



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

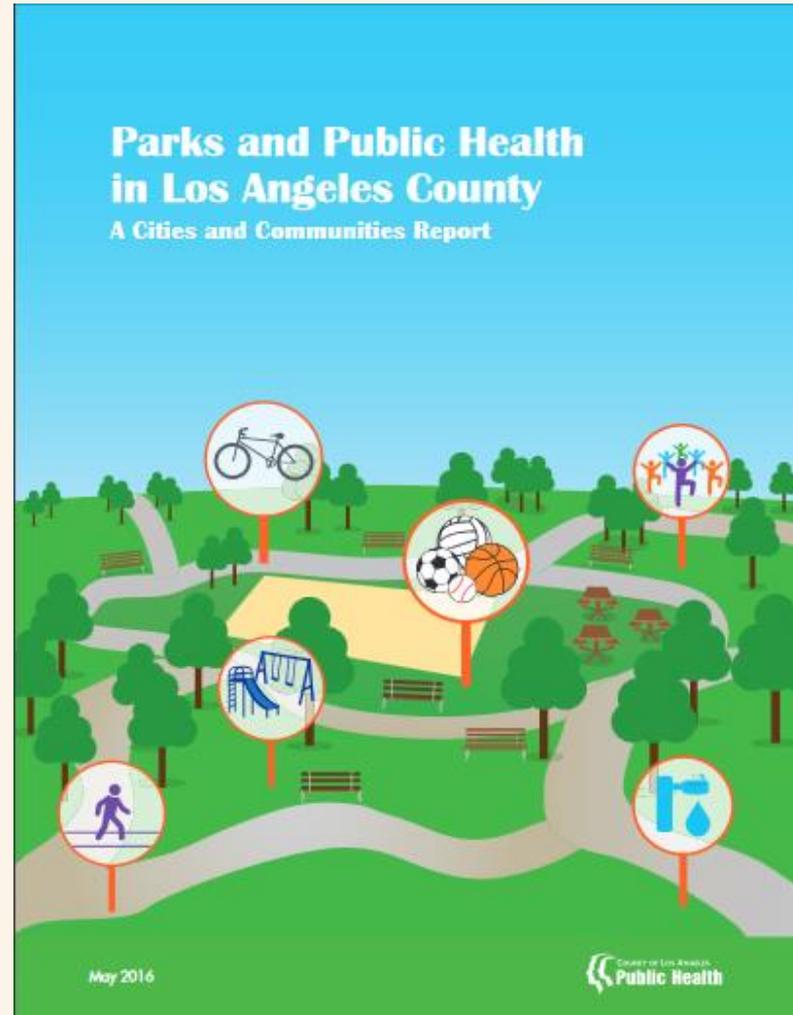
Parks/Water

\$4 Billion

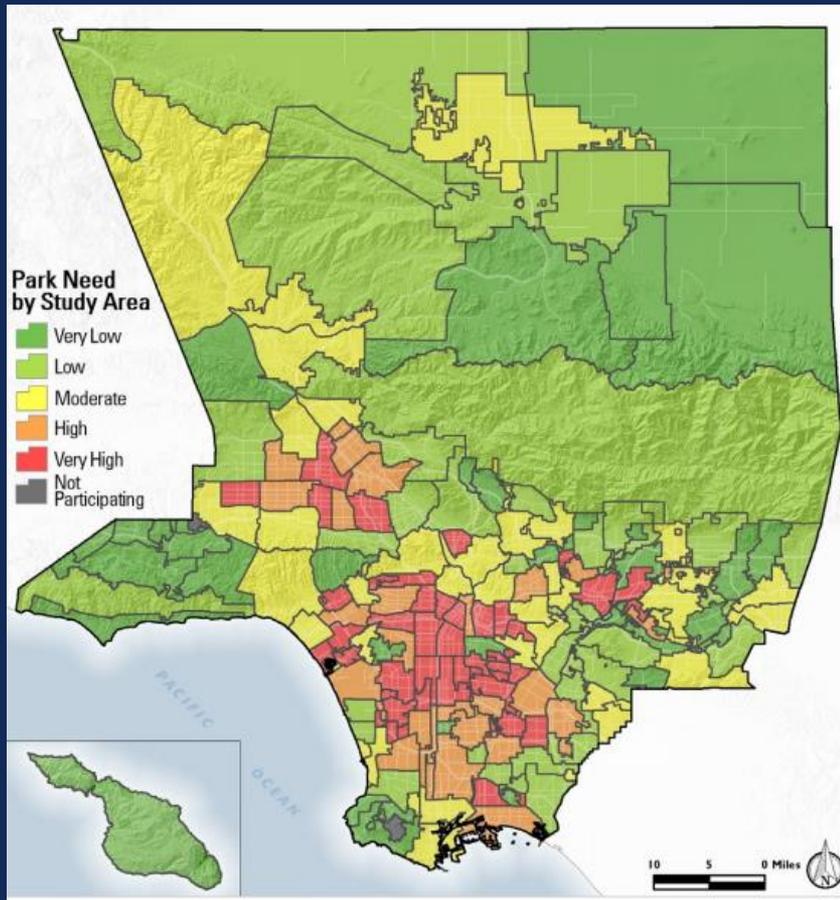
Goals of this presentation

- 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?

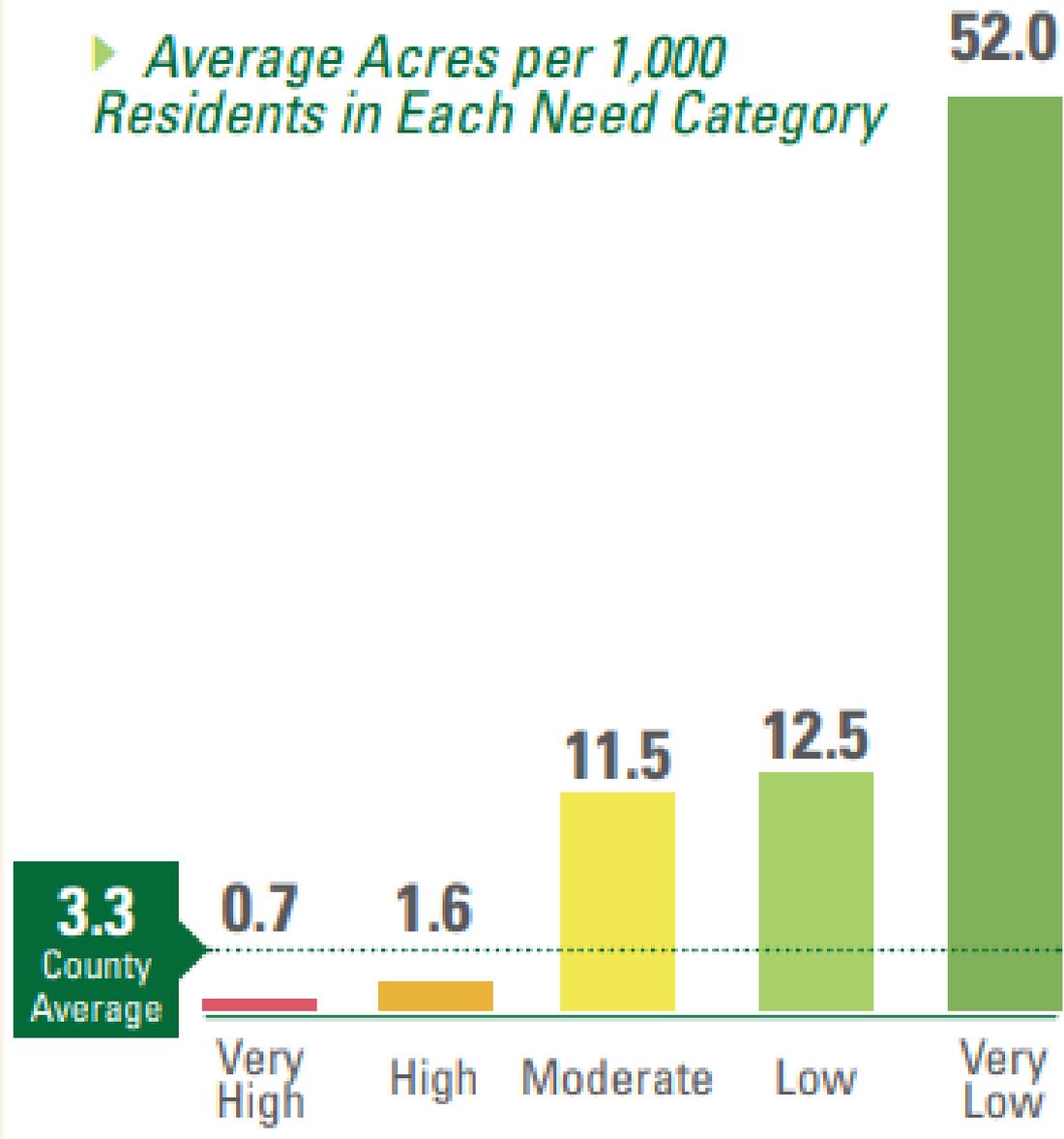


Park Access is Not Equal Across Communities



- 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*

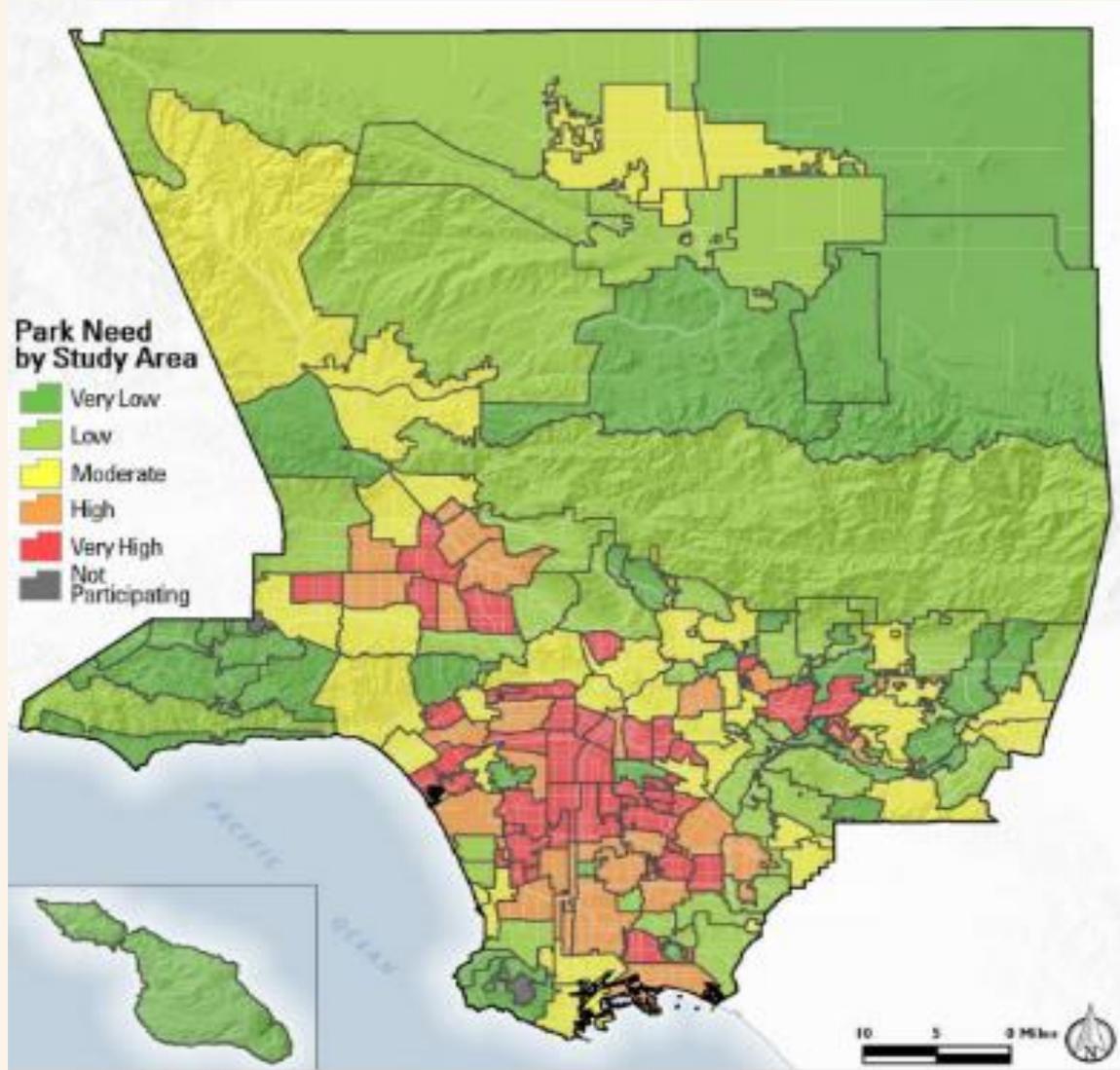


Production of park inequity in the land use system



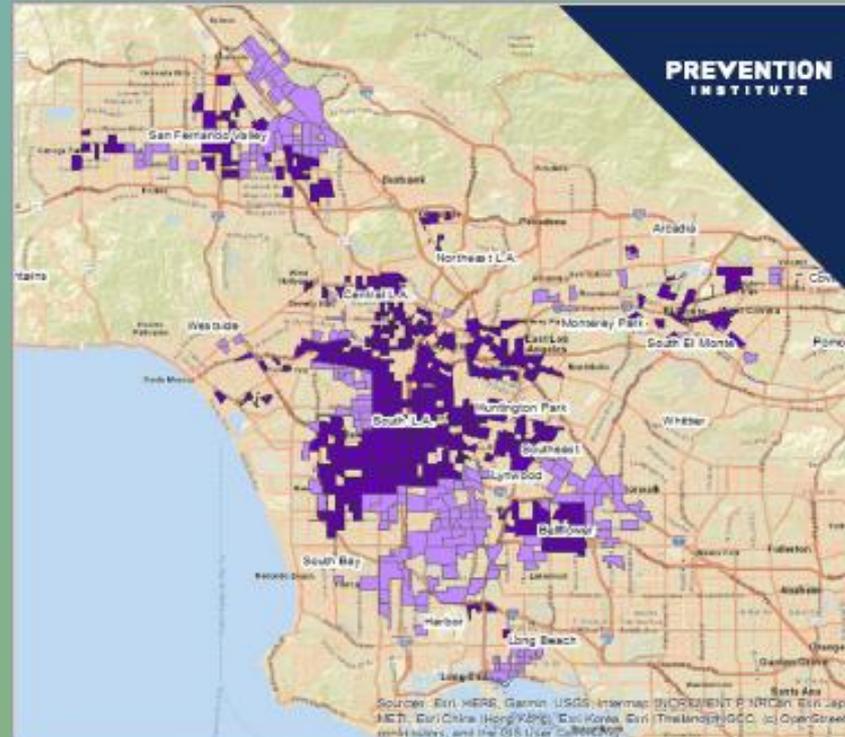
Selected Policies, Practices, and Procedures That Have Produced Inequities in Parks and Green Space. Adapted from: *Prevention Institute. Countering the Production of Health Inequities: An Emerging Systems Framework to Achieve an Equitable Culture of Health*

Production of park inequities



Source: Los Angeles
Countywide
Comprehensive
Parks & Recreation
Needs Assessment

Research synopsis

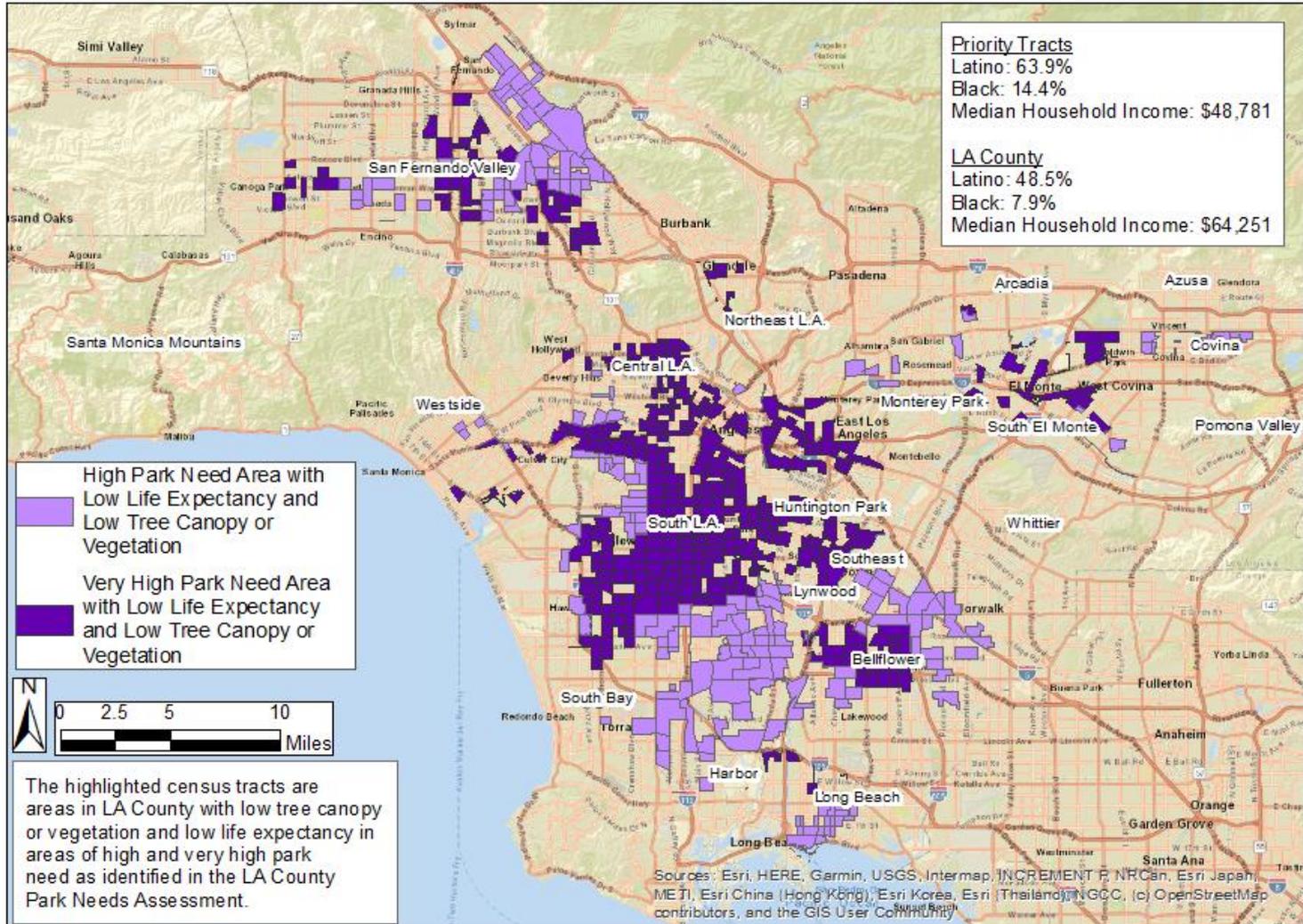


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Research Synopsis

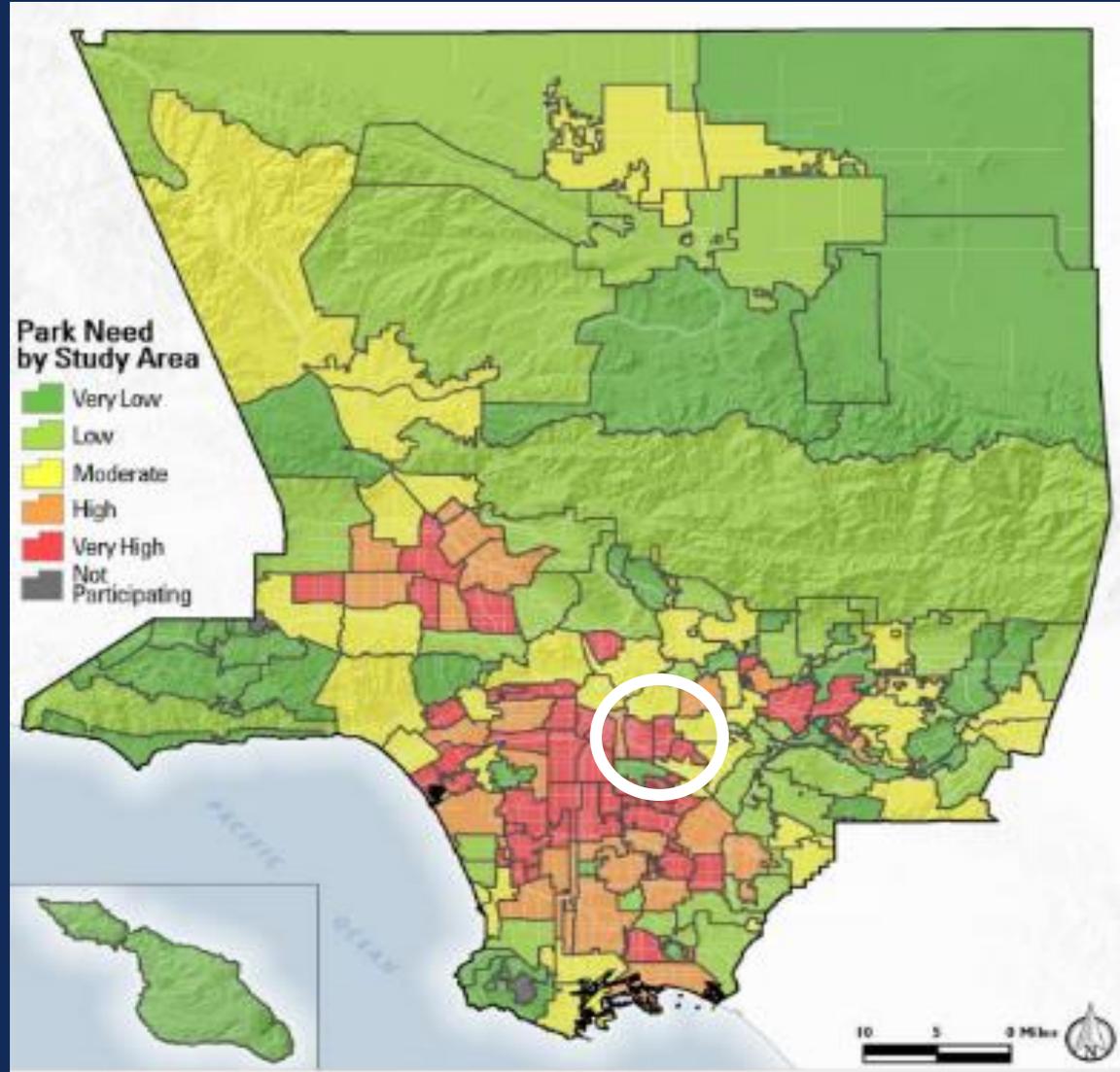
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Reduced Life Expectancy in High and Very High Park Need Areas with Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation



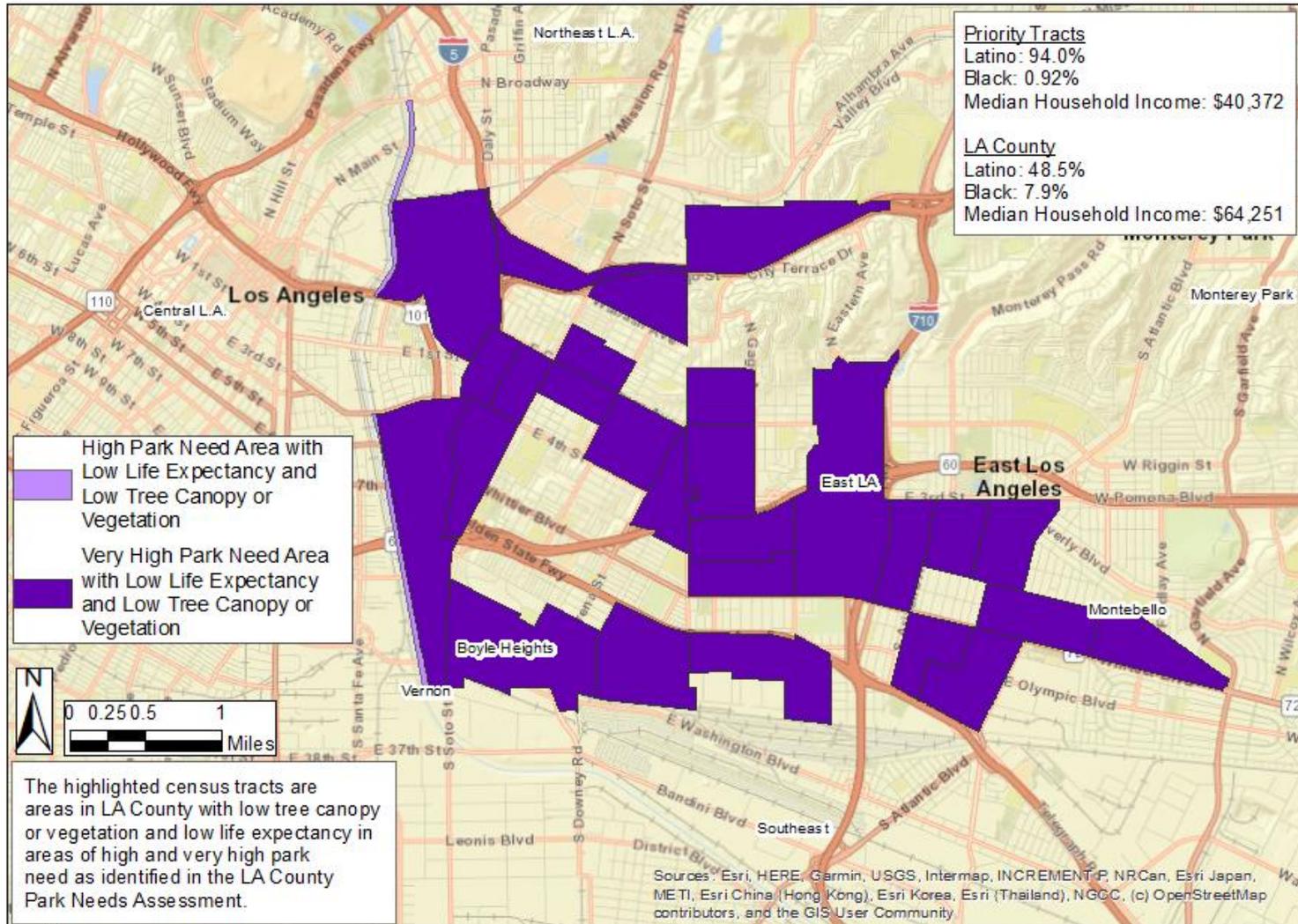
Data Sources: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment (2016), USALEEP Life Expectancy 2010-2015 Estimates (2018), TreePeople and Loyola Marymount Center for Urban Resilience 2016 Tree Canopy Coverage (2019), National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP) Aerial Imagery (2016),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

Boyle Heights & unincorporated East LA



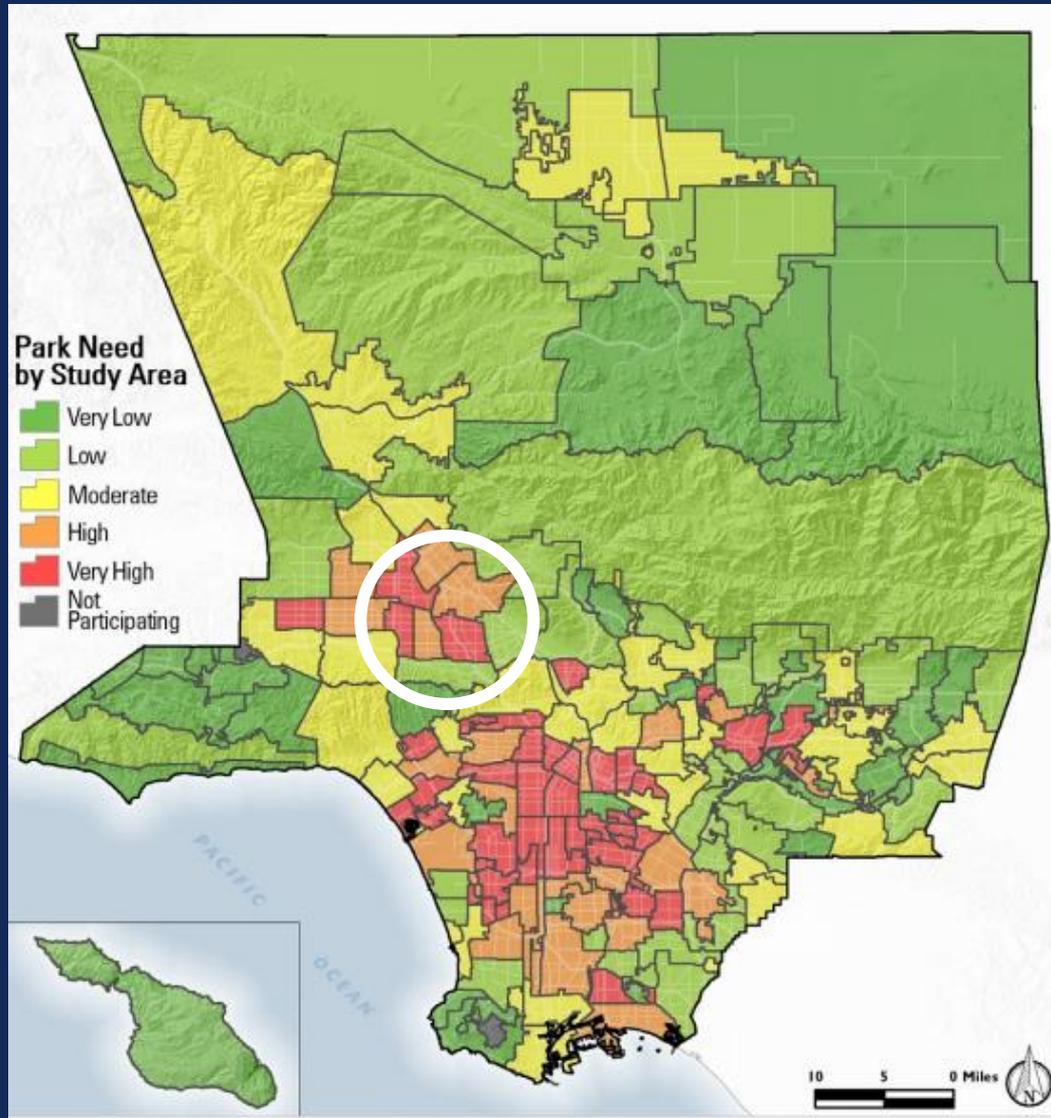
Source: Los Angeles
Countywide
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Reduced Life Expectancy in High and Very High Park Need Areas with Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation



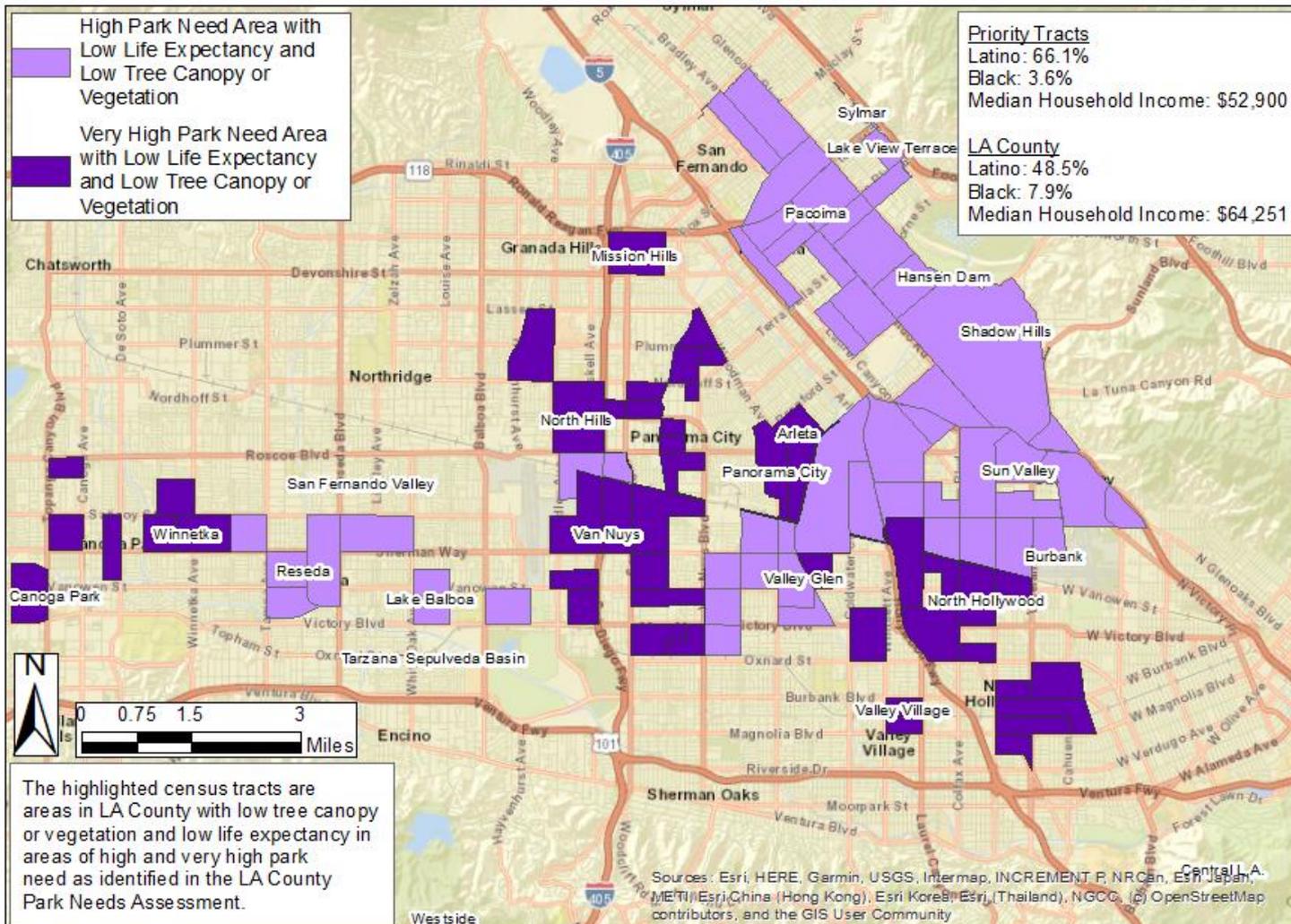
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Panorama City, Pacoima, and Sun Valley



Source: Los Angeles
Countywide
Comprehensive
Parks & Recreation
Needs Assessment

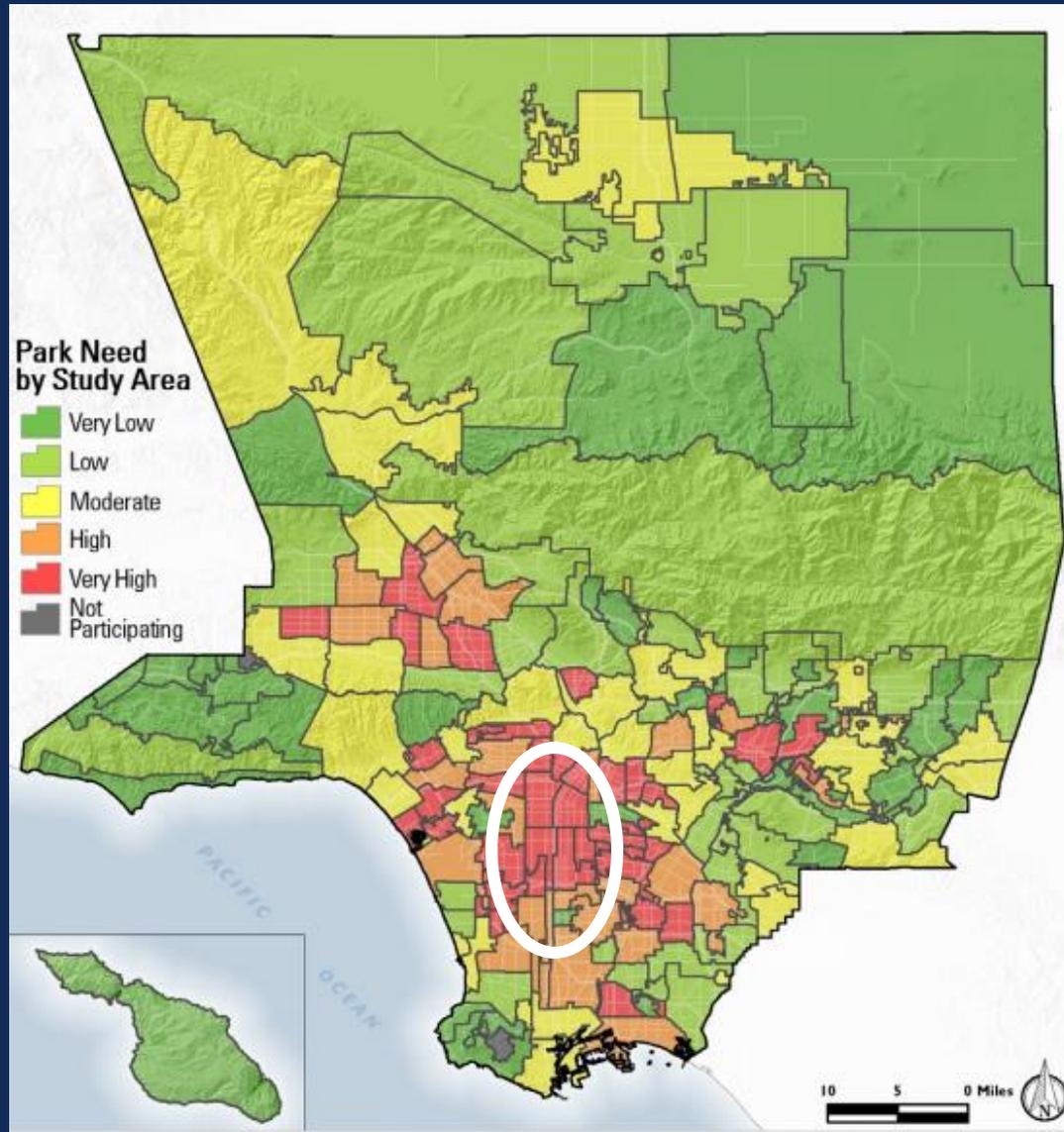
Reduced Life Expectancy in High and Very High Park Need Areas with Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation



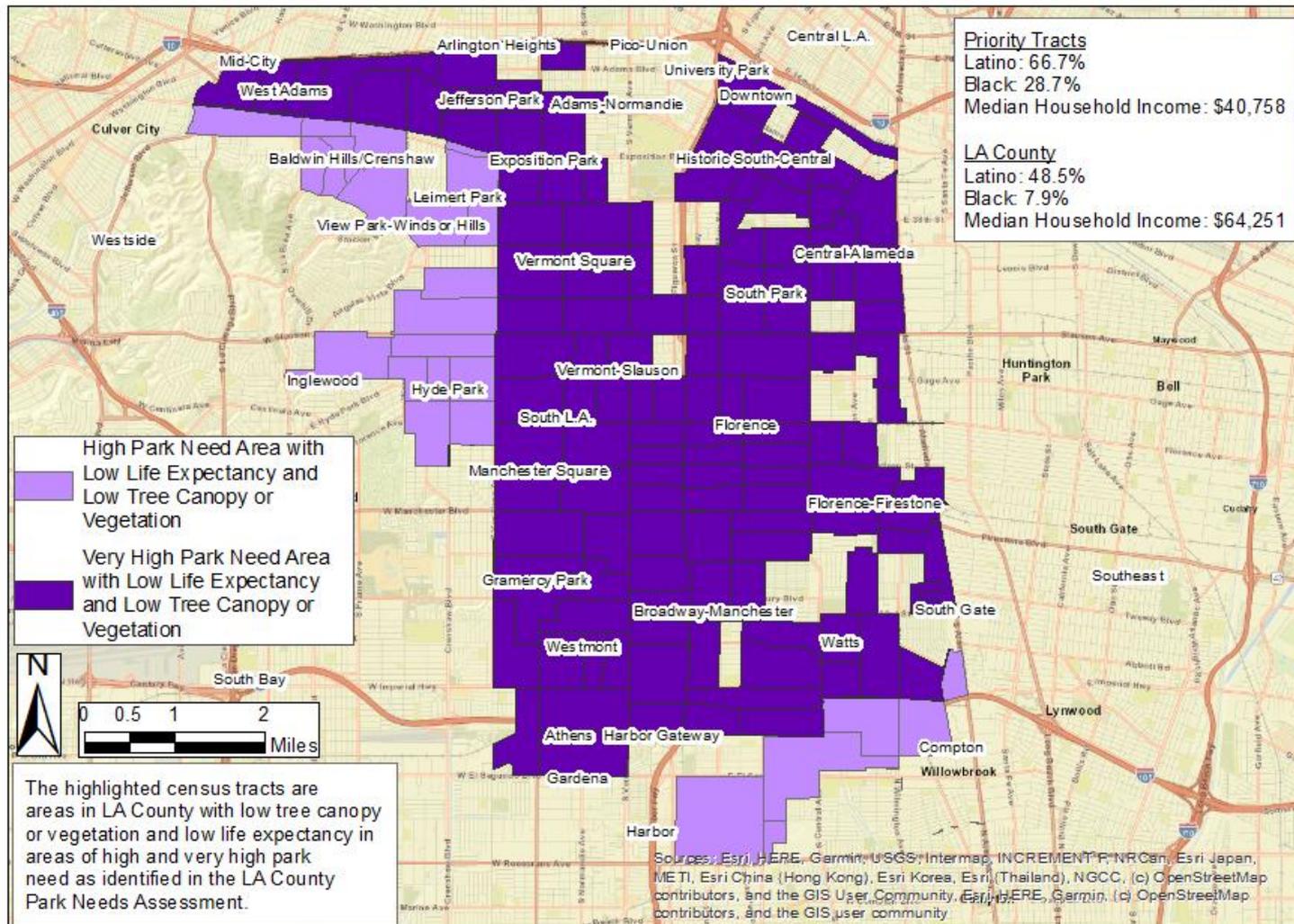
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South Los Angeles

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)

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

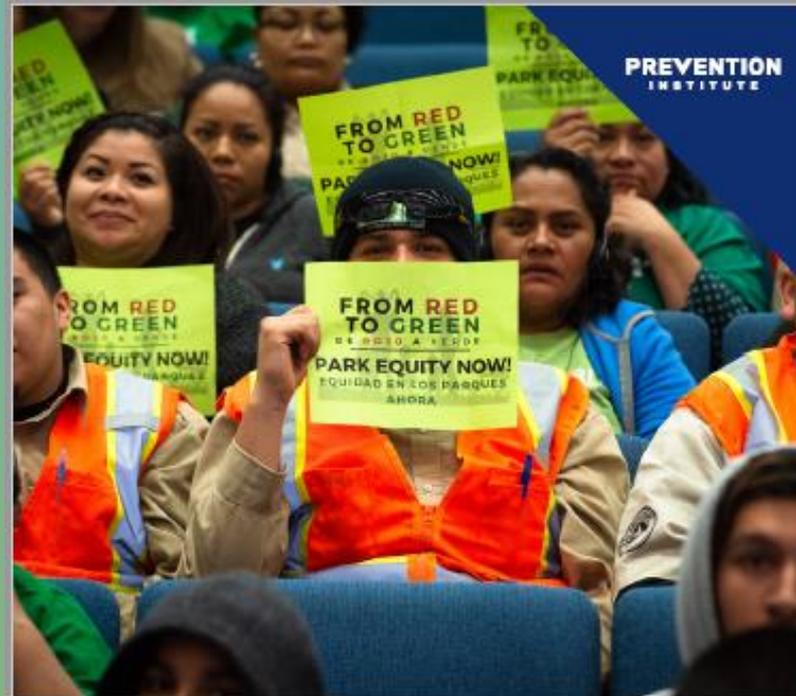
Distributional equity

- 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



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Policy Brief

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COVID-19



Policy change and accountability



Power building and procedural equity



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

usaleep | Neighborhood Life
Expectancy Project

