

June 6, 2025

Department of Recreation and Parks
221 N. Figueroa Street Suite 350
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Park Needs Assessment (PNA) 2025

The Historic Highland Park Neighborhood Council (HHPNC), representing over 60,000 Los Angeles stakeholders, has been engaged with our community regarding certain parks and facilities within our boundaries. Please accept this brief report to inform your 2025 Park Needs Assessment. We would also like the opportunity to remain involved and offer additional outreach to our community to share with your department in late August for parks and facilities that we currently have limited input.

For all parks and facilities, lighting and public safety are a common concern. Increased security and ensuring that loitering, graffiti, and encampments are addressed to avoid violence and property damage to protect our community and our investments is a priority. Furthermore, approximately 66% of recognized park land in Highland Park is located east of the 110 freeway and not easily accessible to most residents. Therefore, more attention needs to be focused on developing recreational spaces in this area.

Within HHPNC Boundaries there are 11 RAP parks and facilities:

1. Highland Park Pool/Aquatic Center
2. Sycamore Grove Park— *shared resource with Arroyo Seco NC*
3. Highland Park Adult Senior Citizen Center
4. Highland Park Recreation Center and Park
5. York Blvd Park
6. Garvanza Park
7. Garvanza Skate Park
8. San Pascual Park
9. Ramona Hall Community Center – *shared resource with Arroyo Seco NC*
10. Ernest E. Debs Regional Park— *shared resource with Arroyo Seco NC*
11. Lummis Home & Gardens— *shared resource with Arroyo Seco NC*

Highland Park Aquatic Center – *pending improvements*

CF23-0237, AB 1290 / Real Property Trust Fund / Highland Park Pool and Bathhouse Projects / Council District 14, motion was unanimously approved to provide \$1 million in upgrades for the facility. \$700,000 from the CD14 Real Property Trust Fund No. 696 and \$300,000 from the AB 1290 Fund No. 53P, Account No. 281214 (CD14 Redevelopment Projects - Services) be transferred to a new account in the Engineering Special Services Fund No, 682, Department No. 50, entitled "CD14 Pool Project-Highland Park", for any design, project, and/or City staff costs associated with the development, construction, and/or completion of the Highland Park pool projects; and, that the Bureau of Engineering

be authorized to make any necessary technical and accounting corrections in order to effectuate the intent of this motion.

Despite the funding and approval to proceed there have been no further updates provided regarding this project and the estimated date for completion. HHPNC respectfully requests follow through, a timeline, and regular updates.

Sycamore Grove Park – *pending improvements*

\$1,100,000.00 was secured in Measure A funds for a *Sycamore Grove Park Master Plan Project*. Despite the funding and announced project there have been no further updates provided regarding this project and the estimated date for completion. HHPNC respectfully requests follow through, a timeline, and regular updates. HHPNC would like to assist with creating and distributing a survey to park visitors to help inform this project.

Highland Park Adult Senior Citizen Center – *opportunity for increased revue through update*

The auditorium floor is warped and uneven and presents a tripping hazard. Considering the mobility issues of some senior citizens, their safety should be prioritized. Additionally, there is an old stove and oven that are not in use and can be removed to make way for a commercial refrigerator. The sink could also use a 3-compartment stainless steel sink. These updates would generate additional revenue because it would make the auditorium a more desirable place to book for events and it would comply with refrigeration and food cleaning requirements.

Highland Park Recreation Center and Park – *lighting and graffiti abatement*

Field lights are needed on Diamond 2 (small diamond) for visibility and security, and updated field lights on main Diamond 1. Currently, their programs sell out quickly and cannot meet demand. The Park Advisory Board (PAB) is working on a survey and exploring the idea of a mural to combat the graffiti on the Gym Wall facing Figueroa St. HHPNC would like to consult further with the PAB to seek opportunities to offset costs.

York Blvd Park – *needs more shade and amenities for toddlers*

According to a HHPNC survey of 74 stakeholders who use the park, 66% of respondents have small children between the ages 0-2 and 38% have children between 3-5 years old. Baby swings are needed along with a play area for toddlers. More shade trees are also needed.

Garvanza Park and Skate Park – *needs survey of park visitors. HHPNC will create and distribute a survey and share findings with RAP in late August.*

San Pascual Park – *needs survey of park visitors. HHPNC will create and distribute a survey and share findings in late August.*

Ramona Hall Community Center, Ernest E. Debs Regional Park, Lummis Home & Gardens – *HHPNC will create a survey and distribute in collaboration with Arroyo Seco NC and share findings in late August.*

This concludes our preliminary report. We look forward to staying involved to provide further community informed assessments. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our community's needs.

Historic Highland Park Neighbor Council

Highlandparknc.com