

Ice Breaker Vision Question (WG1)

Q: What does Open Space Mean to You?

A:

- respite
- healthy watershed
- breath of fresh air
- freedom
- health equity
- equality
- wildlife habitat
- connections
- celebrations
- kids and families
- trees
- social cohesion
- peace
- community
- openness
- connections
- mental health
- diversity
- common ground
- democracy
- safe places to play
- space for everyone
- play
- freedom
- access
- health and safety
- mental health
- coexist
- multiple benefits
- bio-diversity
- fun and beauty
- water
- honorable way to live in an apartment
- growing healthy food



Group 1 (Blue)

Q: Values

A:

- Finite, public
- Health, Access
- Equity
- Balance Active / Passive
- Connectivity
- Holistic access
- Historically wrong (righting)
- Mitigation
- Justice
- Enhancing
- Networks / design
- Underutilized public
- Quality of life
- Water storage / capture
- Presentation
- Preserve
- Public Infrastructure
- Vital / Infrastructure
 - Growing City
- Private / public Open Spaces
 - E.g. Rooftop gardens
- Better access
 - (aging populations / disabled)

Q: Priorities

A:

- Access and Safe Passages
 - Connections overlap with mobility plan
- Correlation with environmental benefits
 - Water, air, shade
- Focus on coordinating efforts
 - Buy-in inter/intra agency -> multilevel
 - Community buy-in
- Communication strategies
 - Branding, marketing
 - Case studies of successful community efforts
- Metrics
 - LA County needs assessment
 - RAP
 - Re-evaluate parks per [acre?]
- Context is important
 - Public safety
 - Lighting
- Enrichment and Education
 - Storytelling
 - Celebrating the parks
 - Decent parks
 - Programming arts and cultural programming
- Capital / Funding
 - Focus on underutilized parks
 - Park activation
- Analyze policies in existing plan (70's) and compare to implementation results
- Implementation tools
- Identify priority areas

Q: Vision

A:

- Prioritizing areas in need (race inequalities) “every person of all background should be able to walk to a park within 10 minutes”
- Encourage political will for land acquisition
- Quimby
- Parks Master Plan
- Adaptive
- Multiple benefits
- Wildlife and wildlife corridors
- Safety
- Maintenance of parks
- Pride in the parks
- “friends of” groups
- Diverse uses
- Programming
 - Sports
- Equitable distribution
- Community engagement
- Designate wildlife habitats
- Transformational spaces (e.g. graffiti walls, skate parks)
- Community context and buy-in
- Consciously consider street, alleys network as Open Space
- Anti-displacement strategies to urban green efforts
- Land-use
 - Joint use
 - Zoning context
- Half of all street network turned into parks
- Connected OS network
- Citywide- color coded park system
- Connecting schools with greenway
- To have the best parks in the world
- Every person has access
- Every person in the city be/think/act green
- Have densest areas be the most creative with our park spaces

Group 2 (Yellow)

Q: Values

A:

- Parks provide a quality of life element
- Density with respite is important
- Retreat for apartment homes
- Provides social space
 - Community gathering
- Provides opportunity for physical health
 - Exercise via walking paths, amenities, sports fields
- Contributes to good mental health
 - Space for creativity
 - Being able to see “green”
 - Diversity of uses / flexibility
- People care about what they see / experience
 - Develop environmental stewardship for youth
 - Youth responsibility
 - Kayaking gives new appreciation for the river
- Neighborhood mobility / local recreation
- Provides Safe Harbors
 - Where else would children play?
- What is Open Space?
 - Includes green streets
 - Activating streets
 - Connectivity
- Multiple benefits of parks
 - Connections
 - Water
 - Sense of place
 - “green lasagna”
 - Air quality
 - Community scale
 - Project scale

Q: Priorities

A:

- Unused airspace, abandoned right of way
 - Maximize space
- Activating spaces
 - Rooftops
 - Air rights
 - Community gardens on public / utility right of way
 - School yards
- Balance Open Space with displacement and gentrification
- Affordable housing
 - Incorporate Open Space
- Height / Density vs Open Space
- Equity
 - Park Disparity, prioritize “park poor” neighborhoods
 - Example: County LA River Working Group
 - Reduce Barriers to entry for various groups
- Open Space Zoning vs Use
 - Open Space on any zone / land
 - Parks are always “by-right”
 - Look at Cornfields project on commercial land
 - Interim uses, community gardens
 - See South Los Angeles Community Garden
- Ephemeral Use
 - Ciclavia
 - e.g. dotted lines to identify “temporary” paths on plans
 - farmers markers
 - Metro stops as “green” assets
- Improving access
 - “Make public access public”
- Acquisition
 - G2 parcel and Alt 20
 - Activating areas not zoned for Open Space
- Maintenance of Open Space
 - Identify funding to protect areas as Open Space
- Prioritize areas for Open Space

- Identify connections and priority areas
- Ecosystem services
 - Converge wildlands, trails, watershed
 - “Metropolitan” ecosystem and network (see “Emerald Necklace” Plan)
- Native Plant health ecosystem
- Funds not just for development but for programming
- Land use and land values
 - e.g. Protected tree ordinance lowers land values
- Public vistas / view
 - Access and affordability
- Highway overpass parks / “cap parks”
- Underutilized lots
- Using right of way median strips and underpasses (see Mexico city)

Q: Vision

A:

- Everyone in Los Angeles has access of lives within a ¼ mile of a park or opportunity to connect with nature that serves and celebrates the needs and character of the community. Identify partnerships and potential sites and air space and opportunities to activate and convert underutilized land for the public benefit.

Group 3 (Green)

Q: Values

A:

- Recognize interconnection between human activity and wildlife protection
- Connections
- Fresh air
- Break from built environment
- Health, biodiversity, resiliency, microclimate
- Genetic diversity
- Street system inclusion, urban forestry
- Balance access to wilderness
- Great equalizer
 - Impact on health education personal safety
 - Intrinsic
- Provides opportunity for different types of households
- Rise to the challenge of effecting timely change
- Sanctuary and relief
- Opportunity to bridge silos (schools, joint use)
- Toll for equity
- Community
 - Spaces for gathering health improvements

Q: Priorities

A:

- Compatible siting
- Equity, Connectivity, ensuring access
- Small scale neighborhood parks
 - Passive / active recreational opportunities
 - Distributed approach is an equitable approach
- Distributed parks – larger regional approach
 - Leverage multiple benefits
 - Water conservation
- Define equity
- Set priorities by type / category
- Habitat protection
- Park user education
- Multi-beneficial / purposeful
- Leverage resources joint use opportunity
- Context sensitive siting, scale, design
- Water Conservation
- Creativity – think outside the box
- Coordinate / leverage resources / efforts
- Design standards
- Define equity (data-driven disaggregate)
- Access definitions
- Protect habitat blocks
 - Keep natural topography
 - Limit infrastructure and impervious surfaces
 - Linear parks
 - Pathways and corridors (within Open Space areas)
- Connectivity to regional lens abutting areas
- Pedestrian / accessibility
- LAUSD

Q: Vision

A:

- Native / fauna
- Every resident has safe access to a park and regular opportunities for a range of experiences.
- Opportunity to redefine parks
- Creation of a resilient Los Angeles
- Base of how [???
- Protect and develop more Open Space
- No cars / transit oriented access – incentivize
- Adapts to changing land and trends
- [MORE???
- Tool for connectivity (rivers, Ballona)
- Trees – protected, mitigate replacement

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Group 4 (Red)

Q: Values

A:

- Sanity, Spirit, Temperature, nature, water, community, health, safety
- Economy
- Air quality
- Definition of Open Space? Create our own?
- Reclaiming space over freeway
- Opportunity
- Cannot have a first-class city without Open Space
- Access
- Education (learning about nature)
- Had more Open Space in the 50's
- Balance, needs breathing space
- Get aggressive with Open Space and rezone
- Move past "parks as just dessert"
- Equally as important to gray infrastructure
- Zoning equalizes value to land
- Identify sensitive land so that it does not get up zoned, limit development
- A place to congregate (non-commercial)
- Natural habitat
- Equity tool
- Resilience
- Cost vs value
- Park as essential infrastructure
- Health
- Reflect in zoning code, distribution not just single purpose, but multi-use
- How do we add Open Space to k-town?
- Density allows us to unbuild
- Plan that recognize through the unbuild – climate, healthy communities

- Preserving Open Space mitigates gentrification
- Plan that commits to a strategy

Q: Priorities

A:

- Function, how many functions can you get by locating Open Space (water, air quality, food, shelter)
- Priorities: Air and Water
- Manage and recharge storm water
- Community food
- Shelter
- Increase local water and air quality
- Lower temperature
- Increase public safety
- Fire, Sea-level rise
- Prioritizing access, underserved communities (1/4) miles – everyone should have a park)
- Reclaim air space over freeways
- Resilient
- Sustainable, native plants
- 85% of watershed paved
 - Need to recharge
- Drought tolerant
- Communities need grass for picnic
- Local climate provide moisture
- Prioritize maintenance
- Big job market, big component of our workforce
- Programs for training, workforce development, sustainable design, maintenance
- Greater focus on strong General Plan for space accommodation for different uses (built and Open Space)
- Safety and security, programming
- Using plan to articulate a lot more

- Open Space is a critical element. Green Space needs to be elevated to the top level.
- Convert parking to open space
- Priority to repurpose
- Hanging gardens, rooftops
- What kinds of things are kinds of variety of open space, general plan needs to clarify (regional parks, community parks, etc.)
- One space can be multiple things
- Discussion on interface buffer between wildlands, etc.
- How about structures and open space
- Range of different types of open space within each community those needs vary.
- Clarify the city's goal of acres per residents
- Why does recreational space have to be in a park? Can it be integrated into built space?
- How do we get developments to give us space?

- Water and bathrooms
- Should be a baseline
- Looking forward to why we need this plan for the work
- Needs to be a balance
- Building of the Open Space should not displace people in the community
- General Plan should set the stage of what could potentially be Public Space
- Zoning Code needs to reflect the ability to build over freeways (right now there's a lot)

Q: Vision

A:

- Adequate
- All modalities
- Need additional tools to get there
- Are there any population trends? SCAG projects to grow to 4.6 million
- Do we need a central park?
 - Central park had structures, park built around it.
 - We are going to unbuild
 - A plan for 2040 is well-thought through, climate, future growth
- LA River is a great example
 - If we bought early
- People approved measure A
- Looking at transit, access, where we need to put parks
- Need to have community amenities
 - Basic human rights