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# City of Los Angeles Biodiversity & Healthy Soils Initiatives



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LA Sanitation & Environment



Runyon Canyon Park

# Outline

- **Biodiversity**
  - Biodiversity Program background
  - LA City Biodiversity Index
  - RAP & Biodiversity
- **Healthy Soils**
  - Healthy Soils Program background
  - Healthy Soils Strategy Document
  - RAP & Healthy Soils
- **Recommendations**



Echo Park

# LASAN Biodiversity Program

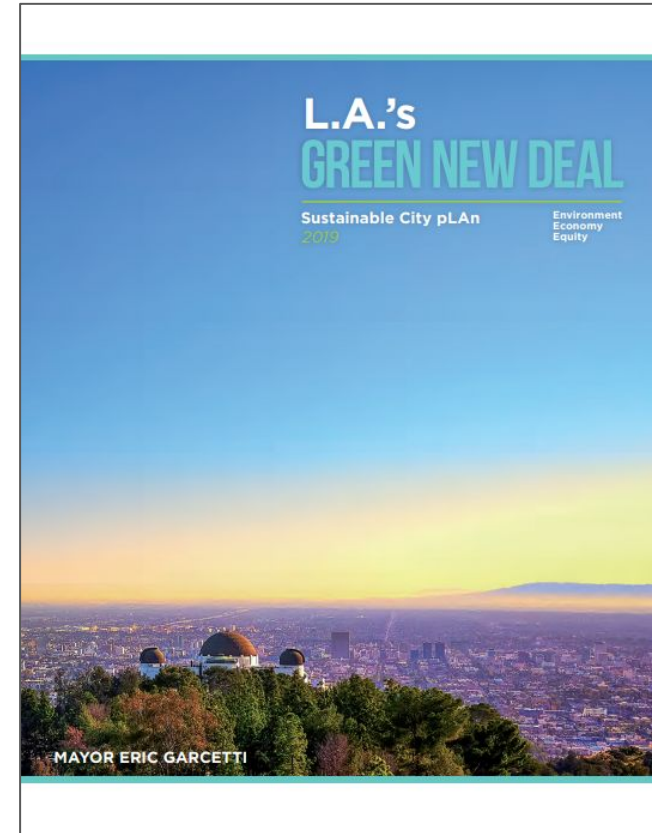
- 2017 Biodiversity Council Motion
  - Protect and enhance biodiversity
  - Ultimate objective: create a biodiversity index for the City of LA that will measure progress on biodiversity goals
- 2019 LA's Green New Deal

Urban Ecosystems & Resilience

 **Target**

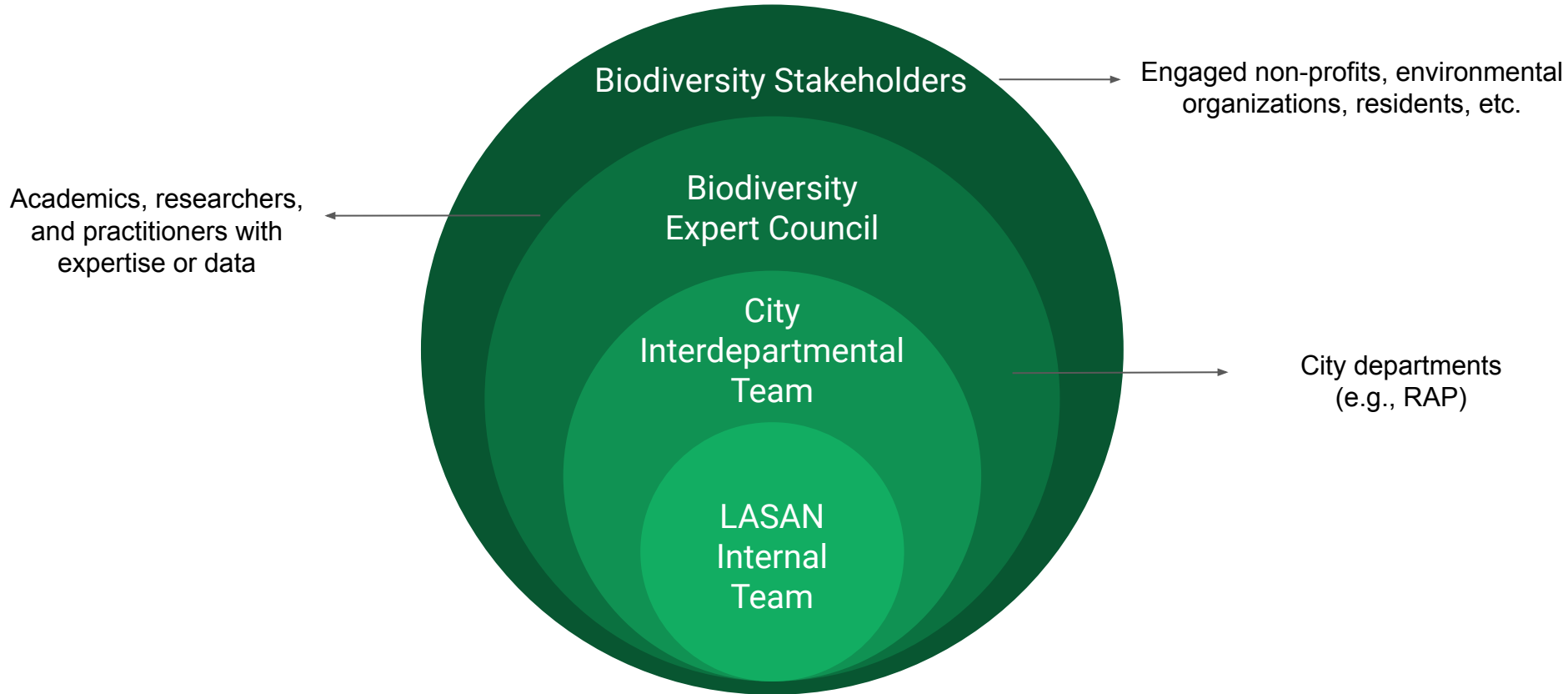
**Achieve and maintain 'no-net loss' of native biodiversity by 2035**

Baseline: Will be established in 2019 Biodiversity index  
Source: City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation





# LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN) Biodiversity Collaborations

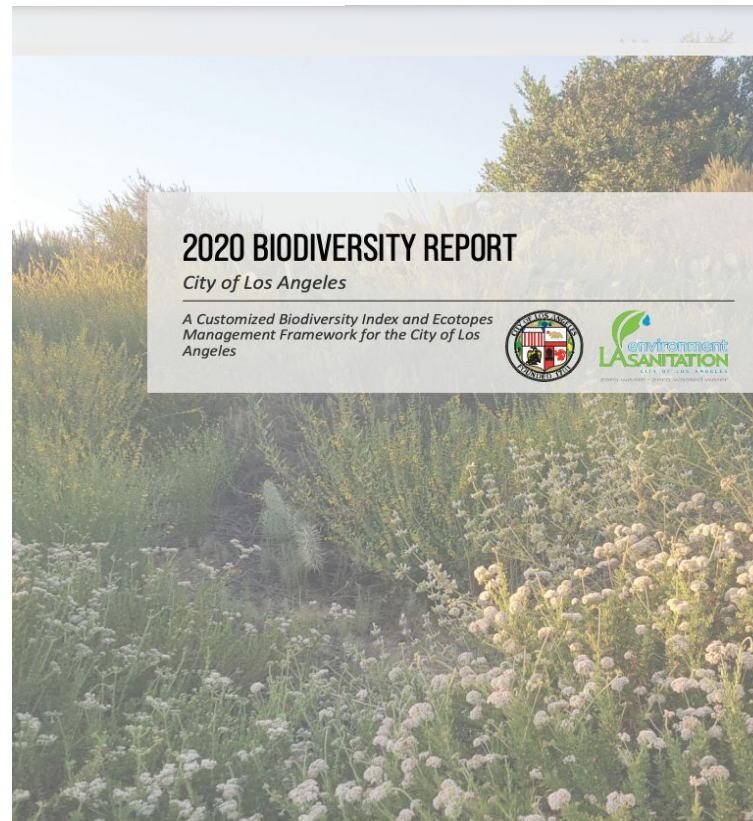
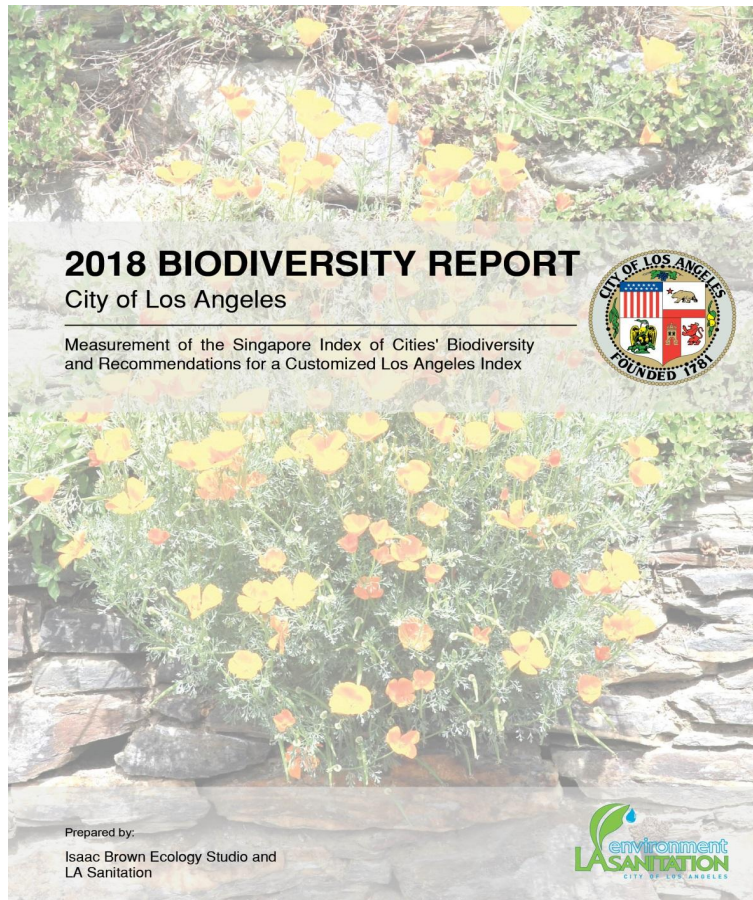


Expert and stakeholder input = critical for success



# Publications & Resources

Download at [lacitysan.org/biodiversity](http://lacitysan.org/biodiversity)





# LA City Biodiversity Index

Theme	Indicator CODE	Indicators	Metric CODE	Metrics
1. Native Species Protection & Enhancement	1.1	Habitat Quality	1.1a	1.1a: % Natural Areas
			1.1b	Habitat Quality of Urban Landscapes & Open Space
			1.1c	Habitat Quality of Streams
			1.1d	Connectivity of Natural Areas
			1.1e	Connectivity of Urban Landscapes & Open Space
			1.1f	Connectivity of Streams and Riparian Areas
	1.2	Indicator Species	1.2a	% Open Space with Charismatic Umbrella Species
			1.2b	Native Species Presence in Urban Areas
			1.2c	Species of Conservation Concern Gained or Lost
	1.3	Threats to Native Biodiversity	1.3a	Urban Edge Effects on Natural Areas
			1.3b	Presence & Spread of Invasive Plants
			1.3c	Wildfire Frequency Departure from Natural
2. Social Equity Considerations & Biodiversity	2.1	Access to Biodiversity	2.1a	Access to Natural Areas
			2.1b	Neighborhood Landscape/Tree Canopy Footprint
	2.2	Education	2.2a	School (K-12) Biodiversity Topics
			2.2b	Off-Campus Biodiversity Educational Visits
			2.2c	Campus Nature Education Gardens/Areas
	2.3	Community Action	2.3a	Community Scientist Activities and App Utilization
2.3b			# Certified Biodiversity-Friendly Areas	
3. Governance & Management of Biodiversity	3.1	Governance	3.1a	Biodiversity Vision/Action Plan
			3.1b	% Departments with Biodiversity Programs & Policies
	3.2	Management	3.2a	% Protected Natural Areas
			3.2b	Protected Natural Areas Management and Monitoring
			3.2c	Management of Invasive Species & Pests
			3.2d	Management of Threatened, Endangered, & Species of Concern

## 2020 BIODIVERSITY REPORT

City of Los Angeles

A Customized Biodiversity Index and Ecotopes Management Framework for the City of Los Angeles



Download at

[lacitysan.org/biodiversity](http://lacitysan.org/biodiversity)

# LA City Biodiversity Index Indicators



1. Habitat Quality



Photo: Nurit Katz

2. Indicator Species



Photo: Google

3. Threats to Native Biodiversity



DASH bus service to Griffith Park

Photo: la.curbed.com

4. Access to Biodiversity



Photo: LAUSD OOE

5. Education



6. Community Action



7. Governance



8. Management



# LA City Biodiversity Index Indicators



1. Habitat Quality



Photo: Nurit Katz

2. Indicator Species



Photo: Google

3. Threats to Native Biodiversity



DASH bus service to Griffith Park

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4. Access to Biodiversity



Photo: LAUSD OOOE

5. Education



6. Community Action



7. Governance



8. Management

# Biodiversity Metrics & RAP

## METRICS:

- 1.3b Presence & Spread of Invasive Plants
- 2.1a Access to Natural Areas
- 2.1b Neighborhood Landscape/Tree Canopy Footprint
- 2.3b # Certified Biodiversity-Friendly Areas
- 3.1b % Departments with Biodiversity Programs/Policies
- 3.2a % Protected Natural Areas
- 3.2b Protected Natural Areas Management and Monitoring
- 3.2c Management of Invasive Species & Pests
- 3.2d Management of Threatened, Endangered, & Species of Concern

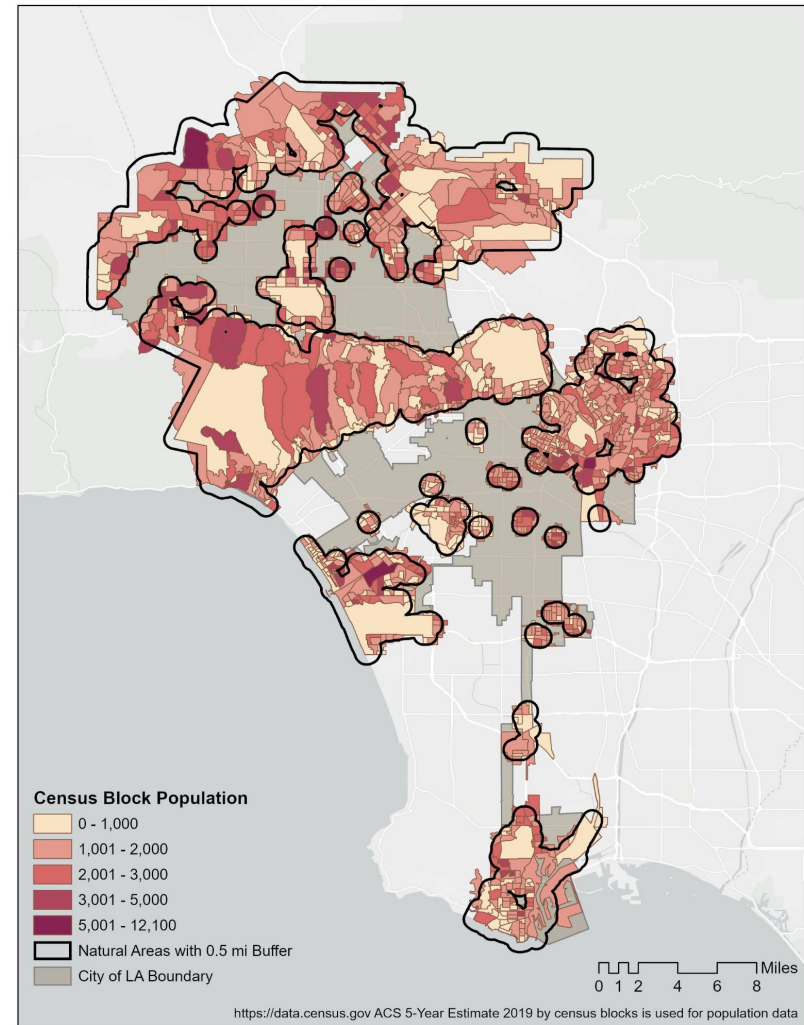


# Biodiversity Motion & RAP

CF # 15-0499 25A (May 10, 2017)

Policies/projects to enhance biodiversity should consider:

- Where communities currently lack access to natural areas and open space





# Biodiversity Motion & RAP

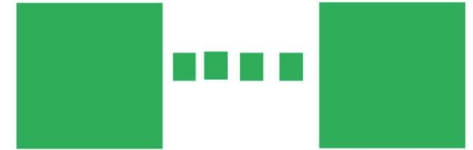
- Where linkages between habitats can be restored, created, or strengthened



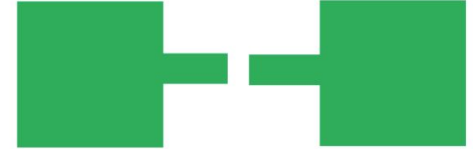
CONNECTIVITY INCREASES WITH HABITAT PATCH PROXIMITY



INCREASE HABITAT STEPPING STONES



CREATE PARTIAL CORRIDORS



CREATE CONTIGUOUS CORRIDORS



## Biodiversity & RAP

Direction to create department-specific biodiversity plans, addressing:

- Intersection with native biodiversity issues,
- Strategies to update departmental operations to protect/enhance biodiversity,
- Annual improvement targets to reach the no-net loss goal.

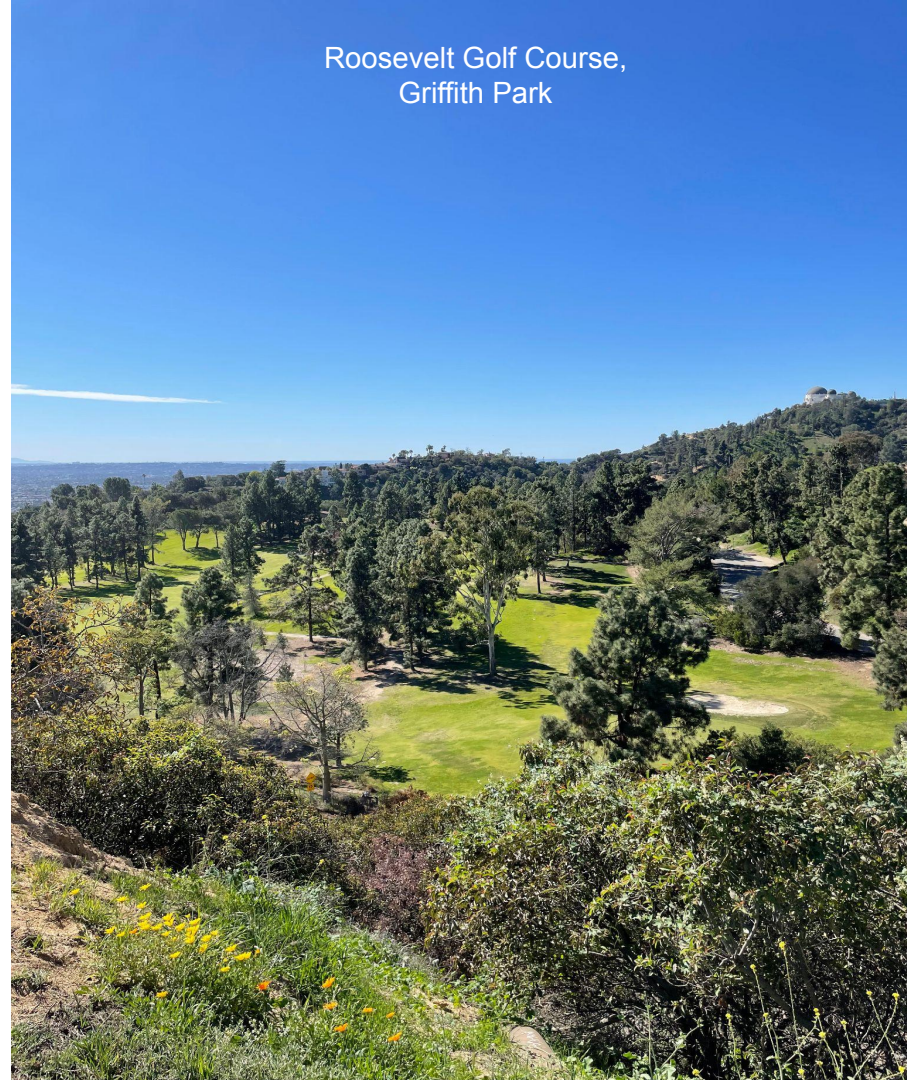


Blue-gray gnatcatcher & native buckwheat at Runyon Canyon Park



# Biodiversity & RAP

Study and report with the Department of Recreation and Parks in the lead, on how to adopt the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for all City golf courses.





# Healthy Soils Program

- 2019 LA's Green New Deal
- 2020 Healthy Soils/RegenerateLA Motion
  - Expands upon GND goals
  - Calls for **interdepartmental collaboration**

2021

## Pilot two healthy soil projects

- Explore incentives for regenerative agricultural practices, including water conservation
- Develop a healthy soil strategy for the city to support urban agriculture, address carbon sequestration, and increase water capture
- Amplify community education campaigns on the benefits of healthy soils, biodiversity, and regenerative agriculture

# Healthy Soils Collaborations



Expert and stakeholder input = critical for success

# HEALTHY SOILS STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

2021



#### Contact Us

LASAN is dedicated to protecting public health and the environment for all Angelenos. For more information about the Healthy Soils Program, please contact [michelle.barton@lacity.org](mailto:michelle.barton@lacity.org) or visit us at [lacitysan.org/healthysoils](https://lacitysan.org/healthysoils).

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Timeyin Dafeta, P.E., Executive Hyperion Plant Manager

Image: City Plants



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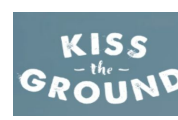
# RegenerateLA Motion & RAP

RAP has been an integral partner on RegenerateLA and a critical member of the Healthy Soils Interdepartmental Group (HSIG)

- Participating in the HSIG workshop series and provided information/data to report back to Council
- Supporting numerous pilot project initiatives



# Pilot Project: RegenererateLA



Compost Facilities



Demonstration Plots



Training & education curriculum



Photo: Robert Hollingsworth

Pollinator Habitats



Monitoring & Data Collection



Public Awareness/  
Community Engagement



# RegenerateLA - New Compost Facility at Griffith Park





# RegenerateLA: Training

## Objective:

- Train all LA grounds maintenance staff on organic regenerative land maintenance
  - Scheduled for May 2022!

Photo: TestPlot (Elysian Park)





# Recommendations

- Parks/park facilities could be:
  - Hubs of education for biodiversity & healthy soils
  - Used to create a network of community composting hubs
  - Refuges for native plants and animals
  - Tended to with regenerative management practices
  - Reimagined as stepping stones to enhance wildlife connectivity
  - Places where Angelenos and biodiversity coexist



# QUESTIONS?

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[lacitysan.org/healthysoils](https://lacitysan.org/healthysoils)

[lacitysan.org/biodiversity](https://lacitysan.org/biodiversity)