



MacLaren Community Park Project
Community Workshop Three
Thursday, August 27, 2020
Wednesday, September 2, 2020

Background

In 2019, Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and the City of El Monte initiated efforts to engage the community in shaping a new vision for an unused area of open space in the southeast corner of the MacLaren site, approximately four acres in size. This engagement included the formation of a Community Advisory Committee and hosting workshops to identify active and recreational opportunities as well as potential concerns.

MacLaren Hall, which operated as a County facility housing foster-youth for short-term stays is viewed as an opportunity to bring much needed green space to a critically underserved community. Since its closure, much of the MacLaren property has been walled off and inaccessible to the community. Parts of the facility remain in use with administrative offices for County departments, a medical clinic and Alma Family Services.

The Community Workshops served as an opportunity to engage the public on the potential for a new park at the MacLaren site. Community Park Workshop Three was hosted over two days on Thursday, August 27th, 2020 and Wednesday, September 2nd, 2020.

Day One of Community Workshop Three focused on reintroducing the El Monte community to the MacLaren Community Park Project. Day Two provided the opportunity for participants to further discuss topics and issues raised at Day One. Participants were provided the opportunity to share feedback via Zoom's chat function and during Question-and-Answer periods on both days.

Due to COVID-19, Workshop Three was hosted virtually via Zoom.

Workshop Three Outreach

The Project Team, led by Lee Andrews Group pursued an assertive outreach campaign to build awareness for Community Workshop Three. The campaign utilized traditional methods such as mailing postcards to every household within a half-mile radius of the proposed project to invite them to participate in Community Workshop Three. The Project Team, also canvassed the local neighborhoods and distributed workshop flyers to the local community. Canvassing efforts were coordinated by Tony Torres. Flyers were translated into Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese to ensure that the diverse communities of El Monte were not left out of engagement efforts.

The flyer was also provided digitally so that it could be distributed electronically and posted online. Digital versions of the flyer were distributed to the Community Advisory Committee, the County of Los Angeles, the City of El Monte, El Monte Union High School District, El Monte City School District, Mountain View School District, as well as El Monte community-based organizations.

Targeted audiences for Community Workshop Four included: El Monte residents, the Community Advisory Committee, past workshop attendees, El Monte community-based organizations, Mountain View School District, El Monte City School District and El Monte Union High School District.

The workshop flyers were also posted to the MacLaren Community Park website. Additionally, the project team employed the use of social media to build awareness of Community Workshop Three.

Workshop Three Meeting Format and Structure

As indicated, due to COVID-19, meetings were hosted virtually on Zoom. Community Workshop Three took place on two dates, Thursday, August 27th, 2020 from 6pm to 8pm and Wednesday, September 2, 2020 from 6pm to 8pm. Day One and Day Two featured different programs.

Lee Andrews Group Project Team coordinated all aspects of Workshop Three Four including: assisting with development of format, drafting the workshop agenda, development of the PowerPoint, coordination with County of Los Angeles and City of El Monte to secure speakers, coordination of translation services, management of technical aspects of virtual workshop, and facilitation of workshop.

Day One

The primary purpose of Day One of Community Workshop Three was to reintroduce the El Monte community to the MacLaren Community Park Project. Guadalupe Duran – Medina from the Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and El Monte City Mayor Pro – Tem Maria Morales provided opening remarks. The MacLaren Community Project Team were introduced by Ryan Kristan from Los Angeles County Public Works. Mr. Kristan also presented on the history of MacLaren Hall. Branka Olson from Raw International discussed the potential opportunity of MacLaren Hall as a park.

Ed Reyes and Tony Torres provided an overview of the two community workshops hosted in 2019 for the MacLaren Community Park Project. Detailed information on those workshops is included in the reports produced.

Day One also featured a panel discussion to discuss potential park amenities and features addressing: safety and security, parking and site access, active recreational uses, passive and recreational uses. Panelists included El Monte City Manager Alma Martinez, El Monte Police Chief David Reynoso, Mountain View School District Superintendent Lilian Maldonado – French, El Monte City School District Superintendent Maribel Garcia, El Monte Union High School Superintendent Edward Zuniga and El Monte Planning Commissioner Amy Wong.

Workshop participants provided feedback during a Community Listening Session on Potential Park Amenities and features, which was facilitated by Community Advisory Committee Members Lourdes Caracosa, Randall Pineda and Jose Vega. Issues identified included safety, traffic & speeding, parking in the neighborhood, trash and potential homelessness, crime and drug use or distribution.

Day Two

Day Two of Community Workshop Four focused on reviewing key issues raised and discuss from Day One as well as providing participants the opportunity to share feedback on active and passive recreational features during breakout sessions. Guadalupe Duran – Medina from the Office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and El Monte City Mayor Andre Quintero provided opening remarks.

Some of the key issues raised at Day One included Safety and Security and Parking and Security. El Monte Police Chief David Reynoso discussed how the City would address issues such as patrolling, prevention as well as potential opportunities to address safety and security such as visibility and lighting. Parking and Traffic were other key issues raised at Day One of Community Workshop Three. Sal Mendez, Director of Public Works for the City of El Monte addressed these issues on behalf of the City.

Branka Olson of Raw International discussed the opportunities and benefits during the MacLaren Site Review. Some of those opportunities included: health and wellness programs, sports and outdoor recreation, open green space and area for safe social gatherings.

The next phase of a program featured a review of Day One facilitated by Ms. Olson. Soccer, Basketball, Tennis, Walking/Jogging, Tai Chi/Yoga, CrossFit stations and a playground were all recommended by Day One workshop participants for active recreational features. Passive recreational features that were recommended included: picnic area with BBQ pit, outdoor classroom, amphitheater/stage, demonstration garden, serenity garden with water features, and a community garden. Lastly, workshop participants provided feedback on park support features. These recommendations included: screens/gates, security cameras, lighting, signage, parking, restrooms, trash bins, equipment sheds, farmers market/food stands, vendor services, kiosks and a community message board.

Day Two participants were then provided the opportunity for further feedback during Breakout Sessions moderated by Branka Olson and Ryan Kristan of Los Angeles County Public Works. The issues addressed broke down into the following categories: Safety and Accessibility, Active and Passive Uses, and Support Functions.

Provided below is a summary of the feedback provided by category.

Safety and Accessibility

- Increased patrols
- Open Space/No Wall
- Support for the wall
- Does not agree with current wall
- Patrolling: positive stops and interact with kids and share stickers and conversations as well as book donations

- Iron gates have a perception of being unsafe
 - would like something visible
 - low shrubs to create a barrier on edges but nothing that obstructs view
 - allows access and visibility
- Walking from Gilman and cars from Durfee
- Sharing of the parking lot that exists
 - Underutilized in the evening hours
 - Parking area C is also good for parking

One area of different opinions was on how to deal with the current wall.

Active and Passive Uses

- Soccer
- Tennis
- Baseball
- Putting green
- Sports equipment check out
- T-Ball
- Tai Chi
- Walkway
- Passive use for seniors (quiet place, walkways, benches, etc.)
- No full-size field, Make room for all sports and not get rid of any (create half courts)
- Support soccer fields and openness instead of the wall; all space will be used
- Free library

Support Functions

- Community Art
- Community Kiosk
- Community Garden
- Summer Youth Programs
- Water Feature (Fountain)
- Restrooms
- Parking on Durfee
- Small parking lot
- No overnight parking

Next Steps

This Maclaren Community Park Community Workshop was the third series of meetings hosted to engage the public on the proposed park. With Community Workshop Three, there was a total of four community meetings hosted for this project, as Workshops Three consisted of two meetings.

After Community Workshop Three, the Project Team hosted a meeting with the Community Advisory Committee on September 24, 2020 to review Community Workshop Three, discuss the Community Survey and provide insight into Community Workshop Four.

Although, public meetings have now concluded, it does not represent the final opportunity for community engagement. The project maintains a website which will include up to date information on the project as well as opportunity to receive comments from the public. Additionally, the project maintains social media profiles on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. These channels can also serve as mediums to connect with the community on project updates.

The next phase of activity will focus on completion of the funding applications for the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy and the State Park Program.

Appendix

MacLaren Community Park Community Workshop #3 Thursday, August 27, 2020 Agenda

- 1) Welcome – Joey Legaspi, Lee Andrews Group
- 2) Introduction and Opening Remarks
 - a) Supervisor Hilda L. Solis or Representative
 - b) City of El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero
- 3) MacLaren Community Park Project
 - a) Project Team, Ryan Kristan, L.A. County Public Works
 - b) MacLaren Hall History, Ryan Kristan, L.A. County Public Works
 - c) MacLaren Community Park Site opportunity, Branka Olson, RAW International
- 4) 2019 Community Workshop Summary– Ed Reyes and Tony Torres
- 5) *Short 5-minute Break with Slideshow*
- 6) Panel Discussion MacLaren Community Park Potential Park Amenities and Features Addressing:
 - Safety and Security
 - Parking and Site Access
 - Active Recreational Uses
 - Passive Recreational UsesInvited Guests Speakers: El Monte Chief of Police, El Monte City Manager Alma Martinez, Supt. Lillian French, Supt. Maribel Garcia, Sup. Zuniga, Amy Wong
- 7) Community Listening Session on Potential Park Amenities and Features, CAC Members
- 8) Group Sharing of Listening Session Discussion, Joey Legaspi, Lee Andrews Group
- 9) Closing Remarks and Workshop 2 Reminder, Joey Legaspi, Lee Andrews Group

MacLaren Community Park Project
Community Workshop #3
Part 2: Wednesday, September 2, 2020
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
AGENDA

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/tZArfumsrTkiEtdPZ5nxlknPFK9sUUNpBB1k>

Phone Number:1-669-900-6833

Meeting ID: 846 9043 2883

Passcode: 85446384

Day 2 Agenda (115 minutes):

Meeting Facilitator: Joey Legaspi

- 1) Welcome – Joey Legaspi (5 minutes)
- 2) Opening Remarks (10 minutes)
 - a) Guadalupe Duran – Medina (Supervisor Hilda L. Solis)
 - b) City of El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero
- 3) Safety and Security (10 minutes) – David Reynoso, Chief of Police
- 4) Parking and Traffic (10 Minutes) - Sal Mendez, Director of Public Works
- 5) MacLaren Site Review – Branka Olson (10 Minutes)
- 6) Review Day One - Branka Olson (10 Minutes)
- 7) Breakout Sessions – Branka Olson and Ryan Kristan (40 Minutes)
- 8) Summary of Breakout Discussions – Branka Olson and Ryan Kristan (10 minutes)
- 9) Overview of Workshop Four and Closing – Joey Legaspi (10 minutes)