Urban Greening Projects at a Glance

RECENTLY COMPLETED

Understanding the Needs of Park Users: A Case Study of the Largest Urban National Park  
*Funder: U.S. National Park Service (NPS)*
Researchers and volunteers with the Luskin Center for Innovation (LCI) worked with the NPS to survey over 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 elsewhere.

SMART Parks Toolkit  
*Funder: The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation*
This toolkit by LCI 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  
*Funder: The Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation, the California Endowment, and the David Bohnett Foundation*
LCI 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.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Supporting Park Equity and Access in Los Angeles County and across California  
*Funder: Resources Legacy Fund*
LCI is advancing the goal that every Californian has access to parks and green spaces, through two projects supported by the Resources Legacy Fund. 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 LCI is evaluating the Link program, a unique partnership of First 5 Los Angeles, city governments, residents, and community-based organizations providing technical assistance and other resources to expand park access through Measure A funding in park-poor communities.

Understanding Decision-making on Green Infrastructure and Stormwater Management  
*Funder: National Science Foundation*
LCI is 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.

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