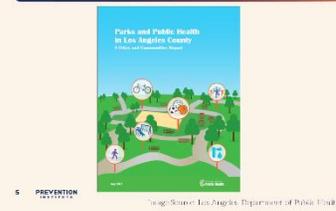


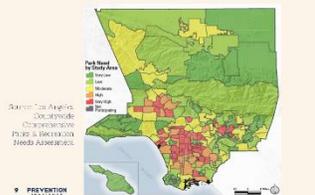
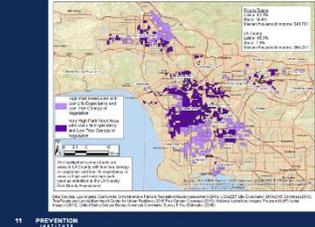
**Park Equity, Life Expectancy, and Power Building Presentation Slides Script- DRAFT**

<p>1</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Title Slide: Park Equity, Life Expectancy and Power Building</li> </ul>
<p>2</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Introductions: name and organization</i></li> <li>• Prevention Institute partnered with UCLA, seven base-building nonprofits, and a representative from the LA County Department of Public Health’s Center for Health Equity for this work.</li> <li>• <i>Give brief background on organization’s involvement in the project and park equity work</i></li> </ul>
<p>3</p>		<p><i>Describe pivotal moment in LA County regarding infrastructure funding measures</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Los Angeles County voters recently enacted two countywide parcel tax measures (Measure A, the Safe, Clean Neighborhood Parks and Beaches Measure of 2016, and Measure W, the Safe, Clean Water Act of 2018) and a statewide bond (Proposition 68, the California <i>Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018</i>), that will generate hundreds of millions of dollars each year in perpetuity for parks, open space, and stormwater-related green infrastructure.</li> <li>• These measures, now in their implementation phases, hold the potential to build or revitalize parks and green space in the LA region’s highest need communities. Strategically spent, the revenue from these measures could set us on a path to eliminate the region’s deplorable park inequities while reducing associated health inequities and gaps in life expectancy.</li> </ul>
<p>4</p>		<p><i>Goals of this presentation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our goals of this presentation are to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Review evidence on park and green space and related health inequities in the Los Angeles region</li> <li>○ Describe results from new research linking park access to life expectancy</li> <li>○ Lay out a framework for achieving park equity</li> <li>○ Propose policy recommendations</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

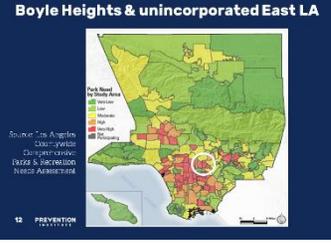
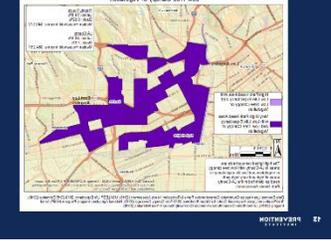
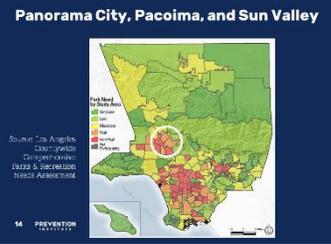
**Park Equity, Life Expectancy, and Power Building Presentation Slides Script- DRAFT**

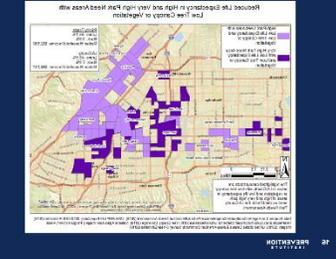
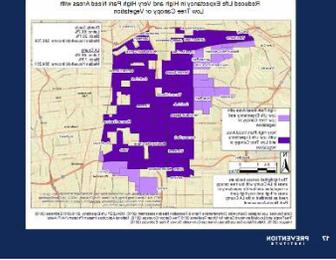
<p>5</p>	<p><b>What do parks have to do with health and health equity?</b></p>  <p><small>Image Source: Los Angeles Department of Public Health</small></p>	<p><i>What do parks have to do with health and health equity?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban parks and green spaces are essential community infrastructure that protect public health by providing opportunities for physical activity, time in nature, social connection and respite.</li> <li>• Uneven and inequitable distribution of park space and programming limits opportunities for physical activity and increases the risk of developing chronic disease.</li> <li>• A study by LA County Department of Public Health found that on average, LA County cities and unincorporated areas with less park space per capita have “higher rates of premature mortality from cardiovascular disease and diabetes, higher prevalence of childhood obesity, and greater economic hardship compared with cities and communities with more park space per capita.” It also found that Blacks and Latinos are more likely than Asian Americans and whites to live in cities and communities with less park space.</li> </ul>
<p>6</p>	<p><b>Park Access is Not Equal Across Communities</b></p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• African Americans and Latinos are likelier to live in areas that have less park space per capita compared to Whites and Asians</li> <li>• Access to parks associated with:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>↑ physical activity, environmental benefits</li> <li>↓ asthma, stress, violence</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><small>Image Source: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks &amp; Recreation Needs Assessment</small></p>	<p><i>Parks are not distributed equitably</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All communities do not have access to safe, well-maintained, and programmed parks and green spaces. Many studies across multiple geographies, including the LA region, show that Blacks, Latinos, and people who live in low-income neighborhoods have less access to parks and green spaces than people who live in more affluent or predominately white communities.</li> <li>• This park need map was produced as part of the groundbreaking Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Park and Recreation Needs Assessment (PNA). The PNA found that an astounding 52.6% of the region’s more than 10 million residents live in either ‘high park need’ or ‘very high park need’ areas. Most of these high and very high need areas are concentrated in low-income communities of color.</li> </ul>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Average Acres per 1,000 Residents in Each ‘need’ Category</b></p>  <p><small>Image Source: Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks &amp; Recreation Needs Assessment</small></p>	<p><i>Average acres per 1,000 residents in each ‘need’ category</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the County averages 3.3 acres of parkland (the size of about three football fields) per 1,000 residents, 32% of LA County residents live in ‘high park need’ communities with an average of just 1.6 acres per 1,000 residents.</li> <li>• A further 20.4% live in ‘very high park need’ areas with an average of 0.7 acres per 1,000.</li> <li>• In comparison, ‘moderate park need’ areas have 11.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, ‘low park need’ areas have 12.5 acres per 1,000, and ‘very low park need’ areas have 52 acres per 1,000.</li> </ul>
<p>8</p>	<p><b>Production of park inequity in the land use system</b></p>  <p><small>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 Advance an Equitable Culture of Health</small></p>	<p><i>Production of park inequities in the land use system</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park and green space inequities are a form of systemic racism resulting from historical and current day policies, practices, and procedures.</li> <li>• Factors contributing to park inequities include racial segregation, biased planning decisions, discriminatory post-WWII home loans, exclusionary zoning, racial covenants, and redlining, among others.</li> <li>• Present day drivers of park inequities include shifting responsibility for public services, the anti-tax movement and reduced ability of cities with limited tax-bases and large low-income populations to provide parks and recreation services.</li> </ul>

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<p>9</p>	<p><b>Production of park inequities</b></p> 	<p><i>Production of park inequities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unable to keep pace with acquisition of park land post-Prop 13, Los Angeles became one of largest park-poor cities in the US</li> <li>• Reversing park inequities is critically important, not only to eliminate the park and green space gap between the haves and have-nots in Los Angeles County, but because they negatively impact the entire region.</li> <li>• Reversing park inequities could, for example, help eliminate economic losses associated with excess health care expenditures and support regional climate change adaptation.</li> </ul>
<p>10</p>	<p><b>Research synopsis</b></p> 	<p><i>New research shows that adding parks can increase life expectancy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2019, with funding from Urban Institute’s <i>Powering Healthy Lives</i> initiative, Prevention Institute set out to explore the relationship between the availability of parks and life expectancy at the census tract level, using data from the United States Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project (USALEEP).</li> <li>• Life expectancy is the average number of years a person can expect to live calculated by averaging across the population and serves as one indicator of overall community health.</li> <li>• Life expectancy in LA County ranges from 69 to 93 years.</li> <li>• Prevention Institute partnered with UCLA and the previously identified members of a community advisory board to conduct this research.</li> <li>• We found that increasing park acreage has the potential to increase life expectancy for LA County residents in areas that have significant park deficits as well as less tree canopy cover or lower vegetation levels than the county median.</li> </ul>
<p>11</p>	<p><b>Reduce Life Expectancy in High and Very High Park Need Areas with Low Tree Canopy or Vegetation</b></p> 	<p><i>New research shows that adding parks can increase life expectancy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The study used predictive modeling and built upon the work of the LA County Park Needs Assessment, which used park acreage as one of the main park metrics in determining ‘need.’</li> <li>• It found that if all of the census tracts in LA County with park deficits and low tree canopy levels had an increase in park acreage up to the median for LA County tracts (about 54 acres within a two-mile radius of each census tract), LA County would likely see considerable life expectancy gains for each resident living in those tracts.</li> <li>• Approximately 164,700 years in life expectancy could be gained across the population of all people living in census tracts in LA County with park deficits and low tree canopy levels.</li> <li>• Targeted investments in park infrastructure could significantly benefit the health of Latino and Black residents. Calculating gains specifically for these two groups, targeted investments could result in an increase of almost 118,000 years of life expectancy.</li> </ul>

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<p>12</p>		<p><i>Boyle Heights &amp; unincorporated East LA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-documented park deficits in Boyle Heights and East LA deny residents opportunities for physical activity, respite, exposure to nature and the other health benefits associated with parks and green space.</li> <li>The PNA designated Boyle Heights and East LA as having primarily ‘Very High Park Need’ neighborhoods, with an average of 0.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents (Boyle Heights also has a small geographic area that is categorized as ‘High Park Need’ with an average of 1.7 acres of parkland per 1,000).</li> <li>In comparison, the countywide average is 3.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents and communities with the lowest level of park need average of 52 acres per 1,000.</li> </ul>
<p>13</p>		<p><i>Boyle Heights &amp; unincorporated East LA</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Boyle Heights and East LA, the median life expectancy is 80 years, well below the upper bound for the county as a whole or 93 years. About 15 miles away in the low park need community of Beverly Hills, the life expectancy is as high as 90 years, a 10-year disparity.</li> <li>This map shows the census tracts in East LA and Boyle Heights where public dollars dedicated for parks and green space should be prioritized to increase health benefits for residents. It identifies priority census tracts that have 1) low life expectancy, 2) low tree canopy or vegetation and 3) are also in an area with identified ‘High Park Need’ (light purple) or ‘Very High Park Need’ (dark purple) as determined by the LA County Park Needs Assessment.</li> <li>There are 119,540 people living in the park-poor census tracts identified in this map. The median household income in these tracts is \$40,372, compared to the countywide median income of \$64,251. While Latinos make up 49% of LA County’s population, they represent 94% of people living in these high park need/low life expectancy tracts.</li> </ul>
<p>14</p>		<p><i>Panorama City, Pacoima, and Sun Valley</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Well-documented park deficits in Northeast Valley deny residents opportunities for physical activity, respite, exposure to nature and the other health benefits associated with parks and green space.</li> <li>The PNA designated Pacoima and Sun Valley communities as having primarily ‘High Park Need’ and the Panorama City community as ‘Very High Park Need’, with an average of 1.6 and 0.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, respectively.</li> <li>In comparison, the countywide average is 3.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents communities with the lowest level of park need have an average of 52 acres per 1,000 residents.</li> </ul>

<p>15</p>		<p><i>Panorama City, Pacoima, and Sun Valley</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In these Northeast Valley communities, the median life expectancy is 80 years, well below the upper bound for the county as a whole (93 years). About 20 miles away, the low park need Beverly Hills community’s life expectancy is as high as 90 years, a 10-year disparity</li> <li>• This map shows the census tracts in San Fernando Valley where public dollars dedicated for parks and green space should be prioritized to increase health benefits for residents. The map identifies priority census tracts that have 1) low life expectancy, 2) low tree canopy or vegetation and 3) are also in an area with identified ‘High Park Need’ (light purple) or ‘Very High Park Need’ (dark purple) as determined by the LA County Park Needs Assessment.</li> <li>• There are 431,660 people living in the park-poor census tracts identified in the map. The median household income in these tracts is \$53,490, compared to the countywide median income of \$64,251. While Latinos make up 49% of LA County’s population, they represent 66% of people living in these high park need/low life expectancy tracts.</li> </ul>
<p>16</p>		<p><i>South Los Angeles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Well-documented park deficits in South LA deny residents opportunities for physical activity, respite, exposure to nature and the other health benefits associated with parks and green space.</li> <li>• The PNA designated South LA as having primarily ‘High Park Need’ and ‘Very High Park Need’ neighborhoods, with an average of 1.6 and 0.7 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents, respectively.</li> <li>• In comparison, the countywide average is 3.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents communities with the lowest level of park need have an average of 52 acres per 1,000 residents.</li> </ul>
<p>17</p>		<p><i>South Los Angeles</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In South LA, the median life expectancy is 77 years- 16 years below the upper bound for the county (93 years). less than 15 miles away in the low park need community of Beverly Hills, the life expectancy is as high as 90 years, a 13-year disparity.</li> <li>• The map shows the census tracts in South LA where public dollars dedicated for parks and green space should be prioritized to increase health benefits for residents. The map identifies priority census tracts that have 1) low life expectancy, 2) low tree canopy or vegetation and 3) are also in an area with identified ‘High Park Need’ (light purple) or ‘Very High Park Need’ (dark purple) as determined by the LA County Park Needs Assessment.</li> <li>• 727,468 people live in the park-poor census tracts identified in the map. The median household income in these tracts is \$40,758, compared to the countywide median income of \$64,251 While Blacks make up 8% of the total LA County population, they represent 29% of the population living in these tracts. Additionally, while Latinos</li> </ul>

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		<p>make up 49% of LA County’s population, they represent 67% of people living in these high park need/low life expectancy tracts.</p>
<p>18</p>	<p><b>Reversing Inequities: A Framework for Park Equity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedural Equity</li> <li>• Distributional Equity</li> <li>• Structural Equity</li> </ul> <p>18 PREVENTION PARTNERS</p>	<p><i>Reversing Inequities: A Framework for Park Equity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organized around three key equity objectives, this framework encourages us to look beyond the outcomes we see today to intentionally address systemic barriers with roots in historical policies and practices, to change processes that reproduce present-day outcomes, and to hold systems—and decision-makers within those systems—accountable to closing gaps.</li> </ul>
<p>19</p>	<p><b>Procedural Equity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision-making about all aspects of park and green space functions</li> <li>• Community engagement to secure input at each stage of park development</li> <li>• Condition and quality of park and green space infrastructure, amenities, and features</li> <li>• Staffing and services related to operations, maintenance, and programming</li> </ul> <p>19 PREVENTION PARTNERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Procedural equity</u> involves decision-making processes—related to all aspects of parks and green space from placement to design, construction, and programming—that are transparent, equitable, and inclusive with regard to who participates, how they are engaged, and how input is valued. For example:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Decision-making about all aspects of park and green space functions</li> <li>○ Community engagement to secure input at each stage of park development</li> <li>○ The condition and quality of park and green space infrastructure, amenities, and features</li> <li>○ Staffing and services related to operations, maintenance, and programming</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>20</p>	<p><b>Distributional Equity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribution and accessibility of parks and green spaces in communities</li> <li>• Distribution of facilities, amenities, and features placed within a park or green space</li> <li>• Fiscal allocation formulas for park and green space development or improvements</li> </ul> <p>20 PREVENTION PARTNERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Distributional equity</u> is often the first thing people think about when they consider park and green space equity because it is the most readily quantifiable. Distributional equity primarily covers:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Distribution and accessibility of parks and green spaces in communities</li> <li>○ Distribution of facilities, amenities, and features placed within a park or green space</li> <li>○ Fiscal allocation formulas for park and green space development or improvements</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>21</p>	<p><b>Structural Equity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving staff representation at all agency levels among people of color and other marginalized groups</li> <li>• Internalizing and operationalizing equity and racial justice across agency staff and leadership</li> <li>• Designing and programming park facilities and green space to function as sites of healing and resilience</li> </ul> <p>21 PREVENTION PARTNERS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Structural equity</u> addresses underlying structural factors and policies that give rise to parks and green space inequities in the first place and it makes a commitment to correct past harms and prevent future unintended consequences. For example:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improving staff representation at all agency levels among people of color and other marginalized groups</li> <li>○ Internalizing and operationalizing equity and racial justice across agency staff and leadership</li> <li>○ Designing and programming park facilities and green space to function as sites of healing and resilience</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<p>22</p>	<p><b>Roadmap to equity: Recommendations for reversing park inequities</b></p>  <p>Park Equity, Life Expectancy, and Power Building Prevention Institute</p>	<p><i>Roadmap to Equity: Recommendations for Reversing Park Inequities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on the evidence demonstrating park inequities and related health inequities, novel research linking park access to longevity and the framework for achieving park equity, we provide 12 policy recommendations for the evolving movement for park equity in Los Angeles.</li> <li>• A few examples include:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Prioritize park investments in communities experiencing the greatest park deficits</li> <li>○ Collect data on park inequities and make it publicly available</li> <li>○ Fund community-based organizations to conduct oversight and ensure transparency of park investments</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All 12 recommendations for reversing park inequities can be found in our <i>Park Equity, Life Expectancy and Power Building Policy Brief and Overview</i></li> </ul>
<p>23</p>	<p><b>COVID-19</b></p>  <p>Images source: Creative Commons, Safarid</p>	<p><i>COVID-19</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The park equity movement in Los Angeles is grappling with another crisis that threatens the gains it has made in the recent past: the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• While we can learn a lot about the critical role of parks from efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus, the shutdowns and physical-distancing requirements do not inherently change the underlying inequities or dynamics of ensuring park equity in the LA region.</li> <li>• The pandemic’s economic fallout, however, creates a major fiscal setback for park agencies that will disproportionately impact communities most impacted by the COVID-19 virus and park inequities.</li> <li>• Unprecedented and massive cuts to recreation divisions of park agencies and consolidation of these agencies with other city departments are taking place across LA County in real time.</li> </ul>
<p>24</p>	<p><b>Policy change and accountability</b></p>  <p>Images Source: Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Herb Soto</p>	<p><i>Policy change and accountability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park inequities will persist as long as local jurisdictions do not prioritize investments in park and green space infrastructure and programs proven to increase health, social, and environmental benefits in the communities that need them the most.</li> <li>• Money alone is insufficient to fully reverse these inequities. The systems, policies, practices, and norms that produced park and green space inequities in the first place must be identified, analyzed, and authentically reformed to ensure that new, prioritized resources achieve their intended results.</li> <li>• A key element of this reversal involves transparency and accountability for change within agencies responsible for parks and green space infrastructure.</li> </ul>

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<p>25</p>	<p><b>Power building and procedural equity</b></p> 	<p><i>Power building and procedural equity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with shifting public opinion about structural inequities and institutional racism, people living in communities that have been historically excluded from park-related decision-making must be included and heard.</li> <li>• History and more recent events demonstrate that practices governing the status quo won't change without pressure. Intentional and strategic power building among an expanded network of base-building organizations is the key to reversing biased policies, procedures, practices, and norms, and investing in park and green space infrastructure more equitably.</li> <li>• This work is urgently need in Los Angeles and throughout the United States.</li> </ul>
<p>26</p>	<p><i>This project is supported by the Urban Institute and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation</i></p> 	<p><i>Closing remarks</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We would like to close by thanking our funders for their support.</li> <li>• This work is supported by the Urban Institute through funds provided by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.</li> <li>• We thank them for their support and acknowledge that the findings and conclusions presented are of ours alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Urban Institute or the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.</li> </ul>