Recent infrastructure investments:

- **Prop 68**
  - $4 Billion
  - Per year
  - Parks
  - Water

- **Measure A**
  - $94 Million
  - Per year
  - Parks

- **Measure W**
  - $300 Million
  - Per year
  - Stormwater
Propose policy recommendations
Lay out a framework for achieving park equity
Describe results from new research linking park access to life expectancy
Review evidence of park and green space inequities and related health inequities

Goals of this presentation
What do parks have to do with health and health equity?
African Americans and Latinos are likelier to live in areas that have less park space per capita compared to Whites and Asians. Access to parks is associated with:

- Environmental benefits
- Physical activity
- ↓ asthma, stress, violence

Access to parks associated with:

- ↓ asthma, stress, violence
- ↓ physical activity

Access to parks is not equal across communities.
Recreation Needs Assessment
Image Source: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks &

Average Acres per 1,000

Residents in Each Need Category

52.0

11.5

1.6

0.7

3.3

Very High

High

Moderate

Low

Very Low
Production of park inequity in the land use system
Production of park inequities

Source: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment
Research synopsis

Park Equity, Life Expectancy, and Power Building

Research Synopsis
Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation

Reduced life expectancy in high and very high park areas with

High Park Need Areas

Very High Park Need Areas

Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation

Low life expectancy and low tree canopy areas in LA County with lower tree canopy areas
Boyle Heights & unincorporated East LA

Needs Assessment
Parks & Recreation
Comprehensive Countywide

Source: Los Angeles
Panorama City, Pacoima, and Sun Valley

Needs Assessment
Parks & Recreation
Comprehensive Countywide
Los Angeles

Source: Los Angeles
South Los Angeles

Source: Los Angeles Countywide Parks & Recreation Comprehensive Needs Assessment
The highlighted areas on the map represent areas of high and very high park need as defined by low tree canopy or vegetation and low tree canopy in the LA County. The green areas show areas with low tree and vegetation, while the purple areas indicate high park need areas with low tree canopy and vegetation. The median household income for each block is also indicated.
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Procedural Equity
Distributional Equity
Structural Equity

Reversing Inequities: A Framework for Park Equity
Decision-making about all aspects of park and green space functions,

Staffing and services related to operations,

Features

Space infrastructure, amenities, and condition and quality of park and green space development

Community engagement to secure input at each stage of park development

Procedural equity

Decision-making about all aspects of park and green space functions
Distribution and accessibility of parks and green spaces in communities

- Distribution of facilities, amenities, and features placed within a park or green space
- Fiscal allocation formulas for park and green space development or improvements
- Distribution of facilities, amenities, and green spaces in communities
- Distribution and accessibility of parks and green spaces

Distributional equity
Structural equity

• Improving staff representation at all agency levels among people of color and other marginalized groups

• Designing and programming park facilities for healing and resilience and green space to function as sites of internalizing and operationalizing equity

• Leadership in racial justice across agency staff and marginalized groups

• Internalizing and operationalizing equity at all agency levels among people of color and other marginalized groups
Roadmap to equity: Recommendations for reversing park inequities
Image source: Creative Commons, Ke4rh
Power building and procedural equity
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