08

OPEN SPACE

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS **3**
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ITEM 10.B. EXHIBIT B

08 **OPEN SPACE**

INTRODUCTION

Beautiful, accessible, and well-maintained parks, open space and recreation facilities, and quality recreational programs are essential amenities for an urban city like West Hollywood. They help make the city more livable and attractive, provide a place of relaxation and relief from the urban environment, encourage physical activity and health, provide a forum for gathering and interaction, and reduce urban heat islands. Many urban areas–including West Hollywood–have both high demand for these amenities and limited options for providing them.

The Open Space Element inventories existing parks, recreational facilities, and open space lands in and around the City of West Hollywood (City), describes their current distribution and characteristics, and summarizes the regulatory context that shapes open space planning. In accordance with Senate Bill 1425 (SB 1425), the Element also addresses equitable access, climate resilience, habitat conservation, and other ecosystem services. The goals, policies, and actions are intended to provide future direction on park maintenance and capital projects, equitable access to open space, ecological and rewilding considerations, and climate adaptation opportunities.

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The State of California requires an Open Space element of the General Plan (California Government Code (CGC) Section 65561 and 65302(e)). The purpose of the required Open Space Element is "to assure that cities and counties recognize that open space land is a limited and valuable resource which must be conserved whenever possible" (CGC Section 65561(a)).

The State requires that several types of open space be addressed in a General Plan. These are identified as open space for 1) the preservation of natural resources such as habitat, 2) the managed protection of resources, 3) outdoor recreation, 4) public health and safety, 5) supporting the missions of military installations, and 6) the protection of certain places or features (CGC Section 65560). Of these types of open space land, West Hollywood's open space is primarily used for outdoor recreation provided by its park system as well as various landscape areas, medians, parkways, and memorials. Therefore, in West Hollywood, the Open Space Element primarily addresses outdoor recreation and accessibility, public health and safety, certain natural resource functions such as urban habitat and tree canopy, and the protection of culturally significant places and features. Managed production lands and military-support open space are not material open-space categories within city limits.

Additionally, SB 1425 (Government Code sections 65564 and 65565.5) requires local jurisdictions to update their Open Space Element to include plans and an action program that address equitable access to open space, climate resilience and other co-benefits of open space, and rewilding opportunities correlated with other General Plan Elements, as applicable. The updated Open Space Element should address the following:

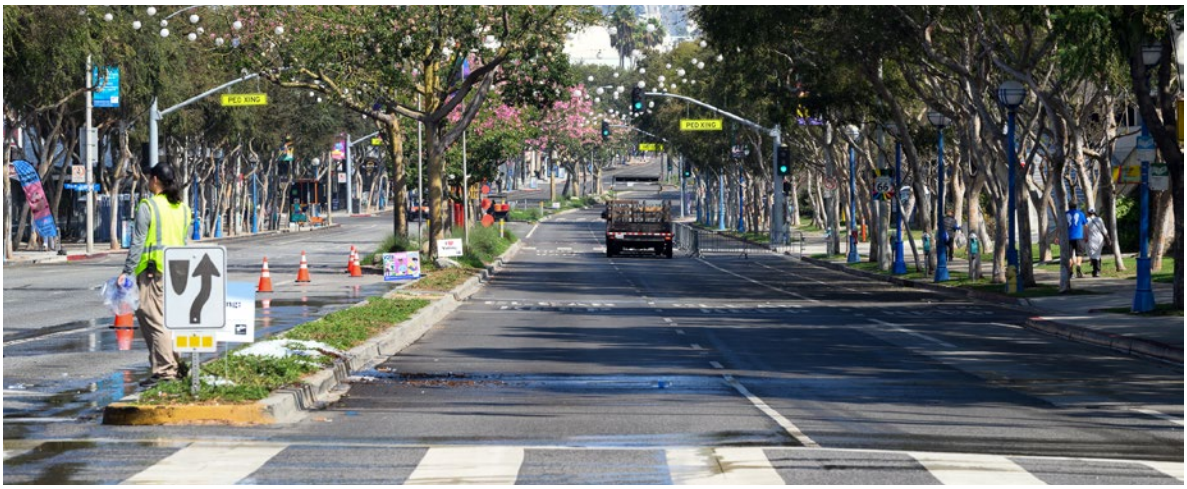
1. Access to open space for all residents in a manner that considers social, economic, and racial equity, correlated with the environmental justice element or environmental justice policies in the general plan, as applicable;
2. Climate resilience and other co-benefits of open space, correlated with the safety element; and
3. Rewilding opportunities, correlated with the land use element.

West Hollywood Park is one of cornerstone's of the city's parks and open space network.

CITYWIDE CONTEXT

With a Walk Score of 91 and a size of approximately 1.9 square miles, West Hollywood is ranked as one of the most walkable cities in California and most residents live within a 15-minute walk of a park and other community amenities. West Hollywood is home to seven distinct neighborhoods with their own unique identities and histories. The Eastside is a family-oriented neighborhood that is home to the City's strong Russian American community and the heavily utilized Plummer Park. Center City, the most populous neighborhood in West Hollywood, features City Hall, multi-family apartment complexes, and large retailers along with several small parks that provide respite in the dense urban environment. Sitting at the base of the Santa Monica Mountains, West Hollywood North, WeHo Heights, and Norma Triangle are vibrant neighborhoods featuring restaurants, shopping, and nightlife along the famous Sunset Strip and Santa Monica Boulevard. West Hollywood West features contemporary and historic single-family homes connected to commercial corridors and West Hollywood Park. The Tri-West neighborhood further connects West Hollywood Park to the Pacific Design Center, restaurants and retailers, and shopping along Melrose Avenue.

A strong network of pedestrian, bicycle, and transit routes connect West Hollywood's parks and recreational facilities to local neighborhoods, businesses, and the greater Los Angeles region, including 12.1 miles of Class II and III bike lanes, multiple bus routes and connections to regional transit, and the free Cityline shuttle service. The city has developed "Wellness Walking Routes" that connect neighborhoods to West Hollywood Park and Plummer Park while providing access to open space, cultural resources, and community amenities. Each route provides interpretive signage and route maps, along with directional indicators at key intersections. The city and local tourism boards have also developed walking tours with interactive maps focused on historic and architectural resources, LGBTQ+ history and culture, and public art.



Santa Monica Boulevard is a critical part of the city's public realm.

PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

West Hollywood's parks and recreation facilities and programs are operated and managed by the City. A seven-member Public Facilities, Recreation, and Infrastructure Commission, established in 1996, reviews parks, open space, and other public facilities, including streetscapes and medians, and makes recommendations to the City Council on maintenance, repair, capital improvements, and policy priorities.

CITY PARKS

The City manages seven parks, two memorial plazas, and a variety of community facilities used for recreational purposes. Recreational facilities include six playground areas, three basketball courts, 11 multi-use pickleball/tennis courts, one aquatics complex, six community centers, one senior center, one multipurpose field, one gymnasium, three dog parks, and one community garden. These are shown in Figure OS-1 through Figure OS-3 and further outlined in Table OS-1.

COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are designed to serve multiple neighborhoods and typically offer amenities such as playgrounds, sports courts and fields, picnic areas, dog play areas, and walking paths, catering to diverse age groups and interests. They often serve as central gathering places, fostering social interaction and physical activity.

The city has two large community parks: Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park. Located on opposite sides of town, each park provides year-round facilities and programming and serves as a recreational and cultural focal point for community members.

Plummer Park (8.5 acres) is located in the Eastside neighborhood and provides open lawn areas, picnic areas, sports courts, and a pre-school. Plummer Park also contains several community facilities, including a community center and Social Services Center, reservable event spaces, teen and senior centers, a pre-school, and a cooling center, and sport courts. Plummer Park hosts a weekly farmer's market, outdoor concerts and movie nights, and other citywide recreation events for all ages. Development of the Plummer Park Comprehensive Improvement Plan began in 2025 and will guide near- and long-term improvements to the existing, well-used programs and spaces while incorporating new goals relating to climate resilience, sustainability, and historic and culture preservation.

West Hollywood Park (6.1 acres) is in the West Hollywood West neighborhood and provides open lawn areas, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, dog play areas, public art, a playground the West Hollywood Library, and the Aquatic and Recreation Center (ARC). The West Hollywood Park Master Plan was adopted in 2004 and completed in 2025, adding a state-of-the-art library, 2.5 acres of new park space, the new ARC, sports and aquatic facilities, and the AIDS Monument to the park. The ARC serves the entire community with two pools, an indoor gymnasium and sport courts, a Tiny Tot facility, community rooms, and respite areas. The West Hollywood Library's special collections include an LGBTQ+ collection,

the Ron Shipton HIV Information Center, and a Russian-language collection. West Hollywood Park and its facilities are home to many City-sponsored and community-led events, often connecting to larger citywide celebrations such as WeHo Pride.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks serve the recreational and social needs of residents living in their immediate neighborhood. These parks typically offer basic amenities like play structures for children, benches, open grassy areas, and sports courts, providing convenient opportunities for passive recreation, relaxation, and informal community interaction.

West Hollywood also has two neighborhood parks. Kings Road Park (0.6 acres) is a neighborhood park located in the Center City neighborhood. The park provides public gathering space surrounded by mature trees, an open turf area, water features, public art, a children's playground area, a community meeting room, and restrooms. Hart Park (0.9 acres) is located in the West Hollywood North neighborhood. The park is owned by the City of Los Angeles but leased to and maintained by West Hollywood. The park includes a theatrical arts studio and learning center, an off-leash dog area, a water feature, and passive recreation areas.

POCKET PARKS AND PLAZAS

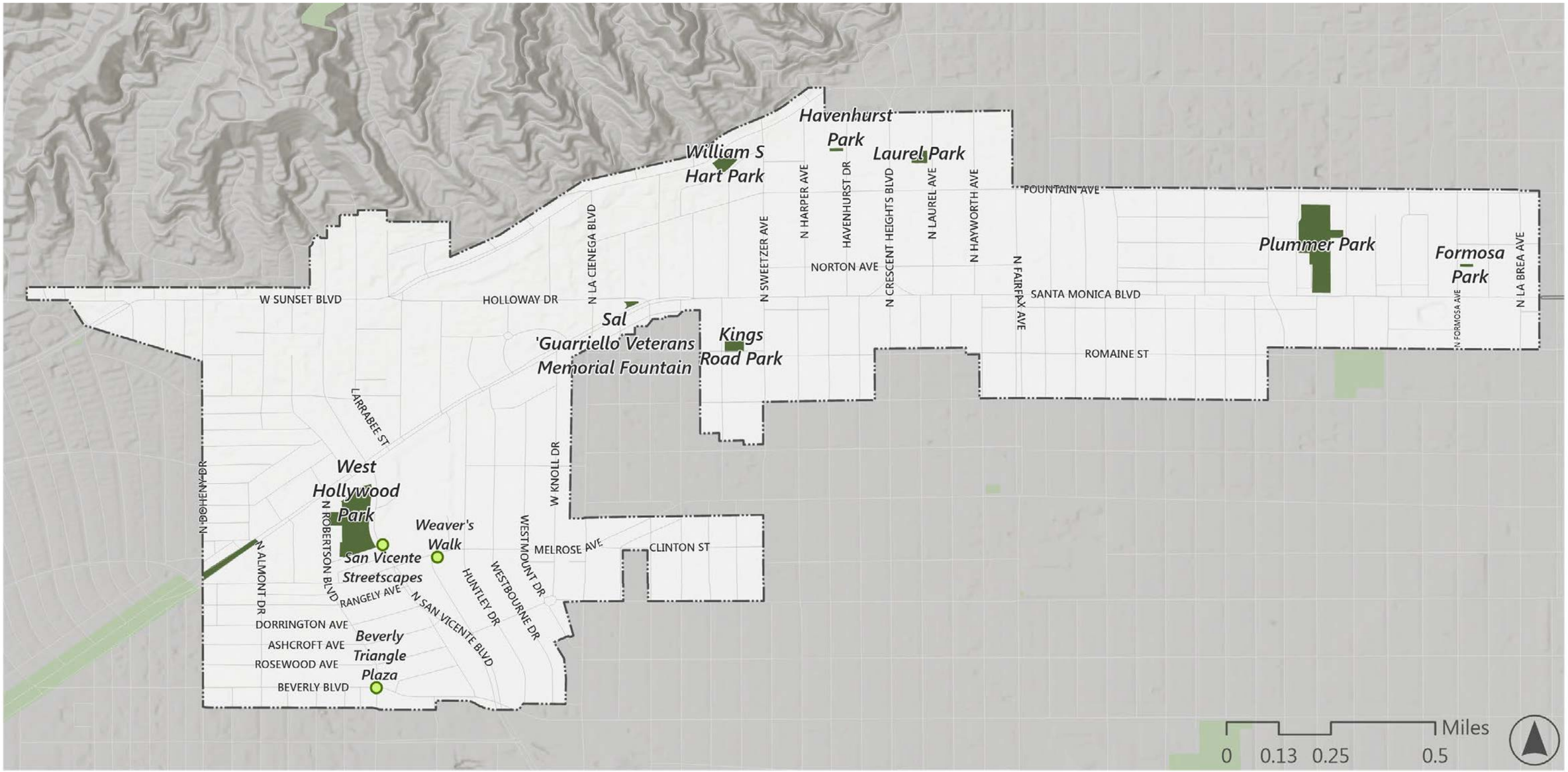
Pocket parks are small public spaces, typically less than one acre in size, designed to provide walkable access to greenery, seating, and respite areas within dense neighborhoods. Pocket parks and plazas may be located on city-owned land or privately owned public open spaces created through development agreements or long-term leases.

Laurel Avenue Park (0.7 acres) is a pocket park located in the Center City neighborhood at the site of the Laurel House and Gardens, and features benches, picnic tables, and shaded walking paths around the gardens. Through the Laurel Avenue Artist Residency Program, the Laurel House has been redesigned as a public space providing artist residency programs, affordable live-work spaces and studios, and exhibition and gathering spaces.

The Sal Guariello Veterans' Memorial (0.2 acres) and the Crescent Heights Triangle and Matthew Shepard Memorial (0.2 acres), both located along Santa Monica Boulevard, are plazas offering more intimate green spaces amidst the hustle and bustle of the surrounding urban environment. They provide a place of remembrance and reflection, increase the amount of public green space, and highlight the City's cultural and civic heritage. Both plazas feature seating, memorial elements, and landscaped areas with trees and drought-tolerant plantings.

Havenhurst Park (6,000 sq. ft.) and Formosa Park (4,600 sq. ft.) are unique pocket parks located in the Center City and Eastside neighborhoods, respectively. The parks have been designed as passive recreation areas and include water features, drought tolerant plantings, artwork, benches, and walking paths. In 2021, both parks were named certified wildlife habitat by the wildlife conservation nonprofit National Wildlife Federation (NWF). These parks were developed through a public/private partnership with residential developments and incorporated into their design. The City retains use of the sites through a lease arrangement with the property owners.

Figure OS-1: Existing and Planned Parks and Open Space in West Hollywood



West Hollywood City Limits

Parks

Parks and Open Space within 2 miles of West Hollywood

State Highway

Roads

Planned Park and Open Space Projects

Source: Esri, City of West Hollywood

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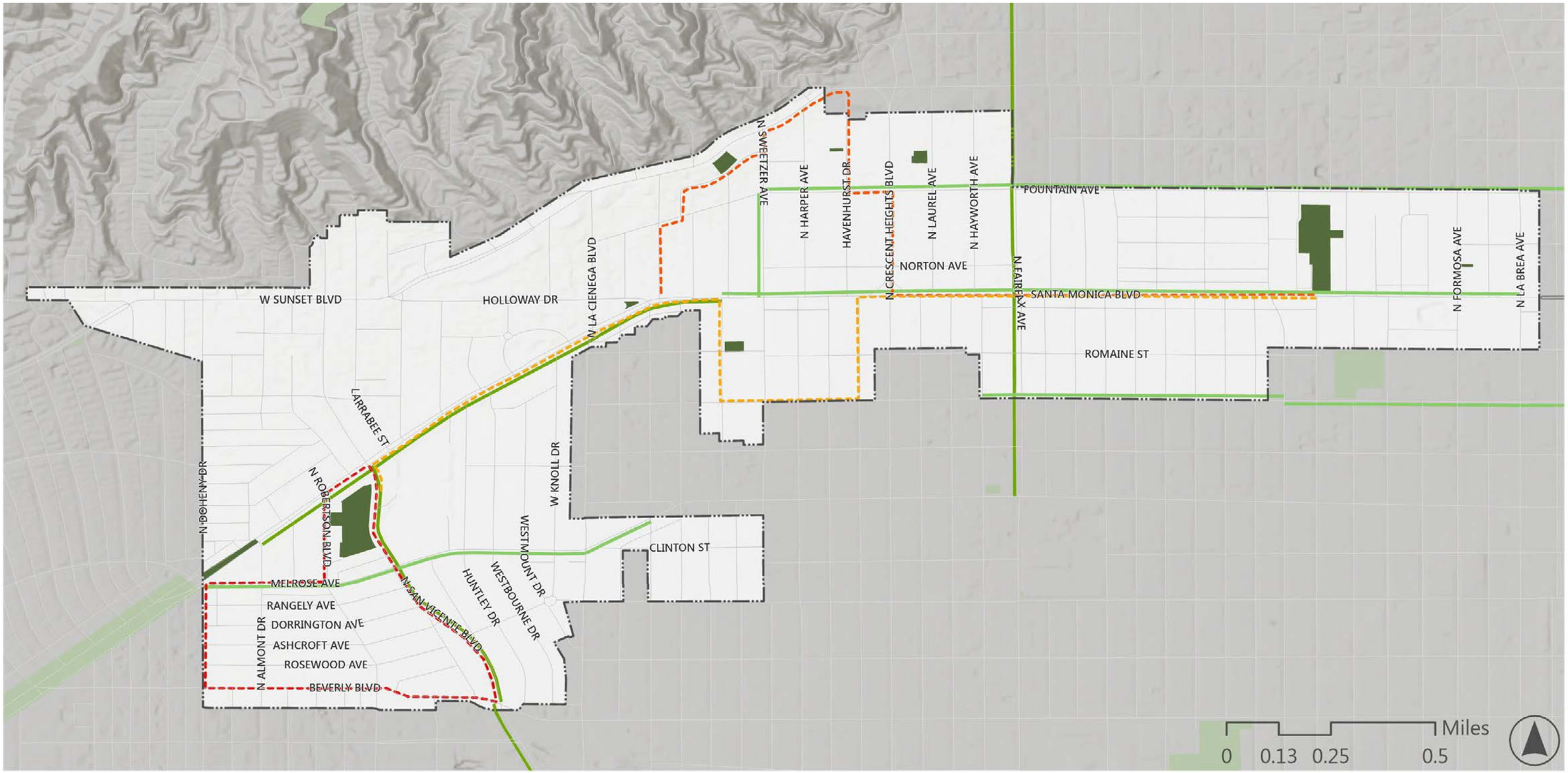
Figure OS-2: Pedestrian and Bicycle Routes in West Hollywood



West Hollywood City Limits

Parks

Parks and Open Space within 2 miles of West Hollywood

Wellness Walking Routes

Cardio / Historic Walking Route

Park to Park Walking Route

West Hollywood West Walking Route

Bike Lanes

Class II

Class III

State Highway

Roads

Source: Esri, City of West Hollywood

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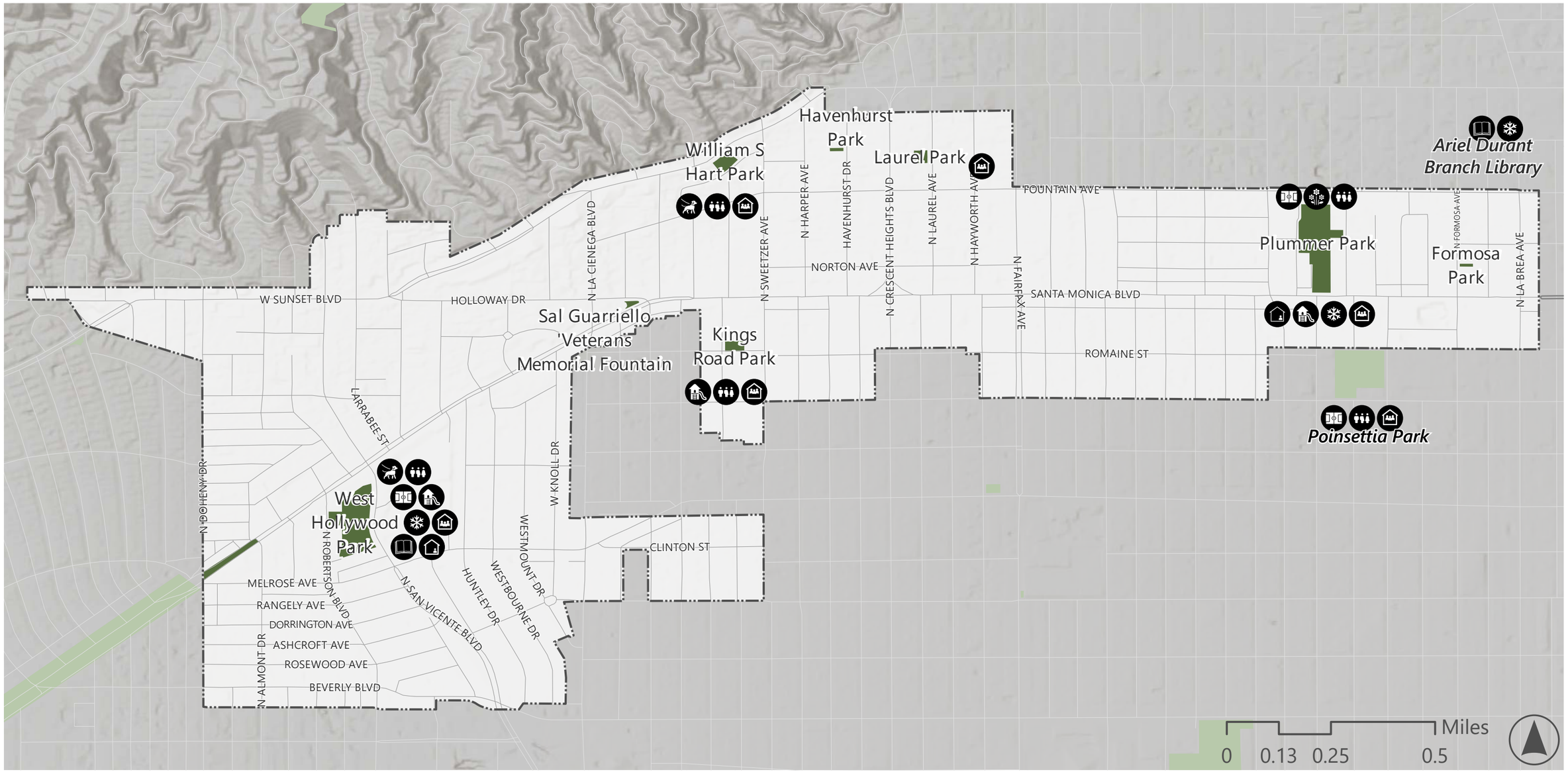
Figure OS-3: Recreational Amenities and Facilities



Source: Esri, City of West Hollywood

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Table OS-1: Inventory of West Hollywood Parks (2025)

Name	Address	Acres	Facilities
Community Parks			
Plummer Park (established 1937)	7377 Santa Monica Boulevard	8.50	• 2 basketball courts • Bike racks • Benches and tables • Community garden • Cooling center • Fiesta Hall • Great Hall • Long Hall • 1 pickleball court • 2 shared use courts • 5 lighted tennis courts • Meeting spaces • Memorial • Open green space • Picnic tables • Playground • Plummer Park Community Center • Tennis pro shop • 1 pre-school • Public art • 2 parking lots • Restrooms • Senior lounge • Teen Center • Wi-Fi
West Hollywood Park (established 1960s)	647 San Vicente Boulevard	6.10	• AIDS Memorial • Auditorium • 3 basketball courts • Benches and tables • Bike racks • Cooling center • Community center • Dodgeball courts • Dog park • Fitness equipment • Gym • Indoor lounge • Library • 3 lighted tennis courts • 6 lighted multi-use pickleball courts • Meeting rooms • Memorial • Multi-sport auditorium • Open green space • Picnic area (ADA accessible • Playground • 2 swimming pools • Public art • Public parking • Respite deck • Restrooms • Tiny tot building • Volleyball courts • Wi-Fi
Subtotal (Park Acres)		**14.60**	
Neighborhood Parks			

Name	Address	Acres	Facilities
William S. Hart Park (acquired by lease 1989)	8341 De Longpre Avenue	0.86	• Benches • Hart House • AIDS Memorial • Off-leash dog area • Picnic tables • Public parking • Restrooms Theater • Water feature
Kings Road Park (established 1996)	1000 Kings Road	0.59	• Benches • Community building • Picnic tables • Playground • Public art • Restrooms • 2 water features
Subtotal (Park Acres)		**1.45**	
Pocket Parks			
Havenhurst Pocket Park (established 2009)	1351 Havenhurst Drive	0.30	• Benches • Boardwalk paths • Public art • Drought tolerant plantings • 3 themed gardens • 2 water features
Formosa Pocket Park (established 2009)	1140 Formosa Street	0.11	• Benches • Circulation paths • Public art • Drought tolerant plantings • Shade structure • 1 water feature
Laurel Avenue Park (built 1917, designated by city in 1994)	1343 Laurel Avenue	0.40	• Benches • Gardens • Laurel House • Picnic tables
Crescent Heights Triangle and Matthew Shepard Memorial (established 1998)	Crescent Heights Boulevard and Santa Monica Boulevard	0.24	• Benches • Bike share • Memorial
Sal Guarriello Veterans' Memorial (established 2003)	Santa Monica Boulevard and Holloway Drive	0.18	• Benches • Memorial • Water feature
Subtotal (Park Acres)		**1.23**	
Total (Park Acres)		**17.28**	

Source: City of West Hollywood, 2025.

RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING

The City offers recreational programming for people of all ages and abilities, including sports, art, dance, theater, and aquatics programs. Specialized programming, sports leagues, and volunteer and social events are curated for youth and teenagers, adults, and older adults and offered year-round. West Hollywood has also developed programming to connect residents with open space and ecology education, including an annual tree planting event in the spring and hands-on and educational events such as sustainability symposiums, virtual WeGrow! Gardening tutorials, and in-person events at Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park.

Parks in West Hollywood are home to many of the City's annual community celebrations and holiday events. Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park are activated year-round with free community events such as Movies in the Park, Summer Sounds and Winter Sounds concert series, Arts on the Outside, Free Theater in the Parks, a weekly farmer's market in Plummer Park, pet-related events, and other recreation events. Plummer Park hosts an annual Halloween Carnival that connects with citywide celebrations on Santa Monica Boulevard, and West Hollywood Park hosts annual Winter Wonderland events including a city ice rink, holiday markets, and programming.

The City also hosts cultural events to support the diversity of its residents, such as the WeHo Mishka Festival celebrating Russian culture and Yom HaShoah Holocaust Remembrance Day. For decades, West Hollywood has been home to one of the largest annual Pride celebrations in the world, drawing hundreds of thousands of people each June. WeHo Pride Weekend takes place in and around West Hollywood Park and includes free street fairs, parades, concert series, and events with local businesses. The annual AIDS Walk Los Angeles also starts and ends its route in West Hollywood Park.

Basketball is one of the many recreational programs offered by West Hollywood.

PARK AND RECREATION FUNDING

The City of West Hollywood has committed to investing in continued maintenance and development of new parks, recreational facilities, public spaces, and the urban forest to address community needs. The City's budget supports ongoing maintenance and upcoming parks and public space capital projects managed by the Community Services Department, the Department of Public Works, the Facilities and Recreation Services Department, and

the Urban Design + Architecture Studio. The operations of various parks and recreational programs are also supported in part by registration fees charged to program participants and recreational facility users, both resident and non-resident. The City's budget and fee structures are regularly reviewed and updated to establish consistency as new facilities, programs, and users are added.

Capital projects may be funded from several sources, including operating capital, grants, joint agency endeavors, public/private partnerships, special district projects, and debt financing. Many California cities require non-residential projects to dedicate parkland or fees to support park development. In West Hollywood, park and public space dedications from non-residential development are negotiated between the City and developers on a project-to-project basis. The Quimby Act (Section 19.64.020 of the City's Municipal Code) requires developers to dedicate land of up to three acres per thousand residents or pay an in-lieu fee as a condition of approval. The City's development impact fees for parks and public art help offset the growth impacts of new development by creating new pockets of green space and providing necessary funding for new park, recreational facilities, and childcare facilities to serve new and existing residents.

Grants from agencies or private charitable organizations are also a valuable funding source to help pay for local parks and recreation amenities. There are a range of grants programs established by Los Angeles County. Through Measure A funding, the LA County Regional Parks and Open Space District (RPOSD) helps eligible cities gain the technical knowledge, skills, and assistance they need to create parks in historically underserved communities. The 2016 LA County Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA) identified the City of West Hollywood as a Very High Park Need city, and the updated 2025 PNA+ identified priority areas for environmental restoration in the Eastside, priority areas for increasing access to regional recreation in Center City. Both the 2016 PNA and 2025 PNA+ found all park facilities in West Hollywood to be within good condition, with no facilities needing critical maintenance. As a Very High Need Park City, West Hollywood is identified as a Technical Assistance Program (TAP) Eligible Entity for countywide funding and consultant support. RPOSD has funded multiple parks, open space, and public art projects in West Hollywood since 1997.

PHYSICAL ACCESS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Physical access and proximity to parks and open space in West Hollywood can be evaluated through several standards, as described below.

PARK SERVICE RATIO

Park service ratios, expressed as acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, are commonly used to assess park provision and to inform park dedication and impact fee programs. A higher service ratio generally indicates greater park service. West Hollywood's park ratio is approximately 0.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

Under the Quimby Act, jurisdictions may require dedication of land or payment of in-lieu fees based on a standard of up to three acres per 1,000 residents (and up to five acres per 1,000 if the jurisdiction already provides at least three acres per 1,000 residents). Thus, the City is well below the Quimby standard and the regional average of 3.3 acres per 1,000 residents. However, lower parks ratios are very common in older, urban areas and small, densely occupied cities such as West Hollywood and residents are well served by a variety of large community parks, recreational facilities, and smaller pockets of green space.

WALK ACCESS TO PARKS

While park service ratios provide a useful data point, they do not provide the complete picture of the quality of parks in a community. Studies have shown that people are more likely to use parks if they are within a walkable, ½-mile distance or approximately 10-minute walk. The Trust for Public Land has established a 10-minute walk standard and nationwide initiative to address park equity, ensuring that parks are of high quality and accessible to all, particularly in underserved neighborhoods. Being within a walkable distance is also associated with measurable health benefits including increased physical activity, reduced stress, and improved respiratory fitness. According to the Trust for Public Land ParkServe rankings, 93 percent of West Hollywood residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park despite only two percent of West Hollywood's land being used for parks and recreation.

Most people (and dogs) are within walking distance of a park.

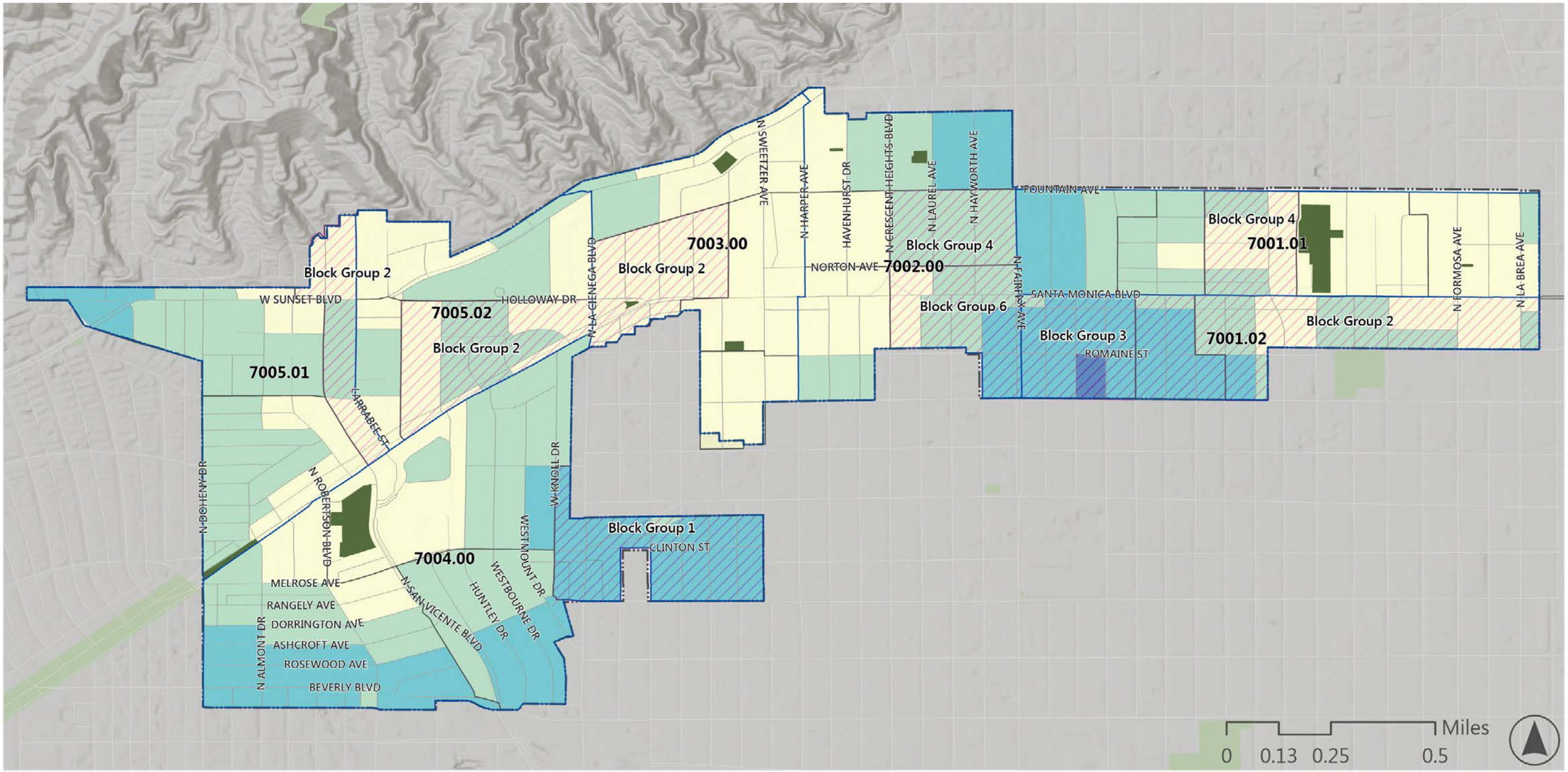
As shown in Figure OS-4, 98 percent of West Hollywood residents live within a 15-minute walk of a park, with a small area on the Eastside located a 15-minute walk away. Many residents live within a five-minute walk of a park in the Eastside and West Hollywood West neighborhoods oriented around large community parks such as Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park, or may access smaller pockets of green space through neighborhood and pocket parks, plazas, and regional trails in the Center City and western neighborhoods.

ADA ACCESSIBILITY

In addition to proximity, improving access to parks and open space is influenced by accessible facilities, quality and condition of paths and facilities, availability of shade and seating, and the perceived comfort and safety of routes to parks. The City of West Hollywood is committed to providing accessible facilities, programs, and services to all residents and visitors, in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and applicable California accessibility standards. In 2025, the City developed the Accessible West Hollywood Plan as a framework to identify and address barriers to accessibility in City-owned/operated buildings and facilities, public parks, sidewalks and curb ramps, parking lots, and public rights-of-way.

The City has completed upgrades throughout the open space network that meet or exceed ADA standards and reduce barriers to access, and future accessibility and safety improvements are planned for Plummer Park, Hart Park, and other parks. Key accessibility features in parks can support universal access by removing physical barriers, such as curb ramps and accessibility upgrades to restrooms and play areas. Integrating infrastructure such as paved pathways, lighting, and seating, can support comfort, safety, and ease of navigation for residents of all abilities in parks. Accessibility may also be integrated through wayfinding integrated throughout the open space network that physically orients the user, provides translation or alternative methods of interpretation, and honors the historic and cultural context of the surrounding area.

Figure OS-4: Walk Access to Parks



West Hollywood City Limits

Parks

Parks and Open Space within 2 miles of West Hollywood

Disadvantaged Communities

Census Tracts

Block Groups

Walk Access to Parks

< 5 mins

5 - 10 mins

10 - 15 mins

> 15 mins

State Highway

Roads

Source: Esri, City of West Hollywood

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EQUITABLE ACCESS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Understanding the sociodemographic make up of West Hollywood can identify what vulnerable and/or underrepresented communities are present and where investments in park and open space access should be prioritized.

DEMOGRAPHICS

West Hollywood has a diverse and vibrant community that regularly uses the City's parks and recreational facilities. More than 40 percent of residents identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, one of the highest concentrations of LGBTQ+ residents in the United States. The City also has a large population of adults over 65 (about 18 percent), with a smaller number of youth and children aged 17 and under (4 percent). While the majority of West Hollywood residents speak English, several communities experience linguistic isolation. About 11 percent of households speak Spanish at home, and the City's 11 percent of Slavic language-speaking households represent the most concentrated single Russian-speaking region in the United States outside of New York. West Hollywood's large population of renters (approximately 80 percent), unhoused residents, and residents facing housing cost burdens or overcrowding also often lack private green space. These communities often rely on parks and recreational facilities to access free or low-cost community services and meeting rooms, recreational programming and education, social gathering and cultural events, shade canopy, and natural elements in a dense city like West Hollywood.

DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

SB 1425, which was passed in 2022, requires that jurisdictions incorporate a review of and actionable plans to address equitable access to parks and open space, co-benefits of open space related to climate resilience and safety, and rewilding opportunities such as establishment of an integrated open space network or natural communities conservation plan into the Open Space Element by January 1, 2026. Consideration of equitable access to open space may include communities that face social, economic, and racial inequities, as discussed above, along with communities that have faced environmental justice issues such as discriminatory land use practices, disproportionate pollution burdens, and cumulative social health burdens.

SB 1000 went into effect in 2018 and requires jurisdictions to clearly identify these environmental justice communities, called "disadvantaged communities" (DACs), and meaningfully address environmental justice throughout their General Plans to facilitate public engagement with underrepresented residents, reduce harmful pollutants and health impacts, and promote equitable access to parks and other health-promoting community amenities.

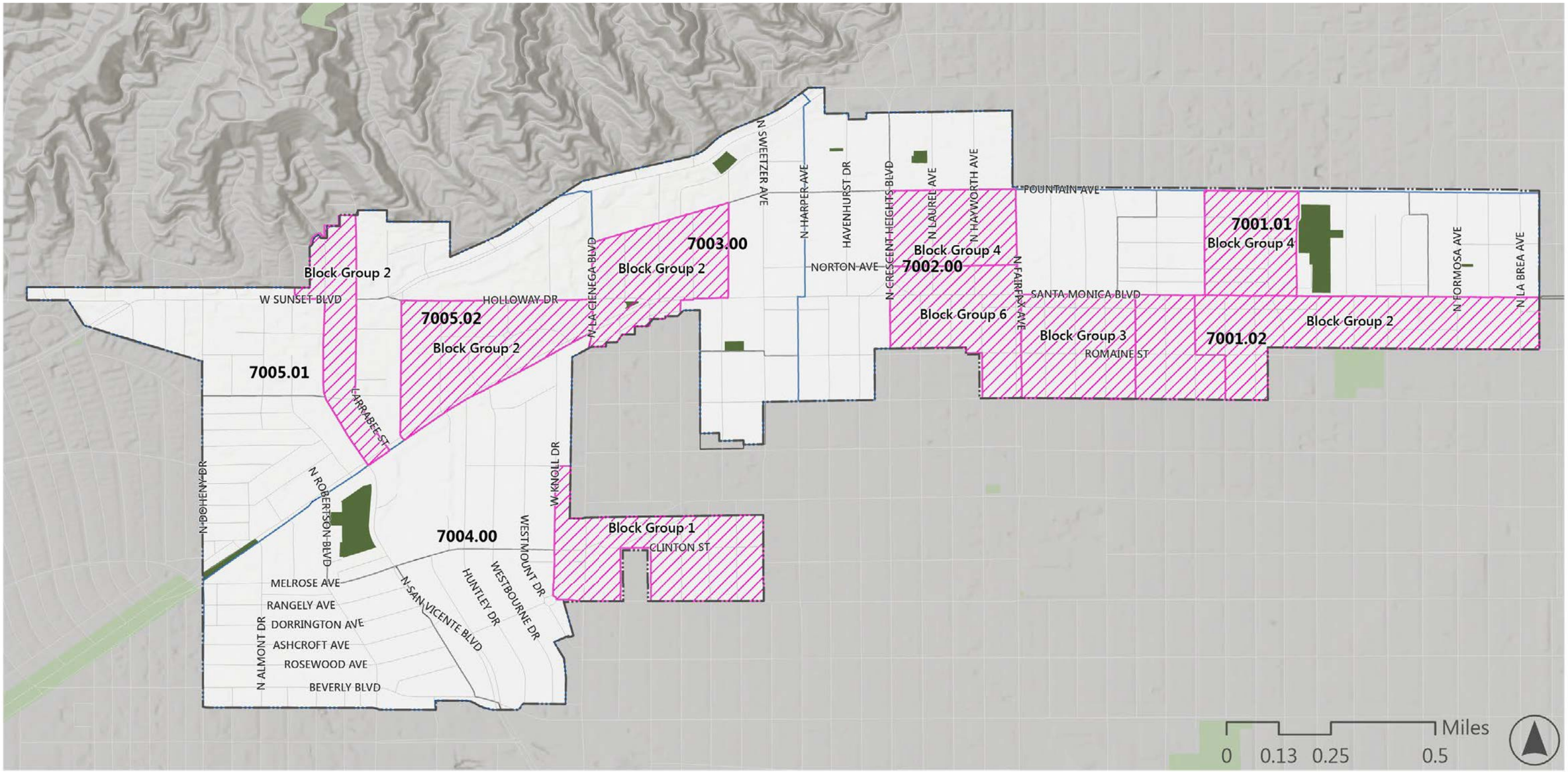
DACs are defined as (1) an area identified as being disadvantaged based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria or (2) an area that is a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation. The methodology for identifying DACs is in SB 1000, the Planning for Healthy Communities Act, in 2016. Identifying where specific DACs are located can inform SB 1425's equity analysis and help jurisdictions prioritize open space investments that address historic disparities in access to nature and exposure to environmental harms.

SB 1000 defines a three-step process for identifying DACs based on low-income areas with disproportionate health burdens. Screening Method 1 uses the state's CalEnviroScreen (CES) 4.0 tool, which creates overall scores for each census tract based on pollution exposures, environmental effects, sensitive populations and socio-economic factors, to identify census tracts with an overall CES score in the top 25 percent, pollution burdens in the top five percent, or under tribal control that are considered DACs under SB 535. Screening Method 2 layers low-income (80 percent of the State's median income) census tracts with areas with CES pollution burden indicator scores in the top 25 percent statewide to address the second section of the SB 1000 definition. Screening Method 3 further considers the cumulative impacts felt by DACs by analyzing community-specific data that may contribute to poor health outcomes or environmental degradation.

West Hollywood does not contain any designated disadvantaged communities that meet the definition of SB 535 under Screening Method 1. Screening Methods 2 and 3 identified several communities in West Hollywood that are both low-income and disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards. These areas also experience cumulative social burdens including severe housing cost burden, linguistic isolation, high fire hazard severity, and limited walk access to community amenities such as libraries and schools.

Census tract 7001.02, located in the Eastside neighborhood south of Santa Monica Boulevard, has a median household income ($68,626) below the State Area Median Income (AMI) and a high pollution burden with levels of Diesel PM 2.5, traffic impacts, drinking water contaminants, and groundwater threats in the top 25 percent statewide. Residents in this area also experience social burdens such as severe overcrowding, traffic impacts, linguistic isolation, and limited walk access to community amenities such as libraries, public pools, and parks. As shown later in Figure OS-6 and Figure OS-7, this area also experiences lower tree canopy coverage and higher heat severity burdens than elsewhere in West Hollywood.

Figure OS-5: SB 1000 Identified Disadvantaged Communities



West Hollywood City Limits

Parks

Parks and Open Space within 2 miles of West Hollywood

Disadvantaged Communities

Census Tracts

Block Groups

State Highway

Roads

Source: Esri, City of West Hollywood

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Screening Method 3 identified several additional disadvantaged communities in West Hollywood that are low income, renters, and experience significant pollution, environmental, and cumulative social burdens. Areas in the Eastside (census tracts 7001.01, 7001.02) experience significant linguistic isolation, higher levels of heart disease and uninsurance, and severe housing cost and overcrowding burdens. Portions of the Center City and Tri-West neighborhoods (census tracts 7002, 7003, 7004) experience high housing cost burdens, linguistic isolation, risks from being a high fire hazard severity zone, and high levels of diesel PM 2.5 and other pollutants. West Hollywood North and WeHo Heights (census tracts 7005.01, 7005.02), located at the base of the Santa Monica Mountains along Sunset Boulevard, experience severe housing cost burdens and are exposed to risks from being a very high fire hazard severity zone, high levels of diesel PM 2.5, and traffic impacts.

Future investment in parks, open space access, and other green space interventions in these areas identified as disadvantaged communities or facing compounding socioeconomic or pollution burdens would result in multiple co-benefits associated with resilience to climate change, public health, and quality of life.

Walking routes throughout the city promote physical activity and connect neighborhoods, parks, and commercial areas.

OPEN SPACE

PUBLIC REALM

At the time of incorporation, West Hollywood contained only three parks and limited other green spaces. Since then, the combination of increasingly high land prices and a limited amount of vacant land have made park acquisition and development challenging. As a result, local open space planning and design efforts prioritize ongoing maintenance of existing parks and small-scale interventions in public spaces such as plazas, shared streets, and underutilized sites to provide shade and seating, public art, and natural elements along key corridors.

Many community events take place in the West Hollywood's parks.

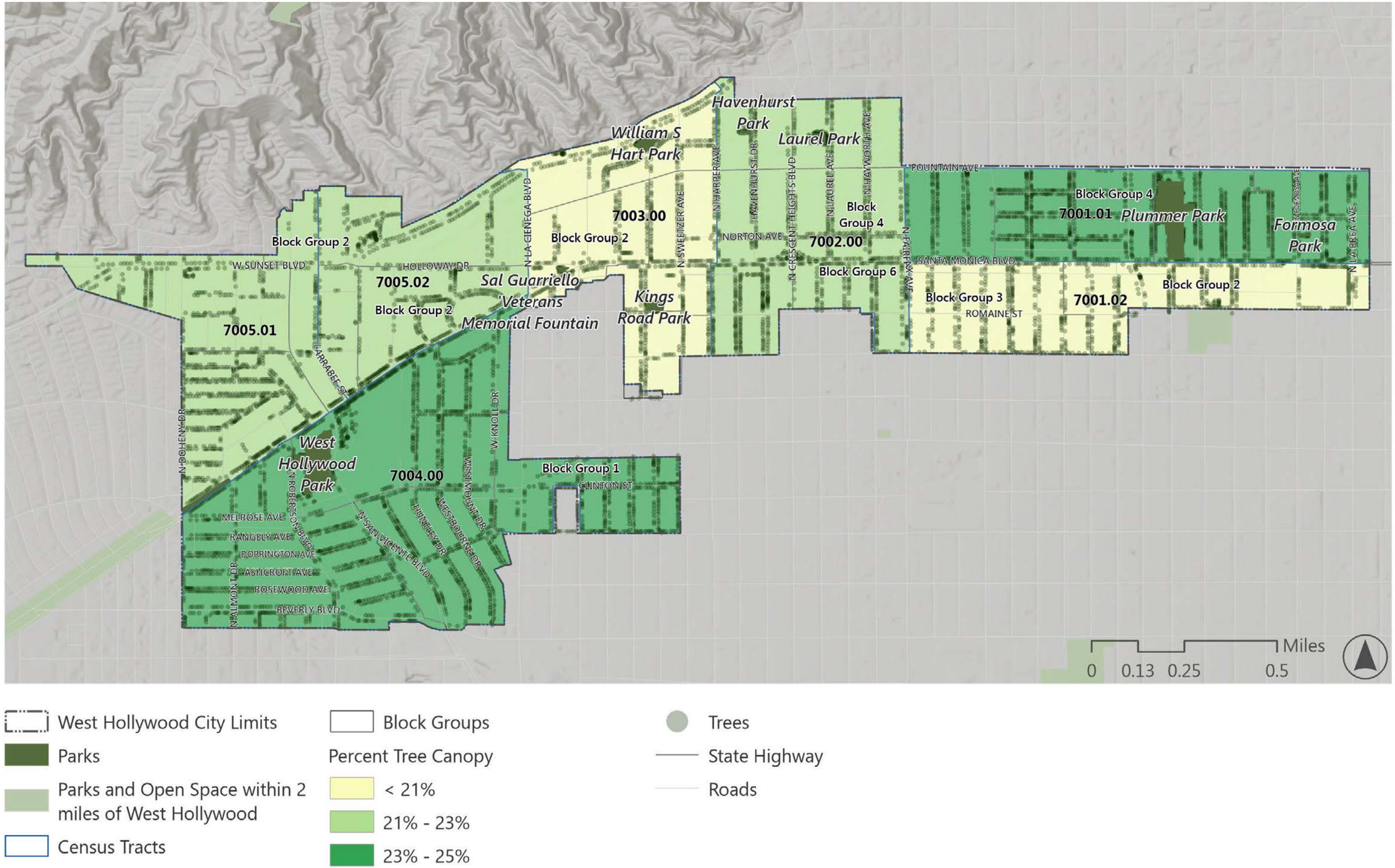
RECENTLY COMPLETED AND PLANNED PUBLIC SPACE PROJECTS

The recently completed Weaver's Walk project developed a 7,200 square foot strolling garden featuring ADA-accessible pedestrian foot path and habitat garden at Melrose Avenue and Norwich Drive. The new plaza incorporates shade canopy, large specimen oak trees, pollinator-friendly and permeable landscapes, and public art to create an area of respite.

Two planned public spaces in the dense Design District will add shade and seating, public art, and natural elements through the redevelopment of streets and underutilized parcels. The Beverly Triangle Plaza project will redevelop a City-owned parking lot located at Beverly Boulevard and Robertson Boulevard into a 5,000 square foot public gathering place featuring low-water and pollinator friendly landscaping, shade and seating, and public art.

The Sky Sanctuaries: San Vicente Streetscape Plaza will redevelop a section of North San Vicente Boulevard between Santa Monica Boulevard and Melrose Avenue into a flexible shared street and streetscape plaza (0.3 acres) integrated with West Hollywood Park. The new plaza will allow for temporary, partial, or full street closures to support ongoing City-sponsored events and community gatherings at this intersection. The unique design incorporates shade and seating, traffic calming measures, native plants and greenery, public art, and sustainable infrastructure to address water resource management, traffic and noise impacts, and the urban heat island effect.

Figure OS-6: Tree Canopy Coverage in West Hollywood



West Hollywood City Limits

Parks

Parks and Open Space within 2 miles of West Hollywood

Census Tracts

Block Groups

Percent Tree Canopy

< 21%

21% - 23%

23% - 25%

Trees

State Highway

Roads

Source: Esri, City of West Hollywood

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ONGOING AND PILOT PUBLIC SPACE INITIATIVES

The City has found other ways to add new parks and public space, including long-term leasing of public pocket park sites as part of private development projects. Privately owned developments may also provide publicly accessible open space (e.g., plazas, courtyards, rooftop terraces, or paseos) through development agreements, conditions of approval, or other entitlement mechanisms. Rooftop gardens and green walls are commonly found in City-owned and private buildings to incorporate green features and carbon sequestration co-benefits in areas where space is limited to add additional parkland.

The City has worked with local partners on pilot projects to permit and install temporary micro-parks and public parklets that create small, temporary areas of respite and green space in the urban landscape and often feature interactive public art, programming, seating, and bike racks. The City's Municipal Code includes permitting requirements and development standards for repurposing on-street parking spaces as new publicly accessible gathering spaces.

The City regularly reimagines the public realm through various temporary and pilot projects in streets, parks, sidewalks, and medians. The annual Art on the Outside program installs temporary rotating artworks such as sculpture, murals, and digital art in parks and medians along Sunset Boulevard and other corridors to celebrate local arts and culture while maximizing the public realm. Streets adjacent to parks and local business districts are often activated with temporary street closures for cultural events, festivals, block parties, and CicLAvia.

NATURAL RESOURCES

West Hollywood is largely built out, with open space primarily located in parks, plazas, medians, and parkways. The city does not contain large, contiguous natural areas or conservation easements, and most of the terrain has been developed, paved, or landscaped. Within West Hollywood, hardscape (including buildings and rights-of-way) comprises approximately 70 percent of land and softscape (including private gardens and public areas of parks, urban landscaping, vegetation, and tree canopy) comprises approximately 30 percent. Publicly accessible landscaped areas (parks, parkways, street medians, and similar landscaped areas) account for approximately seven percent of land area.

Vegetation is primarily ornamental and/or non-native, although the City's urban forest includes over 100 species of trees. There are currently no sensitive or endangered plant or animal communities within the city limits. Parks, street trees, and landscaped areas may provide habitat and foraging opportunities for urban wildlife and contribute to ecosystem services. Nevertheless, the diversity of native animal species is very low, resulting in low habitat connectivity. West Hollywood is not mapped as an existing or proposed Significant Ecological Area (SEA) that links migratory wildlife populations, but SEAs occur in the Santa Monica Mountains.

West Hollywood is situated within the 130-square mile Ballona Creek Watershed, feeding into Ballona Creek and the Pacific Ocean through a network of underground storm drains. Streams and reservoirs in the nearby Santa Monica Mountains include the Franklin Canyon Reservoir, the Upper Franklin Canyon Reservoir, and the Hollywood Reservoir, though there are no natural bodies of water within City limits.

URBAN FOREST

Tree canopy coverage is a key component of walkability, providing shade, cooler pedestrian environments, and improved air quality. The City maintains approximately 9,000 public trees and has developed an Urban Forest Management Plan and other initiatives to continue to expand the urban tree canopy. The City's Heritage Tree Program also protects mature specimen trees while providing advocacy and education to residents and private property owners about tree awareness and proper maintenance practices.

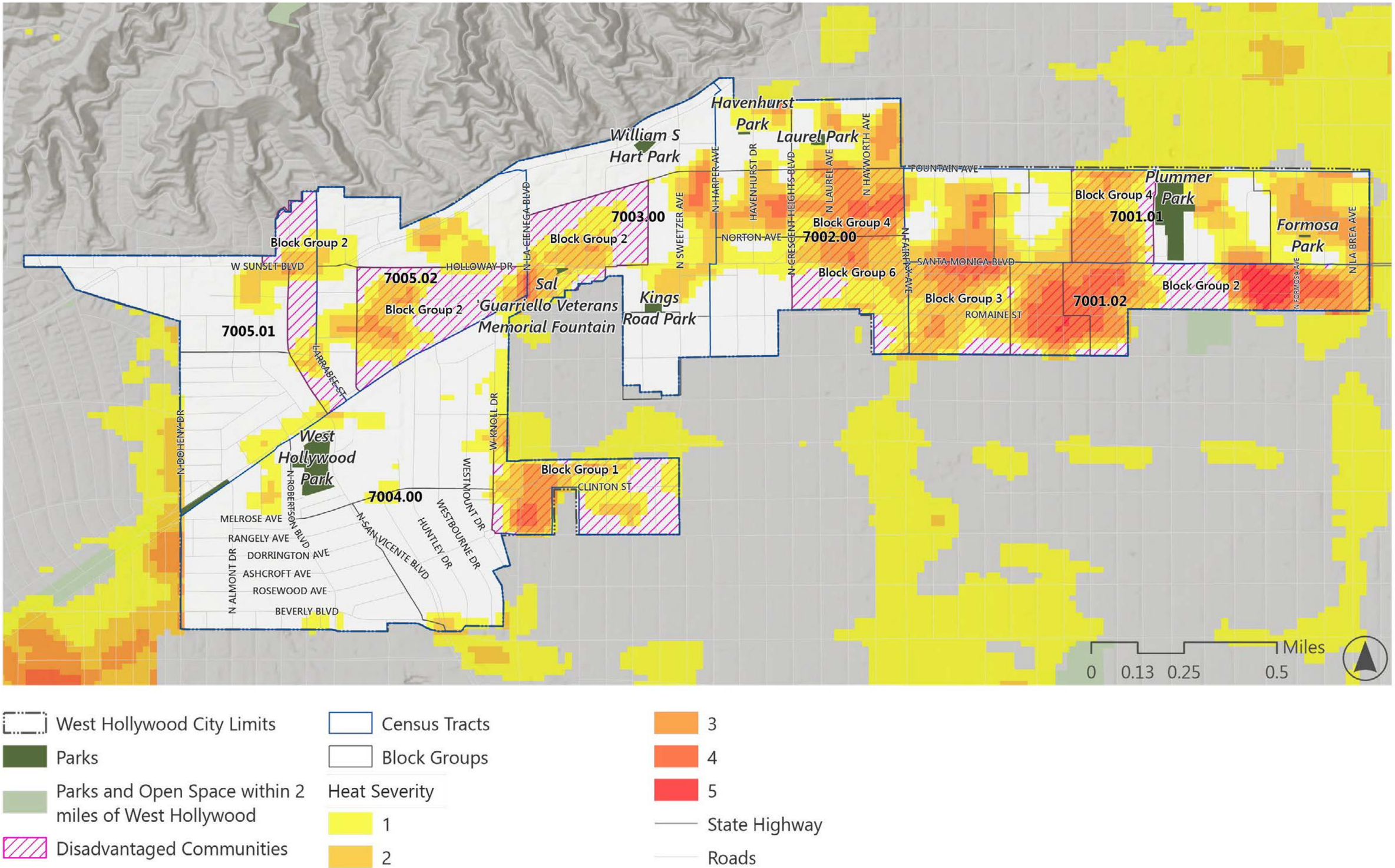
Figure OS-6 illustrates tree canopy coverage by census tract and the distribution of individual trees on public land. The City's existing 22.6 percent tree canopy exceeds countywide averages, with the highest tree canopy coverage concentrated in the Eastside, West Hollywood West, and Tri-West neighborhoods around Plummer Park and West Hollywood Park. Center City, a portion of the Eastside, and West Hollywood North neighborhoods experience both lower tree canopy coverage and higher heat severity than the citywide average, illustrating the urban heat effect and the cooling benefits of the urban forest.

Like many urbanized settings, West Hollywood's tree canopy has experienced localized losses over time, and tree removals associated with redevelopment can reduce canopy in specific neighborhoods if not offset by new planting and long-term establishment. To address this, the City has established a target of 28 percent tree canopy coverage on private property to be achieved through City and community efforts, education, and on-site greening requirements with a progressive goal of exceeding 30 percent coverage where feasible.

CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Greening efforts and nature-based design in dense neighborhoods and along major traffic corridors can lead to multiple co-benefits related to climate and public health such as increased air and water filtration, shade canopy, walk access to parks and community amenities, and traffic calming measures. Parks also often serve as a resource for community services during climate hazards such as wildfire, flooding, and heat waves. In West Hollywood, key climate- and hazard-related considerations include extreme heat, wildfire smoke and degraded air quality, and localized flooding in low-lying areas.

Figure OS-7: Heat Severity West Hollywood, 2024



West Hollywood City Limits

Parks

Parks and Open Space within 2 miles of West Hollywood

Disadvantaged Communities

Census Tracts

Block Groups

Heat Severity

1

2

3

4

5

State Highway

Roads

Source: Esri, City of West Hollywood

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The West Hollywood 2021 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan projects that extreme heat days will increase by nearly 21 days annually by mid-century and nearly 39 days by the late century. Extreme heat, intensified by the urban heat island effect and shown in Figure OS-7, poses health risks, particularly for vulnerable populations such as children, older adults, and individuals with preexisting health conditions. Urban areas such as West Hollywood are more likely to retain heat during extreme heat events due to their relative lack of greenery and collection of heat-trapping surfaces, known as the urban heat island effect. The City has adopted strategies to mitigate and adapt to extreme heat, such as street trees, bus stop canopies and shade structures, cooling centers, and encouraging low-carbon cooling options. Parks and open space, street trees, and green infrastructure can further support climate resilience by reducing heat exposure through shade and evapotranspiration, capturing and filtering stormwater, improving air quality, and providing space for emergency assembly and cooling during heat events.

West Hollywood sits at the base of the Santa Monica Mountains, where significant vegetation and brush cover the undeveloped areas between homes and neighborhoods and a fire in the Santa Monica Mountains could easily spread to the northern neighborhoods of West Hollywood. The Center City, West Hollywood North, and WeHo Heights neighborhoods are located at the base of the Santa Monica Mountains, high or very high fire hazard severity zones (census tracts 7002, 7003, 7005.01, and 7005.02). Many communities in West Hollywood already experience high levels of pollution and poor air quality associated with traffic, regional smog, and point sources that worsen with wildfire (census tracts 7001.01, 7001.02, 7002, 7003, and 7005.02). Overexposure to these wildfire smoke or other environmental pollutants associated with the urban environment can increase the risk of heart disease, stroke, and respiratory illness. A well-maintained open space network can provide additional air filtration and reduce fire hazards in impacted zones by creating natural firebreaks and buffers that slow wildland fires.

West Hollywood is land-locked and unlikely to experience the direct effects of sea level rise. However, the entire city is exposed to flooding from waterways that flow through narrow, steep canyons from the natural drainage basin in Santa Monica Mountains. The basin has historically experienced flooding during major winter storms, and the City's high water table lowers the ability of pooled water to drain. Localized flooding occurs in low topographic areas where street gutters must accommodate peak flows during a storm event. Incorporating green infrastructure such as bioswales or rain gardens within parks and in the public realm can support stormwater management and reduces the risk of serious flooding, while also increasing access to green spaces within neighborhoods.

OPEN SPACE PROGRAMS

West Hollywood has developed several policies and initiatives designed to create pockets of green space within the public realm and support the urban forest, native plants, pollinator and migratory species, and indigenous land management as described below.

COMMUNITY GARDENING

Community gardening is popular and expected to continue to play an important role within the community, though the shortage of available land limits the program's size and number of participants. The city has one interim community garden located at Plummer Park with 43 raised garden beds. Participation is limited to West Hollywood residents with registered plots, with occasional educational events open to the public, and there has been a substantial waitlist since the garden's opening. The ability to provide community gardening space is strongly susceptible to land values and real property development, and the current location of the Community Gardening Program is not permanent. Because of this, the City is developing initiatives to promote additional gardening elsewhere in the City, such as on private property balconies and rooftops and in soilless gardens.

Community gardens support healthy eating and community connectedness.

REWILDING

West Hollywood participates in several rewilding initiatives to introduce pockets of habitat for native plants, animals, and migratory species within the city's dense urban environment. The Garden for Wildlife program by the National Wildlife Federation recognizes parks as well as individual gardens in backyards, businesses, schools, and other community spaces as wildlife habitats. Every Certified Wildlife Habitat contains five elements: to provide natural sources of food, water, cover, places to raise young, and is maintained in a sustainable way that incorporates native plants, conserves water and does not rely on pesticides. In 2020, Formosa Pocket Park and Havenhurst Pocket Park received Certified Wildlife Habitat designations.

The City's "Call to Action" for Monarch Butterfly Conservation encourages residents, businesses, and property owners to create habitat for local monarch butterflies and other pollinators by planting native milkweeds, nectar plants, and other pollinator-friendly plants. While there are no priority Monarch overwintering sites in West Hollywood, there are priority sites in Santa Monica, Long Beach, and Redondo Beach, uplifting the need for strong pollinator corridors to support this species' migration patterns.

West Hollywood also encourages residents to steward public parkway strips – the area between the sidewalk and curb – with low-water native landscaping or edible gardens. The City's 2010 Parkway Design Guide establishes standards for parkway design and planting to reduce water use and carbon emissions and provide storm and irrigation water infiltration, soil volume for street trees, and create visibility and a buffer between pedestrians and the street. The 2013 Edible Parkway Gardening Report also provides guidelines for residents interested in planting parkway gardens with edible landscaping, such as fruits, vegetables, and herbs. Parkway gardens are eligible to be designated as Certified Wildlife Habitats and create opportunities for additional pollinator habitat throughout the city.

TRIBAL STEWARDSHIP

While West Hollywood is largely urbanized with limited opportunities to reestablish historic native habitat, incorporating Indigenous knowledge and stewardship practices can support City rewilding efforts. West Hollywood is located on the ancestral and unceded homelands of the Gabrieleño Tongva and Gabrieleño Kizh peoples. Many indigenous descendants continue to live in their traditional territory and care for the lands, and the City has worked with members through the 2021 Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to build a restorative relationship dedicated to reciprocity and co-stewardship. Tribal engagement and relationships established during development of the CAAP resulted in new City policies and programs that formally acknowledge tribal lands and commit to opportunities to facilitate tribal stewardship and access to open space.

GOALS AND POLICIES

Goal OS-1: Improve and enhance existing parks and open spaces throughout the city.

Intent: To maintain and improve existing parks as safe, universally accessible, well-programmed, and high-performing spaces for current and future generations of West Hollywood residents and visitors.

OS-1.1: Continue to maintain and enhance existing parks and recreational facilities, as feasible.

OS-1.2: Seek to maintain a diversity of park spaces throughout the city, including recreation areas, hardscaped plazas and parklets, privately owned public spaces, children's play areas, open fields, and dog parks.

OS-1.3: Improve and update City parks, pursuing phased opportunities for incremental greening while acquiring funding for larger capital projects.

OS-1.4: Ensure appropriate energy-efficient lighting and visibility in the design of all parks, park facilities, walking paths, and public open spaces to improve access and public safety for all while minimizing spillover onto adjacent properties.

OS-1.5: Take practical steps to avoid adverse impacts from nighttime park activities on adjacent residences.

OS-1.6: Incorporate sound mitigation measures into the design and operation of recreational facilities and dog play areas to avoid adverse impacts on adjacent residents and park users.

OS-1.7: Strive to improve public safety in all parks and open spaces by collaborating internally to allocate community ambassadors and public safety resources based on data, event activity, and community need, so people of all ages and abilities feel comfortable.

OS-1.8: Promote physical activity through increased access to parks and open spaces, pedestrian- and bike-oriented routes to parks and open space, greening of public rights-of-way, a variety of active and passive spaces, equipment, amenities, and programming in parks and open spaces.

OS-1.9: Utilize park and streetscape master plans, sub-area specific plans, and the Urban Forest Management Plan to guide the increase, expansion, or improvement of park and open space.

OS-1.10: Maintain public parks and City facilities as formal and informal gathering spaces available to all community members and community groups at affordable and transparent rates, where reservations are required.

OS-1.11: Expand citywide access to dog parks, striving to provide a balance between well-maintained off-leash areas, fenced play areas, shaded areas, and walking paths where feasible.

OS-1.12: Incorporate universally accessible seating, shade, safe lighting, water fountains, trash cans, biodiverse habitat, and educational signage on local ecology, tribal history, community history, or cultural memories into parks and public open spaces.

OS-1.13: Utilize progressive techniques in the delivery of maintenance services related to parks, open space, and recreation facilities.

OS-1.14: Implement physical improvements in parks, open spaces, and recreation facilities based on regular monitoring and evaluation of their condition, the community's needs, ensuring such improvements consider physical access to and around parks and facilities.

OS-1.15: Establish and periodically update measurable open-space performance indicators, such as walk access, canopy coverage, shade access, universal accessibility, seating, programming distribution, recreation amenities, and investment in underserved communities, to guide capital and program decisions.

OS-1.16: Maintain high-quality parks, open space, and recreation facilities in a reliable, safe, and efficient way.

Goal OS-2: Seek opportunities and creative strategies to build new parks, public spaces, and open spaces in West Hollywood.

Intent: To expand the City's open space network by leveraging development, public funding, partnerships, and nontraditional sites.

OS-2.1: Strive to locate new parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces in areas that are currently underserved by park access, areas identified as underserved communities, and areas that may experience an increase in residential development, such as near planned transit stations.

OS-2.2: Consistent with State law, require that new development contribute fees for expanded park space, including public open space, green streets, and pocket parks, when open space is not provided on-site, and periodically review fee levels to maintain nexus and purchasing power while considering potential impacts on the cost and production of multifamily housing.

OS-2.3: Encourage innovation and technical interventions in new and existing development to expand open space and greenery.

OS-2.4: Explore opportunities to incorporate enhanced open space and greening as public benefits packages for private development projects.

OS-2.5: Actively seek opportunities to increase the supply of parks and open space, including on rooftops, medians and parkways, underdeveloped parcels, privately owned public spaces, and through temporary or flexible uses, with appropriate security measures.

OS-2.6: Prioritize dedicated public funding from the general fund, development fees, and other fees and grants for the expansion and maintenance of parks, recreational facilities, and the open space network to meet park access and rewilding goals.

OS-2.7: As feasible, explore opportunities to purchase private property, public property not owned by the city, and undeveloped parcels for new or expanded park and green spaces, especially in areas with limited access to existing parks and public spaces and parcels adjacent to existing parks to expand their footprints.

OS-2.8: Continually seek grants and other external sources of funding for parks and open spaces.

OS-2.9: Explore opportunities to use underdeveloped City-owned sites (i.e., vacant parcels, parking lots, landscaped parkway strips and medians, sidewalks, alleys, laneways, and dead-end streets) to create new parks and green spaces.

OS-2.10: Consider incentives or modify development standards to encourage new development that creates appropriately scaled, clearly signed, publicly accessible on- or off-site public open space, including, but not limited to, local density bonuses for open space.

OS-2.11: Require that privately owned public spaces provided through development approvals be clearly signed, physically accessible during the stated public hours, and subject to recorded access and maintenance obligations.

OS-2.12: Develop and maintain joint-use agreements with the Los Angeles Unified School District, private schools, and other area schools to allow public use of sports fields, open spaces, and recreational facilities.

OS-2.13: Explore opportunities to expand aquatic facilities or water features in the Eastside neighborhood, such as a swimming pool, splash pad, or seasonal cooling play feature.

OS-2.14: Explore opportunities for open space, urban greening, and public realm improvements along Sunset Boulevard.

OS-2.15: Work with LA Metro to integrate new parks and open spaces, urban greening and increased tree canopy in future transit projects.

Goal OS-3: Continue to ensure that parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces serve the needs of all residents with a particular focus on identified underserved communities and populations with unique needs.

Intent: To deliver parks, open space, facilities, and programs that reflect the diversity of West Hollywood and serve residents of all ages, abilities, incomes, and backgrounds.

OS-3.1: Design parks, trails, and recreational facilities that are culturally relevant, age-inclusive, and universally accessible, addressing the needs of children, seniors, people with disabilities or limited mobility, and multilingual communities.

OS-3.2: Continue to provide a diversity of recreational and social service programing and strive to have an equitable geographic distribution of these programs.

OS-3.3: Design universally accessible wayfinding signage in parks, recreational facilities, walking paths, and in the public realm to promote inclusive use by people who are sight challenged or experience other disabilities.

OS-3.4: Ensure ADA-compliant access to all parks and open space facilities, including pathways, restrooms, playgrounds, communications, programming, and online services, to promote inclusive use by people of all abilities.

OS-3.5: Continue to offer recreational programs to meet the needs of the community, including seniors, LGBTQ+ community members, Russian-speaking persons, youth, families, and persons with disabilities.

OS-3.6: Provide affordable, high-quality recreational opportunities and access—particularly for youth and seniors—for all ages and abilities, through City recreation programs, parks, and open spaces.

OS-3.7: Expand need-based scholarships and/or fee reductions for recreational programs to improve accessibility, particularly for underserved populations and residents who face barriers to participation.

OS-3.8: Provide educational and recreational programming that aligns with adult lifestyles and schedules and promotes life-long learning, especially for older adults.

OS-3.9: Design and program parks to accommodate unique social and cultural needs, with facilities that may include a variety of universally accessible seating areas, passive and active use facilities, open and semi-sheltered open spaces, artwork, and programmed events.

OS-3.10: Establish and maintain multidisciplinary City facilities for arts, culture, and recreation in parks and provide affordable, accessible, educational, and fun art-making activities for youth and adults.

OS-3.11: Regularly notify residents of the types of recreation and programs available and encourage their participation, providing notice in multiple languages and for people with differing sensory abilities.

OS-3.12: As feasible, continue to produce and/or support community-related special events, particularly those targeted to underrepresented communities within West Hollywood, and ensure equitable geographic distribution of free or low-cost events.

OS-3.13: Encourage, permit, and support special events, such as music, movies, and festivals, organized by businesses, community groups, and non-profit organizations located within the city and facilitate universal accessibility in the noticing and implementation of all non-city sponsored events.

OS-3.14: Support intergenerational programming and facilitate other opportunities for cross-community connections through partnerships with community-based groups, with an emphasis on vulnerable communities and universal accessibility.

OS-3.15: Conduct needs assessments and evaluate recreational programs as needed to gather information regarding community needs and priorities.

OS-3.16: Encourage the use of parks, streets, and public rights-of-way for temporary public programming and festivals.

Goal OS-4: Establish, expand, and create connections within a citywide open space network that integrates nature, public art, and pedestrian amenities across the public realm.

Intent: To establish a connected network of parks, streets, and public spaces that supports walking and active transportation, enhances the public realm with shade and amenities, and integrates art, greening, and placemaking across the city.

OS-4.1: As opportunities arise, expand the number of designated walking routes, including an Eastside walking tour that includes cultural attractions and sites of significance, and install consistent, universally accessible wayfinding signage along walking routes.

OS-4.2: Connect walking paths, multi-use trails, and nearby open-space destinations with regional trail routes to improve connections between homes, schools, parks, and public services, with attention to public safety and universal accessibility.

OS-4.3: Explore opportunities to activate, landscape, or redevelop side streets, alleys, laneways, and excess road space into public spaces such as paseos or play streets.

OS-4.4: Provide universally accessible pedestrian amenities throughout the street network such as wider sidewalks, street trees and landscaping, bulb-outs, seating areas, and pedestrian-oriented lighting.

OS-4.5: Where feasible, prioritize shade, seating, water fountains, and cooling-oriented streetscape improvements along routes connecting parks, transit stops, schools, senior-serving facilities, and underserved communities.

OS-4.6: Provide incentives to support green roofs and roof gardens in existing buildings.

OS-4.7: Creatively utilize medians and the public realm for public art programming, expanding the urban tree canopy, green infrastructure and water conservation measures, and wildlife habitats.

OS-4.8: Maintain existing public parking at parks and recreational facilities while expanding pedestrian, bicycle, and transit connections.

OS-4.9: Expand the open space network by adding pocket parks, vacant lots, utility corridors, roadside medians, and privately owned public spaces.

OS-4.10: Explore opportunities to use mobility, including active transportation and pedestrian amenities, as a strategy for placemaking and as a community gathering depot.

OS-4.11: Encourage the incorporation of public art into parks, plazas, and open spaces to contribute to placemaking and community pride.

OS-4.12: Increase opportunities for open streets programming like WeHo Pride, CicLAvia, and new pedestrian experiences across the city.

OS-4.13: Improve universal accessibility and belonging in open space, parks, recreational facilities, and community programming, including enhancements to sidewalks and paths of travel, seating areas, and wayfinding.

Goal OS-5: Protect and expand the urban tree canopy; nurture green spaces, biodiversity, and wildlife habitat; and encourage green infrastructure.

Intent: To expand the tree canopy, promote habitat restoration, and integrate green infrastructure throughout the city in order to enhance ecological function, climate resilience, public health, and the quality of life for residents.

OS-5.1: Strive to expand tree canopy in the public right-of-way and on public property to provide shade, improve the pedestrian experience, and address the negative impacts of climate change.

OS-5.2: Encourage increased tree canopy coverage on private property through objective development standards, tree plantings on public and private property, and educational programming and community volunteer efforts.

OS-5.3: Explore flexible development standards that favor tree canopy preservation, protection, replacement, and species diversity, as well as dedicated green spaces.

OS-5.4: Continue to develop educational and outreach programs and incentives to encourage tree planting and preservation, green roofs, roof gardens, and interconnected green infrastructure in existing buildings.

OS-5.5: Continue to develop educational programs and best practice guidelines for property owners, gardeners, and professional maintenance companies for tree management on privately-owned properties.

OS-5.6: Develop a maintenance management program for existing tree resources to be conserved, including heritage or unique trees of value.

OS-5.7: Focus City-led urban rewilding efforts in historically underrepresented communities where new or restored green space can address climate justice, public health, and access to nature.

OS-5.8: Prioritize reforestation in locations with lower tree canopy and greater exposure to health and environmental burdens.

OS-5.9: Explore opportunities to create and maintain National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitats, monarch- and pollinator-supporting landscapes, wildlife corridors, and other habitat features that support pollinators and other migratory species.

OS-5.10: Incorporate soil health and restoration processes when feasible.

OS-5.11: Explore opportunities to restore and regenerate lost wildlife habitat through nature-based solutions and green infrastructure integration.

OS-5.12: Collaborate with the community and explore partnerships with environmental organizations, local businesses, or indigenous representatives to re-establish native plants and green spaces on parcels, streets, alleys, laneways, and interstitial spaces, and to incorporate soil restoration processes and climate-adaptive vegetation.

OS-5.13: Collaborate with local scientists and experts to conduct regular biodiversity assessments, identifying local wildlife and plant species in parks and open spaces, with the inclusion of key indicators to monitor the health of local ecosystems.

OS-5.14: Encourage native vegetation, pollinator gardens, and green roofs that provide ecological benefits while improving air quality, shading, and stormwater management.

OS-5.15: Develop and monitor the success of a communitywide green infrastructure plan that integrates with other relevant local plans and General Plan Elements, and that outlines a network of interconnected public facilities and green spaces, incentive programs, and community-based partnerships.

OS-5.16: Integrate rewilding into green infrastructure plans, leveraging native vegetation to provide shade, cooling, carbon sinks, and erosion control.

Goal OS-6: Utilize parks, open space, and nature-based solutions to support climate adaptation, public health, and environmental sustainability.

Intent: To design and manage parks and open spaces in a way that mitigates the impacts of climate change, supports public health, and has co-benefits with other City priorities such as equity and inclusion.

OS-6.1: Promote environmental sustainability and conservation in the design of new parks and in the renovation, operation, and maintenance of existing parks.

OS-6.2: Continue coordinating and advertising cooling center operations, and seek opportunities to open additional cooling centers in City facilities (including Kings Road Park) to serve vulnerable communities most impacted by heat, smoke, and other climate effects.

OS-6.3: Collaborate with external partners (i.e., environmental organizations, community-based organizations, and mutual aid) to establish resilience hubs in parks and City-owned facilities that serve as centers for preparedness, rapid response, and recovery from climate-related and environmental hazards.

OS-6.4: Develop universally accessible communications and outreach assets that address open space stewardship, climate adaptation, preparedness for climate-related emergencies, tribal history, and relations with people, places, and the land.

OS-6.5: Incorporate fire-smart and drought-tolerant native plant palettes into ecological restoration efforts.

OS-6.6: As feasible, incorporate permeable and cool surfaces, such as permeable walkways and high-albedo road and parking lot surfaces, outdoor shade structures, and sustainable turf into the design of parks, dog play areas, and public space projects.

OS-6.7: Incorporate sustainable and low-toxic turf and ground cover options into the design of playgrounds, dog play areas, and walking paths to minimize impacts on health.

OS-6.8: Identify opportunities to implement green infrastructure in parks and open spaces to support stormwater management and water conservation.

OS-6.9: When feasible, implement best management practices for energy and water conservation in managing parks and recreation programs and facilities.

OS-6.10: Explore opportunities to integrate innovative technologies into park design and management that reduce the City's environmental impact while bolstering the health of the natural landscape.

Goal OS-7: Support new and existing partnerships to expand the number and quality of parks and open spaces in and around West Hollywood.

Intent: To expand access to and stewardship of parks and open spaces within and near West Hollywood by collaborating with neighboring jurisdictions, regional public agencies, and community organizations.

OS-7.1: Partner with local businesses, tree-oriented non-profits, and community-based organizations to assist with tree planting, stewardship, and other beautification projects.

OS-7.2: Work with the adjacent jurisdictions of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills to increase access to parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces for West Hollywood residents, as appropriate, including through first- and last-mile transit, bicycle, and universally accessible wayfinding improvements.

OS-7.3: Improve transit, bicycle, and wayfinding connections to nearby regional parks, trails, and civic destinations so residents can access a broader open-space network beyond city limits.

OS-7.4: As feasible, work with other agencies, including Southern California Edison, LADWP, Beverly Hills Water, Pacific Gas & Electric, California Water Service, and the California Public Utilities Commission, to convert public easements, such as utility corridors or unused rights-of-way, into parks and trails.

OS-7.5: Involve residents in the stewardship and maintenance of parks and green infrastructure, including through community maintenance programs, cultural stewardship, and environmental education initiatives.

OS-7.6: Explore opportunities to partner with community-based organizations to support community-led stewardship of parks and recreational facilities, such as community gardens, bicycle maintenance facilities, and small-scale open-space interventions.

OS-7.7: When appropriate, work with local schools (public or private) to provide educational and recreational programming related to ecology, gardening, and climate resilience.

OS-7.8: Partner with community-led organizations to produce education and public awareness events and programs focused on opportunities to enhance public space.

OS-7.9: Work with the adjacent jurisdictions of Los Angeles and Beverly Hills on public art and public realm improvement projects along major corridors.

OS-7.10: When appropriate, work with institutions such as local churches or large landowners to develop new shared green spaces without sacrificing privacy or security needs.

OS-7.11: Explore opportunities to reduce physical and socioeconomic barriers to underrepresented communities' access to parks and open space, such as specialized programming and discounted reservation fees.

OS-7.12: Develop community education and citizen stewardship programs to support city reforestation and rewilding efforts.

OS-7.13: Support neighborhood-led rewilding projects in schoolyards, community gardens, and public housing landscapes to build local ownership, cultural connection, and ecological literacy.

OS-7.14: Encourage opportunities for community gardens on public and private property to foster environmental stewardship, local food production, educational and wellness programming, and social cohesion, where compatible with site conditions, operations, and long-term maintenance capacity.

Open Space

Action	Action Name	Action Description	Policy	Department (Division)	Time Frame
OS-A.1	**Open Space Opportunity and Equity Prioritization Program**	Maintain and periodically update an Open Space Opportunity and Equity Prioritization Program to identify acquisition, lease, partnership, and public-realm opportunities, including pocket parks, plazas, rooftops, privately owned public space, alleys, laneways, medians, and excess right-of-way, with priority based on underserved communities, heat exposure, shade gaps, and park access gaps.	OS-2.1;	Public Works Department; City Manager's Department; Equity & Inclusion Officer	Ongoing
OS-A.2	**Park and Open Space Funding Strategy**	Periodically review and update funding mechanisms for park acquisition, retrofit, maintenance, and resilience improvements, including development impact fees, in-lieu fees, grants, County funding, and public-private partnerships.	OS-2.2; OS-2.4; OS-2.5; OS-2.6; OS-2.8; OS-2.10	Finance and Technology Department (Revenue Management); Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services)	Ongoing
OS-A.3	**City Park Improvements and Resilience Upgrades**	Implement the Plummer Park improvement program and continue capital improvements and resilience upgrades at City parks and public open spaces, including accessibility, shade, cooling, and amenity improvements.	OS-1.9; OS-1.12; OS-4.13; OS-6.1; OS-6.2	Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Ongoing
OS-A.4	**Parkland Dedication and Public Open Space Contribution Strategy**	Update and maintain the City's parkland dedication, in-lieu fee, and public-space contribution framework for applicable development, including non-subdivision projects where legally supportable, and establish standards for public access, signage, and maintenance of publicly accessible open space that consider universal accessibility.	OS-2.2; OS-2.4; OS-2.5; OS-2.6	Community Development Department (CHPP); Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OS-A.5	**Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Needs Assessment**	Conduct recurring parks, recreation, and open-space needs assessments, including multilingual outreach and evaluation of facility, programming, accessibility, comfort, and public-space priorities across neighborhoods and population groups.	OS-1.14; OS-1.15; OS-3.5; OS-3.6	Public Works Department (Facilities, Field Services, and Recreation); Urban Design + Architecture Studio; Community Services (Recreation Services); Risk Management	Short
OS-A.6	**Open Space Capital and Network Plan**	Prepare and periodically update an Open Space Capital and Network Plan that integrates park improvements, public realm projects, urban forest priorities, accessibility improvements, and small-space expansion opportunities.	OS-1.1; OS-1.3; OS-2.5; OS-2.7; OS-4.1;OS-4.2; OS-4.3	Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio; Community Services (Recreation Services); Risk Management	Medium
OS-A.7	**Park and Public Open Space Lighting Standards**	Develop and periodically update lighting and operational design standards for parks and public open spaces that support visibility, safety, accessibility, event use, and energy efficiency while minimizing light trespass on adjacent properties.	OS-1.4; OS-1.5; OS-4.4	Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio; Public Safety	Short
OS-A.8	**Park Comfort and Access Standards**	Establish minimum comfort and universal access standards for parks and public open spaces, including shade, seating, wayfinding, bike parking, drinking water where feasible, accessible paths, and other essential visitor amenities.	OS-1.8; OS-1.12; OS-1.15; OS-3.1; OS-3.2; OS-3.3; OS-4.1; OS-4.4; OS-4.5; OS-4.13	Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services); Community Services (Recreation Services); Risk Management; Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium

Action	Action Name	Action Description	Policy	Department (Division)	Time Frame
OS-A.9	**Climate-Adaptive and Biodiverse Plant Palette**	Maintain and periodically update a climate-adaptive plant palette for City parks and public spaces that emphasizes drought tolerance, biodiversity, pollinator support, tree diversity, native species, and culturally meaningful planting where appropriate.	OS-5.8; OS-5.12; OS-5.13; OS-6.5	Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services)	Short
OS-A.10	**Sustainable Park Design and Operations Standards**	Develop standards for sustainable park and open-space design, construction, operations, and maintenance, including low-impact development, permeable surfaces, water reuse where feasible, low-toxicity materials, electrified equipment where feasible, and sustainable procurement.	OS-6.1; OS-6.6; OS-6.7;OS-6.8; OS-6.9; OS-6.10	Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OS-A.11	**Community Stewardship and Park Activation**	Expand community stewardship and activation programs for parks and open spaces, including volunteer events, ecology education, public health education, emergency preparedness, tree planting and maintenance, cleanup events, habitat gardening, citizen science, and community-led programming, in coordination with City staffing and maintenance responsibilities.	OS-7.1; OS-7.4; OS-7.5; OS-7.6; OS-7.7; OS-7.8; OS-7.9	Community Services Department (Recreation Services)	Medium
OS-A.12	**Urban Forest Implementation**	Implement the Urban Forest Management Plan through tree-condition monitoring, establishment tracking, soil-volume expansion where feasible, prioritized planting in locations with lower tree canopy and greater health and environmental burdens, coordination with City and community-led tree planting and preservation efforts, and development of tree canopy target-setting.	OS-1.9; OS-1.15; OS-5.3; OS-5.12; OS-5.15	Public Works Department (Facilities and Field Services)	Medium
OS-A.13	**Green Infrastructure Innovation Strategy**	Integrate innovative green infrastructure technologies, including tree support, stormwater capture, and soil-volume systems, into parks, streetscapes, and public realm projects to provide long-term environmental and life-cycle benefits.	OS-2.3; OS-4.7; OS-5.10; OS-5.14; OS-6.8	Public Works Department (Engineering; Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OR-A.14	**Urban Rewilding Opportunity Strategy**	Identify and pursue opportunities to re-establish natural and green spaces on parcels, streets, alleys, laneways, medians, parkways, and interstitial spaces, incorporating soil restoration, native plants, and climate-adaptive vegetation where feasible, and collaborating with tribal representatives, environmental organizations, or community partners when feasible.	OS-1.12; OS-5.6; OS-5.8; OS-5.9; OS-5.11; OS-5.14	Public Works Department (Engineering; Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OS-A.15	**Cool and Permeable Surface Retrofit Initiative**	As feasible, incorporate permeable, cool surfaces into parks, walkways, dog play areas, plazas, and other public spaces to reduce heat and support stormwater management.	OS-6.6; OS-6.7	Public Works Department (Engineering; Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OS-A.16	**Biodiversity Monitoring and Adaptive Management Strategy**	Conduct periodic biodiversity assessments to identify local wildlife and plant species and use key indicators to monitor ecosystem health and inform adaptive management in parks and open spaces.	OS-5.15	Public Works Department (Engineering; Facilities and Field Services)	Medium
OS-A.17	**Community Garden and Urban Agriculture Strategy**	Identify permanent and distributed opportunities for community gardens and urban agriculture on public and private sites, including rooftops, housing sites, and other partner properties, with attention to long-term maintenance, water use, accessibility, and equitable access.	OS-4.6; OS-5.4; OS-5.5; OS-7.14	Public Works Department (Engineering; Facilities and Field Services); Community Services (Recreation Services); Community Development Department (CHPP)	Medium

Action	Action Name	Action Description	Policy	Department (Division)	Time Frame
OS-A.18	**Rewilding and Pollinator Corridor Strategy**	Connect habitat gardens, native planting, and pollinator-supporting landscapes across parks, medians, parkways, alleys, laneways, and other public-realm sites in coordination with community partners.	OS-5.9; OS-5.11; OS-5.15S-5.8	Public Works Department (Engineering; Facilities and Field Services); Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OS-A.19	**Open Space Equity Dashboard**	Track neighborhood-level indicators, including walk access, shade, canopy, ADA access, seating, recreation amenities, and investment in underserved communities.	OS-1.15	Public Works Department; Risk Management; Equity & Inclusion Officer; Long Range Planning	Medium
OS-A.20	**Cooling Routes to Parks Initiative**	Prioritize shade, seating, wayfinding, and safer walking conditions on routes connecting parks with transit, senior-serving facilities, schools, and dense residential areas.	OS-1.8; OS-2.14; OS-OS-3.16; OS-4.1; OS-4.2; OS-4.3; OS-4.4; OS-4.5; OS-4.7	Public Works Department; Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OS-A.21	**Privately Owned Public Space Initiative**	Inventory, standardize, and monitor privately owned public spaces, including signage, access hours, maintenance obligations, and design quality.	OS-1.2; OS-2.5	Public Works Department; Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OS-A.22	**Small-Space Activation Initiative**	Expand plazas, shared streets, curb-space conversions, and other micro-open-space interventions in underserved communities.	OS-2.1; OS-2.15; OS-4.12	Public Works Department; Urban Design + Architecture Studio UDAS; Community Services (Recreation Services); Risk Management	Medium
OS-A.23	**Universal Access Retrofit Initiative**	Prioritize park and route improvements that address universal accessibility, including ADA access, restrooms, paths, seating, play, signage, and sensory accessibility.	OS-3.1; OS-3.3; OS-3.4; OS-3.10; OS-4.1; OS-4.4	Public Works Department; Risk Management; Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Short
OS-A.24	**Park Climate Operations Action**	Formalize the role of parks and community facilities as cooling, respite, and emergency support spaces during extreme heat and smoke events.	OS-6.2; OS-6.3	Public Works Department; Public Safety Department; Risk Management; Community Services Department (Recreation Services)	Short
OS-A.25	**Open Space Partnerships Action**	Establish a program for partnerships with schools, institutions, faith-based organizations, large property owners, businesses, and neighboring jurisdictions to expand access to shared green space.	OS-2.15; OS-7.1; OS-7.2; OS-7.4 through 7.10	Public Works Department; Economic Development Department	Medium
OS-A.26	**Public Realm Green Infrastructure Retrofit Action**	Implement bioswales, rain gardens, permeable paving, and tree-support systems in parks, plazas, streetscapes, alleys, and laneways.	OS-4.7; OS-6.6; OS-6.8; OS-6.9	Public Works Department; Urban Design + Architecture Studio	Medium
OS-A.27	**Kings Road Park Community Room Activation**	Explore feasibility of establishing a cooling center and offering additional recreational programming at the community meeting room at Kings Road Park.	OS-6.2; OS-6.3	Public Works Department; Public Safety Department; Community Services Department (Recreation Services)	Medium

GLOSSARY

Curb-space. A portion of a public street that is the divider between the roadway and the pedestrian realm. This space is typically used for parking, deliveries and passenger pickup.

Disadvantaged Community. A disadvantaged community is defined in California's Health and Safety Code (Section 39711) as "a low-income area that is disproportionately affected by environmental pollution and other hazards that can lead to negative health effects, exposure, or environmental degradation."

Green Infrastructure. Constructed spaces that use landscaping, canopy trees, soil and natural processes to manage stormwater, enhance the local natural environment, and improve community health.

Green Space. A broad term that refers to any area of land without urban uses (such as housing, retail, etc.) and that is used for passive or active outdoor recreation, or the preservation of natural resources. Green space can also refer to portions of public right-of-ways with canopy trees and landscaping.

Green Street. Streets that are generously landscaped with canopy trees and other vegetation, so as to create a park-like feel within the urban environment with the benefits of shade and wildlife habitats.

Greening. The process of adding green spaces and landscape to a public or private property.

Hardscape. Hardscape is any permanent, human-made element of a public or private space that uses materials such as concrete, stone or paving.

Landscape. For the Open Space Element, the term used to describe areas designed with trees, shrubs, and grass.

Laneways. A public or private roadway or right of way that focuses on pedestrian activity, community identity, public artwork, and commerce. It differs from an alley in that alleys are focused on providing vehicular and service access, utility infrastructure, and solid waste collection.

Open Space. A broad category of land uses that includes parks, plazas, green streets, highly vegetated areas and other open space areas such as rivers, trails, and undeveloped lands.

Parklet. A small public seating area that repurposes parking areas or other infrastructure into community spaces with seating, landscaping, bike racks and other pedestrian-oriented amenities.

Paseo. A pedestrian walking path that is typically located at a mid-block location, connecting two streets, with amenities such as retail, public artwork, and green space, and are separated from vehicle traffic.

Placemaking. A community-based process that reimagines and reinvents public spaces in an area to enhance community identity, well-being, and social connections.

Play Street. A street that can be temporarily closed to traffic and used for public events and gatherings.

Plaza. An urban, paved open space that is used for social gatherings and events.

Pocket Park. A small park that is typically located on a formerly empty or underutilized parcel or as part of a new development. In built-out urban areas such as West Hollywood, new pocket parks represent one of the best ways of adding parks and open space to the community.

Privately Owned Public Spaces (POPS). Any type of public space, such as parks and plazas, that are developed and maintained by private property owners but accessible to the public.

Rewilding. An ecological restoration approach aimed at returning land to a natural, self-sustaining state, often by restoring missing native plant and animal species and repairing damaged ecosystem processes.

Underserved communities. A broad term for neighborhoods or communities that have fewer amenities and resources, more environmental impacts and/or a higher proportion of lower-income residents than other areas and may include, but is not limited to, disadvantaged communities.

Universal access. This term generally refers to the legal right of all individuals—regardless of disability, age, or background—to have full, equal, and unrestricted access to public facilities, business establishments, housing, services, and digital information.