



Park Equity, Life Expectancy, and Power Building

PREVENTION
INSTITUTE

Project partners



Recent infrastructure investments



**Measure
A**
Parks

**\$94 Million
per year**



**Measure
W**
Stormwater

**\$300 Million
Per year**



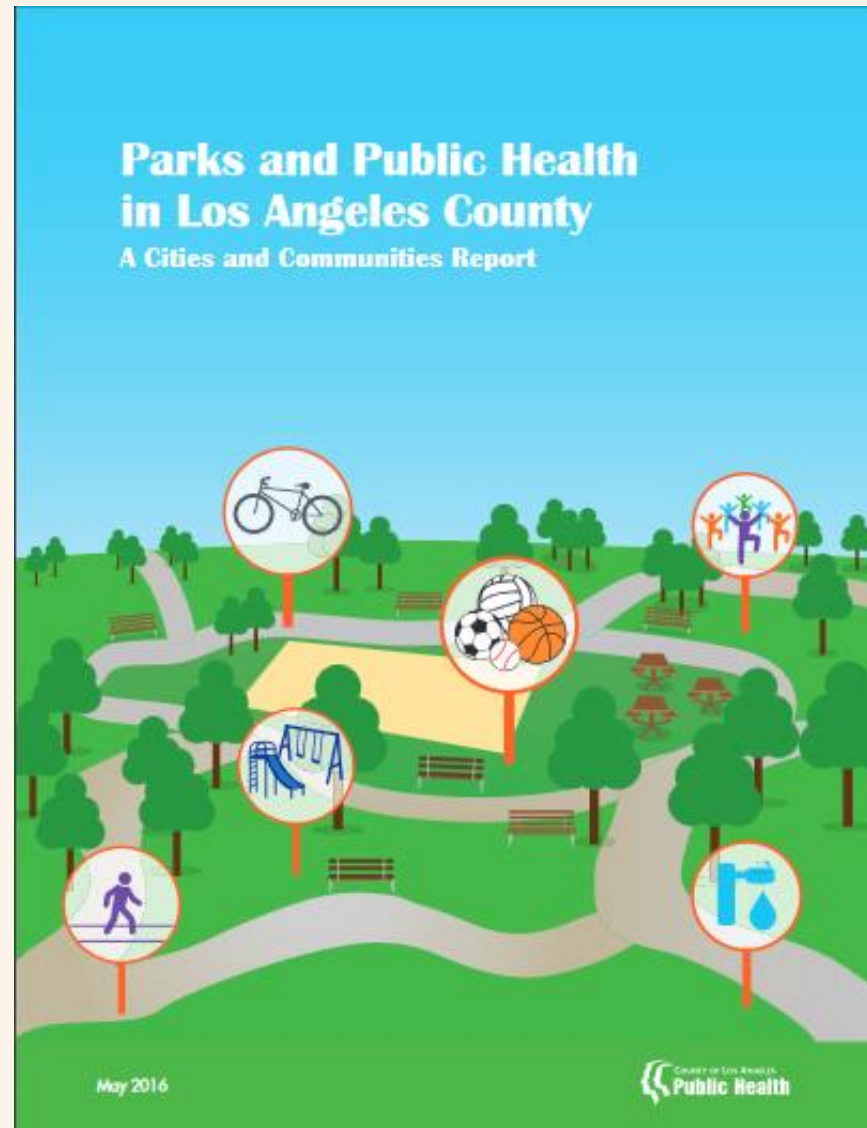
Prop 68
Parks/Water

\$4 Billion

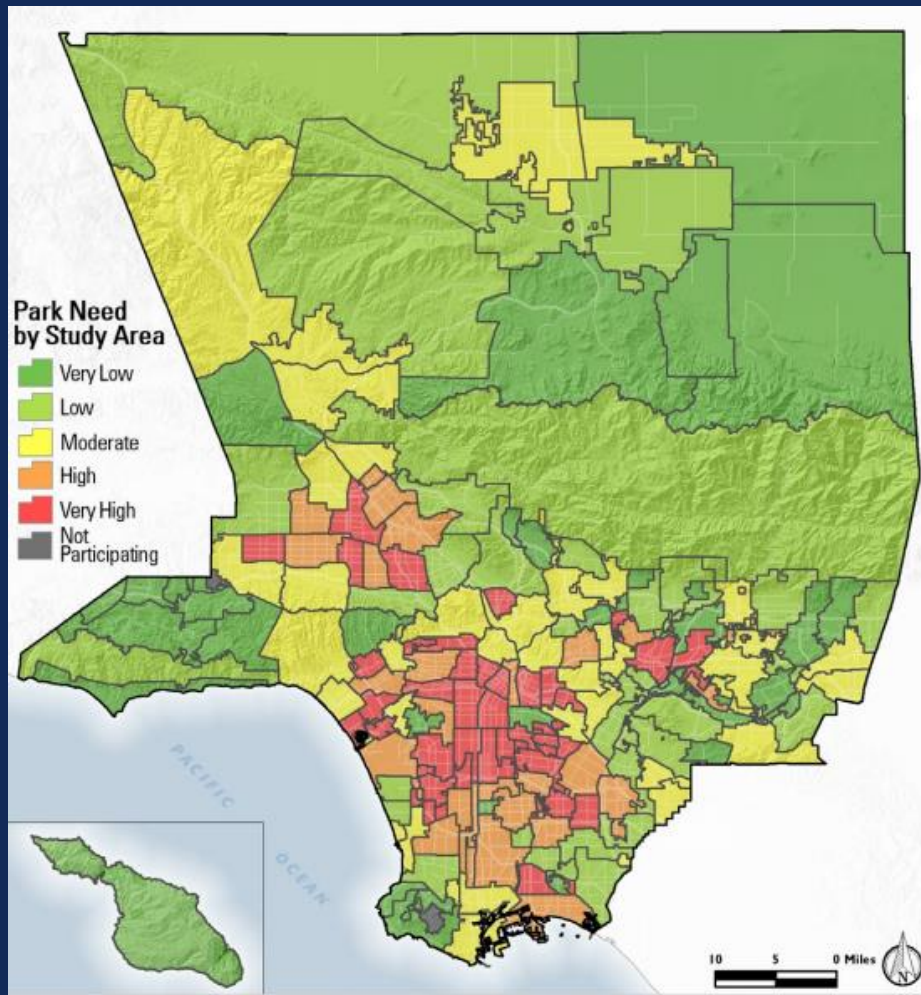
Goals of this presentation

- Review evidence of park and green space and related health inequities
- Describe results from new research linking park access to life expectancy
- Lay out a framework for achieving park equity
- Propose policy recommendations

What do parks have to do with health and health equity?

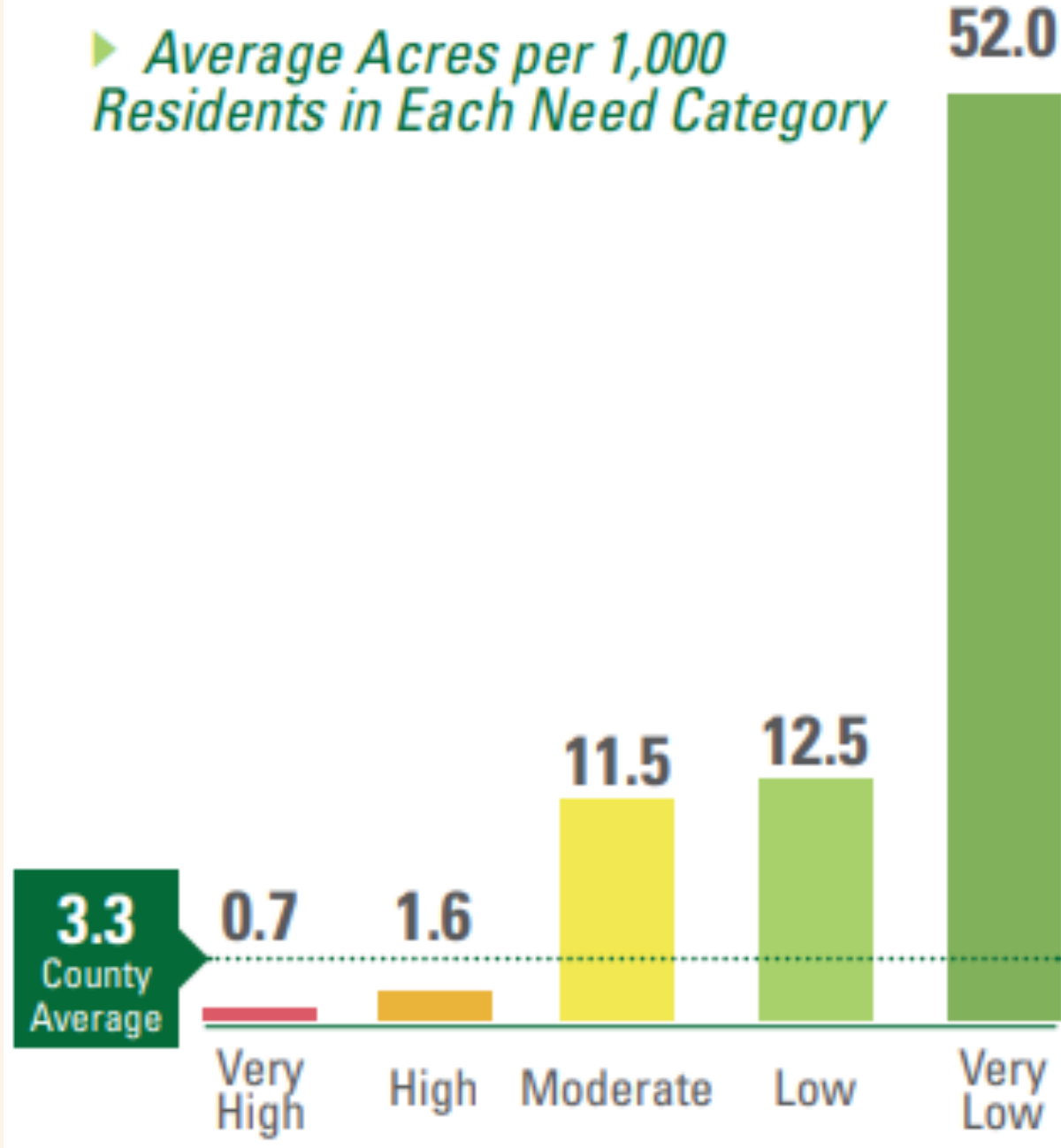


Park Access is Not Equal Across Communities



- African Americans and Latinos are likelier to live in areas that have less park space per capita compared to Whites and Asians
- Access to parks associated with:
 - ↑ physical activity, environmental benefits
 - ↓ asthma, stress, violence

► *Average Acres per 1,000
Residents in Each Need Category*

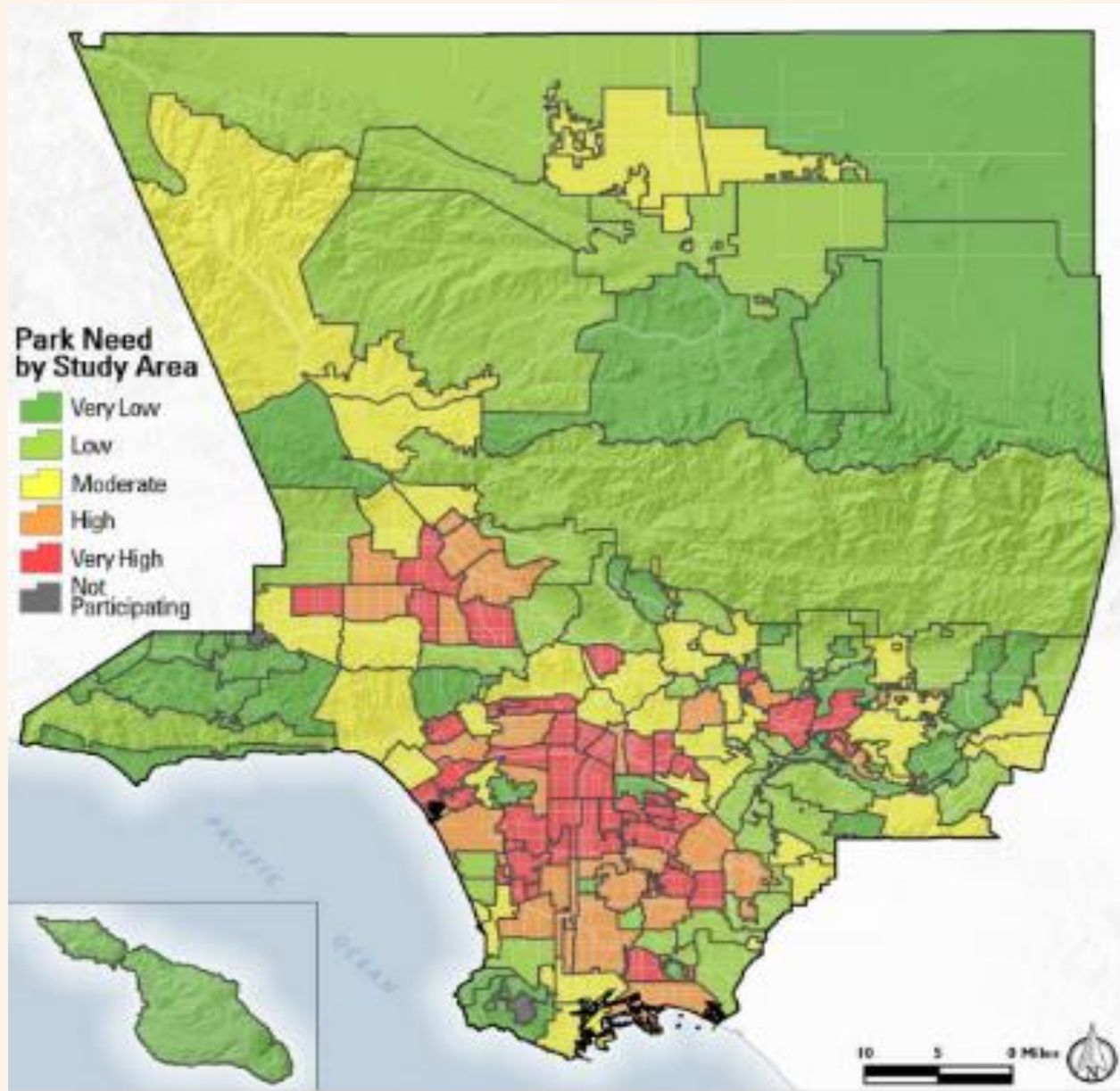


Production of park inequity in the land use system



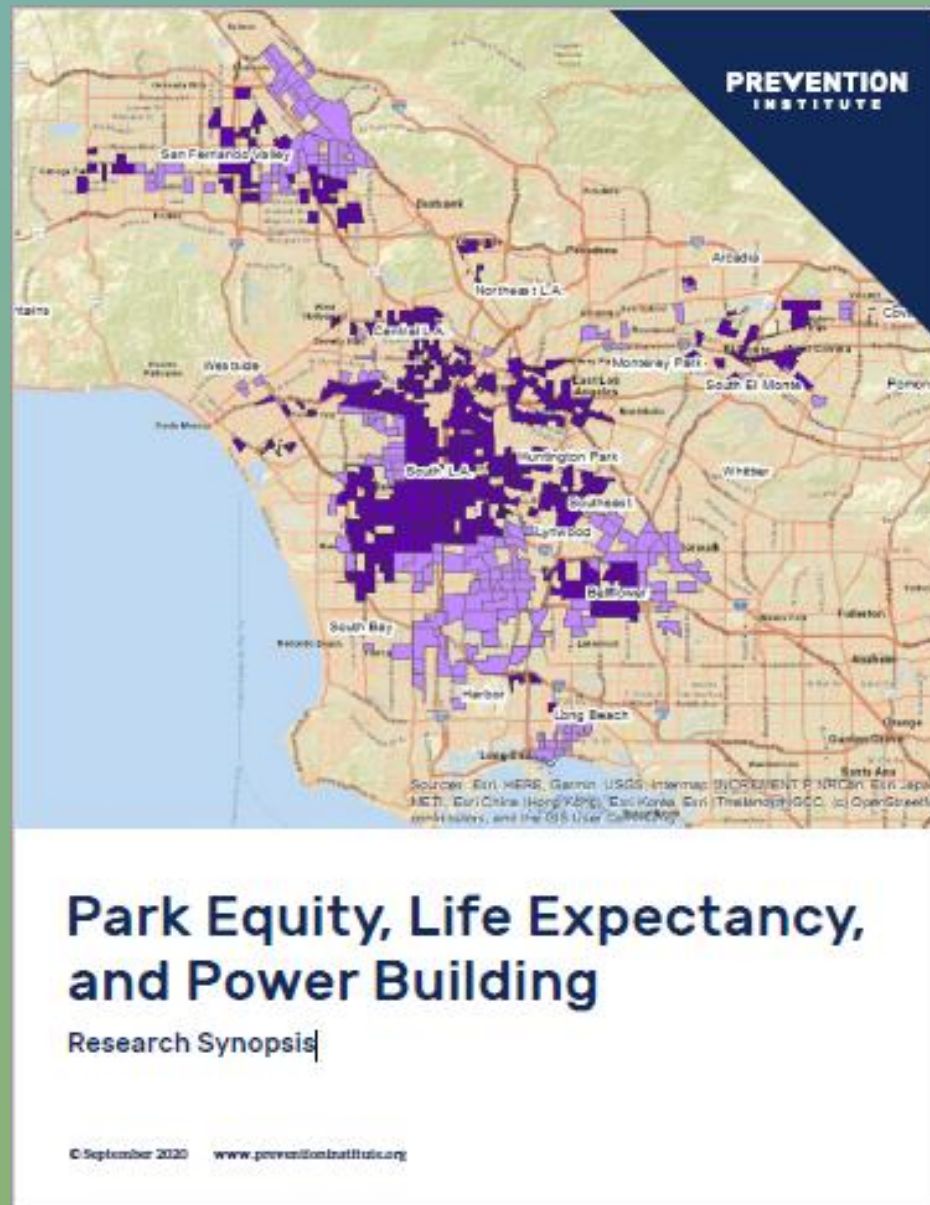
Selected Policies, Practices, and Procedures That Have Produced Inequities in Parks and Green Space. Adapted from: *Prevention Institute. Countering the Production of Health Inequities: An Emerging Systems Framework to Achieve an Equitable Culture of Health*

Production of park inequities

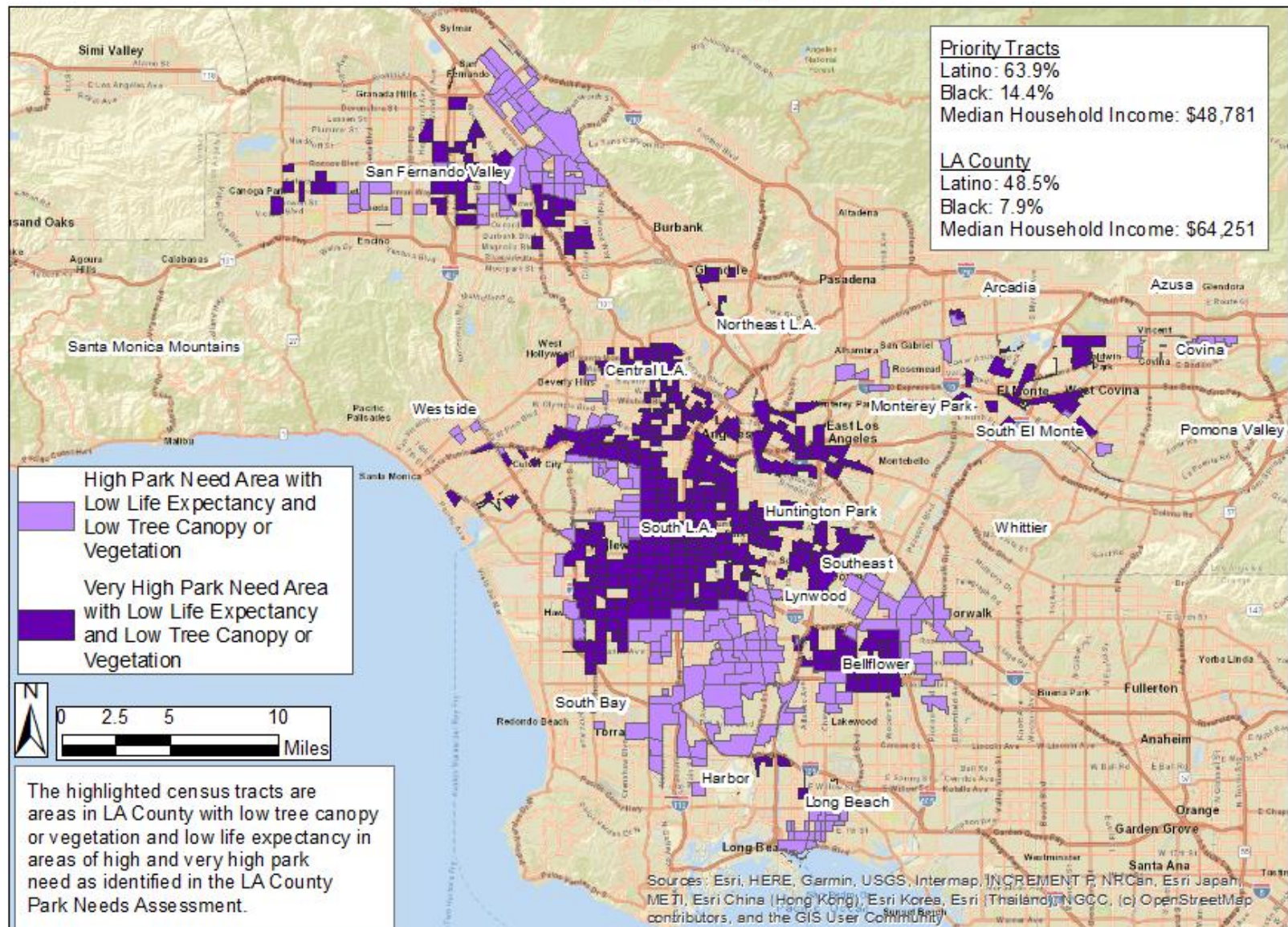


Source: Los Angeles
Countywide
Comprehensive
Parks & Recreation
Needs Assessment

Research synopsis

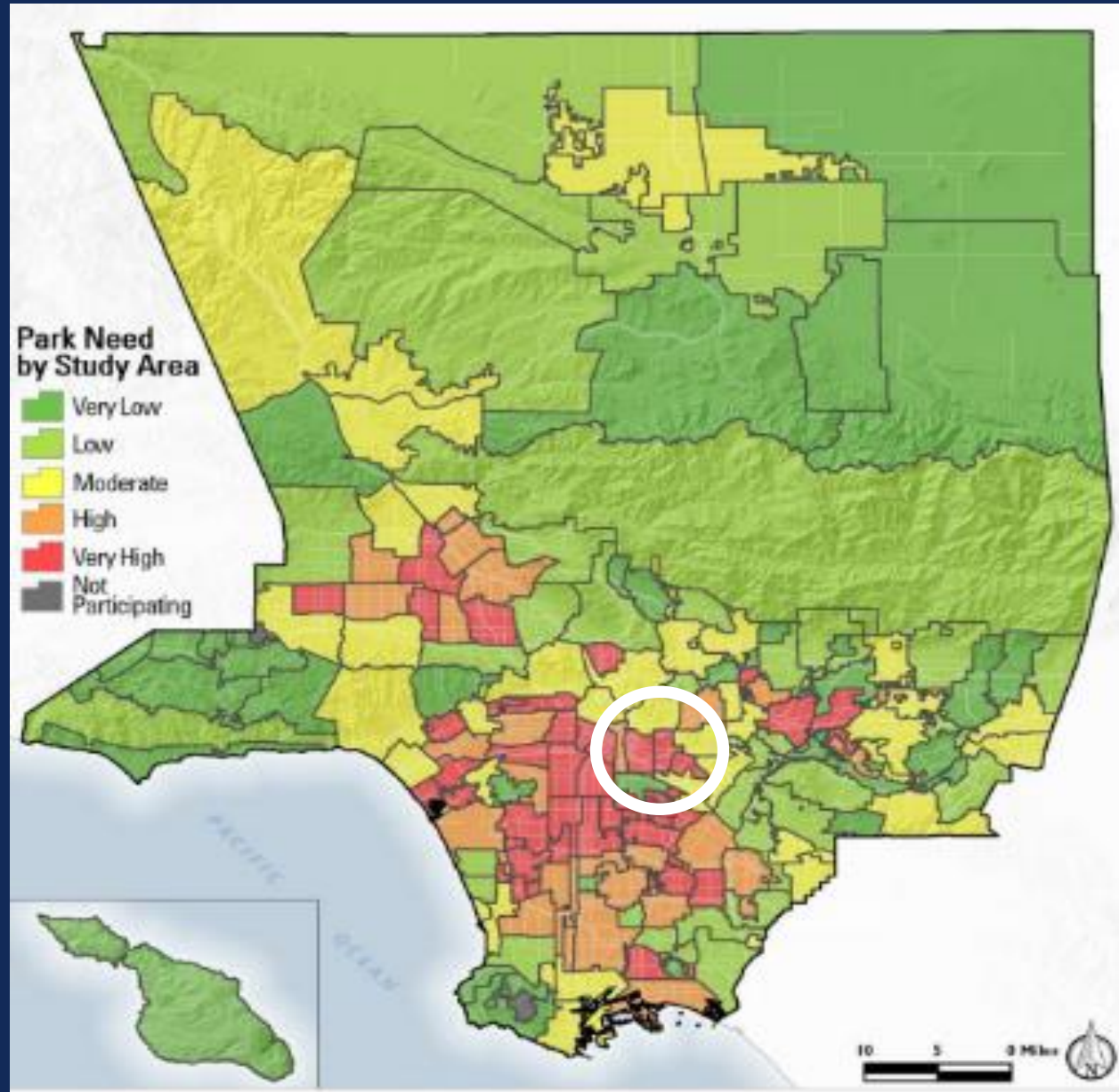


Reduced Life Expectancy in High and Very High Park Need Areas with Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation



Data Sources: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (2016), USALEEP Life Expectancy 2010-2015 Estimates (2018), TreePeople and Loyola Marymount Center for Urban Resilience 2016 Tree Canopy Coverage (2019), National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) Aerial Imagery (2016), United States Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2018)

Boyle Heights & unincorporated East LA



Source: Los Angeles
Countywide
Comprehensive
Parks & Recreation
Needs Assessment

Priority Tracts
 Latino: 94.0%
 Black: 0.92%
 Median Household Income: \$40,372

LA County
 Latino: 48.5%
 Black: 7.9%
 Median Household Income: \$64,251

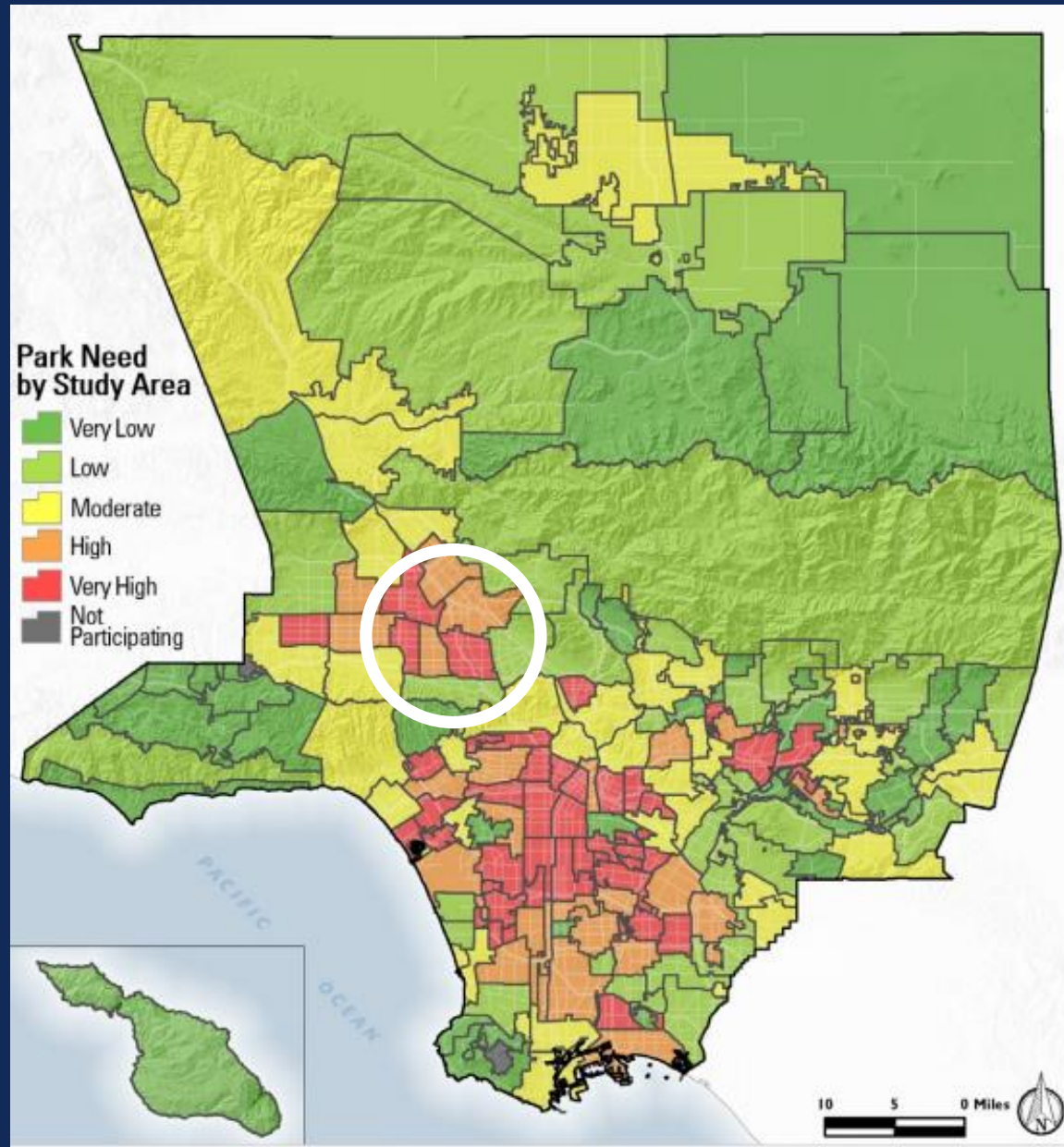
Legend:
 High Park Need Area with Low Life Expectancy and Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation
 Very High Park Need Area with Low Life Expectancy and Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation

Scale:
 0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles

Text:
 The highlighted census tracts are areas in LA County with low tree canopy or vegetation and low life expectancy in areas of high and very high park need as identified in the LA County Park Needs Assessment.

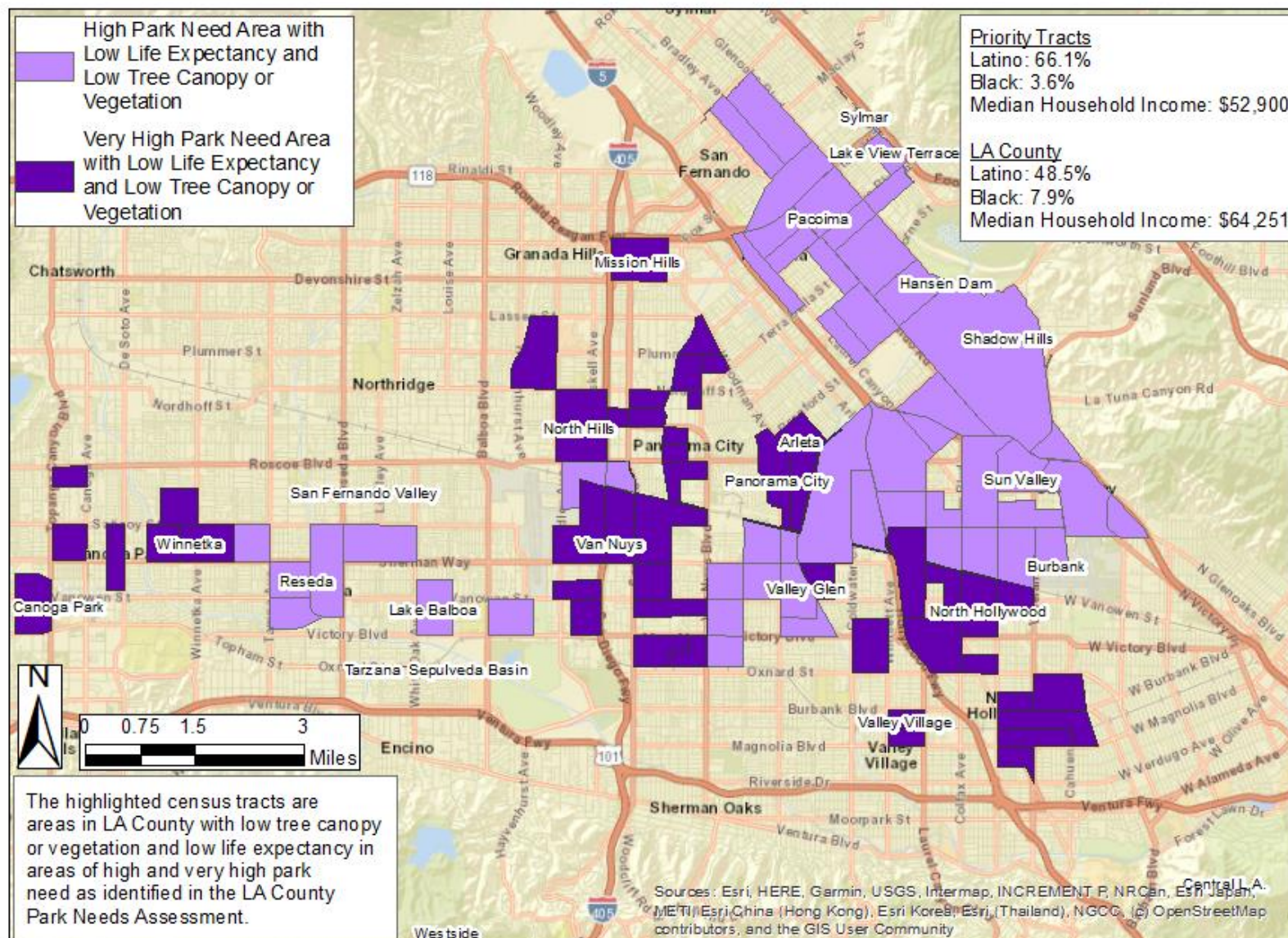
Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Panorama City, Pacoima, and Sun Valley



Source: Los Angeles
Countywide
Comprehensive
Parks & Recreation
Needs Assessment

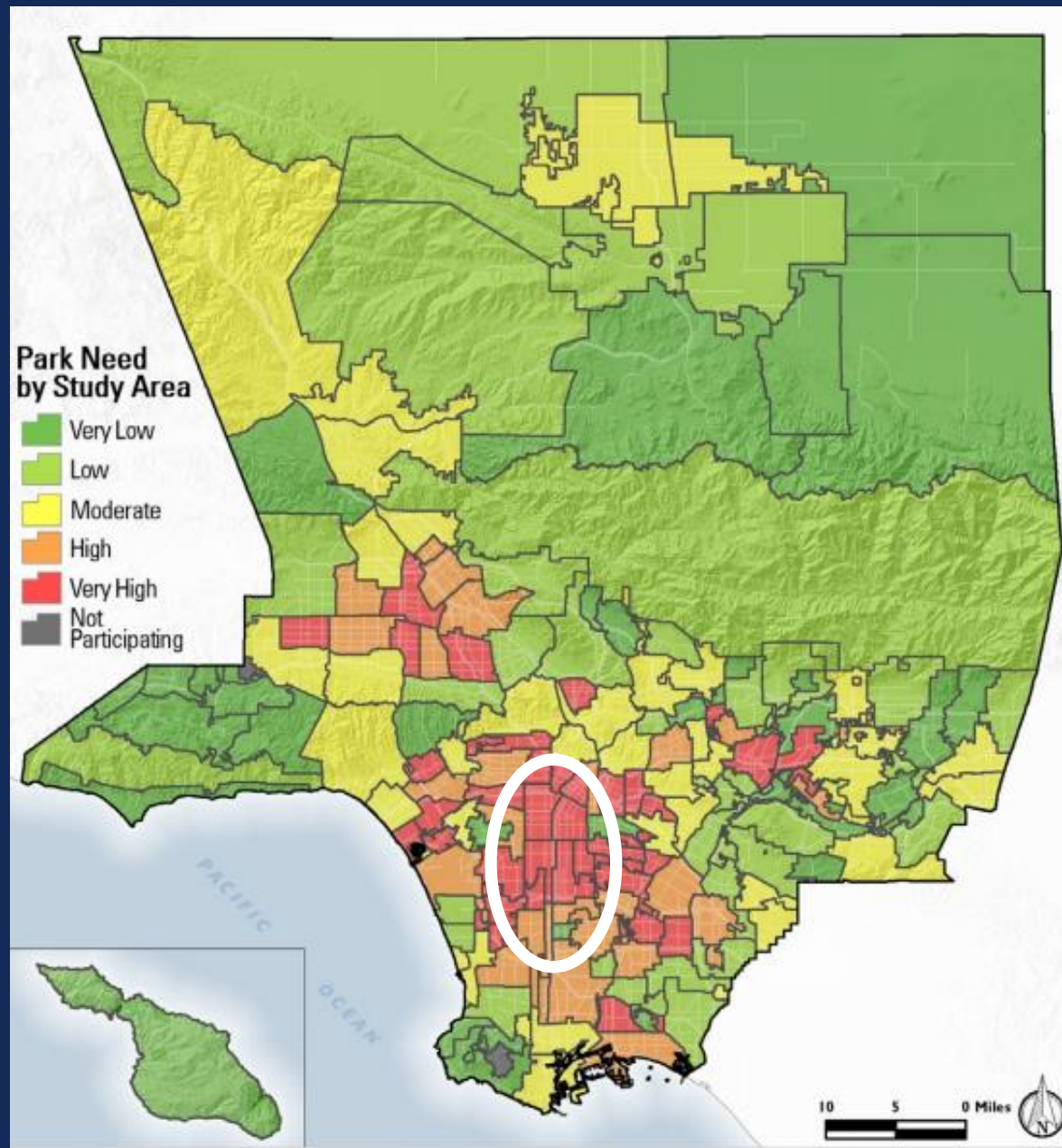
Reduced Life Expectancy in High and Very High Park Need Areas with Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation



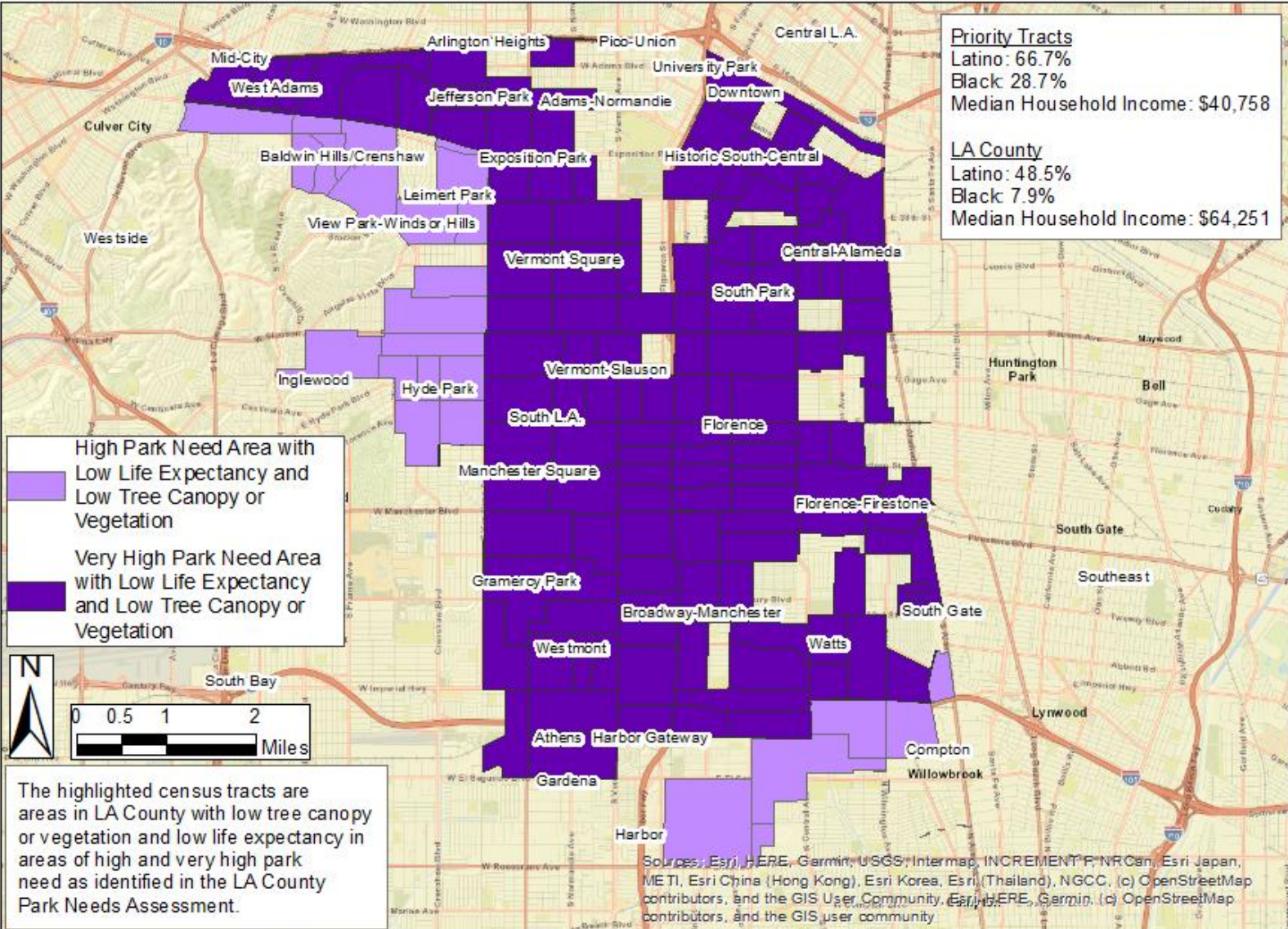
Data Sources: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (2016), USALEEP Life Expectancy 2010-2015 Estimates (2018), TreePeople and Loyola Marymount Center for Urban Resilience 2016 Tree Canopy Coverage (2019), National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) Aerial Imagery (2016), United States Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2018)

South Los Angeles

Source: Los Angeles
Countywide
Comprehensive
Parks & Recreation
Needs Assessment



Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation



Data Sources: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (2016), USALEEP Life Expectancy 2010-2015 Estimates (2018), TreePeople and Loyola Marymount Center for Urban Resilience 2016 Tree Canopy Coverage (2019), National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) Aerial Imagery (2016), United States Census Bureau American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2018)

Reversing inequities: A Framework for Park Equity

- Procedural Equity
- Distributional Equity
- Structural Equity

Procedural equity

- Decision-making about all aspects of park and green space functions
- Community engagement to secure input at each stage of park development
- Condition and quality of park and green space infrastructure, amenities, and features
- Staffing and services related to operations, maintenance, and programming

Distributional equity

- Distribution and accessibility of parks and green spaces in communities
- Distribution of facilities, amenities, and features placed within a park or green space
- Fiscal allocation formulas for park and green space development or improvements

Structural equity

- Improving staff representation at all agency levels among people of color and other marginalized groups
- Internalizing and operationalizing equity and racial justice across agency staff and leadership
- Designing and programming park facilities and green space to function as sites of healing and resilience

Roadmap to equity: Recommendations for reversing park inequities



Park Equity, Life Expectancy, and Power Building

Policy Brief

© September 2020 www.preventioninstitute.org

COVID-19



Policy change and accountability



Power building and procedural equity



***This project is supported by the
Urban Institute and the
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation***

Measuring life expectancy
neighborhood-by-neighborhood
across the United States

usaleep | Neighborhood Life
Expectancy Project

