

“Landscapes & Ecosystems” Public & Private Sector Workshop Notes

October 23, 2018

Summary

The following are comments from the Landscapes & Ecosystems-themed workshop billed as “Open Space, Built Environment, and Biodiversity”. The workshop was held on October 23, 2018 at Studio-MLA in Boyle Heights. 71 attendees representing 47 organizations – including public agencies, private sector entities, and planners (see Appendix A) – participated throughout the three and a half-hour workshop via a plenary session, three breakout activities, and a dot-voting prioritization activity. This compilation represents all of the comments that we were able to capture through butcher paper notetaking, computer laptop transcription, and written notes. Because facilitators asked participants to share individual opinions, in some cases comments may conflict or be duplicative.

Discussion on Topic at Large

Workshop participants met in breakout groups to share thoughts on what open space and biodiversity mean to them, its relation to the built environment, and how this relates to the Los Angeles County region. Facilitators led the conversation and took brief notes on key words, phrases, and ideas that emerged.

Key Words: sustainability, biodiversity, education, community change, social justice, engagement, resources – money for managing and maintaining, agency – political and economic empowerment, connectivity

What is open space and biodiversity to you and the organization that you represent?

- “Oasis”, particularly in an urban area
- A place not just for ‘humans’
- Interspecies equity
- Center of community
- Respect and appreciation for nature
- Space of conflict (passive vs. active recreation)
- A place where ecosystem services and natural systems can co-habit
- Health of habitat
- Native or indigenous species, but also look at what works for habitat, even if not always native
- non-native species could be better for pollinators or more resilient in the face of climate change
- community engagement
- need open space to have biodiversity
- Open space: critical piece of urban planning not “nothing”

- SCAG: conserving habitat is a focus, but what about golf courses, urban park, etc.?
- Recreational spaces
- Communal Spaces: discussion, events
- Singapore index (SI) on Cities' Biodiversity
- Urbanized natural spaces, finding a balance
- Ecosystem services: all aspects that contribute to biodiversity
- Connectivity of open spaces
- Looking at parks & open space as a place but also a functional way to create benefits & solve problems
 - Water features for filtration
 - Solar energy storage
 - Homeless solutions
- Not losing opportunities & Considering habitat in all land use choices
- Fully functioning, renewable, wealthy ecosystem with various species → self-sustaining
- Need connectivity between green/open space
- More connectivity than just county land; individual or professional green/open space
- Open space is not always green → accessible community space, plazas
- Open space as an opportunity to take ownership & improve safety in certain areas
 - Ex 6th street bridge
 - Adaptability/resilience to changes
- Equity should be ever-present

How do biodiversity and open space relate to the built environment?

- Cultural history of connection to land
- Resource for public health
- Over-developing without emphasis on open space (we are park poor)
 - Too much emphasis on density and transportation; need more emphasis on passive forms of recreation
- Green space improves air quality and water management
- Health benefits
 - Physical and mental health (mental health often overlooked)
- Open space as playing a role in habitat connectivity
- Trails in urban areas?
 - Enable human and non-human connectivity, while also connecting humans to nature
- open space does not always mean biodiversity. Need to look at built environment, e.g. school yards

- think about placemaking
- corridors of connectivity between larger open space areas
- L.A. river - return some of natural watersheds
- maintenance of open spaces and plant species
- think about multiple uses of space
- denser redevelopment of existing built environment
- plan for climate change and future population growth of the county
- light pollution as something to plan for and think about
- incorporation of desert parts of county - different issues than thinking about tree canopy
- schools: rethink blacktop surfacing. bring in more porous surfaces. will help with biodiversity, tree canopy.
- Privileged space: related to wealth
- We protect it at the detriment to other human communities
- Biodiversity is different in urbanized and non-urbanized areas and then there is a gray area in-between
 - We need biodiversity to support human life
- We live/function in built environment; must seek out nature
- Imprisoned by built environment and our vehicles; stuck w/ old image of automobile as freedom & prosperity
- Repurposing built environment to change perspectives
- Mostly relate to space through private property; not much access through public space. We should transition more private space to public; less private vehicle parking
- How do we change values & lifestyle goals to be more equitable & improve equitable access to space?
- Use dense redevelopment of space to create value & open space
- Built environment is the public realm; needs to be functional & safe
- Re-orienting community values and transitioning private space to public/common space → European / Central & South American-style central space models of main squares, plazas etc.
- Completely privatized space does not resonate culturally
- Evolve and transform public understanding of what modern sustainability means → sharing space rather than having your own private green space (strengthen goal 5, beyond “improving” literacy)
- Quantifying benefits of nature on health & well-being
- “evolve”/transform ecological literacy to include open space, existing uses & built environment
- Develop modern conception of sustainability that recognizes how the built environment can compliment environment/sustainable ecological goals
- Looking beyond relationship at “parks per people” to understand our actual goals for open space
- Teaching complexity of impacts to demonstrate how we are all involved

- Connectivity to large area
- Returning natural watersheds
- Maintenance (staffing, durable species)
- Multi-use space – adaptive use
- Impact of changing climate on species and thus open space
- Light pollution disruption on pollinators
- Incorporating ecosystem needs with street landscaping
- Runoff – considering marine life impact

How do open space, biodiversity, and the built environment affect the region specifically?

- How to coordinate land use decisions to manage conflict?
- Also, need to consider the politics of land use decision-making: who's in the driver's seat?
- We need to improve ecological literacy among local policymakers (i.e. LA is *not* like the east coast, and it is *not* all a desert)
- How to align priorities across different decision-making entities, including local tribes
- Local engagement: what is it that people *want*? Not everyone needs or wants a park
- Making use of specialties in the area (universities, NGOs, etc.)
- Ex. Ballona Creek: meeting place between nature and urbanization: how do we coexist in these spaces
 - Urban runoff and impact on watershed (Santa Monica Bay)
 - Do we prioritize residents and how they use the space or do we prioritize the natural habitat and preserve it in its natural state?
- Urban versus Non-urban?
 - Architecture and urban planning can integrate landscapes into urban areas
 - Need to start integrating at every level and with every project
 - Need to stretch the boundaries of architecture to accommodate nature in the densest areas
- Can we have parks on roofs? Needs a vision and a plan that advocates for more landscapes in the built environment that are open to the public
- Density doesn't mean you can maximize productive landscapes
- Wild Fires - How do you protect open space that are fuel systems and the first line of defense
- Resilience: cross-cutting issue in all strategic plans

Discussion on Goals

Workshop participants stayed in their first breakout groups to provide feedback on general Landscapes and Ecosystems goals that were included in the briefing and framed the discussion. Facilitators led the conversation and took notes on butcher paper and in a typed document.

Goal A: Ensure the region’s landscapes and ecosystems meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- Sounds like more of a vision statement or an overarching theme than a goal. Goal needs to be more specific
- Goal A relates more to Goal G; relates back to education.
- Could be morphed into Goal F
- Add social justice context
- “needs of the present” feels like its missing something. The present what? Present communities?
- Triggers a negative response: too political
- Better manage our natural spaces
 - Ex. Santa Monica Mountains
- Balance and connect natural and urban spaces
- How to weigh landscapes and natural lands with people
- Conversations about:
 - Urban run-off, how residents use space, preservation
 - Urban space - integrating natural, biodiversity on buildings
 - “urban ecology”
 - Seems people oriented
 - Housing and homeless crisis is important in LA county, how do we balance conservation with housing?
- What does landscape mean?
- Holistic understanding of the connection to Ecological literacy
- What is nature infrastructure for community levels? What does that mean to average person?

Goal B: Increase and enhance native biodiversity, habitat, and connectivity.

- Needs to have some specific mention of the region’s status as a biodiversity hotspot
- Through physical connectivity you can promote political cohesiveness
- Need to consider the role of non-native species
 - use of the terms native and non-native is problematic; local and exotic??
 - Non-native to add value in interconnectivity

- “Locally-appropriate” may be a preferable term
- Add “through infrastructure and engineering” This goal is on the cusp of recognizing we need to decide how much open space is appropriate.
- More attention to local context
- Enhance recreation options and access
- Add “recreational”
- Funding opportunities connect to action levels
 - Sustaining momentum
- How do we connect city’s master plans with county master plans?
 - Threading and connecting resources
 - Mechanism for implementation
 - Ex: hazard mitigation plans
 - Multi benefit plans
 - Pre-planning to help connect
- How does this link the County’s General Plan?
 - How can city departments link to these efforts?
- Recognize resilience for the entire county
 - Schools, housing
 - Helping people see how their actions connect to their habitats
- EO Wilson’s half-earth initiative - create habitat corridors for people, and animals.
- Strategy: case studies of development with mix of habitat/ open space/ private land in mind. Confer with private land owners to plan more effectively.

Goal C: Ensure parks, open space and natural areas benefit human and ecosystem health in the context of a changing climate.

- Issues with the word ensure, as it “guarantees” something but doesn’t tell people what you’re doing (i.e. conserving, preserving)
- Suggestion to split Goal C into 2 goals: one around human health and one around ecosystems health.
- Need to consider “climate crisis” as opposed to “climate change” (climate change too passive)
- Increase open spaces to sensitive receptors (schools, hospitals, senior centers, etc.)
- Could be tweaked to add social justice consideration
- Socially-inclusive engagement – people have different values and reactions
- It is not “top-down” knowledge
- Connectivity between present and future residents
- Environment and humans are connected

- How to create a balance between both?
- Education and Economic terms are missing in goals
- This goal should incorporate language that addresses Green Gentrification, as that significantly effects human health
- Shelter: integrated for human and habitat
- Missing explicit focus on water & coastlines

Goal D: Ensure parks, open spaces, and natural areas are resilient in the face of drought, wildfire, climate change, and gaps in maintenance.

- Are we talking in a preventative or reactive sense? Both need to be addressed, but need to be specific
- Need to push beyond resilient: need to talk about ‘thriving’
- ‘Gaps in maintenance’ assumes there will be gaps in maintenance. Need to be more simultaneously optimistic and pragmatic (implies that there will always be gaps in maintenance and we need to be resilient in the face of those gaps)
- Increase climate crisis language
- Add “earthquakes” and “flooding”
- More active measures to prevent climate crisis
- Parks and open spaces should also be resilient in the face of vandalism / damage to parks.
- Need to recognize the resilience of the entire county and the built environment, including buildings and neighborhoods, as this effects the resilience of natural areas
- Demographics varies with who has access to green spaces
- Bridging “languages” and “communications” to the local level
- Teaching people the importance of maintenance post-development

Goal E: Create and manage the built environment’s nature-based infrastructure to optimize multiple benefits and ecosystem services.

- Uses specific terminology that isn’t helpful to the general public: too much jargon
- What is ‘nature based infrastructure’? Need to provide a clear definition, or be less ‘jargony’
- Someone suggested a glossary, but someone else said goals should be written in a clear fashion that negates the need for a glossary
- Strategy: increase permeability of surfaces for rainwater / water collection
- Add “and maintain” after “manage” - need for resources to manage infrastructure. Allow for natural succession.
- Conceptually a nice goal, but might need more specificity. Need for proper management.
- Needs specificity
- Where do we develop?
 - Compactness and constraint

- Strategic sustainable development
- Political power – voting for the right candidates
- Taking advantage of zoning

Goal F: Ensure all residents have access to parks, beaches and other recreational open space.

- could be weighted first: play off the words and have all the goals flow from it: elevates to a vision statement
- Don't just limit to residents. Use the word "communities" instead of residents. Note all 'enjoyers' of nature – we want open space to be accessible to employees and visitors too.
- Expand and add nuance to the term 'access': what does it mean? Physical proximity? Affordability?
- This goal, or a goal should address access to the development and design processes behind parks, beaches, and open space planning
- Needs a clearer meaning on distribution/access
 - Don't get too carried away with access, some areas should be off limits!
- Note use of term 'recreational' (implies physical activity and overlooks passive forms of recreation). Maybe delete "recreational" and leave 'other open space'
- Need access and "opportunity" to interact with nature. To actually engage with communities.
- Add safety and comfort.
- Broaden the context of landscape/open space: open space systems including streetscapes, sidewalks, plazas, etc.
- Trees need to be distributed more equitably

Goal G: Improve ecological literacy.

- Maybe change to "Improve ecological literacy and funding". Or add "and resources"
- This seems overarching as it has to happen first to get public support for everything else
- Need to emphasize that this is not limited to school children and educational institutions: need to promote literacy community-wide, including among policymakers
- Need to educate LA County's various spheres of influence, especially its own departments and staff
- All levels, demographics, socially inclusive engagement
- Information on already built spaces for engagement
- Does not go far enough on educational aspect and making people care.
- Need to include an environmental justice or equity component.
 - Ex: kids in Santa Monica probably get taught more about ecology/ open space than in poorer areas.
- Need engagement from the community to help us understand their values rather than simply educating communities from the top down. Goal needs to be more process oriented.
- Strategy: engage at schools and have an assembly to see what their goals are.

- Make sure empowerment, especially economic empowerment and access to disadvantaged communities are highlighted.
- Add biodiversity
- Should say “Evolve ecological literacy that recognizes how built environment can complement open/green spaces”
- Have to make open spaces more meaningful for communities because they are concerned about other more basic things like parking
- Need a description of all communities, residents, etc.: socially inclusive engagement
- Strategy: Refresh the thinking and community engagement every 3-5 years to keep interest up
- Use the term “understanding” instead of literacy, as it’s more inclusive of a term
- LA County should encourage residents to become champions and have ownership of public parks; become great stewards
- Bringing education into community
- Talk to owners so they understand complete plan; understand impact
- Inclusive engagement

Other Goals-related feedback:

- Where is community engagement in the goals? what is the degree of community participation? It seems limited
- Where is continued community engagement built into the process?
 - Policy Link: 7-9 guidelines for socially responsible community engagement
- Only 1 of the 7 goals is people oriented
 - We need to flip them all to focus on the people because if people do not feel like it is relevant they will be resentful
 - You can achieve both but need to discuss it in the context of the human experience
 - Should not be applied: the value should be in the people perspective
 - They are coupled and there needs to be language to imply that they are relevant rather than weighted favoring the humans
- No mention of the region’s status as a biodiversity hotspot
- School districts: own a lot of property, are the center of our communities, but have been absent from this process. Need to incorporate school into goals, strategies, and actions. Maybe explicit mention in Goal A?
- Need to locate parks in close proximity to ‘sensitive receptors’ (i.e. schools, hospitals, senior centers)
- Where do we address political support and funding?
- One thing not seen: answer the question so what? Need to add education aspect to make people care
- When discussing improving space and infrastructure, equity needs to be explicit. By improving parks, how are you ensuring you don’t gentrify people out of areas?

- Empower communities to not depend on the government for everything
- Goals should emphasize the need for public-private partnerships.
- Developers generally agree with goals but may disagree on policies/strategies.
- Where do you develop? Balance with maintaining ecosystem services and city with densification/ land consumption.
- Open spaces are under threat of development.
 - Example of Santa Monica mountains - much is privately owned. Areas that are already built also need to get denser.
- With growth of LA population, how do we remove the boundaries / conceptions of “what is the appropriate density?”
- Housing crisis and homelessness: needs to be addressed everywhere
- Education and Economics are missing: catch people’s self-interested eyes and make them more interested in action
- Prioritize based on the biggest impact on people
 - Maybe weight the strategies, rather than the goals
 - Maybe goals will be prioritized based on how realistic the strategies are based on funding and policy
- Land uses in transportation are hurting the county - people are trapped in their cars and public transportation is not accessible and easy to use.
- Goal language needed that emphasizes activation of parks, programming, and sustainability of programs; maintenance, marketing, and activation of parks
- Explicit goal needed to preserve and create open space
- Goals should be open ended and vague enough to allow for creativity
- Incorporating living systems like green spaces within living spaces
- Non-traditional open and green spaces like green roofs, linear parks, and connectivity
- Changing the view and vision of parks and park uses- expanding on uses and looking at multi-uses with functionality; collection of solar power, collection and cleaning water, looking at how homeless folks can maintain open spaces
- Not losing opportunities and considering habitat in all land use choices
- Fully functioning, renewable, and healthy ecosystems that can be functional
- There is no goal that reflects water spaces and coastline - strengthen the language and make it more explicit
- Evolve values on how we look at public spaces
- Open spaces is not only green spaces but plazas, community gathering spaces, and multi-use public spaces
- A lot of land in LA is private spaces - single family homes and their front yards - that is underutilized; looking at how we can densify spaces and looking at the relationship between open and private space

- Looking at how we can connect green spaces not only in county land but through private residences and work spaces
- Looking at large infrastructure projects (bridges, over passes, etc.) and activating the spaces around and under for community wellbeing and protecting the integrity of infrastructure projects
- Involving the public and community in the development of green spaces
- Looking ahead at technology and how are we going to develop policies towards the future we want- how aggressive should we be with policy making for future tech
- Social norm changes in LA to reflect better values that are sustainable and equitable that are reflected through land use
- Looking at how the built environment reflects cultural values to step away from privatization
- Quantifying benefits of nature on health and wellbeing
- Impact of connectivity on open space
- Incorporate multi-use spacing
- Redefining land ownership expectations/reprioritizations
- Transportation is a critical component could be incorporated into goals or part of its own goal
- Encourage environmental stewardship among residents
- Goals should include program activation & maintenance & marketing in addition to access
- Land use could be addressed more explicitly
- Should focus on type of access like public transit or bike/pedestrian walkways
- Using parks & open space to mitigate fragmentation of communities by transit corridors etc. – use open space to build connectivity
- Goals should be open enough that they are inclusive & encourage creativity (like Goal E)
- How do we incorporate greenery & green space into the built environment – non-traditional open space & connectivity – ex. linear parks

Discussion on Strategies

This breakout session began with an activity where participants partnered up and shared how the draft Goals reflect their own professional and personal expertise. This conversation led into a discussion around potential strategies. Participants were asked to develop a list of Landscapes and Ecosystems-related sustainability strategies. A series of cross-cutting topics were posted in the breakout room that participants were encouraged to use to solicit strategies across a diverse range of sustainability topics. The breakout session concluded with a dot-voting exercise in which participants selected three strategy ideas they feel should be prioritized in the Plan.

Top vote getting strategies:

- youth engagement and education on community and habitat.
- balance restoration with use
- work with school districts and leverage museums/cultural orgs to raise programs that improve ecological literacy
- incentivize open space opportunities for community members/incentivize eco-literacy
- More shade (like street trees and smart design) to decrease heat island
- Integrate fire safety into sustainability plans for wildlife spaces
- Limit development in sensitive/dangerous areas to prevent fire issues (zoning, push state/national change)
- Educate planning directors in cities/counties to not develop in rural, sprawled areas (limit incentives)
- Develop ideal scenarios for transportation, land use, and housing
- Mapping key partners (Asset-based Map)
- Youth engagement education on core of community and habitat
 - Teach skills in public planning, policy planning
 - Community events for beautification projects
- Create parks that can act as cooling centers
- Hire locally for jobs at parks and public spaces
- Developing green/open spaces in sensitive receptor areas (schools, senior centers, hospitals, etc.)
- Create a coalition that spurs interagency/municipality collaboration
- Engaging community before developing
- Increase surface permeability in parks and public spaces
- Develop county-level biodiversity index & action plan
 - Identify biodiversity criteria
 - Public/private partnerships around funding
- Crowdsource data collection within communities
- Include engagement & education for city council & city officials & state level/county level



- Partner with local schools & non-profit for education & volunteer curriculum

Strategy discussion and ideas based on topic area:

Water

- Infiltration stations/bioremediation stations along waterways: groundwater recharge and water purification in gardens
- Forests for water treatment. Use natural systems for water treatment.
- Think about incorporation of water with recreational spaces. Cooling effect.
- Concern that there has not been much innovation in wastewater management despite the availability of financing

Energy

- Need policy incentives to spur flat roofs: potential for solar power

Waste

- Support orgs like L.A. Compost: access to soil and soil remediation
- Food systems and agriculture.
- Repurpose green waste. County can encourage that activity and keep jobs local

Resilience Infrastructure

- Create resilient and rehabilitative open/green spaces for natural disasters - fires, floods, and earthquakes

Housing

- Create requirements for natural vegetation or gardens in new development
- Change people minds about front yards
- Homeowners and renters could be another key stakeholder group
- Incorporate homeless advocate groups into sustainability processes
- Ties to sustainability and ecological health along the river
- Local services for the homeless population using specific open space types
- Master plan for open/green spaces
- Promote connectivity in the development and planning process
- Need to value the habitat that is there now rather than replace after (ie. tree ordinance)
- Stop the proliferation of Centennial and other exurban development
 - Excluded from SEA - why?
 - Why are developers allowed to build before public transit has been built?

- Metro does have a long-term plan to construct multi-use transit facilities (transit, housing, commercial, etc.)

Racial Justice

- Stakeholder engagement is not equitable, accessible, preaching to the choir, same people attend
- Have community organizations and local stakeholders at the table from the beginning
- Address fragmented neighborhoods by freeways by giving space back to those neighborhoods through park and open space; through, under, or above freeways
- Green gentrification: Micro-parks, streetscapes = for the residents and limits
- Allow parks to be open late, during cooler parts of the day, but need to have safety. Parks as cooling centers during high heat days, especially in vulnerable communities.
- Public water, restrooms, facilities. Needs to be regulated, but can increase opportunities for access to water/ outlets, etc.
- Access to parks:
 - School field trips to urban parks every afternoon
 - Work with transit
 - Schools: less impermeable services

Parks and Public Spaces

- County can buy lots and convert to pocket-parks
 - Or work with partners such as From Lot to Spot
 - Working with developers? Public-private partnerships?
 - Tension: be strategic in acquisition vs. 'get 'em where you can'
- Need to consider alternative approaches to maintenance and management
- Use park and public space infrastructure to reduce heat island effect
 - Permeable surfaces
 - Small scale green spaces
 - More tree canopies
- Create a traveling animal show that helps connect communities to nature
- Expanding the tree canopy region wide throughout LA County
 - Contracting private citizens and local nonprofits to plant trees
 - Complaints about tree planting: bees too loud!
- Utilizing greenways (LA River, etc.) to connect communities
- Developing green/open spaces in sensitive receptive areas (schools, senior centers, hospitals)
 - Prioritize disenfranchised communities and make sure these spaces are maintained as well
- Appropriate and additional density to connect to open spaces

- Rooftop gardens, garden balconies, etc.
- Access to open spaces - looking at how people can access parks and open spaces that is pedestrian oriented rather than car oriented

Ecological literacy

- Leverage existing relationships with County agencies (museums, etc) to promote programs
- Mapping biodiversity through citizen science (leveraging existing NHM program)
- promote urban gardening programs. Use them to teach young people about health and wellness
- Classroom learning is good, but field trips are where it's at. Need to provide funding for transit to facilitate field trips
 - Consider Electrify America and existing Metro efforts as examples
- When considering 'improving ecological literacy', need to consider communities that already have strong literacy. Imposing 'literacy' reduces opportunities for community ownership
- Availability of opportunities is one thing, but ensuring access - particularly for community members - is quite distinct
 - How to structure incentives that appeal to local communities
- Corporate sector could be a partner for community service
- Environmental Education: currently being led by non-profits
 - Requirement in schools to volunteer
 - Addresses equity issue
- Community groups to enhance neighborhood gardens: pollinator friendly (ie. National Wildlife Foundation)
- Work with schools for education and community service
 - Teaching, trainings, services

Agriculture and Food Systems

- Can be used as a means of education (farming and cooking), workforce development, and economic development opportunities
 - Encouraging part
 - See 'RootDown LA' as an example
- Training local residents in urban forestry may have multiple benefits (workforce development, park maintenance, etc.)
- Healthy soil: different for each ecosystems
- Know best practices for each site type: guidance documents
- Instead of building new supermarket, consider installing urban ag and local markets. Can also be linked to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (see San Jose example)



Governance

- County is in a position to drive change across multiple levels of government, including ‘managing up’
- How are current incentives for development structured, and how can they be changed to promote more sustainable forms of development?
- Pool data from county and cities. Look to both limitations and opportunities. Use data to create a baseline for needs assessment.
- More collaboration between public and private entities
- Increase coordination between cities, and also coordinate between city agencies.
- Have a breakout session just for city council, Mayors and Managers: different priorities

Engagement

- Look at nontraditional ways of interacting with people who wouldn’t normally be invested in government. Think about language barriers as well. Add a job-development or community development piece. Ask community members how they want to be engaged.
- Have a cohesive message that spells out the regional vision.
- Ex. different cities have urban forestry management plans. Need to coordinate among the 88 cities for this too, pests don’t see municipal boundaries so look to a regional approach.
- Help communities help themselves. What role can the county play to help groups do it themselves.
- Look to youth - like Smokey the Bear! Engage youth with parks - summer jobs.
- Engage adults: Kaboom like programs where community people participate in park and playground building.
- Create media resources; series of videos that can be shared with decision makers.
- Open up underutilized spaces to the community and allow community engagement
- Mapping:
 - Asset-based map to find out strengths of organizations, partnerships, resources. Include mapping human resources and otherwise, grant opportunities, ways to attempt to contribute to strategies and goals. Regional data base of funding sources and best practices.
 - Map out land: who has power over what land.
 - Map habitat linkages.

Transportation

- Active transportation planning. Document the economic benefits of active transportation.
- Public spaces and transit: use bus stops as placemakers.
- Opportunity for art installations. Especially site-specific art.

Biodiversity

- We are missing a baseline of what natural resources we currently have
- Funding is a constraint: economic studies to quantify ecosystem services



Other strategy notes:

- More shade! Will promote walking, address heat island effect, promote access to transit
- Need to integrate considerations around wildfire into land use and development plans
- Stop building houses in places that fall off cliffs and burn down
- City and county cutting down trees to prevent wildfires but this then results in flood risk
- Rethink what “green” means in green space and looking at different landscapes (dry landscapes, etc.)
- Redefine the American dream
- Develop regulations that are directly related to resources.
- Need to balance access with restoration/ habitat.
- Ensure locally appropriate plants; seed collection in that specific area
 - Nursery plants are often diseased even before planting

Public & Private Partnerships Notes

A final breakout session had attendees pair off. Each pair developed a concept for a public-private partnership opportunity that integrates open space, the built environment, and biodiversity. Public-private partnership ideas were written down on a sticky note and shared with the full group.

- Private/nonprofits can “Adopt a public space” by creating training programs for landscape maintenance
- Set up a steering committee to facilitate pilot projects
 - Target private/nonprofit partnerships
 - Grant funding
 - Execution and outreach regarding results
 - Examples of pilot projects:
 - Stormwater improvement at school or transit site (aka should be multi-benefit)
- Partnership between developers and parks to minimize habitat loss by compensation = buy adjacent valuable habitat to preserve (ie. give back so parks stay natural)
- Partnership with developers to incentivize / require crafting open and public space within development
 - Short term implementation and maintenance by developer, followed by establishment maintained by public sector
- Working with employers and developers to provide open space that meets local needs and advances community planning and development
- In food deserts, replace grocery stores and shopping centers with multi-use parks that incorporate urban gardens with private growers, water reclamation projects, farmers markets – and employ local citizens at these spaces
- Long term parking strategy that has more flexibility in regulations / policy to anticipate the decline in parking demand and the potential re-use of lots for future open space
- Cities should partner with developers for community amenities, offering streamlined permits, etc in return for the private sector paying for amenities
- Implement and increase public transportation near the new LA Stadium through a light rail connection paid for in part by new development in the area



Appendix A: Workshop Attendee List by Organization

- AECOM
- BIA
- CARS LA
- Central City Association
- City of Arcadia
- City of Burbank
- City of Carson
- City of Carson
- City of Compton
- City of Culver City
- City of Inglewood
- City of Long Beach
- City of Los Angeles
- City of Los Angeles DCP
- City of Los Angeles Rec & Parks
- City of Malibu
- City of Paramount City
- City of Pasadena
- City of Santa Monica
- City of Torrance
- ENGEO
- Gaia Development
- Gensler
- HDR
- HUD
- Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell
- Kilroy Realty
- Kindel Gagan
- LA Chamber of Commerce
- LA County Dept of Public Health
- LA County Dept of Public Works
- LA County Dept of Regional Planning



- LA County Parks
- Los Angeles Stadium and Entertainment District
- Majestic Realty
- Meridian Consultants LLC
- Metro
- National Park Service
- Natural History Museum & La Brea Tar Pits
- River LA
- San Gabriel Valley COG
- Southern California Association of Governments
- The Music Center - Grand Park
- The Playa Group, LLC
- US Forest Service
- US Geological Survey
- US Green Building Council
- Verdical Group