



# Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa

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## **RE: Recreation and Parks - Park Needs Assessment**

The Neighborhood Council of Westchester Playa del Rey supports the compiled requested key insights, unique geographic conditions and priorities for parks and facilities for your consideration.

### **Base Characteristics of Westchester Park:**

22 Acres including a Senior Center, Rec Center with two gyms, swimming pool, lighted athletic fields, tennis/pickleball courts and a skateboard park. Run separately, but adjacent to the park is a golf course, LA Public Library and the office of CD-11 (Councilwoman Traci Park).

The surrounding community of Westchester is mostly single-family homes with good public and private schools providing a steady stream of families enjoying the park. Otis College of Art and Design is across the street and Loyola Marymount University is a half mile away.

### **Unique Geographic Conditions:**

**Westchester Park is just North of LAX**, significant in its exposure to travelers going to and from the airport. This point is amplified by the estimated 15 million who will come for the **2028 Olympics**, many through LAX, traveling north on Lincoln Blvd, with Westchester Park on the right. Westchester Park currently has no sign on Lincoln boulevard.

Westchester Park is less than a mile from LAX and 5 miles from Sofi Stadium. With our very large lighted field, two gyms, and swimming pool, it's conceivable visiting Olympic teams could practice at Westchester Park. The grass field has been refurbished at least twice in the last 10 years, but irrigation and gopher mitigation are an on-going challenge. Acknowledging the significant expense, a turf field should be considered. This is also a low water solution.

The park's Senior Center is as vibrant as ever in its programming, driving membership up to 330, an increase of 200% over last year. Unfortunately, the Senior Center building is old, brown with unappealing landscaping. It's an

unfortunate icon of the park as people drive up Lincoln Boulevard. Again, no sign for Westchester Park as travelers head North from LAX. An attractive sign should be installed and the aesthetic appeal of the Senior Center building improved.

Another geographic factor is [Lulu's Place](#), a privately funded new youth sports complex endorsed by this Neighborhood Council. Ground has broken with an estimated opening for 2027. Lulu's Place will be a special addition to our neighborhood providing a variety of youth-oriented sports. The impact on Westchester Park is hard to judge, but it certainly will raise the bar for quality sports opportunities in the area. It will also bring new visitors to Westchester. We recommend that Westchester Park be as sharp as ever in 2027 for Lulu's Place followed by the Olympics in 2028.

Beautification and enhanced facilities like turf and new bathrooms lead to increased activity in the park, and increased activity throughout the park is a deterrent to unlawful activity.

The Olympics, LAX, SoFi Stadium, LuLu's place and overall Safety are significant reasons to prioritize the beautification of Westchester Park.

## **Priorities for Facilities-**

### **SAFETY-**

Safety is a priority for all our public parks, but Westchester is particularly challenged because the city accommodated the unhoused during covid. Westchester Park is back at full speed with families enjoying all types of activities throughout the park. Every year since covid the participation numbers have increased. Unfortunately, the stigma about safety in the park remains a PR challenge. Westchester is a public park, open to anyone including those with mal intent. We continue to request technology and protocols that will make the park safer.

- More cameras.

- Locked parking lots at night.

- No camping and curfew enforcement.

- More park rangers for more frequent patrols.

### **BATHROOMS-**

- Make all bathrooms ADA compliant.

- Research and benchmark other parks, for the best practices in safe, clean bathrooms.

- Build a new permanent bathroom between the tennis courts and ball diamond 2. The tennis courts currently only have a porta john.

**SENIOR CENTER TRANSPORTATION-**


The Westchester Park Senior Center is the most programmed Senior Center within the City of LA department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). This includes field trips to museums, botanical gardens and other places of interest throughout LA. Unfortunately, our Senior Center must borrow vans from other Rec Centers in the region and those vans are NOT ADA Compliant. The Senior Center in Westchester Park needs their own ADA compliant vans.

**PARKING-**

All parking lots in Westchester Park need the lines repainted. Doing so will help enforce restrictions on oversized vehicle parking and maximize the number of normal vehicles that can park there.

Thank you, Department of Recreation and Parks, for your extensive assessment campaign. It means so much to our community that you are working hard to gather our input.

Sincerely,

Signed by:  
  
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Paula Gerez  
President

CC: