



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

*"Parks Make Life Better!"*

John Wicker, Director

May 3, 2016

## COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS AND RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is very pleased to release the Countywide Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Final Report. The availability of parks and recreational facilities is one of the most important factors in creating healthy communities and providing a high quality of life for Los Angeles County residents. Parks and recreational facilities offer opportunities to promote active living, exercise, access to open space and connectivity with others and the natural environment. Thus DPR is honored to oversee the County of Los Angeles parks and recreation system which includes over 70,000 acres of local and regional parks, lakes, trails, golf courses, cultural event facilities, natural areas and botanic gardens.

The Needs Assessment was a historic and significant undertaking to engage all communities within Los Angeles County in a collaborative process to gather data and input for future decision-making on parks and recreation. The primary goal of the Needs Assessment was to quantify the magnitude of need for parks and recreational facilities and determine the potential costs of meeting that need. This goal has been accomplished, as evidenced by this report which uses a transparent, best-practices approach to evaluate park and recreation needs and is the product of an engagement process that involved the public, cities, unincorporated communities, community-based organizations, and other stakeholders. Specifically, this report:

- Uses a set of metrics to measure and document park needs for each study area;
- Establishes a framework to determine the overall level of park need for each study area;
- Offers a list of priority park projects for each study area;
- Details estimated costs for the priority park projects by study area;
- Builds a constituency of support and understanding of the park and recreational needs and opportunities; and
- Informs future decision-making regarding planning and funding for parks and recreation.

The Needs Assessment was completed in 16 months, starting in March 2015 and ending in May 2016. Collaboration was critical to the process of developing the Needs Assessment. I would like to thank all of the residents, cities, unincorporated communities, Steering Committee members and Technical Advisory Committee members who participated in the process and provided valuable input. Finally, this unprecedented effort would not have been possible without the full support of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and their desire to expand the rich legacy of park and recreational resources established over the past few decades.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'John Wicker'.

John Wicker  
Director