



How Cities Can Promote Public Health

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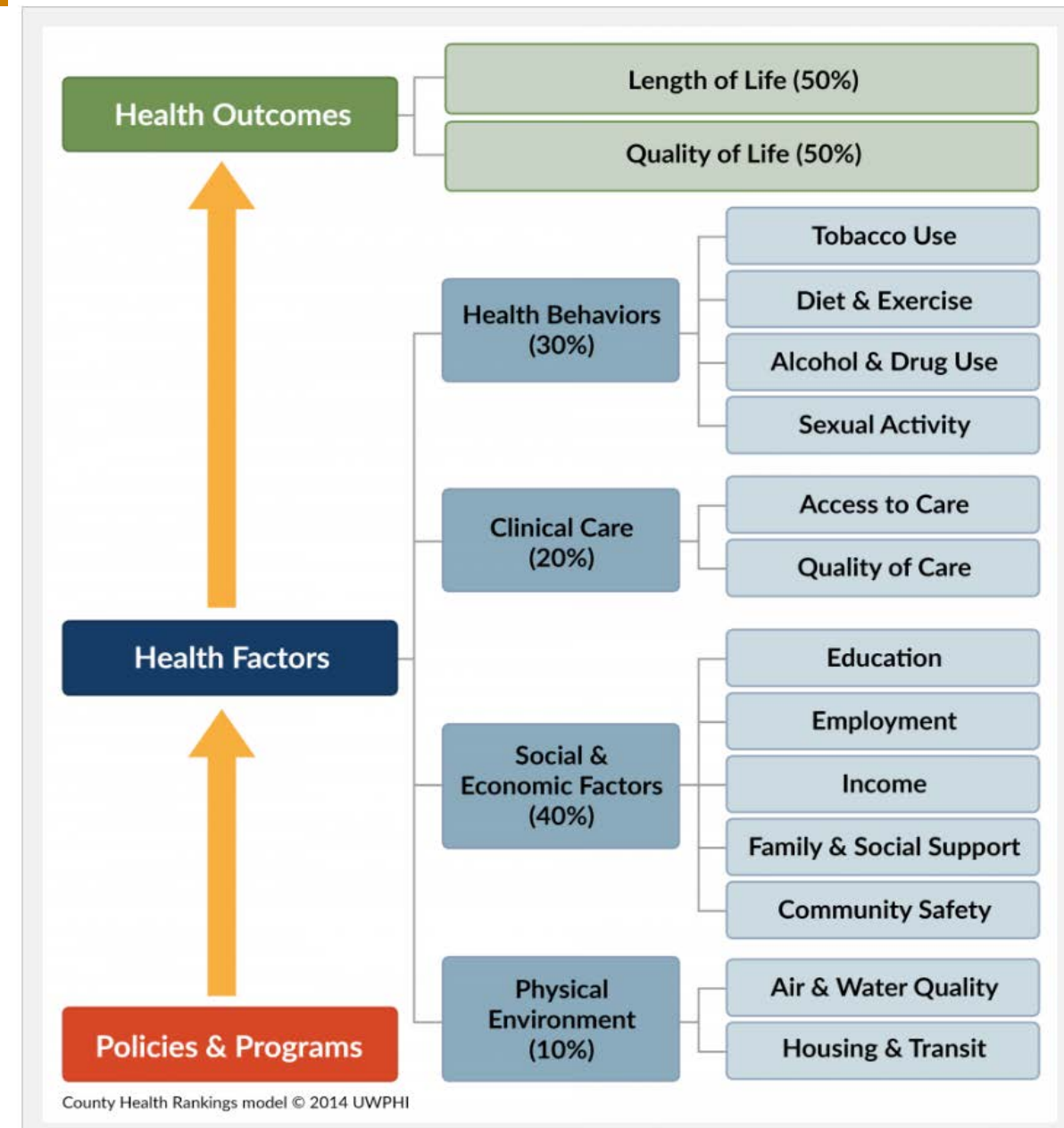


What I will cover today:



1. Affordable housing
2. Diverting people to care rather than incarceration
3. Protecting public health near oil drilling sites
4. Walkable and bikeable streets
5. Neighborhood parks

What Influences Population Health?



Why Housing is a Public Health Issue



- **Unaffordable housing**
 - Reduced income available for other expenses (food, medical care)
 - Mental health
 - Moving frequency
- **Housing Instability**
 - Behavioral issues
 - Homelessness
- **Housing Quality**
 - Respiratory and other chronic illnesses



Policies Passed or Under Development by the Board of Supervisors

Unincorporated Areas: Approved

- Rent Stabilization Ordinance
- Accessory Dwelling Units
- Density Bonus Ordinance

• **Unincorporated Areas: Draft**

- Inclusionary Housing Ordinance
 - Requires percentage of housing units be set aside as “affordable” in new development
- By-Right Housing Ordinance
- Interim and Supportive Housing Ordinance
- Affordable Housing Preservation Ordinance

Zoning for condos, apartments, single family homes



Zoning for condos, apartments, single family homes



Good Design is Critical



Why Incarceration is a Public Health Issue



- LA County operates the largest jail system in the US; 17,000 people in custody today.
- Approximately 1/3 of all people in our County jail, have a serious mental disorder
- Our county's justice system disproportionally impacts people of color:
 - 74% of people arrested are Black and Latinx, while only 9% of LA county residents are Black and 49% are Latinx.
- Care first, Jail Last:
 - New commitment by the Board of Supervisors to divert people living with mental illness and substance use addition to care.

OIL AND GAS OPERATION PROBLEMS CAN INCLUDE:

- **Air pollution:** Oil and gas production create small particles that pollute the air.
 - Eye, nose and throat irritation, headaches and dizziness, or breathing problems (asthma).
 - Long-term inhalation of large amounts of these particles can lead to an increased risk of cancer or babies being born early or too small.
- **Bad smells:** People may experience headaches, nausea, vomiting, and other symptoms from rotten-egg smells.
- **Noise, vibrations, and bright lights:**
 - Can make it hard to sleep, lead to stress, or lead to heart disease.
 - Vibrations can also damage buildings, roads, or other structures and create safety problems.
- **Emergencies:**
 - Accidents like chemical spills, fires, and explosions are possible and may harm nearby residents.

Neighborhood Oil Drilling: Wilmington



Park Next to Oil Drilling Site: Wilmington



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Public Health



Oil Drilling near Kenneth Hahn State Park



Table 2. Review of Key Public Health and Safety Hazards and Setback Distance Guidance

Setback Distance	<i>Air Quality</i>	<i>Noise</i>	<i>Odors</i>	<i>Fires, Explosions, and Other Emergencies</i>	<i>Additional Mitigation and Assessment Notes</i>
300 feet					Some health and safety impacts may still be unavoidable regardless of additional mitigation.
600 feet	✓				Additional mitigation and assessment would likely be needed to avoid most impacts. Odors may be unavoidable, regardless of mitigation. Air monitoring is advised.
1,000 feet	✓	✓			Additional mitigation and assessment may be needed to avoid noise impacts during certain operations, e.g. well advancement. Odors may be unavoidable in loss of containment events, regardless of additional mitigation.
1,500 feet	✓	✓	✓		Additional mitigation not likely to be needed. Some uncertainty remains due to gaps in long-term health and exposure data.

✓ Represents the distance at which the impact is likely mitigated

Public health benefits of designing streets for safe walking and biking:

- Reduction in air pollution
- Increase physical activity → prevention of chronic disease
- Prevention of traffic collisions that disproportionately kill and injure pedestrians and cyclists

Culver City Has Done Great Work



- Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- Safe Routes to School Programs
- Vision Zero Resolution, Initiatives and Programs
- Other programs and projects

Motor Vehicle Mortality in Los Angeles County 2017

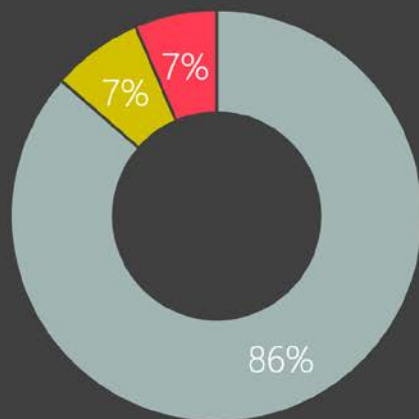
- Leading cause of death for children 5 – 14
 - 19 deaths
- Second leading cause of death for youth 15-24
 - 152 deaths
 - Homicide (leading cause) – 158 deaths
- Third leading cause of premature deaths among adults
 - 25,369 Years of Life Lost

Source: Mortality Data Tables 2017, Office of Health Assessment and Epidemiology, Los Angeles County
Department of Public Health

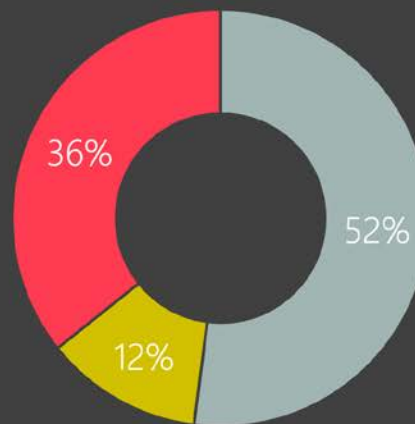
VICTIMS BY MODE

2005-2014, Culver City

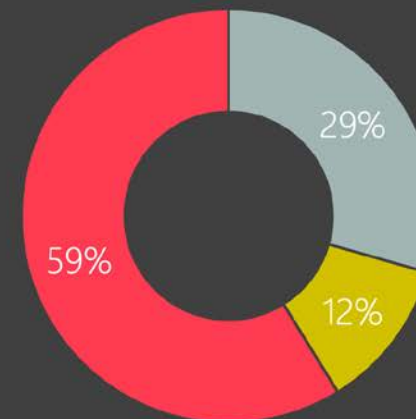
ALL VICTIMS



KSI VICTIMS



FATAL VICTIMS



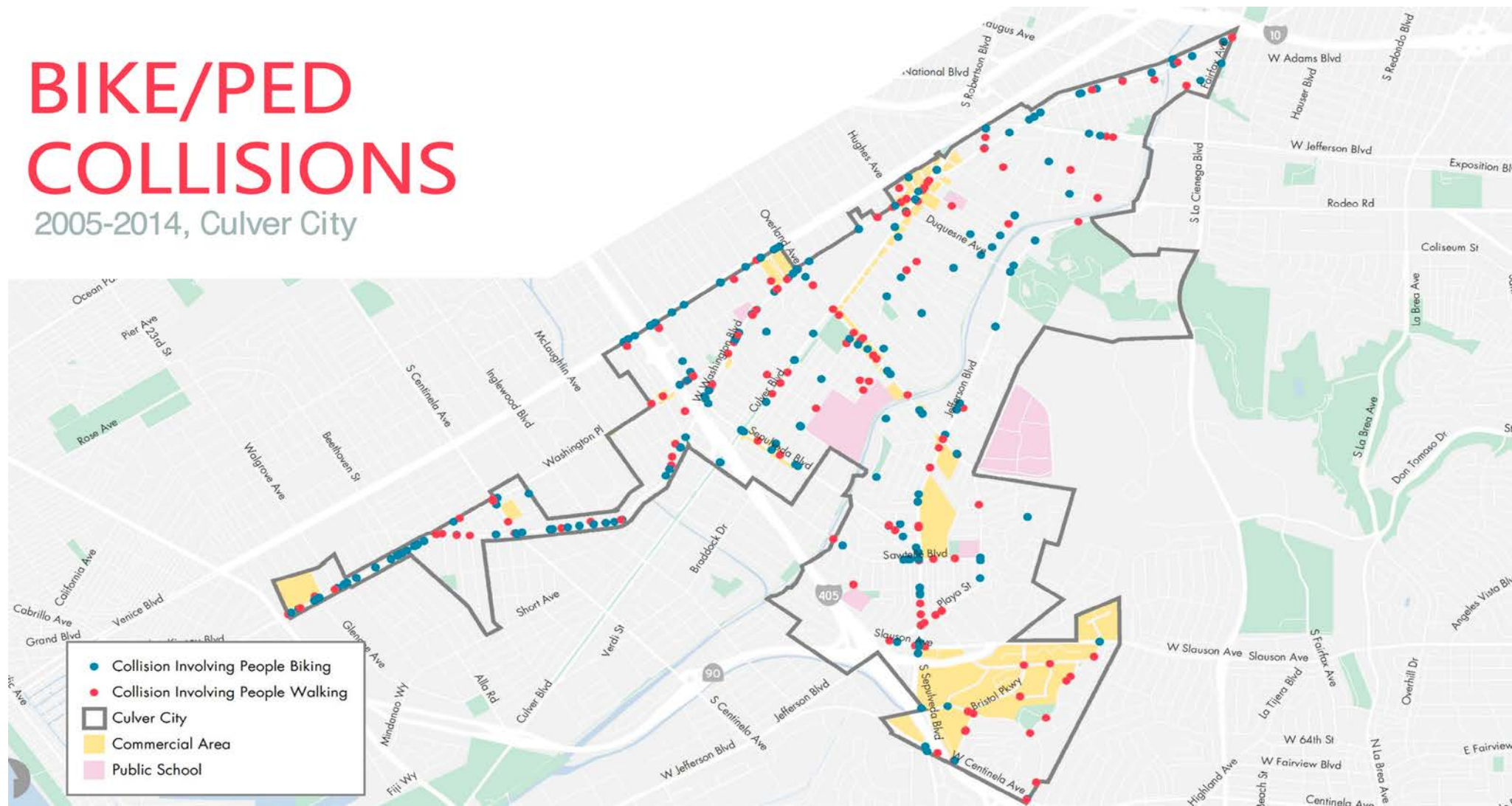
people walking people biking people in vehicles

Culver City Vision Zero Presentation by City consultants

<https://www.culvercity.org/city-hall/city-maps-gis-program/bicycle-pedestrian-action-plan>

BIKE/PED COLLISIONS

2005-2014, Culver City



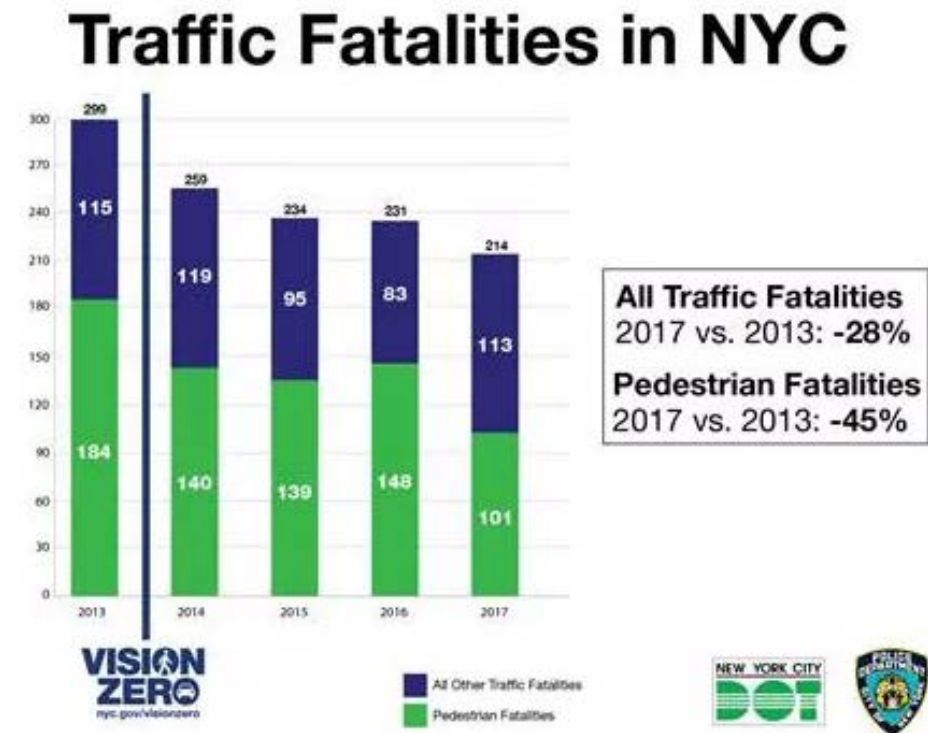
Why speed matters – Pedestrians are much less likely to survive a collision when hit at higher speed



1. AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety, Impact Speed and a Pedestrian's Risk of Severe Injury or Death, 2011

Vision Zero is effective

- Jurisdictions around the world are seeing dramatic improvements in street safety
- In New York City,
 - Traffic fatalities declined 29% overall
 - Pedestrian fatalities declined 45%



1. City of New York Vision Zero Year Four Report. March 2018.

Key to Successfully Building Safe Streets:



Best practices:

- Hire local nonprofits to engage community members in meaningful policy and street design discussions
 - Ground the community outreach in information about fatalities and severe injuries
- Take the time needed to contemplate complex policy solutions
- Put up temporary streetscape changes so people can adjust and give feedback, before making them permanent
- Learn from other cities...but also innovate

Why Access to Parks is a Public Health Issue



- Ideally everyone should be able to walk to a nearby park in 10 minutes
- Access to safe places for physical activity
- Places to congregate and recreate are good for mental health
- Park improvements (like bike/ped improvements) can trigger gentrification and displacement

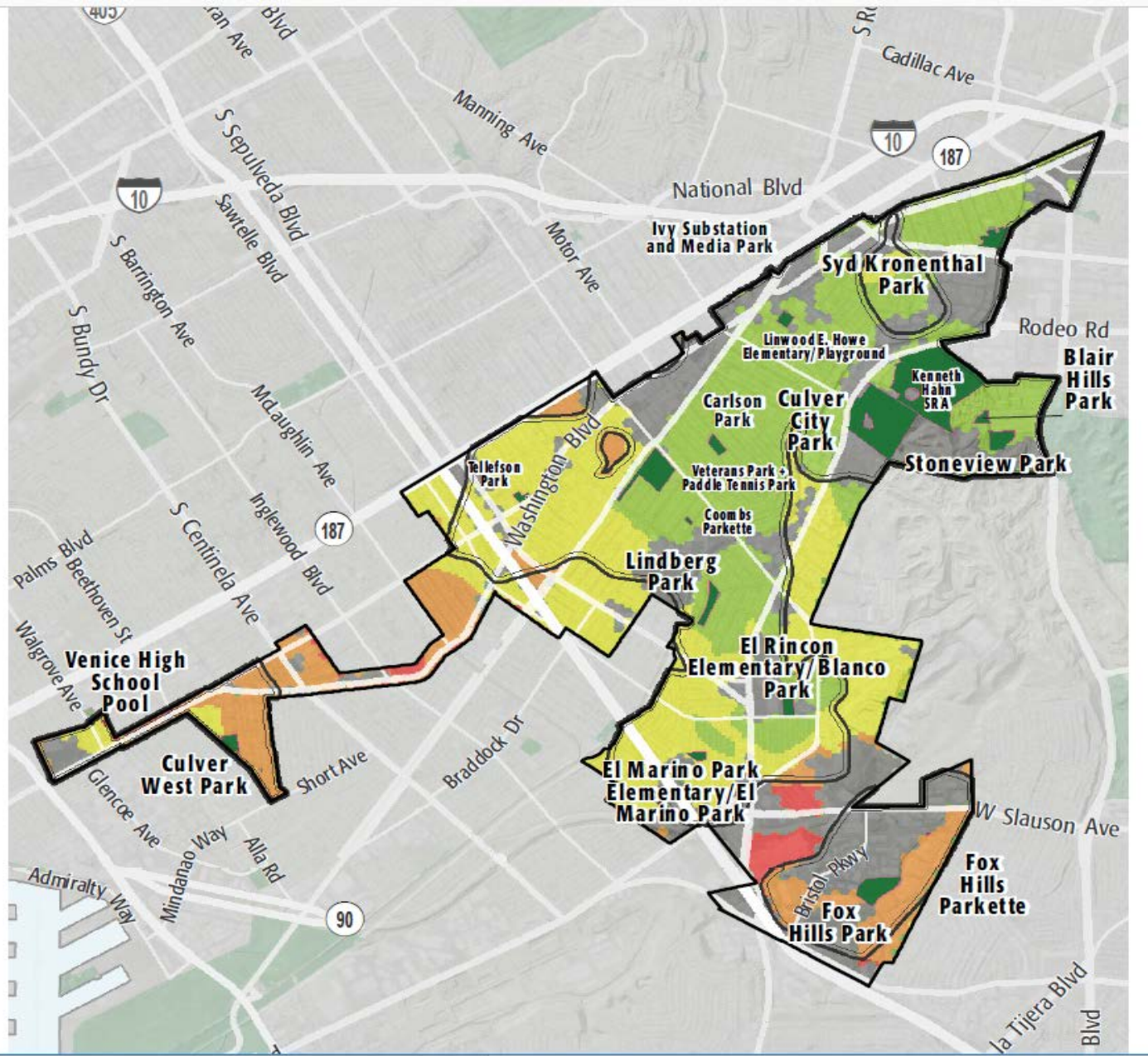


LOS ANGELES COUNTYWIDE COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION NEEDS ASSESSMENT

LOS ANGELES COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS
AND RECREATION

lacountyparkneeds.org

Countywide Parks Needs Assessment



PARK NEED CATEGORY

- Very High
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Very Low
- No Population
- Area within 1/2 mile walk of a park



Thank you!

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