

Open Space Meeting Highlights

Host:	Department of City Planning
Date:	February 24, 2018
Location:	Audubon Middle School
# of Participants:	29
Meeting Objective:	Listening to community concerns, initiate the visioning process for the future of Open Space by identifying themes, issues, and opportunities.

Summary

The General Plan update—OurLA2040—is a historic opportunity to foster public participation to help guide policy development that will impact planning and land use decisions twenty to forty years into the future cutting across a variety of social, environmental, and economic issues.

On February 24th, the Department of City Planning held a Community Conversation event to discuss the future of open space in South Los Angeles. Event attendees used the OurLA2040 Open Space Discussion Guide to structure two group discussions. During the meeting, the community expressed that open space as it relates to the General Plan, should have an updated definition that guides decisions to create or preserve public open space in an equitable way. Additionally, how can the City ensure public safety in parks and continue to promote consistent maintenance to ensure that parks are enjoyed by all.

The following themes, issues, and opportunities emerged throughout the event:

Top Themes

- **Definition of Open Space**
 - Participants voiced a need to establish a clear definition for open space that includes the types of park space available or to be developed in the city. Additionally, the definition of open space should convey the importance of public access.
- **Equity and Access**
 - Prioritize fair distribution of open space in underserved communities through preservation, development, and/or maintenance. Additionally, open spaces should be physically accessible for users with varied needs and abilities.
- **Development and Current Open Space Needs**
 - Participants stressed the importance of balancing development with open space needs. New development should place a greater priority towards dedicating publicly accessible recreational sites and facilities. What other funding and siting opportunities exist?
- **Safety and Security**
 - Participants expressed the value of safe and tranquil open spaces as well as clean and well-maintained parks in South Los Angeles. How do we make these park spaces enjoyable for generations to come?
- **Joint Use and Public Private Partnerships**
 - Resources for open space exist in the community, but are often not made readily accessible to the public or widely known. How can we incorporate public facilities such as schools and libraries into the City's open space network?

Key Issues

- Private open spaces created by new developments such as balconies and rooftops offer little to no public access.
- Lack of access for all users with varying abilities, non-vehicular access to trails, and parking adjacent to parks.
- Maintenance of park facilities, cleanliness, and noise and disturbances at parks.
- Homeless crisis, concerns of safety and limited opportunity of recreational use in open spaces.

Open Space Opportunities

- Explore and utilize open spaces that are adjacent to public facilities such as libraries, DWP, and CRA.
- LAUSD properties and other public recreational sites should be made available to the community.
- Joint-use agreements should include security and maintenance measures to preserve these spaces.
- Identify potential for infill projects such as pocket parks in underutilized spaces, vacant land, alleyways, etc. in South Los Angeles. Co-partner with LADOT's People St. program and non-profits to form creative and plant-integrated open space.
- High density areas with limited land available to create open space could take advantage of opportunities for providing open space connections such as tree canopies or green alleys.
- Institute a soil remediation program for industrial zoned areas to be converted to open space.
- Developers could include publicly accessible open space.

Topics for Future Research and Discussion

- Define open space to include the wide range of public / private open space opportunities and typologies. The community would like to use this definition to facilitate future community meetings.
- Create a comprehensive inventory of open space and monitor the development of private open space. This inventory should include all forms publicly accessible open space.
- Identify new open space opportunities throughout the City. This process could include an interactive map to facilitate public comment.
- Participants suggested that the City research the following factors to potentially inform equity and access: age of population, projected age of population (10-15 years), number of vehicles per household, and data on disabled population in the community.
- Form zoning regulations and development standards that increase public access to open space. Prioritize dedication of open space land to Quimby Fees. Explore opportunities to implement policies such as value capture or transfer of development rights to increase open space or protect open space lands.