

City of Monrovia  
**CITYWIDE PARK  
MASTER PLAN**

STATION SQUARE



**MARCH 2018**



# HIGHLIGHTS

The Park Master Plan defines the future direction for Monrovia's parks and recreation programs and builds on the community's needs for current and future facilities.

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**PUBLIC PROCESS** Community input played an important role in establishing a clear planning framework that reflects current community priorities. Most residents care deeply about the future of Monrovia's parks system and appreciated the opportunity to offer feedback. Public outreach provided a baseline of demand and need, and outreach methods were varied and extensive.



**INVENTORY ANALYSIS** The Plan inventories and evaluates existing park and recreation areas and assesses the needs for acquisition, site development and operational improvements. Specific site recommendations and management considerations are provided to guide future park enhancements.



**GOALS** The Plan reinforces the City's vision for its park and recreation system, proposes updates to park service standards, and addresses departmental goals, objectives and other management considerations toward the continuation of high-quality recreation opportunities to benefit the residents of Monrovia.



**STRATEGIES & ACTIONS** This Plan outlines a framework for the improvement and growth of the City's outdoor recreation facilities, amenities and parks to the specific needs of the community. This framework will help clarify funding, program objectives, development or resource goals, and it will set a long-range vision for the City and provide clear action items for implementation.

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Welcome to the 2018 City of Monrovia Park Master Plan!

The Park Master Plan was developed through extensive input from the community as well as careful consideration of industry standards and trends. The Plan represents a collaborative effort of our residents, community stakeholders, and staff who together believe in a strategic direction to achieve our goals, while anticipating future community needs. The Plan aims to provide a sustainable and balanced system that is accessible and inclusive for each and every one of our residents to enjoy. We also believe this Plan will continue our commitment to shape the character of Monrovia and enhance the quality of life for our residents.

As staff, we feel privileged to serve this tremendous community, and honored to have supported the Community Services Commission with the development of the Park Master Plan. Monrovia values its parks and deserves a thoughtful plan to enhance its open space.

We are especially grateful to our residents who have voiced their opinions and attended our public meetings. Our promise to the community is to use this plan to continue our efforts to create a community that offers a premier quality of life.

Tina Cherry,  
Public Services Director



**ON THE COVER** Monrovia's Station Square and transit themed play equipment.

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“...to create a community that offers a premier quality of life.”

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The City of Monrovia began development of its first citywide park master plan in late 2016 to provide a logical blueprint for the management and growth of the City's park system. As a ten-year guide and strategic plan for enhancing park and recreation amenities for the community, the citywide Park Master Plan establishes a path forward for enabling and enhancing high quality, community-driven parks, trails, open spaces and recreational opportunities. This citywide Park Master Plan was developed with the input and direction of local residents and stakeholders, and the process included public meetings and a community survey as baseline data to inform the plan.

The Plan outlines a framework for the improvement and growth of City recreation facilities, amenities and parks to address the specific needs of the community. This framework clarifies program objectives, development or resource goals, and sets a long-range vision for the City with clear action items and strategies for implementation for the next 5 to 10 years.



## GUIDED BY VALUES

Monrovia's City Council adopted its 2016 Strategic Goals, and it reinforced the mission, values and priorities for the City's future.

### CITY MISSION

*We exist to serve the people of Monrovia to create a community that offers a premier quality of life.*

### CITY VALUES

- Humble
- Hungry
- Loyal
- Smart

### STRATEGIC GOALS

- Enhance Community Infrastructure
- Enhance Organizational Capacity
- Enhance Fiscal Sustainability
- Enhance Relationships with the Community

These citywide goals provided a foundation for the policies and recommendations within this Plan.

In addition to other city departments' priorities, Recreation priorities centered on completing the Community Center Needs Assessment and initiating this Park Master Plan. Capital projects included Library Park landscaping improvements. Public Works was tasked with developing routine maintenance plans for parks, streets and facilities.

## A SMALL CITY WITH LOTS OF CHARM

Monrovia is a small Southern Californian city of about 37,000 residents. It is nestled into the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, with easy access to the urban amenities of the Los Angeles metropolitan area and the natural beauty of the Angeles National Forest. The community's historic downtown and attractive neighborhoods afford a small-town feel for local residents, while its high tech industries provide well-paying local jobs. The city benefits from easy freeway and transit access - US I-210 provides ready access to neighboring communities and the Metro Gold Line Monrovia Station provides commuter rail service connections to Pasadena and Los Angeles.



TOP: Library Park is Monrovia's community living room and the fountain is an iconic gathering place for residents and visitors alike.



Incorporated in 1887, Monrovia was recognized as an All-America City in 1996 and has grown to a community of 37,000.

### HISTORY

#### TREASURED PAST - VIBRANT FUTURE

Native American people, such as the Tongva, originally inhabited the Los Angeles Valley including the Monrovia area. While Spanish explorers initially travelled through the area in 1542, they did not settle in the area until the 1770s after the founding of the Mission San Gabriel Arcángel. Contact between indigenous peoples and Spanish settlers led to severe reductions in the native population.

The Monrovia area became part of Alta California after Mexican independence in 1822, and was later divided into two ranchos in the 1840s. A short time later, these ranchos, Rancho Azusa de Duarte and Rancho Santa Anita, were further subdivided. Some of the parcels were sold to William N. Monroe, after whom the city is named.

Railroad construction through the San Gabriel Valley sparked demand for homes in the area, culminating in the incorporation of Monrovia in 1887. The population in 1890 was



907 people.

By 1930, Monrovia had grown to over 10,000 residents and construction was complete on the city's library and swimming pool. The downtown core, located on Myrtle Avenue, was thriving. Monrovia continued to grow rapidly until 1970, when the population reached over 30,000 people. ■

### HOUSING RENAISSANCE

Monrovia is currently experiencing a housing renaissance. With the opening of the Gold Line Transit Station in 2015 and the surge in business development in 2016-2017, Monrovia has become an attractive community for high-density, luxury housing. In fact, Monrovia has two housing developments under construction with a combined total of 415 units. In addition, there are six

developments currently in planning stages with a combined total of another 1,200 luxury units. For a community that is essential built out, this could be a significant impact. This recent growth in housing units by 11% will place more demands on the existing park infrastructure and create the need for a thoughtful acquisition strategy to expand the park system. ■

## PARKS PLANNING PROCESS

The citywide Park Master Plan is a reflection of the community's interests and needs for parks, recreational facilities and trails. The planning process was aimed to encourage and enable public engagement in the choices, priorities and future direction of the City's park and recreation system. The Plan project team conducted a variety of public outreach activities to solicit feedback and comments, in concert with a review of the recreation system inventory, level of service review and the current and future needs assessment.

Current community interests surfaced through a series of public outreach efforts that included a mail survey, an open house meeting, stakeholder discussions, online engagement, website content and Community Services Commission meetings. An assessment of the park inventory became the basis for determining the current performance of the system. An overarching needs analysis was conducted for recreation amenities, parks and trails to assess current demands and forecast future demand accounting for population growth.

To guide the implementation of the goals of the Plan, a capital facilities plan was developed with a set of strategies that identified costs and potential funding sources. Together, this process is represented in this planning document, which will be reviewed by the public, Community Services Commission and City Council members. Once adopted, the Plan directs park and recreation service delivery for the next 5 to 10 years.

## ECONOMY

### DIVERSE - THRIVING - EXPANDING

During the past few years, the City has consciously and deliberately instituted a new economic development strategy geared towards attracting new high-end employers to Monrovia, while also working to develop a biotechnology and science based local economic ecosystem. In 2016-2017, Monrovia has seen the addition of nearly 300,000 square feet of new office users, who have brought with them more than 1,900 professional jobs to town.

On the biotechnology and science front, new businesses calling Monrovia home include:

- Beckman Research Institute (140,000 square feet, 600 jobs)
- Aerovironment (35,000 square feet, 250 jobs)
- City of Hope (20,000 square feet, 150 jobs)
- Oak Crest Institute of Science (10,000 square feet, 45 jobs)

Other significant, new office users that have moved into Monrovia include the following.

- Southern California News Group (33,000 square feet, 200 jobs)

- Cacique (28,000 square feet, 250 jobs)
- Yang Ming Shipping (25,000 square feet, 150 jobs)
- Worley Parsons (consolidated in Monrovia, 300+ jobs)

Monrovia's residents are employed in a variety of industries. Over one-third (36%) of working residents are employed in professional, educational, or health fields. Other sizable industries include retail trade (11% of workers), arts and entertainment (10%), and manufacturing (9%). The largest local employer is the Monrovia Unified School District. Residents also have easy access to the employment centers of the greater metropolitan Los Angeles region. Nearly 11% of employed residents work within the City of Monrovia, while 23% commute to Los Angeles and 10% to Pasadena.

Approximately seven in ten residents over 18 are employed, though 7% are unemployed, and the remaining 23% are out of the work force. Residents are generally well-educated; over 89% of those over 25 years of age have completed a high school degree, and 69% have some college or higher-level education. □

Demographics	Monrovia	Los Angeles Co.	California
<b>Population Characteristics</b>			
Population (2015)	37,463	10,038,388	39,250,017
Population (2000)	36,929	9,519,338	33,871,648
Percent Change (2000-16)	1%	5%	16%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	7.0%	9.7%	10.4%
<b>Household Characteristics (2011-15)</b>			
Households	13,048	3,263,069	12,717,801
Percent with children	29.4%	30.7%	31.9%
Average Household Size	2.83	3.02	2.96
Owner Occupancy Rate	48.7%	46.0%	54.3%
<b>Age Groups (2010)</b>			
Median Age	37.9	34.8	35.2
Population < 5 years of age	6.5%	6.6%	6.8%
Population < 18 years of age	23.3%	24.5%	25.0%
Population > 65 years of age	11.6%	10.9%	11.4%

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: City of Monrovia, Los Angeles County, State of California

# A TRADITION OF PAST PLANS

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks and recreation opportunities in Monrovia.

**Recreation & Open Space Element to the City General Plan (1966).** The 1966 Recreation and Open Space Element is part of the City's comprehensive General Plan and remains as the adopted recreation planning framework for the City to this day. Monrovia had 115 acres at that time and would have needed 320 acres to meet a standard of one acre per hundred people. The Element identified the most critical need for local neighborhood urban parks. The Plan's objectives for Monrovia's future direction were: 1) to make parks, playgrounds and open spaces available to satisfy the cultural, recreational and leisure time needs of the residents; 2) to protect and preserve existing facilities and natural resources of the area; and 3) to encourage use of those areas which have scenic and locational advantages.

**Parks Master Plan (1991).** The 1991 Monrovia Parks Master Plan included the analysis and evaluation of the physical opportunities and constraints of the City's seven parks. Each park (Canyon Park, Julian D. Fisher Park, Grand Avenue (Kiwanis) Park, Library Park, Olive Avenue (Lucinda Garcia) Park, Recreation Park and Rotary Park) was assessed individually for potential recreation opportunities.

**Park Capital Master Plan (2011).** The 2011 Parks Capital Master Plan identified improvements for eight park facilities with estimated costs totaling \$13 million. The park facility improvements included new amenities, renovations to existing features and master plans for Grand Avenue (Kiwanis) and

Recreation Parks. Some of the noted park improvements have been accomplished.

**Monrovia Bicycle Master Plan (2016).** The 2016 Bicycle Master Plan aimed to create a safe and interconnected bicycle transportation network and recommended improvements to the city infrastructure with traffic signal detection, a wayfinding signage program and "end of trip" facilities such as bike racks, bike lockers and repair and hydration stations. The Bike Plan identified programs for helping engage more residents in active bike use, bike safety, bike awareness and specific biking events.

**Los Angeles County Parks Needs Assessment (2016).** Los Angeles County measured the level of service for park lands within Monrovia's urban area as 0.9 acres per 1,000. The county average was cited as 3.3 park acres per 1,000. The measure of park accessibility showed that 58% of Monrovia's population was living within ½ mile of a park compared to the county average of 49%. The needs assessment proposed a number of projects with associated cost estimates for Monrovia's park system including a new park in the southwest area, expanded pedestrian improvements in Canyon Park, a variety of urban park improvements and deferred maintenance projects totaling \$117 million.

**Los Angeles County Urban Forestry Manual.** Recognizing the valuable asset that trees provide to the region, the county created an urban forestry program manual to ensure that proper care and protection would be focused on the community's trees. The Manual seeks to preserve and protect existing canyon oak trees and adopt a "no net loss" policy to ensure future retention of native species tree canopy.





# BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY BENEFITS ■

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



## SOCIAL & COMMUNITY BENEFITS ■

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.



## ECONOMIC BENEFITS ■

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In California, outdoor recreation generated \$85.4 billion (2016) in consumer spending, created 732,000 direct California jobs, generated \$27 billion in wages and salaries and resulted in \$6.7 billion in state and local tax revenue. According to the Outdoor Recreation Economy Report published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.



*Identifying opportunities*



*Planning future trail improvements*



*Coming together to share ideas*

## PUBLIC PROCESS

# COMMUNITY LISTENING

Community engagement and input played a crucial role in revealing the current demands and needs for park and recreation provision as well as establishing the future recreational framework that reflects community priorities. This planning process leaned on community outreach, stakeholder meetings, surveys and extensive inventorying to provide a baseline of demand and need. Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about its needs and priorities for parks, trails and recreation opportunities in Monrovia.

Approximately 50 people attended an open house held in mid-April 2017 and participated in exploring the general needs and interests for park and recreation in Monrovia and proposed recommendations. A brief presentation introduced the planning process, some history about Monrovia parks, current community

MONROVIA PARK MASTER PLAN

needs, and trends from other parks and recreation agencies around the country. Attendees were encouraged to talk to each other, share comments and ideas, and two table-based group discussions focused around two core questions:

### IDEAS, THEMES & PRIORITIES

*Are there other types of experiences that you'd like to see in Monrovia? What would draw you into our parks more often or for longer?*

### CONNECTIVITY

*What destinations would be better served by direct, safe bicycle and pedestrian trails? What trail improvements would encourage you to walk or bike more frequently?*



“Add more shaded playgrounds and sitting areas, water features safe for little ones...”



Prioritizing common ideas.

TOP: Mapping out connections  
 BOTTOM: Local youth sharing their vision for improvements



Individuals at each table were asked to write ideas about parks and recreation opportunities and then shared their ideas with others at their table. Each table voted on most important themes at their table. As a large group, all attendees then 'voted' on the most important ideas in the room. The following represents the top ten, highest ranking ideas among attendees.

- Pump Track
- New Trails (includes bike and pedestrian)
- Public Safety

- Trail Maintenance
- Biking (includes mountain)
- Dog Park
- Community Involvement
- Water Theme / Splash pad
- Garden (includes Zen)
- Community Pool

Each table also drew ideas and notes on maps to denote specific project ideas, connections or opportunities.

A more complete summary of public comments is located in the Technical Appendix. [\[Link\]](#)

PUBLIC PROCESS

# COMMUNITY SURVEY

In February, 2017, a 20-question survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households. The survey was also posted as an online version. The survey was developed in collaboration with parks staff and the Community Services Commissioners and resulted in 614 completed survey responses. In general, survey respondents were significantly more likely to be older adults as compared to Monrovia’s population in general.

**Frequency of Park Use.** Three-quarters of respondents visited a City park at least once per month in the past year. Generally, respondents who live near parks are most likely to report using them. However, Canyon Park, Recreation Park and Library Park attract visitors from across the city. Younger respondents were more likely to visit parks frequently - 90% of respondents between 35 and 44 years old visit at least once a month, as compared to 64% of respondents over the age of 65.

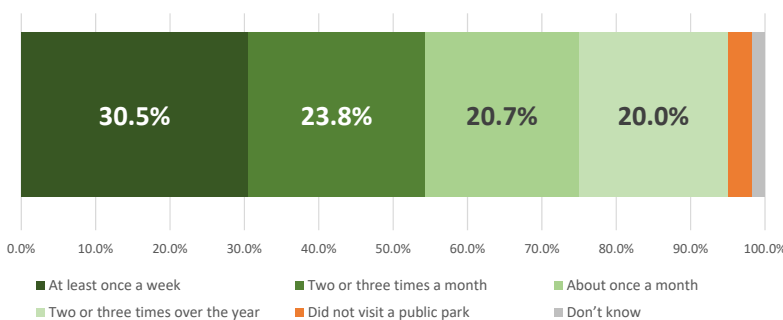


Figure 2: Frequency of Park Usage

Residents of neighborhoods between Foothill Blvd and Huntington Blvd were more likely to be frequent park visitors than residents of other areas: approximately 40% visit a park at least once a week, compared to 30% or fewer for residents in other areas. Residents who live south of Huntington use parks less frequently than residents of other areas.

**Need for additional park and recreation opportunities.** Over half of residents (59%) feel there are “about the right number” of parks in Monrovia. Approximately 26% believe there are not enough opportunities, while 7% believe there are more than enough. Younger residents (under 34 years old) are significantly more likely to feel there are not enough park and recreation opportunities in the city than older residents. Residents who live in SE Monrovia (southeast of Huntington and Myrtle) are more likely than residents of other areas to feel there are “not enough” parks and recreation opportunities.

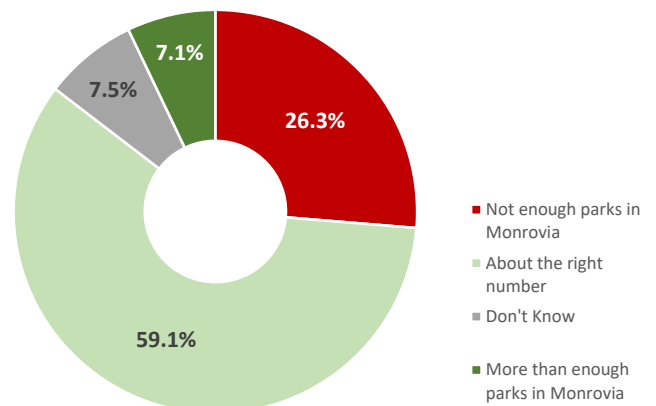


Figure 3: Sentiment about Quantity of Parks

**Condition of Existing Parks.** Survey respondents were asked to rate the general condition (maintenance and upkeep) of City parks that they had visited. Canyon Park and Station Square Park received the highest ratings for condition with 94% of 392 respondents and 93% of 204 respondents who visited in the past year rating the condition as ‘excellent’, respectively. Residents were most critical of the condition of Lucinda Garcia Park (50% of the 33 respondents who had visited the park rated its condition as either ‘fair’ or ‘poor’), Rotary Park (33% of 61 visitors), and Library Park (32% of 498 visitors).



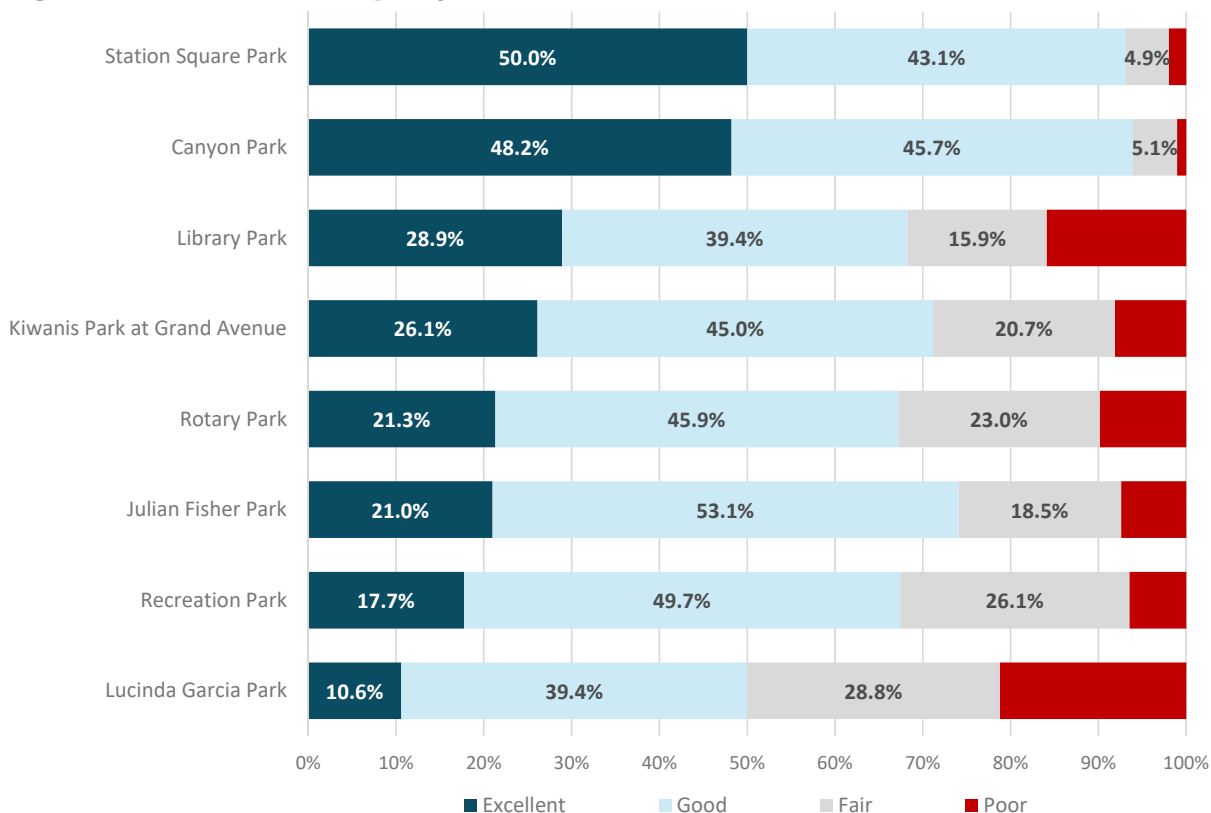
98%

FEEL PARKS & RECREATION ARE IMPORTANT OR ESSENTIAL

75%

VISITED A CITY PARK AT LEAST ONCE PER MONTH IN PAST YEAR

Figure 4: Sentiment about Quality of Park Maintenance



**THEMES FROM COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS**

Lots of activities for younger kids; need more for teens.

Teens want to hang with friends, go swimming, play tennis, hang out – consider programs that engage youth and offer places to sit in the shade.

Add activities for teens, like outdoor workout equipment.

Great for the city to have more small parks where there is higher density.

Add a dog park.

Add more sport fields in parks; schools are currently meeting the immediate field need, but wearing out with the amount of play that they receive.

ADA access for paths. Everyplace there is a step, there needs to be a handrail. Need benches and shade/rain covering.

Nice parks here, but no activity in some to draw people in, like in front of the library park.

Connect biking area on county land that would tie together Kiwanis Park and Canyon Park.

# 12 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

**Park and Facility Improvement Priorities.** Survey respondents were presented with a list of potential improvements to Monrovia’s parks, including upgrades to existing facilities and development of new facilities. Over sixty percent of respondents were very or somewhat supportive of nearly all improvements listed. More than 90% of respondents supported upgrading existing neighborhood parks and walking and biking trails. Developing new trails, upgrading picnic shelters and playgrounds, upgrading Canyon Park, developing additional restrooms, and improving city sports fields and courts were also very popular improvements - over 75% of respondents were supportive of these investments. Respondents were slightly

less supportive of developing new indoor recreation spaces, new sports fields, and upgrading the skate park, though a majority of residents still supported these improvements.

**Priorities for Expanding or Improving Recreational Opportunities.** More than half of respondents supported expanding or improving walking and hiking trails (71%) and restrooms in parks (57%). Between one-third and one-half of respondents would like the City to expand or improve community gardens, nature/wildlife watching, picnicking, bike riding, community events, arts/dance/music/cultural classes, and off-leash dog opportunities. Less popular responses included gymnasiums for indoor

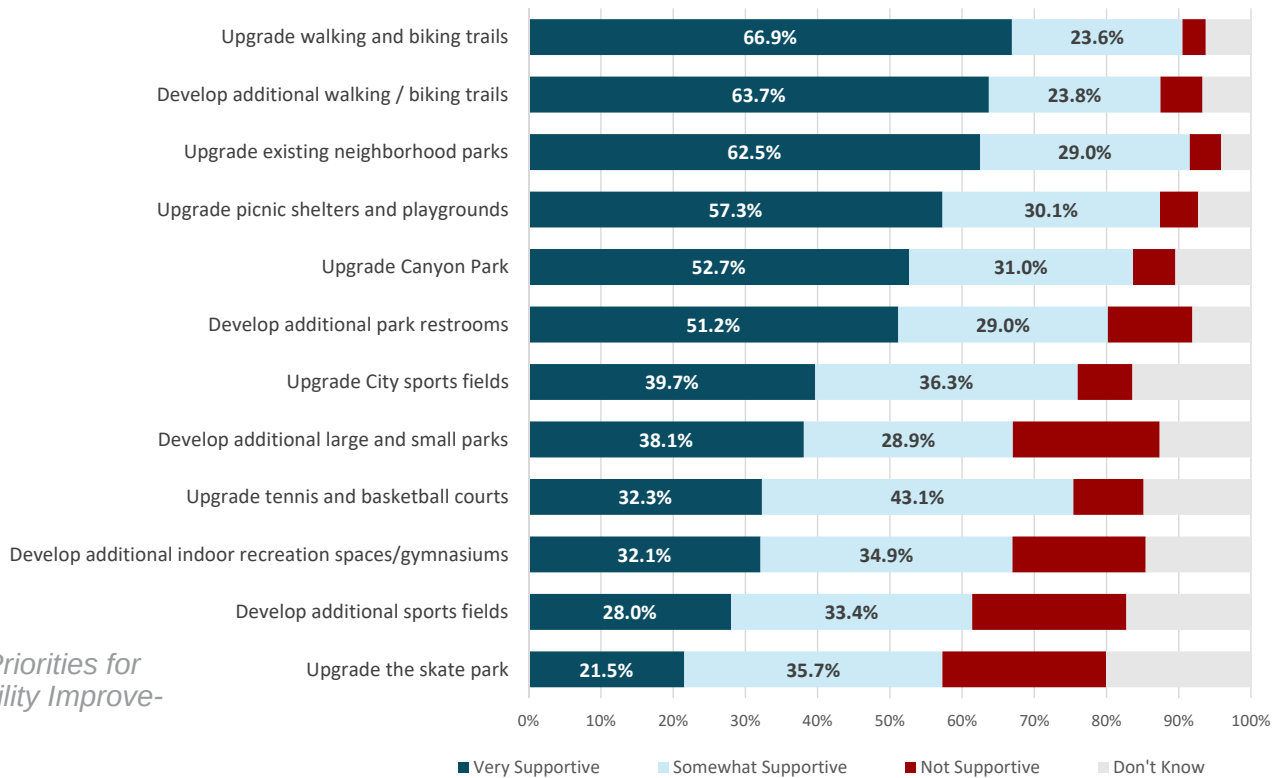


Figure 5: Priorities for Park & Facility Improvements

**95%**

BELIEVE PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES ARE IMPORTANT TO MONROVIA'S QUALITY OF LIFE

**76%**

ARE VERY OR SOMEWHAT SATISFIED WITH THE OVERALL VALUE THEY RECEIVE FROM CITY PARKS

sports, playing baseball/softball, playing soccer/lacrosse/football, and skateboarding and BMX - each with less than 20% support.

provide more offerings, with the highest demand for special events, arts programs, and educational classes.

**Recreation Program Options.** Respondents were asked whether existing recreational programs and activities are adequate, regardless of their current participation. In general, respondents felt that the City should maintain current program offerings. Very few respondents (less than 4%) felt the City should reduce offerings of any of its recreational programs. Approximately 34% to 44% of respondents felt the City should

Respondents were more likely to participate in - and support expansion of - programs that match the demographics of themselves or their families. For examples, older adults participate in and believe there should be more programs for adults 55 and over. Similarly, adults age 35 to 55 - who are most likely to have children at home - are more likely to feel more youth and teen programs are needed. ■

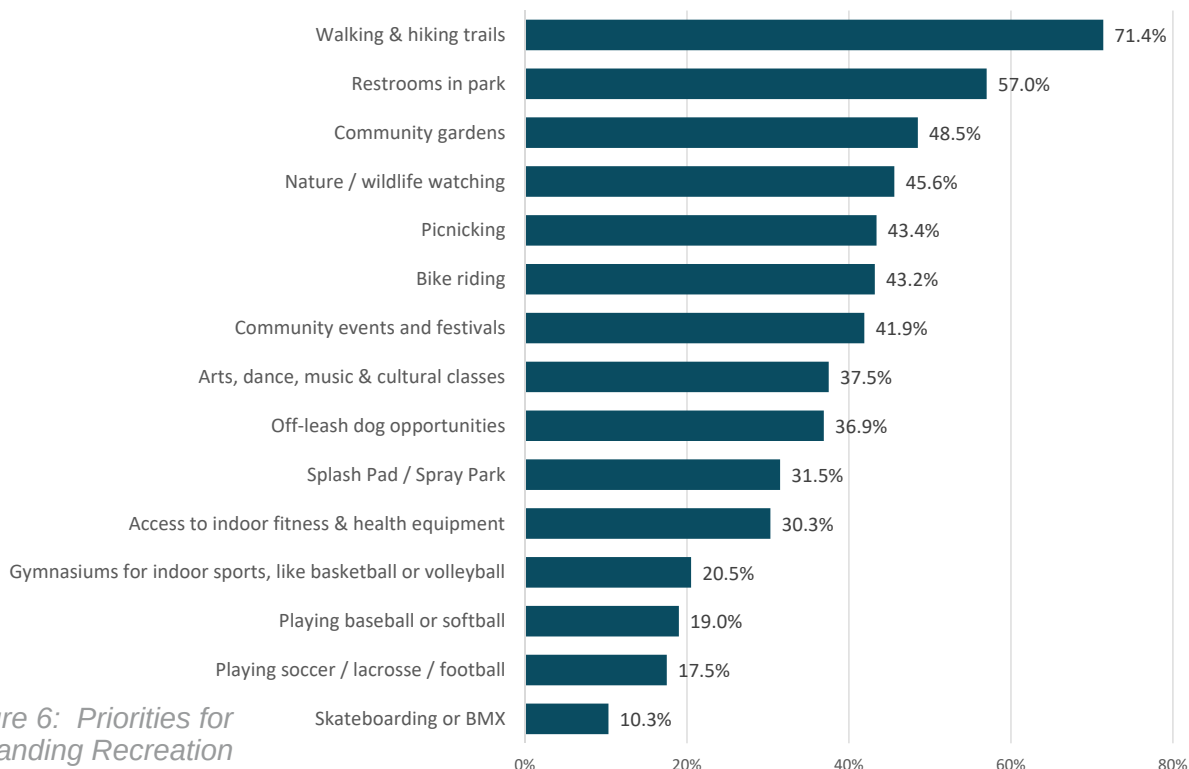


Figure 6: Priorities for Expanding Recreation Opportunities

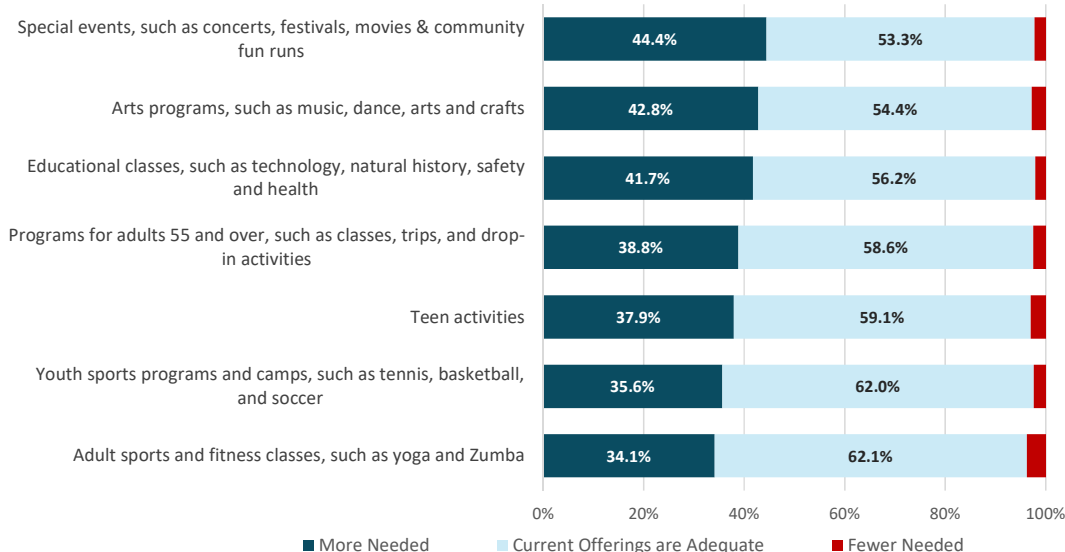


Figure 7: Interest in Recreation Program Areas

# PARK SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Monrovia provides and maintains a growing system of parks that supports a range of active and passive experiences. The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within Monrovia. The City provides over 33 acres of urban parks and an additional 80 acres of natural area distributed among nine park sites. The following table summarizes the current park inventory and amenities in Monrovia.

			Recreation Amenities						Site Amenities									
			Playgrounds	Paved Courts: Basketball	Paved Courts: Tennis	Baseball / Softball Fields	Pathways / Trails	Skate Park	Other Rec Element	Site Furnishings	Lighting	Signage	Parking Areas (incl on-street)	Public Art	Restrooms	Picnic Shelters	Turf / Open Lawn Areas	Natural Areas
<b>PARKS</b>																		
Canyon Park	1200 N. Canyon Blvd.	80.00					●	●	●		●	●	●	●	●		●	
Evergreen Plaza	1508 S. California Avenue	0.78						●	●	●		●						
Julian Fisher Park	915 S. California Avenue	1.20	●	●			●		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		
Kiwanis Park at Grand Avenue	340 N. Grand Avenue	3.50	●					●	●	●	●	●	●				●	
Library Park	321 S. Myrtle Avenue	4.60	●				●	●	●	●	●	●	●				●	
Lucinda Garcia Park	502 W. Olive Avenue	1.70	●				●		●	●	●	●					●	
Recreation Park	620 S. Shamrock Avenue	18.90	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●	●	●		
Rotary Park	401 S. California Avenue	0.92	●						●	●	●	●					●	
Station Square	1629 S. Myrtle Avenue	1.70	●				●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●		●		

Figure 8. Existing Inventory: City-owned Parks



# PARK LOCATIONS & CLASSIFICATIONS

Parkland is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The Monrovia park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreation and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system will serve the full range of community needs. Classifying parkland by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses.

## COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are large sites developed for organized play, contain a wide array of facilities and, as a result, appeal to a more diverse group of users. Community parks are generally 10 to 40 acres in size and serve residents within a 2-mile drive, walk or bike ride from the site. In areas without neighborhood parks, community parks can also serve as local neighborhood parks. In general, community park facilities are designed for organized or intensive recreational activities and sports, although passive components such as pathways, picnic areas and natural areas are highly encouraged and complementary to active use facilities. Developed community parks typically include amenities such as sport courts (basketball, tennis), covered activity areas, soccer and/or baseball fields and bike and pedestrian trails.

## POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks are small parks that provide limited opportunities for active play and passive recreation. They are generally less than 0.5 acres in size and provide modest recreational amenity to residents within a ¼-mile walking distance. Due to their small size, pocket parks may be discouraged in lieu of larger facilities. This Plan recommends against pursuing additional pocket parks due to the higher maintenance costs and lower recreational value.

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks generally are considered the basic unit of traditional park systems. They are small parks designed for unstructured, non-organized play and limited active and passive recreation. They may range from 0.5 to 5 acres in size, depending on a variety of factors including neighborhood need, physical location and opportunity. To accommodate a typically desired amount of recreational amenities and open areas a minimum size of 1.5 acres is recommended, if possible. Neighborhood parks are intended to serve residential areas within close proximity (up to ½-mile walking or biking distance) of the park and should be geographically distributed throughout the community. Park siting and design should ensure pedestrians do not have to cross a major street or other barrier to get to the site, unless safe crossings are provided.

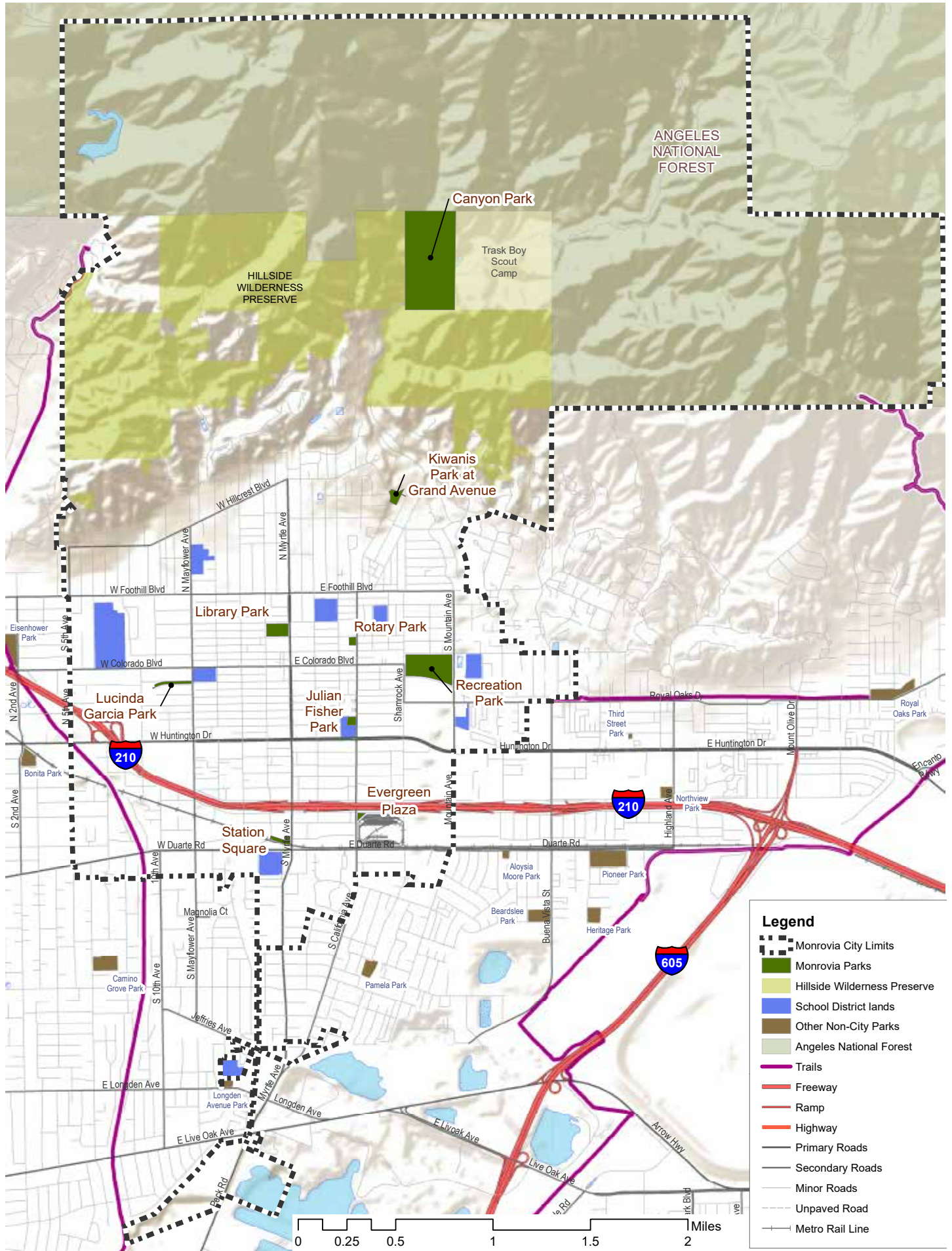
## SPECIAL USE AREAS

Special use facilities include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification includes stand-alone sport field complexes and community centers.

## NATURAL AREAS

Natural areas are undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state with only modest improvements for recreation uses. These conserved open spaces are usually owned or managed by a governmental agency and may or may not have public access. Natural areas may provide trail corridors, and offer low-impact or passive activities, such as walking or nature observation, where appropriate.

# 16 PARK INVENTORY





“Parks, like fingerprints, are unique and give us a sense of identity and belonging”

- Jerah Smith, American Planning Association

## CANYON PARK

### COMMUNITY PARK

*Location: 1200 N. Canyon Blvd.  
80 acres with 22 acres of developed area*



*Hikers enjoy the cool waters at end of the Waterfall Trail.*

### AMENITIES

- Paved entry road
- Entrance gate
- Ranger station (with staff parking)
- Maintenance shop
- Fee kiosk with fee collection container
- Parking lots (for 60 cars + 2 bus + 1 trailer)
- Restrooms – at each parking area
- Remote toilet at Deer Park
- Nature Center
- “Free Library” box
- Rental Cabin – conference center
- Public art
- Cabin (rental) parking lot (10 spots)
- Overnight camping area
- Picnic areas with tables
- Barbecue grills (picnic & cabin areas)
- Drinking fountains
- Benches
- Bike rack
- Mutt mitt dispensers
- Hiking trails & Nature Trail
- Signs
- Lockers
- Water tower
- Natural environment

### DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- A consistent trail directional signage system would be helpful to guide new visitors and keep park users oriented to the different sites within the park.
- As aging infrastructure and non-ADA compliant amenities need replacement, the park could unify its natural look and integrate better wayfinding signage with a graphic and material design consistency.
- If feasible (without compromising natural terrain and environmental resources), the creation of loop trail options would add to the user experiences.
- The park setting of the San Gabriel Mountains offers a natural recreational setting yet the wide mix of signs, while providing helpful information, tend to detract from the natural aesthetic of the canyon and its hillsides. A unified “brand” with consistent graphic, color and fonts standards could be developed (and tied to the City’s parks as well) to identify all the informational needs within the park and provide a more visually consistent natural park setting.

### MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Parking lots will need fresh striping for parking stall designations. Handicapped spaces and their aligned accessible travel paths need new striping. More attention is needed to ensure ADA compliance with signage, drinking fountains, curb-cut ramp locations, pavement changes, building access and parking-to-entry connections.
- Vehicle guard rails along the park road need replacement. An opportunity to consider an updated guard rail design, carefully integrated with the natural environment.
- The Nature Center is a well-designed facility that is likely underutilized due to necessary reliance on inconsistent volunteer staffing. The Park could expand its programming and outreach if more consistent staffing resources could be assigned to regular Center hours.
- Asphalt pavement at the rental cabin is breaking up badly in the parking stall closest to the entrance walkway. Repairs are needed.



*Trails are used by a variety of hikers.*

*The Nature Center contains a special array of education displays.*

*Improvements are needed to parking and pavement.*

*A unified wayfinding system will help visitors enjoy the park.*



- The Hillside Wilderness Preserve (HWP) Resource Management Plan proposed several future trail connections and links that could enhance the recreational trails and public access to both the HWP and Canyon Park. (In 2016, over 4.5 miles of trails were opened for passive recreation in HWP through four access points.) By continuing to provide additional trail options, trail users will have alternative options for reasonable public access while preserving the natural resource values.



*Recent improvements along N. Canyon Boulevard have enhanced pedestrian safety.*

# JULIAN FISHER PARK

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

*Location: 915 South California Avenue at Almond Avenue  
1.8 acres*



*Court surfaces were refinished to continue to provide active play.*

## AMENITIES

- Inclusive playground w/ rubberized surfacing
- Swings (2 tot, 2 child & 1 tire)
- Picnic tables (3)
- Shelter with tables (4)
- Benches
- Basketball courts (3)
- Paved pathways
- Drinking fountains (non-ADA)
- Public art
- Trash cans
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Restroom
- Interpretive garden
- Shade trees
- Grass lawn
- Perimeter fence
- Lighting

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- The City recently completed a renovation project for this park to include new resurfacing the basketball courts, upgrading the picnic shelter and installing lighting and a restroom.
- The new playground is well laid-out with age-appropriate structures, jungle gym, swings (tot & child) and spring toys.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Grounds keeping practices should include removing any grass growing at base of new / young trees to avoid repeated mower damage to tree base and trunk.



*New amenities have enhanced the park.*

*The installation of a restroom will allow for longer visits and provide walls for art and community information.*



*A new shelter will provide for more visitor accommodation.*

*The recent improvements were celebrated by city dignitaries, the Fisher family and the community.*

# KIWANIS PARK AT GRAND AVENUE

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

*Location: 340 North Grand Avenue at Prospect Avenue  
3.5 acres*



*The playground is hidden from the park entrances.*

## AMENITIES

- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountain (non-ADA)
- Playground (non-ADA accessible)
- Hard court surface open space
- Concrete circle
- Public art
- Benches
- Irrigation
- Trash cans
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Solar lighting

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Due to the tri-level nature of the park property and limited visibility from public streets, the park creates a design challenge for engaging public use and easy access. The view from the upper level does not provide any indication of amenities in the park. The central park area (mid-level) has plenty of room to provide more value and recreational amenities if a complete design is created to integrate the park's varying topography and provide better public visibility. A updated site master plan should be completed in cooperation with neighbors and local park users.
- Lower level of park has a paved court area with limited access and limited use/value, since the residential alley is too tight and neighboring houses very proximate to park spaces. The installation of a replacement basketball court for this part is not recommended due to the proximity of residences and potential impacts to the use of the park. Removing the lower paved court, providing more defined park identity and entrance from alley, recontouring the slopes and re-creating recreational amenities that connect to the main central park area could enhance the overall park functions.
- Due to the slopes, stairs and lack of any connecting paved pathway, the park does not provide access to accommodate any ADA-compatible amenities.
- Replace and upgrade the play equipment and fall safety surfacing.
- Consider the installation of a restroom for park patron convenience.
- Formalize the access and develop a connection between the park and the planned Sawpit Wash Trail.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Maintenance vehicle access gate is broken at the alley off Valle Vista Avenue. Unfettered access allows unauthorized vehicle access – site visit witnessed damage from car tires making “donuts” in the park lawn. Consider alternative vehicle control measures (such as removable bollards) if the gate (once fixed) is not operable or convenient.
- Retaining wall at edge of hard court in lower park is deteriorating and will need to be repaired, removed or replaced.





*Neighborhood parks are critical for local recreation opportunities.*



*The upper entrance is separated from the main use areas of the park.*



*Elements within the park could be better integrated for more active recreation.*

*Underused park areas could be redesigned for different uses.*

*A paved perimeter path would be helpful for these users.*



# LIBRARY PARK

## COMMUNITY PARK

*Location: 321 South Myrtle Avenue at Lime Avenue  
4.6 acres*



*The park provides a central community public space.*

## AMENITIES

- Rotary Club Band shell
- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountains with dog fountains
- Playground with swings & shade canopies
- Playground fencing
- Park benches
- Paved pathways
- Lighting
- Irrigation
- Trash cans
- Mutt mitt dispensers
- Bike racks
- Landscaped beds
- Shade (& heritage) trees
- Open grass lawn
- Ornamental fountain
- Flag poles
- Veterans Memorial
- Vietnam Memorial
- Retaining walls
- Street side parking
- Mark Twain sculpture
- Public art
- Monrovia Public Library

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider strategic placement of additional shade (canopy) trees, ideally native coast oaks or similar adaptive species.
- Consider the installation of a restroom for park patron convenience.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Crushed rock pathway to playground needs additional material to address concrete lip at edges (near playground entry & drinking fountain).
- Most picnic tables and benches on west end of park do not meet access for ADA-compliance. Consider better surface connections to avoid tripping hazards for bench users. Curved benches at ornamental fountain do not match the curve of pavement, which poses a potential tripping hazard.



*The playground is well-used but beginning to show signs of wear.*

*Some park users combine playground and library visits.*



*Interactive water features are very popular.*

*Recently renovated playground surfacing helps accommodate universal access.*

# LUCINDA GARCIA PARK

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

*Location: 502 West Olive Avenue at Mayflower Avenue  
1.5 acres*



*Local park access provides places for families and neighbors to gather.*

## AMENITIES

- Playground with sand surfacing (some rubberized)
- Swing set (2 child seats)
- Playground fencing
- Picnic tables (3)
- Drinking fountain (non-ADA)
- Barbecue grills (2)
- Trash cans
- Irrigation
- Lighting
- Shade trees
- Open grass lawn

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- The open space west of the west end wall has been identified as City ownership. This area could expand the public space to add functionality to the park.
- Replace and upgrade the play equipment and fall safety surfacing.
- Install exercise circuit equipment along the pathway.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Existing perimeter asphalt pathway has numerous root upheavals creating tripping hazards. Edge of pathway has overgrown with grass, narrowing the paved path width.
- New/young trees should have grass removed from base of trunk to limit/avoid repeated mower damage to base of tree trunk.
- Once newly planted trees have been in ground for one year, support stakes and ties should be removed.



*An informal walking path accommodates local walkers and runners.*

*Swings are a timeless playground element that are a source of joy for toddlers, youth (and even adults).*



*Regular inspections of paths and pavements should identify repair needs.*

*Exercise for older adults can be as important as play for children.*

# RECREATION PARK

## COMMUNITY PARK

*Location: 620 South Shamrock Avenue at Lemon Avenue  
22 acres*



*Team sports regularly use the grass fields at Recreation Park.*

## AMENITIES

- Paved and crushed rock pathways
- Large open shelter/picnic pavilion
- Playground with sand & rubberized surfacing
- Swing set (2 tot, 2 child)
- Playground fencing
- Picnic pavilion in playground
- Restrooms
- Skate park
- Barney Glenn baseball field with concessions
- Multi-purpose sports field with lighting
- Tennis courts (4)
- Sand volleyball courts (2)
- Hardcourt (1/2 court basketball)
- Barbecue grills
- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountains (non-ADA)
- Benches
- Trash cans
- Mutt mitt dispensers
- Shade trees
- Open grass areas
- Rose garden
- Santa Anita YMCA facility
- Options preschool building & play area
- YMCA program office building
- Mary Wilcox Youth Center
- Boys & Girls Club facility
- Monrovia Historical Museum and garden
- Parking
- Perimeter sidewalk

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- The park contains many recreational amenities but lacks a cohesive design to help the park user navigate through all the opportunities. Pathways and other built infrastructure are aging. A new master plan to capture underutilized spaces and pull the park together would be beneficial. The older recreational infrastructure may be technically sound but is missing the visual and functional characteristics that would identify the park as a great community recreational asset. The area between YMCA and Historical Museum is good example of underutilized space.
- Barney Glenn baseball field could be upgraded with safety enhancements such as covers for dugouts and better protection for pitcher warm-up aisles.
- A connecting loop trail (not just the sidewalk) would be a beneficial addition to a future master plan for the park.
- Replace and upgrade the play equipment and fall safety surfacing.
- Install exercise circuit equipment along the pathway.
- Consider the installation of a splash pad for this park.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Small picnic pavilion in playground is showing carpenter ant damage at base of support posts.



*Walking is the most popular recreational activity across the park system.*

*The baseball field provides opportunities for league and recreation play.*



- Handicapped parking needs to be revised to meet ADA compliance (signs, striping, detectable warning strips, etc.).
- In playground, gaps between pavement & rubberized play surface exceeding ADA maximum.
- Consider efficiency and design features for a splash pad. In keeping with statewide water conservation requirements, the splash pad must be a recirculating system and should include an ultraviolet water treatment system. Many jurisdictions across California have successfully managed their splash pads for public enjoyment and water conservation.



*ADA compliance includes having stable surfaces for pathways connecting park amenities. .*

# ROTARY PARK

## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

Location: 401 South California Avenue at Lime Avenue  
0.87 acres



*Volunteers provide an important resource for keeping parks beautiful.*

## AMENITIES

- Picnic tables (3)
- Drinking fountain
- Playground with sand surfacing (some rubberized)
- Paved pathway
- Open central lawn
- Perimeter shades trees
- Mutt mitt dispenser
- Trash cans
- Lighting
- Irrigation
- Bench
- Perimeter fence
- Options preschool building and separated play area.

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Existing play structure has aged beyond desirable play condition. One slide is already boarded up. Former shade structures long removed (missing post holes evident in central platforms). Plastic structure will continue to age and degrade in UV sunlight exposure. Replacement of entire playground provides opportunity to design expanded play opportunities and provide appropriate fall safety surfacing (not sand). Gaps in rubberized play surface create an ADA barrier to play equipment.
- Park should be evaluated for the possibility of adding more shade particularly around the playground area.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Open grass lawn has significant clover growth. Consideration of grass-to-clover acceptable levels may warrant some clover control to avoid significant exposure of park users to bees attracted by the clover.
- Park sign at street corner was formerly in a landscaped bed that has long since evolved to mown grass. Consider re-defining the area to be landscaped with low growing shrubs and perennials.
- Walkway has uplifted pavement in several areas near drinking fountain and picnic tables, creating ADA obstacle/barrier.





*There is room for additional enhancements in the park since the old structure has been removed.*

*Dogs are required to be leashed, except for this special demonstration.*



*The sign planting area awaits some landscape enhancements.*

*Older play equipment needs to be replaced.*

*The playground will need new surfacing.*



# STATION SQUARE

## COMMUNITY PARK & SPECIAL USE AREA

*Location: 1629 S. Myrtle Avenue  
1.7 acres*



*The bandshell supports community concerts.*

## AMENITIES

- Bandshell with restrooms
- Playgrounds – climbing structure; train set w/ rubberized safety surfacing
- Picnic tables (6)
- Chess/checker tables
- Benches
- Bubbling water feature
- Paved plaza and pathways
- Drinking fountains (1 with dog bowl)
- Seating walls
- Interpretive signs
- Trash cans
- Bike racks (2)
- Irrigation
- Shade trees
- Open grass lawn
- Stormwater plantings
- Parking lot (adjacent)
- Lighting
- Public art

## DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Since this is a brand new facility, observations over time will help identify re-design opportunities and needs for addressing maintenance concerns.
- Consider looking at possible options as it relates to providing access to the park from the south side of the Gold Line tracks. Consider opening a platform access at Peck Avenue.

## MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- Cut-thru foot traffic is wearing paths in the landscape areas. Determine where this is acceptable and how to mitigate for where it is not desirable.



*Programming should continue to activate this new park.*



*TOP: Station Square ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony in 2016*



*The playground follows the train transportation theme.*

## ACCESS &amp; DISTRIBUTION

# WITHIN A 10-MINUTE WALK

## PARKLAND GAP ANALYSIS

Monrovia residents are fortunate to have access to great parks, recreation facilities and the Hillside Wilderness Preserve, and a strong core system of parks and natural areas exists today. However, Monrovia's projected growth will place further pressure on access to existing recreational lands. Understanding the known gaps in the park system and re-visiting the City's service standards will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents have access to an equitable and distributed system of parks, trails and amenities to stay healthy and active.

**Parkland Walksheds.** To better understand where acquisition efforts should be directed, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the city. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing parkland distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since urban neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas.

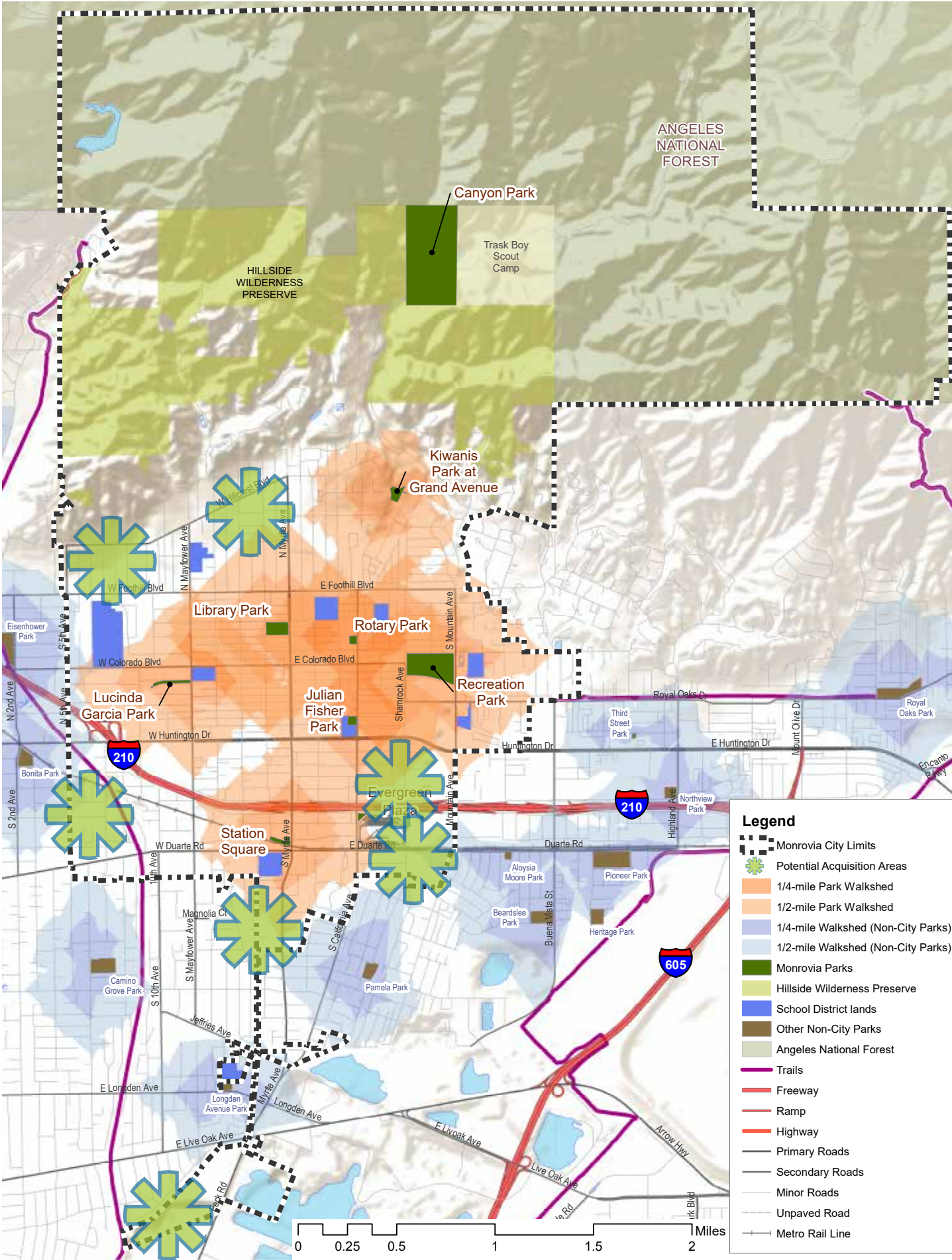
Walksheds were defined for neighborhood parks using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park. Walksheds for community parks were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances to acknowledge that community parks serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical. Gaps in parkland distribution appear in four main areas of the city, listed in no particular order:

58% of Monrovia's population lives within ½-mile of a park, according to the LA County Parks Needs Assessment

- South central Monrovia, south of I-210 (3 subareas)
- Southeast Monrovia, south of Huntington Dr.
- South Monrovia, south of Live Oak Ave.
- Northwest Monrovia, north of Foothill Blvd.

**County Needs Assessment.** The 2016 Los Angeles County Parks Needs Assessment parkland mapping, which used a standard of 100% of residents should be within a ½-mile of a park, showed that 58% of Monrovia's population was living within ½-mile of a park compared to the county average of 49% of the county population. The mapping of walking distance to local parks and their existing acreage for population density identified the southwestern portion of Monrovia as an area in need of future parkland.

**Future Acquisitions.** This Plan proposes acquisition of parkland for future neighborhood parks in these areas. While the targeted acquisition areas do not identify a specific parcel(s) for consideration, the area encompasses a broader region in which an acquisition would be ideally suited. These acquisition targets represent a long-term vision for improving parkland distribution throughout Monrovia.



**Legend**

- Monrovia City Limits
- Potential Acquisition Areas
- 1/4-mile Park Walkshed
- 1/2-mile Park Walkshed
- 1/4-mile Walkshed (Non-City Parks)
- 1/2-mile Walkshed (Non-City Parks)
- Monrovia Parks
- Hillside Wilderness Preserve
- School District lands
- Other Non-City Parks
- Angeles National Forest
- Trails
- Freeway
- Ramp
- Highway
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- Minor Roads
- Unpaved Road
- Metro Rail Line

# FRAMING A PATH FORWARD

Monrovia's adopted General Plan targets the City becoming a regional model for a sustainable, vibrant community with engaged citizens and an accountable government. The Public Services Department is an active contributor to helping the City achieve its vision through a series of action strategies, outlined in this section, to focus resources and accomplish measurable results over the next ten years. In an effort to highlight the overarching strategic directions to enable the Department to meet the City's Vision, the goals and objectives from past plans have been reviewed and enhanced to align with the common themes noted from the public during the planning process for this Plan.

Taken together, the goals and policies provide a framework for the Park Master Plan. A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Policies are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Policies reflect adopted practices intended to implement and achieve the goals.

These goals are in alignment with the National Recreation and Parks Association's Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted in 2012. These core values (below) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.



## HEALTH & WELLNESS

*Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity.*

## SOCIAL EQUITY

*We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few.*

## CONSERVATION

*Public parks are critical to preserving our communities' natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits.*

## PARK SERVICE STANDARDS

A level of service (LOS) review was conducted to further understand the distribution and acreage needs for parkland to assess how well the community can access and enjoy parks, recreation and open space. Traditionally, the application of numeric standards for the provision of parks has applied an acreage of parkland per thousand residents as a target measurement for adopted benchmark standards. Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their parks system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting its adopted standards. Without a numeric set of standards the level of service can evaluate how the City and its park system measures up to parks systems across the country with comparable population sizes, population densities and parkland acreages.

Figure 9: Current & Projected Parks Level of Service

Metric	Measurement	
Proposed Level of Service (LOS) Standard	1.10 acres per 1,000 residents	
2015 Population (ACS Estimate)	37,164 residents	
2026 Population (SCAG Projection)	39,400 residents	
Urban Park Acreage (excl. Canyon Park)	33.3 acres	

Level of Service	2015	2035
Effective Level of Service based on total acreage (acres/1,000 residents)	0.90*	0.85*
Net LOS to Standard (acres/1,000 residents)	(0.20)	(0.25)
Performance to Standard	81.5%	76.8%
Acreage surplus (deficit)	(7.6)	(10.0)

\* Note: Level of service for Urban Parks only.

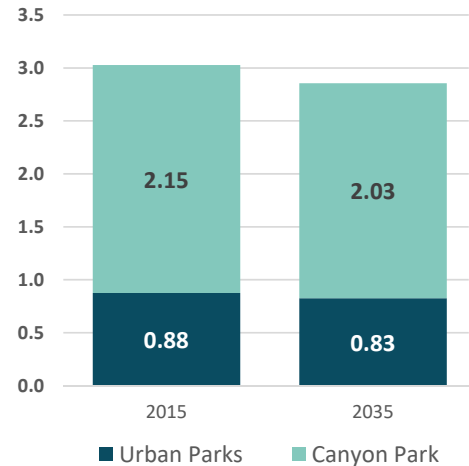


Figure 10: Citywide Level of Service Snapshot

Monrovia currently owns and manages 33.3 acres of developed city parks, 80 acres of open space at Canyon Park and additional natural lands of the Hillside Wilderness Preserve. The measure of level of service (LOS) is applied to developed public parkland within the city. The three community parks (25.2 acres, total) and four neighborhood parks (8.1 acres) provide the most accessible park facilities to most residents. Canyon Park is an important contributor to recreational amenities and is considered after the combined urban park acreage in this LOS review.

At 33.3 acres, the current level of service for Monrovia is 0.90 acres per 1,000 people, which excludes Canyon Park and the Hillside Preserve. Considering the recreational value of Canyon Park and its proximity to the urban population, Canyon Park adds 2.15 acres per 1,000 of parkland for the current population. This Plan proposes a city-specific acreage standard for urban parks of 1.10 acres per 1,000 people, primarily to emphasize the relative importance of these ‘work horse’ parks for providing the land base to accommodate a variety of recreational uses. A current deficit of 7.6 acres of urban parks exists, which is expected to grow to slightly under 10 acres by 2035.

While numeric standards are a useful tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, the numeric values alone do not provide adequate recognition of the quality of the facilities or their distribution. The simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails and active use parks and amenities (e.g., sport fields, dog parks, splash pads, picnic shelters, pump tracks, etc.) within a reasonable distance from their homes. ■

26% of survey respondents felt there is a need for more parks south of Huntington Blvd; 15% felt the need extends across the entire city; 12% stated areas north of Foothill Blvd.

# Strategic direction 01 ENCOURAGE CONNECTEDNESS

**GOAL:** Monrovia’s Public Services Department fosters and expands the physical and social connections linking the City together and bridging to its neighbors.



## 1. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### Policies

1.1 Encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreational opportunities.

ACTIONS	
1.1.1	Involve residents and stakeholders in system-wide planning, park site facility design and recreation program development. Use a diverse set of communication and informational materials to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and build public support.
1.1.2	Employ innovative strategies to improve community involvement in park and recreation planning efforts.
1.1.3	Identify under-represented segments of the community and work to improve their capacity to participate in park planning and decision-making.
1.1.4	Pursue opportunities to partner with residents and neighborhood groups to improve, maintain and monitor local parks, natural areas and trails.
1.1.5	Continue to promote and distribute information about recreational activities, education programs, community services and events, and volunteer activities sponsored by the City and partner agencies and organizations.
1.1.6	Provide clear maps of City parks, trails and recreation facilities online, in Monrovia Today, at trailheads and public counters, and in newspaper articles or notices.
1.1.7	Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and maintenance projects from a variety of individuals, service clubs, churches and businesses.
1.1.8	Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends at least once every five years.





## 2. PARK CONNECTIONS

### Policies

- 2.1 Develop a network of shared-use recreational, pedestrian and bicycle trails to enable connections within parks and between parks, neighborhoods, public amenities and regional trail corridors.
- 2.2 Design and construct trails to serve a variety of users at varying skill levels.
- 2.3 Support other City departments in the implementation of the Multi-Choice Transportation System Plan.
- 2.4 Develop additional non-motorized trails outside of parks to meet a targeted walkability score and promote Monrovia as a “walkable city.”

ACTIONS	
1.2.1	Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
1.2.2	Implement trail signage standards, route and wayfinding signage for trails and associated facilities and informational maps and materials identifying existing and planned trail facilities.
1.2.3	Partner with utilities, agencies and private landowners to secure trail easements and access to open space for planned trail connections.
1.2.4	Formalize the access and develop a connection between Kiwanis Park at Grand Avenue and the planned Sawpit Wash Trail; Consider the potential to utilize county land as a pump track location.
1.2.5	Implement the goals and projects noted in the Bicycle Master Plan to strengthen the connections between the on-street infrastructure to existing and planned recreational trails.
1.2.6	Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and Los Angeles County to provide a connected trail network that provide continuous walking and biking access between regional parks, natural areas and other key destinations.

# Strategic direction 02 SECURE LANDS FOR THE FUTURE

**GOAL:** Monrovia provides a comprehensive system of parks, open space and recreation facilities that serves current and future needs.



### 3. PARK & OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION

#### Policies

- 3.1 Acquire additional parklands necessary to adequately serve the City’s current and future population based on adopted service levels.
- 3.2 Plan for the location of parks in the proximity of under-served neighborhoods and/or high-density developments.

ACTIONS	
2.3.1	Provide urban parks to a service standard of 1.10 acres per 1,000 persons.
2.3.2	Proactively seek parklands identified within this Plan, in both developed and undeveloped areas, to secure suitable locations for new parks to serve future residents. Evaluate acquisition opportunities based on criteria such as improvement to existing level of service, connectivity, preservation or recreational opportunities for residents.
2.3.3	Provide equitable park distribution and prioritize park acquisition in under-served areas where households are more than ½-mile from a developed park.
2.3.4	Prioritize park acquisition in areas of the city facing population growth, and residential and commercial development.
2.3.5	Pursue acquisition of park-adjacent parcels to provide for needed parking expansion or valuable natural area/open space conservation.
2.3.6	Periodically update and revise the Open Space Element of the City’s General Plan.
2.3.7	Evaluate opportunities to acquire lands declared surplus by other public agencies for park and recreation use.
2.3.8	Consider connecting existing and future parks with stormwater capture elements and the adaptive re-use and/or redesign of large stormwater detention facilities in areas with parkland deficiencies, such that these sites serve dual roles for water detention and dry-season recreation.

# Strategic direction 03 CREATE GREAT PARKS & PUBLIC SPACES

**GOAL:** Monrovia's parks and open spaces meet local needs for active and passive recreation, enhance the environmental and visual quality of the community, and healthy living.



## 4. DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT & CONSERVATION

### Policies

- 4.1 Design and develop park sites and facilities to maximize recreational value and experience, while minimizing maintenance and operational costs and negative environmental and community impacts.
- 4.2 Strive to reduce barriers to participation and improve safety to provide universal access to facilities and programs.
- 4.3 Establish and operate specialized recreational facilities (e.g. sport facilities, off leash dog areas, skateparks, community gardens) to respond to identified public needs, as appropriate.
- 4.4 Conserve significant natural areas to meet habitat and hillside protection needs and to provide opportunities for residents to recreate and connect with nature, as appropriate.

ACTIONS	
3.4.1	Design new parks and provide improvements to existing parks which promote public safety and security, and provide accessibility to all in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
3.4.2	Develop an ADA Transition Plan to more deeply address and prioritize accessibility in parks and facilities.
3.4.3	Update and modernize design standards to provide continuity in furnishings (trash cans, tables, benches, fencing) and construction materials to reduce inventory and maintenance costs, standardize maintenance practices, and improve park appearance.
3.4.4	Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices into the design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities; consider the use of native or drought tolerant vegetation for landscaping in parks and reductions in irrigated turf to minimize maintenance requirements and reduce water demands.
3.4.5	Develop a master plan for improvements to Recreation Park, including renovation of the sport field and additional amenities.
3.4.6	Consider local needs, trends and availability of similar facilities within the City and region when planning for specialized recreational facilities, such as pump tracks, off-leash dog areas or others.
3.4.7	Provide additional picnic shelters for events such as family gatherings, community events and other meetings.
3.4.8	Assess overall sport fields needs on a regular basis, based on existing inventories and local participation trends.
3.4.9	Explore options with off-leash area advocates for the creation of a non-profit organization to help support and fund the on-going maintenance of future off-leash dog areas within the city.
3.4.10	Pursue opportunities to provide appropriate public access (e.g. trails, viewpoints and wildlife viewing areas) within natural areas to support passive recreation and environmental education.
3.4.11	Continue to provide environmental educational opportunities in natural areas with interpretive signage, nature trails and overlooks.
3.4.12	Consider the preparation of an Urban Forestry Management Plan to articulate a long-term strategy for tree protection, urban forestry management and public education and outreach.

# Strategic direction 04 FOSTER A HEALTHY, ACTIVE COMMUNITY

**GOAL:** Monrovia’s parks, recreation facilities and community programming bring residents together, encourage and amplify healthy lifestyles, and foster community pride, identity and livability.



## 5. WELLNESS & CULTURE

### Policies

- 5.1 Provide or partner for programming and services that support recreation and learning for target populations, including youth, teens, adults and older adults.
- 5.2 Maintain and enhance the Monrovia Community Center to provide recreational opportunities, community services and opportunities for residents to connect, learn and play.
- 5.3 Identify opportunities to create public gathering spaces that enable residents of all ages to connect with each other.
- 5.4 Seek opportunities to support and expand heritage facilities.
- 5.5 Reflect the City’s identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system.

ACTIONS	
4.5.1	Continue to support community events that provide opportunities for social engagement and bring families and neighbors together.
4.5.2	Identify appropriate locations within parks and natural areas for the installation of public art, interpretive signs, or cultural displays.
4.5.3	Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.
4.5.4	Coordinate for programming and services to meet the needs diverse users, including at-risk communities or those with special needs.
4.5.5	Partner and coordinate with Monrovia United School District, YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, community partners and sport organizations to offer drop-in and structured programs in sports; art, music and dance; and educational and environmental activities for youth and teens.
4.5.6	Explore options to expand the quantity and breadth of adult programs offered, in partnership with other recreation providers and organizations.
4.5.7	Continue to provide and expand opportunities for seniors to engage in social, recreational, educational, nutritional and health programs designed to encourage independence, in partnership with community agencies.
4.5.8	Continue to plan for and strategize improvements to or replacement of the Community Center.

# Strategic direction 05

## ENSURE SOUND MANAGEMENT & MAINTENANCE

**GOAL:** Monrovia's Public Services Department stewards the community's human, social and physical capital and resources to expand recreational opportunities for residents.



### 6. ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

#### Policies

- 6.1 Provide leadership and sufficient staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to the City's requirements.
- 6.2 Actively manage Monrovia's park and recreation assets through a regular schedule of maintenance and capital renewal efforts to optimize use, reduce unplanned reactive maintenance and protect public investment.
- 6.3 Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with governmental agencies and private and non-profit organizations to plan and provide recreation activities and facilities in an effort to maximize opportunities for public recreation.
- 6.4 Use traditional and new funding sources to adequately and cost-effectively maintain and enhance the quality of Monrovia's park and recreation system.

ACTIONS	
5.6.1	Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and commitment from staff, Commission members and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) and the California Park & Recreation Society (CPRS).
5.6.2	Assess the Department's staffing needs and hire adequate staff to manage the City's park and recreation system.
5.6.3	Use part-time, seasonal and contract employees for select functions to meet peak demands and respond to specialized or urgent needs.
5.6.4	Amend the Recreation & Open Space Element of the City's General Plan as needed to reflect the recreational needs of the community.
5.6.5	Annually update the Capital Facilities Plan to reflect the recreational needs of the community.
5.6.6	Assess park maintenance standards and prepare a routine preventative maintenance program to ensure parks, facilities and equipment are maintained in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; Repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
5.6.7	Plan for and finance deferred maintenance projects and upgrades for ADA compliance to ensure a safe, secure and accessible park infrastructure.
5.6.8	Coordinate with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sports leagues and MUSD, to plan for projects to expand specialized facilities.
5.6.9	Utilize strategic capital investments in parks, trails, open spaces, recreation and art to encourage and support economic development and revitalization.
5.6.10	Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as through private donation, sponsorships, partnerships and state and federal grant sources, among others.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary list of key project recommendations; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. These recommendations are not listed in a particular order. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the Monrovia Community Services Commission and City Council have demonstrated over the last decade their willingness to support parks and recreation, park maintenance and a high quality of life.

**ADA ENHANCEMENTS & PARK ENHANCEMENTS** Minor improvements to access, such as providing ramped entrances, for site furnishings are necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. Also, the City should evaluate the play equipment and its signage for code compliance and replace outdated equipment as appropriate. The recommendations in the Capital Facilities Project list provide site-specific suggestions. In general, the City should make improvements to existing parks as needed to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds.



**PARK CONNECTIONS** Recreational path and trail connections, improvements and relationships to streets, sidewalks and bike lanes have been cited in several Monrovia plans. The City should continue to implement the Bicycle Master Plan and coordinate trail-related projects with transportation system planning or related public works projects. Explore trail development opportunities with local user groups and pursue additional trail segments and connections, as appropriate.



**WAYFINDING & SIGNAGE** Parks, trails, urban plazas and other public open spaces are the primary targets for unifying an urban environment into a cohesive, accessible and connected community through an identifiable wayfinding program. The need for design standards for a unifying wayfinding system have been identified for parks, trails, city center and the community at large. Monrovia should pursue a comprehensive wayfinding program that includes both visual graphic standards and site furnishing standards. Colors, sign types, and information can help park and trail users navigate the outdoor recreation experiences offered by the city.



**COMMUNICATIONS** To broaden public awareness, the City's website should be expanded to facilitate quick links to popular destinations and be designed with mobile users in mind, either through a mobile-friendly site or a web-based application. The website should include easy-to-access park system and facility maps, trail maps and an up-to-date listing of park sites and amenities to enhance the experience of the on-the-go user. The City should consider introducing and utilizing QR codes on signage as a means to share with or receive information from visitors about maintenance, restoration or monitoring data.





**UPGRADES** The City should also consider adding the following recreation features to expand recreational opportunities:

- Picnic shelters that allow larger family events.
- Accessible playgrounds that provides play opportunities for people with physical or mobility disabilities.
- Splash pads features to integrate water play into parks at a relatively low cost.
- Sport fields and courts to meet identified shortfalls.
- Acquire and develop the Peck Lake Wetland project for passive recreation and stormwater treatment.
- User conveniences, such as restrooms and playground shade structures.



**ALTERNATIVE RECREATIONAL AMENITIES** Providing facilities for alternative or emerging sports can offer residents a more diverse range of recreational experiences, while creating destinations that attract local and regional visitors. Monrovia currently has an outdoor, concrete skatepark located in Recreation Park. Opportunities and facilities for other alternative sports are limited in the city. Opportunities may exist to develop alternative sports facilities at existing parks and plan for these facilities in the site design of parks to be developed in the future. The City should also consider incorporating small-scale skateboard (skate spots), bike skills features or pump tracks into urban park sites, as appropriate.

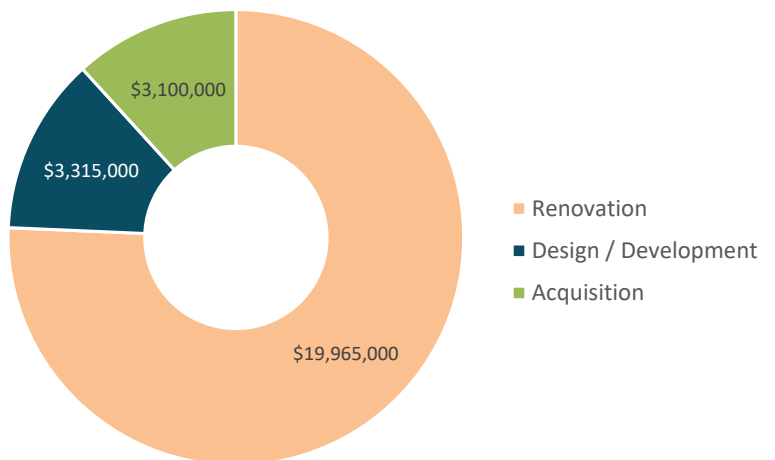


**LAND ACQUISITION TO FILL GAPS** The City should strive to acquire additional parkland to serve deficient areas and provide land necessary for desired park amenities. As opportunities to acquire large park sites in this urban, growing city are limited, Monrovia must think creatively and foster partnerships to provide desired park amenities. Enhancing existing partnerships with the Monrovia United School District could provide opportunities to improve school facilities in ways that may help meet community park needs. Specific target acquisition areas are noted on the map on page 35.

## PLANNED PROJECTS

The Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) sequences the strategic actions to guide the implementation of this Plan. It assigns proposed timeframes and estimated costs for specific projects grouped by project type. The CFP on page 47 lists the park and facility projects considered for the next five to ten years. The majority of these projects entail the acquisition and development of parks, renovating or enhancing existing facilities and expanding path and trail corridors. The following CFP project list provides brief project descriptions and priority ranking to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

Figure 11: Capital Facilities Plan Expenditures Summary



## IMPLEMENTATION OPTIONS

# MAKING IT HAPPEN

A number of strategies exist to improve park service delivery for the City of Monrovia; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life. The following considerations are presented to offer near-term direction on implementation and as a means to continue dialogue between the City, its residents and its partners.

Additionally, a review of likely funding options is included in the Technical Appendix (Appendix D), which includes local financing, federal and state grant and conservation programs, acquisition methods and others.

### Volunteer & Community-Based Action.

The public process for this Plan has demonstrated that residents want to be involved in improving the City's park system and want to have their energies guided through coordination with the Department. Community sponsored park clean-ups, beautification and planting projects, and park patrols should be considered to engage citizens and maintain a strong sense of community pride and ownership in park facilities.

### Partnership & Collaborative Projects.

Specific projects and goals identified in this Plan demand a high degree of coordination and collaboration with other city divisions and outside organizations. Coordination with the Community Development Department will be crucial in reviewing development applications with consideration toward potential parkland acquisition areas and for easement or set-aside requests.

The City should continue to explore collaborative projects that enhance environmental quality and provide recreational opportunities.

One such project is the Peck Lake Wetlands Project that aims to acquire and develop the site for stormwater treatment and passive recreation. Also, the City should continue to facilitate discussions with local sport leagues and staff from the School District for the purposes of sport field planning.

### Low Impact Design & Stormwater Capturing Opportunities.

The resurgence of integrated landscape design provides an opportunity to consider options to design and restore parks to naturally capture and filter stormwater to improve watershed health and enable environmental education and interpretation. Wetland restoration, visible stormwater features that collect the nitrogen and detain it prior to reaching the wetlands, and educational signage and design elements could improve watershed health and inform visitors about the impacts of pollutants (dog waste, pesticides and herbicides) and encourage more environmentally-friendly choices. The City should also consider connecting existing and future parks with stormwater capture elements and the adaptive re-use and/or redesign of large stormwater detention facilities in areas with parkland deficiencies, such that these sites serve dual functions for water detention and dry-season recreation.

**Future Development.** With the recent and projected growth in residential development and redevelopment, the City should encourage open space and recreational elements be included within all future private residential development.

**Grants.** Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, including several offered through California State Parks (Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Environmental Education Facilities and Habitat Conservation Fund).



Pursuing grants is not a panacea for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. Monrovia should continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

**Measure A Funds.** County voters recently approved the Los Angeles County *Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure of 2016* (Measure A) which asked voters to tax themselves for park improvements. The funds will go to local communities to protect, enhance and maintain neighborhood parks, open space, trails and natural habitat, and the measure is designed to respond to the 2016 Countywide Parks Needs Assessment. The City of Monrovia will have an opportunity to pursue funding through Measure A to help finance some of the projects listed in this Plan.

**Local Funding.** Although a variety of approaches exist to support individual projects or programs, the broader assessment of community needs suggests that additional, dedicated funding may be required to finance upgrades to and growth in the parks system. A short-term bond or levy could be structured to maximize voter support to include

parkland acquisitions and development, trail development and general park element upgrades. This will require additional effort by the Community Services Commission or citizen group to compile a specific funding package, along with an assessment of potential revenue, political willingness and potential voter support.

# Monrovia Citywide Parks Master Plan

## Parks Capital Facilities Plan

2018-2030

Park / Location	Project Description	Estimated Cost	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025-2030
Canyon Park	Roadway / parking repairs	\$750,000		\$750,000						
	Irrigation system upgrades	\$100,000			\$50,000	\$50,000				
	Reforestation / native landscape installations	\$60,000				\$60,000				
	Wayfinding system - design & installation	\$90,000			\$90,000					
Kiwanis Park at Grand Ave.	Master Plan - site design	\$100,000		\$100,000						
	Park renovations (playground, pathway circulation, ADA upgrades)	\$1,000,000			\$1,000,000					
Library Park	Park renovations	\$680,000	\$680,000							
Lucinda Garcia Park	Path improvements & additions	\$100,000	\$100,000							
	Picnic shelter - small	\$150,000			\$150,000					
	Playground enhancement/replacement	\$300,000			\$300,000					
	Install exercise circuit stations	\$125,000			\$125,000					
Recreation Park	Master plan - revitalize park design / layout	\$1,500,000			\$1,500,000					
	Comprehensive park upgrade & renovation	\$15,000,000					\$15,000,000			
Rotary Park	Pathway repairs/upgrades	\$50,000	\$50,000							
	New playground (replacement)	\$225,000		\$225,000						
	New small shelter	\$150,000			\$150,000					
New South-end Park	Land acquisition ( ~1 acre ) - SW Monrovia	\$2,250,000				\$2,250,000				
	Master Plan - site design	\$100,000					\$100,000			
	Phase 1 park development improvements	\$1,000,000								\$1,000,000
Peck Lake Wetlands Project	Acquire & develop site for stormwater treatment & passive recreation	TBD								
Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Land acquisition ( ~1 acre ) - SE Monrovia	TBD								
Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Land acquisition ( ~1 acre ) - S of Live Oak	TBD								
Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Land acquisition ( ~1 acre ) - S Monrovia	TBD								
Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Land acquisition ( ~0.5 acre ) - N of I-210	TBD								
Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Land acquisition ( ~0.5 acre ) - N of Foothill	TBD								
Neighborhood Park Acquisition	Land acquisition ( ~0.5 acre ) - N of Foothill	TBD								
Off-Leash Dog Park	Secure property & construct dog park	\$950,000						\$850,000	\$100,000	
System-wide ADA Upgrades	Barrier removal, benches, tables, paved paths	\$200,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$60,000
Capital Repairs (system-wide)		\$1,000,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$300,000
System-wide Irrigation Upgrades		\$500,000	\$200,000		\$150,000		\$150,000			
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>\$26,380,000</b>	<b>\$1,150,000</b>	<b>\$1,195,000</b>	<b>\$3,635,000</b>	<b>\$2,480,000</b>	<b>\$15,370,000</b>	<b>\$970,000</b>	<b>\$220,000</b>	<b>\$1,360,000</b>

**NOTES:**

This CFP identifies planning-level cost estimates and does not assume the value of volunteer or other non-City contributions. Detailed costing may be necessary for projects noted.

This CFP is not an official budget and intended as a guiding document for City staff in the preparation of departmental budgets.



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