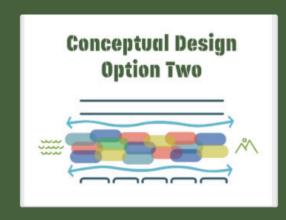
WORKSHOP SERIES 3 [REFINEMENT]

The online survey asked community members to choose between two conceptual designs and answer questions to refine the final community conceptual design.

- 1 Virtual Public Workshop
- 82 Survey Participants

* 1. Which of the two Conceptual Design options do you like more?



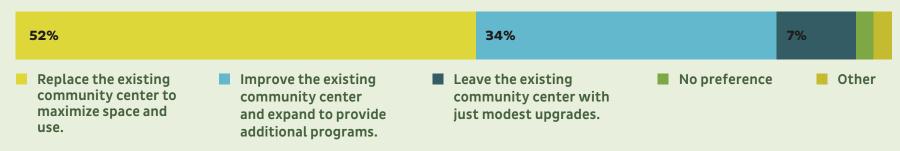




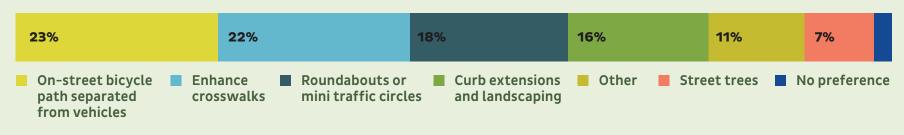
1. WHICH OF THE TWO CONCEPTUAL DESIGN OPTIONS DO YOU LIKE MORE?



2. THE COMMUNITY CENTER IS AGING AND IN NEED OF IMPROVEMENTS. TO WHAT EXTENT SHOULD THE COMMUNITY BUILDINGS BE IMPROVED AND/OR REPLACED?



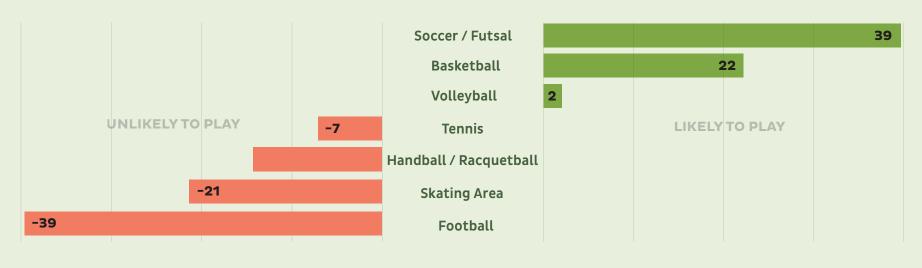
3. COMMUNITY MEMBERS REPORT UNSAFE DRIVING BEHAVIOR NEAR THE PARK, WHAT POTENTIAL IMPROVEMENTS WOULD YOU PREFER TO MAKE DEFOREST AVENUE SAFER PARK USERS?



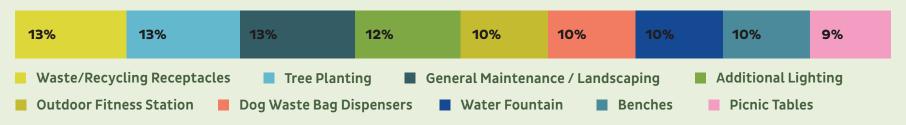
4. CURRENTLY THE HANDBALL COURT STRUCTURE IS CLOSED DOWN AND INACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC. IT ALSO DIVIDES THE PARK INTO TWO, LIMITING NORTH-SOUTH ACCESSIBILITY AND CREATING HIDDEN AND UNSAFE AREAS. SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS OF POTENTIAL FUTURE USES OF THE SPACE AS SUGGESTED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS:



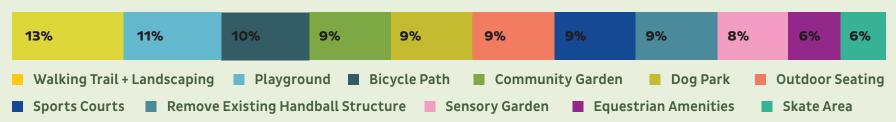
5. PARK USERS SHARED THAT SPORTS COURTS AND FIELDS HAVE DIFFERENT LEVELS OF DEMAND AND USE DEPENDING OF THE TIME OF DAY. PLEASE SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS TO HOW LIKELY YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE TO USE THE FOLLOWING SPORTS FACILITIES:



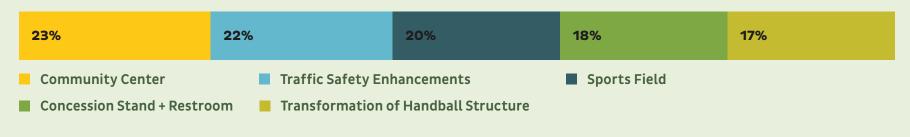
6. HOW WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE THESE POTENTIAL SMALLER SIZE PROJECTS?



7. HOW WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE THESE POTENTIAL MEDIUM SIZE PROJECTS?



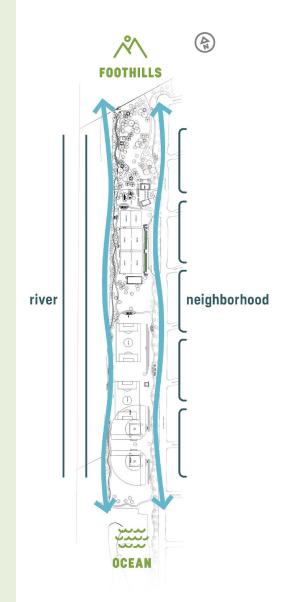
8. HOW WOULD YOU PRIORITIZE THESE POTENTIAL LARGER SIZE PROJECTS?

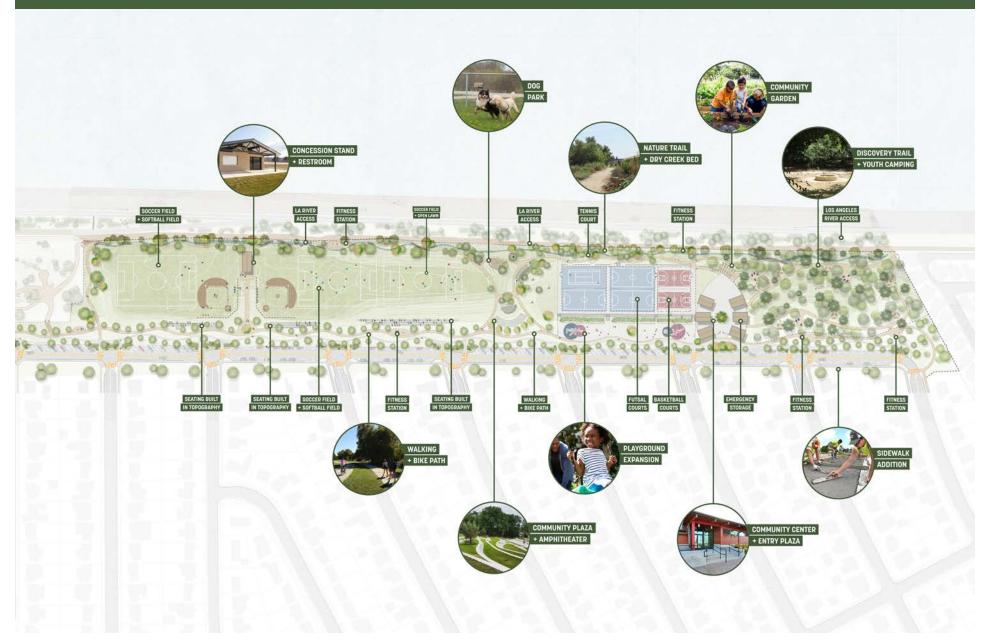


DeForest Park draws inspiration from the OCEAN and the FOOTHILLS and harmoniously unifies the DeForest Wetlands to the south with the sloping terrain and forested landscape to the north.

DeForest Park also responds to its surrounding context of the NEIGHBORHOOD with the LA RIVER, serving the park needs of local residents and identifying the LA River as a regional opportunity for habitat restoration and play.

They are woven together by two NORTH-SOUTH CONNECTIONS that offer unique walking and bicycling experiences throughout the entire park.













DEFOREST PARK VISION PLAN NEXT STEPS

FUNDING SECURED

DeForest Wetlands Grant

San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles RMC Proposition 1 Planning Grant

Conservation Corps of Long Beach Facility Grant

Camp Fire Grant - Port of Long Beach

















2760 N, Studebaker Road Long Beach, CA 90815 562,570 3100

July 16, 2020

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

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file the DeForest Park Vision Plan (Council District 9).

DISCUSSION:

On Tuesday, July 24, 2018 the Uptown Open Space Vision Plan was adopted by the City Council, which identifies new and innovative opportunities to fill the need for publicly-accessible open space and recreation facilities in North Long Beach's Ninth City Council District. Since that time, several projects and plans included in the Uptown Open Space Vision Plan have been pursued. One such effort is planning for the future of DeForest Park.

The DeForest Park Vision Plan (Vision Plan), included as Attachment A, serves as a visionary document to guide potential future development of DeForest Park. The Vision Plan includes an existing conditions analysis, examination of opportunity types, summary of the public outreach process, and 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 have informed the path forward. The Vision Plan is a plan for future park investment, anticipated over a long-term horizon, which will be implemented incrementally over time as productive sponsorships or partnerships can be established or as capital, maintenance, and operating resources allow.

The DeForest Park Vision Plan empowered community members to examine and reimagine their seemingly limited park environment with creativity and imagination, while setting expectations in reality through a series of forced-choice decision making workshops. Given the large and diverse population, the public outreach targeted those who have been historically been left out of the planning process, including disadvantaged communities of color, Spanish and Tagalog primary speakers, and youth and families. This involved hosting public workshops at widely accessible locations and platforms throughout the community, including several park and neighborhood events that attract diverse populations, ensuring that materials were available in various languages, consistent with the City's Language Access Policy. The public outreach activities were highly visually engaging so that community members of all ages would gain an increased awareness of the open space, active transportation, and land use planning process.

The Project Team coordinated with the DeForest Park Neighborhood Association to host a series of community workshops, a series of design charrettes and online digital engagement over the course of eight months, park audits throughout the entire park. As part of the existing

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION July 16, 2020 Page 2

conditions analysis, the park audit involved creating a reliable survey tool designed to evaluate the physical condition of parks and their potential to promote physical activity. The first workshop series involved gathering information from the community and through research about the existing conditions of the park. This information was collected through in-person surveys, park walk audits and a prioritization exercise on what guiding principles future improvements to the park should reflect. The survey was made available online and in-person at public workshops and was promoted through social media and by postcards that were sent each household in the DeForest Park neighborhood. The second workshop series focused on identifying potential opportunities for the park to best serve the needs of all park users. Through a Design Your Park activities players broke out into small groups with an illustrative map of DeForest Park and board game pieces and worked together to decide what activities and programs they imagine taking place in the Park's future. The third workshop series included a park design charrette where community members evaluated two alternative park design concepts that each included consensus-based park elements. This was done through a virtually, in response to the COVID-19 Safer at Home Health Order, and an online survey captured feedback from those who were not able to participate in the live design charrette. To promote the survey, 12 temporary street pole signs that advertised the survey were installed throughout DeForest Park along the walking path, attracting parkgoers practicing social distancing to take the survey. Additionally, a robust digital strategy was created involving sharing to North Long Beach community listservs and spreading promotional content on various stakeholder social media platforms. All outreach and activity materials were produced in English and Spanish, consistent with the City's Language Access Policy.

The DeForest Park Vision Plan was produced in partnership with Long Beach Conservation Corps, Camp Fire Angeles, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, and the DeForest Park Neighborhood Association. The total cost of the Vision Plan was \$100,000, which was funded by a Rivers and Mountain Conservancy State Proposition 1 (Water Bond) grant from the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act awarded to the Long Beach Conservation Corps.

Parks and Recreation Commission approval is requested to allow the Vision Plan to be submitted to the City Manager and City Council for approval in a timely manner.

FISCAL IMPACT

The total cost of the Vision Plan was \$100,000, which was funded by a Rivers and Mountain

Conservancy State Proposition 1 (Water Bond) grant from the Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act awarded to the Long Beach Conservation Corps. There is no fiscal or local job impact associated with this recommendation as the Vision Plan is intended to be the framework for future investment. The Vision Plan provides initial cost estimates for priority projects, although funding for projects outlined have not yet been identified and further detailed cost estimates will need to be created when implementation resources are identified.

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION July 16, 2020 Page 3

The work done throughout the Vision Plan process will become the basis for future grant funding requests as the City seeks grants for these and other citywide priorities. As municipal resources for maintaining and programming existing park facilities are already strained, the Vision Plan is long-term, intended to be phased in over time, as projects, operations, and maintenance funding becomes available, or as greater stewardship from community and corporate partners is identified.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gladyskaisu

GLADYS KAISER

MANAGER

COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES BUREAU

HURLEY OWENS

MANAGER

MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS BUREAU

MEREDITH REYNOLDS

Mucht Remolets

MANAGER

PARK PLANNING & PARTNERSHIPS BUREAU

APPROVED:

BRENT DENN

DIRECTOR

Attachment A: DeForest Park Vision Plan



Development Services

Planning Bureau 411 West Ocean Boulevard, 2nd Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 562.570.6194

CEQA Notice of Exemption		
To: Office of Planning & Research 1400 Tenth Street, Room 121 Sacramento, CA 95814	FROM:	Department of Development Services 411 W. Ocean Blvd, 3 rd Floor Long Beach, CA 90802
L.A. County Clerk Environmental Fillings 12400 E. Imperial Hwy., Room 1201 Norwalk, CA 90650		The train that the tr
Exemption Number: SE-20-082		
Project Title (Application Number): De Fores	st Park Vision Plan	
Project Location – Specific: De Forest Park	- 6255 De Forest A	ve, Long Beach, CA 90805
Project Location - City/County: City of Long	Beach, Los Angele	es County, California
Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:		
The De Forest Park Vision Plan is a conceptual planning document that establishes goals for the future development of De Forest Park based on community engagement.		
Public Agency Approving Project: City of Long Beach, California Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Meredith Reynolds (City of Long Beach, Parks, Rec, and Marine Dept.)		
	edith Reynolds (City o	f Long Beach, Parks, Rec, and Marine Dept.)
Exempt Status: (Check One)		
☐ Ministerial (Sec 21080(b)(1); 15268);	\· 15260(a\\·	
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));☐ Emergency Project (Sec 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));		
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:		
Statutory Exemption. State code number: 15262, Feasibility and Planning Studies		
Reasons why project is exempt:		
The vision plan is a planning study for pos adopted, or funded. Potential future devel project-level CEQA review.		<u> </u>
Lead Agency		
Contact Person: Maryanne Cronin,	0 Date:_7/17/202	Contact Phone: (562) 570-5683 20 Title: Planner