# Parks in the Pandemic

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This is a briefing introduction of group research of Arch 698a Advance Design-Research 'Spatial Politics of Homelessness'. It is instructed by Jerome Chou and Lauren Elachi from KDI, also benefits from interviews with people from entities that work closely with Homelessness issues around United States.

# Parks in the Pandemic

# WHAT IS PARK?

LA DEPT OF REC AND PARK Mission

### 01. PARK? SHELTER?

HOW DID PARK TURN INTO SHELTER in L.A.

WHOM / WHAT / WHO

LOCAL RESPOND

REC AND PARK AGENCIES ATTITUDE

## 02. UNHOUSED IN COVID-19

HOMELESSNESS IN PARKS BEFORE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

THE ROLE OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE

HOMELESSNESS IN PARKS DURING SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

## 03. ALTERNATIVES MODEL

PARK ADAPTATIONS DURING COVID

THREE ALTERNATIVE SERVICE MODELS DURING COVID

**ENDNOTE AND SOURCES** 

## 04. REFERENCE













# **PARK MISSION**

By Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Park

# **OUR MISSION**

Our mission is to enrich the lives of the residents of Los Angeles by providing safe, welcoming parks and recreation facilities and affordable, diverse recreation and human services activities for people of all ages to play, learn, contemplate, build community and be good stewards of our environment.

# **OUR VISION**

Our vision is to provide affordable recreational, physical and cultural opportunities for all of Los Angeles residents, with a focus on families, youth development and building healthy communities. The programs and services offered by the Department will provide excellent value and quality and emphasize the equitable distribution of resources throughout the City. We will offer these programs in safe, attractive and well-maintained facilities that will reflect the publics' needs and interests.

# **OUR MOTTO**

We build healthy communities through people, parks and programs.

Park?
Shelter?

# 1. HOW DID PARK TURN INTO SHELTER in L.A.

#### WHEN DID IT HAPPEN?

Earlier in March, together with the state wide stay at home order, to mitigate homelessness issue and lower infection rate among unhoused community. Mayor of LA announced the a plan to add 1,600 emergency shelter beds in thirteen City recreation centers by the end of this week, and scale up to dozens more locations in the coming days with more than 6,000 beds provided by the American Red Cross. Entities that will contribute to this plan are the city, the county and LAHSA.



L.A. parks and recreation staffer Chris Smith and Salvation Army volunteers set up cots for homeless people at Westwood Recreation Center in March. (Brian van der Brug/Los Angeles Times)



Echo Park Community Center guards anticipate arrivals from Skid Row and other areas in March. This shelter has since closed.(Allen J. Schaben/Los Angeles Times)

"The Mayor highlighted a partnership with the City Council to use \$20 million in budget reserve funds on emergency relief efforts — including a plan to add 1,600 emergency shelter beds in thirteen City recreation centers by the end of this week, and scale up to dozens more locations in the coming days with more than 6,000 beds provided by the American Red Cross. To fill the first shelter beds coming online, the City will work with the County, LAHSA, and other partners to identify individuals in the homeless population who face the greatest risk from the novel coronavirus."

-- Mayor Announcement , March 18

It was also in mid March, the sports and recreation center owned by the city are closed as well as other parks managed by MRCA. As we saw a rapid growth in numbers of people hanging out in public parks and beaches that was incompatible with social distancing regulation.

"This weekend we saw too many people packing beaches, trails and parks. So we are closing sports and recreation at @LACityParks and closing parking at city beaches. That doesn't mean gather elsewhere. This is serious. Stay home and save lives. "

-- Twitter @MayorOfLA, March 22

People ride their bikes on March 21, 2020 in Huntington Beach, California. (Photo by Michael Heiman/Getty Images)



A timeline showing the evolution of this plan, there were 42 emergency shelters initially planned, but only 26 operated. An follow up program that serve the unhoused population is Project Roomkey, which is to use hotel and motel rooms in L.A. County as temporary shelters for people experiencing homelessness who are at high-risk for hospitalization if they contract Coronavirus.

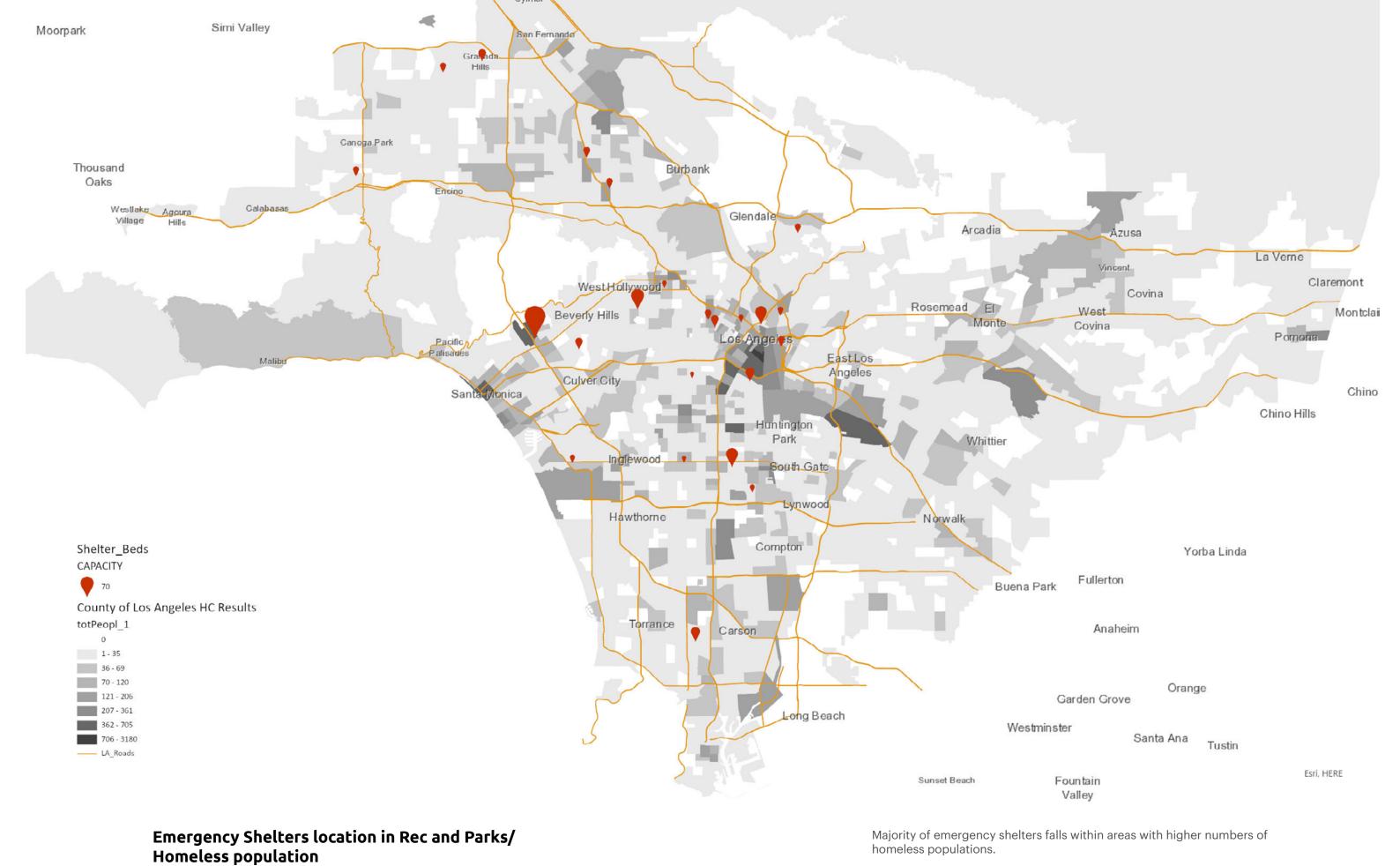
### HOW DID IT EVOLVE?

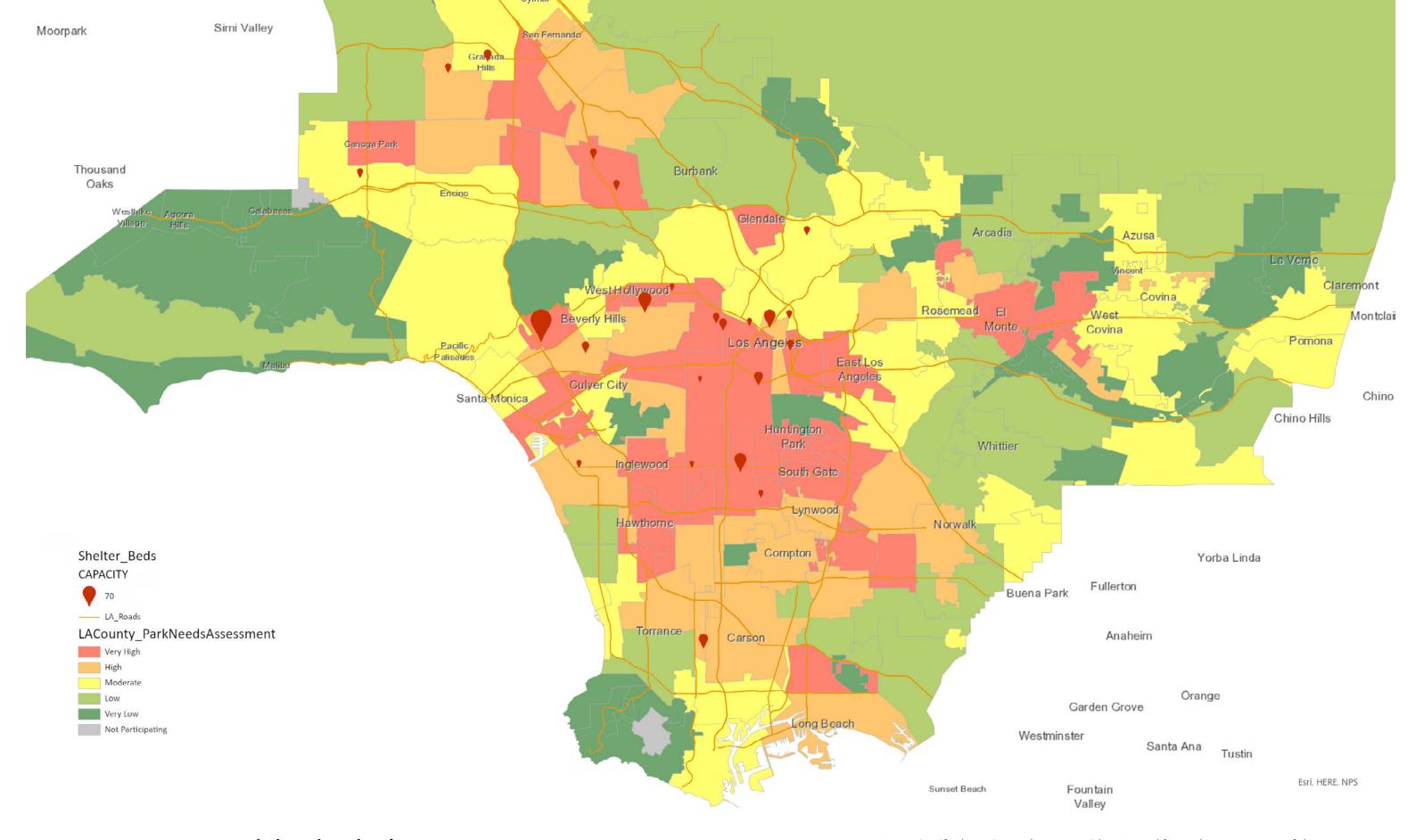
OPEN / CLOSURE / INCIDENT

	OF	EN / CLOSURE / INCIDENT
MARCH		EMERGENCY SHELTERS IN REC CENTER Mayor of Los Angeles announced plan to shelter beds in dozens of Recreation Centers in L.A. "STAY AT HOME!"
		EXECUTIVE ORDER N-33-20 issued by Governor Newsom
		LAcity parks' sports & recreation closed. MRCA parks closed.
APRIL		A Pacific Palisades woman filed court papers for using Pacific Palisades Recreation Center as a homeless shelter.
		Positive cases in Granada Hills Shelter , Westwood shelter and Pan Pacific Shelter.
		Project Roomkey* Launched
MAY		"Currently, there are 884 occupied shelter beds in Rec Centers throughout the City of Los Angeles." (May 8)
JULY	Ī	Echo Park Rec Center Shelter closed
		Woodland Hills Rec Center Shelter closed
		Granada Hills Rec Center Shelter closed
SEP.		Remain Open:

PAN PACIFIC PARK RECREATION CENTER WESTWOOD RECREATION CENTER

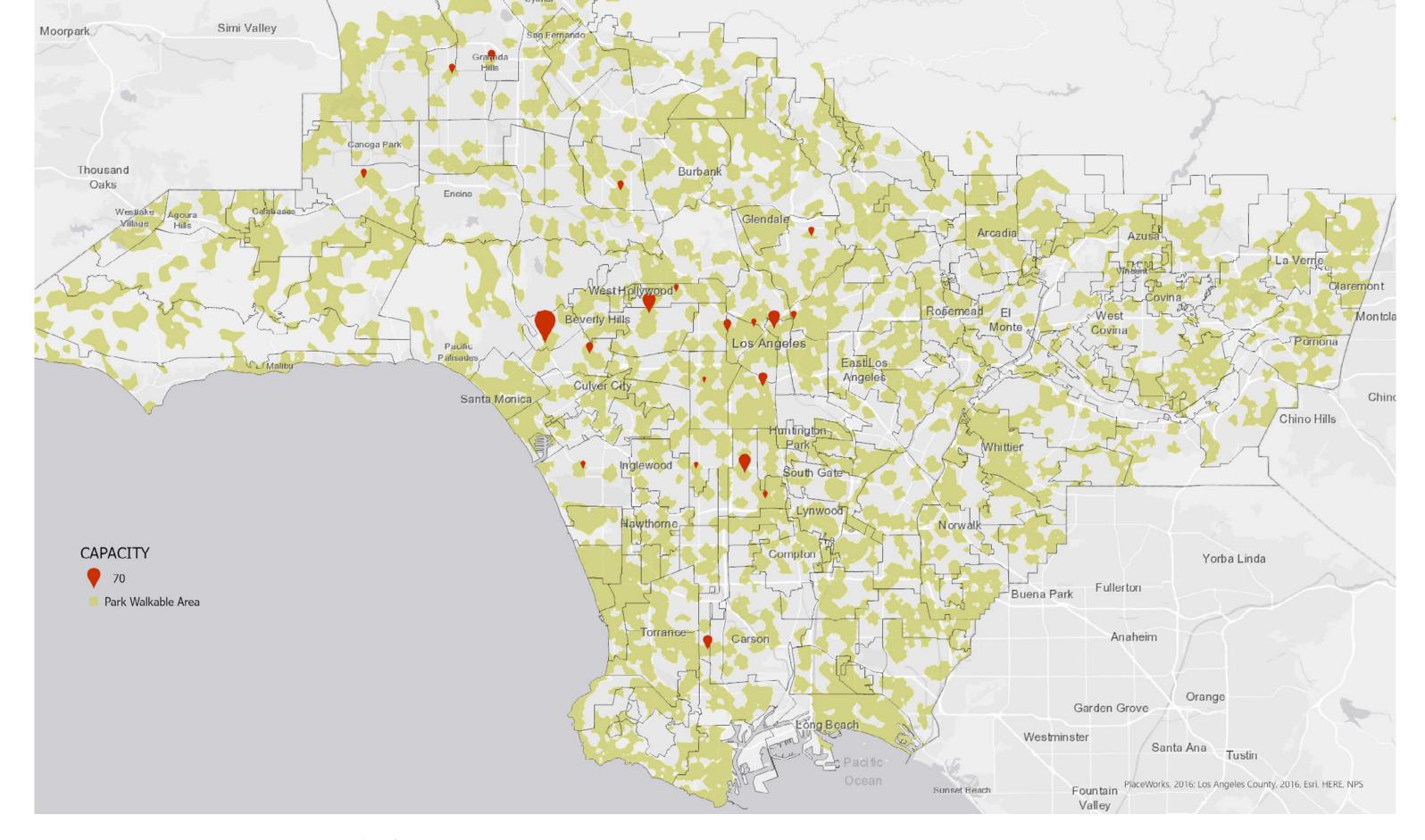
<sup>\*&</sup>quot;Project Roomkey is a coordinated effort to secure hotel and motel rooms in L.A. County as temporary shelters for people experiencing homelessness who are at high-risk for hospitalization if they contract Coronavirus (COVID-19). High-risk includes seniors 65+ and/or those suffering from chronic illness."





Emergency Shelters location / Park Needs Assessment

Assuming if adaptations relates to residents' need for park, we see most of them are located in high park need neighborhoods.



Emergency Shelters location / Parks within One-half Miles

Some of those locations overlaps with areas experiencing difficulties in park accessibility.



Regier and her husband had been staying at a Van Nuys hotel through a county program called Housing for Health.

With the pandemic prompting precautionary measures, that program instituted rules that limited them from being able to go in and out of the building frequently. Regier said she needed a place where she could still go outside to walk her cat.

The shelter came at the right time.

# 2. WHOM / WHAT / WHO

## WHO ARE USING SHELTERS?

Who are the people using those emergency shelters? Mostly they are local unhoused population.

"Walk-ups are allowed or you can use transportation provided at pick-up locations. These shelters are open 24 hours, and there is no obligation to stay." (Ktownforall, May)

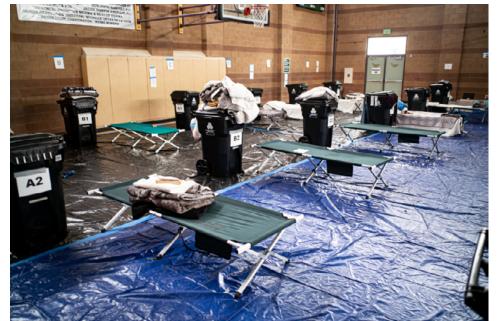
## WHAT ARE PROVIDED?

- Hot showers and ADA accessible.
- · On-site meal
- 60-gallon garbage bin for storing personal belongings
- Beds with blankets set up 6-feet away for each individual
- Laundry Truck @ Alpine Recreation Center / Downey Recreation Center
- Showers in the center weren't possible, CARE team was there to help with a mobile hygiene unit. @ Northridge rec center

Cots are spaced at least 6 feet apart at the Granada Hills Recreation Center Wednesday, March 25, 2020.

The center has been converted in an emergency homeless shelter with medical personnel during the day, police presence, temperature checks and other features amid the coronavirus pandemic.

(Photo by David Crane, Los Angeles Daily News/SCNG)



#### WHO WORKS THERE?

- Recreation and Parks employees
- Medical professionals
- Security guards
- · Law enforcement
- Non-profit volunteer -- West Valley People's Alliance @ Granada hills rec center, Hope of the Valley, Salvation Army, etc.



"Yesterday, March 23rd, Hope of the Valley became the service provider at two new Covid-19 pop-up shelters located at the Granada Hills and North Hollywood Recreation Centers.

Onsite the following is provided: Medical Staff, personal storage, showers, 3 meals daily, cots with blankets, isolation room and more. "

-- CEO, Hope of the Valley

# 3. LOCAL RESPOND

Question "Who works there" also brings up an interesting topic in this issue, which is how the public see this change. Generally, locals has several concerns as following:

- Complaining about Increase of police around neighborhood
- Urge for background check for shelter residents (crime/ pedophile)
- Wonder when the project will end / will part of parks remain shelter?
- Prefer rec centers to be fully back to original function
- Fear that unhoused people will stay
- Questioning how effective it is since it's not forcing residents to stay.

"We aren't the dumping ground" "They brought the suit about, and in a week they came up with this idea to settle homeless in the rec centers"

"..... does not do background checks. Who is responsible for vetting and initiating background checks (for crimes/pedophilia) on the homeless? Some have been brought into the community from other areas."

"There are a variety of concerns ..... was the threat that the city's plan causes to the homeless population and the residents near the recreation centers."

# 4. REC AND PARK AGENCIES ATTITUDE

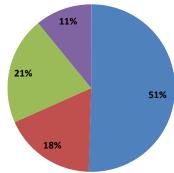
**49%** of urban park and recreation agency directors agree that individuals experiencing homelessness represent a different type of park user that has different needs

**45%** of urban park and recreation agency directors view the homeless population as a nuisance that impedes other people's enjoyment of park resources.

17% urban park and recreation agency directors report that their agency is working to serve better and provide regular programming for their communities' homeless population.

#### **Cities' Strategies for Mitigating Homelessness**





- Coordinated citywide, cross-agency, cross-sectoral strategy (including nonprofit organizations)
- Tactics among many city agencies, but not necessarily coordinated together
- Ad-hoc tactics by some agencies and outside nonprofits
- Little or no actions to mitigate homelessness

#### Leaders and Partners in Cities' Homelessness Initiatives

(Percentage Distribution)

	Is a leader for the community	Is a partner or resource	Plays no significant role
Nonprofits/Faith-based organizations	45%	55%	*
Health/Human Services	46%	44%	10%
Park and Recreation	11%	53%	36%
Police	29%	65%	46%
Business Improvement Districts (BIDS)	3%	37%	60%
Libraries	2%	33%	65%
Schools	*	22%	78%

# CONCLUSION

The Pandemic is a chance of how we can imagine parks being shared by both unhoused community and locals spatially. We can have a glimpse into perspectives held by different social classes, thus allow us to amend landscape interventions that aims at opening up this topic.

Unhoused in Covid-19

Viewing homelessness in park -

Nearly half of urban parks agree that individuals experiencing homelessness as a different type of park user that has different needs.

Forty-five percent view the homeless population as a nuisance that impedes other people's enjoyment of park resources.

One in six urban park is working to serve better and provide regular programming for their communities' homeless population.

THE ROLE OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE

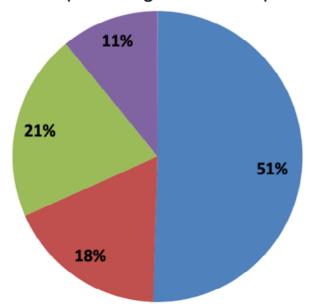
What is the Role and Effort of Parks for Addressing the Homelessness?

The homelessness Issues are complex that cannot be responded by one department within a city. In all, 90% parks have strategies to address homelessness in the community.

We can see, Half of them collaborate with other city departments, organizations, and partners to mitigate homelessness.

# **Cities' Strategies for Mitigating Homelessness**

(Percentage Distribution)



- Coordinated citywide, cross-agency, cross-sectoral strategy (including nonprofit organizations)
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#### THE ROLE OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE

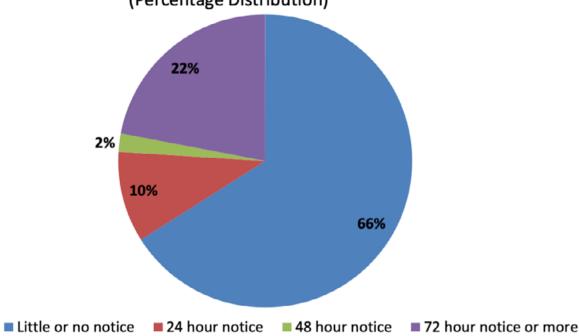
Length of Notice Required Before Removing People Encamped on Public Parkland

Parks do not play a leading role in addressing homelessness, however, they are on the front line in these efforts because individuals experiencing homelessness frequently camp on public parklands. However, the parkland has the resources available for all the community's members.

So, 85% parks do not allow people to encamp on parkland overnight, only allow for short-term stays. In this chart shows that Length of Notice Required Before Removing People Encamped. We can see more than half of them are litter or no notice for removal camps.

# Length of Notice Required Before Removing People Encamped on Public Parkland

(Percentage Distribution)

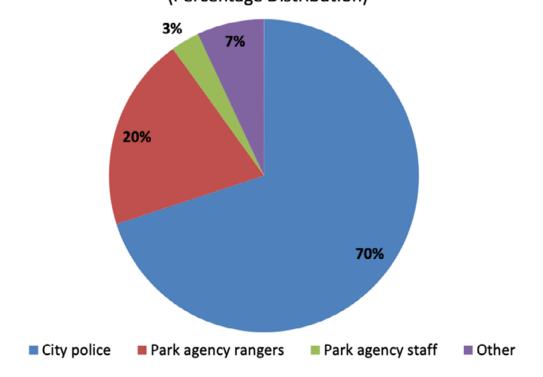


THE ROLE OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE

ANTI- LOITERING RULES on Public Park Property

Anti-loitering rules are one of the limitations for homelessness using the parks. Typically, the city police department is the primary enforcer of anti-loitering rules for parks. Another 20 percent of their own staff serve this function.

# Primary Enforcer of Cities' Anti-Loitering Rules on Public Park Property (Percentage Distribution)

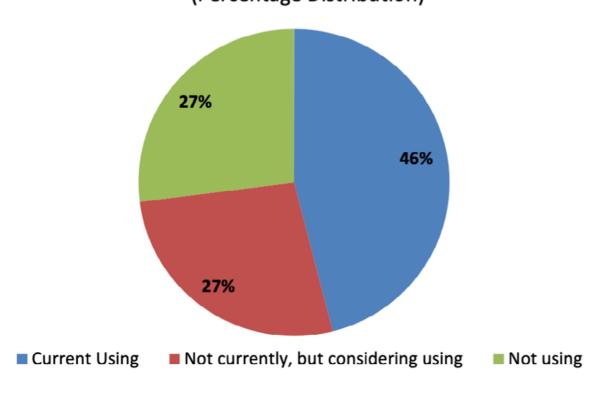


#### THE ROLE OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE

Design standards and infrastructure

For parks, anti-loitering laws are not the only method available to discourage people from staying overnights. Another method includes using design features, such as, park benches, fencing, lighting, maintenance of vegetation and security cameras.

# Park and Recreation Agencies' Use of Design Standards and Infrastructure That Discourage Overnight Stays in Parks (Percentage Distribution)



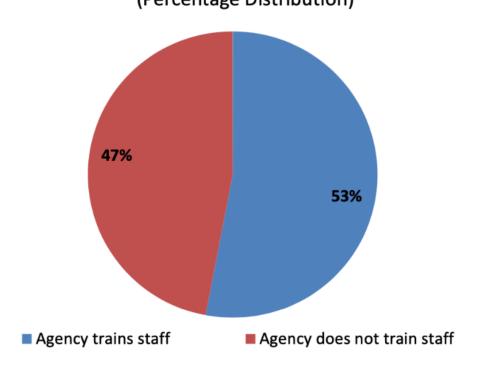
THE ROLE OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE

**Engagement with Homelessness More Effectively** 

For parks, Generally, parks have a complicated relationship with the homeless community. Parks are resources for the whole community.

45% of parks agencies think that unsheltered people are a trouble for others to use park resources. Nearly half of parks think experiencing homelessness as a different type of park user that has different needs. However half of parks don't provide training to specific staff, park police, park rangers, and other agency staff to more effectively engage with homeless individuals.

# Park and Recreation Agency Training Employees to More Effectively Engage with Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (Percentage Distribution)



#### THE ROLE OF PARK AND OPEN SPACE

#### Programs offered by Parks to Homelessness

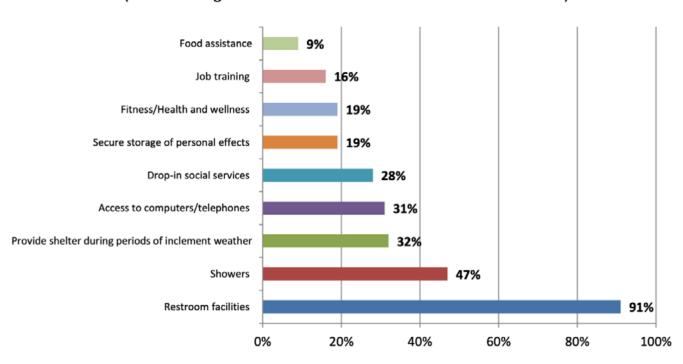
Although parks don't encourage encamping overnight, they still provide basic necessities services and programming for the homeless population in their communities.

Such as restroom facilities, Showers, Emergency shelter during extreme weather, Computers and telephones, Drop-in social services, storage of personal effects.

Furthermore, providing opportunities for the individual to get back their own feet, such as Drop-in hours for city agencies and nonprofits, Career skills, Educational Training, Health fitness programs, Arts/Culture programs.

# Services Offered by Park and Recreation Agencies to the Homeless Population

(Percent of Agencies that Offer Services to Homeless Individuals)



"Los Angeles will convert 42 of its recreation centers into temporary shelters for homeless residents, providing 6,000 new beds in an effort aimed at slowing the spread of the novel coronavirus." - Mayor Eric Garcetti"

The city is looking in the initiative's first phase to open 1,600 shelter beds at 13 recreation centers, with beds provided by the American Red Cross."

"The Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority found 11,177 people living in vehicles, tents, and makeshift shelters in the city of Los Angeles."

"Nearly \$37 million in newly allocated state funding is "on the way" to Los Angeles to help with homeless housing, plus extra money to buy or lease hotels and motels. Additionally, LA will get 660 travel trailers to isolate homeless Angelenos who might contract COVID-19."



**Cheviot Hills Recreation Center** 

38 Sources: Google map 39

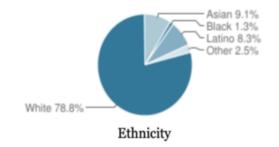
# Overview demographic

# **Population**

- 6,945 population in 2000, according to the U.S. Census
- 7,303 population in 2008, based on L.A. Department of City Planning estimates.
- **1.54** square mile
- 4,520 people per square mile, among the lowest densities for the city of Los Angeles but about average for the county

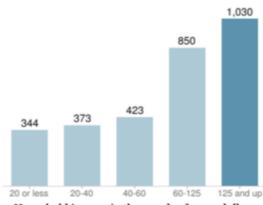
# Ethnicity

- The percentage of white people is high for the county.
- Not especially diverse for the city of Los Angeles and not especially diverse for the county



#### Income

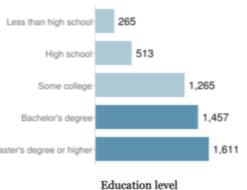
- \$111,813 median household income (2008 dollars), high for the city of Los Angeles and high for the county
- In Los Angeles County, Bel-Air, Hidden Hills and Rolling Hills have the most similar household incomes.
- The percentage of households earning \$125,000 and up is high for the county.



Household income in thousands of 2000 dollars

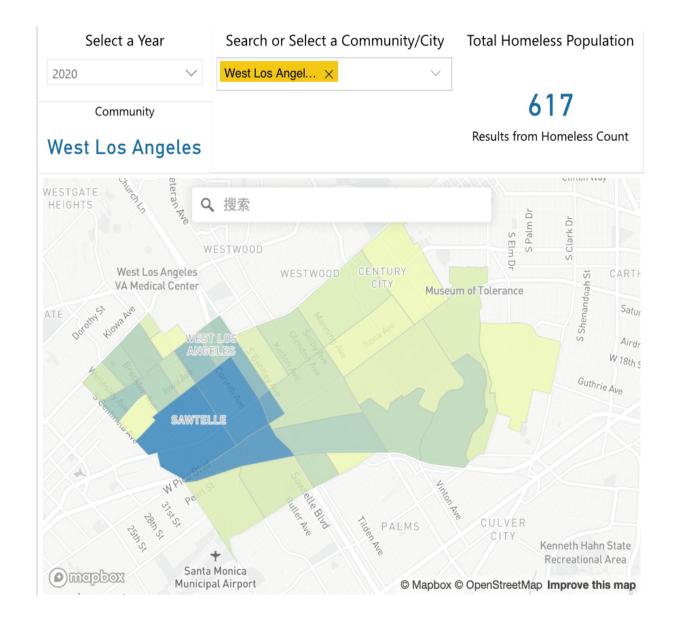
#### Education

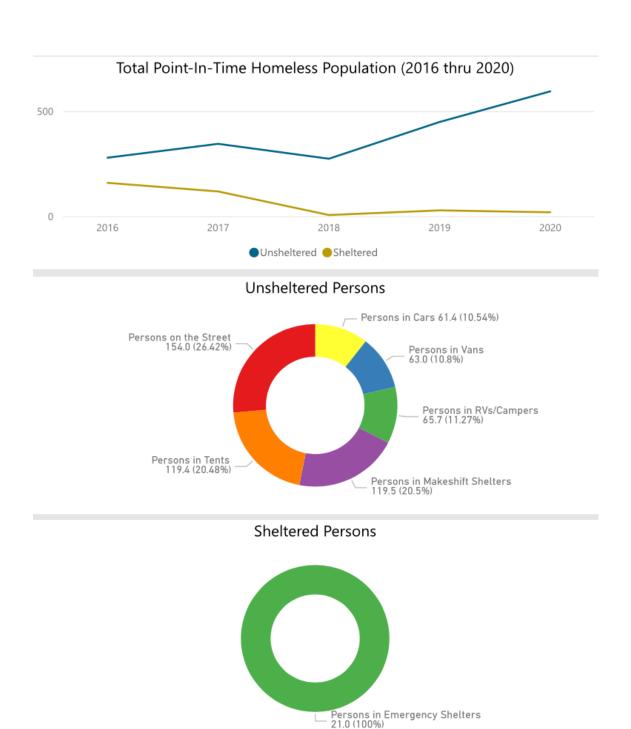
- 60.0% of residents 25 and older have a four-year degree, high for the city of Los Angeles and high for the county
- In Los Angeles County, Pacific Palisades, Palos Verdes Estates and Brentwood have the nearest percentage of residents 25 and older with a four-year degree.
- The percentages of residents 25 and Master's degree or higher older with a master's degree or higher and a bachelor's degree are high for the county.



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# **Unsheltered in West Los angeles Neighborhood**





# **Programs Provided before Coronavirus**





# **Programs Provided after Coronavirus**

In response to the COVID-19, ALL PARKS REMAIN OPEN UNDER NORMAL OPERATING HOURS FOR Passive recreation includes walking, hiking or running.

At all times anyone using a public park, beach or trail must wear a face covering and keep social distancing.

## **CITYWIDE PARK CLOSURES**

#### Revised: September 10, 2020

In response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) and in accordance with the most recent LA County Department of Public Health orders, and the Mayor's Safer LA directives, the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) provides the following update on programming, events, facilities, park amenities and usage of park sites, facilities and amenities.

ALL PARKS REMAIN OPEN UNDER NORMAL OPERATING HOURS FOR PASSIVE RECREATION. For operating hours please visit www.laparks.org

Passive recreation includes walking, hiking or running; however, when visiting a park for exercise or respite, you MUST adhere to the City's Safer at Home social distancing directives and must not participate in non-permitted recreational group sports or activities that are incompatible with the City's social distancing mandates and wear face coverings at all times.

AT ALL TIMES ANYONE USING A PUBLIC PARK, BEACH OR TRAIL MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING AND PRACTICE MANDATORY SOCIAL DISTANCING.

**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**, the following remain closed to the public as follows (with the exception of most trails, golf courses, tennis, pickle ball & most fishing and limited beach access):

#### Recreational Amenities, Centers, Sports, Senior & Aquatic Centers, Museums, Rental Halls & Gardens

- · All recreation centers are closed.
- · All rental halls are closed.
- All Department-run recreational and cultural programming, indoor and outdoor sports leagues, aquatics classes, instructional courses and
  group sessions are cancelled and will only be organized in conformance with County Health Guidelines and pursuant to operational
  capacity.
- · All aquatic facilities are closed
- All indoor & outdoor sport "amenities" are closed. Amenities include all skate parks, baseball fields, turf & natural soccer fields and basketball courts.
- As of October 5, all playgrounds and outdoor fitness equipment can be reopened for public use with mandatory social distancing and
  limited use up to 30 minutes. Playgrounds will begin to re-open individually as reconditioning cleaning, signage and safety inspections are
  completed.
- · All recreational groups sports are prohibited unless permitted in accordance with Department of County Health Guidelines.
- The following Griffith Park areas are closed: the Observatory, Travel Town, Train Rides, the Pony Rides and the Merry Go Round and some access entry roads.
- The Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Sherman Oaks Castle, and the EXPO Center are closed.
- . Access to census stations will be permitted, but there shall be no more than 10 people at a time in the facility.
- · Wattles Gardens & Community Gardens are open during normal operating hours.
- All senior citizen centers remain closed. Home delivered meals will continue to be delivered to seniors enrolled in the LA City Department
  of Aging program. To enroll in this program, please call 213-482-7252. The Department of Aging is reachable Monday through Friday from
  8:00 am to 5:00 pm for more information regarding meal services.
- All Dog Parks remain open subject to mandatory social distancing requirements.

#### Filming, League Permits & Special Events

- · All events and permits at all RAP sites or locations will be permitted only in conformance with State, County and City guidelines.
- LA County DPH is now allowing teams to get together and practice individual drills and conditioning on a limited basis and outdoor only.
   No one may practice without a permit. http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/docs/protocols/
   Reopening\_YouthSportsLeagues.pdf

#### **Golf Courses**

All golf courses are open for reservations. See <a href="https://www.golf.lacity.org">www.golf.lacity.org</a> for rules and regulations. All pro shops and in door dining are to remain closed except for take-out food purchases or paying for golf services. All golfers must wear face coverings.

#### **Tennis**

Tennis & Pickleball is open for single & doubles play. Players must wear face coverings at all times except for during play/match. Group lessons are limited to no more than 2 students per lesson. http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/Reopening\_
TennisPickleballCourts.pdf

#### Hiking & Trails

- All public hiking trails and trailheads are open with mandatory social distancing, face covering required for ages 2 and up and subject to capacity limitations and parking restrictions, including Runyon Canyon.
- The Wisdom Tree Trail remains closed until further notice.
- · All equestrian-only trails remain open for horse riding with practiced social distancing.

#### Beaches & Piers

- The Venice Beach & Cabrillo Piers are closed.
- Fishing is open except at the Cabrillo Beach and the Venice Beach Piers.
- All public beaches are open for active recreation only (running, walking, swimming and surfing
   — no group activities, no crowds/gatherings, chairs, canopies, coolers, grills, or sunbathing allowed on wet and dry sand).
- · Public beach parking lots are open with limited capacity.
- The Venice Beach Boardwalk/Ocean Front Walk is closed with limited access to businesses for curbside pick-up only. This means you
  can only be on the boardwalk to pick up take-out food or to access a business goods for curbside pick-up in compliance with the City and
  County Orders. You cannot loiter on the Boardwalk for any other purpose and will be allowed to enter and exit only to access these
  services.

#### **Bathrooms**

- · All Recreation and Parks public bathrooms located throughout the City will remain open during regular operating hours.
- Venice Beach Bathrooms remain open as follows: The Horizon Avenue Bathrooms (aka (Westminster Bathrooms) remain open 24 hours.
   There are 7 portable bathrooms located on Rose Avenue that remain open 24 hours with handwashing stations.
- The other City Beach restrooms, Washington Blvd. Pier, the North Venice Parking Lot Restroom, the 17th /1700 Restrooms and the Brooks Avenue Restrooms are open 6:15 AM to 10:30 PM.

Sources: https://www.laparks.org/covid-19 47

# **Programs converted during Coronavirus**

During the pandemic, our current view of urban parks has been replaced by temporary shelters, trailers parking, and emergency units. empty parks, trails and beaches; fenced off playgrounds; boarded up basketball hoops and chained tennis courts — all temporary, yet necessary, but necessary health care measures.



# CONCLUSION

Parks and recreations help shelter the needy and utilize our open space to meet the most pressing needs of our city — safety, shelter and stability.

At the same time, RAP staffers have become essential, critical frontline workers — undergoing quick and rapid training, working long and shifts to serve others.

However, there have an potential challenge that residents sheltered at home find it challenging to find places to recreate under the provisions of the mandatory stay-at-home and park closure orders.

# Alternative Models

# 2. PARK ADAPTATIONS DURING COVID

Los Angeles Parks have adopted a variety of platforms during Covid to ensure that park users can safely experience nature. They also have adopted a variety of reuse strategies to serve people experiencing homeless during this pandemic

# **Nature-based Strategies:**

- 1. Social Distancing Circles
- 2. Google Street View Treks // CA State Parks + Google Maps
- 3. Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS)
  Distance Learning Program

# **Reuse Strategies:**

- 4. Repurposing of Rec Centers to house the unhoused
- 5. Repurposing of Rec Centers for Childcare facilities
- 6. Temporary emergency field hospitals
- 7. Covid testing sites
- 8. Quarantine trailers for vulnerable individuals



I. Dolores Circle - San Francisco, CA



3. PORTS Distance Learning Program



5. Lincoln Park Recreational Center



7. Lincoln Park Covid Testing Site - LA



2. Andrew Molera State Park - Big Sur, CA



4. Westwood Recreation Center - LA, CA



6. East Meadow - Central Park, NYC



8. Dockweiler State Beach - LA, CA

<sup>\*</sup> Pictures on following page correspond Adaptation Numbers above

# 3. ALTERNATIVE SERVICE MODELS DURING COVID

#### 1. SKID ROW COMMUNITY REFRESH SPOT

The Skid Row Community Refresh Spot is "a personal care center that will provide new access to showers and toilet facilities for Angelenos experiencing homelessness." They were founded by the City of Los Angeles together with the Skid Row Community Improvement Coalition. Funding game from the City's Fiscal year Budget (2017-18) and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority's 2016-2017 budget along with applicable funds from Prop HHH. Today, Refresh Spot is managed by Homeless Healthcare Los Angeles, Goodwill Industries, Social Model Recovery Systems and We Team Security.

Refresh Spot has stayed open during Covid, but they require social distancing procedures and mask wearing at all times. Current hours of operation are 6 AM-7PM, 7 days a week



Bayshore Navigation Center, 84 Person Capacity

## 2. SAN FRANCISCO NAVIGATION CENTERS

San Francisco's Navigation Centers first opened in 2015 and are safe places for unhoused individuals who do not feel welcome in standard shelters. They are managed by the San Francisco Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH). There are variable kinds of stays at these centers: from 1-2 days, to 7 day stays, to 30 day max stays.

A unique feature of these Navigation Centers is that they are open throughout the day, and pets, family members and other loved ones are welcome to visit. High staffing is able to connect guests with medical and other social services should this be the desire of the guest.

During Covid, Navigation Centers have been temporarily closed, and individuals who were living in these sites during this time were invited to move to Project RoomKey/Sheltering Place Hotels in the area.

Further, the Mayor of SF has directed Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing, to propose "a two-year budget that included a 10% reduction in General Funding spending in FY 20-21 (and 5% reduction contingency) and a 15% General Fund reduction in FY 21-22." The fate of the Navigation Centers post-Covid is thus uncertain.

56 Univertalli.

#### 3. SHOWER OF HOPE

The Shower of Hope is a mobile service that is composed of three distinct programs: The Shower of Hope mobile showers and hygiene facilities has operated in 18 locations per week in the Los Angeles area. Destination Hope offers safe parking spaces for unhoused individuals to sleep in their cars. The Hope Navigation Center is a mobile tool for unhoused individuals to find resources such as food, clothing and showers. Funding for the program comes from the Shower Of Hope's registration as a 501c3 non-profit organization which is registered with the IRS under "End Homelessness California."

Since Covid began, Shower of Hope has increased their hygiene services from 18 locations per week to 24 locations per week. They have also started a Covid19 Fundraiser which has raised over \$9800 in order to increase services during this time.

Shower of Hope workers posing with masks during Covid



#### **CDC GUIDELINES**

WHAT FOLLOWS ARE CDC GUIDELINES FOR SERVICE PROVIDERS AS DESCRIBED IN PRECEDING SECTIONS DURING COVID19:

- Use physical barriers to protect staff who will have interactions with clients with unknown infection status (e.g., check-in staff). For example, install a sneeze guard at the check-in desk or place an additional table between staff and clients to increase the distance between them to at least 6 feet.

In meal service areas, create at least 6 feet of space between seats, and/or allow either for food to be delivered to clients or for clients to take food away.

- In general sleeping areas (for those who are not experiencing respiratory symptoms), try to make sure client's faces are at least 6 feet apart. (Align mats/beds so clients sleep head-to-toe.)

For clients with mild respiratory symptoms consistent with COVID-19:

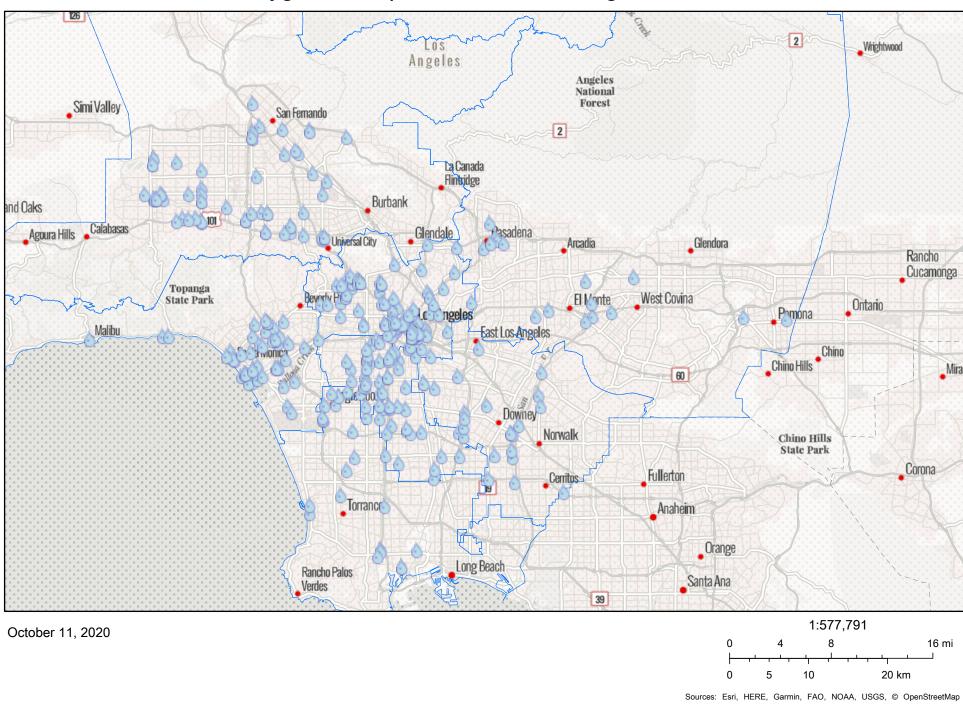
- Prioritize these clients for individual rooms.
- If individual rooms are not available, consider using a large, well-ventilated room.
  - Keep mats/beds at least 6 feet apart.
  - Use temporary barriers between mats/beds, such as curtains.
  - Align mats/beds so clients sleep head-to-toe.
  - If possible, designate a separate bathroom for these clients.
- If areas where these clients can stay are not available in the facility, facilitate transfer to a quarantine site.

For clients with confirmed COVID-19, regardless of symptoms:

- -Prioritize these clients for individual rooms.
- -If more than one person has tested positive, these clients can stay in the same area.
  - -Designate a separate bathroom for these clients.
- Follow CDC recommendations for how to prevent further spread in your facility.
- -If areas where these clients can stay are not available in the facility, assist with transfer to an isolation site.

# ENDNOTE: EXPANDED HANDWASHING STATIONS IN THE LOS ANGELES REGION

# COVID-19 Hygiene Response Hand Washing Stations & Showers



# CONCLUSION

A variety of alternative models have been impacted during Covid. Some organizations have pushed harder to provide their services. Others have become hindered from governmental fund slashing (HSH, San Francisco)

This map shows Handwashing Stations within Los Angeles and the greater Los Angeles area. For live information, visit: https://www.lahsa.org/news?article=675-city-of-la-handwashing-stations

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