

DRAKE CHAVEZ GREENBELT

COMMUNITY REPORT

DECEMBER 2021



Table of Contents

1

Executive Summary

05

2

Planning Background

2.1 Critically Underserved Community	06	2.3 10 Years Later: 2019 Vision Plan	10
2.2 2009 Vision for Park Expansion	09		

3

Outreach Strategy

3.1 Overview	12	3.3 In-Person Engagement	17
3.2 Survey	14	3.4 Online Engagement	18

4

Community Voice

4.1 Community Survey Results	20	4.3 Stakeholder Feedback	30
4.2 Community Feedback	23		

5

Design Recommendations

5.1 Best Practices	34	5.3 Conclusion	39
5.2 Recommendations	36		



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2021, The City of Long Beach re-engaged residents and visitors living in the Willmore City and Downtown neighborhoods to hear their opinions on the design of a new park. With the community's input, the City of Long Beach hopes to transform a former Metro bus yard posed improvements to the Los Angeles River. This Community Report presents the design feedback we heard from the community and will be thoughtfully incorporated into the proposed design.

En 2021, la Ciudad de Long Beach volvió a participar a los residentes y visitantes que vivían en la área de la ciudad de Wilmore y el centro de la ciudad para escuchar sus opiniones sobre el diseño de un nuevo parque. Con la aportación de la comunidad, la Ciudad de Long Beach espera transformar un antiguo patio de autobuses del Metro en favor de un parque de 5.05 acres ubicado en 970 W Chester Place. El parque propuesto ayudará a actualizar la visión para un espacio abierto más grande, conectando el Parque César Chávez con el Parque Drake, y coincidirá con el futuro realineación de Shoreline Drive y propuestas de mejorar el río de Los Ángeles. Esta información de la comunidad presenta los comentarios sobre el diseño que hemos escuchado de la comunidad y que se incorporarán de manera cuidadosa al diseño propuesto.

2.1

**CRITICALLY
UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY**

The Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation completed a needs assessment for parks and open space in 2016 and found that this particular neighborhood has some of the lowest access to parks and open space in the Los Angeles region.

Using socioeconomic, public health, and land use indicators, Los Angeles County found that there are approximately 1.65 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents in the surrounding neighborhood, and 22% of the population lives within what is categorized as a “critically underserved area”. The Drake Chavez Greenbelt is a crucial open space proposal between Cesar Chavez Park and Drake Park that can address the high park need of the community, function as an environmental and visual barrier to surrounding industrial uses, serve as an ecological and educational opportunity, and repair the connections of the urban fabric that freeways have historically divided.

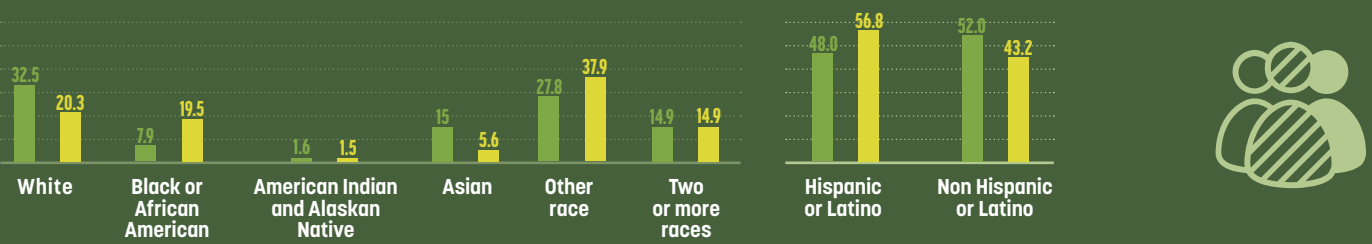


community demographics

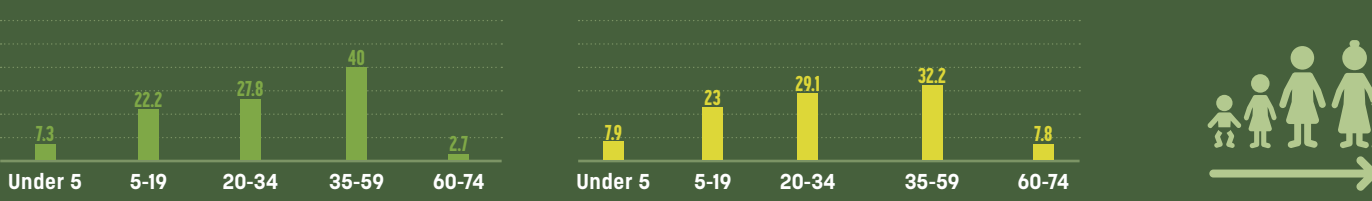
LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED HOUSEHOLDS



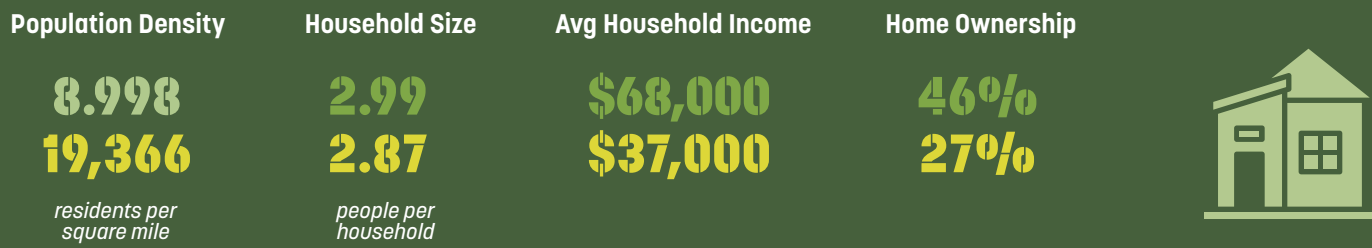
RACE AND ETHNICITY



POPULATION AGE



HOUSEHOLD STATS



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**Data is based on results available at the census tract scale from U.S. Census Bureau and CalEnviroScreen 4.0.*



2.2 2009 VISION FOR PARK EXPANSION

Prior to the 2016 LA County Parks Needs Assessment, the City of Long Beach conducted a series of stakeholder discussions and community meetings to develop the 2009 Drake Chavez Greenbelt Master Plan. This community engagement effort focused on amassing properties for park purposes that would strategically connect Cesar E. Chavez Park to Drake Park, through the development of wetlands and passive and active open space. The City had received a series of grants from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 12), the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act (Proposition 13), the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40), and Redevelopment Agency Central Project Area Revenue Bond.

These proceeds were used to purchase a 1.20-acre property at 903 Fairbanks Avenue, the 5.05-acre Los Angeles Metropolitan Transportation Authority Bus Lot, and 8.9 acres previously owned by the Union Pacific Railroad Company.

According to the Master Plan, the 58.42 acres of Drake Chavez Greenbelt would include development of a Cesar Chavez Park and Drake Chavez Greenbelt link, a

community and urban nature center, a primary pedestrian pathway connecting the community and urban nature center to Cesar Chavez Park, wetlands, a large community garden, connections to DeForest Avenue, Los Angeles River trail system access, development of parkway adjacent to the Greenbelt, improvements to Drake Park, construction of recreation fields, and an enhanced landscape corridor with access to Loma Vista Park and Anaheim Street.

Since the completion of the 2009 Drake Chavez Master Plan, several new projects have begun to impact these future park parcels, including Long Beach Municipal Urban Stormwater Treatment Facility (LB MUST), the I-710 Realignment Project proposed by the California Department of Transportation, and the Shoemaker Bridge Replacement Project. The 2019 Drake Chavez Vision Plan incorporates these new projects, additional feedback from the community, and updates the original Drake Chavez Master Plan.

2.3
10 YEARS LATER:
2019 VISION PLAN

In 2019, the City’s Parks, Recreation, and Marine Department partnered with the First Council District, the Willmore City Heritage Association, Communities with Power to Change, the nonprofit Kounkuey Design Initiative, and Public Health Advocates to conduct community engagement for the Drake Chavez Greenbelt Vision Plan. These groups conducted nine public workshops over the course of a month, and developed three community-sourced vision concepts for the park. The public workshops examined desired amenities, prioritized community

feedback, and voted on top park improvement ideas. This Vision Plan serves as a guide for future park investment, anticipated over a long-term horizon, which will be implemented incrementally over time as capital, maintenance and operating resources allow.

The Project Team created a survey in 2019 and shared it with residents over the course of a month to see what priorities the community had for the new park space, these were the results.



project survey



**SAFETY
EDUCATION
HEALTH
EQUITY
SUSTAINABILITY**

**TOP 5
PRIORITIES
TO GUIDE THE
DESIGN PROCESS**



**FAMILIES
CHILDREN
ACCESSIBILITY
SENIORS
TEENS**

**TOP 5
USER GROUPS TO BE
MOST MINDFUL
OF IN THE DESIGN**



**EDUCATION
ARTS
COOKING
CULTURE
SPORTS**

**TEEN/AFTER SCHOOL
TECHNOLOGY
SENIOR
DANCE
MUSIC**

**TOP 10
PROGRAMS
FOR THE NEW
PARK SPACE**



**BATHROOMS
PLAYGROUND
WALKING / JOGGING TRAILS
SPORTS FIELD
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**COMMUNITY GARDEN
COMMUNITY ART/MURALS
OUTDOOR FITNESS EQUIPMENT
SHADE STRUCTURES
DOG PARK**

**TOP 10
AMENITIES
FOR THE NEW
PARK SPACE**

3.1 OVERVIEW

Now in 2021, the City of Long Beach partnered again with local community groups to engage the public and continue the design dialogue, building upon the previous community's vision for the proposed park.

First team visit to the Drake-Chavez greenbelt site.

credit : Hannah Park Moon

City Fabrick is a local nonprofit planning and design organization that has experience conducting award-winning public engagement around park development. In partnership with the City of Long Beach, City Fabrick developed a public outreach strategy including both virtual and in-person engagement to refine park design ideas. While funding currently available to develop the proposed park is limited, this Community Report will present a refined schematic design informed by the community feedback presented in the next section. This will allow the City to become more competitive for future funding opportunities to augment the community-driven design process to result in a shovel-ready project.

The public outreach strategy began with an initial planning stage that involved reviewing relevant planning and design documents that would impact design and development, including the Drake Chavez Master Plan (2019). Additionally, the City Fabrick team conducted a spatial analysis of the surrounding neighborhood by studying the existing demographic, socioeconomic, open space, public health, and physical environment conditions. This also included investigation of surrounding parks that this new component will ultimately connect.



3.2 SURVEY

This initial study helped the Project Team understand what questions regarding the design of the park have already been answered or are still unknown, and to ensure the design recommendations meet the open space needs of the existing resident community. The initial planning stage also involved identifying relevant community stakeholders. This community stakeholder list included the following:

	PRIORITY		
	MEDIUM	HIGH	GOVT
Jenny Oropeza Community Center (Cesar Chavez Park)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Drake Park Community Center	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Edison Elementary School	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Centro CHA	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
West Gateway Group - WGGroup 2017	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Willmore City Heritage Association	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Council District 1 Office	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
DLBA	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Princess Court	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Downtown Residential Council (DRC)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Park Pacific Tower Senior Community	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Friends of the LA River	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Cesar Chavez Elementary School	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Jenny Oropeza Elementary School	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Long Beach Environmental Alliance	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Partners of Parks	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Chestnut Neighborhood Cleanup Group	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Viva las Mujeres en Movimiento	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Long Beach Conservation Corps	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Long Beach Arts Council	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

community stakeholder index

	PRIORITY		
	MEDIUM	HIGH	GOVT
Promenade Area Residents Association	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Padres Unidos / Parents United	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Resident Advocate Network	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
WESTPAC LB	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
West Long Beach Association	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Washington Neighborhood Association	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
West Side Neighborhood Group	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
The Children’s Clinic	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Puente Latino Association	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Long Beach Heritage (Bembridge House)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
LA County	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Public Works	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Planning	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Police	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Fire	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Health	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

**Research included the National Recreation and Park Association, University of Arizona, Active Living Research, RAND Corporation, and various municipal governments*



3.3 IN-PERSON ENGAGEMENT

As a result of the initial study, the Project Team was able to design a short, accessible survey that asks community members their feedback on the design of the future park elements. These questions about refining the park plan into a buildable park design were asked in Spanish, Khmer, Tagalog, and English versions of the surveys. To engage community members to participate, a hybrid approach to public engagement was chosen, with an emphasis on in-person engagement. With the COVID-19 pandemic, proper safety precautions were implemented during in-person engagements, and several \$25 gift cards were raffled off to incentivize greater participation.

In-person engagement involved flyer and surveying existing park users and nearby residents of Cesar Chavez Park and Drake Park. The Project Team organized four park surveying days at different times of the day and week with other community partners, including:

CSULB - Weekday/Weekend +
Morning/Afternoon/Evening

**LB Conservation Corps - Weekday/Weekend
+ Morning/Afternoon/Evening**

**Council District 1 - Weekday/Weekend +
Morning/Afternoon/Evening**
**CSULB - Weekday/Weekend +
Morning/Afternoon/Evening**

Multi-lingual survey posters with a QR code and weblink

Physical surveys
on clipboard for
those participating
in-person

Survey drop-off boxes were also strategically located at both the Jenny Oropeza and Drake Park Community Centers, and large-format signs and banners were installed onto fences, poles, and doors in multiple languages. Flyers and surveys were also distributed throughout the surrounding residential neighborhood, including within multi-family residential buildings and with people experiencing homelessness. The public survey was open until Wednesday, November 3rd, and in total, 233 total in-person surveys were collected.

The physical surveys and promotional material looked like this (left page).

3.4

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Online engagement involved adapting and creating online versions of the translated surveys via SurveyMonkey. With community partners, these online surveys were promoted via listservs, social media, and newsletters by neighborhood associations, nonprofit groups, and District 1 constituents. Physical surveys and promotional material placed around also drew community members to the online survey via a URL and QR code. In total, there were 294 online survey participants. Additionally, community stakeholders, which includes schools, community groups, and nonprofits, were asked to participate in a series of roundtable workshops to discuss various elements of the park design that pertain beyond the scope of the survey questions. In total, 23 community stakeholders participated in these deeper, more qualified discussions. The Project Team also presented at neighborhood group meetings at their request, which was helpful in learning about previous planning efforts and current issues.

In total, 527 surveys were collected, exceeding the goal of 400 participants. Given that the size of the proposed park is approximately five acres, survey participants living within walking distance of the project site were weighted four times as much. This calculation was based on research* showing that the service radius of a park of this size is 1/2 of a mile, and that people living within 1/2 of a mile of a “neighborhood park” are at least four times as likely to visit a park by foot. Additionally, as an equity-based best practice, survey respondents were asked to self-report their race/ethnicity. The distribution of race/ethnicity within the survey results was weighted to match the demographics of the neighborhood, to ensure that there was a proportional amount of voice given to major communities of color in the area. The community feedback summary from the physical surveys, online surveys, and stakeholder roundtables are summarized in the Community Voice section.



4.1
COMMUNITY SURVEY
RESULTS

respondent demographics

RESPONDENTS

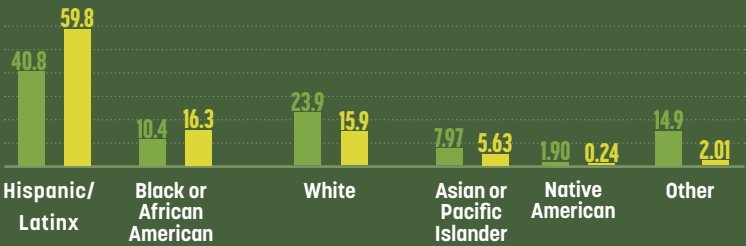
RESIDENT
73%

BIPOC
84%

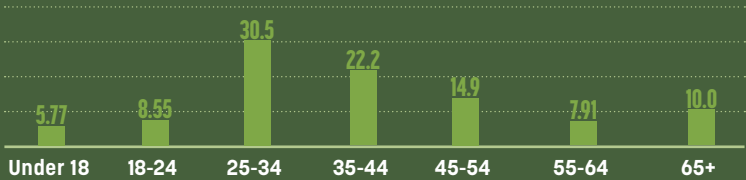


RACE AND ETHNICITY

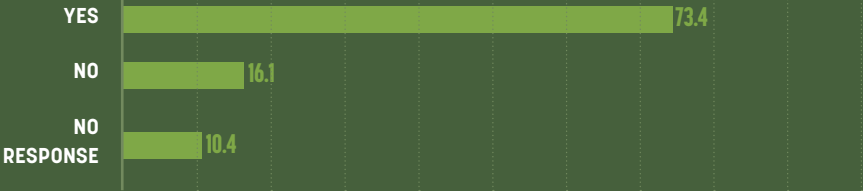
unweighted
neighborhood



POPULATION AGE



LIVE WITHIN WALKING DISTANCE?





4.2
COMMUNITY
FEEDBACK

This chart includes weighted results for the physical and online survey depicting respondents preferences for park features. Below are general responses collected from the survey listed in order of frequency.

What seating arrangement is best?	Seating away from one another	64.5%
	Seating Clustered Together	35.5%
What type of accent trees would you like to see?	Flowering trees	36.2%
	Spring color trees	32.5%
What type of signage would you like to see?	Wayfinding signage	44.2%
	Educational signage	33.4%
What type of play do you want to see?	Adventure	44.9%
	Natural	32.5%
What type of exercise equipment do you want to see?	Trail	51.4%
	Fitness	48.6%
What type of outdoor performance area seating do you prefer?	Amphitheater seating	44.2%
	Flexible seating	24.7%
What type of shade do you want to see?	Full coverage shade	40.4%
	Tree/Natural shade	38.2%
What type of dog park do you prefer?	Park with lots of trees	42.1%
	Dog training/Obstacle course	31.6%

TOP 5 COMMUNITY FEEDBACK

- 1 Thankful/happy/excited to see this coming
- 2 Desire for a safe park
- 3 Address people experiencing homelessness
- 4 Desire for a clean park
- 5 Happy/thankful for inclusion in community engagement

OTHER FEEDBACK

- Address pollution
- Park for all ages
- Frustration with engagement process
- Park for all people groups
- Expedite the process
- Supportive of park



This chart includes community responses to open-ended survey questions listed in order of priority based on frequency of response.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN

	PRIORITY		
	MEDIUM	HIGH	SINGLE
Flexible/multi-use spaces	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Better softball facility	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Combine usages/park feature options in survey	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Soccer area	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
More parking	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Passive park uses	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Urban forest	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Baseball field	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Padded exercise area	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Exercise courts	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Open amphitheater	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Tetherball	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
PARK FACILITIES & PROGRAMMING			
Restrooms/clean restrooms	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Security cameras/security patrol/emergency call boxes	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Upgraded facilities and features	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Clean shower facilities	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Well-maintained park	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Nature center	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Programming (self-defense, art, tech, first aid, counseling, etc.)	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Snack bar/vending machine	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Sports programming	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Public wifi	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Lockers	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

	PRIORITY		
	MEDIUM	HIGH	SINGLE
Teen center	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Sports facilities	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Varied facilities	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
No oil drilling	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
All gender restrooms with baby changing stations	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Improvements to existing parks	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Arts and crafts style building	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Traffic/pedestrian safety	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>



4.3

STAKEHOLDER
FEEDBACK

Larger Park Design

The overall shared vision of the park is a space that has opportunities for movement and connection for all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Community stakeholders want to see a mixture of uses and amenities to accommodate groups like families, non-English speakers, students, people experiencing homelessness, and the broader community surrounding the project area.

Many stakeholders want a combination of the design elements presented in the public survey questions, offering a variety of options to the diverse surrounding community.

Some community members are concerned with the environmental harm that the Ports, refineries, and freeways will have on park goers. Any opportunities to mitigate sound, noise, air, and visual pollution should be taken along Shoreline Drive. Active park uses should be located closer to Drake Park and away

Some community members are concerned with the environmental damage that may still linger on-site due to its usage as a bus fueling station.

Residents want to see the Willmore Heritage Garden, located adjacent to the southeastern corner of the park, incorporated and utilized as an entrance for pedestrians and cyclists.

Feedback from local artists includes investing more into the upkeep of any artistic features of the space, particularly murals. Work closely with Arts Council who helped to create new murals recently in Drake Park Greenbelt (lower soccer fields).

LBUSD school representatives shared that having strong Wi-Fi connection for students and young people is very important, especially considering the technological divide. Currently, their students are going to fast food restaurants because of bad internet connection at schools and parks.



Park Elements

Stakeholders want to see a mix of seating types to accommodate both group gatherings and individuals wanting to follow social distancing protocols.

For sheltered picnic areas, stakeholders prefer similar ones to the sheltered picnic areas at Drake Park, or seating which has a table for families and groups to eat or gather around.

Many people like the idea of an amphitheater similar to the one in Cesar Chavez Park to host concerts, events, and gatherings, but emphasized the importance of the space being available to community members for unstructured use. Flexible seating on open spaces was also desired.

Directional signage around the parks is strongly desired, in addition to educational and artistic signage. Stakeholders want to see signage that reflects the diversity of the community, in content, style, and

Educational signage should include cultural history regarding Native American practices and people, Latinx immigration and culture, Black history, and Asian and Pacific Islander history.

Educational signage geared towards children should be placed at an appropriate height so that they can view it independently.

Any signage should be readable to non-English speakers, or be translated into the City’s major languages. Focusing more on images and graphics than words.

Many community members emphasized the desire for trail systems throughout the park for jogging, dog walking, bike riding. Green spaces where people can be immersed in nature are highly desired.

Fitness elements similar to the ones at the north end of Cesar Chavez Park were recommended for consistency across the project area. There should be accompanying signage to demonstrate how the equipment is used.

Stakeholders wanted to see play areas that can accommodate a range of age groups. This includes a skate park and open areas for children and young adults. Playgrounds included in this park should be designed to be partially or fully ADA accessible.

There are mixed opinions on the necessity of a dog park on the project site. Some stakeholders cited the importance of prioritizing families and youth who are in need of open space, while others shared the usefulness in having a designated dog park space to address sanitary issues occurring in nearby open spaces. The demographics of the area show a larger number of dog owners in the area, and most stakeholders agree that a fenced open space is ideal for the dog park. A smaller footprint to the dog park in favor of family programming should be considered.

Landscaping

There is general desire for more trees and shade, especially as a green barrier to environmental harm from industry and vehicular traffic. Stakeholders want to see trees that will provide coverage and look appealing all year round, as well as filter air pollution and capture carbon.

Bushes and shrubs that could be a potential hiding location should be avoided. Shrubs should be no taller than a few feet (see “Best Practices” below).

Overall, people want a space for people to connect with their environment through trails, open spaces, educational signage, and plants.

Connectivity

Many stakeholders want to see a clearer connection between Drake Park, Cesar Chavez Park, and the project site. Shoreline Drive currently stands as a psychological and physical barrier to connectivity.

People want to know more about the current status to carry out the rest of the Drake Chavez Master Plan, as well as utilize signage to begin creating those connections.

There should be accommodations for multi-modal travel, including bike racks, bike lanes, scooter access, and safe pedestrian connections between parks. The design should encourage better connection to the LA River bike path, the city’s larger bike network, and transit lines.

There are concerns regarding parking and how a new green space in the area will impact parking for local residents and visitors. With a recent shooting in the Drake Park area due to disputes over a parking spot, it is imperative to consider how the project site could potentially alleviate or impact parking issues in the area.

Additional Feedback

Multiple stakeholders mentioned the importance of considering how people experiencing homelessness will affect the use and design of this site. Best practice design considerations are discussed in the “Best Practices in Equitable Park Design” section.

Stakeholders have a lot of interest and concerns in how this project site fits into the broader vision of fulfilling the Drake Chavez Master Plan. The City should strongly consider having a point of contact or project page for residents to stay up to date on the project.

5.1

**BEST PRACTICES IN
EQUITABLE PARK DESIGN**

Paradigm Shift: Anyone could be at risk of homelessness--millions are living paycheck to paycheck and one unexpected event, like a car breaking down, can put them on the street.

With compassion, the City of Long Beach must address the housing crisis at a policy and systems level, but also be responsive to the immediate needs of people and families who are currently experiencing homelessness. In recent years, park design has progressively welcomed all park users, especially people experiencing homelessness, and promotes the human right to be in a public space.

Do not use hostile architecture such as benches that prevent people lying down, spikes on curbs and corners to prevent camping and panhandling, and bollards and boulders to prevent the erection of tents. Making a place hostile means making it harder for everyone to enjoy the park or public space. This erodes public life and means many of our parks are failing to live up to their potential.

https://www.880cities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Homelessness_in_Parks_AARP.pdf



5.2

RECOMMENDATIONS

BEST PRACTICES IN
EQUITABLE PARK DESIGN

Introduce year-round washrooms, water fountains, hand washing, and sanitation facilities. Fitting parks with washrooms creates a quality space for people experiencing homelessness, but also for pregnant and menstruating women, small children, older adults, and others.
https://www.880cities.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Homelessness_in_Parks_AARP.pdf

Utilizing “zoned lighting”, which allows for certain areas of the path to remain lit while also providing spaces with dim lighting so that unhoused people can sleep comfortably at night without fear of theft.
https://www.spur.org/sites/default/files/2021-01/spur_gehl_coexistence_in_public_space.pdf

A person experiencing homelessness must carry most of what they need at all times. This can be a heavy burden, both physically and emotionally. Adequate storage is essential for health, stability, and human dignity. Secure storage options, such as a public locker system, allow people to attend medical appointments, remain employed, and access necessary services more easily.
<https://mrsc.org/Home/Explore-Topics/Planning/Homelessness/Temporary-Sheltering-Options-and-Amenities-for-Uns.aspx>

Public education is an important step in generating community support to address homelessness in parks. Efforts by park and recreation agencies to educate the public may take multiple forms, including signage,

pamphlets, public statements, community meetings, forms and online platforms, including social media.
<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2019/january/addressing-homelessness-in-public-parks/>

Utilizing signage that is legible, clear, and understandable will help people of all ages and abilities to understand how to move through spaces. Delineating places of movement and relaxation can help people understand how spaces are meant to function as well. This may mean including multi-sensory signage, multilingual signage, or universal symbols and signals.
<https://www.asla.org/universaldesign.aspx>

Design open lines of sight. Clear lines of perception between spaces allow older adults and people with disabilities to preview spaces and discern if they will feel comfortable. This is important for intellectually and/or developmentally disabled people, as they can anticipate the amount of sensory information a space currently has. Following ideas of defensible space, open sight lines mean people are more likely to see and report issues and contribute to a higher perception of safety.
<https://thefield.asla.org/2019/03/07/designing-for-public-space-inclusive-of-unhoused-people/>
<https://www.asla.org/universalparksandplazas.aspx>

Providing a mix of enclosed and open spaces allows people agency in the type of environment they want to experience. Open space is important for older adults. But autistic, or otherwise neurodivergent people prefer more enclosed and secure environments with less sensory information. Deaf or hard of hearing people also prefer more enclosed and secure environments. Minimize completely concealed and isolated routes.
<https://www.asla.org/universalparksandplazas.aspx>
https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Mobile_docs/CPTED-Guidebook.pdf

Land uses or facilities that attract people, create activities and add life to the street or space helps reduce opportunities for crime. An activity generator may include increasing facilities or areas for recreation.
https://rems.ed.gov/docs/Mobile_docs/CPTED-Guidebook.pdf

Navigation in the built environment depends almost entirely on visual cues. Incorporating design elements that can be accessed through different senses provides other systems of navigation. For example, the use of auditory, tactile, and textural cues can assist in wayfinding and enrich experiences for all people.
<https://www.asla.org/universaldesign.aspx>

Generally uniformly shaped, landscaped sites are safer than irregularly shaped sites because there are fewer hiding places. Plants should follow the 3-8 rule of thumb;

hedges no higher than 3 feet, and tree canopies starting no lower than 8 feet. This is especially important around entryways and windows.
<https://www.seattle.gov/police/crime-prevention/cpted>

Screening should allow people to see in. Even if the fences are built for privacy, they should allow for some visibility and should not be designed to be too tall.
<https://www.seattle.gov/police/crime-prevention/cpted>

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS BUREAU
FEEDBACK

Improve the feeling of safety on the project by reducing opportunities for vandalism, decreasing the amount of space between shrubs and walls, and increasing lighting.

Soil toxicity affected a nearby site, causing the contractor to replace hundreds of plants. It may be an issue of concern here as well.

Dog park users are very vocal in this neighborhood, and may prefer to have a separated area for small and large dogs within the dog park. Methods such as using a double-sided hydration station can save costs.

If there is a community garden in the design, it should have an entity assigned to take care of it.



5.3
CONCLUSION

The feedback received from the community has been valuable in understanding the social, cultural, and political complexities within the community based on the expansive feedback from hundreds of residents and community leaders. Additionally, discussions about the proposed open space involved intersecting conversations around housing affordability, homelessness, transportation, public safety, gang territories, environmental racism, and social justice. The proposed design of the park is an opportunity to help address some of these intersectional issues, but further engagement is recommended. Additionally, this is not the end of the conversation as we hope to work closely with the community as the City of Long Beach and design team to incorporate this feedback into the final design. This design and community feedback will also help to make future funding applications more competitive, and continued conversations with the community will help to ensure stewardship for years to come.

Immediate next steps include the mindful integration of the community feedback into the schematic design of the proposed park, and to present this draft design as large-format renderings in a walking tour for a last round of community feedback. The intention is that community groups and leaders that have been engaged throughout this continue to participate and advocate for the project’s implementation and stewardship.

