

# Urban Greening Projects at a Glance

## CURRENT RESEARCH

### **Supporting Park Equity and Access in Los Angeles County and Across California**

*Funder: Resources Legacy Fund*

We are advancing the goal that every Californian has access to parks and green spaces through two innovative projects. Part of an initiative led by the Office of Governor Newsom, we are assessing an array of programs in California to increase park access and equity. The objective is to inform the state's actions to strengthen such programs.

In L.A. County, residents demonstrated support for investing in local and regional parks by voting for Measure A. Now we are evaluating the Link program, a partnership of First 5 Los Angeles, local governments, residents, and community-based organizations providing technical assistance and other resources to expand park access through Measure A and other funding in park-poor communities.

### **Understanding Decision-making on Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management**

*Funder: National Science Foundation*

We are examining how cities make decisions about how to integrate green infrastructure and other stormwater management strategies into streetscapes and other urban places. The objective is to assess the impact of stormwater regulations and decision-making on environmental outcomes in urbanizing regions to support smart and strategic investments.

### **Developing a Stormwater Capture Project Monitoring Program**

*Funder: LA County Department of Public Works*

L.A. County's landmark Safe Clean Water Program funds projects to enhance stormwater management, reduce the region's reliance on imported water, and invest in greener and more resilient communities. We are supporting the monitoring and evaluation of the program to enable policy makers to measure the success and benefits achieved by funded projects. Our work will also lead efforts to ensure equity in the distribution of these funds across the region.

### **Overcoming Obstacles to Integrated Infrastructure Investments in L.A. County**

*Funder: Liberty Hill Foundation*

With support from voters, L.A. County is investing billions of dollars from Measures W, H, A, and M in clean, safe water, housing and homeless services, parks and open space, transportation, and climate resilience. These projects have the potential to transform quality of life through multi-benefit projects that uplift communities hardest hit by COVID-19 and build resilience equitably across the county. We are creating recommendations for the County Board of Supervisors and the philanthropic community to increase cooperation across agencies, help maximize the benefits of multi-benefit projects, and invest in community-driven priorities.

## **Equitable Community Development Planning in the Gateway Cities Region**

*Funder: TBD*

Major public infrastructure investments are coming to Southeast Los Angeles — a new Metro light rail line, parks, river revitalization, and green infrastructure, and a new cultural center designed by Frank Gehry. With these new developments come concerns about displacement. Jon Christensen is working with Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon's office, Gehry Partners, and others in Southeast L.A. on a proposal for an equitable community development planning process to accompany these infrastructure investments and lift up communities in place.

## **RECENTLY COMPLETED**

### **Fighting Drought with Stormwater: From Research to Practice**

*Funders: University of California Multi-campus Research Programs and Initiatives*

We collaborated with researchers across the University of California system to assess the economic feasibility of stormwater permittees using enhanced stormwater capture techniques to address drought conditions, safely augment water supplies, and minimize flood risk in urban California.

### **Understanding the Needs of Diverse Park Users**

*Funder: U.S. National Park Service*

Researchers and volunteers with the Luskin Center for Innovation worked with the National Park Service to survey more than 4,000 visitors of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the nation's largest urban national park. Results are informing how to meet the needs of a diverse array of users, for improved park equity and access in L.A. County and with broader implications for park planning throughout the state and nation.

### **SMART Parks Toolkit**

*Funder: The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation*

Our toolkit won a Best Practice Award from the American Planning Association, and is helping park managers, designers, and advocates plan for and use technology to improve service and enhance operations and management in urban parks.

### **Creating a Complete Los Angeles River Greenway for All: Stories and Guidance**

*Funders: The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, the California Endowment, and the David Bohnett Foundation*

We engaged hundreds of river stakeholders to create a user-friendly guide to help increase local capacity for river revitalization and maximize the benefits of a complete and comprehensive L.A. River greenway. The guide features 14 case studies of projects that have improved community access to the L.A. River.

## **CONTACT**

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