2.1.3. NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES, & URBAN GREENING PROGRAM

Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, & Urban Greening Program (Category 2) funding is allocated annually to High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas as identified in the most current PNA or UPNA. Funds are allocated using the Per Capita and Structural Improvements Formula.

Grants funded with Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, & Urban Greening Program funds shall involve the acquisition of real property and the construction and rehabilitation of parks and recreation facilities that provide safe places and facilities for after-school, weekend, and holiday programs for local children, youth and families; provide opportunities for healthy living in all neighborhoods, and improve the quantity and quality of green spaces in the county.

Multi-benefit projects should seek to leverage public and private funding from water conservation and supply; water and air quality improvements; flood risk management; climate pollution reduction or adaptation; carbon sequestration; heat-island reduction; habitat protection and biodiversity; public health; and environmental justice benefit programs.

Funding Amount and Cycle Frequency

Annual allocation: 13% of Measure A expenditure plan.
Grant Cycle: Annual.
Recipients: High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas as identified in the most current PNA or UPNA.

Study Area Allocation Amount: Calculated by Study Area using the Per Capita Improvements formula as described in the Glossary for all High-Need or Very-High-Need Study Areas as identified in the most recent PNA or UPNA. The dollar amount of funds available to each Study Area will be updated annually based on the revenue received by September 15th of each year.

Project Types

Below is a non-exhaustive list of projects that may be eligible for grant funds under the Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, & Urban Greening Program. This list is intended to assist agencies in understanding the types of projects Community-based Park Investment Program funds can be expended on, not to limit or direct the projects they choose to complete.

- Community and local parks, including pocket parks, playgrounds, playground equipment, dog parks, and picnic areas, especially those that connect and restore underutilized spaces;
Measures A Funding Programs

Section 2.1.3 Annual Allocations: Neighborhood Parks, Healthy Communities, and Urban Greening

- Community and senior recreational centers;
- Park safety, graffiti removal, facility safety lighting, safe routes to schools, and other safety improvements;
- Greenspace and greenway development;
- Gardens;
- Urban canopy development to reduce the heat island effect, especially in heavily urbanized, tree-poor areas of the County;
- Refurbishment, updating, expansion of current parks and park amenities;
- Planning and design related projects.

Project Requirements

Applicants must provide proof that the project meets the project eligibility, feasibility, and community engagement requirements listed below.

All projects must include a sign at a prominent location on the project site acknowledging the assistance of RPOSD. The cost of permanent signage development is reimbursable through the grant. RPOSD will provide electronic samples of its graphics for the grantee to use in signage development.

Project Eligibility

Applicants must provide proof that the project meets all the following Project Eligibility requirements to apply for a grant award:

- The project is in the Study Area or meets the requirements for shared funds;
- The project is a capital project;
- The project is consistent with the most recent PNA, UPNA, or another adopted park planning tool.

Project Feasibility

Applicants must provide proof that the project meets at least one requirement in each topic area to apply for a grant award:

Land Access/Tenure
- Proof of ownership; or
- Agency has entered into a lease or other use agreement for the land in question; or
- Agency has concrete plans on how access or tenure will be acquired or arranged.

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2 Requirements vary slightly for Planning and Design project types. Refer to Section 2.4.7 Project Requirements. Requirements vary slightly for acquisition project types. Refer to Section 2.2.3 Project Requirements.
Planning and Design Status
- Design documents are at least 30 percent; or
- Agency has sketch-level plans for project design and a timeline for completion.

Permitting and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Compliance
- Project is exempt from regulatory permits and CEQA requirements; or
- Any necessary permitting and CEQA documents are completed and certified; or
- Agency has concrete plans to complete permitting and CEQA requirements.

Adverse Site Conditions
- There are no site conditions adverse to project completion; or
- Adverse site conditions have been characterized and the agency has concrete plans for addressing them; or
- There are adverse site conditions but there are concrete plans to address them with appropriate budget contingencies in the project budget.

Project Budget and Funding
- Agency has a detailed budget for completed planning and design, project implementation costs, and contingencies.

Project Schedule
- Agency has a detailed timeline from project planning and design, permitting and community involvement, grant award to project completion.

Operations and Maintenance
- The agency has a detailed financial plan for the operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Community Engagement
The project must meet the minimum community engagement requirements described in Section 3.3.