

# Community Green Space: Promoting Physical & Mental Well Being for an Underserved Community

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Summer 2021 Capstone Project

Landscape Architecture Program -  
UCLA Extension

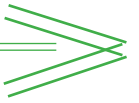
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Meg Rushing Coffee  
Pamela Brief  
Jim Pickel

## Project Statement:

Jim Thorpe Park will be redesigned to provide space and promote physical and mental well being through the use of recreational green space.



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# Personal Statement

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When I started the Landscape Architecture program three years ago, I knew I was taking a huge risk. I didn't have any experience in design and my undergrad was in Business. However, I always had a love for landscape and it all began in my childhood. My mother and father both immigrated from Mexico to Los Angeles in the 1980's where they would eventually wed and start a life together. My father began working in the landscape field with my grandfather in his teen years and eventually ventured off to start his own landscape maintenance business as a way of supporting his family. Growing up I remember visiting nurseries early in the morning on Saturdays before going to his client's homes to work in their gardens. I remember watching my dad climb large trees when he had pruning jobs while my brother and I waited patiently at the bottom for the first branch to drop so we can begin making our piles to load onto the truck. I loved everything about it. I started the program with the idea that I was pursuing what I loved and what brought me joy. However, this journey also taught me so much about myself and what is truly important to me. My siblings and I grew up in a low income neighborhood in the city of Hawthorne and it is where I call home. Throughout my childhood I spent a lot of time at our local park and experienced it in very different ways. As a child I remember thinking how large the park was and how much grass we had to run around – in my eyes, it was the best park ever. Living in a concrete jungle, green space was almost sacred to us and we didn't care how terrible it looked, we had space to run and play. Later on and as a teen it was a place where I could meet friends on my way home from school, however, my outlook on this space was different now. What was once green space I used to run and play on, was now space for confrontation and space for patrol cars to roam freely. I started to notice how much confrontation there was and how people acted out of frustration and fear and I also noticed how old and run down everything looked. These spaces are meant for the community to gather safely, to socialize and enjoy outdoor time but it was not serving its purpose. I then wondered why there are parks that are always clean and have so many amenities and our park looked so poor?. This is almost always the norm in lower income communities and communities of color. Through this presentation, I aim to provide information as to why quality green space is important for all communities and how quality green space can improve one's mental and physical well being. As well, as why it is crucial that our youth, especially those in our most vulnerable communities, deserve space where they can feel safe and free.

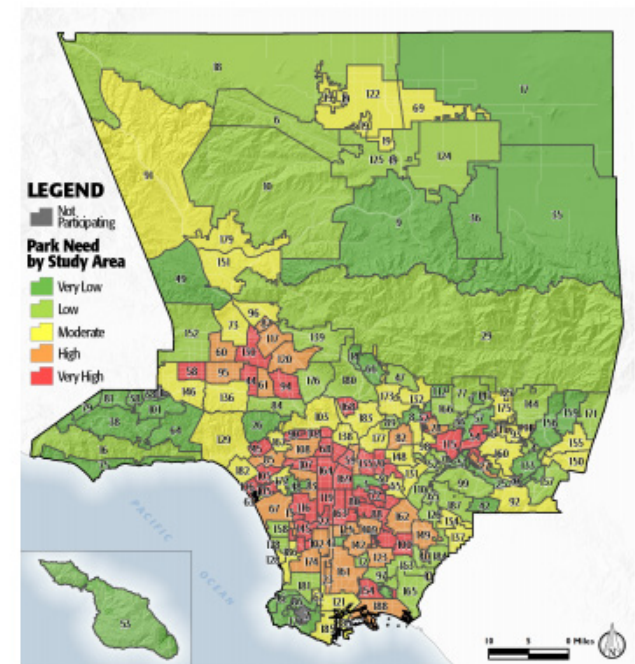
# Theoretical Premise

It's no question that parks and recreational green space is scarce in inner-city communities. It's also interesting to learn that for many urban areas and inner city regions, especially those that serve low income communities, mental and physical health is at a decline. This of course, is in comparison to cities and communities with higher income levels. As a result, this then poses a very important question, "What is the correlation between low-income communities and poor mental and physical health?" Of course, there isn't one single solution to the issue at hand as there are a plethora of elements that contribute to one's poor mental and physical health. However, one argument we can make is how well-designed green space and parks can lead to better mental and physical health. When a park is located in the heart of a dense residential area, it's easy to assume that the park is there to serve the community by offering outdoor green space in an otherwise concrete zone. According to the CDC, "...recreational green space and well-designed parks help improve physical and mental health for people of the community. Both availability and the quality of the space near the residents, creates a positive correlation with the space and physical activity." ([https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/19\\_0434.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/19_0434.htm)) In other words, when a community has access to quality green space, it can lead to positive mental and physical health outcomes. With a population of about 87,772 residents, the city of Hawthorne serves a community that is comprised of more than 50% Latino and about 30% Black residents with 46% of the population living below the 200% FPL. In Addition, both mental and physical health is less than positive with about 24% of the population ages 18 years and older who are obese and about 12% of the population who have been diagnosed with diabetes. Poor mental health is also not far from this spectrum, with about 8% of the population being diagnosed with depression. If quality green space can help improve ones mental and physical health, is it safe to say that quality green space should be available to all, regardless of income levels?

## PARK NEEDS FRAMEWORK: COUNTYWIDE ASSESSMENT OF NEED

The results of the analysis of the park metrics were used to determine an overall park need level for each Study Area. Please refer to Section 3.0 Park Needs Framework of the main report for additional information.

City of Hawthorne (#145) has a very high park need.



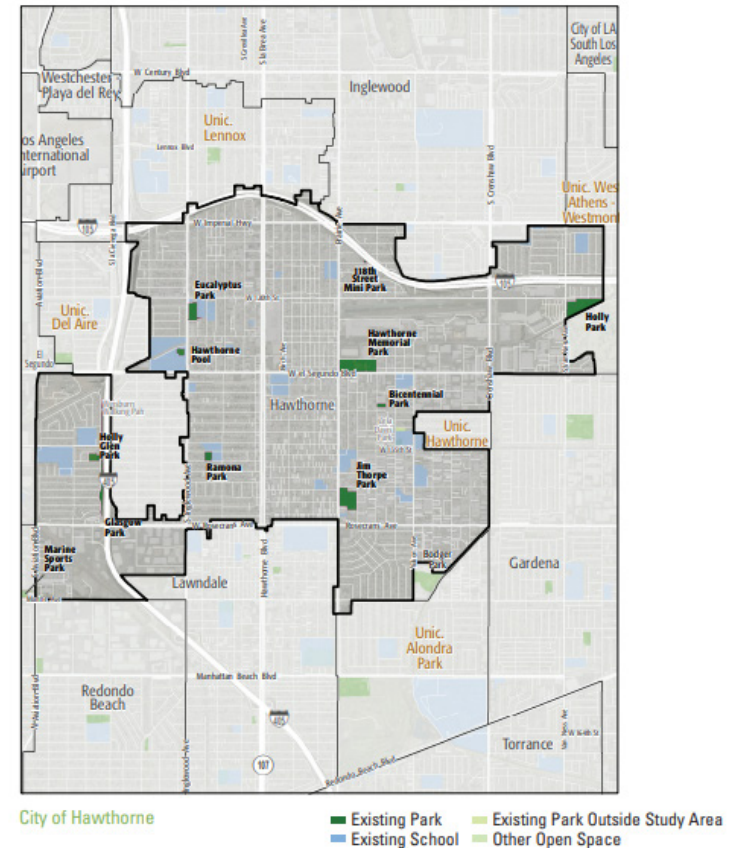
[https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea\\_145.pdf](https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_145.pdf)



# Theoretical Premise

Jim Thorpe Park is located in Hawthorne, CA with over 8.7 acres of park space, and was dedicated to the late athlete in 1974. For many, Jim Thorpe, who was also an Olympic gold medalist, was praised as one of the greatest athletes of all time. Having a park dedicated to an athlete can create expectations of what that space should offer or represent. Some adjectives to describe a park named after an athlete are, active, energetic, strong, and powerful to name a few. It is easy to envision grand spaces for recreational sports and physical activity as well as symbolic pieces that represent who that person was. However, the current conditions of the park pose a very obvious question “Why is this park being underutilized and is it creating a negative outcome for the community it serves?” While walking through the park you will experience pockets of empty, underutilized space that significantly lacks signs of life. You will see empty basketball courts that are tucked behind a retaining wall that separates an apartment complex and the court space. You will also see two abandoned baseball fields that are only utilized a couple of times per year. One of the biggest opportunities for the space, is its location. The park is located in the heart of a residential area that is also directly adjacent to more than three local schools. Because of these factors alone, this space should easily be a place for the community to enjoy. However, when you visit the space, you ask yourself why the community isn’t spending time there. According to the LA County Park Needs Assessment, Jim Thorpe Park is classified as fair to poor in regards to availability of park amenities and its overall conditions.<sup>2</sup> The theoretical premise behind this Capstone project is that by carefully redesigning this park space along with the help of the community itself, we can help promote physical and mental well-being for the same community it serves.

## STUDY AREA BASE MAP



[https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea\\_145.pdf](https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_145.pdf)

# Project Justification

As a lifelong resident of the city of Hawthorne and as a resident who is walking distance from Jim Thorpe Park, it is important and personal to me that I carefully and clearly explain why our community deserves a quality green space that we can enjoy all while helping to improve our current state of mental and physical health. As a landscape architecture student, I've been constantly learning to recognize the value of a space and how it not only creates a perception of it's surrounding context, but also how it can be affected. As future landscape architects and professionals, we have a responsibility to create safe spaces for everyone from not only a physical standpoint, but also a sociological standpoint. We need to ensure that we are adding value to a space rather than taking from it. From a societal standpoint, it's necessary to understand that not all communities are alike. It is our duty to carefully study and make our best effort to understand what each community needs and wants to help add value and increase the quality of life for these communities. Having been a lifelong resident of this city, I have seen it evolve in many ways though not always positive and it has become my mission to not only understand why this happens but more importantly, become part of the solution.

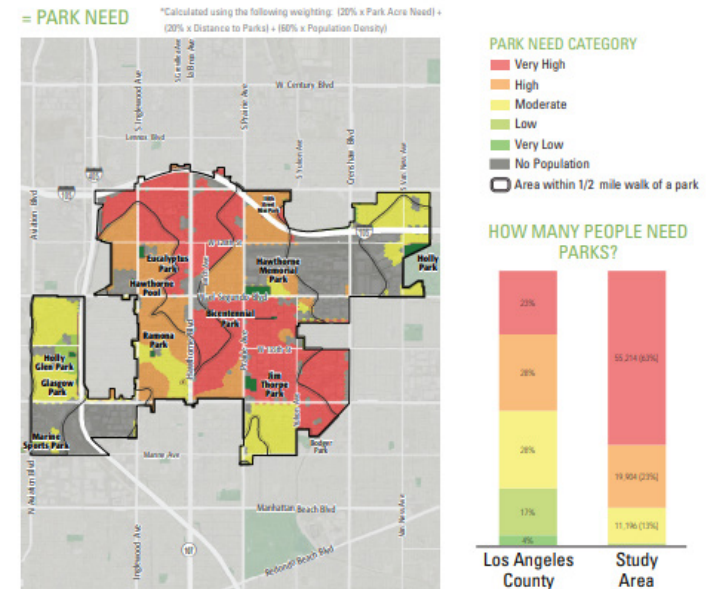
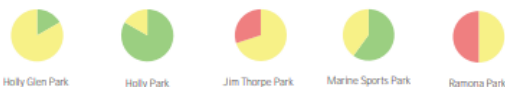
Through this project I aim to discover ways to add value to our community and the people it serves. Hopefully, this project can also help open up the conversation about how landscape architecture is not only about creating beautiful physical spaces but also how these designs and spaces can add meaning to what it already existing.

[https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea\\_145.pdf](https://lacountyparkneeds.org/wp-content/root/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_145.pdf)

## AMENITY QUANTITIES AND CONDITIONS

Park Name	Condition	Amenities																Total
		General Infrastructure Condition	Open Lawn/Turf Area	Tennis Courts	Baseball Courts	Baseball Fields	Soccer Fields	Multi-use Fields	Tennis Courts	Shade Structures	Playgrounds	Swimming Pools	Splash Pools	Dog Parks	Gymnasiums	Community Rec Centers	Senior Centers	
Holly Glen Park	Good																	1
	Fair																	5
	Poor																	0
Holly Park	Good																	10
	Fair																	2
	Poor																	0
Jim Thorpe Park	Good																	7
	Fair																	3
	Poor																	0
Marine Sports Park	Good																	2
	Fair																	0
	Poor																	0
Ramona Park	Good																	0
	Fair																	2
	Poor																	2
Totals:	Good	3	2	6	0	0	1	0	5	4	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	25
	Fair	6	6	2	0	0	1	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	8	31
	Poor	5	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	10

## AMENITY CONDITIONS SUMMARY



# Design Methodology

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This project will be navigated through the use of case studies, periodicals, articles and qualitative research, community engagement events that are published on the city's website, and books. Some articles such as Resilient Design for Low-Income Communities by Aaron King 2018, combines research as well as one of my research books, "Resilience For All: Striving for equity through community drive design" (Barbara Brown Wilson) to carefully outline what it is that we are missing when planning for low income communities. One of my case studies includes: Disparities in Park Space by Race and Income by UC Berkeley School of public Health. This article details on how green spaces of all sorts can help improve the quality of life for people in urban neighborhoods but how factors such as income and race can hinder these opportunities for many and how to over come them. Some guidelines I have adopted in my research are the design principles outline by the National recreation and park Association (<https://www.nrpa.org/contentassets/19b3cbe05a634d5e8d3b712dbc8aa9d0/community-engagement-guide-nrpa.pdf>)

These guidelines include the following:

- Inclusivity – How can I make Jim Thorpe more inclusive for the community it's serving?
- Resilient – How can I create a space that will be long lasting and sustainable for future generations?
- Accessibility – How can I make this park more accessible for all people and demographics?
- Authenticity – What will this park set it apart from the rest? How can I make an destination and not only pas- sive space?
- Sensitive to context – How can I design in a way that is adding value to the community and providing spaces they NEED and WANT?
- Maintainable – If the city is already providing poor maintenance, how can I make a space that will be easy to maintain as well as encourage the community to care for it in a way that it is long lasting?
- Health and wellness – How can my new design add value to the health and wellness of its users?
- Equity and inclusion – How can my design be fair and inclusive for all?

Additionally, I would adopt what the NRPA refers to as the Mixed Methods Approach. This approach allows us to experiment in order to see what method of research works best when approaching community engagement events. By doing so, we can ensure that we are reaching all demographics and populations in order for everyone to be heard. Through this method we have the study the public and reach them through public events at the actual site, mail invitations, social media postings or personal one on one conversations with members of the community who have lived there for many years. Some community engagement information I've acquired comes directly from the City of Hawthorne website where they have collected surveys and brainstormed along side the community in regards to what it is they want and need for their community. This along with LA county parks and recs guidelines will all be useful tools that will help reach a design level that is beneficial for all.



<https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2020/november/mixed-method-evaluations-paint-a-park-equity-portrait/>

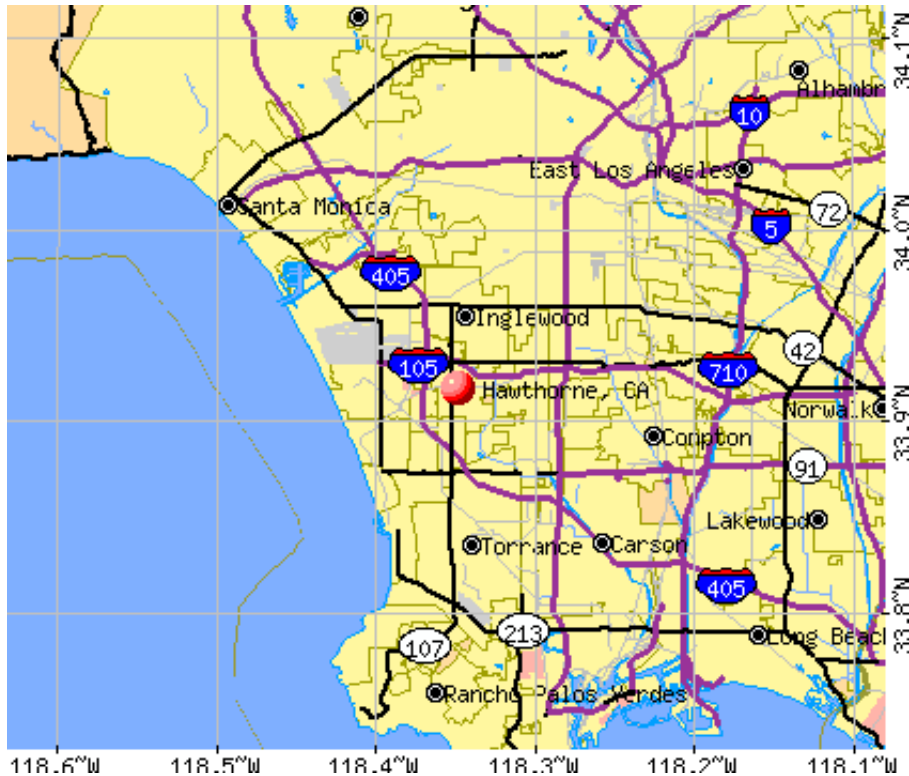


# Location | Hawthorne, CA

**Park Space per 1,000 Residents: .6 Acres**

**Hawthorne Population: 87,005**

**Jim Thorpe Park Size: 8.71 Acres**

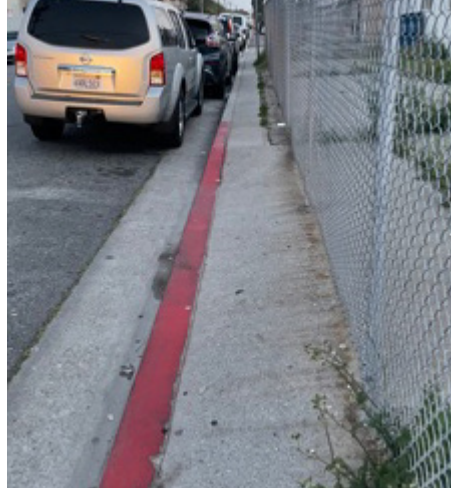


# Location | Existing Conditions

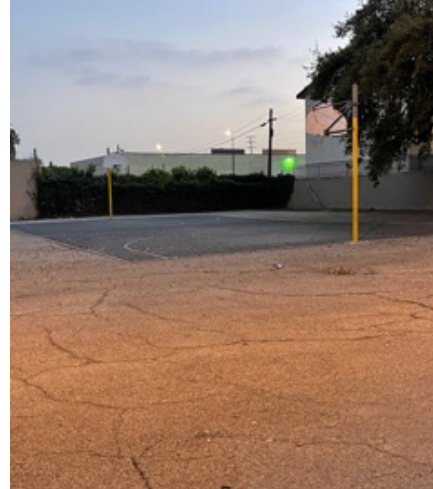
## Edges



(A)



(B)



(C)



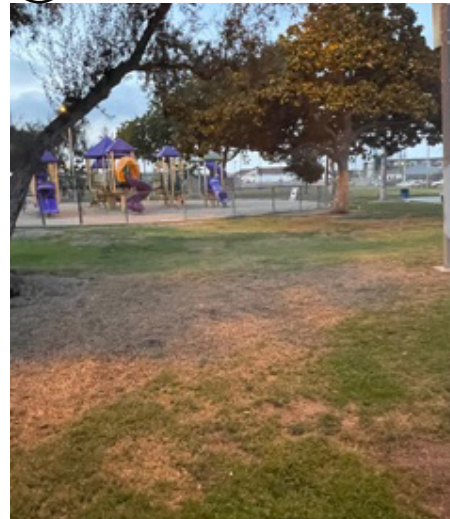
(D)



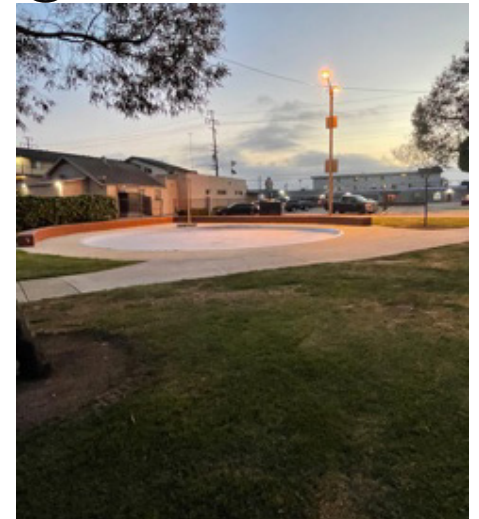
(E)



(F)



(G)





# Program | Community Needs

## Goal:

It's very easy for me to know what my neighbors, family, and I would want for a newly redesigned Jim Thorpe Park but that is not always enough. This chart was acquired from a community engagement event that took place when planning for the ongoing improvements in downtown Hawthorne. As you can see, the vision elements for this community are not much different than any other. Some of the top concerns and wants from this event were to simply create spaces that can vary in size and to provide opportunities for community gatherings, activities, and economic development all while supporting community oriented programs that promote inclusivity, community health, and sustainability.



[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52ec83cee4b032691e28b3ce/t/532a5e61e4b0d901d03d4f54/1395285601369/DHSP\\_SP+Framework\\_Draft\\_03-10-2014\\_FINAL.pdf?%20-%20Draft%20Specific%20PlanFramework](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52ec83cee4b032691e28b3ce/t/532a5e61e4b0d901d03d4f54/1395285601369/DHSP_SP+Framework_Draft_03-10-2014_FINAL.pdf?%20-%20Draft%20Specific%20PlanFramework)

# Goals, Objectives, Elements | Community & Prosperity

## Community Interaction

1. Goal: To increase interaction among the community in order to increase familiarity and unity
2. Objective: To create open lawn space and open gathering space- where everyone in the community can come together to discuss important topics , learn, and sell/promote their small business.
3. Elements: Community Center + Outdoor Gathering Space



## Sense of Ownership

1. Goal: To create a sense of belonging and ownership
2. Objective: To create a space where the community can work as a collective towards a greater goal while learning about the benefits of growing and consuming healthier options
3. Elements: Community Garden



## Improving Local Economy

1. Goal: To contribute to the local economy
2. Objective: To create space for community members to sell and promote their small business as well as creating direct connection to the local agencies.
3. Elements: Open park space for pop-up shops/Farmers markets





# Goals, Objectives, Elements | Health & Safety

## Recreational Space

1. Goal: To enhance mental and physical well being
2. Objective: To offer spaces where everyone as a collective can work together towards living a healthier life
3. Elements: Playground, fitness equipment, track, meditation garden



## Walkability & Bikability

1. Goal: To improve walkability & Bikability
2. Objective: To create safer and more practical connections for all pedestrians and to create safer connection for bicyclists
3. Elements: By implemnting more crosswalks around the site, pedestrians/Bicyclists will feel safer making their to the site without having to cross in the middle of traffic



## Honoring Site History- Jim Thorpe

1. Goal: To honor site history - Jim Thorpe - Sports Hero
2. Objective: Paying homage to the site's name by creating a recreational sports park in honor of a sports hero.
3. Elements: Monuments honoring Jim Thorpe as well as recreational green space will work towards honoring the late athlete.



# Location | Stakeholders

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It's important to get to know the community you are designing for as it will be a space for said community to utilize. What started as a sundown town is now home to predominantly Latino and Black families. According LA County public records, 64% of the population are between the ages of 18-64 years old (<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohae/docs/cchp/pdf/2018/Hawthorne.pdf>) This is a very impactful number and proves that there is a very broad age range and these spaces should be prepared to serve all members of the community. 51% percent of the population are female while the remaining 49% are male and about 88% of the population lives with more than one person. There is also a rise in single mother households which also creates an opportunity to create a space that has all basic amenities as well as an inviting and safe atmosphere when visiting the park during all hours of the day. Peak hours at this space are weekday mornings between 7am and 10am and evenings after 5pm. Summer visiting hours are very different as kids are not in school and families can spend more time in the space. Lastly, there is a community of apartment complex buildings located directly behind the park. This park would serve that entire community which includes anywhere from single households to families with more than one child.



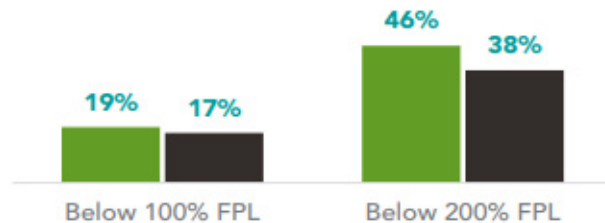
# Site Users | Demographics

- » Families - Predominantly Latino between the ages of 18-64 Years old living below the federal poverty line.
- » Community Organizations
- » Youth from neighboring schools

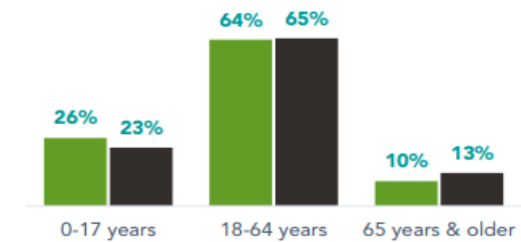


**87,772**

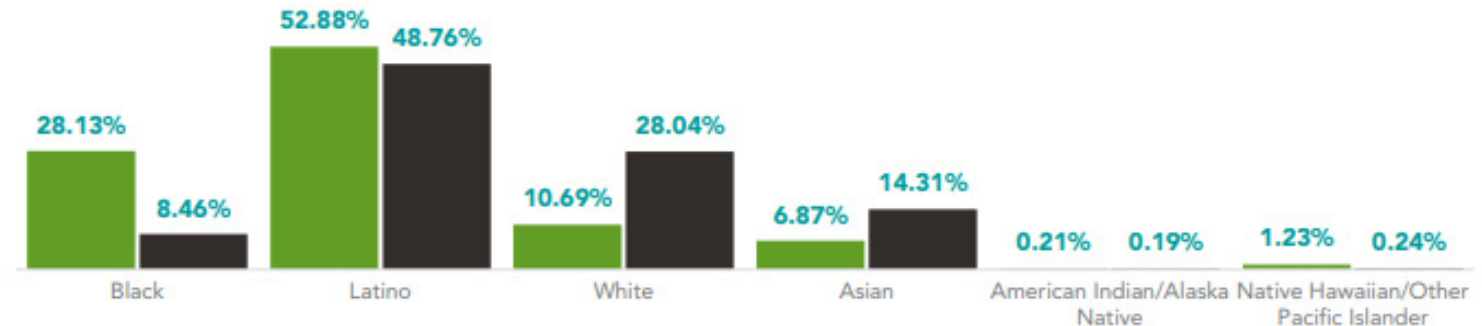
**TOTAL POPULATION<sup>1</sup>**



**PERCENTAGE OF RESIDENTS LIVING BELOW 100% AND 200% OF THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL (FPL)<sup>1</sup>**



**POPULATION BY AGE<sup>1, 2</sup>**



**POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY<sup>1, 2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup>Note: Due to rounding, categories may not sum to 100%.

<sup>1</sup>Hedderson Demographic Services, Population Estimates, 2016

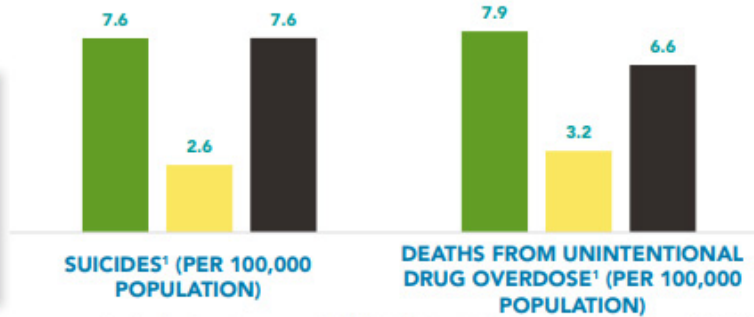
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohae/docs/cchp/pdf/2018/Hawthorne.pdf>



# Community Statistics | Physical/Mental Health



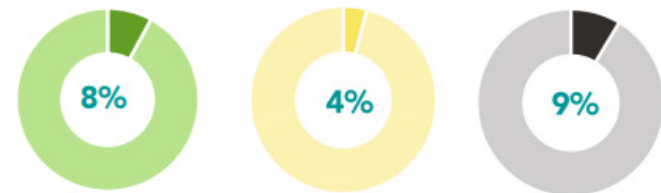
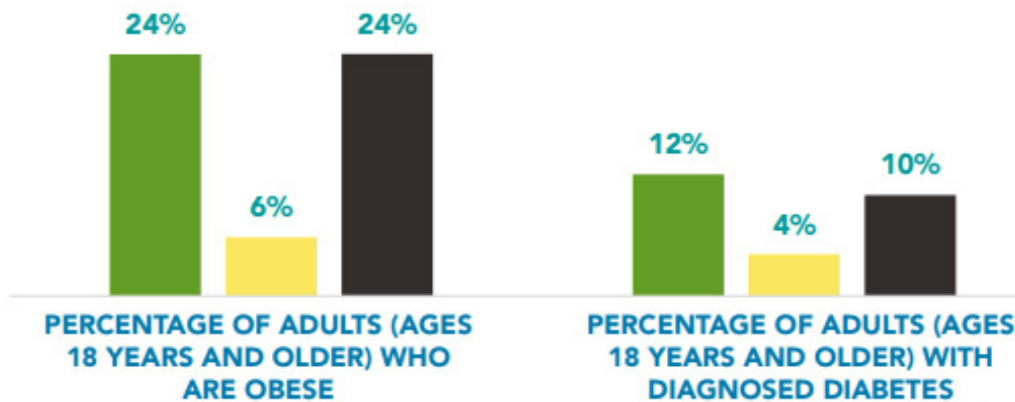
<sup>1</sup>Death rate has been age-adjusted.



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Linked Death Data, 2012 - 2016;  
Heddersson Demographic Services, Population Estimates, 2012 - 2016

It is also very important to outline the quality of mental and physical health for this community. According to the CDC, "... recreational green space and well-designed parks help improve physical and mental health for people of the community. Both availability and the quality of the space near the residents, creates a positive correlation with the space and physical activity." ([https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/19\\_0434.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/19_0434.htm))

In other words, when a community has access to quality green space, it can lead to positive mental and physical health outcomes. As you can see in the chart, the overall percentage of suicides and drug over doses in this community are equal or above average compared to LA County overall. This also goes in line with the overall percentage of people who have been diagnosed with depression. I think it's also important to note that these numbers can be off due to the overwhelming population of people in these communities who simply don't have access or the means to be seen and diagnosed with mental health issues. Additionally, the percentage of adults 18 years and older who are obese and have been diagnosed with diabetes are equal to LA County overall.



**PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS (AGES 18 YEARS AND OLDER) WITH DIAGNOSED DEPRESSION**

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Los Angeles County Health Survey, 2015

# Precedents | Yanaguana Garden at Hemisfair



San Antonio, Texas

- Low public engagement - Not a space for families to gather
- Ultimate goal was to create a space for adults and children to enjoy together and encourage participation among both groups.
- Encouraged small businesses nearby while improving the local economy
- Visitorship to Hemisfair increased by 13% from the first to second year of operation (2016-2017) and increased 44% from the second to third (2017-2018). Hemisfair hosted 1,079 events from 2015-2018 with over 600 additional events anticipated by the end of 2019.
- Encourages physical activity, with 69% of 368 visitors on two June days observed as being very active (48%) or walking (21%).

Before



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/yanaguana-garden-at-hemisfair>

After



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/yanaguana-garden-at-hemisfair>



# Precedents | Yanaguana Garden at Hemisfair



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/yanaguana-garden-at-hemisfair>



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/yanaguana-garden-at-hemisfair>



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/yanaguana-garden-at-hemisfair>



# Site Analysis | Opportunities & Constraints



## Opportunities:

- (A) Street connections - Walking distance to local schools
- (B) Entrance on Cordary provides direct access to the residential area behind the park
- (C) Direct Metro access on Prairie Ave and 139th Street
- (D) Located in a residential area and walking distance from commercial space - can attract local businesses such as juice shops.
- (E) Large green space for community gatherings
- (F) Children's development school on site - easy access for kids to utilize the space

## Constraints:

- (G) Bikability & Walkability is limited due to no crosswalks on major street and poor sidewalks on Cordary Ave.
- (H) Views are blocked by large apartments building structures

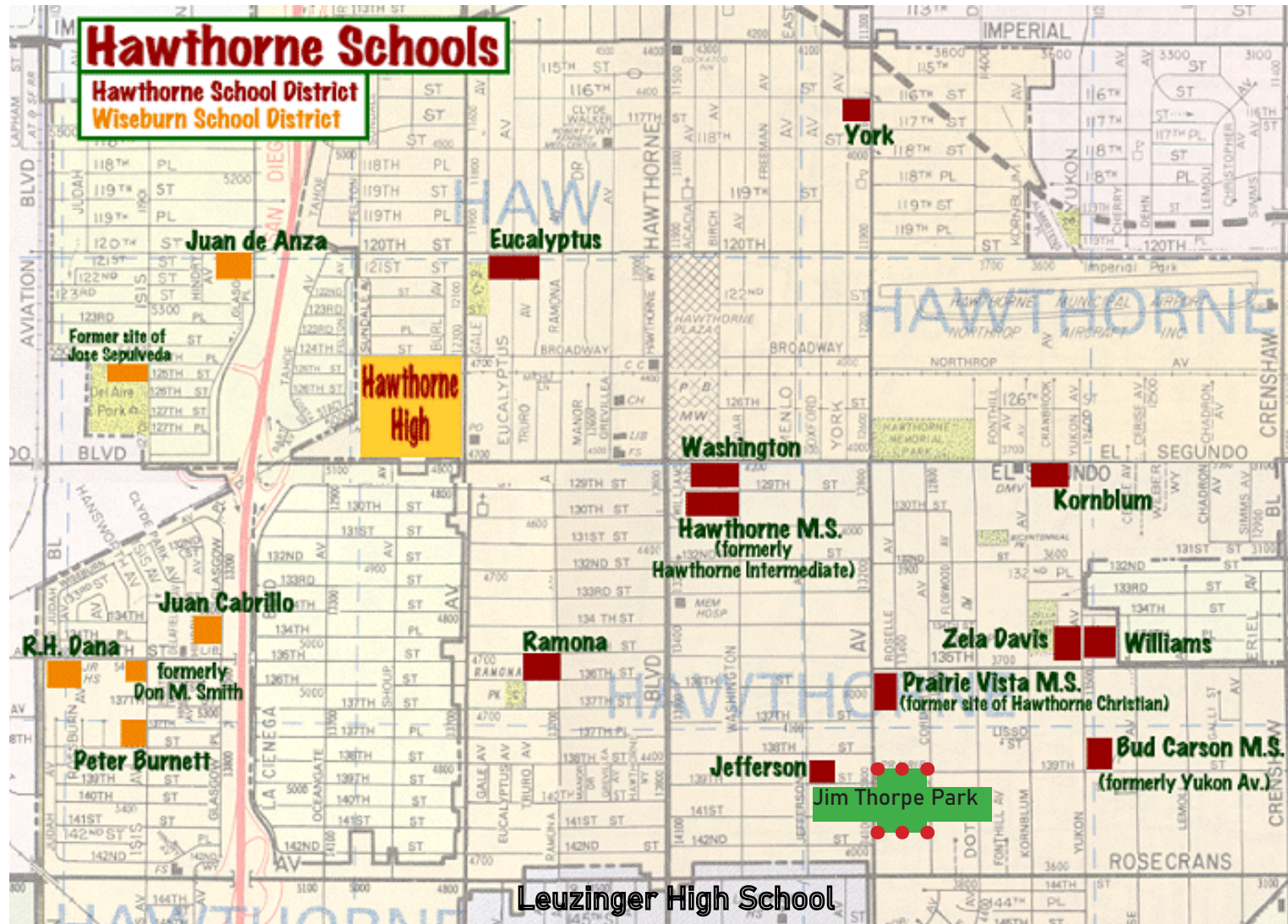
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# Site Analysis | Opportunities

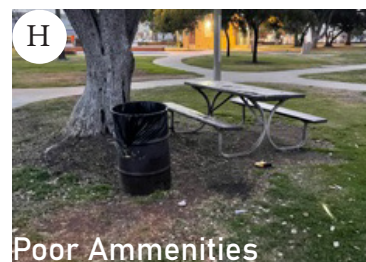
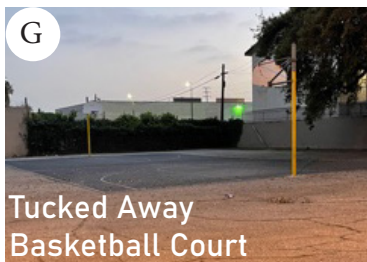
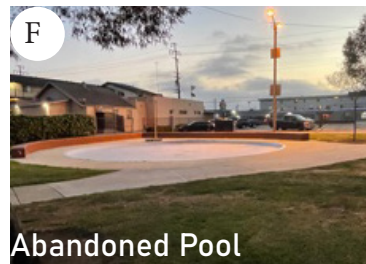
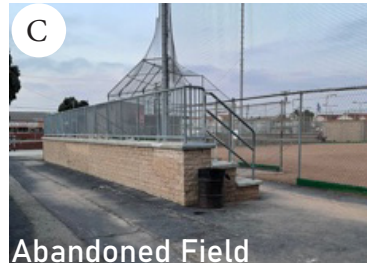
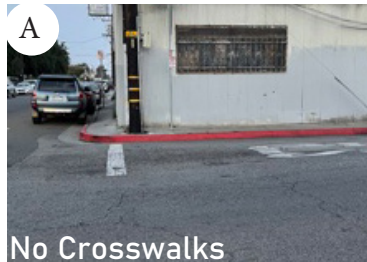
Walking Distance to over three schools



<https://cougartown.com/hawthorne-school-map.html>



# Site Analysis | Existing Conditions That are Not Working



# Design Metaphor | The Ball

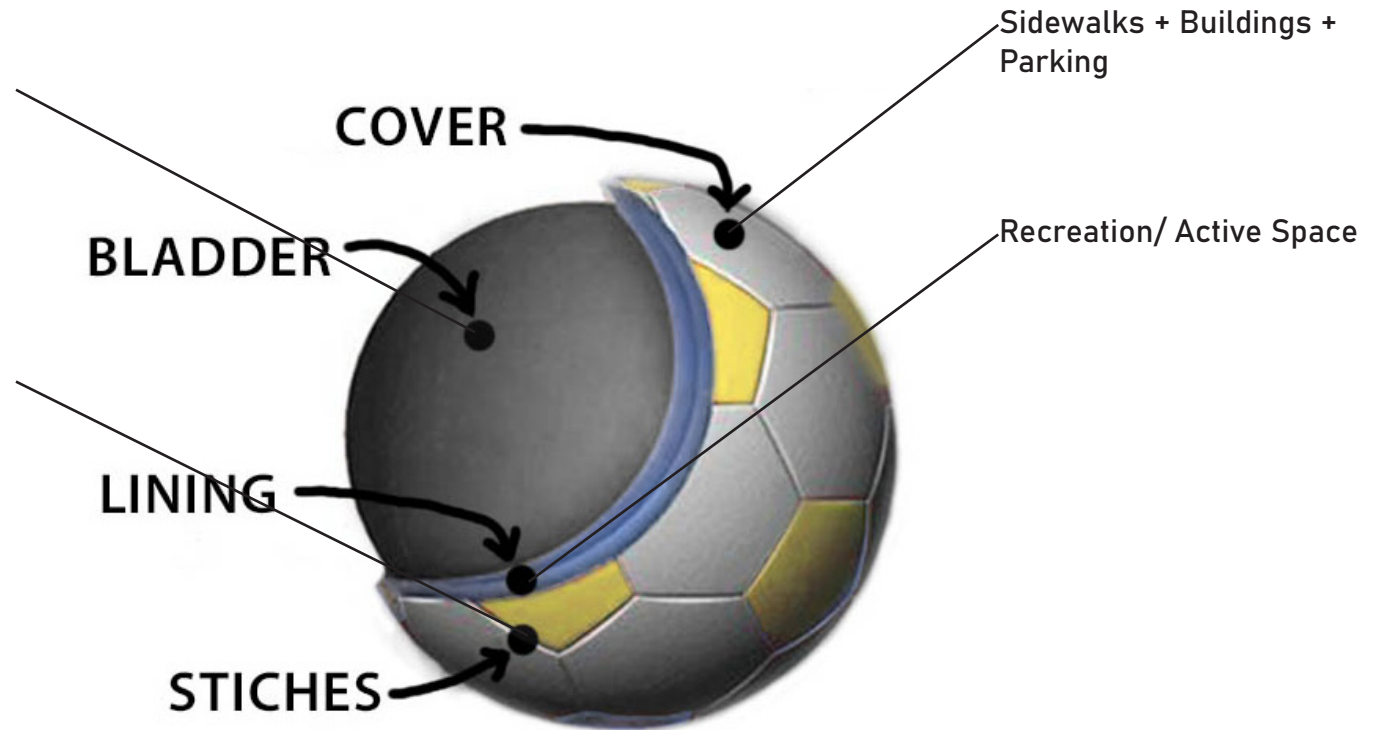


<https://www.soccer-for-kids.com/what-is-a-soccer-ball-made-of.html>

Community Gathering  
Space

In my mission to come up with a design metaphor I realized that what all of my ideas and solutions included was space for physical activity and most of these activities all included a ball. People come together to play games such as basketball and soccer by using a ball. Jim Thorpe was the first native American to win a gold medal for track and field but also played basketball and baseball among other things. I then came across the anatomy of a ball and how it's put together to form one single piece. A ball is created by putting together four layers – the bladder, Lining, Cover, and stitching. I then realized that many of proposed elements were also a lot like layers that would help bring the community together as one. The stitching were the walking paths and track, the sidewalks and buildings were the cover, the lining was the recreational and active space, and the most important piece, the bladder was the community gathering space in the heart of the site.

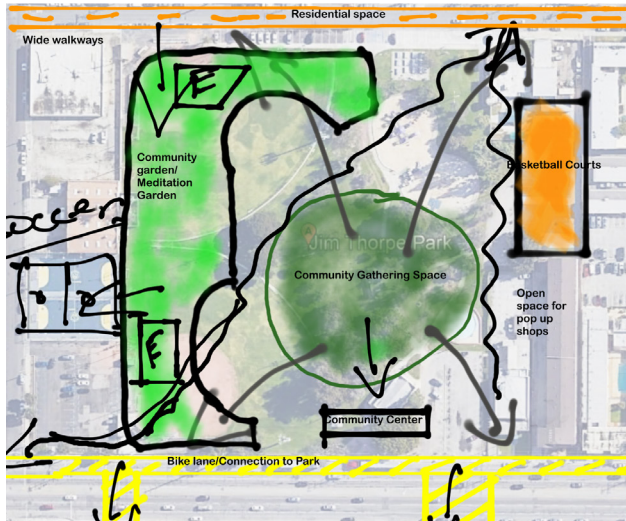
Walking Paths



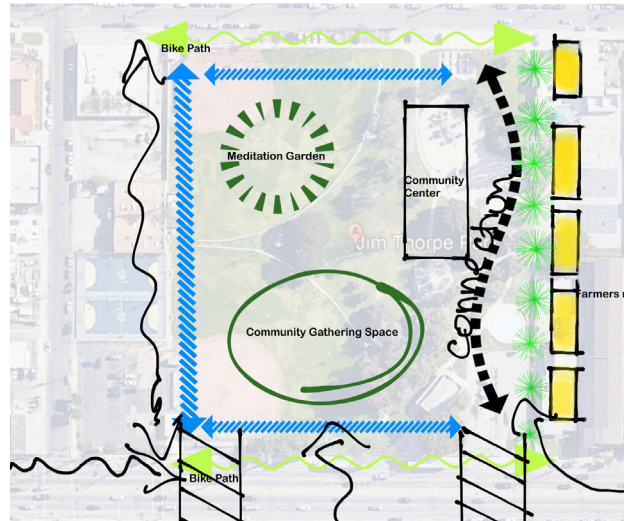
<https://www.soccer-for-kids.com/what-is-a-soccer-ball-made-of.html>



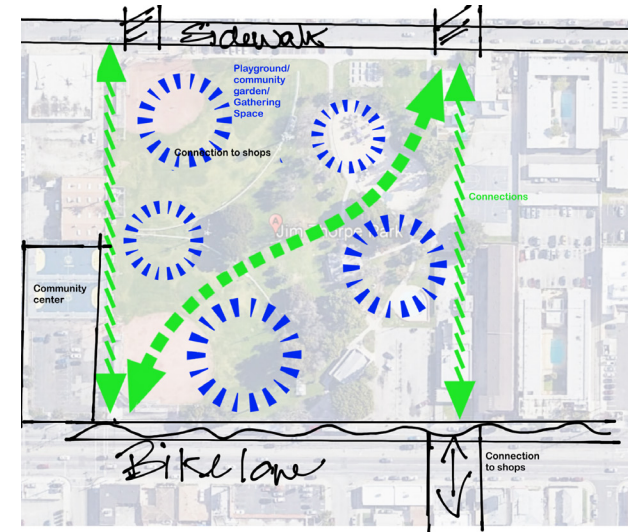
# Design | Concept 1, 2 & 3



**Concept 1:** Currently Jim Thorpe is being used as passive space but it is not clear that there is a direction connection from Cordary Ave. to Prairie Ave. In this concept, it was important that there be a clear walkway from street to street with stops on the way. Hence, central gathering space, Community Center, Meditation Garden.



**Concept 2:** I wanted to create the feeling of an actual Sports Park in the space with stationary activities in the central space of the site. In this Concept, we have the track, walking paths, and open Air Market space on the edges with the community gathering space and meditation garden in the center of the site to evoke the sense of calm within the space.



**Concept 3:** This Concept aimed to divide the park into two separate spaces. the left hand side is the recreational space with the bottom right side serving more as a connection/stationary area. The Community center, meditation garden and gathering space are located in the stationary space to separate both groups of people depending on preference.



# Design | Inspiration Images



<https://www.landscapeperformance.org/case-study-briefs/buffalo-bayou-park>



<https://hedgiejim.wordpress.com/tag/planning/>



<https://www.ccofpc.org/latino-arts-festival/>



<https://castlefoundations.com/2017/03/10/exploring-the-omi-international-arts-center/>

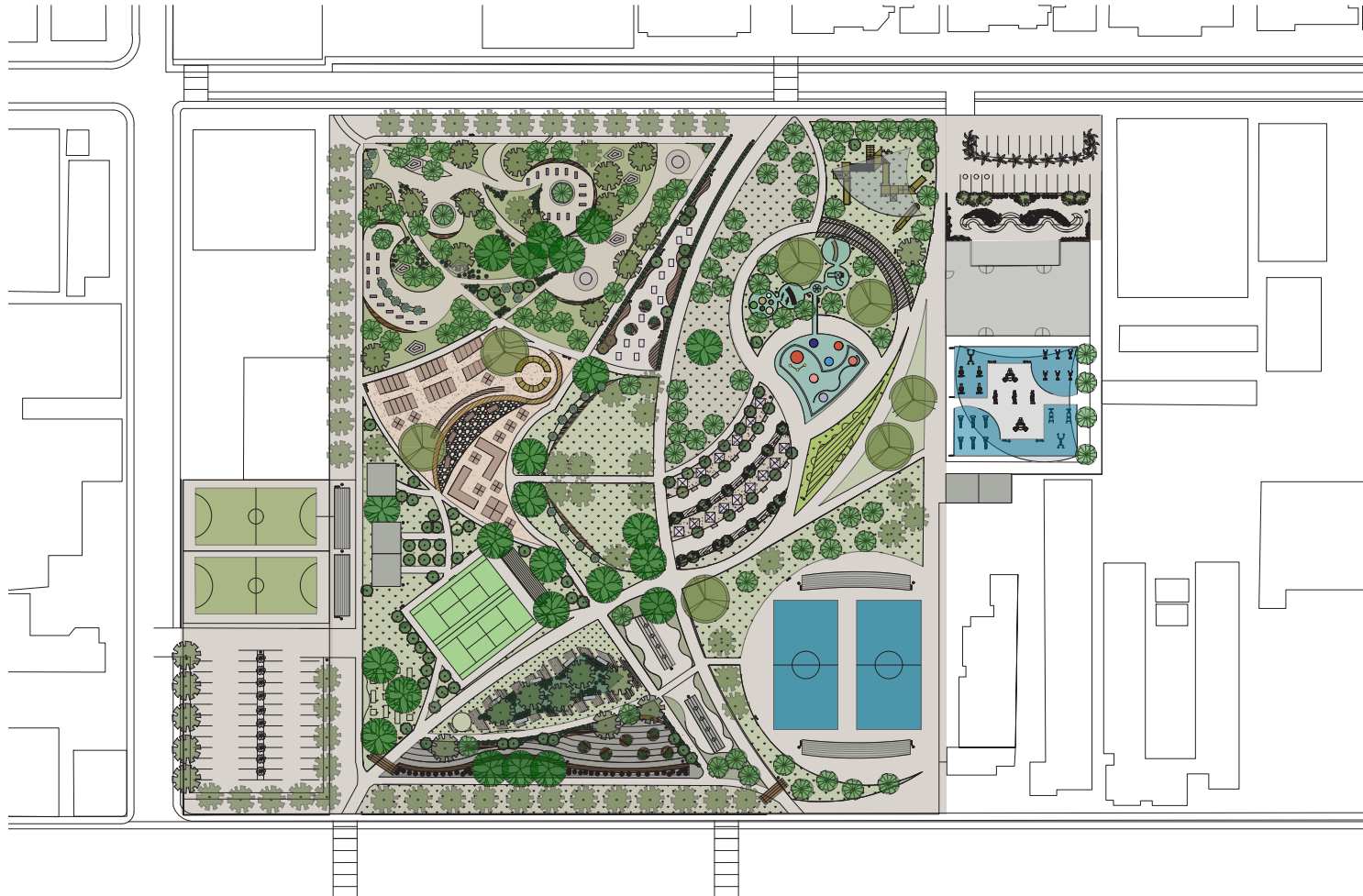


<https://www.cmtengr.com/project/downtown-revitalization/>

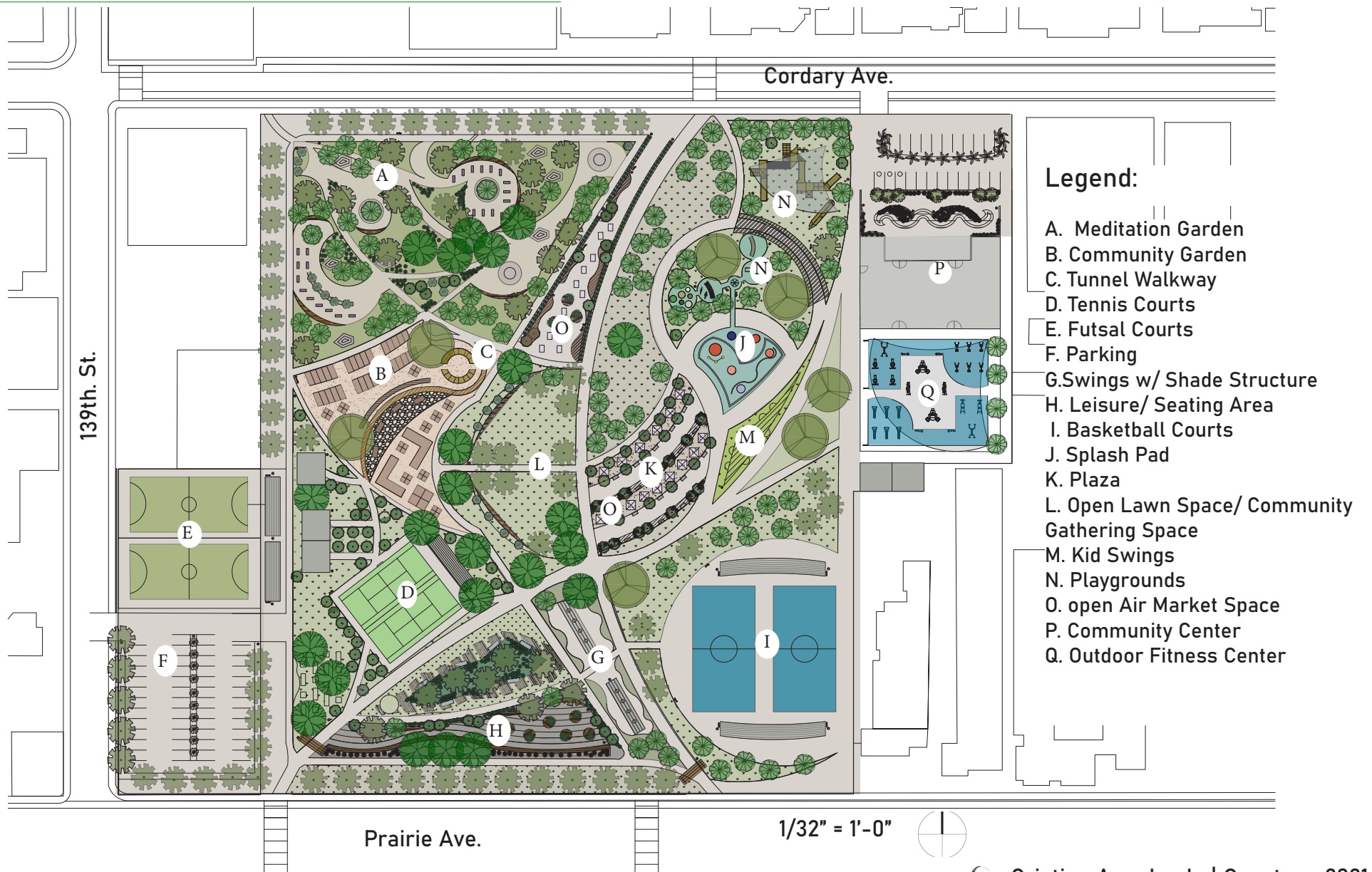


<https://www.carsla.net/services?index=0>



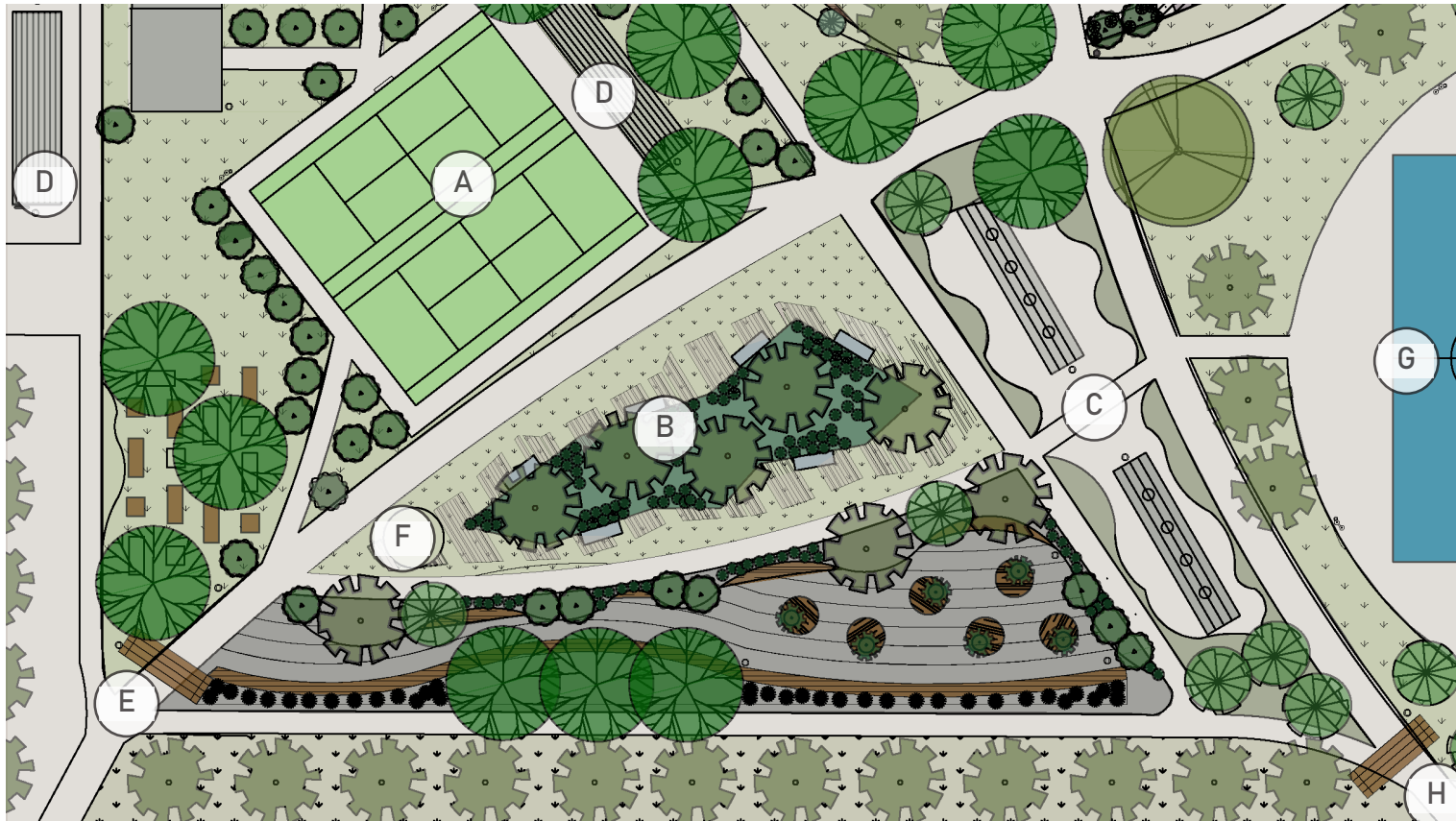


# Final Master Plan | Jim Thorpe Park In Detail





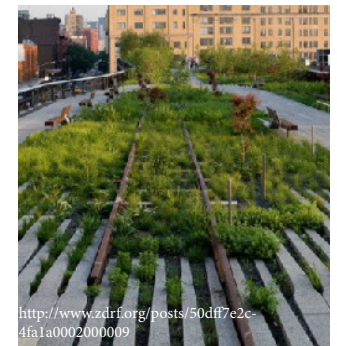
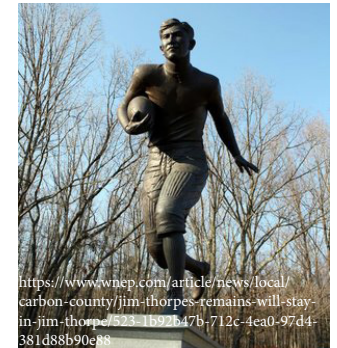
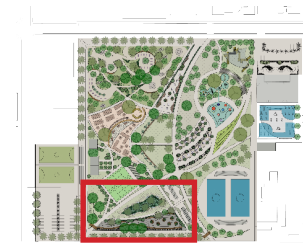
# Design | Enlargement #1



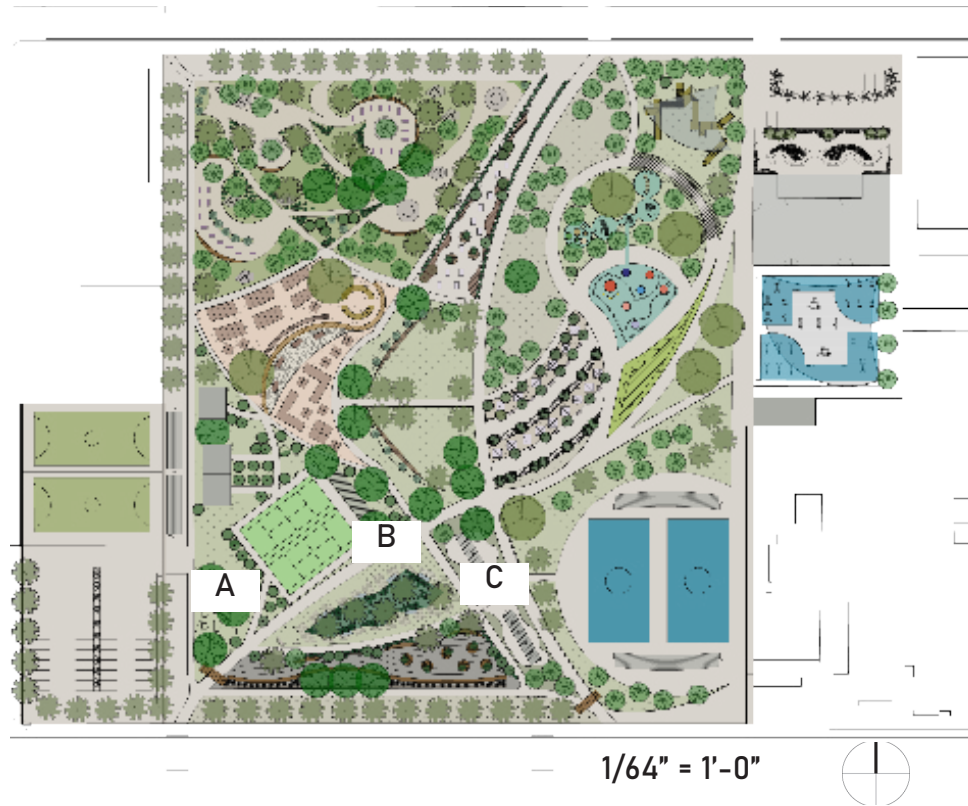
## Legend

- |                            |                        |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| (A) Tennis Court           | (E) Main Entrance      |
| (B) Raised Planter w/Bench | (F) Monument           |
| (C) Adult Swings           | (G) Basketball Courts  |
| (D) Bleachers              | (H) Secondary Entrance |

3/32" = 1'-0"



# Design | Sketches



Sketch C



Adult seating area

Sketch A

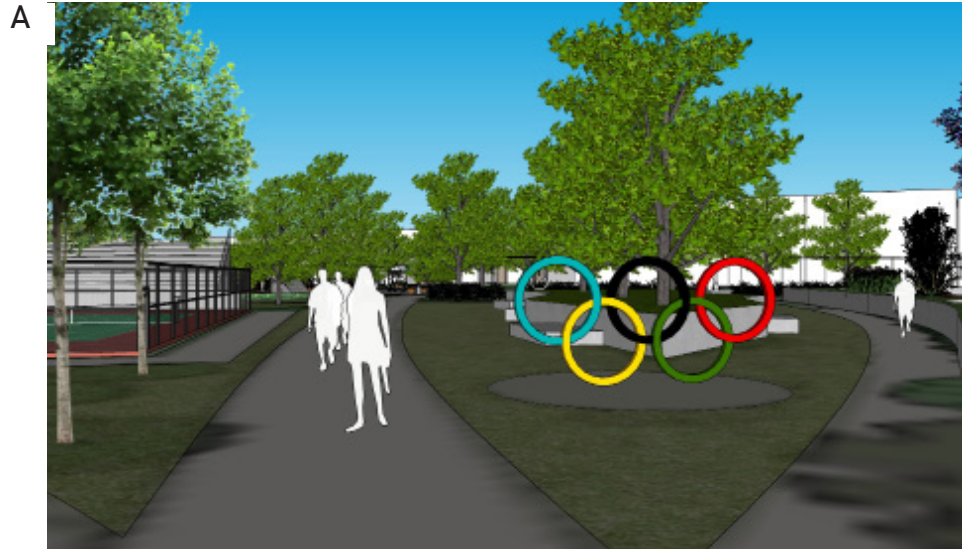
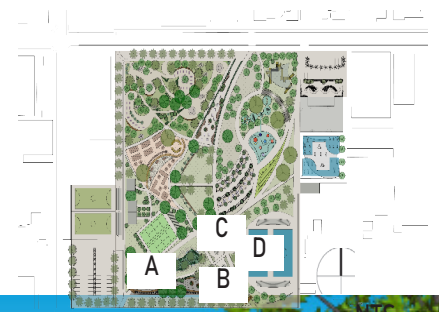


Track and walking path

Sketch B



# Design | Perspectives





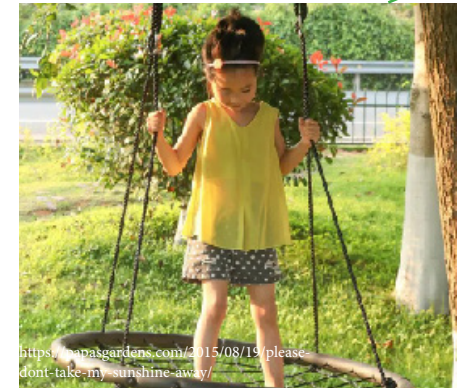
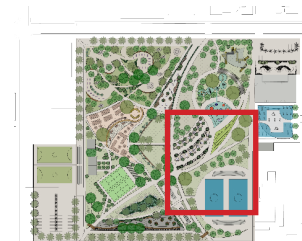
# Design | Enlargement #2



## Legend

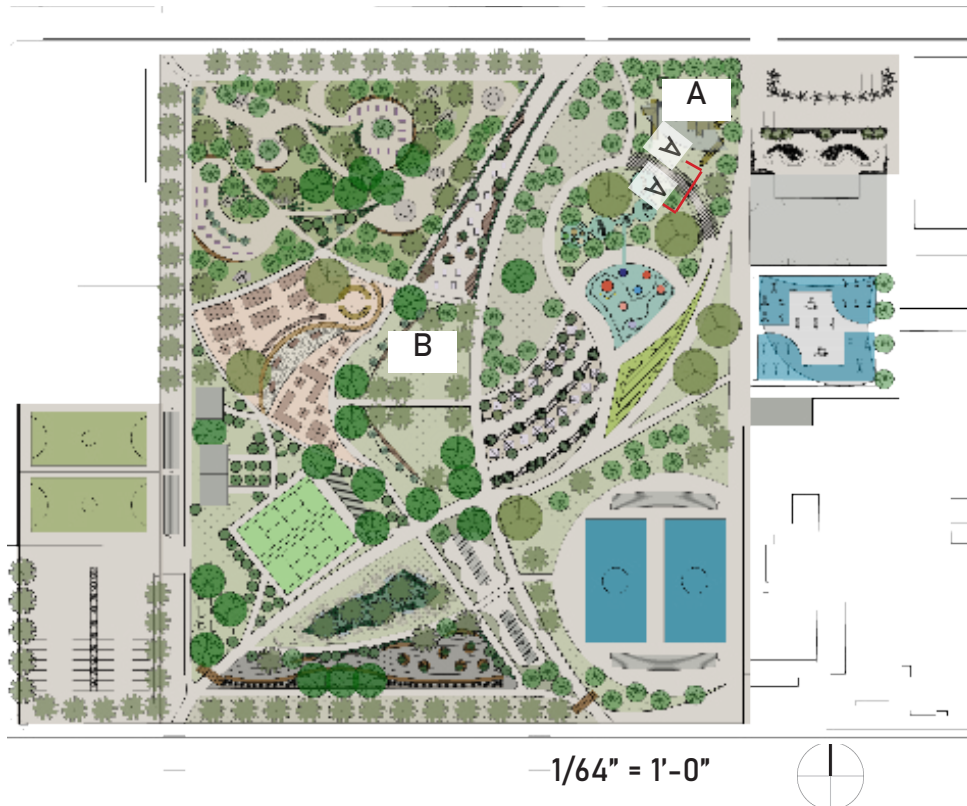
- |                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| (A) Park Plaza          | (D) Swings       |
| (B) Open Lawn Space     | (E) Splash Pad   |
| (C) Shaded Seating Area | (F) Vendor Space |

3/32" = 1'-0"



© Cristina Arredondo | Capstone 2021

# Design | Sketches & Sections

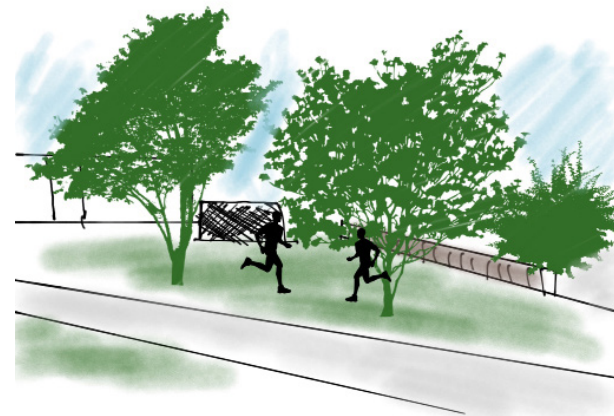


A-A

$3/16" = 1' = 0$



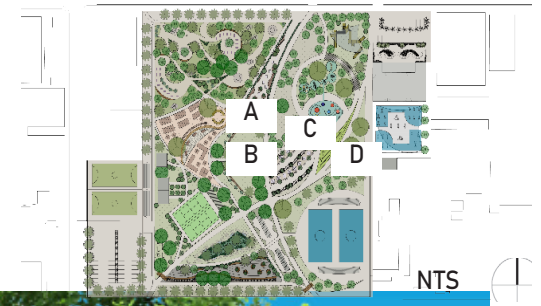
Kid's play ground w/mounds  
Sketch A



Open green space - center of site  
Sketch B



# Design | Perspectives



A



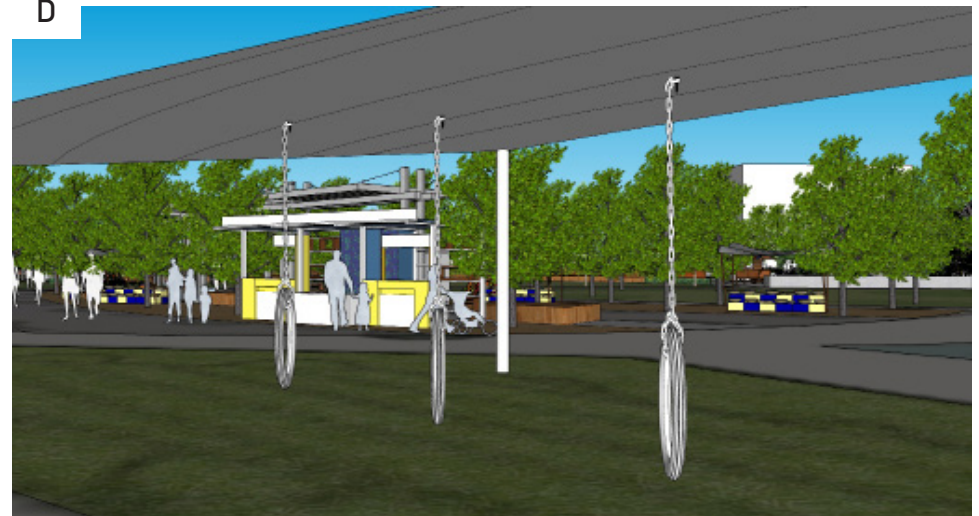
B



C



D

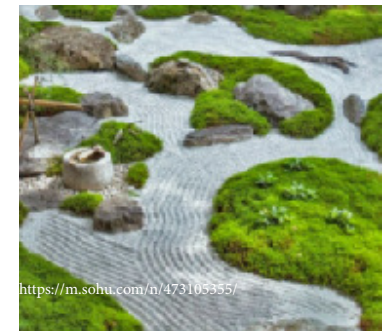
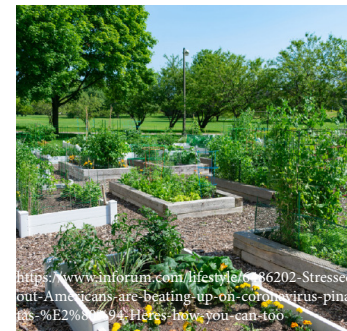
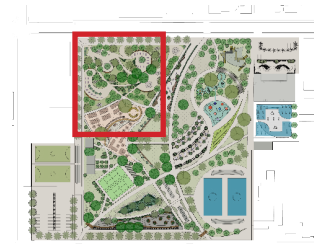


# Design | Enlargement #3



## Legend

- (A) Meditation Garden
- (B) Community Garden
- (C) Track
- (D) Seating
- (E) Open Recreational/Yoga Space
- (F) Water Feature

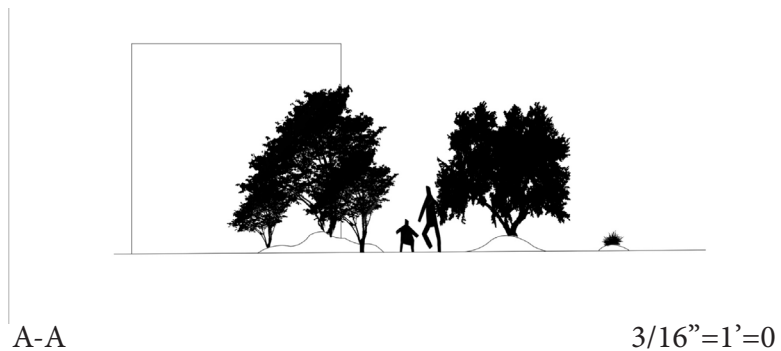
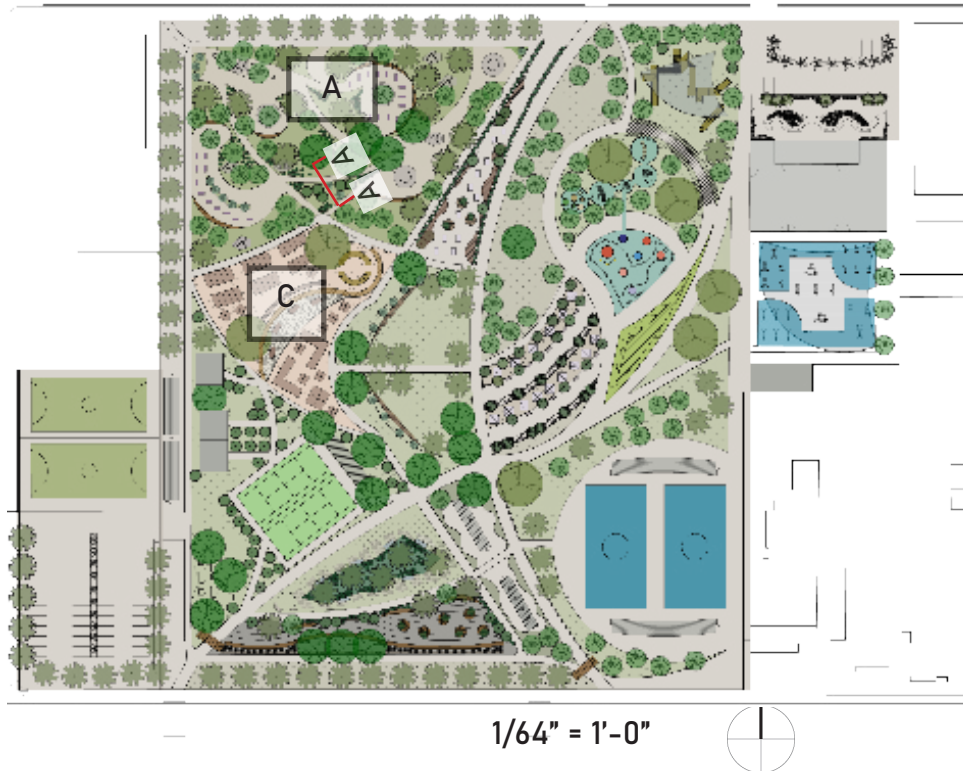


3/32" = 1'-0"

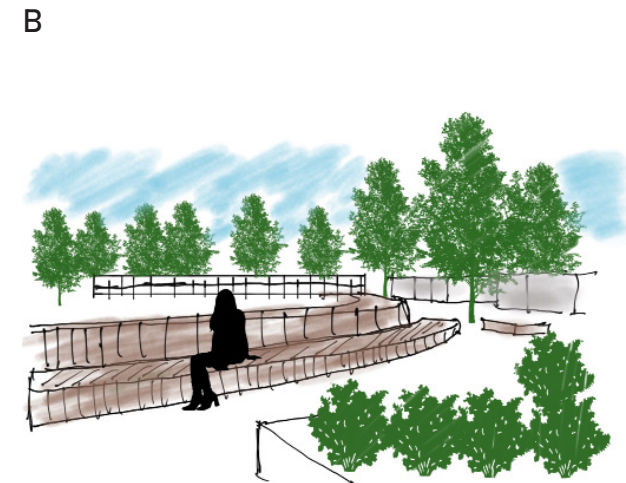




# Design | Sketches & Section

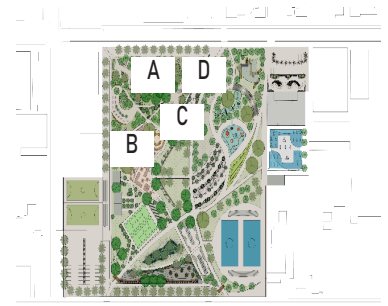


A visitor enjoys quiet time in the tucked away seating area of the meditation garden.

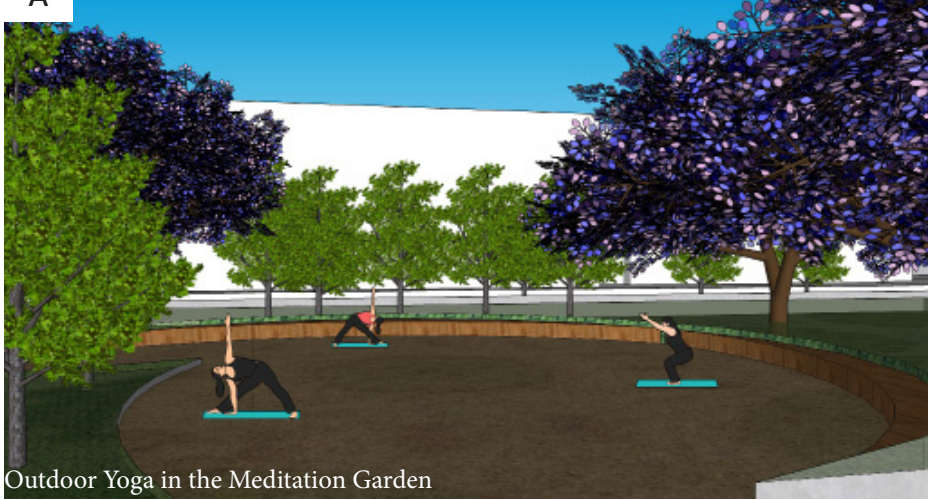


Visitors can enjoy sun in the community garden while learning about healthier lifestyle habits.

# Design | Perspectives



A



Outdoor Yoga in the Meditation Garden

B



Community Garden

C



Seating Sapce Near Center of Site and Meditation Garden

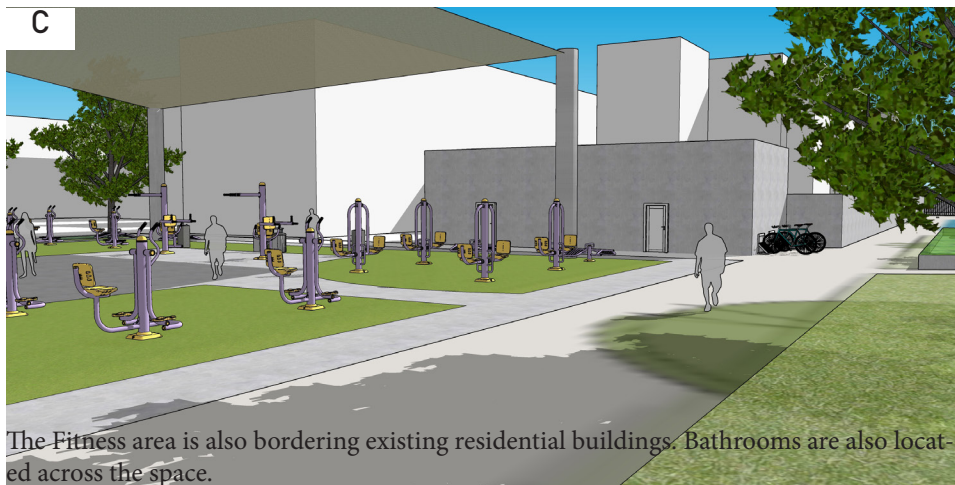
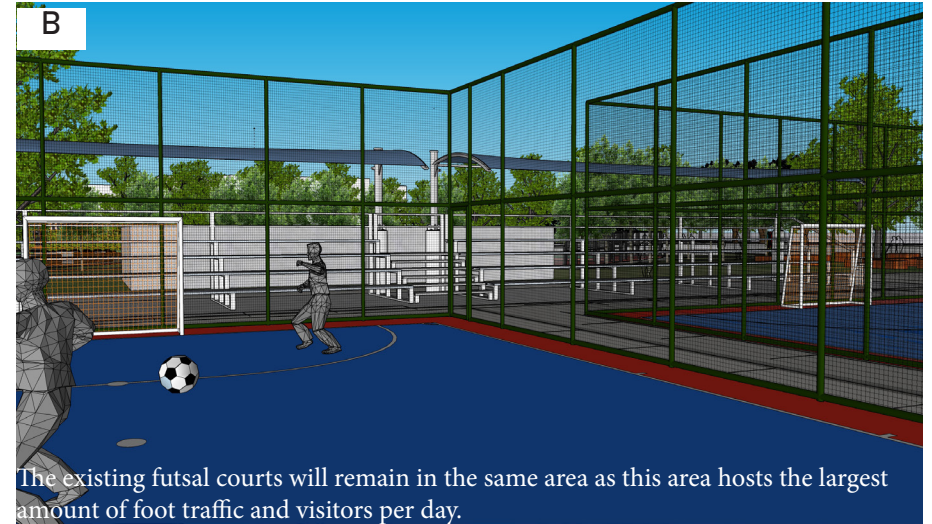
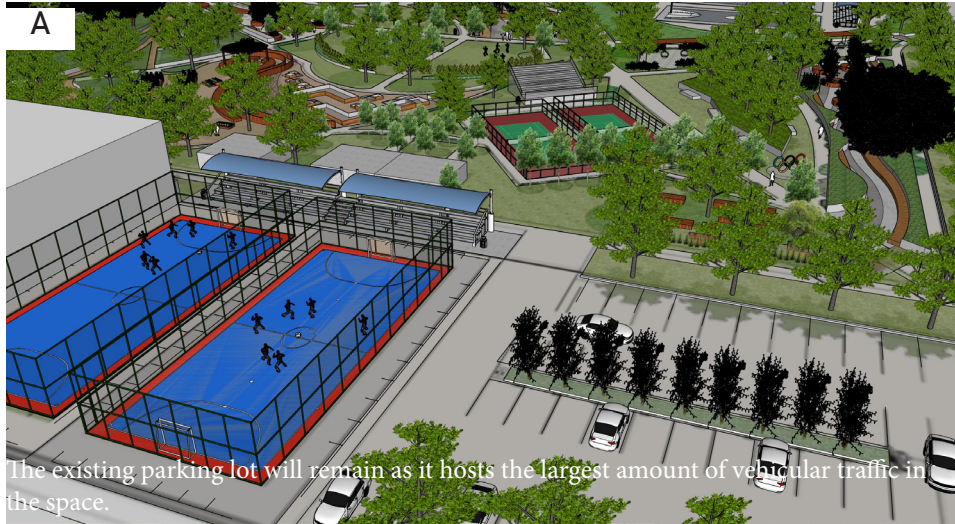
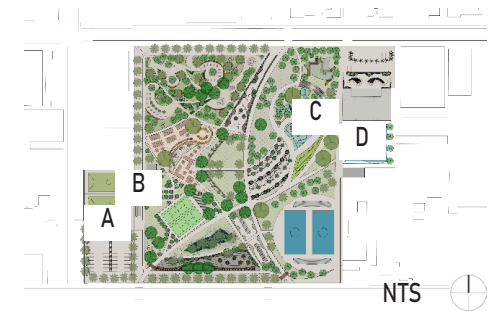
D



Seating space/ Open Air Market Space

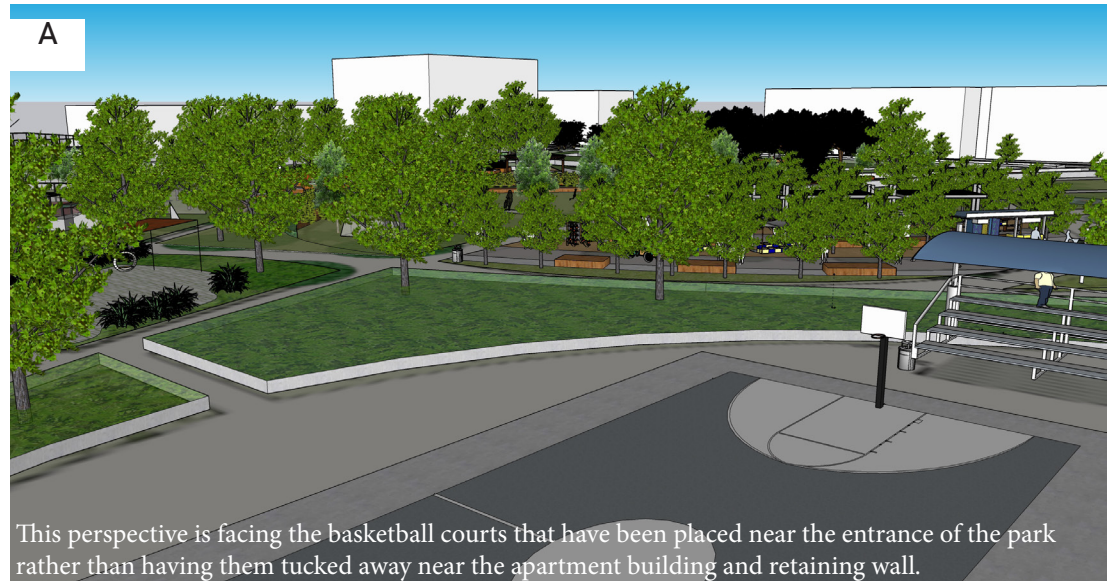
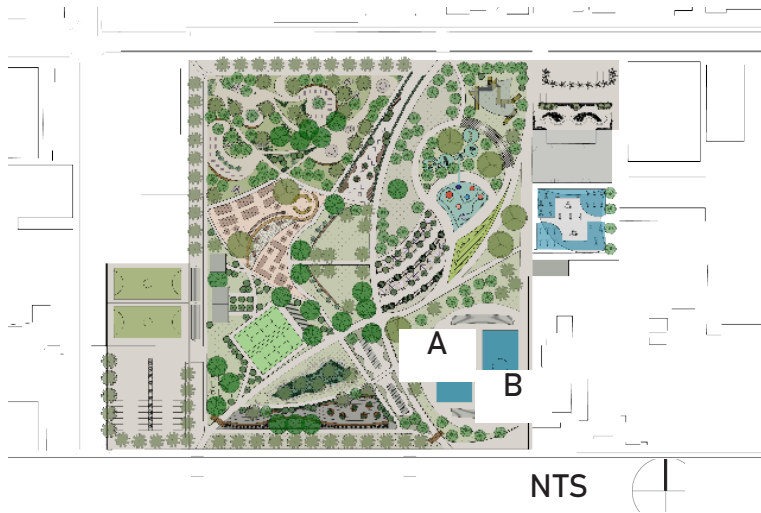
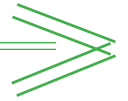


# Design | Perspectives





# Design | Perspectives





# Design | Plant Palette - Shrubs

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*Achillea millefolium*



*Carpenteria californica*



*Epilobium canum*



*Frangula californica*



*Heuchera maxima*



*Leymus condensatus*



*Lupinus albifrons*



*Muhlenbergia rigens*



# Design | Plant Palette - Trees



*Cercis occidentalis*



*Parkinsonia x Desert Museum*



*Quercus agrifolia*



*Washingtonia filifera*



*Acer macrophyllum*



*Quercus lobata*



# Conclusion:



I hope this presentation served as a means to open up the conversation about green space in low income neighborhoods and how we can help the people of these communities as these spaces hold the opportunity to provide ways for people to live a healthier and more positive life. I love my community and I would love to see our youth grow up in a neighborhood that's safe, fun, and beautiful for them to enjoy so they never feel like they need to travel far to enjoy a nice park.

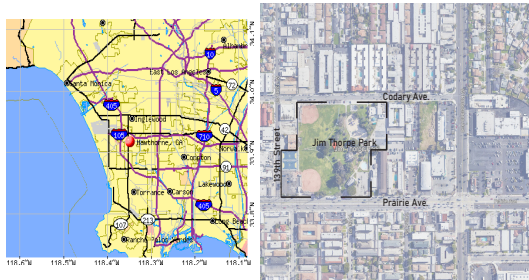
Thank you!

# Presentation Boards

## Community Green Space: Promoting Physical & Mental Well Being for an Underserved Community

### Project Statement:

Jim Thorpe Park will be redesigned to provide space and promote physical and mental well being through the use of recreational green space.



## Location | Stakeholders

It's important to get to know the community you are designing for as it will be a space for said community to utilize. What started as a sundown town is now home to predominantly Latino and Black families. According LA County public records, 64% of the population are between the ages of 18-64 years old (<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ohae/docs/cchp/pdf/2018/Hawthorne.pdf>) This is a very impactful number and proves that there is a very broad age range and these spaces should be prepared to serve all members of the community. 51% percent of the population are female while the remaining 49% are male and about 88% of the population lives with more than one person. There is also a rise in single mother households which also creates an opportunity to create a space that has all basic amenities as well as an inviting and safe atmosphere when visiting the park during all hours of the day. Peak hours at this space are weekday mornings between 7am and 10am and evenings after 5pm. Summer visiting hours are very different as kids are not in school and families can spend more time in the space. Lastly, there is a community of apartment complex buildings located directly behind the park. This park would serve that entire community which includes anywhere from single households to families with more than one child.



## Program | Community Needs

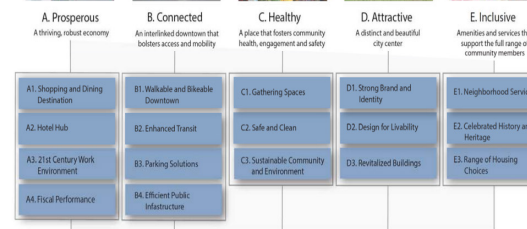
### Goal:

It's very easy for me to know what my neighbors, family, and I would want for a newly redesigned Jim Thorpe Park but that is not always enough. This chart was acquired from a community engagement event that took place when planning for the ongoing improvements in downtown Hawthorne. As you can see, the vision elements for this community are not much different than any other. Some of the top concerns and wants from this event were to simply create spaces that can vary in size and to provide opportunities for community gatherings, activities, and economic development all while supporting community oriented programs that promote inclusivity, community health, and sustainability.

### VISION ELEMENTS



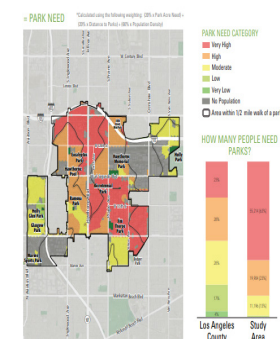
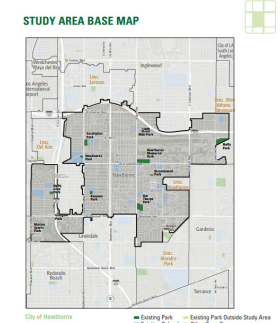
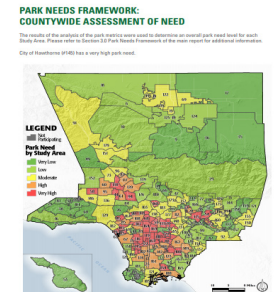
### STRATEGIES



### AMENITY QUANTITIES AND CONDITIONS

Park Name	Age	Gender	Income	Education	Health	Employment	Homelessness	Food Insecurity	Substance Use	Mental Health	Physical Health	Disability	Other
Jim Thorpe Park	18-64	51% Female	64% 18-64	64% High School	64% Good	64% Employed	64% Homeless	64% Food Insecure	64% Substance Use	64% Mental Health	64% Physical Health	64% Disability	64% Other
Wiley Park	18-64	51% Female	64% 18-64	64% High School	64% Good	64% Employed	64% Homeless	64% Food Insecure	64% Substance Use	64% Mental Health	64% Physical Health	64% Disability	64% Other
Jim Thorpe Park	18-64	51% Female	64% 18-64	64% High School	64% Good	64% Employed	64% Homeless	64% Food Insecure	64% Substance Use	64% Mental Health	64% Physical Health	64% Disability	64% Other
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Wiley Park	18-64	51% Female	64% 18-64	64% High School	64% Good	64% Employed	64% Homeless	64% Food Insecure	64% Substance Use	64% Mental Health	64% Physical Health	64% Disability	64% Other

### AMENITY CONDITIONS SUMMARY





# Presentation Boards

## Goals, Objectives, Elements | Community & Prosperity

### Community Interaction



Sense of Ownership



Improving Local Economy



## Goals, Objectives, Elements | Health & Safety

### Recreational Space



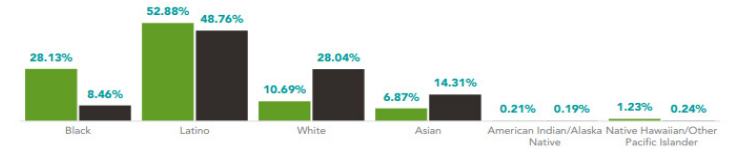
Walkability & Bikability



Honoring Site History- Jim Thorpe



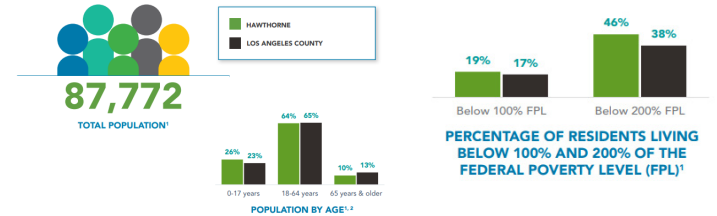
## Site Users | Demographics



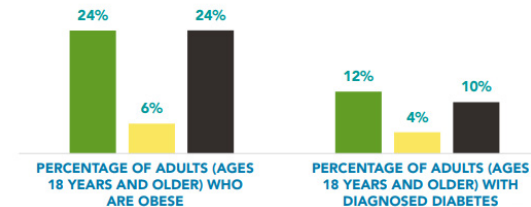
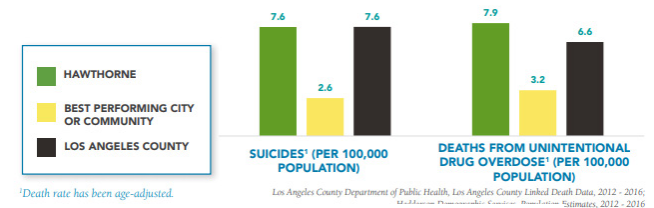
POPULATION BY RACE/ETHNICITY<sup>1, 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Hollander Demographic Services, Population Estimates, 2016

<sup>2</sup>Note: Due to rounding, categories may not sum to 100%.



## Community Statistics | Physical/Mental Health



# Presentation Boards

## Site Analysis | Opportunities & Constraints



- Opportunities:**
- (A) Street connections - Walking distance to local schools
  - (B) Entrance on Cordary provides direct access to the residential area behind the park
  - (C) Direct Metro access on Prairie Ave and 139th Street
  - (D) Located in a residential area and walking distance from commercial space - can attract local businesses such as juice shops.
  - (E) Large green space for community gatherings
  - (F) Children's development school on site - easy access for kids to utilize the space
- Constraints:**
- (G) Bikability & Walkability is limited due to no crosswalks on major street and poor sidewalks on Cordary Ave.
  - (H) Views are blocked by large apartments building structures

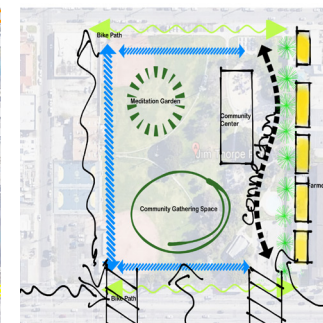
## Site Analysis | Existing Conditions That are Not Working



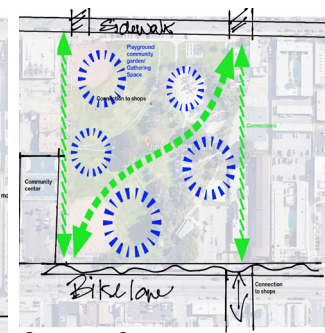
## Design | Concept 1, 2 & 3



Concept 1



Concept 2



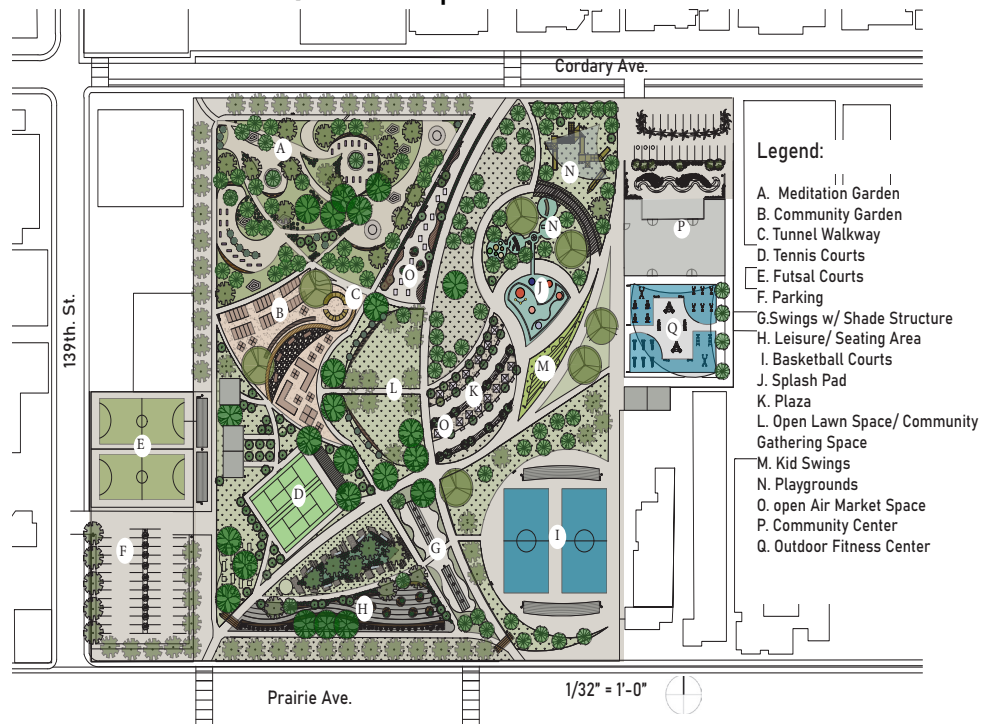
Concept 3

○ Cristina Arredondo | Capstone 2021

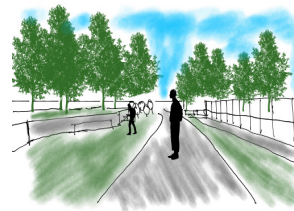
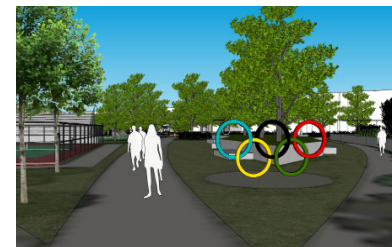


# Presentation Boards

## Final Master Plan | Jim Thorpe Park



## Design | Enlargement #1





# Presentation Boards

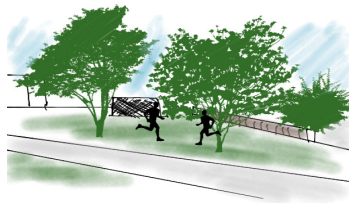
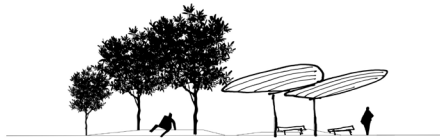
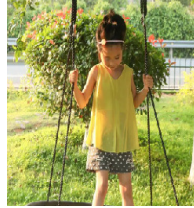
## Design | Enlargement #2



Legend

- (A) Park Plaza
- (B) Open Lawn Space
- (C) Shaded Seating Area
- (D) Swings
- (E) Splash Pad
- (F) Vendor Space

3/32" = 1'-0"

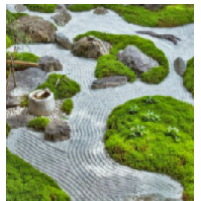


## Design | Enlargement #3



Legend

- (A) Meditation Garden
- (B) Community Garden
- (C) Track
- (D) Seating
- (E) Open Recreational/Yoga Space
- (F) Water Feature



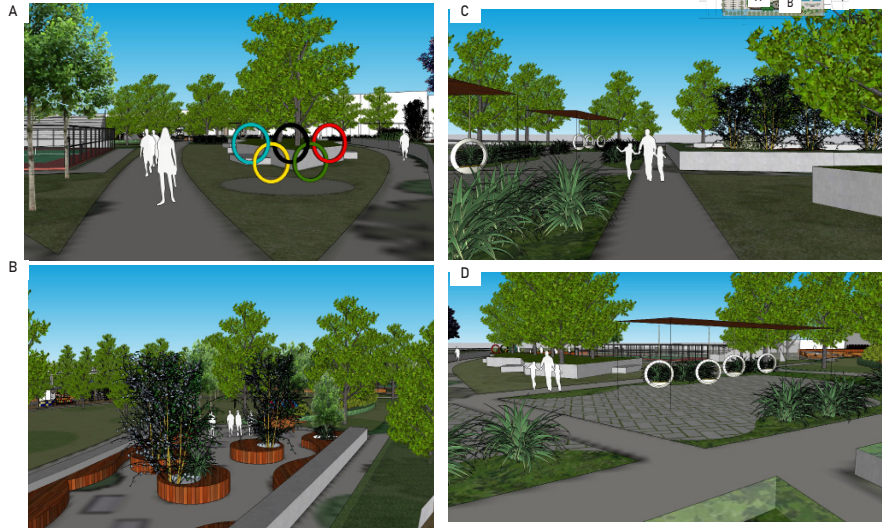
3/32" = 1'-0"





# Presentation Boards

## Design | Perspectives - Enlargement 1



## Design | Perspectives - Enlargement 2



## Design | Perspectives - Enlargement 3



You are now looking at the final Master Plan for Jim Thorpe Park. The space has rounded walkways and spaces that correlate with the Ball metaphor. It is divided with primary and secondary pedestrian circulation. As you can see there is now a direct connection from Cordary Ave to Prairie avenue. Some elements we will discuss further are the Meditation Garden, Community Garden, Adult gathering space, Community Gathering space, as well as all other amenities.



# Presentation Boards

## Design | Perspectives



## Design | Plant Palette - Shrubs



Achillea millefolium



Carpentaria californica



Epilobium canum



Frangula californica



Heuchera maxima



Leymus condensatus



Lupinus albus



Muhlenbergia rigens

## Design | Perspectives



## Design | Plant Palette - Trees



Cercis occidentalis



Parkinsonia x Desert Museum



Quercus agrifolia



Washingtonia filifera



Acer macrophyllum



Quercus lobata



# Sources

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- [https://lacountyparkneeds.org/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea\\_145.pdf](https://lacountyparkneeds.org/FinalReportAppendixA/StudyArea_145.pdf)
- <https://hawthornepolice.com/northhawthorne>
- <https://www.city-data.com/city/Hawthorne-California.html>
- <https://www.cityofhawthorne.org/downtown-hawthorne-specific-plan>
- [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52ec83cee4b032691e28b3ce/t/57bf1590f7e0aba6bba36a11/1472140689474/plan\\_notices-HousingElement2013-2021Final.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/52ec83cee4b032691e28b3ce/t/57bf1590f7e0aba6bba36a11/1472140689474/plan_notices-HousingElement2013-2021Final.pdf)
- <file:///C:/Users/Cristina/Downloads/ijerph-16-05119.pdf> - The Impact of Green Space on Violent Crime in Urban Environments: An Evidence Synthesis
- <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chronic/docs/ParksAfterDark%20Brief%20Final%20Aug%202015.pdf> - Parks After Dark Preventing Violence While Promoting Healthy, Active Living
- [https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/19\\_0434.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2020/19_0434.htm)
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