

LA County and LA City UFMP

Neighborhood Workshop Summary

Thursday, January 25, 2024

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

06:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Nueva Maravilla Housing Community

4919 E Cesar E Chavez Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90022

Introduction

On January 25, 2024, the Los Angeles County 1st District, under the guidance of Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and in collaboration with the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) team, conducted a neighborhood workshop aimed at collecting community feedback to inform the development of the UFMP's priorities. The event was co-hosted with North East Trees in partnership with the County and City of Los Angeles' UFMP teams. It occurred at the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community (NMHC) in Unincorporated East Los Angeles. The workshop was well-attended, with 72 community members participating.

The sessions, held at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM, provided residents of Unincorporated East Los Angeles, specifically those from NMHC and adjacent areas, with a platform to express their views and aspirations. A significant outreach and engagement strategy element included canvassing the 367 residences within NMHC. This approach facilitated direct communication with many residents, enabling North East Trees staff to build rapport with NMHC's management and its diverse, predominantly low-income population. Overall, these workshops generated meaningful discussions regarding the community's needs and contributed to the ongoing engagement efforts for the Los Angeles Urban Forest Master Plan.

Workshop

At North East Trees, our approach is encapsulated by the philosophy of *Radical Welcome*, which aims to create an environment reminiscent of the warmth and inclusivity one might find in a friend's home or that of a beloved relative. This approach marks a shift from traditional to transformational engagement, inviting participants into a communal space enriched with cultural foods and conversations before commencing formal proceedings. The program began with a greeting from Aaron Thomas, the Director of Urban Forestry at North East Trees, who subsequently introduced Rebecca Ferdman, the Sustainability Policy Advisor from the Los

Angeles County Chief Sustainability Office. The initial presentation provided a brief overview, outlined ways for the community to remain engaged, and described the workshop's structure.

Following the presentation, attendees engaged in various activities across six distinct stations arranged throughout the venue. Below, we summarize the feedback and input collected during the neighborhood workshop.

Vision, Values, Storytelling

Attendees were asked to share their vision and values for the urban forest using post-it notes. Their vision and values include, from the 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM sessions:

10:00 AM	06:00 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community members highlighted the fundamental role of trees in producing oxygen, emphasizing the saying "trees are life." This reflects the widespread understanding of trees as essential elements in our ecosystem, providing the very air we breathe and sustaining life by converting carbon dioxide into oxygen, thereby contributing to a healthier environment. ● The intrinsic value of trees within the natural life cycle was discussed, underscoring the need for respect and care for trees as vital components of our environment. The community stressed that trees should be revered and protected as they are integral to ecological balance, supporting many life forms, including ours. ● One community member shared a personal testimony on the therapeutic effects of trees, describing how sitting under a tree can alleviate stress and bring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A community member shared their dream of transforming their neighborhood into a verdant oasis, envisioning sidewalks lined with lush trees, creating a serene and inviting environment for residents. They expressed a desire for natural buffers of trees to be established between the freeway and residential areas, helping to reduce noise and air pollution. The dream extended to a future where green parks outnumber sources of pollution, offering safe, clean spaces for recreation and relaxation. ● The community discussed the importance of increasing trees and green spaces to combat health issues such as obesity among children. By providing more natural areas for play and activity, the goal is to encourage a healthier, more active lifestyle from a young age, fostering physical well-being and a deeper appreciation for the environment among the community's youth.

a sense of peace and grounding. This experience was shared in the hope that others might also find solace and comfort in the presence of trees, promoting mental well-being and a deeper connection to nature.

- Reflecting on personal experiences, another member expressed gratitude for growing up around trees and emphasized the importance of living in a tree-rich environment. They advocated for the community's continued enjoyment and appreciation of trees, recognizing their contribution to a fulfilling and healthy life.
- The need for trees in local playgrounds was also addressed, particularly highlighting the challenges faced during summer when high temperatures can deter outdoor activities. The community called for planting trees in playground areas to provide shade and cooler environments, enabling children to enjoy outdoor play safely and comfortably, even in hotter weather. This initiative was seen as essential to fostering a love for the outdoors among younger generations and promoting physical activity.

- One resident outlined a vision for a harmonious coexistence between wildlife and humans facilitated by planting more trees. This initiative aims to restore natural habitats, provide shelter and resources for animals within the community, and biodiversity and foster a balanced ecosystem where all inhabitants can thrive.
- Reflecting on past experiences, another community member reminisced about a childhood spent playing among the trees, highlighting the stark contrast with the current lack of green spaces for children. They emphasized the importance of restoring the community's tree canopy to revive traditional outdoor games and activities, enabling new generations to create their own cherished memories surrounded by nature.
- The community also recognized the ecological importance of trees and flowers in supporting pollinators like bees. By planting more trees and flowering plants, they aim to increase bee populations, which are vital for pollination and maintaining healthy ecosystems. This initiative reflects a broader commitment to environmental sustainability and promoting biodiversity within the community.

Community members were also encouraged to share a story about trees that support their vision and values. Stories could be shared through a video recording posted to social media

using the hashtag #UrbanForestLA, using a post-it, drawing a picture, or writing their story in their agenda/comment sheet.

- Community members expressed concern that the current generation of children is growing up without understanding the value and joy trees bring to our lives, identifying this as a significant issue. They emphasized the responsibility of adults to address this gap by instilling an appreciation for nature in younger generations. Recognizing the problem was highlighted as the crucial first step towards fostering a more tree-aware community, ensuring that children can experience the myriad benefits trees offer.
 - The therapeutic benefits of trees were discussed, with community members highlighting how trees play a vital role in reducing stress and promoting good health. They underlined the importance of trees in creating serene and healthful environments, providing natural spaces where residents can relax, rejuvenate, and find peace, thus contributing significantly to the community's overall well-being.
 - There was a strong consensus on the necessity of incorporating trees into local playgrounds, particularly to address the discomfort caused by the intense heat of summer. The community stressed that the lack of shade in these areas restricts children's
- During the neighborhood meeting, there was a strong call for incorporating more trees and green spaces within the community, emphasizing the link between these natural elements and children's physical health. The residents expressed concern over the rising childhood obesity rates and advocated for environments encouraging active, outdoor play. By increasing greenery, the community aims to create inviting spaces that naturally promote physical activity, contributing to healthier lifestyles for children and reducing the prevalence of overweight conditions.
 - A community vision was articulated, focusing on integrating more trees into the urban landscape to foster harmonious coexistence between wildlife and humans. The vision encompasses creating green habitats that support local fauna, allowing animals to thrive and live peacefully alongside human residents. This approach reflects a broader goal of promoting biodiversity and ecological balance within the community.
 - Reflecting on personal memories, a community member shared experiences of a childhood spent amidst abundant greenery, highlighting a stark contrast to the current scarcity of trees. They

ability to enjoy outdoor activities and the natural environment fully. Planting trees in playgrounds was identified as a crucial measure to ensure that these spaces offer a cooler, more pleasant environment, enabling children to engage in healthy, joyful outdoor play even during the hottest months.

reminisced about engaging in outdoor games like hide-and-seek among the trees, activities that today's children are less likely to experience due to the diminished urban canopy. This narrative underscored the need to restore the area's green spaces, enabling future generations to create their own joyful memories and connect with nature.

- The community also discussed the ecological benefits of planting more trees and flowers, particularly highlighting the positive impact on bee populations. Bees, as vital pollinators, play a crucial role in ecosystems' health and food crops' production. By increasing the number of trees and flowering plants, the community aims to support and expand local bee populations, contributing to greater biodiversity and the environment's health.

Benefits of Trees

Community members were asked to indicate which benefits from trees mattered most to them. These are the major themes among the choices and comments from participants from the 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM sessions:

10:00 AM	06:00 PM
<p>Shade/cooling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the discussion about shade and cooling, residents highlighted the vital role of trees in providing natural shade, particularly during hot weather. The community emphasized that an increased tree canopy would reduce reliance on air conditioning, contributing to energy savings and a more sustainable living environment. 	<p>Shade/cooling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In discussions about shade and cooling, community members expressed how trees offer a natural refuge, providing a comfortable place to sit and catch one's breath when tired. They also noted that trees play a crucial role in cooling the environment on hot days, making outdoor spaces more bearable and reducing the need for artificial cooling.
<p>Habitat for wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding habitat for wildlife, the community pointed out that trees serve as essential homes for various animals, such as squirrels and birds. There was a recognition of the importance of these animals as integral parts of the local ecosystem, contributing to biodiversity and ecological balance. 	<p>Habitat for wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding habitat for wildlife, the residents highlighted the importance of trees as essential homes and sources of protection for various animal species. This underscores the role of trees in maintaining biodiversity and supporting healthy ecosystems within urban settings.
<p>Food/fruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The value of fruit trees was particularly noted for their cultural significance and practical benefits. Residents remarked that fruit trees hold a special place in their hearts, reminding them of their home countries and traditions. Additionally, 	<p>Food/fruit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reasons were given in this section.

<p>fruit trees provide fresh food, which is fundamental to life and well-being.</p>	
<p>Clean air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clean air was acknowledged as a crucial benefit of trees, with the community understanding that trees play a significant role in purifying the air by absorbing pollutants and producing oxygen, thereby contributing to the overall health and well-being of the residents. 	<p>Clean air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In terms of clean air, the community recognized that trees are vital in purifying the air polluted by cars and human activities. They also stressed the importance of trees for children’s health, suggesting that living in an environment with clean air contributes to healthier, more vibrant lives for the younger population.
<p>Stormwater capture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Stormwater capture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section.
<p>Mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The positive impact of trees on mental health was a prominent theme, with residents stating that trees help reduce stress, promote healthy development in children, and bring joy and tranquility into their lives. This highlights the psychological benefits of green spaces in urban settings. 	<p>Mental health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On the topic of mental health, the residents discussed the therapeutic benefits of trees, noting how they help individuals cope with daily life stressors. This reflects a broader understanding of green spaces and natural environments significantly affect psychological well-being and stress reduction.
<p>Physical health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In terms of physical health, the community recognized that trees and green spaces encourage active play and exercise among children, helping to prevent obesity and promote overall health. This underscores the role of urban forestry in fostering a healthy lifestyle for all age groups. 	<p>Physical health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lastly, when discussing physical health, the community acknowledged that trees and green spaces encourage physical activity and provide settings for living life with less stress. This highlights the recognition of the integral role of urban forestry in

	<p>promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for all residents.</p>
<p>Cultural significance/importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cultural significance of trees was discussed, with residents expressing how trees symbolize their connection to Mother Earth and are deeply ingrained in their cultural heritage and beliefs, underscoring the spiritual and cultural dimensions of urban forestry. 	<p>Cultural significance/importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section.
<p>Beauty/aesthetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lastly, trees' aesthetic and emotional benefits were acknowledged, with the community noting that trees contribute to a sense of joy, good health, and stress reduction. This reflects the general sentiment that trees enhance the beauty and quality of life in urban environments, making them more pleasant and livable places. 	<p>Beauty/aesthetics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section.
<p>Sense of place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Sense of place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section.
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section.

Concerns and Priorities

Attendees were asked to share what their greatest concerns are related to trees. These are the major themes among the choices and comments from participants from the 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM sessions:

10:00 AM	06:00 PM
<p>Mess (leaves/flowers/fruits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fruit trees in the community can become problematic, as there is often more fruit produced than can be consumed by residents. This excess leads to challenges in distribution and can result in waste if not managed properly, requiring residents to either find places to donate the surplus or dispose of it, which can contribute to community mess. ● Certain types of trees, particularly those like the Jacaranda, are known to be problematic due to the abundant flowers they shed. This can lead to significant cleanup challenges for residents and municipal services, as the fallen flowers can accumulate and create untidy conditions. 	<p>Mess (leaves/flowers/fruits)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The community acknowledges that trees can create messes due to fallen leaves, flowers, and fruits, particularly when there is a lack of knowledge on how to maintain them. ● There is a call for educational programs to teach residents how to effectively manage and reduce the waste produced by trees to maintain cleaner neighborhoods.
<p>Maintenance (cost/need)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The financial and labor costs associated with tree maintenance can be significant, posing challenges for residents, especially in areas with limited access to resources such as water. This can make it difficult for community members to properly care for and sustain the urban forest. ● The need for regular maintenance such as pruning, watering, and disease control is essential for the health of urban trees but can be burdensome for residents or local 	<p>Maintenance (cost/need)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The cost associated with the maintenance of trees is a significant barrier for many residents, deterring them from taking the necessary steps to care for the urban forest. This highlights the need for financial assistance programs or community initiatives to help alleviate the burden of tree maintenance.

<p>governments facing budgetary constraints or resource limitations.</p>	
<p>Hazards (falling trees/limbs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Neglect by the city in maintaining trees can lead to dangerous situations, such as falling trees or limbs. This negligence poses a risk to public safety, potentially causing injury or damage to property, and underscores the importance of regular and thorough tree maintenance. 	<p>Hazards (falling trees/limbs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a concern that older residents are particularly vulnerable to hazards posed by falling trees or limbs, which can result from inadequate maintenance or natural events. This underscores the importance of regular tree inspections and maintenance to ensure the safety of all community members, especially the elderly.
<p>Power lines (obstructed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Power lines (obstructed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section.
<p>Sidewalks (lifted/broken)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tree roots can cause significant damage to sidewalks, leading to lifted or broken pavement. This not only results in aesthetic issues but also creates hazardous conditions for pedestrians, particularly for vulnerable populations such as the elderly and children. Addressing this issue requires balancing healthy urban greenery and ensuring safe and accessible walkways for all community members. 	<p>Sidewalks (lifted/broken)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The damage caused by tree roots lifting and breaking sidewalks contributes to a rundown appearance of the city and poses a safety risk to pedestrians. There is frustration over the lack of action from city authorities to address this issue, indicating a need for better urban planning and tree management to prevent sidewalk damage.
<p>Street lights (blocked)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Street lights (blocked)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section.
<p>Pipes (broken)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Pipes (broken)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The community is concerned about the damage tree roots can cause to underground pipes, which can

	<p>become a significant problem when not properly managed by city services. This issue highlights the need for coordinated urban planning considering the interaction between tree roots and infrastructure.</p>
<p>Fire risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Fire risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The risk of fires, exacerbated by the use of fireworks, is a major concern for the community. This emphasizes the need for fire safety education and stricter regulations on fireworks, particularly in areas with dense, dry, and dead trees, to prevent fire outbreaks.
<p>Pests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Pests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reasons were given in this section.
<p>Water use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Water use</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In light of local drought conditions and limited municipal resources for water preservation, the community is concerned about the water usage associated with maintaining trees. This highlights the importance of implementing water-efficient practices and selecting drought-resistant tree species for urban forestry efforts.
<p>Other safety concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Other safety concerns (sinkholes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The community is worried about the safety hazards posed by sinkholes and how they affect trees. This concern indicates the need for comprehensive urban planning that considers

	geological factors and their impact on the urban forest and public safety.
Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section. 	Other <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section.

Neighborhood Needs

When sharing where trees need to be **maintained or preserved**, community members shared reasons why the following places are important, from the 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM sessions:

10:00 AM	06:00 PM
<p>Front and backyards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trees planted in front of residential homes and apartment buildings significantly enhance the aesthetic and economic value of the community, creating a more appealing and vibrant environment. ● Incorporating trees in our home landscapes contributes to lower utility costs by providing natural cooling, which can reduce the need for air conditioning during hot months. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none 	<p>Front and backyards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Trees are highly valued in residential areas for their ability to cool homes during the hot seasons, providing natural air conditioning and improving the living conditions. ● The presence of trees in our homes contributes to lower utility costs by providing shade and reducing the need for electrical cooling systems. ● There is a recognized need for more trees around homes to improve mental health, as green spaces and natural environments are known to have therapeutic effects. ● Trees also enhance the aesthetic appeal of apartment complexes, making them look more attractive and inviting, which can improve the quality of life for residents. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Residents note that the streets in East Los Angeles dire need more trees to provide shade, reduce heat, and improve air quality. ● There is a particular call for planting more trees in the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community to enhance the living environment and provide residents with the benefits of an urban forest.
<p>Schools:</p>	<p>Schools:</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a pressing need for increased outreach and educational programs within schools to teach students the importance of trees and nature, fostering a sense of environmental stewardship from a young age. ● Engaging with parent groups, particularly in elementary schools, can help extend the message about the significance of urban forestry and environmental care into the homes and broader community. ● Establishing connections with school principals and the school district is crucial to integrating tree and nature education into the curriculum and school activities, ensuring a collaborative approach to fostering green spaces and environmental awareness. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Integrating trees into school environments promotes better learning conditions by providing a more pleasant and calming atmosphere. ● The provision of shade in schoolyards is essential for children's health and comfort, making trees an important element in school design. ● There is a consensus that children benefit from playing in natural settings, where trees can create a more engaging and enjoyable outdoor environment. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Concerns were raised about the lack of trees at the school across the street from the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community, indicating a need for improved greenery in this area. ● There is a call for outdoor classrooms in elementary schools to provide children with a better learning experience, emphasizing the importance of connecting with nature.
<p>Sidewalks/medians/right-of-way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The community emphasizes the need for more trees around bus stops, especially during the summer, to provide necessary shade and reduce heat for commuters waiting for public transportation. ● There is a strong call for planting more trees along all streets to enhance the overall greenery, improve air quality, and contribute to a healthier, more pleasant urban environment. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p>	<p>Sidewalks/medians/right-of-way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a community-wide demand for more trees along streets and sidewalks to encourage walking, especially among seniors, by providing shade and a more pleasant walking environment. ● The community advocates for promoting "healthy streets" lined with trees, contributing to a healthier, more inviting urban landscape. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none 	
<p>Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The community sees a need for increased tree planting in parks, as these areas are vital for sports and recreational activities. More trees would provide shade and cooler temperatures and enhance the natural beauty and enjoyment of these public spaces. ● There is also a demand for creating natural areas within parks where residents can enjoy nature and escape from the urban environment, emphasizing the importance of balancing recreational facilities with natural, untouched landscapes. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none 	<p>Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The need for more trees in parks is highlighted, particularly to provide shade, which is crucial for making parks more accessible and enjoyable, especially during hot weather. <p>Specific locations mentioned include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none
<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none 	<p>Other</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There is a specific request for more trees to be planted in areas such as basketball courts and children’s playgrounds in the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community to provide shade and create a more pleasant recreational environment. ● The need for more trees at bus stops in East Los Angeles is emphasized, as this would improve the comfort and experience of public transit users. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none
<p>Places that were noted by attendees that need planted trees include:</p>	

<p>Front and backyards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none <p>Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none <p>Sidewalks/medians/right-of-way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons where given on this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none <p>Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none 	<p>Front and backyards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Residents note that the streets in East Los Angeles dire need more trees to provide shade, reduce heat, and improve air quality. ● There is a particular call for planting more trees in the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community to enhance the living environment and provide residents with the benefits of an urban forest. <p>Schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none <p>Sidewalks/medians/right-of-way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none <p>Parks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● none <p>Other:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No reasons were given in this section. <p>Specific locations mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
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My Role in the Urban Forest

These are the roles community members currently hold in the urban forest, from the 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM sessions:

10:00 AM	06:00 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy trees • Learn about trees • Care for trees • Speak for trees • Plant trees • Work with trees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy trees • Learn about trees • Care for trees • Speak for trees • Plant trees • Work with trees

Attendees mentioned currently participating in certain roles for various reasons. A summary of these comments is below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No reasons were given in this section. • Learn about trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Residents have expressed a commitment to enhancing their understanding of urban forestry by conducting online research to learn more about different tree species and their care requirements. This initiative aims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enjoy trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No reasons were given in this section. • Learn about trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o No reasons were given in this section. • Care for trees <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The residents have expressed a proactive approach towards the health of their urban forest by planning to search online for
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to empower community members with the knowledge necessary to effectively support and sustain the urban forest.

- Care for trees
 - In addition to learning about tree species, residents plan to utilize online resources to gain insights into the best practices for tree maintenance and care. This proactive approach signifies the community's dedication to the health and longevity of the trees within their neighborhood.
- Speak for trees
 - No reasons were given in this section.
- Plant trees
 - There is a strong desire among the residents to contribute actively to the urban canopy by planting trees in their living environments, including apartments. They seek permission to plant these trees and advocate for access to sufficient water resources to ensure they can be properly cared for and sustained.
- Work with trees
 - The community is advocating for increased funding for green jobs, highlighting a collective interest in creating employment opportunities that are not only economically beneficial but also environmentally sustainable.
 - There is a particular interest in planting more fruit trees within the community. This initiative is not just about beautifying the area

information regarding tree care and the treatment of diseased or ailing trees. This indicates a community-wide commitment to maintaining and improving the condition of their local environment by ensuring that the trees are well cared for and can continue to thrive. This effort aims to enhance the urban forest's overall health and sustainability, contributing positively to the community's quality of life and the local ecosystem.

- Speak for trees
 - No reasons were given in this section.
- Plant trees
 - No reasons were given in this section.
- Work with trees
 - No reasons were given in this section.

<p>but also about providing a source of fresh food, contributing to food security, and fostering a sense of community well-being through shared resources.</p>	
<p>Roles community members would like to have in the future and what they need to fulfill these roles include:</p>	
<p>Enjoy Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Learn about trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Care for trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Speak for trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Plant trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Work with trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. 	<p>Enjoy Trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Learn about trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Care for trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Speak for trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Plant trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section. <p>Work with trees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No reasons were given in this section.

Reflections

Attendees shared their most important takeaway from the workshop. Below is a summary of key ideas from the 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM sessions:

10:00 AM	06:00 PM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Members of the Unincorporated East Los Angeles community expressed a profound belief in the deep interconnection between humanity and nature, emphasizing that trees have their language and wisdom that can be understood if we pay close attention. They highlighted the importance of fostering a stronger bond with our natural surroundings, recognizing trees as vital companions and sources of insight in our daily lives. ● The community acknowledged the practical benefits of trees, specifically their role in reducing utility costs. It was discussed how trees provide natural cooling through shade, which can significantly decrease the need for air conditioning in the warmer months, leading to lower electricity bills and promoting a more sustainable and cost-effective lifestyle. ● The sentiment "Trees are life" was echoed throughout the meeting, underlining the intrinsic value of trees beyond their aesthetic or environmental functions. This statement reflects the community's recognition of trees as essential to the ecosystem, contributing to air purification, biodiversity, and the planet's overall health, thereby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community members emphasized the significant commitment required to protect and nurture trees, underlining the importance of ongoing care and attention to ensure their survival and growth. They discussed the necessity of regular watering, pruning, and protection against pests and diseases as essential practices in maintaining the health and vitality of trees, contributing to the community's well-being. ● The financial aspects of tree planting and maintenance were addressed, noting that the initial cost of planting a tree can range from \$40 to \$100. However, the investment extends beyond planting, as maintaining a tree during its critical first two years can amount to approximately \$2,000. This cost covers essential maintenance tasks such as watering, mulching, pruning, and protection measures, highlights the need for proper budgeting and resource allocation to support urban forestry efforts. ● It was highlighted that community groups are willing to collaborate with residents of East Los Angeles to facilitate the planting of trees in the area. This cooperative approach underscores the community's collective effort to enhance green spaces and demonstrates the

supporting the very foundation of human life.

- The importance of integrating nature into educational settings was highlighted, with community members advocating for the inclusion of trees within school grounds. They stressed that children benefit greatly from green spaces, which enhance learning environments, foster a connection with nature, and promote physical and mental well-being among students.
- Feedback from attendees revealed that the workshop provided valuable knowledge and skills concerning tree advocacy and environmental stewardship. Participants expressed a commitment to applying what they learned in efforts to promote tree planting and environmental care within their community, indicating a proactive approach to environmental advocacy and a desire to contribute positively to their local ecosystem.
- An elderly resident of the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community, in her later years, voiced similar concerns regarding the discontinuation of the water supply by LACDA. This issue prevented the community from adequately watering new trees, contributing to their failure and demise.

availability of support and resources for those interested in contributing to the urban canopy.

- A gentleman residing in the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community shared his experiences with the extreme summer heat, emphasizing how the high temperatures significantly increased the discomfort inside his apartment. He recounted the need to constantly operate fans and air conditioning to maintain a bearable environment, consequently leading to a substantial rise in energy bills. He advocated for the planting of more trees within the community, highlighting their essential role in providing shade and reducing the overall temperature, thus creating a more comfortable and sustainable living environment.
- The same gentleman also expressed his frustration with the actions of the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA), which involved turning off the water supply. This action hindered the community's efforts to sustain newly planted trees, leading to their untimely death. This lack of water not only thwarted the community's attempts to beautify and cool their environment but also wasted resources and efforts to improve local green spaces.
- Lastly, the community members spoke about the numerous benefits trees bring to their lives, enhancing the overall quality of life through air purification, providing shade, reducing noise pollution, and fostering a serene

	<p>and aesthetically pleasing environment. The presence of trees in the community was recognized as a critical component of urban living, contributing to physical health, mental well-being, and social cohesion, thereby making East Los Angeles more livable and enjoyable.</p>
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Questions community members in attendance still have about the workshop topics include:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In the community meeting, there was a detailed discussion about the specific types of trees suitable for enhancing the green canopy in the Unincorporated East Los Angeles area. Community members explored various species that could thrive in the local climate and soil conditions, focusing on drought-resistant ones, providing ample shade, and contributing positively to the local ecosystem. The conversation aimed to identify trees that would beautify the area and offer environmental benefits such as air purification and habitat for wildlife. ● One resident expressed surprise upon learning that individuals can actively care for street trees. This revelation highlighted a gap in public knowledge regarding urban forestry and community responsibilities. The community members emphasized the importance of educating residents on how they can contribute to the health and longevity of local trees, including watering, mulching, and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Community members raised concerns regarding the lack of trees in local playgrounds, questioning why these areas lack natural shade and greenery. They emphasized the importance of integrating trees into play areas to provide children with a cooler, more enjoyable environment and to foster a connection with nature from a young age. ● There was a strong sentiment among the community members that trees should be cared for with love and attention, similar to how one would care for a valued family member. This perspective underlines the belief that trees are not just inanimate objects but living entities that contribute significantly to the community's well-being and the environment. ● Residents of the Nueva Maravilla Housing Community (NMHC) expressed confusion and concern regarding restrictions that prevent them from having trees taller than six feet. They questioned the rationale behind this rule, pointing out that taller trees provide more
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reporting issues to city services for maintenance and care.

- There was a strong consensus on the importance of extending educational initiatives on trees and nature to younger community members. Participants suggested organizing workshops designed for children and teenagers to foster a deeper connection with the natural world. By engaging young people in tree planting and care, the community hopes to instill a sense of stewardship and appreciation for the environment from an early age, encouraging sustainable behaviors and a lifelong relationship with nature.

shade, beauty, and environmental benefits, contributing to a healthier, more livable community.

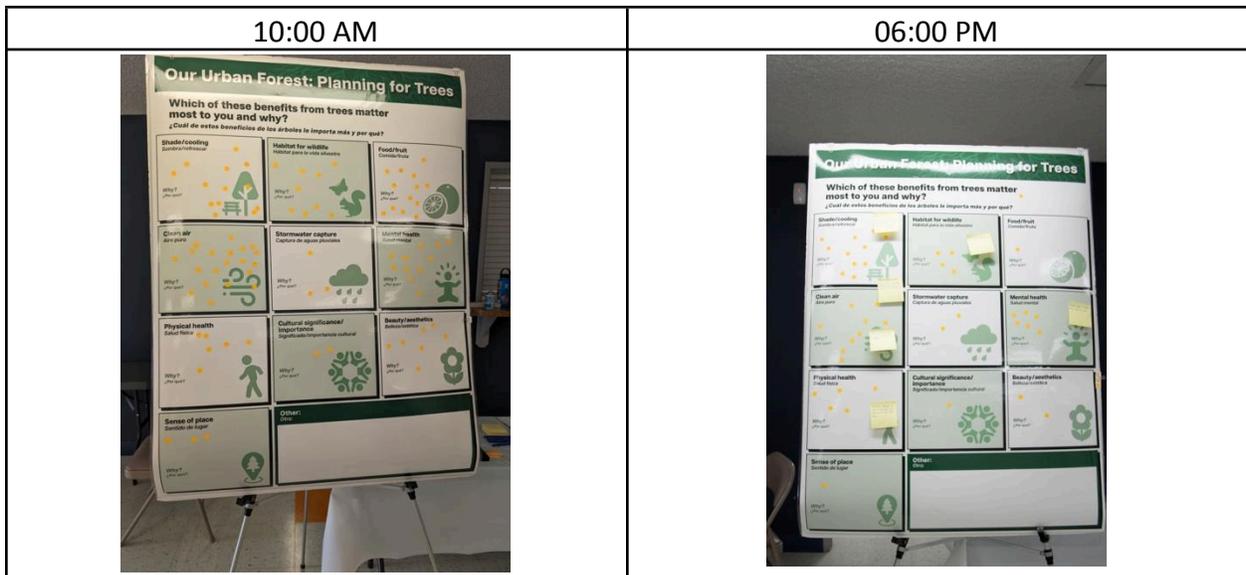
- The need for accessible water sources to maintain healthy trees in NMHC was highlighted as a critical issue. Community members emphasized that trees cannot survive, let alone thrive, without adequate water, undermining efforts to create greener, more sustainable living spaces.
- The negative impact of cutting down trees on the community's energy consumption was discussed, with members noting that the absence of trees leads to higher temperatures and increased reliance on air conditioning. This, in turn, results in higher energy costs for residents, demonstrating the economic and environmental benefits of maintaining and expanding urban tree cover.
- Finally, community members expressed frustration with the city's approach to tree maintenance, questioning why many trees are poorly pruned or unnecessarily cut down. They highlighted the need for better tree management practices that ensure the health and longevity of trees rather than detrimental actions that compromise the urban canopy and the community's quality of life.

Appendix of Workshop Materials

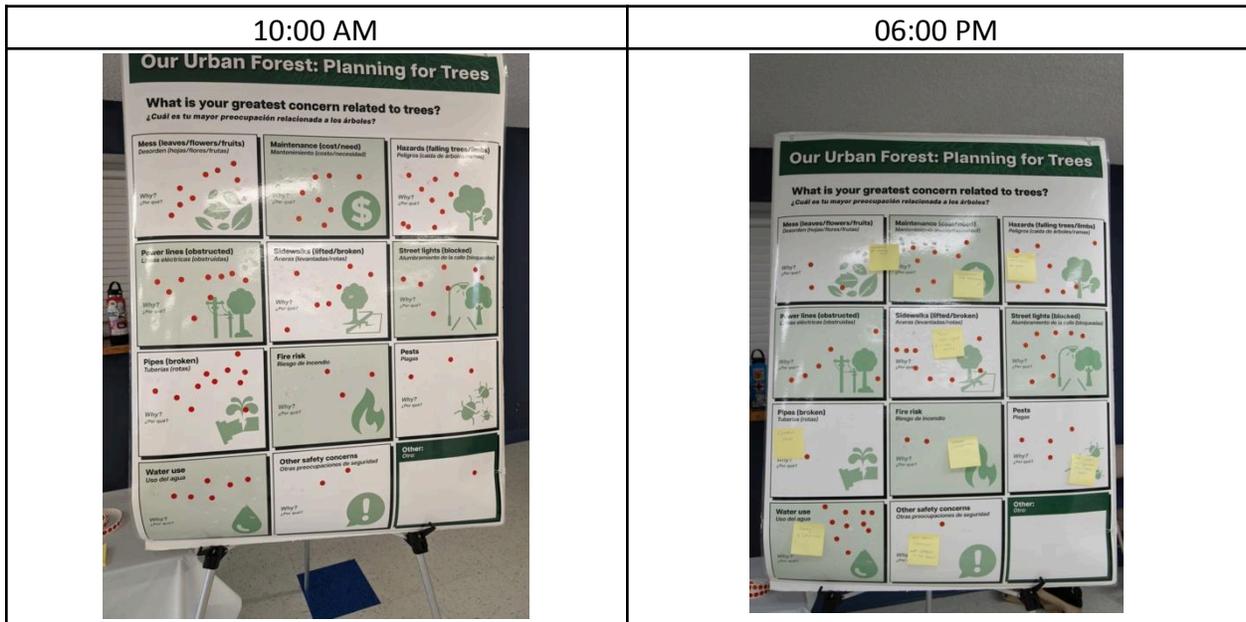
Vision, Values, Storytelling



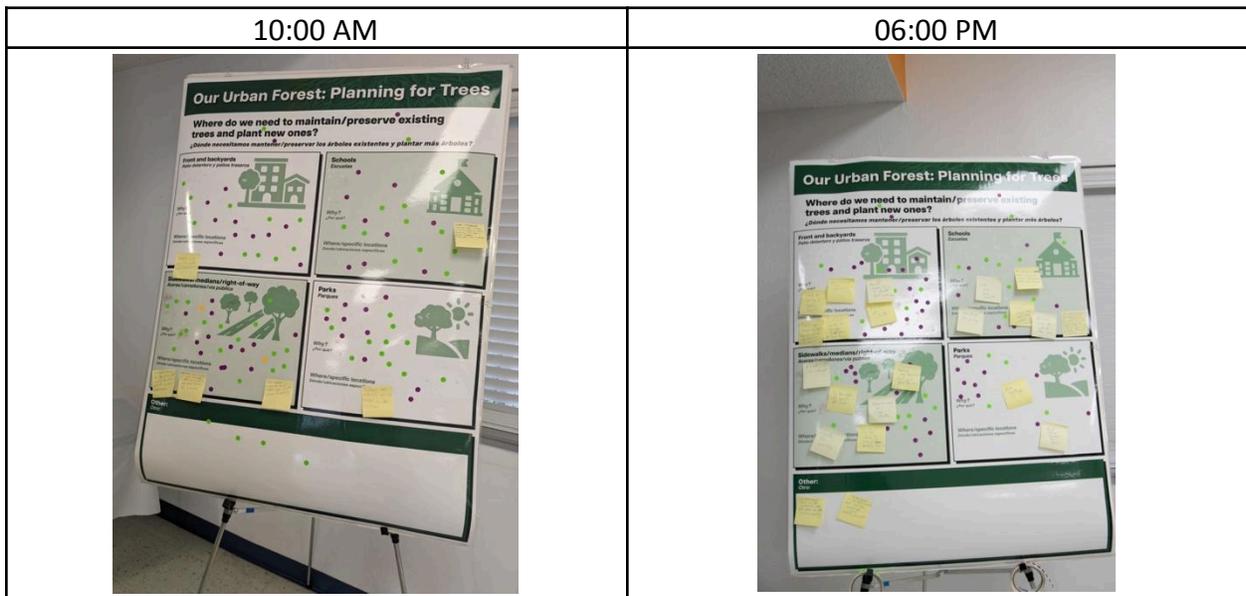
Benefits of Trees



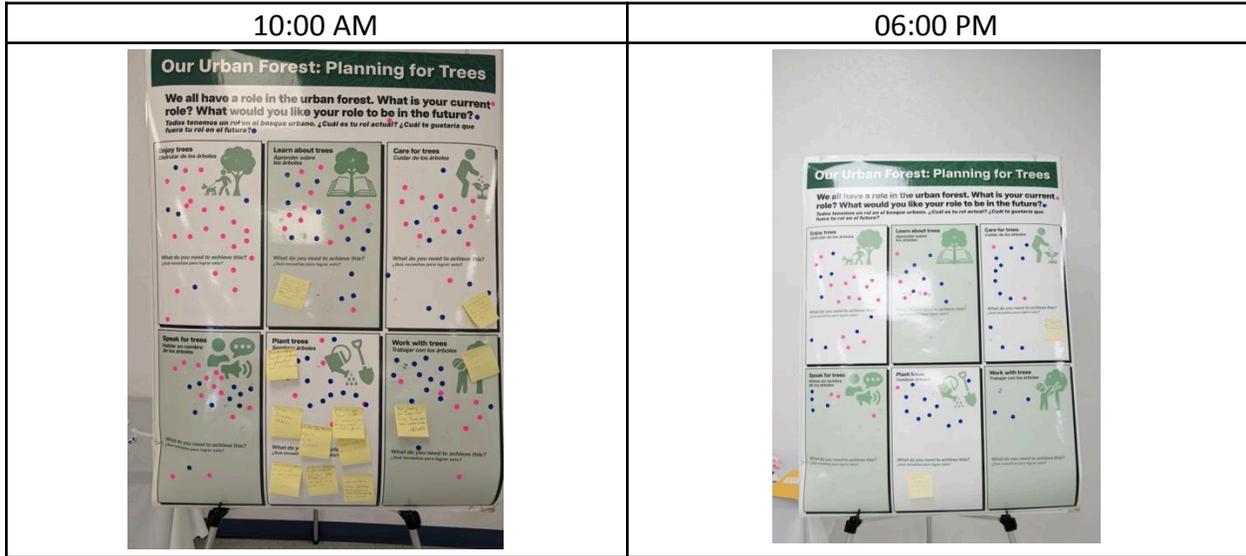
Concerns and Priorities



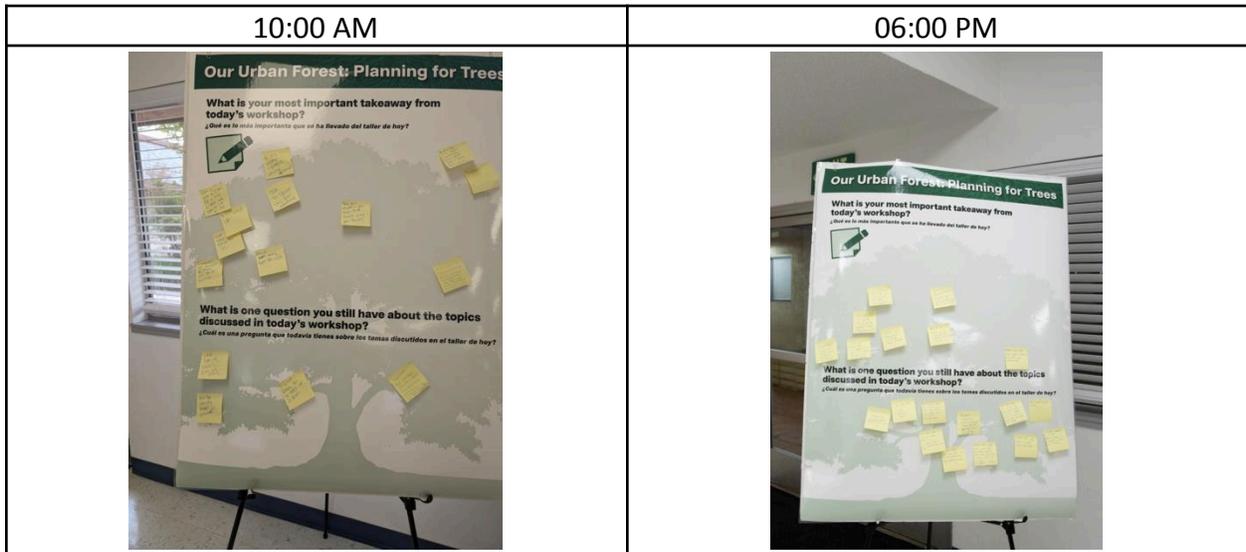
Neighborhood Needs



My Role in the Urban Forest



Reflections



<i>Photos from neighborhood workshop</i>	
10:00 AM	Pleased see attached folder
6:00 PM	Pleased see attached folder
Scanned sign-in sheets	
10:00 AM	Pleased see attached folder and MIG team has physical copies.
6:00 PM	Please see the attached folder, and the MIG team has physical copies.
Scanned agenda/comment sheet	
10:00 AM	Please see the attached folder and the MIG team has physical copies.
6:00 PM	Please see the attached folder, and the MIG team has physical copies.