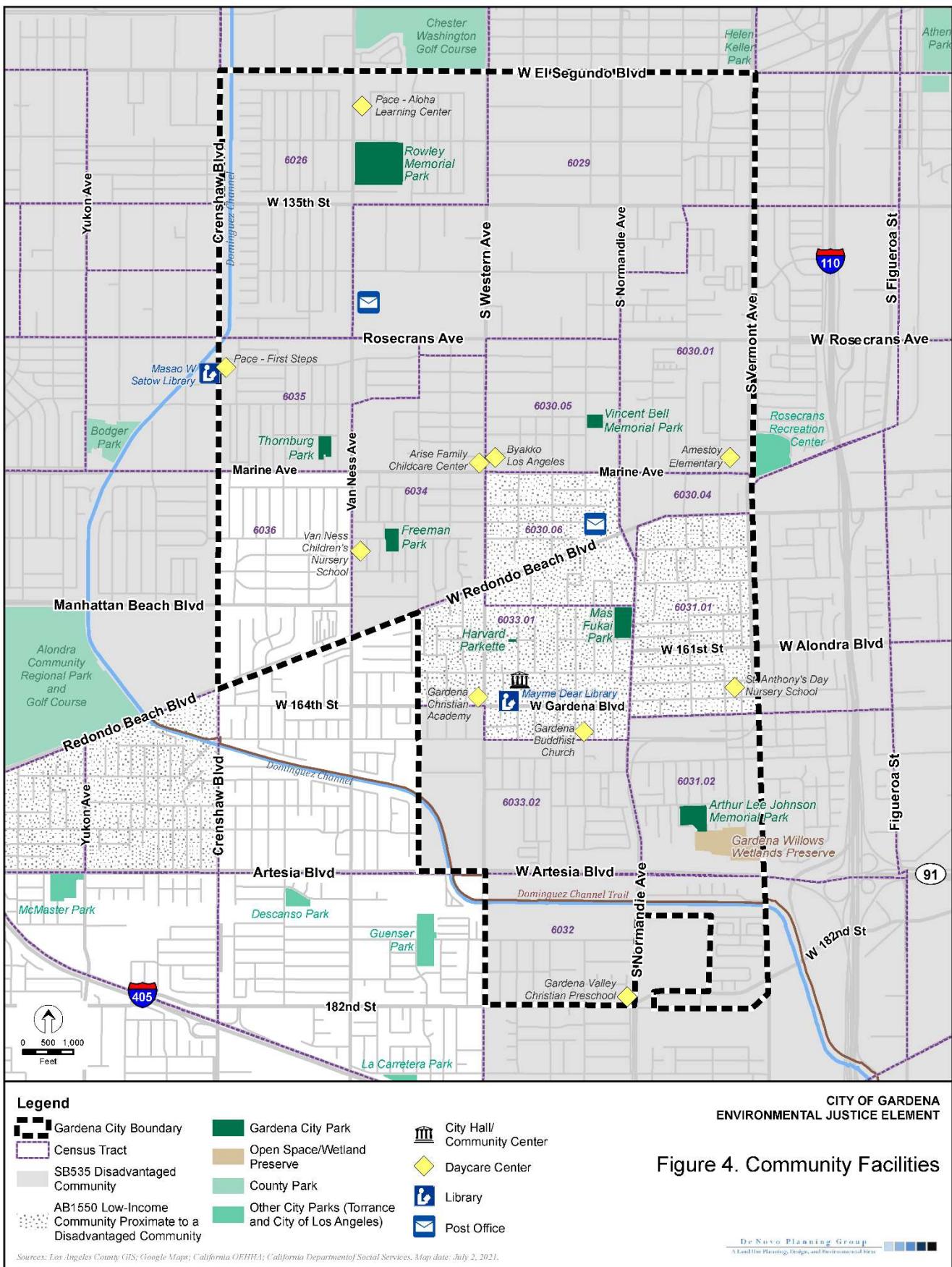


**FIGURE 4: COMMUNITY FACILITIES**



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### **3. FOOD ACCESS**

Food access encompasses the following three interrelated topics:

- Nutritionally adequate, culturally appropriate, and affordable food;
- Income sufficient to purchase healthy food; and
- Proximity and ability to travel to a food source that offers affordable, nutritionally adequate, and culturally appropriate food.

Ensuring adequate food access is challenging in many communities. Many communities, and especially low-income areas, lack retailers with a sufficient selection of healthy foods. Consequently, many residents lack access to nutritional foods, known as “food insecurity”, resulting in public health challenges and poor health outcomes. Affected populations cope with food insecurity by consuming nutrient-poor, but calorie-rich foods. This may result in malnutrition, obesity, cognitive, behavioral, and mental health problems in children, and physical and mental health problems and birth complications among pregnant women. Children and communities of color are often disproportionately affected by food insecurity.

#### **FOOD INSECURITY AND COST**

No data about existing conditions on food insecurity and costs currently exists at the city level. As the best possible alternative, Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization, has released a report entitled *Map the Meal Gap* for the past ten consecutive years to offer insights on how food insecurity and food costs vary at the county and congressional district level. The latest *Map the Meal Gap* report, which uses the most recent data from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Census Bureau, was released in 2020 and is based on data from 2018.

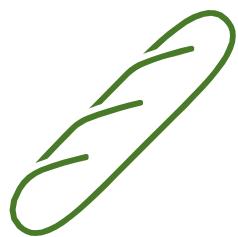
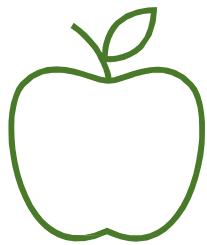
In response to COVID-19, Feeding America also released a companion study entitled *The Impact of the Coronavirus on Local Food Insecurity*, and an interactive map that used the *Mapthe Meal Gap* model to predict changes to food insecurity rates for the overall population and children in response to projected changes to poverty and unemployment in the wake of the pandemic. To better assess the current and future state of local food insecurity and develop effective strategies to reach people at risk of hunger, it is critical to understand historical variations prior to the pandemic.

Most census tracts in Gardena (11) are within the 43<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. Census tract 6032 is within the 44<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, as well as a portion of tracts 6033.02 and 6031.02. Below is a summary of key findings from the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 44<sup>th</sup> Congressional Districts, as well as for Los Angeles County, the State of California, and the entire country for comparison.

- 43<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District food insecurity rate: 11.6%
- 44<sup>th</sup> Congressional District food insecurity rate: 12.9%
- Los Angeles County food insecurity rate: 11.4%
- State of California food insecurity rate: 10.8%
- National food insecurity rate: 11.5%

The *Map the Meal Gap* report shows that after nearly ten years, food insecurity levels for most communities across the country had reached their lowest levels in 2018. However, due to the impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, Feeding America projects that progress made to food insecurity in the U.S. this past decade will likely be wiped out and food insecurity rates will climb higher than the peak of the Great Recession of 50 million people, potentially going from more than 37 million people facing hunger in 2018 up to more than 54 million in 2020.

Data on the total number of food insecure people, the food insecurity rate, and the estimated nutrition program eligibility among food insecure people is displayed in Table 4. Additionally, information about the average meal cost and annual food budget shortfall is shown for the County, State, and nation.



**TABLE 4: FOOD INSECURITY**

LOCATION	FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE <sup>1</sup>	FOOD INSECURITY RATE <sup>2</sup>	ESTIMATED PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY AMONG FOOD INSECURE PEOPLE			AVERAGE MEAL COST <sup>3</sup>	ANNUAL FOOD BUDGET SHORTFALL <sup>4</sup>
			ABOVE OTHER NUTRITION PROGRAM THRESHOLD OF 185% POVERTY	BETWEEN 130%-185% POVERTY	BELOW SNAP THRESHOLD 130% POVERTY		
United States	37,227,000	11.5%	32%	19%	49%	\$3.09	\$19.5B
California	4,291,830	10.8%	24%	0%	76%	\$3.28	\$2.4B
Los Angeles County	1,146,290	11.4%	13%	0%	87%	\$3.46	\$672M
43 <sup>rd</sup> Congressional District	87,200	11.6%	15%	0%	85%	Data not available	Data not available
44 <sup>th</sup> Congressional District	93,230	12.9%	0%	0%	100%	Data not available	Data not available

Source: Feeding America – Map the Meal Gap report, 2020.

<sup>1</sup> Nutrition program eligibility is defined as the percentage of the estimated food-insecure population by income category, according to the eligibility thresholds of the major federal nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP (at or below 130% of the federal poverty line or the state-specific threshold, when it is a higher multiple) and other programs such as WIC (185% of poverty or the state-specific threshold).

<sup>2</sup> Nutrition program eligibility is defined as the percentage of the estimated food-insecure population by income category, according to the eligibility thresholds of the major federal nutrition assistance programs, including SNAP (at or below 130% of the federal poverty line or the state-specific threshold, when it is a higher multiple) and other programs such as WIC (185% of poverty or the state-specific threshold).

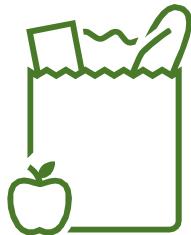
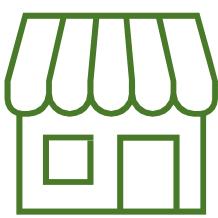
<sup>3</sup> The average weekly dollar amount food-secure individuals report spending on food, as estimated in the Current Population Survey, divided by 21 (assuming three meals a day, seven days a week). This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

<sup>4</sup> The total annualized additional dollar amount that food-insecure individuals report needing, on average, to purchase just enough food to meet their food needs. This amount is based on responses in the Current Population Survey and the USDA assumption that individuals in households that are food insecure experience food insecurity, on average, seven months out of the year. This amount has been adjusted to reflect local food prices and relevant taxes.

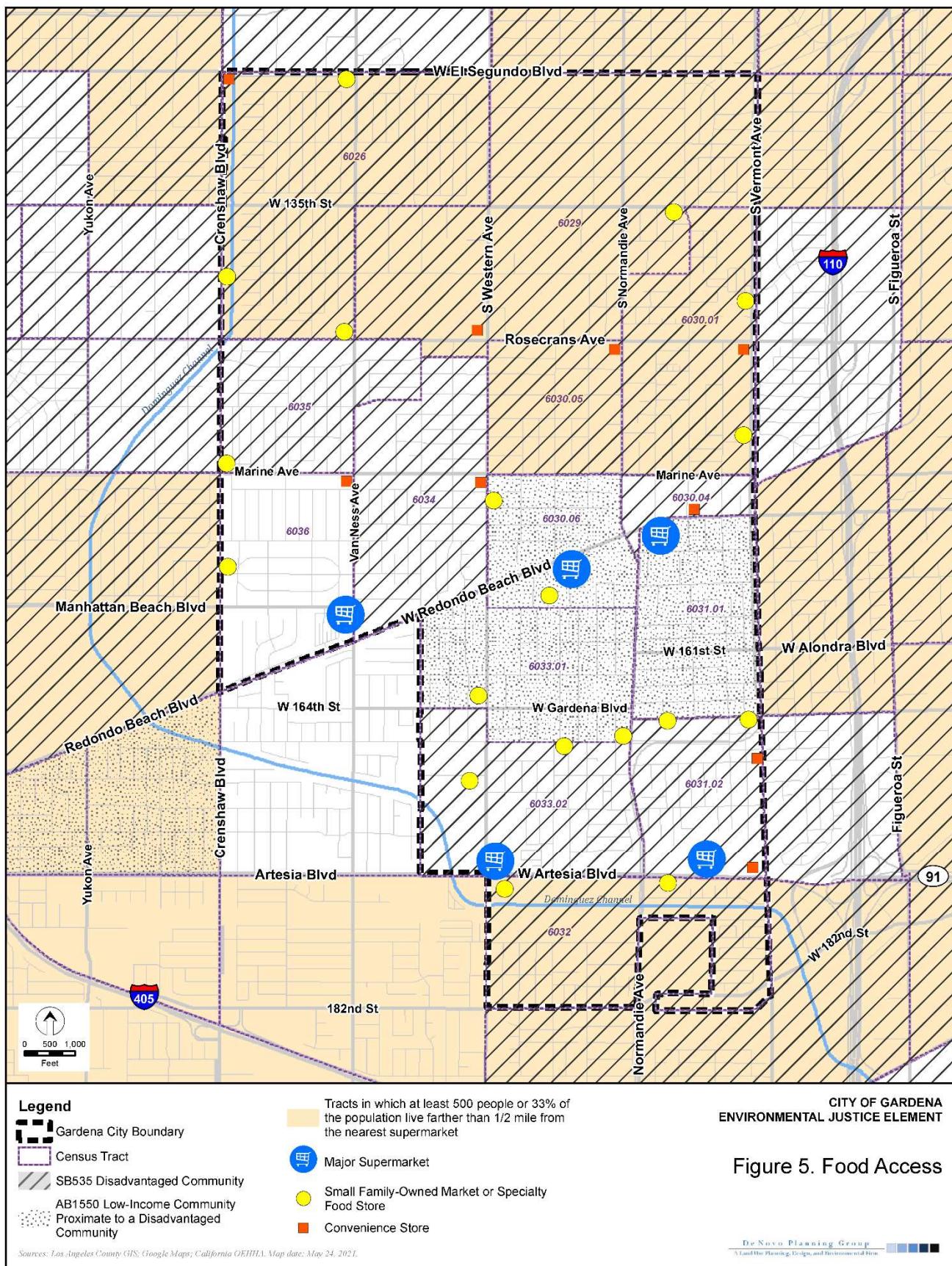
## ACCESS TO FOOD RETAILERS

The location of supermarkets, food stores and convenience stores as well as census tracts that qualify as food deserts within the City are illustrated in Figure 5. Major supermarkets are defined as larger food retailers that serve the community, small family-owned markets or specialty food stores as the range of smaller food retailers that serve individual neighborhoods or cater to specific groups, and convenience stores as small neighborhood stores that sell some food and produce. Food deserts are defined as census tracts in which at least 500 people or 33% of the population live farther than  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile from the nearest supermarket.

Five supermarkets, 18 specialty food stores, and nine convenience stores lie within City boundaries. There are no supermarkets within City boundaries north of Marine Ave. The specialty food stores, and convenience stores are fairly well distributed throughout the City, however, there are more in the southern half.



**FIGURE 5: FOOD ACCESS**



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The lack of proximate grocery stores has the greatest affect in locations where residences do not own vehicles or have sufficient access to transit. As shown in Table 5, all census tracts have at least some households without access to a vehicle. Five census tracts (outlined in bold) have a higher rate of “no vehicle access” than the citywide rate of 6.8%. DAC tracts 6029, 6030.01, and 6030.04 have double or nearly double the rate of no vehicle access as the City overall.

**TABLE 5: CAR OWNERSHIP**

LOCATION	# OF HOUSEHOLDS	# OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT VEHICLES	% OF HOUSEHOLDS WITHOUT VEHICLES
United States	120,756,048	10,395,713	8.6%
California	13,044,266	927,957	7.1%
Los Angeles County	3,316,795	292,463	8.8%
City of Gardena	20,612	1,395	6.8%
<b>6026</b>	2,881	237	8.2%
<b>6029</b>	1,316	155	11.8%
<b>6030.01</b>	2,421	293	12.1%
<b>6030.04</b>	634	74	11.7%
<b>6030.05</b>	1,872	119	6.4%
<b>6030.06</b>	810	73	9.0%
<b>6031.01</b>	1,481	90	6.1%
<b>6031.02</b>	1,318	68	5.2%
<b>6032</b>	1,163	54	4.6%
<b>6033.01</b>	1,418	64	4.5%
<b>6033.02</b>	1,630	93	5.7%
<b>6034</b>	1,421	27	1.9%
<b>6035</b>	883	18	2.0%
6036	1,364	30	2.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04

Note: DACs are in bold text.

## **4. SAFE AND SANITARY HOMES**

The condition of the housing stock in a DAC may have negative impacts on the well-being of its residents. These health impacts stem from issues such as poor indoor air quality, toxic building materials, exposure to climate variation such as excess heat or cold, improper ventilation, and structural insecurity. Unsafe housing conditions can be a result of the age of the dwelling structure, which increases the likelihood of incorporation of dangerous materials like lead and asbestos that have significant negative health impacts. DACs often have a larger number of older units within their housing stock and therefore residents of these communities are more likely to be exposed to the harmful health impacts that are associated with older housing. Other factors that can contribute to unsafe housing conditions include improper regulation and overcrowding. Prioritizing the safety and sanitation of housing stock within a community helps create proper living conditions for all residents, including those living in DACs.

This section summarizes the existing housing conditions and cost of housing throughout the City. While the conditions apply on a citywide level, they can reasonably be extrapolated to understand housing conditions in the DACs, given that nearly the entire City is considered a disadvantaged community.

### **HOUSING STOCK CONDITIONS**

Housing conditions are considered “substandard” when conditions are found to be below the minimum standard of living conditions defined in the California Health and Safety Code. Households living in substandard conditions are more likely to be in need of housing assistance, even if they are not seeking alternative housing arrangements, due to the threat to health and safety.

In addition to structural deficiencies and standards, the lack of infrastructure and utilities often serves as an indicator for substandard conditions. According to the 2019 American Community Survey<sup>5</sup>, 144 (0.7%) of the 20,612 occupied housing units in Gardena lack complete plumbing facilities, and 515 (2.5%) lack complete kitchen facilities. About 288 (1.4%) of the units have no telephone service available.

### **OVERTROWDING**

Overtrowing within a housing unit is a primary cause of unsafe housing conditions. The World Health Organization notes that overtrowing is a potential health risk as it contributes to the transmission of disease by creating unsanitary conditions.<sup>6</sup> A housing unit is considered overtrowded if there is more than one person per room (which can be any room, not just limited to bedrooms) and severely overtrowded if there

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<sup>5</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04

<sup>6</sup> World Health Organization (WHO). Accessed on March 8, 2021. Water Sanitation and Hygiene. What are the health risks related to overtrowing?”. Available at:

[http://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/emergencies/qa/emergencies\\_qa9/en/](http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/emergencies/qa/emergencies_qa9/en/)

are more than 1.5 persons per room. Overcrowding conditions in the City based upon data obtained from the U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey are depicted in Table 6.

The City has a lower overcrowding rate (9.7%) than the County (11.3%). Seven DAC census tracts (outlined in bold) experienced overcrowding at a higher rate than at the citywide rate.

DAC tract 6030.04 (on the east side) has the highest rate of overcrowding in the City at 18.3%, followed closely by DAC tract 6030.01 (also on the east side) at 16.7%.

**TABLE 6: OVERCROWDING BY TENURE**

LOCATION	PERSONS PER ROOM								OVERCROWDING CONDITION	
	1.00 OR LESS		1.01 TO 1.50		1.51 OR MORE		TOTAL UNITS			
	#	%	#	%	#	%				
Los Angeles County	2,940,883	88.7%	218,863	6.6%	157,049	4.7%	3,316,795	375,912	11.3%	
City of Gardena	18,613	90.3%	1,175	5.7%	824	4.0%	20,612	1,999	9.7%	
<b>6026</b>	2,750	95.5%	82	2.8%	49	1.7%	2,881	131	4.5%	
<b>6029</b>	1,164	88.4%	138	10.5%	14	1.1%	1,316	152	11.6%	
<b>6030.01</b>	2,015	83.2%	146	6.0%	260	10.7%	2,421	406	16.7%	
<b>6030.04</b>	518	81.7%	38	6.0%	78	12.3%	634	116	18.3%	
<b>6030.05</b>	1,606	85.8%	139	7.4%	127	6.8%	1,872	266	14.2%	
<b>6030.06</b>	718	88.6%	69	8.5%	23	2.8%	810	92	11.3%	
<b>6031.01</b>	1,428	96.4%	44	3.0%	9	0.6%	1,481	53	3.6%	
<b>6031.02</b>	1,185	89.9%	101	7.7%	32	2.4%	1,318	133	10.1%	
<b>6032</b>	1,095	94.2%	29	2.5%	39	3.4%	1,163	68	5.9%	
<b>6033.01</b>	1,293	91.2%	73	5.1%	52	3.7%	1,418	125	8.8%	
<b>6033.02</b>	1,504	92.3%	85	5.2%	41	2.5%	1,630	126	7.7%	
<b>6034</b>	1,274	89.7%	83	5.8%	64	4.5%	1,421	147	10.3%	
<b>6035</b>	799	90.5%	64	7.2%	20	2.3%	883	84	9.5%	
6036	1,258	92.2%	84	6.2%	22	1.6%	1,364	106	7.8%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04

Note: DACs are in bold text. Outlines indicate overcrowding at a higher rate than at the citywide rate.

## HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

As what is typically the most expensive component of a household's budget, housing cost (rent or mortgage, utilities, homeowner or renter insurance, and property taxes for homeowners only) is a preeminent factor in determining if the household is "cost burdened" or negatively impacted by its expenses. This consideration takes on even greater importance in Southern California where housing costs far exceed the national average.

As shown in Table 7, the City has a slightly lower rate of renter-occupied housing units (52.1%) than the County (54.2%). Renters tend to have lower income and spend a higher percentage of their income on housing than homeowners. Renters do not have control over rent increases, which have markedly accelerated over the past decade. The upfront costs of purchasing a

home, including down payments and closing costs, are commonly cited by renters as a primary obstacle to homeownership. Additionally, home prices have rebounded strongly since the depths of the Great Recession, thereby increasing the wealth of homeowners while making it more difficult for renters to make the transition into ownership.

**TABLE 7: OWNER OCCUPIED VS. RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS**

LOCATION	TOTAL OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	# OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS	% OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS	# OF RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS	% OF RENTER-OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS
Los Angeles County	3,316,795	1,519,516	45.8%	1,797,279	54.2%
City of Gardena	20,612	9,877	47.9%	10,735	52.1%
<b>6026</b>	2,881	1,789	62.1%	1,092	37.9%
<b>6029</b>	1,316	690	52.4%	626	47.6%
<b>6030.01</b>	2,421	791	32.7%	1,630	67.3%
<b>6030.04</b>	634	163	25.7%	471	74.3%
<b>6030.05</b>	1,872	542	29.0%	1,330	71.0%
<b>6030.06</b>	810	312	38.5%	498	61.5%
<b>6031.01</b>	1,481	582	39.3%	899	60.7%
<b>6031.02</b>	1,318	416	31.6%	902	68.4%
<b>6032</b>	1,163	836	71.9%	327	28.1%
<b>6033.01</b>	1,418	407	28.7%	1,011	71.3%
<b>6033.02</b>	1,630	836	51.3%	794	48.7%
<b>6034</b>	1,421	823	57.9%	598	42.1%
<b>6035</b>	883	743	84.1%	140	15.9%
6036	1,364	947	69.4%	471	34.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04

Traditionally, housing affordability has been assessed by the “maximum rent standard.” According to this standard, households that spend more than 30% of income on housing costs may be “cost burdened”. Gross rent as a percentage of household income is shown in Table 8 and monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income are shown in Table 9. Taken together, these tables demonstrate the total percentage of cost burdened households in the City of Gardena.

The City has a slightly higher percentage of renter-occupied cost burdened households (58.8%) than the County (57.6%). As shown in Table 8, four DAC census tracts (outlined in bold) experienced rental cost burden at a higher rate than at the citywide rate. DAC tract 6026(in the northwest area) has the highest rental cost burden in the City at 72%, followed closely by DAC tract 6030.05 (in the central area) at 71%. It is also notable that more than half of renters within six DAC census tracts spend 35% of more of their income on housing (also outlined in bold).

**TABLE 8: GROSS RENT AS PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

LOCATION	30.0 TO 34.9 %		35.0 % OR MORE		TOTAL OCCUPIED UNITS PAYING RENT	COST BURDENED	
	#	%	#	%		#	%
Los Angeles County	163,104	9.5%	822,780	48.1%	1,711,020	985,884	57.6%
City of Gardena	929	9.2%	5,031	49.6%	10,136	5,960	58.8%
<b>6026</b>	142	14.0%	586	58.0%	1,011	728	72.0%
<b>6029</b>	56	8.9%	361	57.7%	626	417	66.6%
<b>6030.01</b>	134	8.9%	665	44.2%	1,506	799	53.1%
<b>6030.04</b>	25	5.4%	201	43.2%	465	226	48.6%
<b>6030.05</b>	114	9.1%	779	61.9%	1,258	893	71.0%
<b>6030.06</b>	38	7.9%	193	40.2%	480	231	48.1%
<b>6031.01</b>	25	2.9%	463	53.6%	864	488	56.5%
<b>6031.02</b>	104	11.7%	302	34.1%	886	406	45.8%
<b>6032</b>	28	8.8%	135	42.3%	319	163	51.1%
<b>6033.01</b>	31	3.4%	504	55.1%	915	535	58.5%
<b>6033.02</b>	93	12.8%	389	53.5%	727	482	66.3%
<b>6034</b>	129	22.7%	227	40.0%	568	356	62.7%
<b>6035</b>	10	8.3%	59	49.2%	120	69	57.5%
6036	0	0.0%	167	42.7%	391	167	42.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04

Note: DACs are in bold text. Outlines indicate higher rates than the citywide rate.

The City has a higher percentage of owner-occupied cost burdened households (69.8%) than the County (43.5%). As shown in Table 9, no individual census tract experienced ownership cost burden at a higher rate than at the citywide rate. More than half of homeowners in DAC census tract 6030.01 (in the eastern area) spend 35% of more of their income on housing (outlined in bold).

**TABLE 9: MONTHLY OWNER COSTS AS PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME**

LOCATION	30.0 TO 34.9 %		35.0 % OR MORE		TOTAL HOUSING UNITS WITH MORTGAGE	COST BURDENED	
	#	%	#	%		#	%
Los Angeles County	98,346	9.1%	371,735	34.4%	1,081,179	470,081	43.5%
City of Gardena	2,159	34.9%	2,159	34.9%	6,182	4,318	69.8%
<b>6026</b>	118	10.0%	439	37.2%	1,179	557	47.2%
<b>6029</b>	66	16.6%	91	22.9%	397	157	39.5%
<b>6030.01</b>	10	2.2%	251	55.5%	452	261	57.7%
<b>6030.04</b>	0	0.0%	21	30.9%	68	21	30.9%
<b>6030.05</b>	42	9.9%	187	43.9%	426	229	53.8%
<b>6030.06</b>	0	0.0%	36	22.8%	158	36	22.8%
<b>6031.01</b>	32	7.6%	118	28.0%	422	150	35.5%
<b>6031.02</b>	16	6.4%	54	21.7%	249	70	28.1%
<b>6032</b>	17	3.8%	149	33.0%	452	166	36.7%
<b>6033.01</b>	12	6.0%	68	34.0%	200	80	40.0%
<b>6033.02</b>	16	4.2%	149	38.9%	383	165	43.1%
<b>6034</b>	45	8.3%	168	30.9%	543	213	39.2%
<b>6035</b>	41	7.7%	172	32.2%	534	213	39.9%
6036	106	14.7%	256	35.6%	719	362	50.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP04

Note: DACs are in bold text. Outline indicates where more than half of homeowners spend 35% of more of their income on housing.

Another way to look at the cost burden for the City's extremely low to low-income residents is to analyze data taken from the most recent U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), which is an aggregation of ACS data. The income levels of owner-occupied units to renter-occupied units are compared in Table 10. A higher percentage of renter-occupied units are in the low to extremely low-income levels (72.2% combined, outlined in bold) compared to owner-occupied units (44.7% combined, outlined in bold), demonstrating a higher housing cost burden for renters.

**TABLE 10: HOUSING AFFORDABILITY**

INCOME LEVEL	OWNER-OCCUPIED		RENTER-OCCUPIED		TOTAL OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS	
	UNITS	%	UNITS	%	UNITS	%
Extremely Low (30% or less AMI)	1,530	14.9%	2,730	26.3%	4,260	20.6%
Very Low (30-50% AMI)	1,310	12.8%	2,485	23.9%	3,795	18.4%
Low (50-80% AMI)	1,740	17.0%	2,285	22.0%	4,025	19.5%
Moderate (80-100% AMI)	1,160	11.3%	1,105	10.6%	2,265	11.0%
High (100% or more AMI)	4,530	44.1%	1,775	17.1%	6,305	30.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,265</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>10,385</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>20,650</b>	<b>100%</b>

*Source: HUD CHAS data, 2013-2017*

*Note: Outlines indicate low to extremely low-income levels.*

## 5. PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Residents of DACs are often more likely to experience negative health outcomes. Increased physical activity levels are associated with a decreased risk for numerous health conditions and chronic illnesses. The built environment in DACs can often be limited by land use planning and lack of investment, leaving less opportunities for formal and informal physical activity. Increasing the opportunity for physical activity within a community can work to positively impact the physical health of residents living in DACs.

This section summarizes the use of active transportation modes and the state and distribution of pedestrian and bicycle facilities and facilities conducive to physical activity in the City's DACs.

### ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION USE

Data from the 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) about commuting transportation modes for each of Gardena's census tracts compared to the City and County overall is provided in Table 11. Active transportation modes include walking and biking, while powered transportation modes include driving alone, carpooling, public transit, and taxicab, motorcycle, or other means. Data about active transportation use during daily commutes is one indicator of physical activity levels. Increasing opportunities for active transportation within a city can yield several positive health benefits, including mortality risk reduction, disease prevention, cardiorespiratory fitness, and metabolic health, and can also help improve the overall health outcomes of DACs.

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**TABLE 11: COMMUTING TRANSPORTATION MODES**

	Los Angeles County	City of Gardena	6026	6029	6030.01	6030.04	6030.05	6030.06	6031.01	6031.02	6032	6033.01	6033.02	6034	6035	6036
<b>Active Transportation Modes</b>																
Walked	2.7%	2.6%	1.8%	1.3%	4.7%	16.7%	0.5%	3.7%	4.2%	3.6%	2.2%	1.4%	2.6%	0.0%	0.0%	2.4%
Bicycled	0.8%	0.5%	0.0%	0.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.0%	1.1%	0.0%	2.5%	0.5%	0.0%	0.3%	0.6%	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>2.2%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>16.7%</b>	<b>0.5%</b>	<b>5.7%</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>3.6%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>1.9%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>0.3%</b>	<b>0.6%</b>	<b>2.4%</b>
<b>Powered Transportation Modes</b>																
Drove Alone	74.0%	77.1%	83.4%	77.4%	61.9%	58.4%	77.0%	80.6%	76.6%	85.5%	85.7%	76.7%	78.1%	78.3%	79.4%	81.6%
Carpooled	9.5%	11.0%	7.1%	8.7%	20.9%	20.7%	12.4%	3.2%	7.4%	4.3%	3.8%	13.4%	13.1%	11.9%	11.5%	11.1%
Public Transit	5.8%	3.5%	2.6%	6.9%	5.7%	2.2%	5.1%	6.0%	0.6%	2.7%	2.8%	0.7%	3.6%	5.7%	1.4%	1.1%
Taxicab, Motorcycle, or Other Means	1.6%	1.8%	1.8%	1.4%	4.0%	0.6%	4.3%	2.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	2.7%	0.6%	1.3%	2.9%	0.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>93.4%</b>	<b>94.9%</b>	<b>94.4%</b>	<b>92.5%</b>	<b>81.9%</b>	<b>98.8%</b>	<b>92.1%</b>	<b>84.6%</b>	<b>92.5%</b>	<b>92.3%</b>	<b>93.5%</b>	<b>95.4%</b>	<b>97.2%</b>	<b>95.2%</b>	<b>94.2%</b>

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: S0801

Note: Statistics on residents who work from home are not included. DAC census tracts are outlined in bold.

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Overall, the City of Gardena uses active transportation modes slightly less (3.1%) than the County (3.5%). Only 2.6% of Gardena commuters reported walking to work and 0.5% reported riding a bike to work. Most Gardena commuters drove to work alone (83.4%).

Six DAC tracts have higher rates of commuters who walk and/or bike to work than both the City and County overall. DAC tract 6030.04, located in the central eastern area of the City, has a notably higher percentage of commuters who walk to work (16.7%). This census tract also has a high rate of households without access to a vehicle. DAC tract 6030.06, located in the central area, has the second highest percentage at 5.6%, and also has a high rate of households without access to a vehicle. DAC tract 6030.01, located in the central eastern area, has the highest rate of households without access to a vehicle, and is tied with DAC tract 6032, located in the southernmost area, for the third highest percentage of commuters who walk and/or bike to work at 4.7%. Interestingly, tract 6032 has a lower percentage of households without access to a vehicle than the City.

### FACILITIES CONDUCIVE TO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

The City is home to 11 parks and recreation facilities. A list of the parks and their amenities, including facilities for physical activity, and whether the parks are in a DAC is included in Table 12. As previously mentioned, seven out of the City's 10 parks and recreation facilities are evenly distributed in DACs throughout the community, though there are six DACs notably void of parks and other community facilities, including tracts 6029, 6030.01, 6030.04, 6033.02, 6032, and 6031.01. All census tracts in Gardena are within the  $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile or  $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile buffer areas of multiple parks located either within or adjacent to the City as shown in Figure 6.



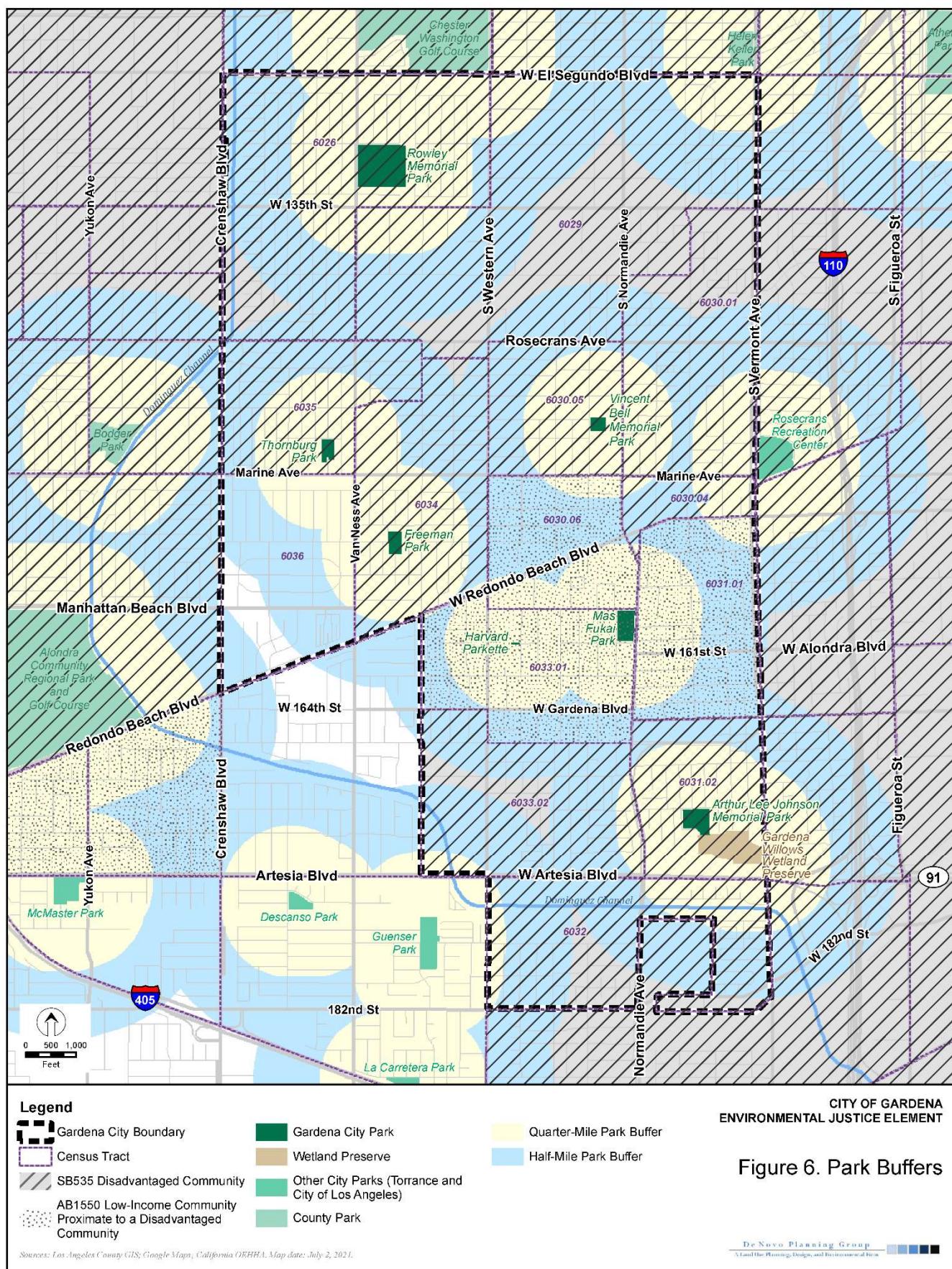
**TABLE 12: CITY OF GARDENA PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES**

PARK	ADDRESS	AMENITIES	CENSUS TRACT
Arthur Lee Johnson Memorial Park	1200 West 170th Street	Picnic shelter, basketball court, tennis court, skate park, playground, multi-use turf, restrooms	<b>6031.02</b>
Vincent Bell Memorial Park	14708 South Halldale Ave.	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamond, playground, soccer court, multi-use turf, restrooms	<b>6030.05</b>
Freeman Park	2100 West 154th Place	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamond, basketball court, tennis court, playground, multi-use turf, restrooms	<b>6034</b>
Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve	1202 W. 170th St.	Walking trail, overlook deck, ZigZag bridge, restrooms	<b>6031.02</b>
Mas Fukai Park	15800 South Brighton Ave.	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamonds, basketball courts, playground, multi-use turf, community center, restrooms	<b>6033.01</b>
Nakaoka Community Center	1670 West 162nd Street	Auditorium, restrooms	<b>6033.01</b>
Rowley Park & Gymnasium	13220 S. Van Ness Ave.	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamond, basketball courts, tennis courts, playground, multi-use turf, walking loops, skate park, multi-sport gymnasium, restrooms	<b>6026</b>
Rush Gymnasium	1651 West 162nd Street	Multi-sport gymnasium	<b>6033.01</b>
Thornburg Park	2320 West 149th Street	Picnic shelter, softball/baseball diamond, playground, basketball courts, handball court, multi-use turf, community center, restrooms	<b>6035</b>
Harvard Parkette	160th St./Harvard Blvd.	Playground and multi-use turf	<b>6033.01</b>

Source: <https://www.cityofgardena.org/gardena-facilities-2/>

Note: DACs are in bold text.

**FIGURE 6: PARK BUFFERS**



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## 6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

An important aspect of planning for environmental justice is the development of effective policies and programs that enable all residents to participate in local decision making. DACs can often be excluded from decision-making when officials and policies do not focus on involving these communities in a strategic manner. SB 1000 emphasizes that community engagement must be promoted in a local jurisdiction through the development of objectives and policies that seek to specifically involve residents of DACs. By engaging DACs in decision-making processes, policymakers can effectively meet the needs of these community members. DACs often have culturally specific needs, distinct from those of the general population, that must be made a priority within local policy to achieve community success. The US EPA Environmental Justice Policy requires the "... meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." The establishment of appropriate opportunities for those who are low-income, minorities, and linguistically isolated to engage in local decision making will help identify and resolve environmental justice issues. In addition, community programs that address the needs of DACs are critical to achieving environmental justice for these communities within a city.

The following section outlines the recommended approach to community engagement in development of the Environmental Justice Element.

### RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

#### **STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH**

- Identify and reach out to key stakeholders such as community groups and leaders who are focused on environmental justice issues within DACs to see how they would like to participate.

#### **INFORMATION SHARING**

- Share project information on the City's existing website.
- Post project milestones on existing social media platforms, including the City's Nextdoor, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter pages.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INPUT**

- **Environmental Justice Focus Group**
  - Forming a focus group specifically related to environmental justice will allow the project team and the City to engage in more specific discussions than could occur at public workshops and open houses. The group will discuss key environmental justice and community health and wellness issues facing Gardena. Members can include key stakeholders identified above as well as regional agencies and nonprofit representatives, representative from the City, school district, and other local and regional stakeholders. Group meetings can take place in-person or digitally.
- **Community Workshop**
  - Host a workshop to gather community feedback on environmental justice priorities. This workshop may be virtual.
  - Summarize the results in a brief report and policy documents as appropriate.

- **Online Survey**
  - Host an online survey in multiple languages to gather community feedback on environmental justice priorities.
- **In-Person Community Open House**
  - After stakeholder input from the Environmental Justice Focus Group, workshop, and online survey have been incorporated into a Draft Environmental Justice Element, make it available online for public review.
  - As pandemic conditions allow, supplement the virtual community workshop with an in-person open house where attendees can learn about the Draft Environmental Justice Element.
  - The public can provide comments on the draft document which will be summarized and shared with the Planning Commission and City Council.

The following sections summarize the levels of civic engagement as measured by voter registration and turnout, and demographics that may influence community and civic engagement in Gardena's DACs. This information may help inform the community engagement process described above.

### LEVELS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

It is important to start with a baseline analysis of a community's existing level of civic engagement to estimate how likely residents are to participate. The primary means of measuring a community's level of civic engagement is the assessment of voter participation. This includes the percentage of voting age residents registered to vote and the percentage of registered voters who cast ballots. A summary of both metrics for Gardena and Los Angeles County is included below. Both the voter registration rate and voter turnout rate for Gardena are lower than the County.

#### VOTER REGISTRATION AND TURNOUT FOR 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

##### Los Angeles County<sup>7</sup>

- Eligible to vote: 6.1 million
- Registered: 5.8 million
- Voter registration rate: **95.1%**
- Votes cast in 2020 presidential election: 4.3 million
- Voter turnout rate: **74.1%**

##### City of Gardena

- Eligible to vote<sup>8</sup>: 38,525
- Registered<sup>9</sup>: 36,501
- Voter registration rate: **94.7%**
- Votes cast in 2020 presidential election<sup>10</sup>: 26,099
- Voter turnout rate<sup>11</sup>: **71.5%**

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<sup>7</sup> Source: <http://www.laalmanac.com/election/el02.php>

<sup>8</sup> Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP05

<sup>9, 10, 11</sup>Source: [https://lavote.net/docs/rrcc/svc/4193\\_Community.pdf?v=5](https://lavote.net/docs/rrcc/svc/4193_Community.pdf?v=5)

## DEMOGRAPHICS THAT MAY INFLUENCE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Certain demographic categories can help predict a community's likely level of civic engagement. This section assesses four demographic categories: resident age, language spoken at home, educational attainment, and race/ethnicity. The assessments are based upon tables that compare the demographic categories at the County, City, and DAC tract levels.

### **RESIDENT AGE**

Age distribution can help predict the likelihood of a community participating in civic activities and identify constraints associated with engaging different members of the community. A disproportionately high percentage of residents under the age of 18 suggests the significant presence of families. Parents of minors are generally busy raising their children, making them less likely to participate in civic activities. Encouraging the use of virtual outreach tools, such as social media and online surveying, and outreach approaches at other community events, such as farmers markets, fairs, and sporting events, can help increase participation among this group. Conversely, a disproportionately high percentage of seniors, a group that generally has fewer commitments and less time constraints, suggests that the community may participate in conventional civic activities at a higher rate. Because seniors are less familiar with technology than their younger counterparts, the group is less likely to utilize virtual outreach tools. However, patterns of civic participation are changing significantly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Populations previously reluctant to use online methods of communication are now more aware and comfortable with these tools, presenting new opportunities to engage all members of the community.

As reflected by Table 13, Gardena's residents are somewhat older than the County as a whole. Only DAC tracts 6029 and 6030.05 are younger than the County as a whole, while the remaining DAC tracts are older than the County as a whole. The City's only tract that does not qualify as a DAC is older compared to the County.

**TABLE 13: RESIDENT AGE**

LOCATION	TOTAL POPULATION	AGE					
		UNDER 18 YEARS		18 TO 64 YEAR		65 YEARS AND OVER	
		NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
Los Angeles County	10,081,570	2,217,945	22.0%	1,435,011	64.70%	1,340,849	13.3%
City of Gardena	59,709	11,643	19.5%	7,417	63.70%	10,031	16.8%
CENSUS TRACTS							
<b>6026</b>	8,118	1,469	18.1%	882	60.00%	1,778	21.9%
<b>6029</b>	4,443	1,106	24.9%	732	66.20%	395	8.9%
<b>6030.01</b>	7,498	1,507	20.1%	965	64.00%	1,192	15.9%
<b>6030.04</b>	1,549	222	14.3%	139	62.90%	353	22.8%
<b>6030.05</b>	5,928	1,589	26.8%	1,041	65.50%	456	7.7%
<b>6030.06</b>	1,898	338	17.8%	230	68.10%	268	14.1%
<b>6031.01</b>	4,139	799	19.3%	527	66.00%	608	14.7%
<b>6031.02</b>	3,664	692	18.9%	421	60.80%	744	20.3%
<b>6032</b>	3,394	506	14.9%	312	61.60%	798	23.5%
<b>6033.01</b>	3,617	633	17.5%	401	63.40%	691	19.1%
<b>6033.02</b>	4,048	591	14.6%	378	63.90%	870	21.5%
<b>6034</b>	4,113	835	20.3%	520	62.30%	716	17.4%
<b>6035</b>	3,042	602	19.8%	387	64.30%	484	15.9%
6036	4,258	766	18.0%	503	65.60%	698	16.4%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: S0101

Note: DACs are in bold text.

#### LANGUAGE ACCESS

Language is a critical signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Non-native English speakers, and especially those individuals with limited English fluency, are less likely to participate in civic activities. Translation services are critical to reaching and actively communicating with these individuals. In addition, the metric of households who speak languages other than English can help identify the cultural diversity of a community. Civic activities, and the venues where they take place, can be tailored to accommodate the cultural preferences of individual racial, ethnic, and religious groups.

As identified by Table 14, the majority of households in Gardena (54%) speak a language other than English. More than half of households in 12 census tracts speak a language other than English (outlined in bold), and the most common language spoken is Spanish, followed by various Asian and Pacific Islander languages. Nearly 25% of Gardena's population is Asian, with the following breakdown of total population: Asian Indian: 0.5%, Chinese: 1.7%, Filipino: 4.3%, Japanese: 7.7%, Korean: 5.6%, Vietnamese: 3.3%, and Other Asian: 1.8%.<sup>12</sup> Based on these percentages we can infer that Japanese is the most common Asian language spoken, followed by Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.

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<sup>12</sup> Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP05

**TABLE 14: LANGUAGES SPOKEN AT HOME**

LOCATION	POPULATION 5 YEARS AND OVER	ENGLISH ONLY HOUSEHOLD	OTHER LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME	LANGUAGES SPOKEN OTHER THAN ENGLISH			
				SPANISH	OTHER INDO- EUROPEAN	ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER	OTHER
				NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER	NUMBER
Los Angeles County	9,470,085	4,111,587	5,358,498	3,716,660	503,528	1,032,901	105,409
			43.4%	56.6%	39.2%	5.3%	10.9% 1.1%
City of Gardena	56,381	25,912	30,468	18,792	937	9,809	931
		46.0%	54.0%	33.3%	1.7%	17.4%	1.7%
<b>6026</b>	7,660	5,569	2,091	1,239	224	379	249
		72.7%	27.3%	16.2%	2.9%	4.9%	3.3%
<b>6029</b>	4,157	965	3,192	2,966	2	215	9
		23.2%	76.8%	71.3%	0.0%	5.2%	0.2%
<b>6030.01</b>	7,084	3,082	4,002	2,611	29	1,107	255
		43.5%	56.5%	36.9%	0.4%	15.6%	3.6%
<b>6030.04</b>	1,464	595	869	321	32	494	22
		40.6%	59.4%	21.9%	2.2%	33.7%	1.5%
<b>6030.05</b>	5,550	2,794	2,756	2,076	113	450	117
		50.3%	49.7%	37.4%	2.0%	8.1%	2.1%
<b>6030.06</b>	1,809	875	934	465	0	469	0
		48.4%	51.6%	25.7%	0.0%	25.9%	0.0%
<b>6031.01</b>	3,926	1,852	2,074	1,213	46	803	12
		47.2%	52.8%	30.9%	1.2%	20.5%	0.3%
<b>6031.02</b>	3,442	1,323	2,119	1,349	13	721	36
		38.4%	61.6%	39.2%	0.4%	20.9%	1.0%
<b>6032</b>	3,255	1,402	1,853	1,018	123	712	0
		43.1%	56.9%	31.3%	3.8%	21.9%	0.0%
<b>6033.01</b>	3,415	1,246	2,169	883	36	1,242	8
		36.5%	63.5%	25.9%	1.1%	36.4%	0.2%
<b>6033.02</b>	3,840	1,385	2,455	1,249	0	1,188	18
		36.1%	63.9%	32.5%	0.0%	30.9%	0.5%
<b>6034</b>	3,846	1,757	2,089	1,320	58	623	88
		45.7%	54.3%	34.3%	1.5%	16.2%	2.3%
<b>6035</b>	2,864	1,127	1,737	1,024	47	558	108
		39.4%	60.6%	35.8%	1.6%	19.5%	3.8%
6036	4,069	1,940	2,129	1,058	214	848	9
		47.7%	52.3%	26.0%	5.3%	20.8%	0.2%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: S1601  
Note: DACs are in bold text.

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational attainment is a strong signifier of a population's likely participation in civic activities. Higher educational attainment generally correlates with increased civic participation. This is reflective of individuals with less educational attainment experiencing underemployment circumstances, such as working for less than a living wage and/or on a part-time basis. This may require individuals to seek out additional employment, reducing the time that they can commit to civic activities. In addition, individuals with lower educational attainment generally make less money. Those individuals who cannot afford to own or otherwise have limited access to an automobile, may be unable to attend civic events. This may also be reflective of individuals with less educational attainment lacking the sufficient literacy level and/or a formal education in civics and government to feel comfortable participating in civic matters.

As seen in Table 15, more of Gardena's residents and the census tracts' populations have a high school diploma or equivalent and at least some college or an Associate's degree than on the countywide level. Only three census tracts have a higher percentage of residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher than the County, however (outlined in bold). Within DACs, residents who did not complete high school or only obtained a high school degree are of greatest concern. DAC tract 6029 has the highest percentage of residents (38.5%) with less than a high school education (outlined in bold).

**TABLE 15: EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT**

LOCATION	TOTAL POPULATION (25+ YEARS)	LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE (OR EQUIVALENT)		SOME COLLEGE OR ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE		BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER	
		NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
Los Angeles County	6,886,895	1,437,059	20.9%	1,419,449	20.6%	1,789,308	26.0%	2,241,079	32.5%
City of Gardena	43,538	7,658	17.6%	10,932	25.1%	13,893	31.9%	11,055	25.4%
<b>6026</b>	6,244	770	12.4%	1,475	23.6%	2,533	40.6%	1,466	23.5%
<b>6029</b>	2,859	1,101	38.5%	867	30.3%	645	22.6%	246	8.6%
<b>6030.01</b>	5,299	1,126	21.3%	1,441	27.2%	1,566	29.6%	1,166	22.0%
<b>6030.04</b>	1,198	197	16.5%	307	25.6%	372	31.1%	322	26.9%
<b>6030.05</b>	3,840	681	17.7%	1,149	29.9%	1,353	35.3%	657	17.1%
<b>6030.06</b>	1,435	71	4.9%	392	27.3%	551	38.4%	421	29.3%
<b>6031.01</b>	2,996	317	10.6%	767	25.6%	991	33.1%	921	30.7%
<b>6031.02</b>	2,797	599	21.4%	732	26.2%	829	29.6%	637	22.8%
<b>6032</b>	2,593	188	7.3%	706	27.2%	630	24.3%	1,069	41.2%
<b>6033.01</b>	2,806	446	15.9%	604	21.5%	937	33.4%	819	29.2%
<b>6033.02</b>	3,106	544	17.5%	741	23.9%	795	25.6%	1,026	33.0%
<b>6034</b>	2,865	517	18.0%	633	22.1%	774	27.0%	941	32.8%
<b>6035</b>	2,200	490	22.3%	504	22.9%	769	35.0%	437	19.9%
6036	3,300	611	18.5%	614	18.6%	1,148	34.8%	927	28.1%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: S1501

Note: Data is for residents aged 25 years and over. DACs are in bold text.

## RACE/ETHNICITY

Numerous studies have shown that race and ethnicity are important predictors of civic engagement, and that whites are more likely to be civically engaged than other groups.<sup>13</sup> Additionally, it is essential to consider the racial make-up of a community when evaluating environmental justice because race is known to correlate with disproportionate environmental burdens. In studies exploring the roles of both race and income, race was determined to be the stronger predictor of exposure to environmental hazards.<sup>14</sup>

The majority race in the County, City, and each census tract, as well as where Hispanic or Latino residents are more than 50% of the population is outlined in bold in Table 16. The majority race in the City of Gardena is almost evenly split between Asian and White. The Asian population is higher in the City (24.9%) than the County (14.6%), while the White population is lower in the City (24.6%) than the County (51.3%). A smaller percentage of the City (39.3%) is Hispanic or Latino than the County (48.5%), although DAC tract 6029 has a notably higher percentage (76.1%) than both the City and County. There is a larger Black or African American population in the City (22.5%) than in the County (8.1%), and DAC census tracts 6026 and 6030.01 are majority Black or African American. DAC census tracts 6029 and 6030.05 are majority some other race.



<sup>13</sup> For example, see Foster-Bey, J. (2008, December). *CIRCLE Working Paper #62: Do Race, Ethnicity, Citizenship and Socio-economic Status Determine Civic-Engagement?* Retrieved from <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED505266.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Luke Cole, director, California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation, Testimony, February Hearing Transcript, p. 16; Luke W. Cole and Shelia R. Foster, *From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement* (New York University Press, 2001), pp. 54–55, 167–83.

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**TABLE 16: RACE/ETHNICITY**

LOCATION	WHITE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKAN NATIVE	ASIAN	NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	HISPANIC OR LATINO (OF ANY RACE)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Los Angeles County	51.3%	8.1%	0.7%	14.6%	0.3%	21.0%	4.0%	48.5%
City of Gardena	24.6%	22.5%	0.6%	24.9%	1.2%	21.3%	4.8%	39.3%
<b>6026</b>	12.3%	<b>62.9%</b>	0.0%	3.4%	5.3%	8.3%	7.8%	17.0%
<b>6029</b>	27.8%	13.8%	0.9%	5.2%	0.0%	<b>48.2%</b>	4.0%	<b>76.1%</b>
<b>6030.01</b>	18.4%	<b>30.2%</b>	1.3%	23.7%	0.0%	24.7%	1.8%	42.6%
<b>6030.04</b>	16.7%	27.4%	0.0%	<b>38.2%</b>	0.0%	17.3%	0.5%	29.6%
<b>6030.05</b>	15.2%	30.5%	0.0%	<b>18.4%</b>	0.0%	<b>32.2%</b>	3.7%	42.5%
<b>6030.06</b>	27.9%	6.0%	1.2%	<b>42.1%</b>	0.0%	19.4%	3.4%	38.6%
<b>6031.01</b>	34.7%	14.3%	0.0%	28.3%	0.4%	14.6%	7.6%	42.0%
<b>6031.02</b>	28.6%	14.5%	0.2%	<b>28.7%</b>	0.0%	23.1%	4.9%	45.9%
<b>6032</b>	22.2%	12.8%	0.0%	<b>36.9%</b>	0.0%	24.7%	3.4%	34.4%
<b>6033.01</b>	19.2%	3.8%	2.6%	<b>47.6%</b>	0.0%	18.8%	8.0%	31.6%
<b>6033.02</b>	26.8%	6.2%	1.5%	<b>43.2%</b>	0.0%	18.5%	3.9%	37.1%
<b>6034</b>	29.7%	11.1%	0.0%	26.1%	6.1%	20.5%	6.5%	40.0%
<b>6035</b>	40.8%	11.5%	0.0%	24.6%	0.3%	17.9%	4.9%	47.1%
6036	45.0%	8.8%	1.6%	31.4%	0.0%	9.2%	4.1%	35.2%

Source: United States Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table ID: DP05

Note: DACs are in bold text.

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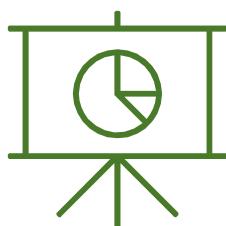
## 7. IMPROVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF DACs

An integral component of Environmental Justice planning is proactively prioritizing projects and investments that directly benefit DACs. These communities may have specific needs that are distinct from those of the greater community, which may require taking special actions to help improve existing conditions in DACs, such as placing limits on new developments to compensate for already high pollution burdens. These kinds of actions may not be applicable across the entire City but may be needed due to the special circumstances DACs face.

DACs are often overlooked regarding public investments and development of new amenities, and delayed investments and programs can significantly prolong inequalities. Prioritizing DACs for future investment would help community benefits and programs get implemented in timely fashion. Additionally, identifying and prioritizing improvements and programs for DACs may also help the City obtain grants and/or other public funding that is targeted for DACs.

The UC Davis Center for Regional Change and Rabobank, N.A. partnered to develop the Regional Opportunity Index (ROI) intended to help understand social and economic opportunity in California's communities. The goal of the ROI is to help target resources and policies toward people and places with the greatest need to foster thriving communities. The ROI integrates six topics, including civic life, health/environment, mobility/transportation, housing, economy, and education, and maps areas of potential investment by identifying specific areas of urgent need and opportunity. The ROI relies on many of the same data sources already analyzed in this report, such as the American Community Survey (ACS), but also includes additional data sources such as the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES) data, the California Department of Education, and the California Department of Public Health. All data points used in the ROI are from 2014.

The tool analyzes different indicators for each of the six topics, as summarized in Table 17 below. There are two types of indicators: **people-based** indicators illustrate the relative measure of **people's** assets in the six topics, while the **place-based** indicators illustrate the relative measure of a **place's** assets in those same topics, minus mobility/transportation.



**TABLE 17: REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX (ROI) TOPICS AND INDICATORS**

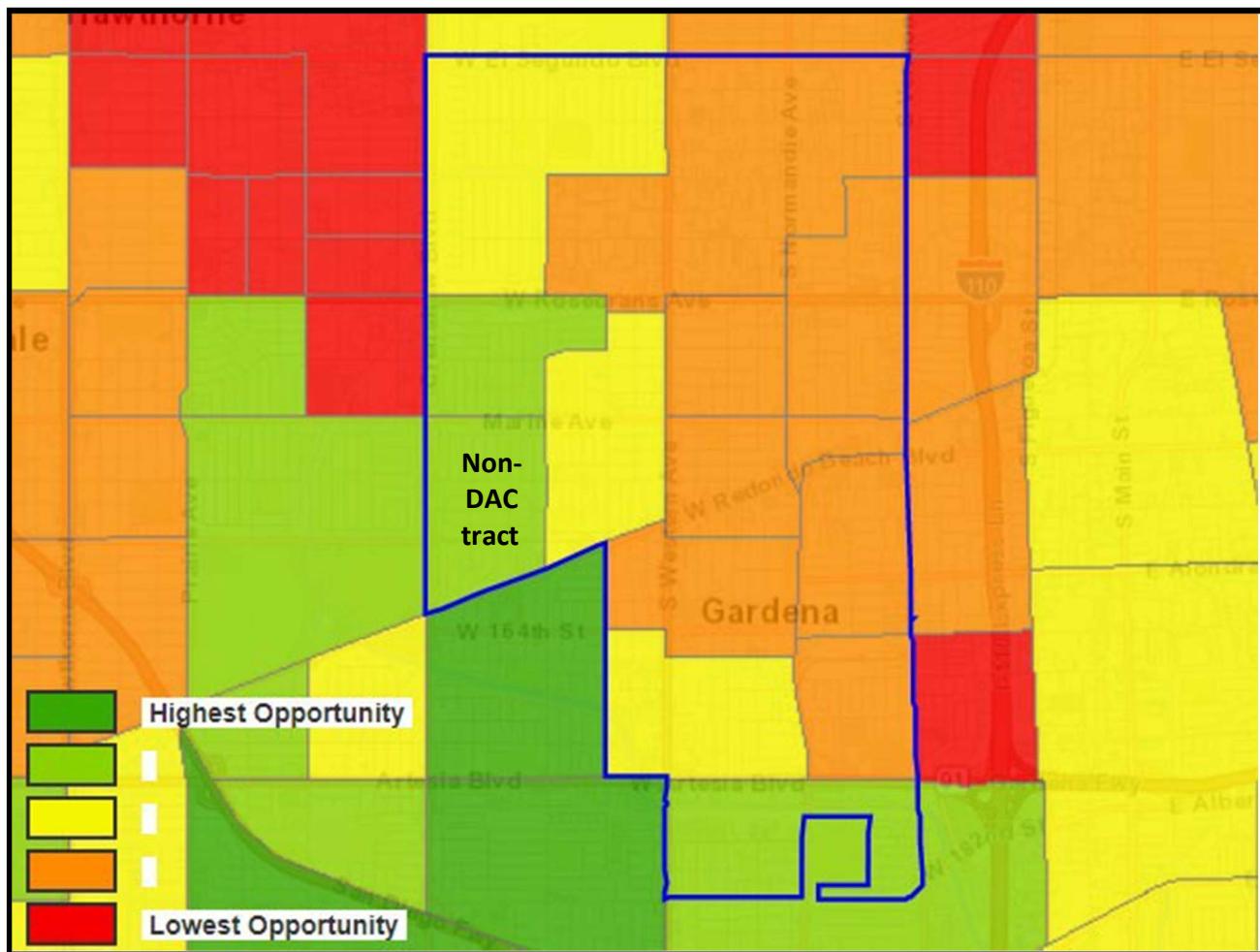
TOPICS	PEOPLE-BASED INDICATORS	PLACE-BASED INDICATORS
Civic Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• English Speakers</li><li>• Voting Rates</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Neighborhood Stability</li><li>• US Citizenship</li></ul>
Health/Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Years of Life Lost</li><li>• Births to Teens</li><li>• Infant Health</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Air Quality</li><li>• Health Care Availability</li><li>• Access to Supermarket</li><li>• Prenatal Care</li></ul>
Mobility/Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Internet Access</li><li>• Commute Time</li><li>• Vehicle Availability</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul>
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Housing Cost Burden</li><li>• Homeownership</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Housing Affordability</li><li>• Housing Adequacy</li></ul>
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minimum Basic Income</li><li>• Employment Rate</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bank Accessibility</li><li>• Job Quality</li><li>• Job Growth</li><li>• Job Availability</li></ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Elementary School Truancy</li><li>• English Proficiency</li><li>• Math Proficiency</li><li>• College Educated Adults</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• High School Discipline rate</li><li>• Teacher Experience</li><li>• UC/CSU Eligible</li><li>• High School Graduation Rate</li></ul>

*Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020*

The tool ranks each census tract in terms of highest opportunity to lowest opportunity levels. Highest opportunity tracts, represented by green in the maps, indicate that conditions are good across the indicators; while lowest opportunity tracts, represented by red in the maps, indicate that improvements need to be made. Gardena has mostly lower- or average- opportunity census tracts throughout the City, with people-based opportunities generally scoring better than placed-based opportunities. The ROI topics and indicators with low levels of opportunity which make them ripe for focused public investments are discussed in further detail below. It will be important for the City to consider the lower opportunity ROI topics and indicators within DAC census tracts when reviewing and establishing policies and programs and directing investments.

In terms of **people-based** assets presented in Figure 7 and Table 18, there are eight DAC census tracts, mostly located east of Western Ave., with lower levels of opportunity (shown in orange). Only two DAC tracts in the City have higher opportunity levels (shown in light green), while the remaining DAC tracts have average opportunities (shown in yellow). Civiclife (comprised of English speakers and voting rates) and housing (comprised of housing cost burden and homeownership) are the two most common recurring topics among orange and yellow tracts.

## **FIGURE 7: PEOPLE-BASED OPPORTUNITIES**



*Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)*

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**TABLE 18: PEOPLE-BASED REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX (ROI) DAC CENSUS TRACTS**

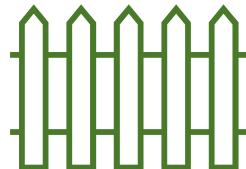
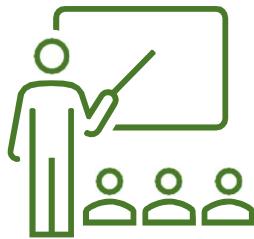
DAC CENSUS TRACT	OPPORTUNITY LEVEL	HIGHER OPPORTUNITIES	LOWER OPPORTUNITIES
6026	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
6029	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
6030.01	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
6030.04	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
6030.05	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
6030.06	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health/Environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
6031.01	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
6031.02	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health/Environment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
6032	(light green)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> </ul>
6033.01	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Housing</li> </ul>

DAC CENSUS TRACT	OPPORTUNITY LEVEL	HIGHER OPPORTUNITIES	LOWER OPPORTUNITIES
6033.02	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health/Environment</li> <li>• Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Life</li> <li>• Economy</li> </ul>
6034	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>• Economy</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Life</li> <li>• Health/Environment</li> <li>• Housing</li> </ul>
6035	(light green)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health/Environment</li> <li>• Mobility/Transportation</li> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Economy</li> <li>• Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Civic Life</li> </ul>

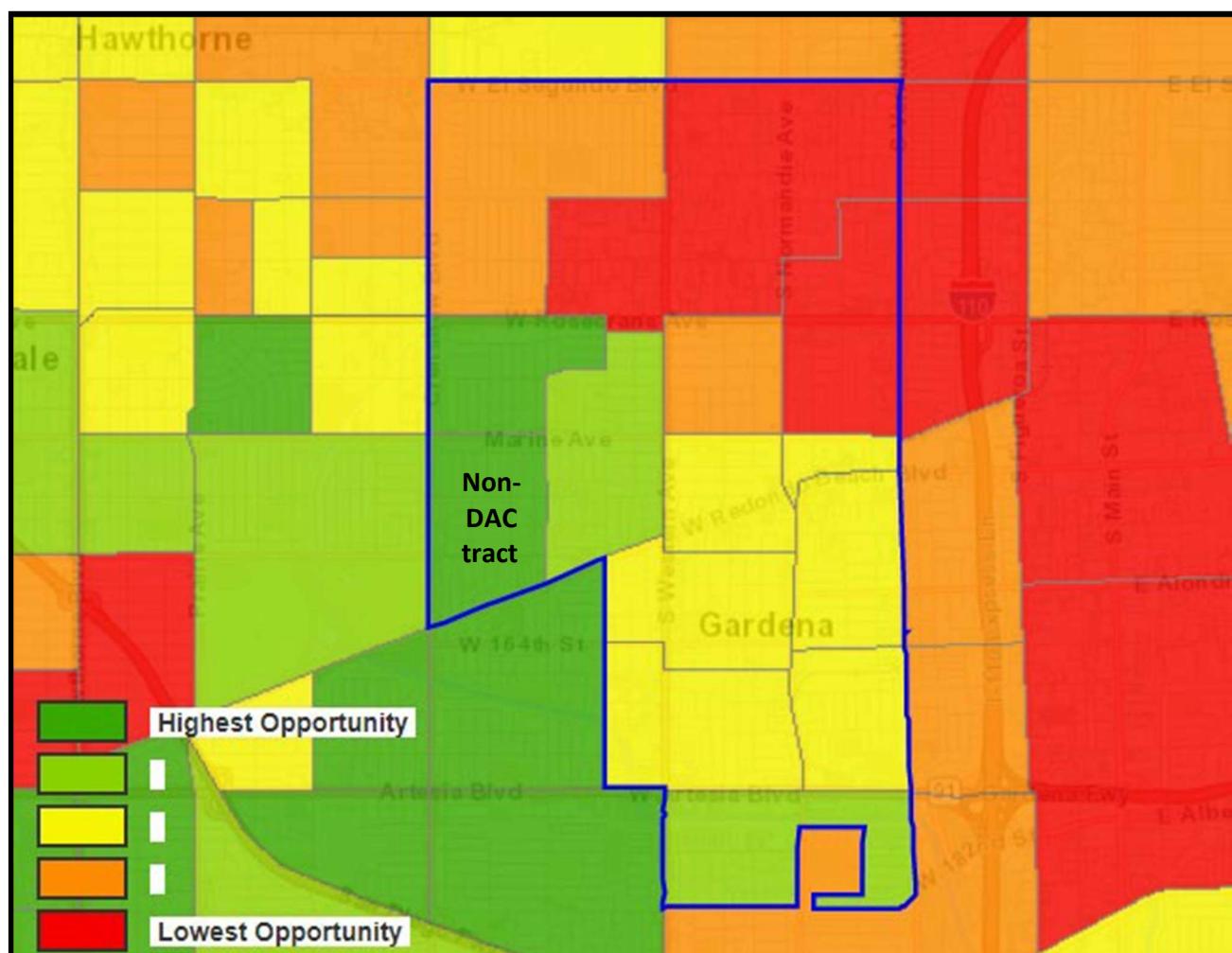
Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)

Note: Non-DAC census tracts are not included

In terms of **place-based** assets presented in Figure 8 and Table 19, there are four DAC census tracts, mostly located north of Marine Ave., with lower levels of opportunity (shown in red and orange). DAC census tracts 6029 and 6030.01 have the lowest levels of opportunity with challenges across all five applicable ROI topics (mobility/transportation is not considered in the place-based analysis). Three DAC tracts in the City have higher opportunity levels (shown in light green and dark green), while the remaining DAC tracts have average opportunities (shown in yellow). Housing (comprised of housing affordability and housing adequacy) and economy (comprised of bank accessibility, job quality, job growth, and job availability) are two most common recurring topics among all orange tracts and yellow tracts.



**FIGURE 8: PLACE-BASED OPPORTUNITIES**



Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)

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**TABLE 19: PLACE-BASED REGIONAL OPPORTUNITY INDEX (ROI) DAC CENSUS TRACTS**

DAC CENSUS TRACT	OPPORTUNITY LEVEL	HIGHER OPPORTUNITIES	LOWER OPPORTUNITIES
<b>6026</b>	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> </ul>
<b>6029</b>	Lowest Opportunity (red)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
<b>6030.01</b>	Lowest Opportunity (red)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>
<b>6030.04</b>	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> </ul>
<b>6030.05</b>	(orange)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> </ul>
<b>6030.06</b>	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> </ul>
<b>6031.01</b>	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> </ul>
<b>6031.02</b>	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> </ul>
<b>6032</b>	(light green)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing</li> </ul>
<b>6033.01</b>	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> </ul>
<b>6033.02</b>	(yellow)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> </ul>
<b>6034</b>	(light green)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing</li> </ul>
<b>6035</b>	Highest Opportunity (dark green)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civic Life</li> <li>Health/Environment</li> <li>Housing</li> <li>Economy</li> <li>Education</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>

Source: UC Davis Center for Regional Change, 2020 (using 2014 data points)

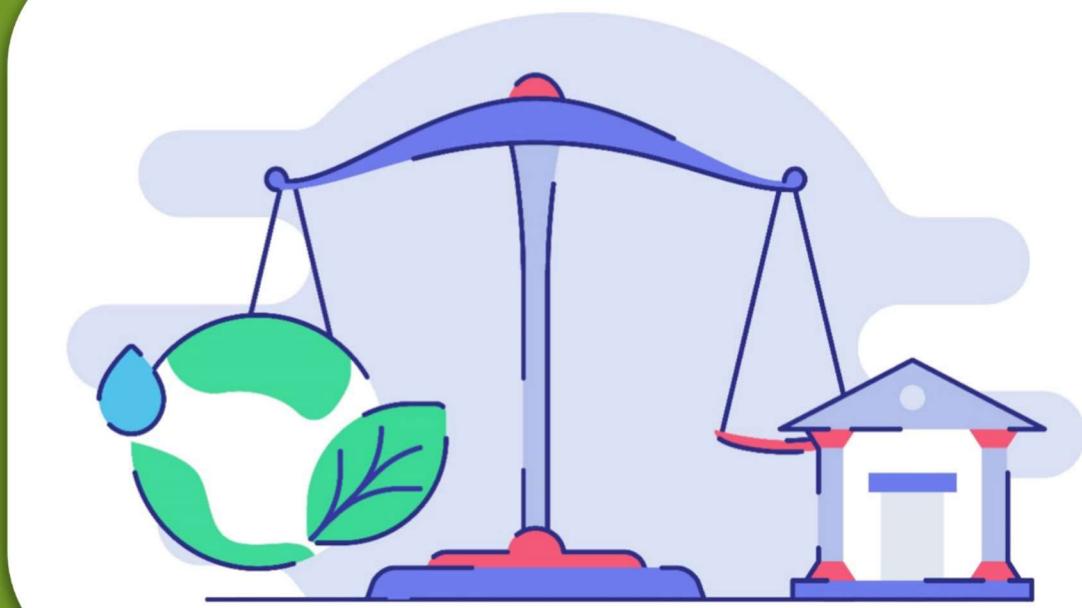
Note: Non-DAC census tracts are not included

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# CITY OF GARDENA

Environmental Justice

Community Survey Summary

Appendix B to the Environmental Justice Element

November 2021



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## Executive Summary

As part of the community outreach efforts for Gardena's Environmental Justice Element, the City conducted an online survey to gather information on resident concerns. The survey was available online via the SurveyMonkey platform from October 1 to November 5, 2021. A link to the survey was posted to the City's Environmental Justice Element webpage, and flyers with a link to the survey were also shared around the community. City staff also made paper copies of the survey available to residents at their request.

The survey contained 18 total questions, with 7 questions related to environmental justice topics and 11 questions related to the demographics of the respondent. The survey had 61 total responses with a 97 percent completion rate.

Below is a summary of the input received from the survey and the general themes that emerged.

## Question 1

**Are any of the following conditions impacting your community that make it difficult for residents to have good health and living conditions?**

ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
	None of the above	17.54%	10
2	Air pollution from vehicles on streets and freeways.	47.37%	27
3	Air pollution from industrial businesses and activities.	35.09%	20
	Water pollution in waterways or storm drainage areas.	22.81%	13
	Access to safe and/or affordable drinking water.	21.05%	12
	Fumes, noise, and/or chemicals from current industrial businesses or gas stations.	29.82%	17
	Pollution at the location of past industrial businesses.	19.30%	11
1	Illegal dumping of trash and other items in waterways or other areas.	59.65%	34
	Other (please specify)	24.56%	14
Total Respondents: 57			

Most people were concerned with Illegal dumping of trash and other items in waterways or other areas, followed by air pollution from vehicles and industrial businesses. People who responded with "Other" provided the following comments:

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
1	Transfer station on roseocrans/hall Dale Ave
2	Expanding on the air pollution from vehicles, there are several ice cream trucks that frequent my neighborhood. Several of those trucks sit idling while servicing customers and drive through the neighborhood at a snail's pace. This not only causes exhaust to enter my home but their engines and music are loud. One truck can go back and forth on my and adjacent streets for up to 1/2 an hour at a time.
3	Lack of trees in the city easements.
4	Illegal fireworks, firearms (Ghost guns), street racing and takeovers, auto theft,
5	Vehicle and truck traffic on 161st between Normandie & Vermont has increased tenfold. Big rigs, tow trucks, buses, transportation trucks are always on this street. Vehicle traffic is very high.
6	High traffic volume; noise from traffic; poor road condition.
7	Homeless individuals wandering the neighborhood from time to time
8	Speeding on Redondo Beach Blvd (safety) and motorcycles without adequate mufflers (noise pollution)
9	Blighted properties.
10	Noise pollution from fireworks (late at night) and leaf blower at 6 am in the morning
11	Insufficient parking on residential streets due to illegal garage conversions and additions.
12	Constant violation of the Gardena Noise Ordinance by motor vehicles with modified exhaust systems. Noise hazards are part of the environment based on the detrimental impact long term exposure has on citizens
13	Too few trees which provide shade and cool the area. Old growth trees are cut down citywide.
14	Not enough water and electricity in the afternoon.

## Question 2

The second question asked people how satisfied they were with the adequacy of public amenities and services.

	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEITHER SATISFIED NOR DISSATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Sidewalks, crosswalks, and safety for people who walk and use wheelchairs or strollers.	17.86% 10	39.29% 22	14.29% 8	19.64% 11	8.93% 5	56
Bicycle lanes and safety for people who use bicycles to get around.	10.71% 6	16.07% 9	32.14% 18	30.36% 17	10.71% 6	56
Bus services for people who use buses to get where they need to go.	16.67% 9	29.63% 16	46.30% 25	3.70% 2	3.70% 2	54
Access to health care services like doctors, dentists, and hospitals.	23.21% 13	32.14% 18	32.14% 18	8.93% 5	3.57% 2	56
Access to libraries, museums, and other cultural centers.	14.29% 8	42.86% 24	14.29% 8	16.07% 9	12.50% 7	56
Availability of affordable daycare centers.	3.64% 2	16.36% 9	63.64% 35	5.45% 3	10.91% 6	55
Availability and response time of emergency services such as fire department, paramedics, and police department.	30.51% 18	44.07% 26	13.56% 8	8.47% 5	3.39% 2	59

People also provided the following additional comments:

#	IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU MAY ENTER THEM HERE
1	Most things are fine. My complaint with sidewalks are the unevenness that only can be experienced by walk around the blocks in the neighborhood no
2	Our hospital needs addressing. Perhaps partnership with a university to make it a specialty location...maybe childbirth? It would be neat if we could have some sort of historical museum about our city.
3	Schools drop off and pick up. Safety for children, respect for home owners and other traffic around the schools. Need for more traffic signals and stop signs in areas with speeding problems.
4	Local buses don't run late enough. They pretty much stop around 10:00 pm which isn't enough time for people attending late classes or working late hours.
5	Police department outstanding.
6	I called the non emergency number one evening and received no response back. I even talked to someone.

### Question 3

**Are you able to access grocery stores, neighborhood markets and farmers markets, or other affordable healthy food options in your neighborhood?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	70.00%	42
No	3.33%	2
Somewhat	18.33%	11
If you have any additional comments you may enter them here	8.33%	5
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>60</b>

People also provided the following additional comments:

#	IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU MAY ENTER THEM HERE
1	Somewhat, neighboring cities have Trader Joe's and Whole Foods, why not us?
2	Would Weeklu Farmers Market to return
3	I would like to see a farmers market in our area
4	I would love for Gardena to have a farmers' market, and encourage more healthy nutrition education for residents
5	The city needs to do whatever it can to get a Trader Joes

### Question 4

**Do you know where to find information about nutrition and healthy eating habits?**

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	86.44%	51
No	11.86%	7
If you have any additional comments you may enter them here	1.69%	1
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>59</b>

One respondent provided the following additional comment:

#	IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU MAY ENTER THEM HERE
1	Not in Gardena

## Question 5

**Survey takers were asked if they are concerned about a variety of issues in their neighborhood.**

ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
	None of the above	17.54%	10
1	Affordable housing.	54.39%	31
2	Overcrowding conditions in homes.	43.86%	25
	Affordability of or access to heating and air conditioning.	24.56%	14
3	Unsafe or unhealthy conditions in homes (such as lead, asbestos, mold, poor ventilation, pests and rodents, or needed repairs).	33.33%	19
	Other (please specify)	26.32%	15
Total Respondents: 57			

Most people were concerned with affordable housing, followed by overcrowding conditions and unsafe or unhealthy conditions in homes. People who responded with "Other" provided the following comments:

#	OTHER (PLEASE SPECIFY)
1	Prior to the pandemic, summer cooling centers were open only during the weekdays. If possible, these centers should be open during the weekends.
2	Many neighborhoods do not have enough parking for the amount of people with cars in their household/property. I would also love the planning department to really make their policies clear and digitally accessible.
3	My neighbor split her rental property (formerly a single family home) into 2 or possibly 3 units with no on site parking. There could be up to 5 adults living on the property and one owns more than one car.
4	Increased traffic from new townhome construction without taking into account increased car usage in streets which lead to traffic which lead to bad environmental air for neighborhoods effected.
5	Too many people in one dwelling, too many cars on the street. Trash and vehicle traffic. Difficulty leaving driveway due to lack of visibility and speeding cars.
6	high density residential developments, parking
7	I am concerned about the maintenance of parks, and other recreational areas. Also, would like to see more vegetation, trees, planters.. too much concrete!
8	Multiple shanty dwelling structures built in back of house without permit. Cars park like sardines in front of houses.
9	The Dominguez channel is rotting and Gardena officials have made no statement on the air quality but the City of Carson got its residents aid from the county
10	"Affordable housing" programs should not only be for those who live near the poverty line but should be available to any LOCAL family who makes under 150,000 a year. Home prices have risen to ridiculous levels for Gardena.
11	The State of California has a law on the books prohibiting modified exhaust systems designed to make your car louder. The city of Gardena has a noise ordinance that applies to vehicle noise. This is in addition to the reckless speeding associated with these vehicles. Normandie Ave becomes a race track after 5pm, especially between Artesia and Redondo which is primarily residential. ANY enforcement of existing laws would be much appreciated.
12	I'm concerned with the price of affordable housing but do not support SB 9.
13	Too many cars per house or apt.
14	People storing vehicles on the streets, not creating parking for tenants
15	Homelessness (both street homelessness and trailer vans)

## Question 6

**Survey takers were asked to rate how much they agreed with the following statements. They were prompted to try and think of how things were pre-COVID.**

	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	TOTAL
It is convenient for me to get to a park or recreation center.	51.79% 29	33.93% 19	7.14% 4	5.36% 3	1.79% 1	56
I have access to a suitable space to do physical activity (such as exercise, play sports, ride a bike, walk, etc.).	35.09% 20	42.11% 24	10.53% 6	8.77% 5	3.51% 2	57
There are enough opportunities for affordable activities at local parks and recreation centers.	20.00% 11	34.55% 19	23.64% 13	16.36% 9	5.45% 3	55
I feel safe at my local park or recreation center.	14.04% 8	36.84% 21	29.82% 17	8.77% 5	10.53% 6	57
The amenities (such as sports fields, playgrounds, picnic tables, trash receptacles, benches, landscaping, shade, lighting, etc.) at my local park meet my needs.	14.29% 8	46.43% 26	19.64% 11	14.29% 8	5.36% 3	56
My community has enough parks, open space, and recreation centers to meet the needs of residents.	13.79% 8	36.21% 21	17.24% 10	17.24% 10	15.52% 9	58

People who responded with “Other” provided the following comments:

#	IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU MAY ENTER THEM HERE
1	We need more parks. Also Mas Fukai was renovated beautifully but that chain link fence needs to go
2	I would like to see more recreational activities offered by the city. I don't mind paying for it, but find myself looking at other cities for activities when I live here in Gardena.
3	I only wish things will startup again to be like pre Covid
4	Gardena Parks do not feel safe at all. I have one within walking distance of my home and never take my kids there. I drive to parks in Torrance instead.
5	I would like to see year round access to the new swim facility and walking paths at the parks. Also, more rec classes through partnership with dance studios or people qualified to or who want to give lessons. Karate, Martial Arts, Swim, Beginning Dance, Tennis, Volleyball, etc
6	When I ride my bike I find it hard to cross major streets like Western Ave and Redondo Beach Blvd
7	I think we should turn some of the old abandoned properties into parks
8	Alondra Park is nearby but not in Gardena. Does that count for the survey? Too many homeless hanging out in the park but they need to spend time somewhere with toilets.
9	We need to add at least one dog park in our community.
10	Try holding events at parks other than Mas Fukai, or Rowley. Promote family activities at Freeman Park or Thomburg Park as well.
11	need more parks
12	Our park is over run with afterschool day care kids and there is not enough playground equipment for those kids and others.

## Question 7

**Survey takers were asked to rate how satisfied they are with communication from the City about community engagement opportunities.**

	VERY SATISFIED	SATISFIED	NEITHER SATISFIED NOT DISSATISFIED	DISSATISFIED	VERY DISSATISFIED	TOTAL
Ability to find or access information about decisions that the City is considering and/or opportunities for residents to share their thoughts on City proposals.	17.86% 10	33.93% 19	14.29% 8	21.43% 12	12.50% 7	56
Availability of information about City proposals or decisions in multiple languages spoken by residents.	11.32% 6	28.30% 15	37.74% 20	13.21% 7	9.43% 5	53
Availability of information on City proposals or decisions in a communication method (such as American Sign Language, Lengua de Señas Mexicana, large print, screen reader compatible web page or document) that meets the needs of disabled residents.	9.09% 5	27.27% 15	40.00% 22	12.73% 7	10.91% 6	55
Ability to participate in City meetings at a time and through a communication channel (i.e. phone, video meeting, email) that works for residents.	15.52% 9	32.76% 19	32.76% 19	8.62% 5	10.34% 6	58

Several respondents provided the additional comments on the following page:

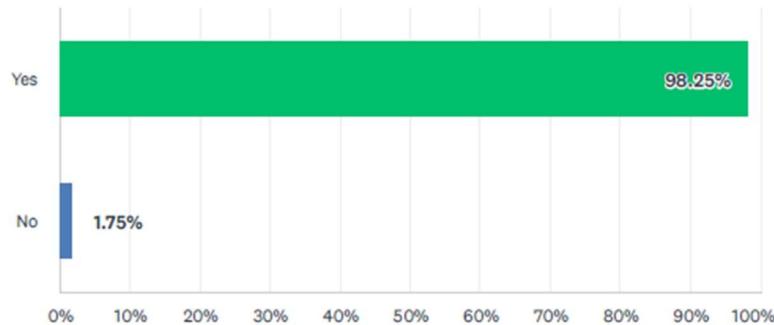
#	IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS YOU MAY ENTER THEM HERE
1	If I wasn't a busybody and found this initiative, I wouldn't have come into access with it. I know a significant portion of our city would love to have a day but the city is not doing the legwork to get those opinions
2	I get most of my information through the hard work of my neighborhood watch coordinator Mary. Have some difficulty getting information from online sites. When I have gone to City online sites events are not updated. I don't use other social media. I believe banners help for large events but small events get lost.
3	Communications with our older residents who don't use social media is a big problem
4	I don't think the zoom process makes participation accessible
5	Getting permits to improve property is onerous and very time consuming. Even small improvements.
6	The pandemic and mitigation protocols have impeded these events. It should be improving as protocols are relaxed.
7	Stop allowing a few vocal busy bodies who have nothing better to do, create moratoriums the rest of us don't agree with (see stupid fireworks moratorium the past few years) The rest of us work and have families to attend to. We voted them in, they stay in until voted out.
8	It's very fitting the city takes an environmental justice effort after the comment periods for the Prologis development ended. I was beyond disappointed to learn the City took a buyout to withdraw their opposition to the project. Proposals like this bring traffic, noise and poison into communities like ours, so it's ironic the city gives off the notion it cares
9	This survey is a start to hearing from residents. I'm not aware of other means the City provides for input.

## Demographic Questions

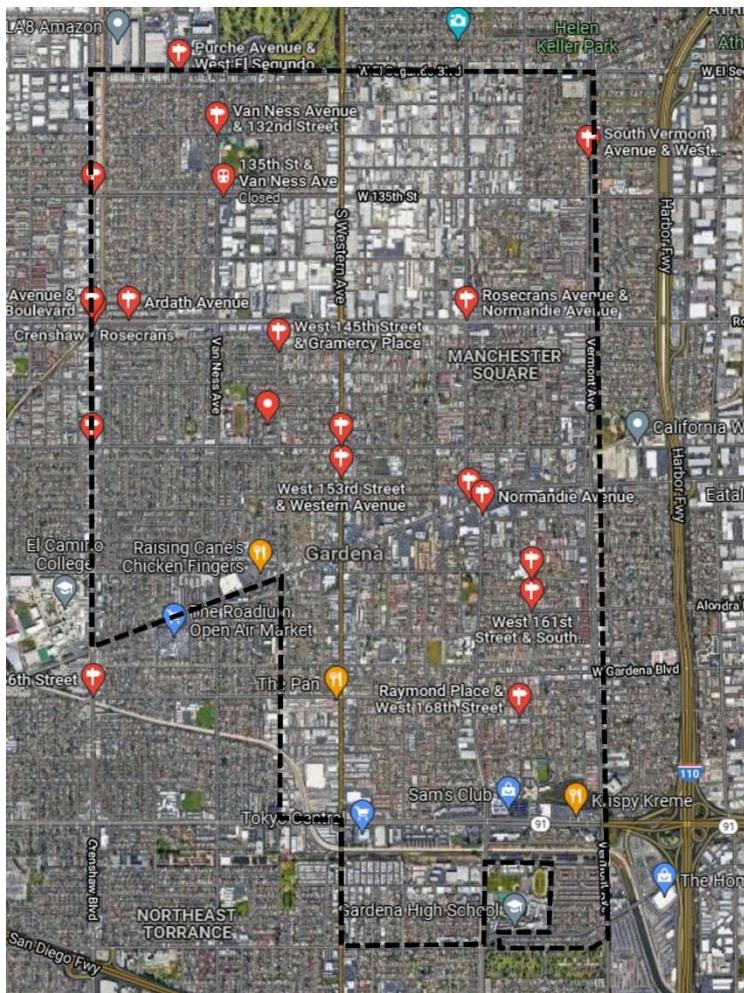
To help gain insight into the profile of survey-takers, the survey contained 11 questions related to demographics. The questions and responses are included below.

### Q8 Do you live and/or work in Gardena?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4

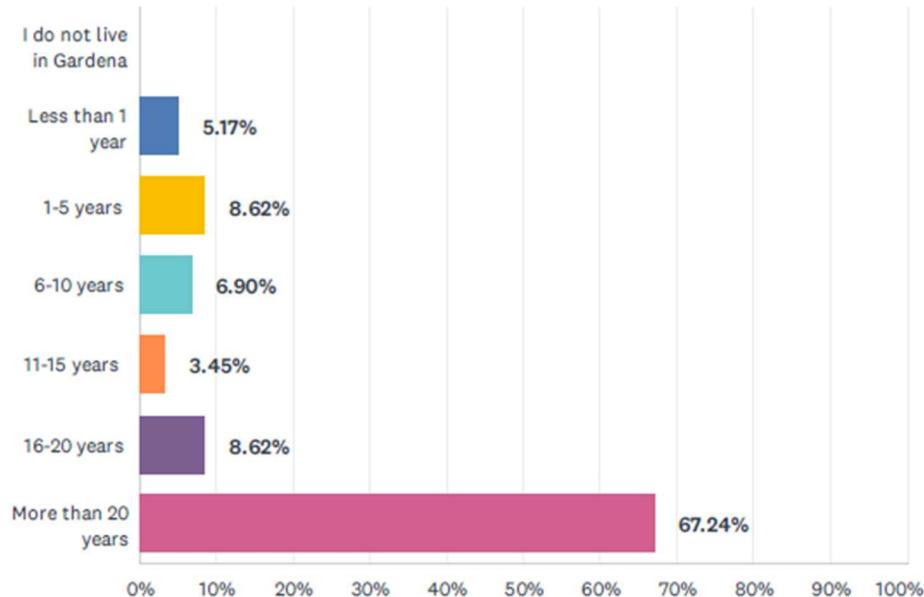


Survey takers were also asked to provide the nearest cross streets of where they live or work in the city. The city boundary is shown in a dashed black line. The red pins on the following map represent the reported cross streets and show a fairly even distribution.



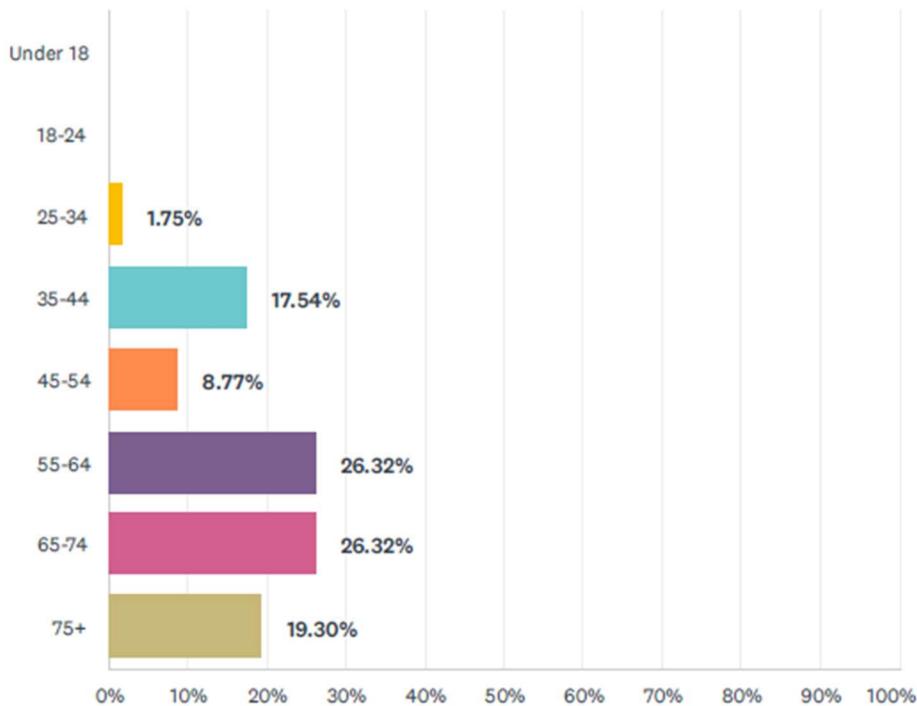
## Q10 If you live in Gardena, how long have you lived here?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3



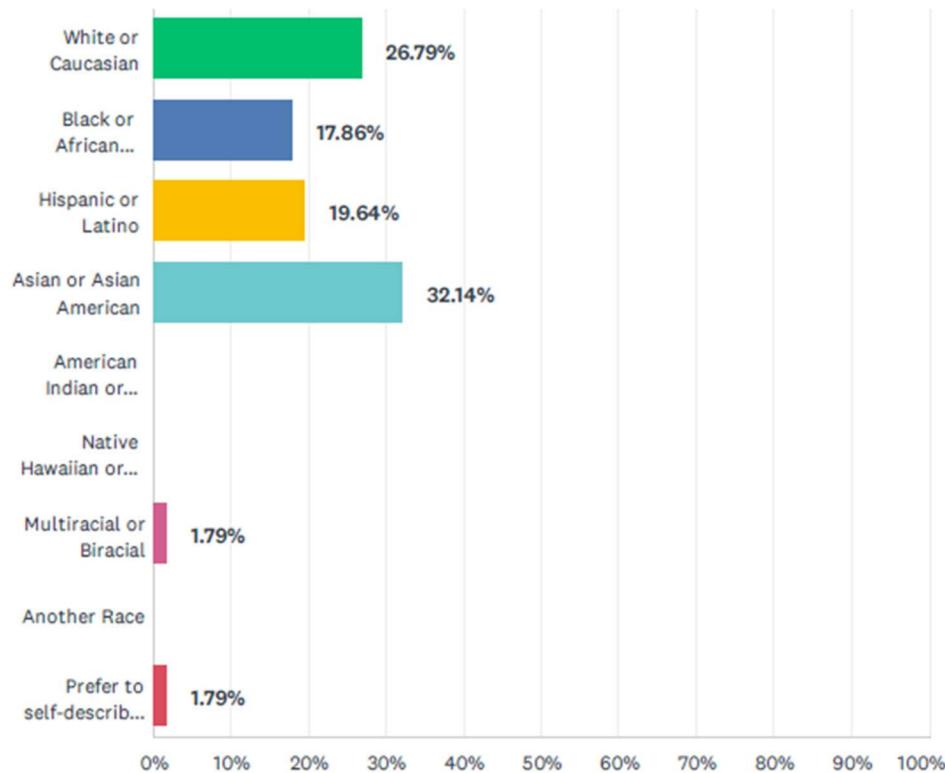
## Q11 What is your age?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4



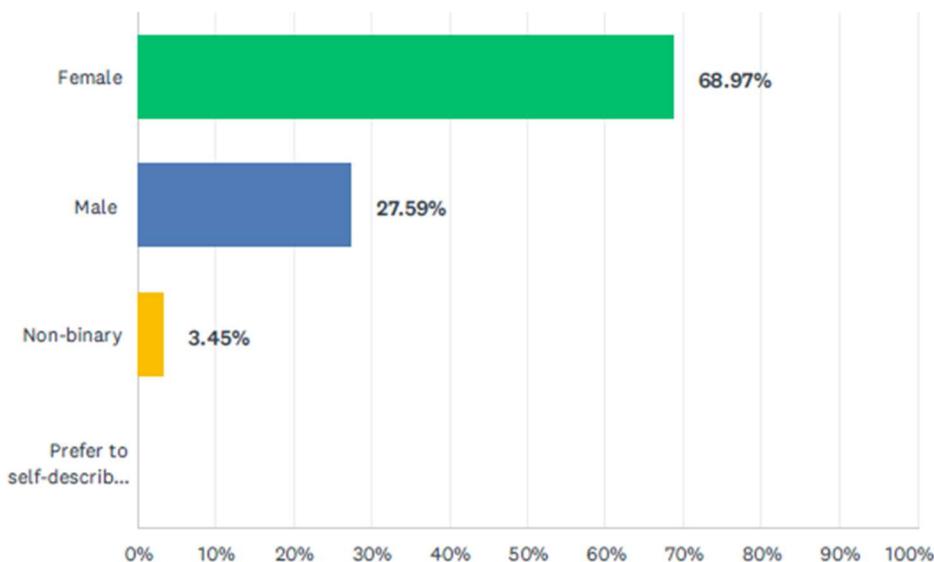
## Q12 Which of the following best describes you?

Answered: 56 Skipped: 5



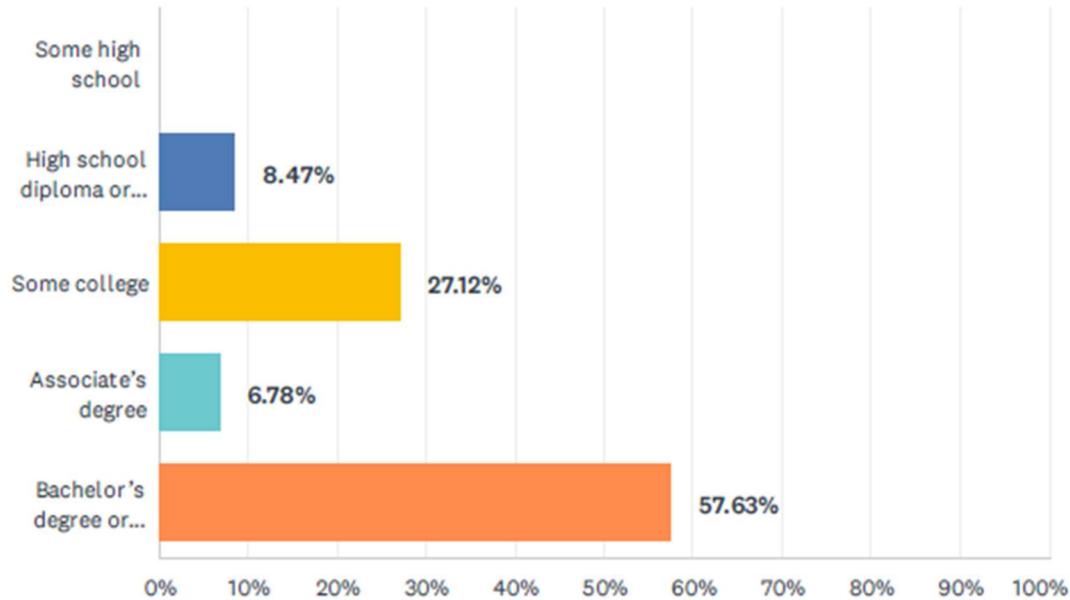
## Q13 What gender do you identify with?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3



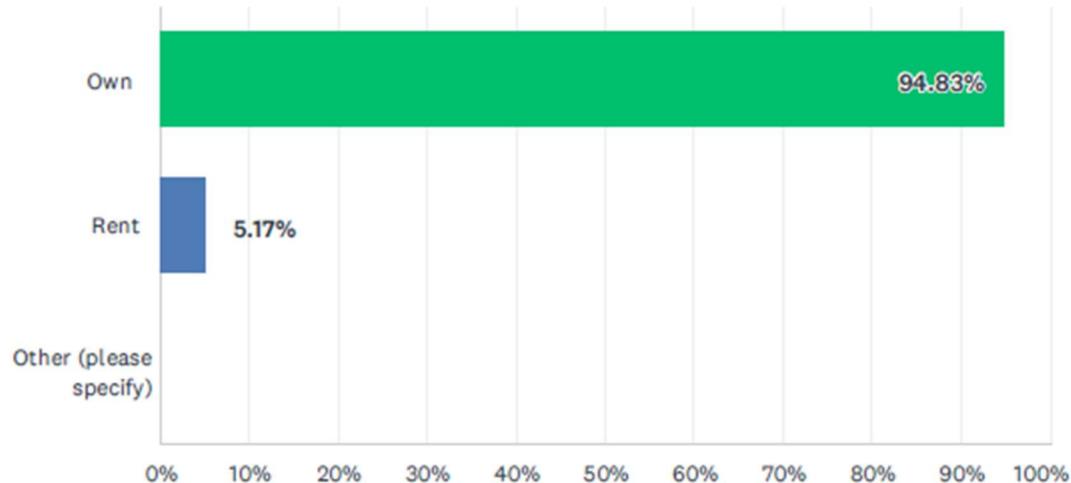
## Q14 What is your highest level of education?

Answered: 59 Skipped: 2



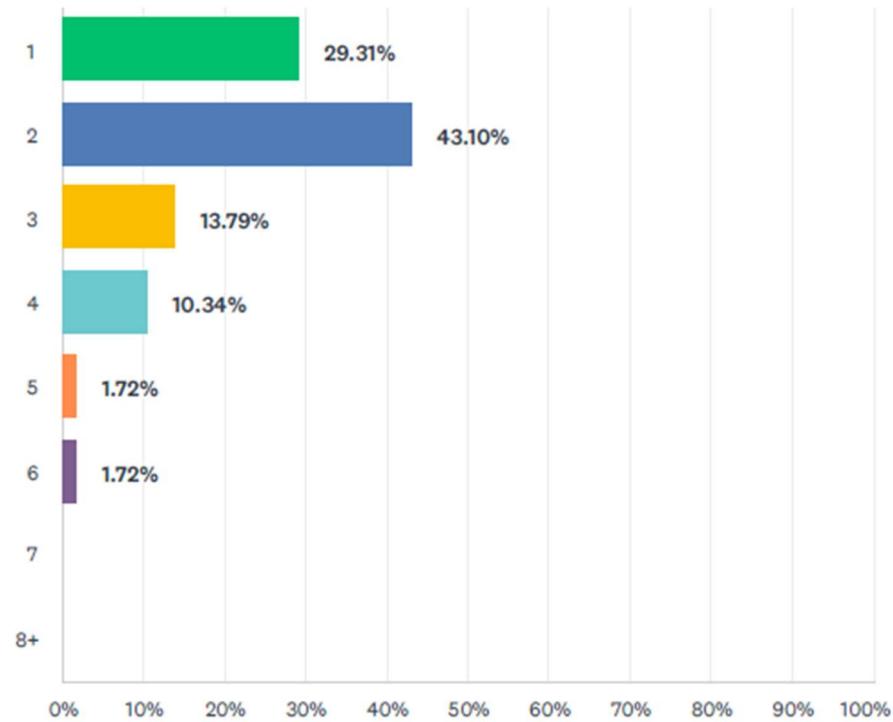
## Q15 Do you own or rent your home?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3



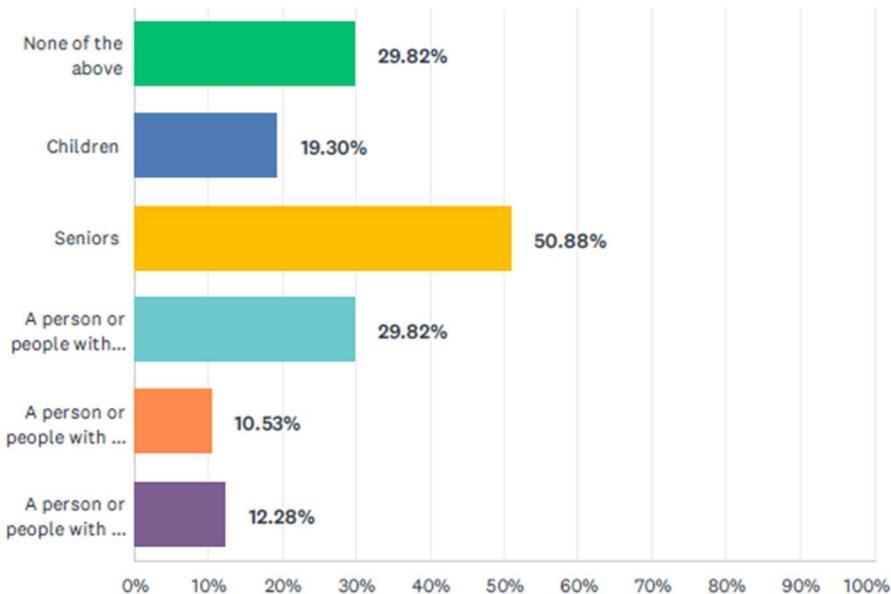
## Q16 How many people live in your household?

Answered: 58 Skipped: 3



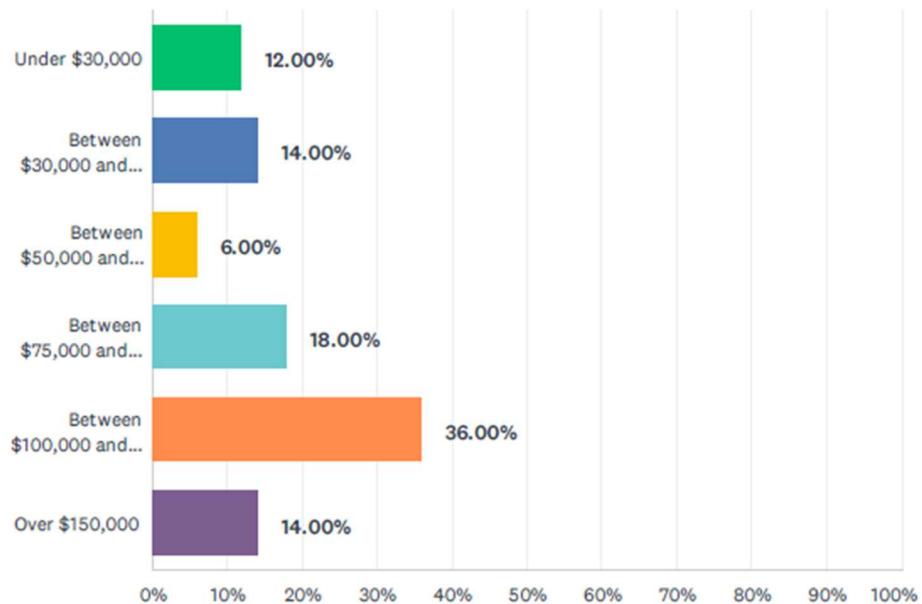
## Q17 Does your household include any of the following people?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 4

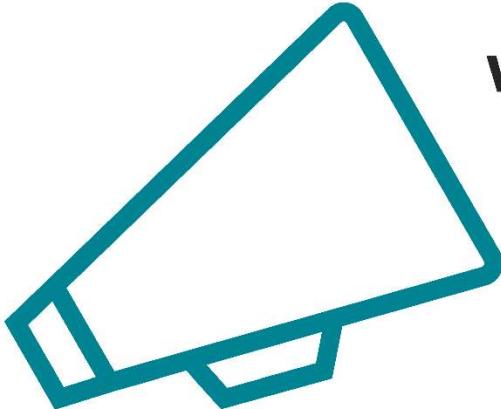


## Q18 How much total money did all members of your household earn in 2020?

Answered: 50 Skipped: 11



## Appendix A: Survey Flyer



We want to hear from you!

### Take the City of Gardena's **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SURVEY**

Use your phone camera to scan the QR code or visit  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GardenaEJ>



The survey is available until  
5:00 pm on Friday, November 5, 2021.

For more information, visit:  
<https://cityofgardena.org/environmental-justice-element>



**What is Environmental Justice?**

Environmental Justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of people of all races, cultures, incomes, and national origins with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.

**Why is the City doing this survey?**

The City of Gardena is developing its first Environmental Justice Element which will be part of the City of Gardena's General Plan. The Element will reflect the City's efforts in addressing Environmental Justice.

**What will happen with my input?**

Your answers to the survey will help the City develop the goals and policies in the Environmental Justice Element. A draft of the Element will be made available on the City's website for public review when complete.

If you have any questions, please contact the Planning Division at (310) 217-9524 or [CDDPlanningandZoning@cityofgardena.org](mailto:CDDPlanningandZoning@cityofgardena.org)





# Open Space Plan

Gardena General Plan 2006

## Authority

State General Plan law requires every community to prepare and adopt an Open Space Plan which addresses the preservation and development of open space areas for outdoor recreation, and areas that serve as links between major recreational areas and programs. Open space resources include parks and other recreation facilities, such as public school facilities, parks and ball fields, landscaped medians, open areas occupied by utilities, such as flood control channels and utility easements and private recreational facilities.

## Purpose

The intent of the Open Space Plan is to encourage the preservation of existing open spaces and recreation facilities and the development of new resources. The Plan outlines goals and policies that maintain and upgrade existing recreation programs and considers new parks, open space provisions and recreation programs to meet the needs of all residents of the City.

## Relationship to Other Plans and Programs

Several plans and programs have been enacted through State and local legislation that are applicable to the Open Space Plan. The following plans and programs help to ensure that parks, open space, and natural resources will continue to be available to the community.

### The Quimby Act

The State Subdivision Map Act, Section 66477 (The Quimby Act) allows the legislative body of a city or county, by ordinance to require the dedication of land and the payment of fees in-lieu of or a combination of both, for park and recreational purposes as a condition of approval for a final tract map or parcel map.



### Los Angeles County Proposition A

In 1992, a general election established the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District for the purpose of improving the safety of recreational areas and acquiring, restoring and preserving open space resources. This proposition allows a public agency or non-profit organization to receive funds in support of this purpose. The funds are authorized as grants on a competitive basis.



## Federal and State Parks and Open Space Standards

The City's supply of parks, playgrounds, and open space is subject to various jurisdictional regulations. On the Federal level, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) sets the minimum standard of 2.5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. On the State level, the California Department of Parks and Recreation sets forth the standard of 3.0 acres of park space per 1,000 residents.

## City Municipal Code

Section 17.20.030 of the City Municipal Code requires the dedication of land or the payment of fees in lieu of land, which is based on a minimum of three (3) acres of useable park area per 1,000 persons residing within a subdivision. The amount and location of land, or the fee to be paid, should bear a reasonable relationship to the use of the park and recreational facilities by the future residents of a subdivision.

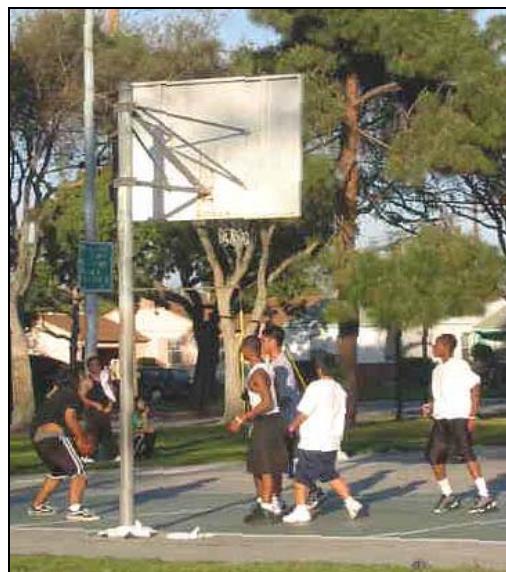
## Existing Conditions

### Existing Parks and Recreation Resources

Similar to many cities in the Los Angeles County, Gardena is a totally developed community and therefore has limited opportunities to expand its parks and recreation resources. Gardena has six parks, one community center, one municipal pool, one parkette and two gymnasiums. The largest of the City parks is Rowley Park and Gymnasium. It occupies 18.7 acres of land and is located at the northeast quadrant of the City. The smallest of the City parks is Harvard Parkette and it is only 0.15 acres. Besides providing open space in the City, the parks and community buildings are also used by the Gardena Recreation and Human

Services Department for hosting of various recreational and after-school programs.

In addition to man-made parks, there is a natural willows wetland in the City that could also serve open space and recreational needs. The willows wetland is a protected natural habitat that occupies eight acres of land in the far southeast portion of the City. It is currently gated, and access is allowed only through guided tours.



There are several regional recreation and park facilities in close proximity to the City and are open to Gardena residents. To the east of the City is the Rosecrans Recreation Center, to the northeast is Helen Keller Park, to the west is Alondra Park and Golf Course, and to the north is Chester L. Washington Golf Course. These facilities offer a wide range of park and recreational amenities including basketball courts, baseball/soccer fields, volleyball court, golf course, lake fishing, playgrounds, as well as picnic and barbecue areas. All City parks and recreation facilities are presented in Table OS-1, and all City parks and possible joint-use schools are shown in Figure OS-1.



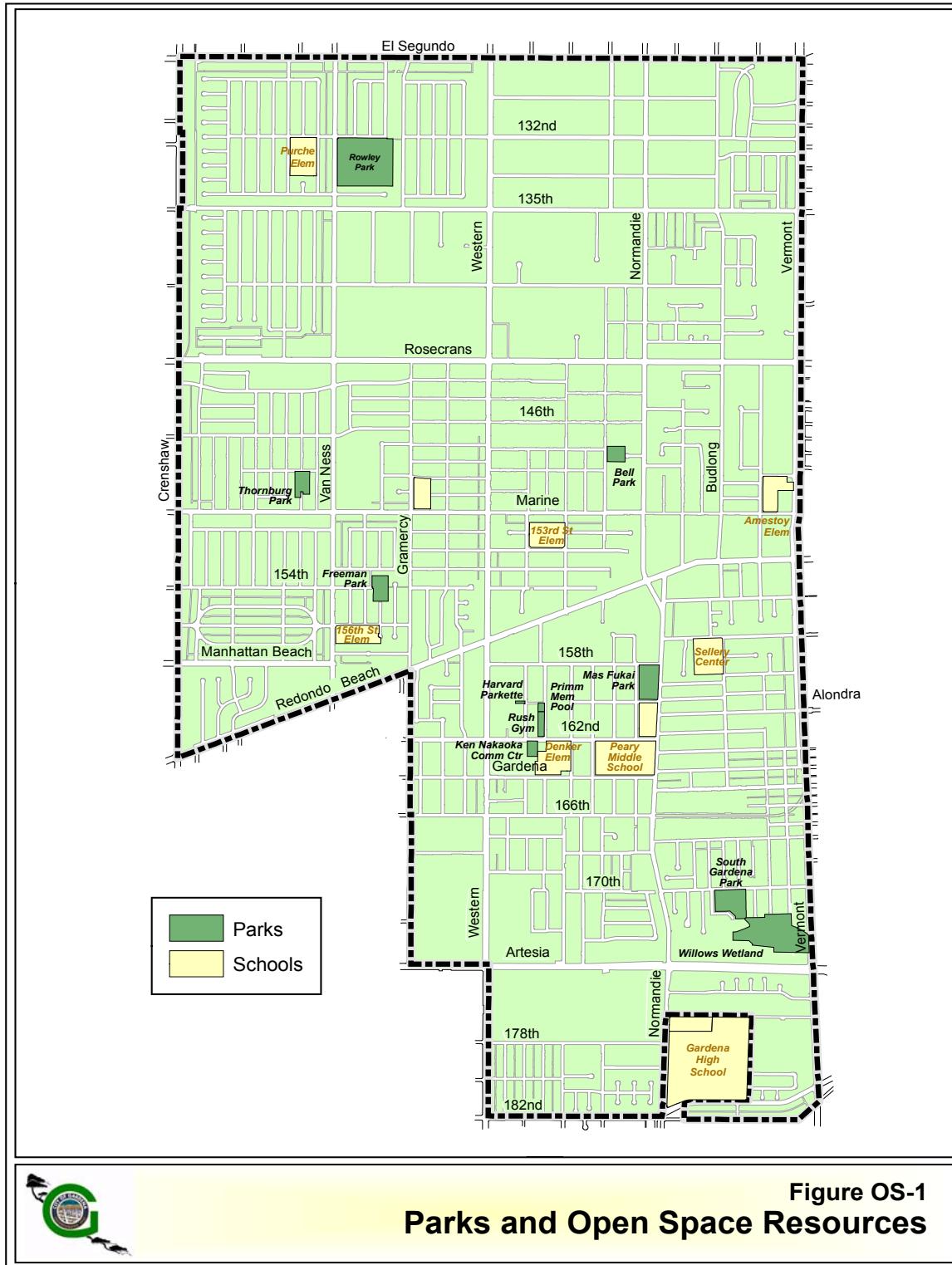
**Table OS-1**  
**Parks and Recreational Facilities in Gardena**

Park Name	Location	Acres	Amenities
Bell Park	14708 S. Halldale Ave.	1.9	Recreation building, classroom, ball diamond, basketball court, handball court, 2 picnic shelters, 2 playground equipment areas, multi-purpose field.
Freeman Park	2100 W. 154 <sup>th</sup> Place	3.0	2 classrooms, ball diamond, basketball court, picnic shelter, playing field, playground equipment, multi-purpose field, tennis court.
Harvard Parkette	160 <sup>th</sup> St/Harvard Blvd.	0.15	Playground equipment, picnic area.
Ken Nakaoka Community Center	1670 W. 162 <sup>nd</sup> St.		6 meeting rooms, auditorium, kitchen, stage.
Mas Fukai Park	15800 S. Brighton Ave.	4.9	3 classrooms, 2 ball diamonds, 2 basketball courts, handball court, picnic shelter, and playground equipment.
Primm Memorial Pool	1650 W. 160 <sup>th</sup> St.		1 swimming pool
Rowley Park & Gym	13220 S. Van Ness Ave	18.7	Auditorium, weight room, 2 classrooms, kitchen, handball court, gymnasium, 4 ball diamonds, 2 basketball courts, 4 tennis courts, 2 picnic shelters, 2 playground equipment areas, wading pool.
Rush Gymnasium	1651 W. 162 <sup>nd</sup> St.		One gymnasium, 3 basketball courts.
South Gardena Park	1200 W. 170 <sup>th</sup> St.	6.8	1 playground, 1 ball diamond, 1 soccer field, 4 tennis courts, 1 picnic area, 1 meeting room, 2 basketball courts.
Thornburg Park	2320 W. 149 <sup>th</sup> St.	2.5	Recreation building, classroom, ball diamond, multi-purpose field, 2 basketball courts, handball court, 2 picnic shelters, playground area, horseshoe pitch, tumbling room.
Willows Wetland	North of Artesia Blvd. and west of Vermont Ave.	8.0	Walking paths, side walks.

Source: City of Gardena Recreation and Human Services Department



## Gardena General Plan 2006





## Goals and Policies

### **OS Goal 1    Maintain and upgrade the existing parks and recreation facilities to meet the needs of all residents.**

#### **Policies**

*OS 1.1: Maintain City parks in a clean, functional, safe and attractive condition at all times.*



*OS 1.2: Encourage joint-use agreements with LAUSD to use schoolyard playgrounds and ball fields for public parks during non-school hours.*

*OS 1.3: Encourage adequate funding and capital improvement program to promote the ongoing maintenance and rehabilitation of City facilities.*

*OS 1.4: Encourage joint recreational use with Los Angeles County.*

*OS 1.5: Require annual review of recreational programs to respond to changing needs of the community.*



*OS 1.6: Provide adequate parking for all parks and recreation facilities in the City.*

*OS 1.7: Promote creative financing mechanisms to fund the development and maintenance of parks and recreation programs, such as State grant funds, park in-lieu fees, and public private partnerships.*



**OS Goal 2 Increase the City's supply and quality of parkland, open space, and recreational programs.**

### Policies

*OS 2.1: Maintain a list of sites in the City (vacant, underutilized, nonconforming uses, utility right of ways), with potential for future purchase, donation, or consolidation and future potential development as parks, particularly in the northeast quadrant of the City.*

*OS 2.2: Promote the expansion of the Civic Center complex to provide green open space for the community to gather.*



*OS 2.3: Encourage the conversion of utility easements and right of ways to multi-purpose parkland, trails and bicycle routes (i.e., the Southern California Edison right-of-way between Artesia Boulevard and 178<sup>th</sup> Street,*

*storm channel side roads, and Vermont Avenue median strips).*

*OS 2.4: Preserve the Willows Wetland as a trail-oriented City park and passive natural open space with limited access to guided tours, volunteer activities, and educational programs.*

*OS 2.5: Expand the City's bicycle route plan and integrate the routes with other local and regional bike routes.*





# Conservation Plan

Gardena General Plan 2006

## Authority

California Government Code Section 65302(d) requires a general plan of every city to include "...a conservation element for the conservation, development and utilization of natural resources including water and its hydraulic force, forests, soils, rivers and other waters, harbors, fisheries, wildlife, minerals, and other natural resources". Also included in this element are water pollution control, recycling of solid wastes, hazardous waste control, and preservation of culturally and historically significant sites.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Conservation Plan is to provide direction regarding the conservation, development, and utilization of natural resources. Although the requirement of a Conservation Plan overlaps those of the Open Space Plan as well as the Land Use Plan, this Plan is distinguished by being oriented primarily toward natural resources.

The City of Gardena is a fully developed community with less than two percent of vacant land. Similar to all other cities, population growth and development in Gardena continually requires the use of finite, non-renewable resources as well as those that are renewable. Therefore, the role of the Conservation Plan is to establish goals and policies that reconcile conflicting demands on those resources.

## Relationship to Other Plans and Programs

### A Plan for the Gardena Willows Wetland

In April 1999, the City of Gardena adopted *A Plan for the Gardena Willows Wetland*. The purpose of this plan is to provide a comprehensive guide for preserving and enhancing the Willows Wetland's environmental integrity and quality, while providing a place where the community can experience, appreciate, and enjoy the natural environment.



The Willows Wetland is located north of the commercial development at the northwest corner of Vermont Avenue and Artesia Boulevard. Biological resources in the Willows Wetland, as well as preservation and enhancement strategies are documented in the Plan for the Gardena Willows Wetland. Implementation of the Plan will also require compliance with the Clean Water Act, the Federal Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preserva-



tion Act, the California Fish and Game Code, and the California Environmental Quality Act.

## National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

Gardena, along with other municipalities in Los Angeles County, is required to control pollutant discharges in runoff from construction projects, commercial and industrial uses, and significant new development/redevelopment projects. Under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, the City is obligated to require compliance with runoff pollution mitigation approaches known as Best Management Practices (BMPs).

## Source Recovery and Recycling Element

The City of Gardena has adopted a Source Recovery and Recycling Element (SRRE) as required by Assembly Bill (AB) 939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989. AB 939 required the City to adopt an SRRE, and to divert 25 percent of the solid waste from its landfills by January 1, 1995 and 50 percent by the year 2000. The City continues to struggle to meet the solid waste diversion goals established in the SRRE.

## Southern California Edison Programs

Southern California Edison offers a variety of energy conservation services under the Low Income Energy Efficiency programs (LIEE), which help qualified homeowners and renters conserve energy and control electricity costs. Eligible customers receive services from local community agencies and licensed contractors working with Edison. Services include weatherization, efficient lighting and cooling, refrigerator replacement, and energy education.

## Title 24, Part 6

Title 24, Part 6 of the California Administrative Code, the Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings, were established in 1978 in response to a legislative mandate to reduce California's energy consumption. Title 24 requires local jurisdiction to use energy efficient appliances, weatherization techniques and efficient cooling and heating systems to reduce energy demand stemming from new development.



## Goals and Policies

### CN Goal 1 Preserve and enhance the Willows Wetland and protect its natural resources.

#### Policies

*CN 1.1: Foster the implementation of the recommendations identified in A Plan for the Gardena Willows Wetland, which was adopted by the City in April 1999.*

*CN 1.2: Foster environmental education, passive recreation, and volunteer programs that are compatible with the protection and enhancement of the wetland.*

*CN 1.3: Encourage community involvement in preserving the wetland.*

*CN 1.4: Promote collaboration with regional or State agencies in protecting the biological resources of the Willows Wetland.*

### CN Goal 2 Conserve and protect groundwater supply and water resources.

#### Policies

*CN 2.1: Encourage water conservation through education and water-conserving technology.*

*CN 2.2: Comply with the water conservation measures set forth by the California Department of Water Resources.*

*CN 2.3: Promote the use of reclaimed water for irrigation of public lands and for industrial uses, as feasible.*

*CN 2.4: Increase the quantity and maintain the quality of the City's water table to provide an independent source of water.*

*CN 2.5: Encourage citizens to report illegal dumping and vigorously prosecute illicit dumping of toxic or hazardous materials into the ground water.*

*CN 2.6: Encourage and support the proper disposal of hazardous waste and waste oil. Monitor businesses that generate hazardous waste materials to ensure compliance with approved disposal procedures.*



### **CN Goal 3 Reduce the amount of solid waste produced in Gardena.**

#### **Policies**

*CN 3.1: Comply with the requirements set forth in the City's Source Reduction and Recycling Element.*

*CN 3.2: Maximize public awareness of all source reduction and recycling programs.*

*CN 3.3: Encourage participation in local and County waste disposal programs for such household hazardous waste items as automotive products, paints, chemicals, tires, and batteries.*

### **CN Goal 4 Conserve energy resources through the use of technology and conservation methods.**

#### **Policies**

*CN 4.1: Encourage innovative building designs that conserve and minimize energy consumption.*

*CN 4.2: Require compliance with Title 24 regulations to conserve energy.*

*CN 4.3: Encourage the residential and business community to install energy saving features and appliances in existing structures.*

### **CN Goal 5 Protect the City's cultural resources.**

#### **Policies**

*CN 5.1: Maintain an inventory of the City's historical resources, including a survey of buildings of architectural, cultural or historical significance.*

*CN 5.2: Provide provisions in the Municipal Code to protect historical and cultural resources.*

*CN 5.3: Protect and preserve cultural resources of the Gabrielino Native American Tribe found or uncovered during construction.*

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## Authority

California Government Code Section 65302(g) requires a general plan to address the protection of community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of seismically-induced surface rupture, ground shaking, ground failure, tsunami, seiche, and dam failure; slope instability leading to mud slides and landslides; subsidence; liquefaction, floods and flood hazards; urban fires, climate adaptation and resiliency strategies, and an identification of residential developments in any hazard area that does not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. Gardena's Public Safety Plan constitutes the state-mandated Safety Element.

## Purpose

The purpose of the Public Safety Plan is to identify potential hazards that can significantly impact the City. The policies of this Plan focus on protecting life and property from hazardous conditions. Emphasis is placed on emergency preparedness and response in the event of a disaster, and this Plan addresses the fire and law enforcement services needed to safeguard and enhance the overall livability of the community. Specific policies addressing climate adaptation and resiliency are also included to reduce potential impacts of hazards that can be exacerbated by climate change.

## Relationship to Other Plans and Programs

### State Standardized Emergency Management System

The State Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS) is required by Government Code Section 8607(a) for managing response to multi-agency and multi-jurisdiction emergencies in California. SEMS consists of five organizational levels that are activated as necessary: field response, local government, operational areas, regional and State. The SEMS help unify all elements of the state's emergency management organization into a single integrated system. Its use is required for State response agencies. Local government agencies must use SEMS to be eligible for State funding of certain response related personnel costs resulting from a disaster.

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022



## City of Gardena Emergency Operations Plan

The City's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) plans responses to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters, technological incidents, and national security emergencies. The City's EOP establishes the emergency organization, assigns tasks, and specifies policies and general procedures. The EOP is designed to include Gardena in the overall California SEMS which provides a framework for coordinating multi-agency emergency responses.

## Seismic Hazard Maps

The California Geological Survey compiles maps identifying seismic hazard zones throughout California including known active faults such as the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and areas of potential liquefaction and seismically induced landslides. Guidelines prepared by the State Mining and Geology Board identify the responsibilities of State and local agencies in the review of development within seismic hazard zones..

## Hazardous Waste

There are various national, state and local data sources that identify sites of potential hazardous waste, including the following:

- SEMS – The Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains this database of Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) sites (also called Superfund sites) in the U.S. These are contaminated sites slated for cleanup.
- National Priority List (NPL) – This is a list of sites of national priority among the known releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants throughout the U.S. The NPL is intended primarily to guide the EPA in determining which sites warrant further investigation.
- EnviroStor – The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains this database for tracking cleanup, permitting, enforcement, and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known or potential contamination. It includes sites from the Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List (aka Cortese List).
- GeoTracker – GeoTracker is the State Water Resources Control Board's data management system for sites that impact, or have the potential to impact, water quality in California, with emphasis on groundwater. GeoTracker contains records for sites that require cleanup, such as Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) Sites, Department of Defense Sites, and Cleanup Program Sites.

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## City of Gardena Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP)

The City of Gardena prepared an LHMP in conjunction with the City of Hawthorne that was adopted in 2013. The City of Hawthorne prepared an updated plan specific to Hawthorne's jurisdiction that was adopted in 2020; Gardena is currently in the process of preparing its own update. The LHMP fulfills Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requirements and provides direction and guidance on implementing hazard mitigation action items on a hazard-level, probability, and cost-priority basis. The overall goal of the LHMP is to reduce the potential for damage to critical assets from natural hazards. The LHMP also describes past and current hazard mitigation activities and philosophies and outlines future mitigation goals and strategies.

## City of Gardena Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)

The City of Gardena EOP was adopted in 2017 and is a multi-discipline, all-hazards plan that establishes a single, comprehensive framework for the management of extraordinary incident, disaster, or emergency situations within the City of Gardena. The plan provides the concepts, processes, and structures necessary when carrying out assigned roles and functional responsibilities to departments and agencies consistent with California's Standardized Emergency Management System, the National Incident Management System, and the Incident Command System.

## City of Gardena General Plan

Gardena's General Plan is a broad, long-range policy document that serves as a blueprint for future development in the City.

## City of Gardena Zoning Code

The City's Zoning Code implements the goals and policies of the City's General Plan by regulating the uses of land and structures within Gardena in accordance with the Land Use Plan. The Zoning Code is codified in Title 18 of the Municipal Code.

## City of Gardena Fire Code

The City's Fire Code is codified in Chapter 8.08 of the Municipal Code. The purpose of Fire Code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practices to safeguard the public health, safety, and general welfare from the hazards of fire, explosion, or dangerous conditions in new and existing premises, and to provide safety and assistance to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.

## City of Gardena Building Code

The City's Building Code is codified in Title 15 of the Municipal Code. The Building Code regulates construction and property use to ensure safe, healthy, and accessible structures for human occupancy.

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## Climate Action Plan (CAP)

The City, in cooperation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, developed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within the City. The City's CAP serves as a guide for action by setting GHG emission reduction goals and establishing strategies and policy to achieve desired outcomes over the next 20 years.

## Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA)

The City prepared a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) in 2021 to inform City policies, plans, programs, and guidance to promote effective and integrated action to safeguard from climate change. In addition to increasing global average temperature, climate change has the effect of intensifying the effects of many natural hazards, adding to concerns otherwise addressed in hazard mitigation planning. Climate change results in an increase in variance of climate patterns. The increase in variance means that extreme events exhibit changes in severity, frequency, and location. For example, increased variance in climate patterns result in more frequent incidence of severe events such as extreme rainfall, wind, wildfire, extreme heat, and extended drought. The increased variance therefore creates challenges for hazards planning, which previously used historic recurrence rates to predict future events, and now must incorporate changes to frequency, severity, and location due to climate change influences. The CVA is included as Appendix A.

## County of Los Angeles All-Hazard Mitigation Plan (AHMP)

The AHMP was adopted in 2014 and conforms to the requirements of FEMA Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. The AHMP is currently being updated and a public draft was made available in 2019. The county developed the AHMP to cover mitigation responsibilities of county departments, including Los Angeles County Fire Department (LACoFD). The plan helps ensure the most effective allocation of resources for the maximum benefit and protection of the public in times of emergency.

## Los Angeles County Fire Department 2020 Strategic Fire Plan

The Strategic Fire Plan outlines goals focused on enhancing the protection of lives, property, and natural resources from fire, as well as improving environmental resilience to fires through local, state, federal, and private partnerships. The 2020 Plan is focused on three primary goals: emergency operations, public service, and organizational effectiveness.

## Los Angeles County Fire District Facilities Master Plan

The Master Plan was prepared in 2020 as a collaborative effort between the LA County Fire District and the LA County Chief Executive Office. The Plan evaluates the current capacity, condition, and functionality of the Fire District's facilities and then projecting future capacity deficits utilizing Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) population growth projections and methodologies.

# **Public Safety Plan**

**Adopted February 2022**

## **Plan Organization**

This Public Safety Plan includes goals and policies addressing the following issue areas:

1. Emergency Operations
2. Fire Protection
3. Geologic and Seismic Hazards
4. Hazardous Waste
5. Flood Hazards
6. Climate Change and Resiliency Planning

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## Goals and Policies

### 1. Emergency Operations

**PS Goal 1 A community that is highly prepared and equipped to handle emergency situations in order to minimize loss of life, injury, property damage, and disruption of vital services.**

Advanced emergency planning and preparedness is essential in responding to natural and human-caused disasters with a coordinated system of emergency service providers and facilities. The City supports a high level of multi-jurisdictional cooperation and communication for emergency planning and response management.

The City of Gardena maintains a contractual agreement with the Los Angeles County Fire Department to provide fire protection and emergency medical services for the City. Within Gardena, the LACoFD operates Fire Station 158, located at 1650 West 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, and Fire Station 159, located at 2030 West 135<sup>th</sup> Street. Emergency response within the City is divided into two districts, with Marine Avenue as the division line. Areas north of Marine Avenue are covered by Fire Station 159 and areas south of Marine Avenue are covered by Fire Station 158. A description and location of both fire stations within the City are presented in Table PS-1 and illustrated in Figure PS-1.

The Gardena Police Department, (PD), located within the Civic Center, provides police protection and law enforcement services to the City. There are currently 87 police officers, 19 full-time and 18 part-time employees. This includes 27 marked units, 2 canine units, and 14 unmarked units. Response time for emergency calls throughout the City is four minutes.

Major arterials generally serve as the primary routes for evacuation; however, evacuation routes will depend upon the emergency event and area affected. Law enforcement will identify the appropriate routes and assist residents leaving the City in the event an evacuation of all or part of the City is required. The City prepared an analysis, referred to as a White Paper, consistent with Senate Bill 99 to identify residential developments in hazard areas that do not have at least two emergency evacuation routes. The White Paper includes definitions and data sources as well as assumptions and methodology used to map the evacuation routes, and is included as Appendix B. The analysis identified two parcels in a high hazard zone (as defined in the White Paper) that warranted further study. Upon further analysis, both parcels were determined to have access to a loop road with at least two exit points. While all residential developments meet City standards, the City will continue to coordinate with LACoFD and Gardena PD to provide ongoing education to residents about how to safely evacuate in the event of an emergency.

# Public Safety Plan

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**Table PS-1**  
**LACoFD Fire Stations**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Service and Equipment</b>	<b>Staffing per Shift</b>
Station No. 158 1650 W. 162 <sup>nd</sup> Street (310) 217-8351	Fire Engine, Paramedic mobile aid van, Squad car and Fire engine on reserve.	5 uniform personnel, 1 secretary, 1 Community Service Representative, 1 Division Nurse Coordinator.
Station No. 159 2030 W. 135 <sup>th</sup> Street (310) 217-7066	Quint, Fire truck.	4 uniform personnel

*Source: LACoFD, October 2021*

# Public Safety Plan

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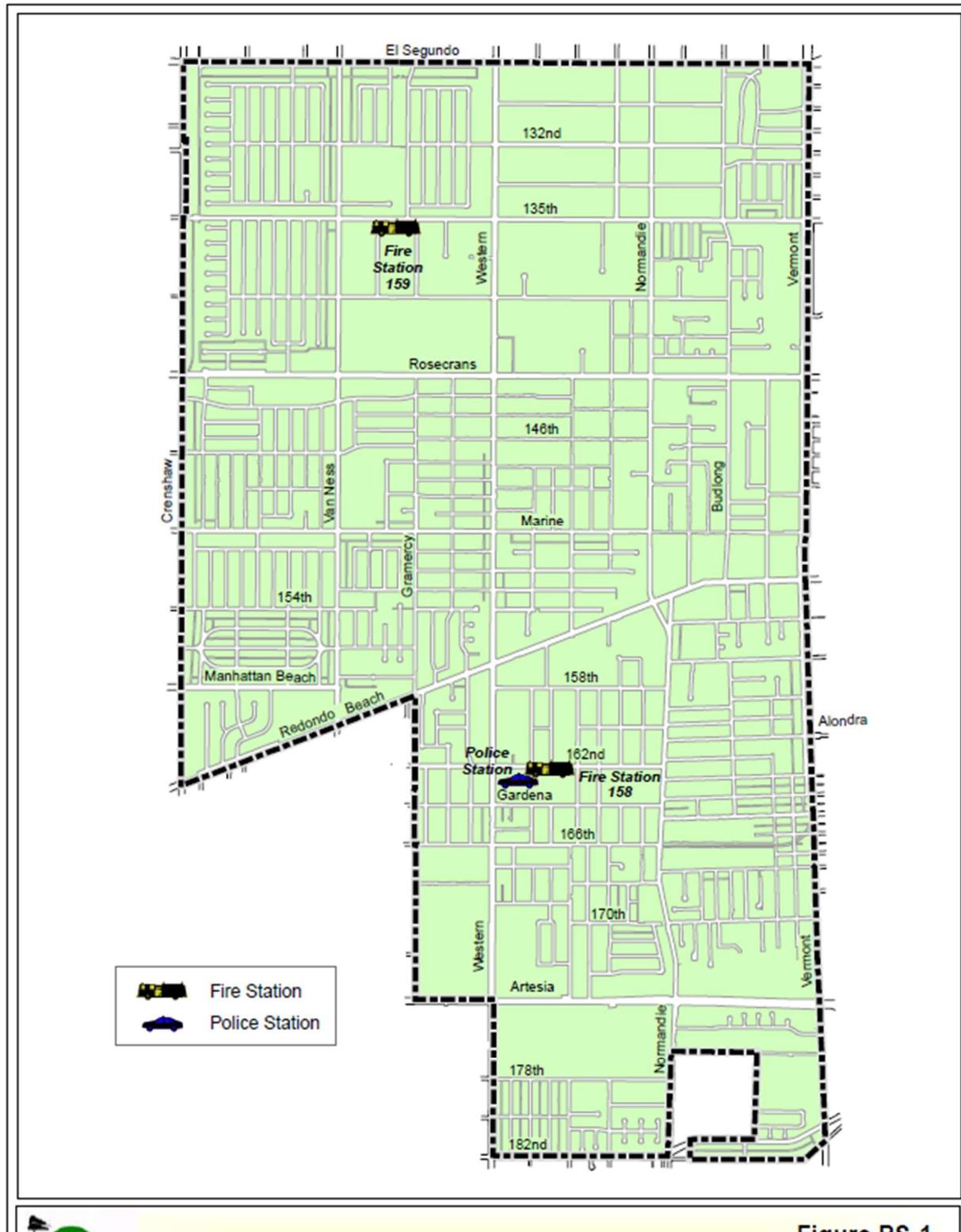


Figure PS-1  
Police and Fire Stations



# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## Policies

**PS 1.1: Emergency Planning.** Maintain an updated Emergency Operations Plan to adequately respond to natural disasters and human-induced emergencies and its aftermaths.

**PS 1.2: Emergency Coordination.** Cooperate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Office of Emergency Services (OES) and other local, state, and federal agencies involved in emergency preparedness and response.

**PS 1.3: Local Stakeholder Coordination.** Coordinate with local key stakeholders (officials, schools, businesses, and organizations) within the community to make them aware of their role in the emergency plan and the necessary requirements in case of emergency.

**PS 1.4: Law Enforcement.** Maintain a high level of law enforcement activities and expand crime suppression activities in collaboration with neighboring law enforcement agencies.

**PS 1.5: Sufficient Funding.** Provide funding levels necessary for high level of police, fire protection, and building inspections, and code enforcement.

**PS 1.6: Adequate Facilities and Personnel.** Require that adequate police and fire service facilities and personnel be maintained to provide services at sufficient levels.

**PS 1.7: Development Review.** Ensure that law enforcement, crime prevention, and fire safety concerns are considered in the review of planning and development proposals in the City.

**PS 1.8: Critical Facilities.** Coordinate with service providers to ensure the resilience of critical facilities, lifeline services, and infrastructure, and plan for the use of critical facilities during post-disaster response and recovery.

**PS 1.9: Automatic and Mutual Aid.** Participate in automatic and mutual aid agreements with adjacent service providers to ensure efficient and adequate resources, facilities, and support services before, during, and after emergencies.

**PS 1.10: Communications.** Evaluate the potential to utilize a comprehensive emergency communication system that allows for efficient connection and communications in cases of emergency.

**PS 1.11: Emergency Evacuation Routes and Access.** Work with LACoFD and the Gardena Police Department to define minimum standards for evacuation of residential areas and to maintain, update, and regularly exercise emergency access, protocols, and evacuation routes to assess their effectiveness under a range of emergency scenarios. If areas with inadequate evacuation routes are identified, develop appropriate mitigation measures, improvement plans, or education programs to ensure safe evacuation.

**PS 1.12: Emergency Shelters.** Periodically coordinate with emergency shelter providers to ensure that necessary equipment supplies are available in case of emergency.

# Public Safety Plan

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**PS 1.13: Disaster Recovery.** Work with emergency service providers to implement post-disaster recovery plans to return public services to a state of normalcy, address ongoing hazard-specific mitigations, and assist community members in recovering from disasters.

**PS 1.14: Public Information.** Provide public safety information regarding crime, fire, natural disasters, and emergency preparedness.

**PS 1.15: Community Training and Volunteer Programs.** Promote community participation in crime prevention, fire safety, and other emergency training and volunteer programs as a valuable asset to the community.

**PS 1.16: School Safety.** Coordinate with local schools related to their programs and practices regarding emergency preparedness.

**PS 1.17: Multi-family Residential Property Management.** Promote professional management of multi-family residential buildings.

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## 2. Fire Protection

### PS Goal 2 A City that is adequately prepared for fire emergencies.

Due to its geographic location and topography, the City of Gardena is not subject to wildland fires. The following policies are intended to protect against urban fire hazards.

#### Policies

**PS 2.1: Fire Protection Services.** Reduce the risk of fire to the community by coordination for emergency preparedness with the LACoFD.

**PS 2.2: Building and Fire Codes.** Require that all buildings and facilities within Gardena comply with local, state, and federal regulatory standards such as the California Building and Fire Codes as well as other applicable fire safety standards.



**PS 2.3: Fire Hazard Identification.** Work with LACoFD to maintain an inventory of high-risk fire hazards within the City.

**PS 2.4: Urban Fire Risks.** Work with LACoFD to maintain an ongoing fire inspection program to reduce fire hazards associated with multifamily development, critical facilities, public assembly facilities, industrial buildings, and nonresidential buildings.

**PS. 2.5: Water Supply.** Coordinate with applicable water providers and LACoFD to ensure that water supply and pressure for new and existing development is adequate for structural fire suppression.

**PS 2.6: Regional Coordination.** Coordinate with the County of Los Angeles, neighboring cities, and other fire protection agencies to reduce the potential for fire hazards in Gardena.

#### PS 2.7: New Development.

- a. Require adequate fire protection services, fire protection plans, and emergency vehicle access for new development.
- b. Locate, design, and construct new development to minimize the risk of structural loss from fires.
- c. Install visible home and street addressing and signage.

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

**PS 2.8: Hazard Mitigation Plans.** Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to update emergency, evacuation, and hazard mitigation plans, as necessary.

**PS 2.9: Essential Public Facilities and Infrastructure.** Locate, when feasible, new essential public facilities and infrastructure outside of hazardous areas, including but not limited to, hospitals and health care facilities, emergency shelters, emergency command centers, fire stations, emergency command centers, emergency communication facilities, and utilities or identify construction methods or other methods to minimize damage if these facilities must be located in hazardous areas.

**PS 2.10: Public Education.** Work with LACoFD to disseminate educational programs for residents on fire hazard risks and fire safety measures, such as evacuation routes, with a special focus on at-risk populations.

# Public Safety Plan

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## 3. Geologic and Seismic Hazards

### **PS Goal 3 Protect the community from dangers associated with geologic instability, seismic hazards and other natural hazards.**

Southern California is a region of high seismic activity. The City, which is located in the southwestern portion of the region, is subject to risks and hazards associated with potentially destructive earthquakes. Faults that could affect the City include the regional San Andreas and San Jacinto faults and the local Newport-Inglewood, Palos Verdes, Whittier-Elsinore, Sierra Madre-Cucamonga, San Fernando and Raymond Hill fault systems. These regional and local fault systems have the potential to generate the highest site acceleration when considering the maximum expected earthquake for each fault. According to the California Department of Conservation, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is located at the northeast portion of the City in the vicinity of El Segundo Boulevard and Vermont Avenue. This is a known active fault zone delineated by the State Geologist and is considered part of the Newport- Inglewood fault system. The potential impacts related to fault rupture within the City are significant, as this fault is active.

The area located along Artesia Boulevard and the Dominguez Flood Control Channel in the southern portion of the City is located within a liquefaction zone identified in the Seismic Hazard Zones Map prepared by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (Inglewood Quadrangle 1999 and Torrance Quadrangle 1999). Figure PS-2 illustrates the area subject to potential liquefaction and seismic activity. According to the definition of the liquefaction zone, this is an area where historic occurrence of liquefaction, or local geological, geotechnical and groundwater conditions indicate a potential for permanent ground displacements such that mitigation as defined in Public Resources Code Section 26931 would be required. Liquefaction is caused by a shock or strain from an earthquake and involves the sudden loss of soil strength and cohesion and the temporary transformation of soil into a fluid mass. Therefore, older structures within the liquefaction areas of the City that were not constructed or reinforced to meet earthquake standards are vulnerable to structural damage.

### Policies

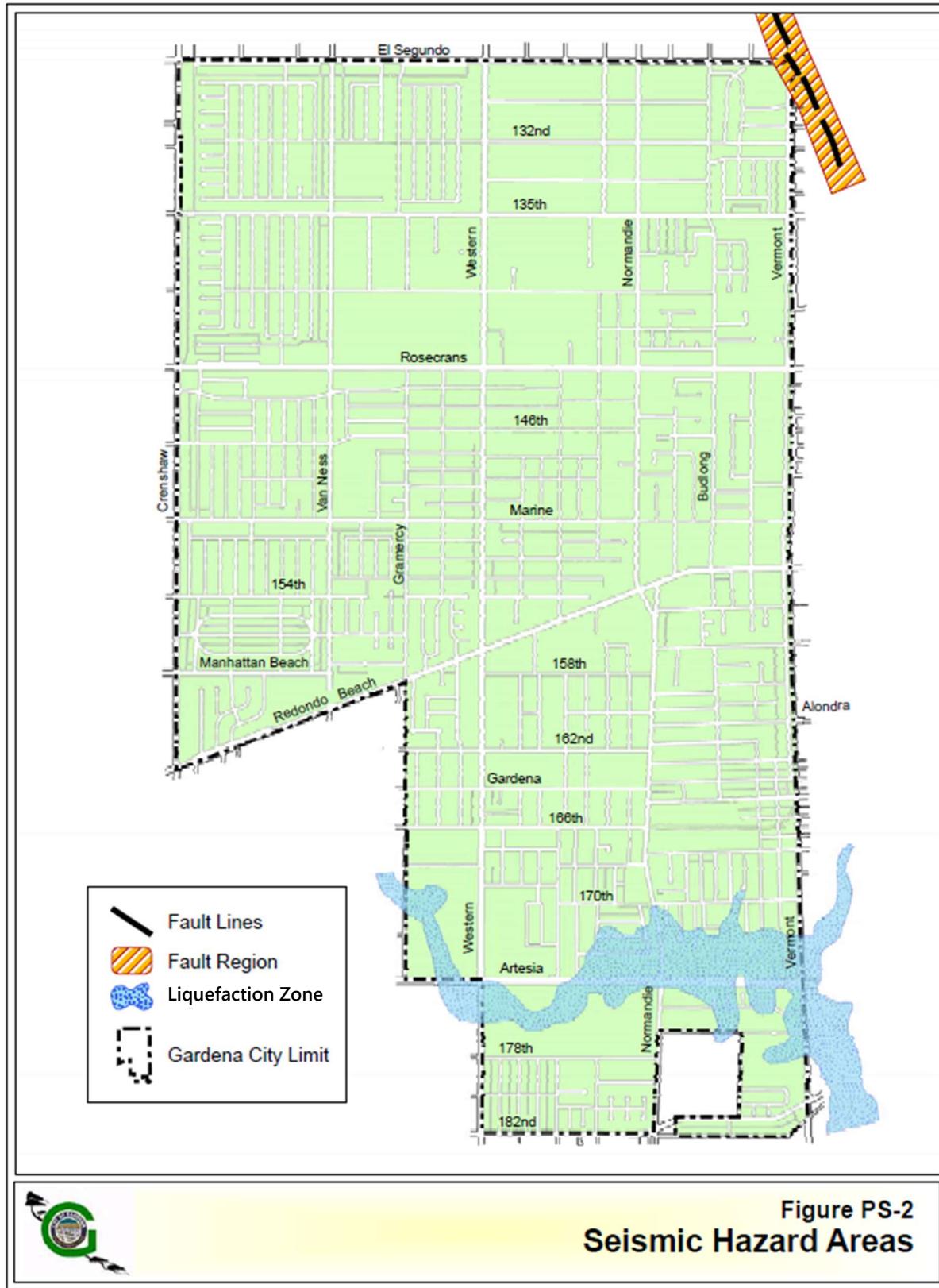
**PS 3.1: California Building Code.** Require compliance with seismic safety standards in the California Building Code, as adopted and amended.

**PS 3.2: Geotechnical Studies.** Require geotechnical studies for all new development projects in the City, including those located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone or areas subject to liquefaction.

**PS 3.3: Seismic Retrofitting.** Seek possible funding sources to assist in seismic retrofitting of potentially hazardous structures.

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022



# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## 4. Hazardous Waste

### **PS Goal 4 Protect public health, safety, and the environment from exposure to hazardous materials and other dangers.**

According to the California Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor Database and California Water Resources Control Board Geotracker Database, as of 2021 there are 38 hazardous waste sites in the City of Gardena that are currently under evaluation or active cleanup. These sites are generally clustered in the northern portion of the City, which is predominately industrial. More information can be found in Appendix A of the Environmental Justice Element.



### Policies

**PS 4.1: Sensitive Receptors.** Ensure that the storage, processing, and transfer of hazardous materials are not located in areas that could potentially harm residents and other sensitive receptors (i.e., schools, parks, hospitals) and are adequately buffered from environmentally sensitive areas.

**PS 4.2: Alternative Sources.** Encourage and support innovative technologies that treat and dispose of hazardous waste or use alternative sources to hazardous materials.

**PS 4.3: Updated Inventory.** Maintain an updated inventory of businesses that handle, store, process, and transport hazardous materials and waste within the City.

**PS 4.4: Planning Procedures.** Maintain planning procedures for the handling and transportation of hazardous materials and ensure that the procedures are in compliance with applicable county, state and federal regulations.

**PS 4.5: Land Uses.** Require a conditional use permit for land uses that generate, use, store, or process hazardous materials.

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## 5. Flood Hazards

### PS Goal 5 A community that is protected from flood hazards.

Figure PS-3 shows FEMA 100- and 500-year flood zones in and near the City. The 100-year flood zone has a 1% probability (1 in 100) of flooding in a given year, and the 500-year flood zone has a 0.2% probability (1 in 500) of flooding in a given year. The Dominguez Channel is located in the western and southern portions of the City and is owned and operated by the Los Angeles County Flood Control District. The channel flows to the Pacific Ocean through the Port of Los Angeles. A part of the channel that runs through the southern portion of the City is within the 100-year flood zone. A portion of the Gardena Willows Wetland Preserve is within the 500-year flood zone north of W. Artesia Boulevard and west of S. Vermont Avenue.

As an urbanized area, Gardena is vulnerable to flooding due to the large areas of impervious surfaces such as asphalt and concrete which prevent stormwater from absorbing into the ground and causing runoff. The following policies are intended to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff and protect the community from flood hazards.

### Policies

**PS 5.1: Regulatory Compliance.** Coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies to ensure that the City's regulations related to flood control are in compliance with federal, state, and local standards.

**PS 5.2: FEMA Coordination.** Coordinate with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure that Federal Insurance Rate Maps correctly depict flood hazards in the City.

**PS 5.3: Municipal Code.** Implement the standards and requirements defined in the Municipal Code to reduce flood hazards and address flood-prone areas within the City.

**PS 5.4: California Building Code.** Adhere to the latest building, site, and design codes in the California Building Code and FEMA flood control guidelines to avoid or minimize the risk of flooding hazards for new development in the City.

**PS 5.5: Stormwater Runoff.** Encourage new developments that add substantial amounts of impervious surfaces to integrate low impact development (LID) to reduce stormwater runoff.

**PS 5.6: Regional Coordination.** Maintain dialogue with the County of Los Angeles regarding regional flood facilities.

**PS 5.7: Changing Conditions.** Coordinate with the Los Angeles County Flood Control and Water Conservation Districts.

**PS 5.8: Adequate Infrastructure.** Maintain and regularly assess the status of local storm drainage infrastructure to ensure that the system is functioning properly.

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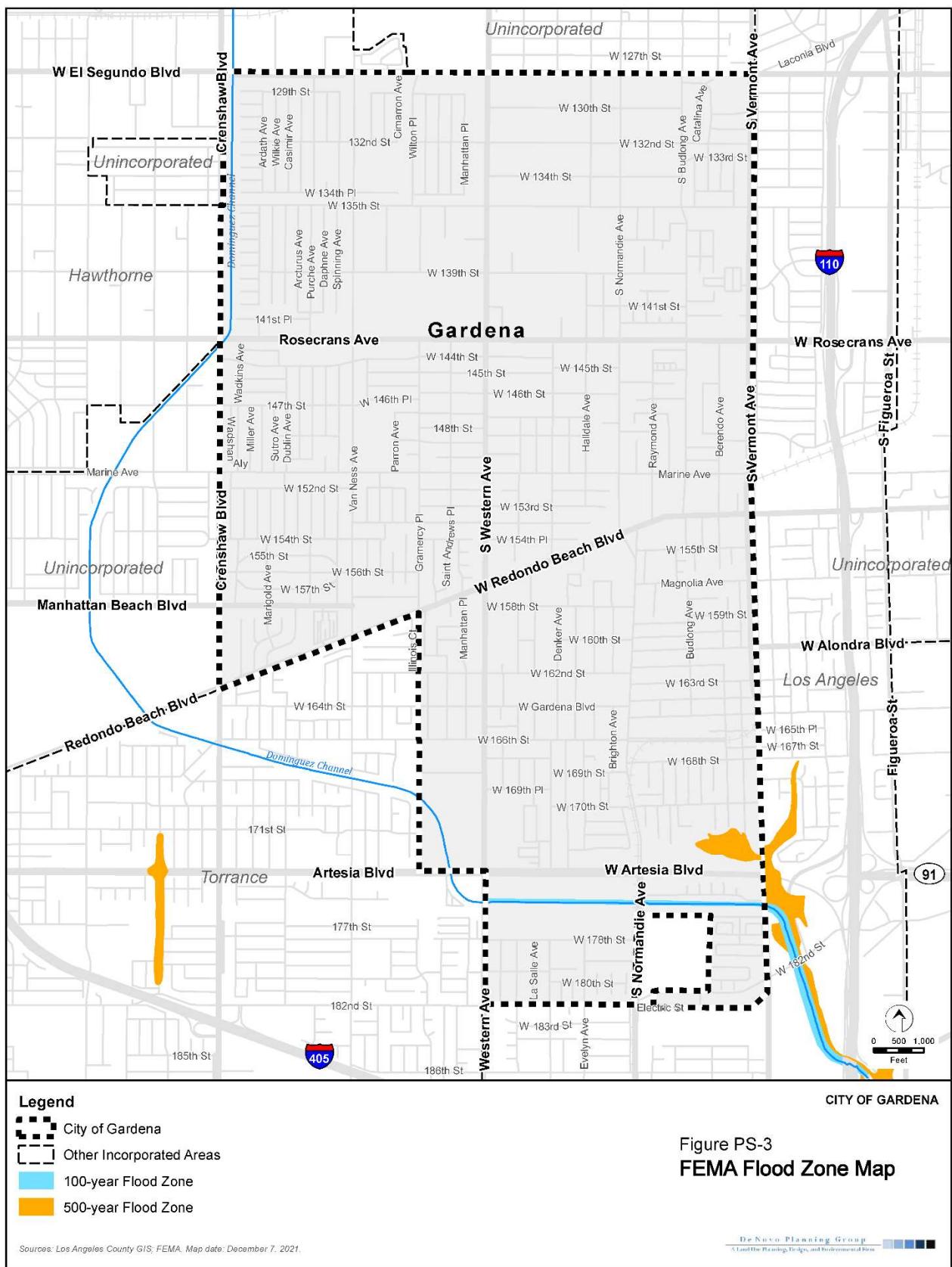


Figure PS-3  
**FEMA Flood Zone Map**

Sources: Los Angeles County GIS; FEMA. Map date: December 7, 2021.

# Public Safety Plan

Adopted February 2022

## 6. Climate Change and Resiliency Planning

**PS Goal 6** A resilient, sustainable, and equitable community where risks to life, property, the economy, and the environment resulting from climate change, including extreme weather events, are minimized.

As a result of climate change, California is experiencing more intense and frequent heat waves, drought, wildfires, severe storms and extreme weather events. In addition to climate change imperatives, resiliency planning is becoming necessary on its own merits. Senate Bill 379 requires each city in California to update their Safety Element to consider climate impacts facing the state as well as methods to adapt and increase resiliency to climate change at the city level.

The City developed a Climate Action Plan (CAP) in cooperation with the South Bay Cities Council of Governments to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions within Gardena. The City's CAP serves as a guide for action by setting GHG emission reduction goals and establishing strategies and policy to achieve desired outcomes over the next 20 years.

The City also prepared a Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) in 2021 to inform City policies, plans, programs, and guidance to promote effective and integrated action to safeguard from climate change. Policies are included below to address the key findings of the CVA.

### Policies

**PS 6.1: Community Preparedness.** A well-prepared City that can effectively overcome natural disasters and scarcity of resources due to climate change.

**PS 6.2: Collaboration.** Collaborate with local, regional, state and/or federal jurisdictions and agencies on climate resiliency and adaptation strategies.

**PS 6.3: Water Supply.** Promote plans and programs and collaborate with local, regional, state and federal jurisdictions to increase sustainable water sources and protect water infrastructure.

**PS 6.4: Vulnerable Populations, Areas, and Infrastructure.** Implement necessary actions and programs to improve preparation and response for the most vulnerable community members and areas, and infrastructure.

**PS 6.5: Cooling Centers.** Designate public buildings, specific private buildings, or institutions with air conditioning as public cooling shelters; extend hours at air-conditioned sites during periods of extreme heat or power outage (if the site is supported by a backup generator).

**PS 6.6: Energy Supply.** Promote plans and programs that increase sustainable energy sources.

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**PS 6.7: Storms.** Provide access to flood protection resources and services (signage, sandbags, etc.) at designated public facilities before and during extreme weather events.

**PS 6.8: Special Assistance.** Address the needs of individuals with limited mobility or limited access to transportation for access to safe and comfortable shelter during extreme heat events or other severe weather events.

**PS 6.9: Greenhouse Gas Reductions.** Reduce communitywide greenhouse gas emissions locally by actively supporting regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gases.

**PS 6.10: Extreme Heat Vulnerabilities.** Encourage new developments, major remodels, and redevelopments address urban heat island issues and reduce urban heat island effects for the proposed project site and adjacent properties in accordance with the City's amendments to the California Building Code set forth in Gardena Municipal Code section 15.04.060.

**PS 6.11: Urban Forestry Plan.** Minimize damage associated with wind-related hazards and address climate change and urban heat island effects through the development of an urban forestry plan.

**PS 6.12: Climate Resiliency Plan.** Develop a climate resiliency plan that integrates and builds upon the strategies identified in the General Plan and Climate Action Plan.



# Noise Plan

Gardena General Plan 2006

## Authority

California Government Code Section 65302(f) requires that all General Plans include a Noise Element to address noise problems in the community. State law also requires that current and future noise level contours be developed for the following sources:

- Highways and freeways.
- Primary arterials and major local streets.
- Passenger and freight on-line railroad operations and ground rapid transit systems.
- Commercial, general aviation, heliport, military airport operations, aircraft over-flights, jet engine tests stands and all other ground facilities and maintenance functions related to airport operation.
- Local industrial plants, including, but not limited to, railroad classification yards.
- Other stationary ground noise sources identified by local agencies as contributing to the community noise environment.

## Purpose

The Noise Plan of this General Plan is the basis for achieving and maintaining environmental noise control. The Plan establishes goals, policies, and programs so that residents in the City will be protected from excessive noise. The Noise Plan will serve as a basis for achieving land use compatibility with respect to noise through the long-range planning and project review processes.

## Relationship to Other Plans and Programs

### California Noise Insulation Standards

Title 24, Part 2 of the California Code of Regulations establishes standards for interior room noise attributable to outside noise sources. The regulations specify that acoustical studies must be prepared whenever a residential building or structure is proposed to be located near an existing or adopted freeway route, expressway, parkway, major street, thoroughfare, rail line, rapid transit line, or industrial noise source, and where such noise source or sources create an exterior CNEL or 60 dB or greater. Such acoustical analysis must demonstrate that the residence has been designed to limit intruding noise to an interior CNEL of at least 45 dB.



## Gardena's Noise Environment

### Noise Evaluation and Measurement

Noise is defined as unwanted or excessive sound. Noise can interfere with communication, work, rest, recreation and sleep. Noise is also increasingly recognized as an environmental pollutant that can produce physiological and psychological damage. Sources of noise in an urban setting include motor vehicles, manufacturing, and human activities. The effect of noise on individuals varies with the duration of the noise, its intensity and frequency, and the tolerance level of those exposed. The A-weighted sound pressure level – identified as dB(A) – is the scale of measurement that is most useful in community noise measurement. This sound level is measured in decibels to provide a scale with the range and characteristics most consistent with that of peoples' sensitivity to sounds.

The A-weighted sound level of traffic and other long-term noise-producing activities within and around a community varies considerably with time. Measurements of this varying noise level are accomplished by recording values of the dB-A level during representative periods within a specified portion of the day.

Sound levels which exceed 85 dB(A), when experienced for long durations during each working day, may result in severe temporary or even permanent hearing loss. State and federal safety and health regulations currently protect workers at levels of exposure that exceed 90 dB(A) for each 8-hour workday.

It is recognized that a given level of noise may be more or less tolerable depending on the duration of exposure experienced by an individual. There are numerous measures of noise exposure that consider not only the A-level variation of noise but also the duration of the disturbance. The State Department of Aeronautics and the California Commission on Housing and Community Development have adopted the community noise equivalent level (CNEL). This measure weights the average noise levels for the evening hours (7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.), increasing them by 5 dB, and weights the late evening and morning hour noise levels (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) by 10 dB. The daytime noise levels are combined with these weighted levels and are averaged to obtain a CNEL value.

Figure N-1 indicates the CNEL considered acceptable for various land use categories. In general, exterior noise exposures at residential locations should not exceed a CNEL of 65 dB. Figures N-2 and N-3 illustrate the existing and future noise contours within the City.

### Baseline and 2025 Noise Environment

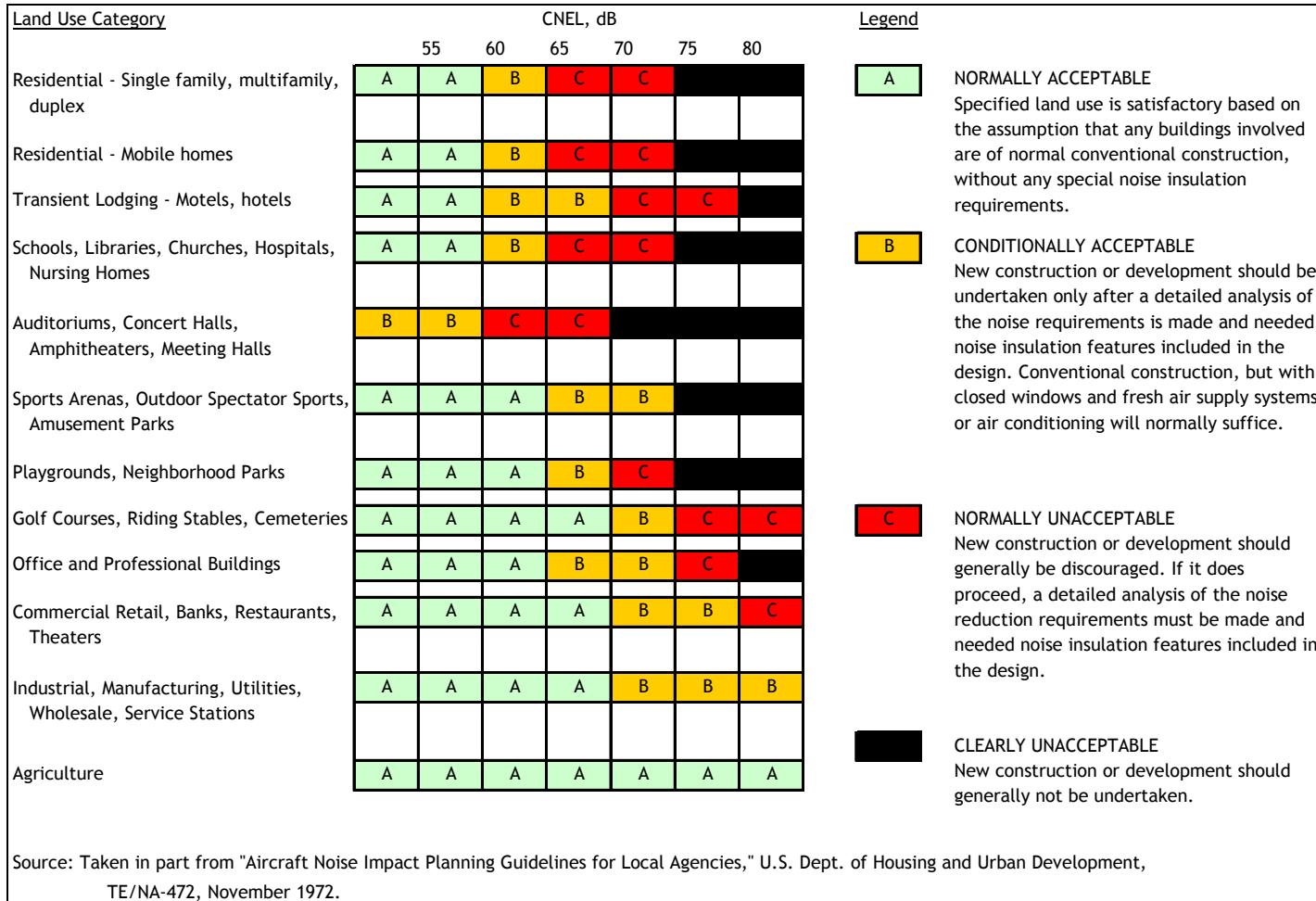
The most significant noise-producing activity within the City of Gardena involves the transportation elements: arterials, and train movements on the Union Pacific rail line. In addition, numerous fixed sources of noise exist within portions of the City.

#### Traffic Noise from Major and Secondary Arterials

The CNEL values at noise-sensitive locations, if any, directly adjacent to the arterials identified in Table N-1 exceed 65 dB. The noise exposure at these areas is considered excessive.



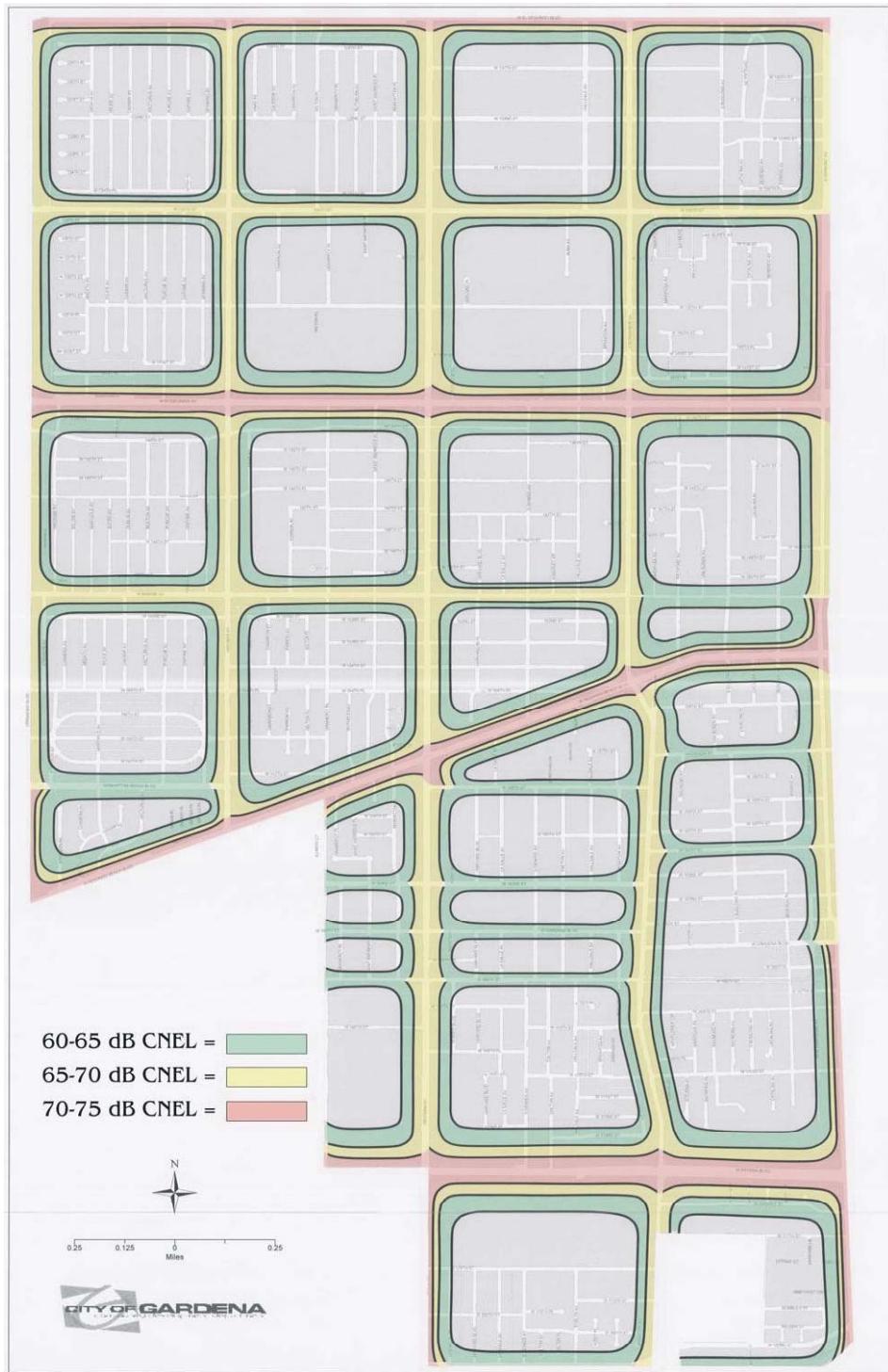
## Gardena General Plan 2006



**Figure N-1**  
**Noise and Land Use Compatibility**



## Gardena General Plan 2006



Source: Wieland Associates, Inc. 2005

**Figure N-2**  
**Existing CNEL Contours**