

**Quality and Productivity Commission
30th Annual Productivity and Quality Awards Program
"Heritage of Excellence"**

2016 APPLICATION

Title of Project (Limited to 50 characters, including spaces, using Arial 12 point font):

NAME OF PROJECT: MORE PARKS FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY

DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION/ADOPTION: MARCH 2015
(Must have been implemented at least one year - on or before July 1, 2015)

PROJECT STATUS: Ongoing One-time only

HAS YOUR DEPARTMENT PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED THIS PROJECT? Yes No


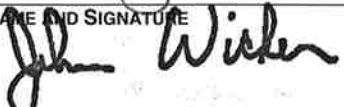
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Describe the project in 15 lines or less using Arial 12 point font. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made.

1 We all need parks! The Countywide Park Needs Assessment (PNA) was a historic and
2 significant undertaking to engage all communities within Los Angeles County in a
3 collaborative process to gather data and input for future decision-making on parks and
4 recreation. The primary goal of the PNA was to quantify the magnitude of need for
5 parks and recreational facilities, and determine the potential costs of meeting that need.
6 This goal has been accomplished, as evidenced by the final PNA report which uses a
7 transparent, best-practices approach to evaluate park and recreation needs, and is the
8 product of an engagement process that involved the public, all cities, unincorporated
9 communities, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders. Specifically, the
10 PNA: uses a set of metrics to measure and document park needs for each study area;
11 establishes a framework to determine the overall level of park need for each study area;
12 offers a list of priority park projects for each study area; details estimated costs for the
13 priority park projects by study area; builds a constituency of support and understanding
14 of the park and recreational needs and opportunities; and informs future decision-
15 making regarding planning and funding for parks and recreation.

BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY

(1) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST AVOIDANCE	(2) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL COST SAVINGS	(3) ACTUAL/ESTIMATED ANNUAL REVENUE	(1) + (2) + (3) = TOTAL ANNUAL ACTUAL/ESTIMATED BENEFIT	SERVICE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
\$	\$	\$	\$	X

ANNUAL = 12 MONTHS ONLY

SUBMITTING DEPARTMENT NAME AND COMPLETE ADDRESS Parks and Recreation 433 South Vermont Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90020		TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 738-2953
PROGRAM MANAGER'S NAME Norma E. Garcia		TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 351-5198 EMAIL negarcia@parks.lacounty.gov
PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME AND SIGNATURE (PLEASE CALL (213) 893-0322 IF YOU DO NOT KNOW YOUR PRODUCTIVITY MANAGER'S NAME) Elizabeth Mendez 	DATE July 5, 2016	TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 738-3040 EMAIL lmendez@parks.lacounty.gov
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S NAME AND SIGNATURE John Wicker 	DATE July 5, 2016	TELEPHONE NUMBER (213) 738-2953

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1st FACT SHEET – LIMITED TO 3 PAGES ONLY: Describe the **Challenge, Solution, and Benefits** of the project. State clearly and concisely what difference the project has made. Use Arial 12 point font

Challenge

Meeting the parks and recreational needs of Los Angeles County residents has always been a priority for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). However, a countywide comprehensive parks and recreation needs assessment has never been conducted to quantify the magnitude of need for parks and recreational facilities, and determine the potential costs of meeting that need.

Solution

With the support of the Board of Supervisors, DPR initiated the comprehensive Countywide Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA) in March 2015. The PNA analyzed current park and recreation assets and needs, and drew upon geographic information systems (GIS)-based spatial analysis, community-led outreach processes, and feedback from community residents and parks staff within cities and unincorporated areas. The PNA included the following components:

- DPR formed a 40-member Steering Committee as well as a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to help guide and validate the methodologies used for the PNA.
- Establishment of 188 Study Areas within the County.
- An inventory of existing park and recreation assets in the County, in all unincorporated and incorporated communities.
- GIS-based spatial analysis of existing park and recreation assets.
- Community-led outreach process of sharing inventory and analysis results to help identify and prioritize needed improvements.
- Cost estimates for priority park projects developed for each study area in community workshops.

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Community partners such as various non-profit groups and community-based organizations, as well as parks staff, conducted community engagement meetings in 178 Study Areas across Los Angeles County. Extensive public outreach to all communities was conducted to encourage participation in the meetings. Flyers were distributed to schools, homes, and various public places, and information was posted on various social media sites and agency websites. Translations of workshop and outreach materials were available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Armenian. To ensure the format of the community engagement meetings was consistent in all Study Areas, over 300 facilitators attended an intensive training session and received a 50-page Facilitator Toolkit with Study Area-specific results of an analysis of park metrics (which included data on park condition, accessibility, amenities etc.), community profile information (which included data on demographics, health, ozone concentration, etc.), templates, and other resources needed to host a successful meeting. At each community engagement meeting, participants: 1) reviewed their Study Area’s specific park metrics and profile; 2) generated a list of potential park projects; and 3) prioritized those projects.

Accurate data about the size and location of all existing parks in the County were critical to completing the PNA. This data were not previously available in a single database; therefore, DPR collaborated with 86 of the 88 incorporated cities to complete the first ever Countywide inventory of existing parks.

As a result, a total of 3,023 parks and 9,472 park amenities were inventoried Countywide. The final product identified geographic areas with the highest need for parks. It also identified, prioritized, and outlined costs for specific parks and/or open space projects for each study area.

Benefits

The PNA lays the groundwork for making important park planning and funding decisions in Los Angeles County. Most importantly, it provides the County, its jurisdictions, and all residents of the County with a wealth of parks-related information. The data in the PNA also provides a clear picture of the current scope, scale, and location of park needs in the County. For the first time, a single source provides information regarding parks and park infrastructure across the entire County. This information helps us to understand the challenges facing our communities and will be used to seek funding and support for parks, inform staffing and programming decisions, and focus outreach efforts.

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LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN (DETAIL IS REQUIRED FOR COUNTY DEPARTMENTS): Use Arial 12 point font

With detailed information regarding existing parks and the need for new parks, amenities, and repairs, the County is well prepared to develop a funding measure for park and open space projects that will provide funding streams for improvements in the short, medium, and long term. Local, state, and federal funds can also be leveraged to enhance park and open space funding. The comprehensive data in the PNA can also be used to allocate funds to meet identified needs in ways that emphasize areas with high to very high park need, while also addressing the specific needs of every jurisdiction and community in the County.

The PNA shows that there are many areas in the County with high park need and a lack of vacant land for new traditional parks. Local agencies will need to find innovative solutions to provide essential park infrastructure by using underutilized land, utility corridors, alleys, and other public lands. On July 5, 2016, the Board of Supervisors approved the adoption of the PNA and the approval to place the measure on the November 8, 2016 ballot. The next phase will be to ensure voters turn out and vote in favor of the measure to reach the 66 percent threshold for passage. Additionally, creative partnerships, such as joint use and reuse with schools, hospitals, libraries, and other facilities, should be considered in order to expand park opportunities and meet recreational needs.

The PNA of this magnitude is the first of its kind in the County and possibly in the country. This will serve as a model for a clear, replicable process that other jurisdictions across the country can use when they assess their region-wide park facilities and needs. The County will seek to keep data in the PNA up to date in order to determine park needs on a regular basis and track progress toward addressing already-identified needs.

County Strategic Plan Linkage:

The PNA met the County Strategic Plan Goals of: Operational Effectiveness/Fiscal Sustainability (Goal 1) by completing the assessment of the current inventory and condition of the Department facilities and Community Support and Responsiveness (Goal 2) by engaging community members to initiate discussions on generating a list of potential park projects and prioritizing these projects.

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COST AVOIDANCE, COST SAVINGS, AND REVENUE GENERATED (ESTIMATED BENEFITS TO THE COUNTY): If you are claiming cost benefits, include a calculation on this page. You must include an explanation of the County cost savings, cost avoidance or new revenue that matches the numbers in the box. Remember to keep your supporting documentation. Use Arial 12 point font

Cost Avoidance: Costs that are eliminated or not incurred as a result of program outcomes.

Cost Savings: A reduction or lessening of expenditures as a result of program outcomes.

Revenue: Increases in existing revenue streams or new revenue sources to the County as a result of program outcomes.

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