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Green Open Space and Physical Activity for Seniors: A Post-Occupancy Evaluation of Golden Age Park

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GREEN OPEN SPACE AND
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FOR
SENIORS: A POST-OCCUPANCY
EVALUATION OF

GOLDEN AGE PARK



UCLA

Lewis Center
for Regional Policy Studies

March 2022



citylab
UCLA

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

STUDY PURPOSE AND GOALS

This study assesses the outcomes and impacts of Golden Age Park, a newly developed, 0.17-acre pocket park in the Westlake neighborhood of Los Angeles. We examine how the park has been used by adults during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and after the advent of vaccines. We also explore the extent to which Golden Age Park lends itself to intergenerational use. The goals of the study are: to assess how well the park is serving older adults and other local constituents, understand the impacts of the pandemic on its usage, and provide recommendations as to how to improve the user experience of the park. The study informs future research and practice on age-inclusive, intergenerational public spaces in historically disinvested urban neighborhoods.

METHODS AND ANALYSIS

The study employs a multidisciplinary methodology that included structured site observations, one-on-one interviews, thick mapping activities, focus groups, participatory design, and an experimental, on-site event hosting musical and theatrical performances. The findings were analyzed by our research team, with the purpose of identifying objective and perceptual variables relating to individual park user characteristics and public space characteristics, and how these may inform and influence user experiences in public spaces.

SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS

1

Park usage

The findings from our data suggest that Golden Age Park successfully attracts not only older adults but a diverse cross-section of the local community. On-site observations and on-site interviews emerged as the best methodology for confirming not only that older adults use this space, but community members from various demographic groups use and appreciate Golden Age Park.

2

Cleanliness & maintenance

Nearly all park users shared the common perception that Golden Age Park is clean and well-maintained, and park cleanliness was cited as a reason for feeling comfortable and safe and using the park on a regular basis. On nearly every site visit to the park, we found it to be very clean.

3

Nature & aesthetics

In addition to positive feelings about cleanliness and upkeep, park users were also exuberant about the quality of 'nature' found in the park. This quality is supported by the park's landscape design, which includes weaving paths lined up by benches and various species of plants, flowers, shrubs, and trees. The sense of nature offered by Golden Age Park engenders a sense of 'calmness' that many park users felt, a quality that drew them to the park repeatedly.

4

Proximity to residences

Park users tended to live within close proximity of the park, usually on the same block or just across the street. While this suggests room for improvement in terms of getting the word out to residents who live slightly further away, one can appreciate that the park's neighbors find the park to be their 'backyard.'

5

Active and passive recreation

On-site interviews and observations showed different age groups appreciating a variety of both passive and active recreation activities. Older adults visit the park for physical exercise, like walking and gardening, as well as for more passive activities, like sitting and reading, chatting with a friend or family member, or simply observing. Youth visit the park to sit and relax as well, and children can be observed playing throughout the park. The park is also a site for intergenerational group events like BBQ's, quinceaneras, and birthdays.

6

Park awareness

Our on-site observations and interviews at Golden Age Park confirmed that the park is used and appreciated by local users. However, the fact that on multiple site visits, no park users were present for the duration of our visit suggests that the park is to a degree underutilized. The pandemic was certainly part of the explanation, but our research activities that took place remotely via Zoom and teleconference confirmed that not a lot of people who live in the neighborhood at-large are aware that Golden Age Park exists. Additionally, some local residents, who were aware of the park's existence, expressed initial skepticism that Golden Age was in fact a public and not a private park, due to its high-quality maintenance and design.

7

Physical infrastructure

While the park is well-maintained, some park users expressed a desire for more lighting during dusk hours, more shade, and restrooms. Interestingly, we observed that the low-impact exercise machines are primarily used by youth for play and not by older adults.

8

COVID-19 impacts

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on the use of public spaces in the neighborhood generally, including Golden Age Park. Some study participants, including older adults, indicated their unwillingness to use outdoor public spaces, including Golden Age Park, for fear of contracting the virus, particularly before vaccines were widely available. Older adults in particular expressed their reluctance to visit parks, citing a lack of social distancing and mask wearing by other park users. Both older adults and youth indicated a desire to return to fully utilizing outdoor public spaces, as well as other venues that facilitate social activities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

Enhance park awareness

by placing flyers around the neighborhood and working with community based organizations like the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LNLTL), Saint Barnabas Senior Services (SBSS), and the Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) to spread the word among their constituents. Establishing regular programmed activities will also help to build awareness and attract park visitors over time. LNLTL already has programming in-the-works, slated to begin once the recent spike in Omicron cases subsides. Wayfinding and on-site signage should clearly indicate that the park is open to the public and accessible.

2

Fine-tuning the physical space

by adding a public restroom and increasing shaded areas. Port-a-potties and tents can provide temporary low-cost solutions during programmed activities and events.

3

Provide programming

for exercise equipment and intergenerational activities, particularly those that attract intergenerational use. These include activities like music and theater performances, art classes, gardening, and table games. One specific programmed activity would be to lead an exercise class that shows older adults how to use the park's exercise machines. Programmed activities generally can also help establish a sense of community and shared ownership of the park. The community garden is already one positive step in this direction.

4

Increase sense of safety (COVID-related and otherwise).

Leverage relationships with community organizations in facilitating safe interactions in public space. During pandemic periods, community based organizations can play an important role in facilitating park usage through activities that involve safe social distancing, mask wearing, and hand sanitizing.

1. INTRODUCTION

STUDY PURPOSE

This study assesses the outcomes and impacts of Golden Age Park, a newly developed, 0.17-acre pocket park in the Westlake neighborhood of Los Angeles. Developed and managed by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust in collaboration with the Westlake community, Golden Age Park was designed to support the needs of older adults by providing a green space for passive recreation as well as active physical activity for this underserved group. This study represents the third and final phase of a project that started with the development of a toolkit and design guidelines for open spaces for older adults (Phase 1) and the creation of the park (Phase 2). During Phase 3, we undertake a comprehensive post-occupancy evaluation of Golden Age Park. We explore how the park was used by older adults during the onset of the pandemic and after the advent of COVID vaccines. We also seek to understand how Golden Age Park, and similar parks in disinvested neighborhoods, can serve intergenerational uses and better cater to both older adults and youth. To that end, we included youth in our analysis in order to understand their perspectives as well.

Using an interdisciplinary approach that integrates data collection and analysis methods from urban planning, architecture, and the humanities, we assess local residents' and stakeholders' relationships to and experiences in the park, and evaluate the impact of this park in terms of its goals to attract and increase physical activity amongst older adult users, particularly in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Engaging older adults from St. Barnabas Senior Services (SBSS), a senior services center adjacent to the park, in a series of focus group discussions, thick-mapping exercises, in-depth interviews, and participatory design exercises, we seek to understand how Golden Age Park is serving the physical activity and recreational needs of different older adults. Our findings will not only provide guidance for planners, designers, and policy makers seeking to create more inclusive public spaces for older adults, but will also consider the uneven impact of COVID-19 on low-income minority older adults, and will yield implications for building similar parks in high-poverty, inner-city neighborhoods with high concentrations of older adults. The project also examines the potential for intergenerational public space, and the extent to which Golden Age Park is appealing to both older adults and youth.

This research was conducted in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, which not only informed the research design, but also significantly influenced user experiences in and perceptions of Golden Age Park. It is clear that, given the challenges presented by the pandemic, access to safe and accessible public

space is even more vital for underserved communities in densely populated urban areas. As the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic continues to have a dramatic impact on the use of public space, it also prompts researchers to consider how spaces may be adapted to support health, wellbeing, and social cohesion for people of all ages.

By providing outdoor open space to meet the needs of older adult users as well as users of all ages, Golden Age Park has the potential to serve as a model for neighborhood open space in dense, underserved communities. But in order for policymakers, planners, and advocates to be able to develop similar parks in other areas, a stronger understanding of the performance and impact of Golden Age Park is necessary. Accordingly, this post-occupancy evaluation uses a variety of techniques to analyze the utilization, impacts and outcomes of Golden Age Park, including site observations and interviews, focus groups, in-depth interviews, and a participatory design exercise. We integrate observations with insights from park users of all ages as well as reflections from community organizations to understand what is working in the park, what could be improved, and what lessons are to be learned, with the goal to inform future research and practice on age-inclusive, intergenerational public spaces in disinvested urban neighborhoods.

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The aim of this post-occupancy evaluation is to assess the outcomes and impacts of Golden Age Park, particularly in relation to the park's core demographic target: neighborhood older adults. The research is guided by the following research questions:

- **Has Golden Age Park achieved its goals of attracting neighborhood older adults?**
- **Has it increased physical activity among them? What type of physical activity?**
- **Has the pandemic affected the park's usage, and if so, what should happen?**
- **To what extent does Golden Age Park present opportunities for intergenerational activities between youth and older adults?**

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report begins with an overview of the context of the study, Golden Age Park and the Westlake-MacArthur Park neighborhood. We outline our research approach and research methods, and then present our findings from park observations, focus groups, thick mapping, interviews, and participatory design exercises. We conclude with a discussion of our findings, implications for practice, and recommendations.

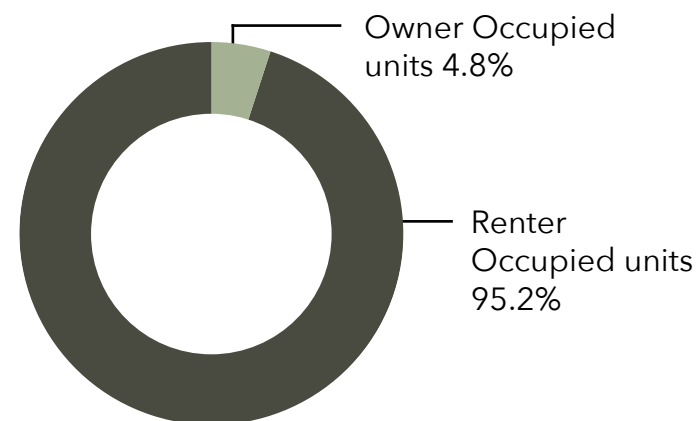
2. CONTEXT: GOLDEN AGE PARK

WESTLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD DEMOGRAPHICS

Westlake is a densely populated, mixed-use neighborhood, located west of downtown Los Angeles, home to about 120,000 residents (American Community Survey 2015-2019). Residents are overwhelmingly renters (95%), non-White (76.4%), and low-income (31.8% under the poverty line). Ten percent of the residents (over 11,500 people) are older than 65, and 23 percent of them (over 27,000 people) are younger than 18. Latinos constitute the largest racial/ethnic group in the neighborhood (58%), but there are also significant numbers of Asian (primarily Korean) residents (29%).

Many Westlake residents live in multi-unit rental housing, lacking open space. Thus, they depend on their neighborhood public spaces for recreation. Yet this highly dense neighborhood features only 0.84 acres of park per 1000 residents, compared to the citywide average of 6.2 acres per 1000 residents across Los Angeles. It is, therefore, clear that this neighborhood is in great need of open space.

RENTERS & OWNERS



INCOME

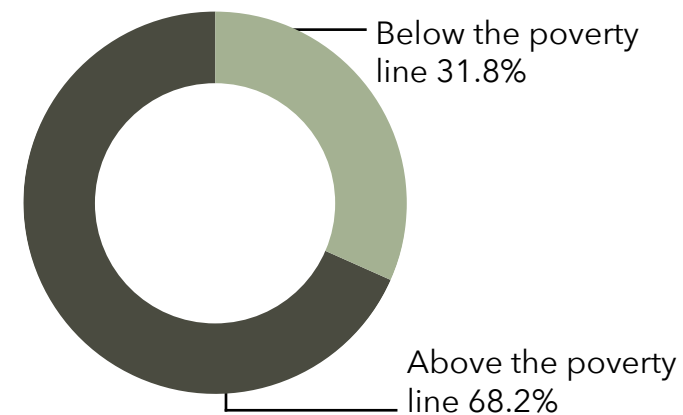
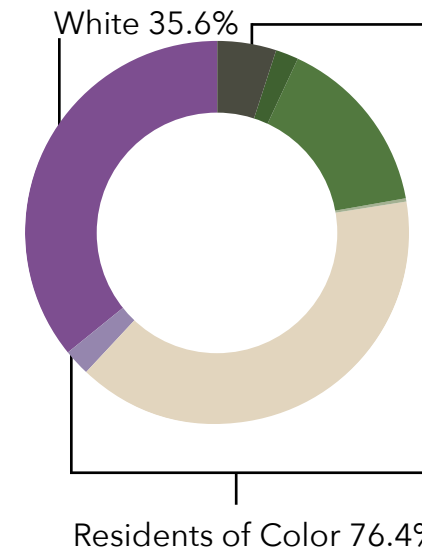


Figure 2.1 Occupancy and Income characteristics of households in Westlake

RACE



- Black or African American 5.2%
- American Indian and Alaska Native 1.8%
- Asian 15.3%
- Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander 0.7%
- Another race not listed 39.6%
- Two or more races 2.2%

AGE

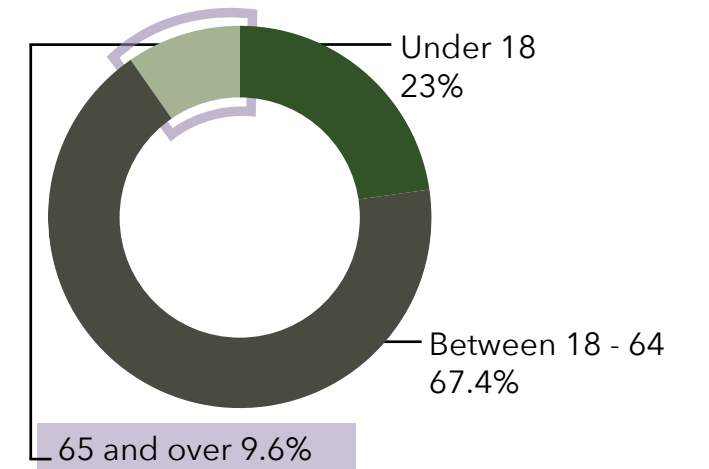


Figure 2.2 Race/ethnicity characteristics of households in Westlake

Figure 2.2 Race and Age characteristics of households in Westlake

ACRES OF PARK PER 1000 RESIDENTS

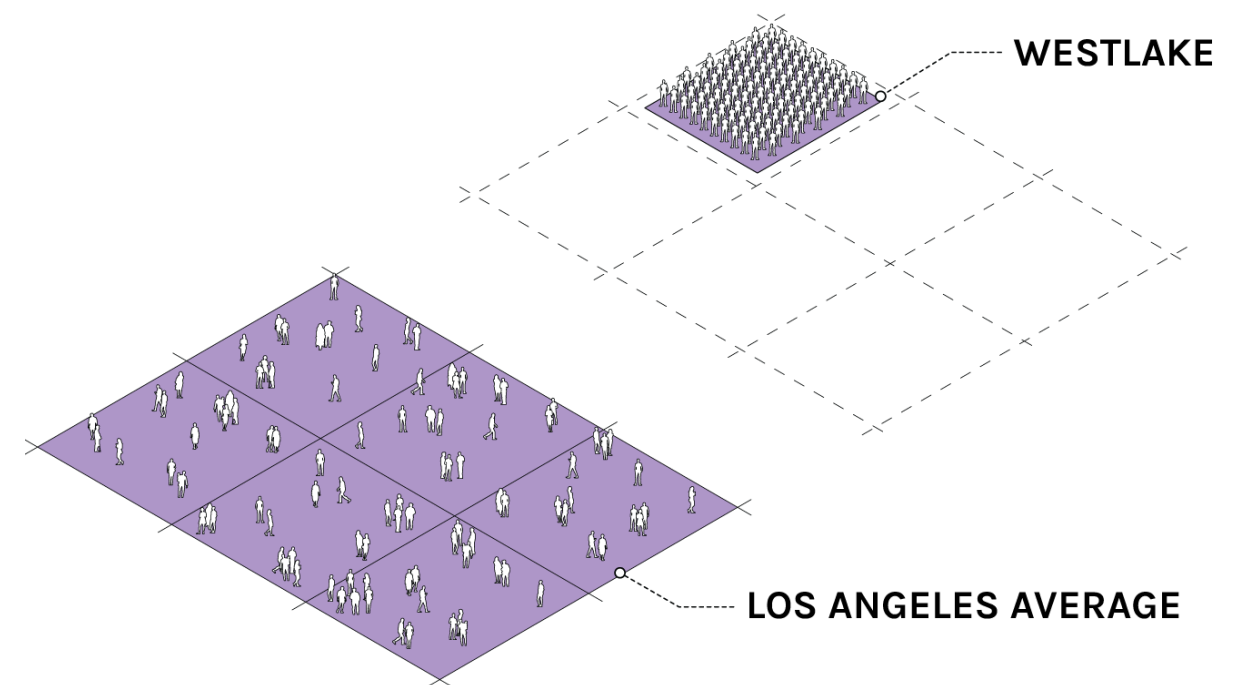
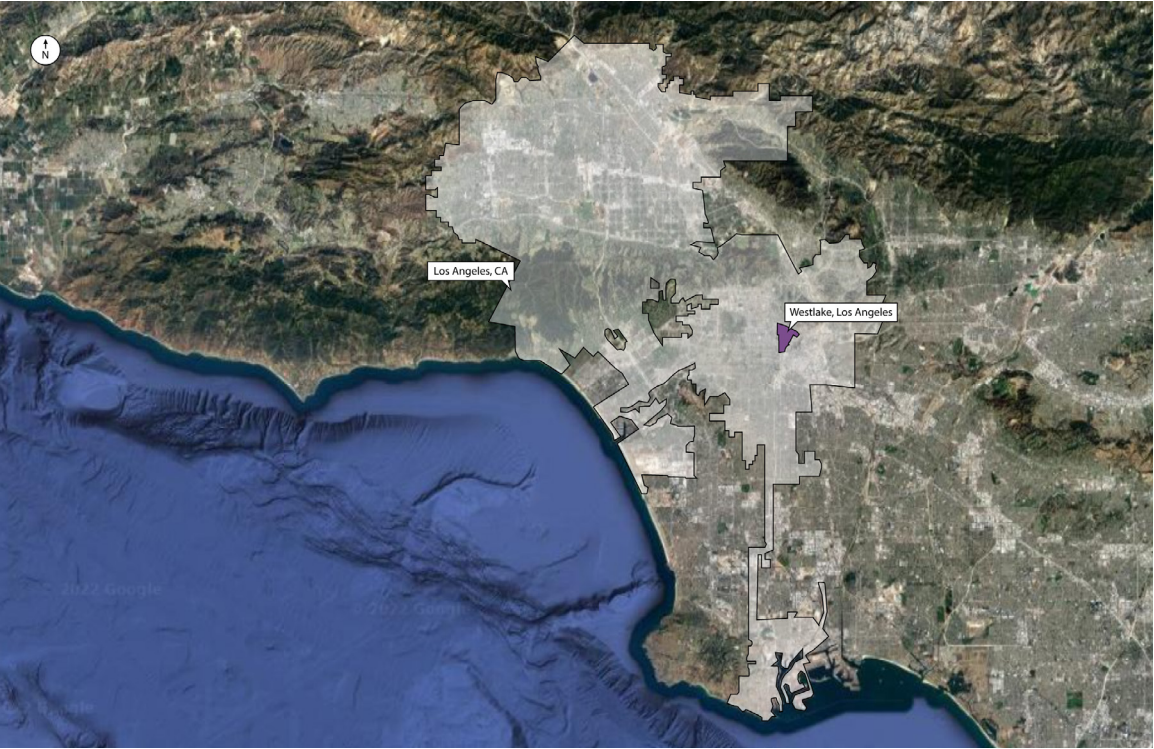


Figure 2.3 Park acreage per thousand residents

¹ American Community Survey (2019) Westlake Demographic Profile, Washington DC: US Bureau of the Census.

WESTLAKE NEIGHBORHOOD LOCATION

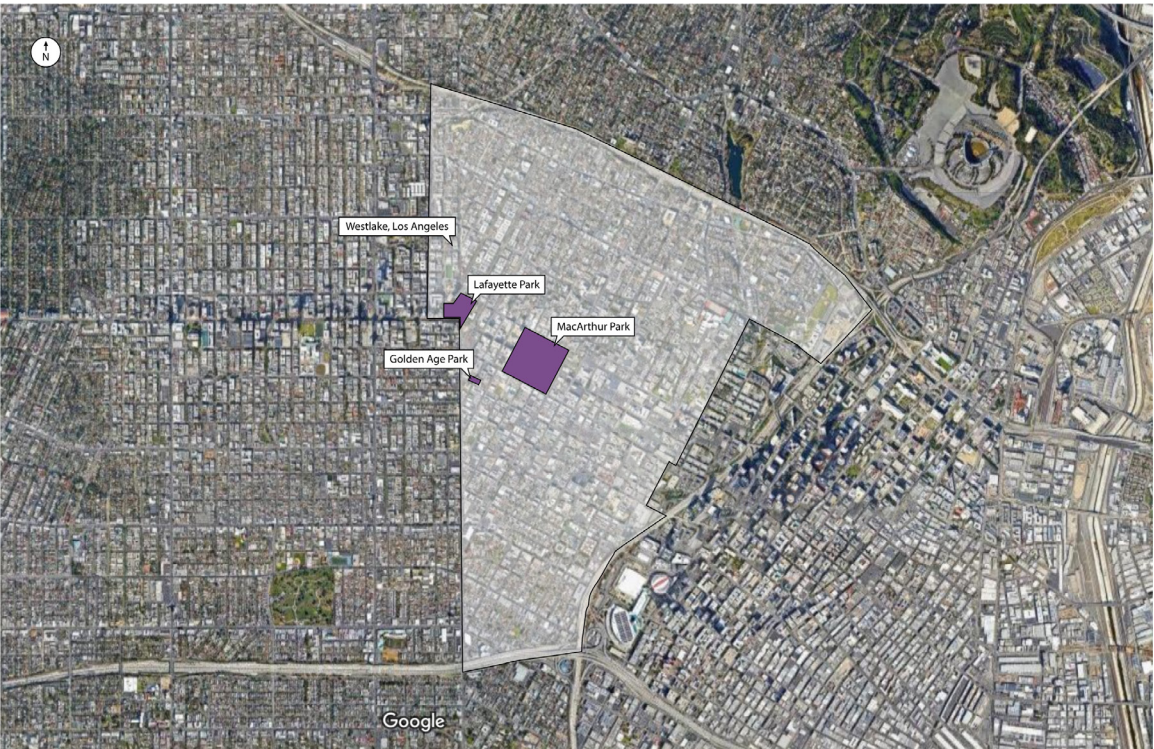
WESTLAKE IN GREATER LOS ANGELES



GOLDEN AGE PARK IN WESTLAKE



PARKS IN WESTLAKE



GOLDEN AGE PARK



Figure 2.4 Maps of Golden Age Park

PARK HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

Golden Age Park opened in November 2019, several months prior to the beginning of the pandemic in Los Angeles. With financial support from the Gilbert Foundation and public agencies, research support from our team at UCLA, and in collaboration with SBSS, the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) identified and purchased a formerly vacant lot in Westlake, and through active engagement with the local community, transformed it into Golden Age Park. LANLT fundraised to plan, design, build, and maintain the park.

Golden Age Park is located in a highly dense residential area of Westlake, within walking distance of SBSS, and was designed to appeal to the needs and interests of older adults. The park aims to provide access to open space and greenery and present older adults with opportunities to get involved in physical activities including gardening and exercising. Its design was informed by research undertaken by an interdisciplinary team of UCLA planners, urban designers, and gerontologists that culminated in a toolkit called "Placemaking for an Aging Population" (Loukaitou-Sideris et al., 2014)¹, as well as considerable community engagement with older adults through SBSS. The first of its kind in Los Angeles, Golden Age Park has the potential to serve as a model of neighborhood open space, primarily geared towards the needs of older residents, but also promoting cross-generational interaction.

Today, Golden Age Park is a tranquil space that features planted flower beds, shade trees, and lawns, accessible pathways and seating areas, including BBQ grills, low-impact exercise machines, raised community garden beds, and a children's play area. It is open to the public seven days a week, from sunrise to 30 minutes before sunset. The park is operated and managed by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, whose staff maintain the park's landscaping and facilities, including opening and closing the park daily and maintaining the gardens and landscape, coordinate with the community gardeners to maintain the garden space, and oversee programming within the park. Due to COVID-related restrictions, the LANLT has been unable to offer public programming in the park as of the time of this writing, but intends to begin arts- and exercise-based activities in 2022.



7 ¹ Loukaitou-Sideris, A., Brozen, M., & Levy-Storms, L. (2014). Placemaking for an Aging Population: Guidelines for Senior-Friendly Parks. UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. <https://escholarship.org/uc/item/450871hz>

3. RESEARCH APPROACH AND METHODS

MULTIDISCIPLINARY METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

This study brought together a team of researchers who each brought expertise in diverse disciplines including urban planning, architecture, and the humanities, to creatively assess the impacts of Golden Age Park in the Westlake community.

This interdisciplinary approach is evidenced in the data collection and analysis methods used throughout the study. Structured site observations, on-site interviews, and focus groups draw upon traditional tools from the social sciences and urban planning. The in-depth interviews employ narrative approaches from the humanities. The thick mapping and participatory design exercises draw upon the projective strategies of architecture and urban design, inviting participants to communicate their own narratives and experiences and to envision alternatives and interventions. As a final research activity, we put together an event that brought music, games, and food to the park, and assessed whether attendees found the event's intergenerational activities appealing. The aforementioned methods combined allowed us to creatively assess the impacts of Golden Age Park as well as to explore future improvements.



DATA SOURCES, COMMUNITY PARTNERS

This research was undertaken with the active involvement of three community-based organizations connected to the Westlake neighborhood and to Golden Age Park: the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT), St. Barnabas Senior Services (SBSS), and Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA). In partnership with SBSS and HOLA, the research team recruited youth and older adults to participate in research activities. Staff from SBSS and LANLT were also interviewed as part of this research.

Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT)

LANLT is a non-profit organization that aims to address park inequities and support neighborhood wellbeing through the development of parks and gardens in communities of color with little access to green space, as well as through community organizing. Since its founding in 2002, LANLT has helped to create 29 urban parks and gardens throughout Los Angeles County (LANLT, 2021)¹.

St. Barnabas Senior Services (SBSS)

SBSS is one of the largest and oldest senior serving centers in Los Angeles and is located in Westlake/MacArthur Park. Since 1908, SBSS has provided nutrition, social, and health services to low-income and multiethnic Los Angeles elders. Their typical members are in their mid-70s, live alone, are at or below the federal poverty level, depend on Social Security payments of about \$800 monthly, and have limited support networks (SBSS, 2016)².

Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA)

Also based in Westlake/MacArthur Park, HOLA was founded in 1989. HOLA provides more than 2,200 underserved youth (aged 6-19) with free after-school programming in academics, visual and performing arts, and athletics within a nurturing environment, empowering them to develop their educational potential and strengthen their communities (HOLA, 2020)³. HOLA has partnered with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks to offer youth programs at Lafayette Park, also in Westlake.

This research was conducted with approval from the UCLA Institutional Review Board (IRB). Oral consent to participate was obtained from each research participant or Legally Authorized Representative (LAR) in advance of participation in research activities. Youth and older adult participants from SBSS and HOLA were offered a \$25 gift card/per activity as appreciation for their time and participation in each research activity: focus groups, thick mapping exercises, in-depth interviews, and participatory design exercise.

¹ Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT) (2021) About, www.lanlt.org/.

² St. Barnabas Senior Services (SBSS) (2016) What We Do, www.sbssla.org/what-we-do.

³ Heart of Los Angeles (HOLA) (2020) Mission, www.heartofla.org/mission.

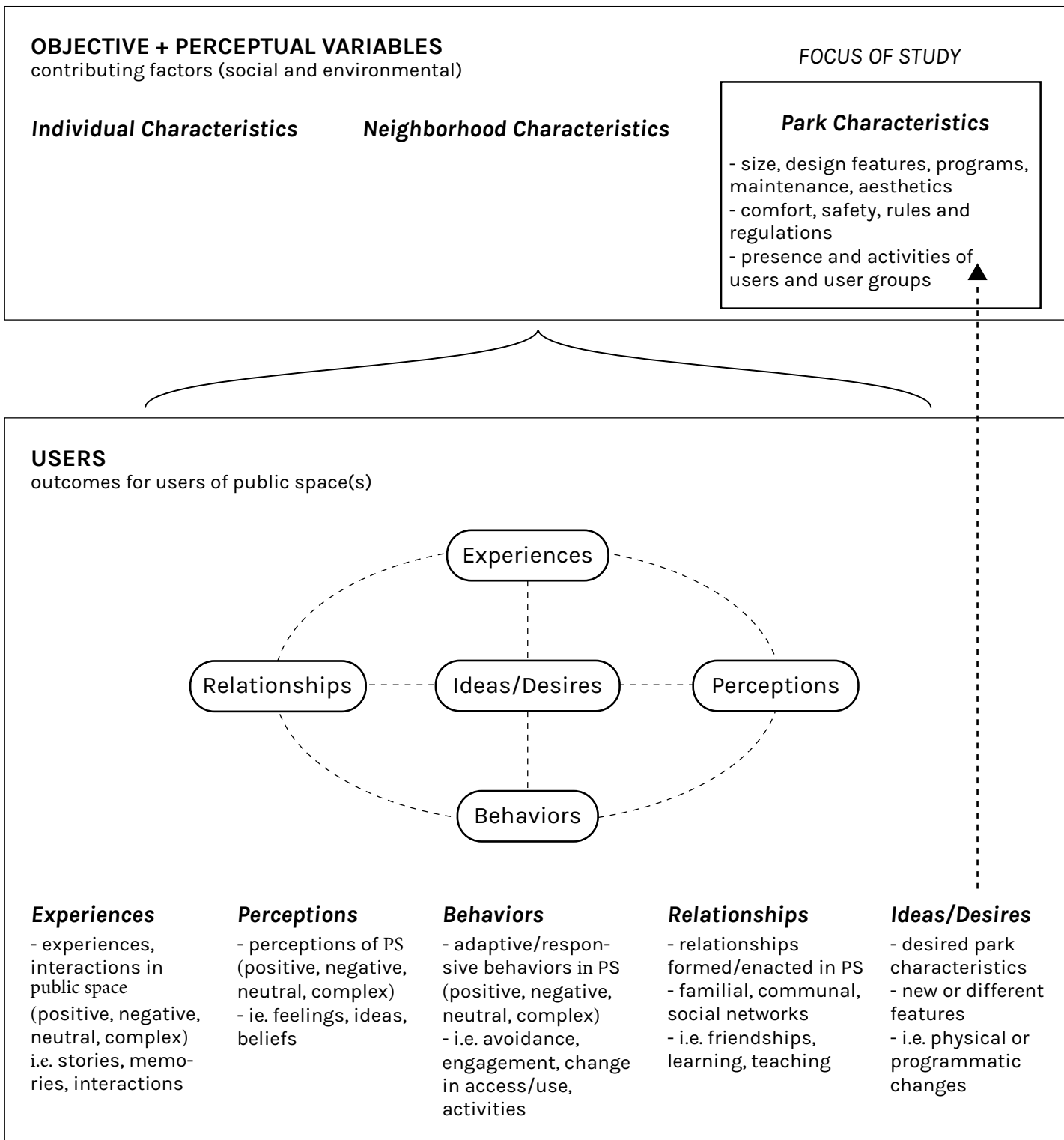


Figure 3.1. Analysis diagram of variables that influence park perceptions



Photo: The Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust

STUDY PURPOSE

To explore if Golden Age Park presents opportunities for intergenerational activities between youth and adults.

RESEARCH METHODS

- LITERATURE REVIEW
- SITE OBSERVATION
- FOCUS GROUPS
- THICK MAPPING
- INTERVIEWS WITH:
 - STUDY PARTICIPANTS
 - COMMUNITY GROUPS
 - ONSITE PARK USERS
- PARTICIPATORY DESIGN EXERCISE
- EXPERIMENTAL EVENT

19

TOTAL SITE OBSERVATIONS

11 WEEKDAY VISITS

8 WEEKEND VISITS

32

TOTAL HOURS OF OBSERVATION

13 HOURS BETWEEN 7 AM & 12 PM

12 HOURS BETWEEN 12 PM & 4 PM

7 HOURS BETWEEN 4 PM & 8 PM

SITE OBSERVATIONS

Structured site observations were undertaken at Golden Age Park to better understand the nature and extent of park use by older adults, as well as visitors of other ages. Members of the research team conducted site visits at Golden Age Park during one month in October 2020, one month in March 2021, and one month in November 2021. We visited the park for two-hour periods during the morning, afternoon, and evening on both weekdays and weekends. In total, we visited Golden Age Park 19 times, for a total of 32 hours. Appendix A shows the site observation protocols.

Through site observation we sought to understand how and to what extent older adults were using the park, what facilities they were using, and what activities they were engaged in. We gathered information responding to the following questions:

1. How many people are present in the park?
2. What are the observable ages, gender, and race/ethnicity characteristics of park users?
3. What kinds of activities are they engaged in while using the park? (walking, resting, exercising, socializing, etc)
4. Are they alone, in small groups, or in large groups?
5. How have responses to the above questions changed depending on the day of the week and time of day?

Full site observation protocols are included in Appendix A.



Photo:Gibson Bastar

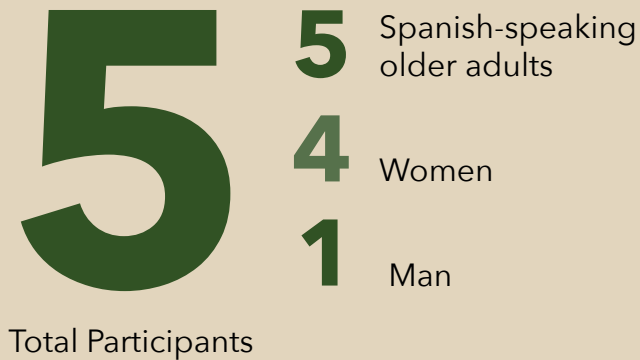
FOCUS GROUPS

We conducted five focus groups to identify the extent and patterns of public space utilization among participants and the challenges they faced in accessing and using Golden Age Park but also the two other parks in the Westlake neighborhood: MacArthur Park and Lafayette Park. We held focus groups with both youth from HOLA and older adults from SBSS to get an intergenerational perspective of the parks and understand the similarities and differences in use patterns by age group, as well as the opportunities for more intergenerational interaction in the parks. We held three focus group sessions with older adults: one with nine English-speaking older adults, seven women and two men; one with five Spanish-speaking older adults, four women and one man; and one with three Korean-speaking older adults, one woman and two men. We held two focus group sessions with youth from HOLA: one session with seven middle school age youth, ages 10-12, including three boys and four girls, and one session with eight high school age youth, ages 13-16, including three boys, four girls, and one gender nonbinary youth. Both HOLA focus groups were conducted in English.

The focus group guidelines are included in Appendix B.

Focus groups were held remotely between November 2020 and June 2021, and lasted between 90 and 120 minutes. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we conducted all focus groups remotely via Zoom (video conferencing service) or UberConference (telephone conferencing service). We recorded and later transcribed all focus group discussions.

SBSS FOCUS GROUP #1



SBSS FOCUS GROUP #2



SBSS FOCUS GROUP #3



During the focus groups, we asked participants both open-ended and structured questions about their use of, experiences in, and attitudes towards the three parks and public spaces in their neighborhood. The focus groups concluded with a discussion of intergenerational parks, after which participants were asked to identify their preferred public space activities and features. While the discussions pertained to Golden Age Park as well as Lafayette and MacArthur Park, few older adult participants were aware of or had visited Golden Age Park.

HOLA FOCUS GROUP #1



HOLA FOCUS GROUP #2



Photo: Gibson Bastar

THICK MAPPING

We conducted four thick mapping workshops, two with youth from HOLA and two with older adults from SBSS, between January and May 2021. Thick mapping is a group participatory exercise in which participants are invited to contribute their own narratives and ideas to a single, flat map of a given geographic area, blending personal reflections with empirical data. Once “thickened,” the collective map becomes the starting point for community dialogue around different experiences of and relationships to a given place, collective understanding of its significance, and shared ideas for its enhancement.

For this study, we held a thick mapping workshop in which we asked participants to share their stories, memories, experiences, and relationships to three parks in Westlake: MacArthur Park, Lafayette Park, and Golden Age Park. We conducted thick mapping workshops with both youth and older adults, given our interest in the intergenerational possibilities of Golden Age Park. Specifically, with youth from HOLA we conducted one workshop with eight middle school age-youth, ages 10-12, four boys and four girls, and one workshop with eight high school-age youth, ages 13-16, three boys four girls, and one gender nonbinary participant. With SBSS, we conducted one workshop with four Spanish-speaking older adults, all women, and another workshop with four English-speaking older adults, all women. The thick mapping workshops were between 90 and 120 minutes in length, and were conducted using Zoom and UberConference. We recorded and later transcribed thick mapping workshops, and retained and later analyzed the digital thick maps resulting from these workshops.

During the workshops, we asked participants to share information about their daily routines, neighborhood landmarks, and positive and negative memories. We also asked participants about their relationships to the three neighborhood parks - Lafayette, MacArthur, and Golden Age - their preferred park activities and characteristics, and suggestions for improvements in these parks. Using the digital platform Miro, we mapped and assembled information from participants' responses onto a digital basemap in real-time. For the thick mapping workshops held on Zoom, the screen sharing feature created a collaborative environment in which participants could see their ideas being mapped as the conversation progressed and could also add context or clarifications, where necessary. For the thick mapping workshop held on UberConference, participants were mailed a set of hard copy maps of the neighborhood and park, to provide a visual reference during the discussion.

The full thick mapping exercise guidelines are included in Appendix C.

HOLA THICK MAPPING GROUP #1



HOLA THICK MAPPING GROUP #2



SBSS THICK MAPPING GROUP #1



SBSS THICK MAPPING GROUP #2

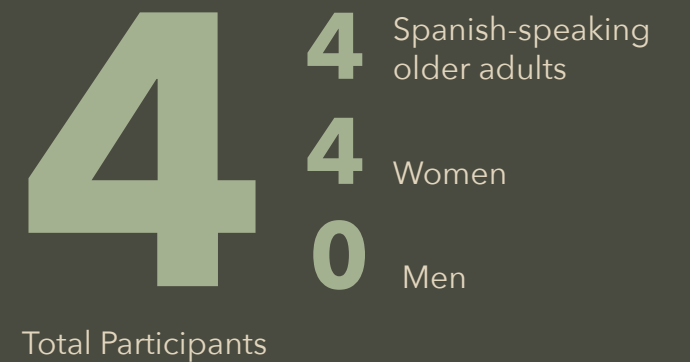


Photo: Nara Hernandez

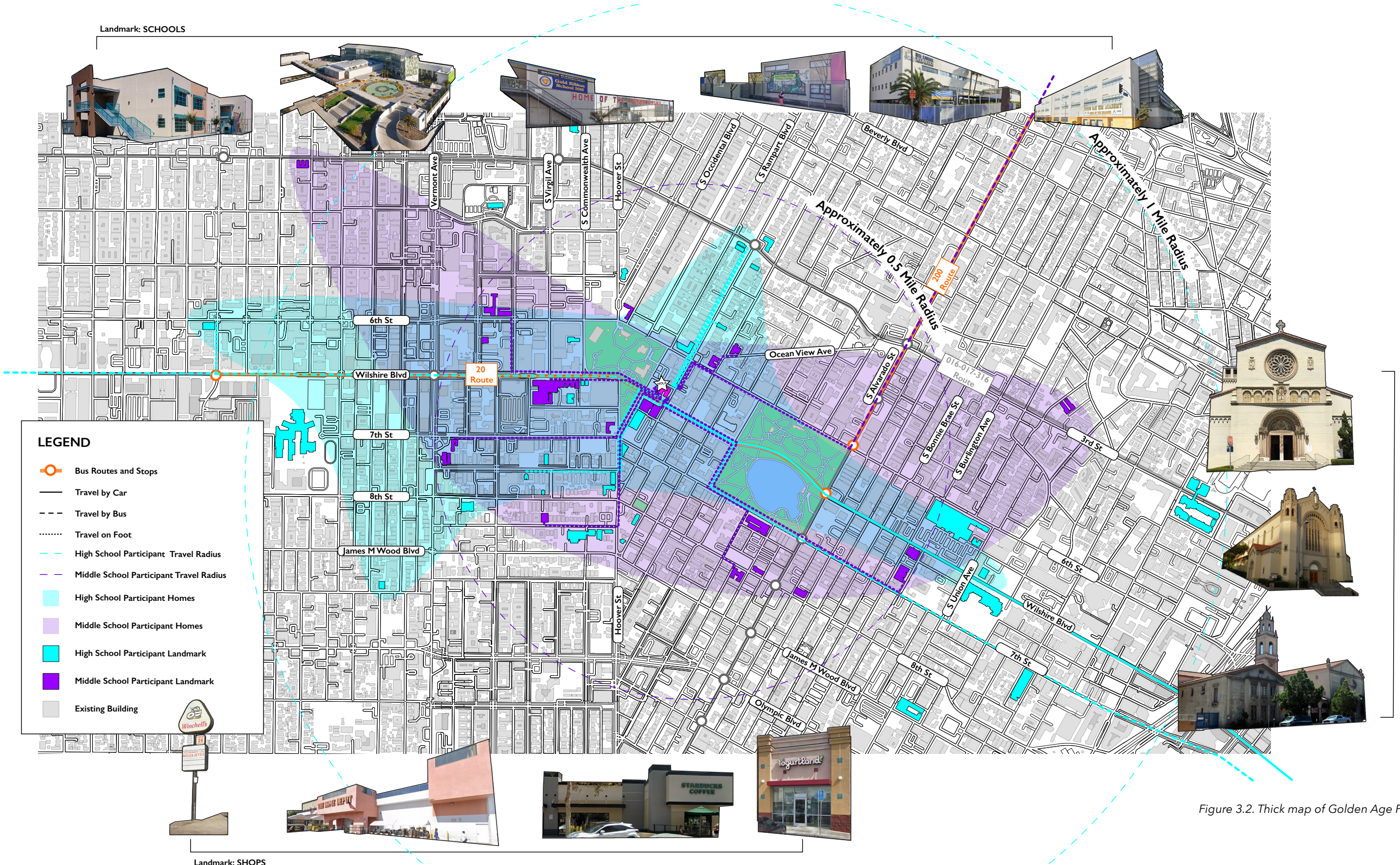


Figure 3.2. Thick map of Golden Age Park

INTERVIEWS

We conducted three types of interviews as part of this study: 1) in-person intercept interviews with park users at Golden Age Park; 2) remote in-depth interviews with neighborhood youth, older adults, and 3) interviews with community organizations.

We conducted semi-structured interviews with park users during site observation visits at Golden Age Park to learn about users' park use patterns before and during the pandemic and understand park preferences and ideas for improvement. We conducted a total of 12 intercept interviews over the course of 19 site visits. Semi-structured intercept interviews typically lasted between 2 and 10 minutes, and participant responses were recorded by hand in a notebook or occasionally on a laptop. During the interviews, we asked participants questions regarding the nature and frequency of their use of the park before and during the pandemic, the types of activities they engage in while visiting the park, and their likes and dislikes about the park.

Full site interview protocol is included in Appendix A.

We also conducted 12 interviews with older adults and youth to discuss their experiences in and perceptions of Westlake's public spaces, including MacArthur, Lafayette, and Golden Age Park. Both youth and older adults were interviewed to allow comparison between their responses, to identify points of alignment and divergence in the experiences and opinions of younger and older park users, and to understand the potential for intergenerational public space. We conducted remotely semi-structured interviews with six older adult participants from SBSS and six youth participants from HOLA between April and

August 2021. Interviews began with more general questions about life in Los Angeles, including how long the participant had lived in Los Angeles, daily life and routines before and during the pandemic, and issues facing the neighborhood and the city at large. In the second part of the interview, participants were asked more specifically about their relationship to the Westlake-MacArthur Park neighborhood and its parks and public spaces. The conversation concluded with a discussion about the interviewee's hopes for the future of the neighborhood. Each in-depth interview took approximately one hour. Interviews were conducted on Zoom or by UberConference and were recorded and transcribed. Among the interviewees, only one older adult was familiar with and had visited Golden Age Park.

The full in-depth interview guidelines are included in Appendix D.

We conducted two additional in-depth interviews with staff representatives of community organizations engaged in the planning of Golden Age Park: LANLT and SBSS. Through these interviews, we sought to understand how these community organizations assessed the park's success in meeting its goals, as well as to learn about the organization's past, current, and anticipated future involvement in programming and activities in the park. Each interview took between 45 minutes and one hour to complete. We conducted interviews on Zoom or by phone, and recorded and transcribed them.

The full in-depth interview guidelines for community organizations are included in Appendix F.



PARTICIPATORY DESIGN EXERCISE

Following the focus groups, thick mapping, and in-depth interviews with older adults, we invited youth from HOLA and older adults from SBSS to participate in a participatory design exercise intended to collectively envision the future of intergenerational public space in the Westlake neighborhood. Bringing together both older adults and youth for the first time in the research process, the participatory design exercise sought to foster a projective, intergenerational dialogue about public space, and inform research findings and recommendations regarding intergenerational public space in Westlake.

The participatory design exercise took place in August 2021, and lasted two hours. For this exercise, we set up “hybrid” in-person and remote participation options, which allowed for dialogue between those attending the event in person and those on Zoom. Six youth from HOLA participated in person, including two boys, three girls, and one gender nonbinary participant, as well as one female older adult from SBSS. Three additional older adults from SBSS, all female, participated remotely through Zoom. After an initial ice breaker, the first part of the exercise asked participants to identify their preferred park qualities on a series of eight continua (see Figure 3.2.), each using phrases and accompanying images to represent various environmental dichotomies, for example, “tranquil” or “energizing” setting, “natural” or “human-built” setting, etc. By pairing images and descriptive phrases, participants were not only able to indicate their park preferences but were also equipped with a collective vocabulary to communicate their ideas and desires about the parks in the later portions of the workshop.

Working in smaller groups, participants were first asked to map challenges and aspirations for the neighborhood's two largest parks (Lafayette and MacArthur). They then were invited to rejoin the larger group for a discussion focusing specifically on Golden Age Park. Given that few participants were aware of or had visited Golden Age Park, we showed them a short video and a 'virtual walking tour' of Golden Age Park, and then led a group discussion about their likes, dislikes, and desires for Golden Age Park.

The full participatory design exercise guidelines are included in Appendix F.



Figure 3.2. Continua graphics used in participatory design exercise



Photos: Nara Hernandez

CREATING COMMON GROUND: A FESTIVAL FOR INTERGENERATIONAL PUBLIC SPACE

As a final research activity, we put together an event that brought music, games, and food to the park, and assessed whether attendees found the event and its activities appealing. A primary purpose of the event was to build local awareness of the park's presence, since our prior research activities found that many local residents did not know that the park existed. The event was held at the Golden Age Park on a sunny (70 degrees Fahrenheit) Saturday, on February 26th, 2022, from 1-3 PM. It attracted over 100 attendees, including 45 members of the Heart of Los Angeles' Intergenerational Orchestra, and four members of a Shakespeare troupe performing an excerpt from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The event also had face-painting and balloon tying for children and included a lunch with tamales for all attendees. Attendees were invited to fill out a brief survey asking about their perceptions of the park.

The survey questionnaire is included in Appendix H.



Photo: Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust



Photos: UCLA Luskin

RESEARCH CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC IMPACTS

We encountered a number of significant challenges during this study because data collection and analysis took place entirely during the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic caused significant disruption to the everyday lives of residents in the Westlake neighborhood and to their use of public space. It was challenging to conduct an effective post-occupancy evaluation of Golden Age Park in the context of rapidly shifting use patterns in response to the pandemic and related restrictions and health guidelines. We adapted our study to include research questions related to pandemic impacts, which allowed us to assess use patterns and user experiences before and during the pandemic and to explore responses to the pandemic by community organizations.

Data collection activities were also challenging in the context of COVID-19 restrictions and precautions. While some research activities, such as in-person site observations, continued as planned with appropriate precautions, other activities, particularly those involving older adult and youth participants, had to be quickly adapted to remote arrangements. These activities were facilitated by our community partner organizations (HOLA and SBSS), who not only enabled us to recruit the requisite number of research participants but also set up remote communication capabilities (Zoom and UberConference), so that conversations could occur safely. Both SBSS and HOLA had been forced to adapt their programming to online, digital formats. Accordingly, some of our research activities also adapted to the new digital social sphere in which older adults and youth in Westlake have been increasingly participating throughout the pandemic.

DIGITAL DIVIDE

While the transition to remote research made it easier to schedule conversations (since travel in most cases was not necessary for participation in research activities), the remote format presented some challenges, including uneven internet access and a lack of familiarity with digital interfaces amongst some participants. Not surprisingly, youth participants were more comfortable and capable using video conferencing tools like Zoom and thus more easily able to adapt to online research activities, whereas some older adult participants did not have access to Zoom or struggled to use the application. This generational "digital divide" prompted us to adapt our activities to respond to the needs and preferences of participants from different age groups, including hosting some conversations with older adults by phone conferencing rather than Zoom.

LIMITED INTERACTIVITY

Given that some research activities took place in remote formats, which generally hinder free-flowing, spontaneous conversation and require a higher degree of structure and formality, some interactivity among participants was lost. Furthermore, the participatory design workshop, which was intended to bring together both youth and older adults for a collaborative workshop, took place in a hybrid format, with a larger group of mostly youth participating in person (following health protocols) and a smaller group of older adults participating online. As a result, opportunities for engagement between participants of different generations were limited.

LANGUAGE

Another challenge was that of language. Westlake's population is highly diverse, as reflected by the age and languages spoken by research participants for this project. English was not the primary language of many of the older adult participants, in particular. In response, we held focus group and thick mapping sessions in English, Spanish, and Korean, and in-depth interviews in both English and Spanish in an effort to capture the voices and experiences of diverse respondents. On-site interviews were also conducted in English or Spanish, depending on the language capacity of participants.

LACK OF FAMILIARITY

A final notable challenge was the general lack of familiarity of most research participants with Golden Age Park. Given that Golden Age Park is a "pocket park" that is much smaller than Lafayette and MacArthur parks and which opened in November 2019, just a few months before the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in LA, most youth or older adult participants were not familiar with Golden Age Park, which made it difficult to assess their experiences and attitudes towards the park. In response, we adapted some research activities to include more descriptive information, maps, photos, and videos of Golden Age Park to help introduce participants to the park and its features. After learning about Golden Age Park in an early focus group activity, one older adult participant visited the park and later reported back on her experience during subsequent research activities. We also responded to this challenge by conducting a larger number of on-site interviews with park users in Golden Age Park, than we had previously anticipated. These interviews were critical in revealing the opinions of users already familiar with the park.

4. EMPIRICAL FINDINGS

The following section presents findings from our research activities, organized according to the following four themes: 1) park usage and COVID-19 impacts, 2) park behaviors, 3) park perceptions, and 4) ideas for the future. We conclude this section with a reflection on the music event our research team hosted on February 26, 2022.

PANDEMIC IMPACTS

Our research suggests that the pandemic has had an uneven impact on users' visits to and experiences of the park. Based on observations alone, there were generally fewer park users during the earlier 'pre-vaccine' stage of the pandemic than a year later. The increase in park use over the time period of this research can be partly explained by the pandemic. It is also likely that more people started learning about the park and visiting it. Indeed, most users told us they had only begun to visit the park after the onset of the pandemic because they had only recently learned about its existence. One interviewee's visits to the park were not affected by the pandemic, as this person did not believe that the pandemic was real. Another user, a mother of two toddlers, remarked that prior to the pandemic she used to take her kids to visit the park at least twice per week, but then stopped visiting the park altogether when the pandemic began. When we interviewed her, she had only started coming back to the park. Another user, diverting slightly from the

topic, took the opportunity to comment on the importance of centering marginalized groups in community discussions, certainly an important consideration when thinking about 'for whom' spaces like Golden Age Park are designed for.

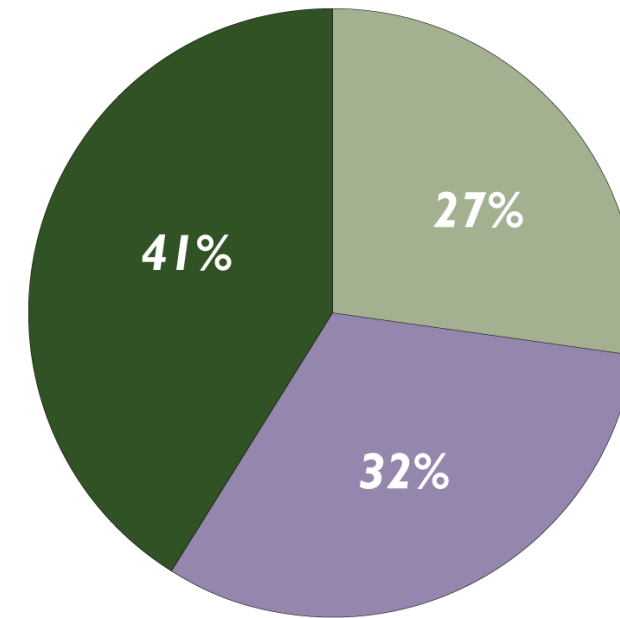
These diverging rationales for visiting the park during the pandemic suggest that there has in fact been an impact on park usage due to the pandemic, but that such impact varied widely, and depended on multiple factors including whether or not there is a perceived danger from the pandemic. A parent with children for example may be more likely to avoid public spaces due to the perceived increase in danger the virus poses to their kids, who took longer to become vaccine eligible.

"This is not a normal time. People are starting to go back to parks, but it's still not a normal time,"

PARK VISITATION

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PARK USERS IN 2020

■ YOUTH <18 Years Old ■ OTHER 18-64 Years Old ■ OLDER ADULT > 65 Years Old



AGE DISTRIBUTION OF PARK USERS IN 2021

■ YOUTH <18 Years Old ■ OTHER 18-64 Years Old ■ OLDER ADULT > 65 Years Old

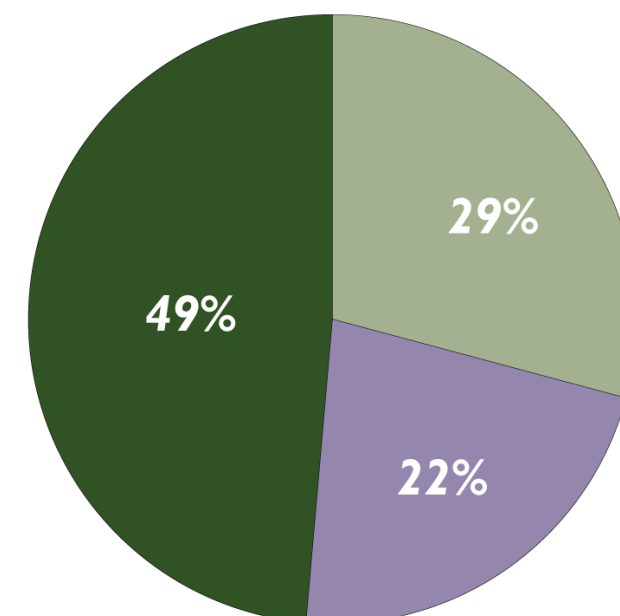


Figure 4.1. Park use in 2020 and 2021

WEEKDAY AND WEEKEND USER COMPARISON

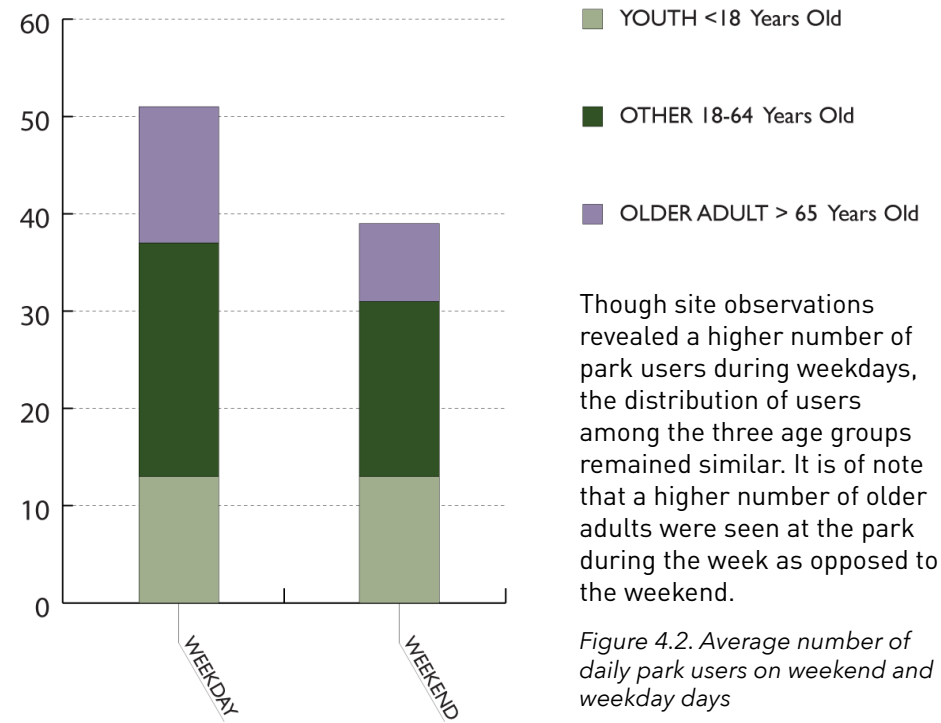


Figure 4.2. Average number of daily park users on weekend and weekday days

2020 AND 2021 USER COMPARISON

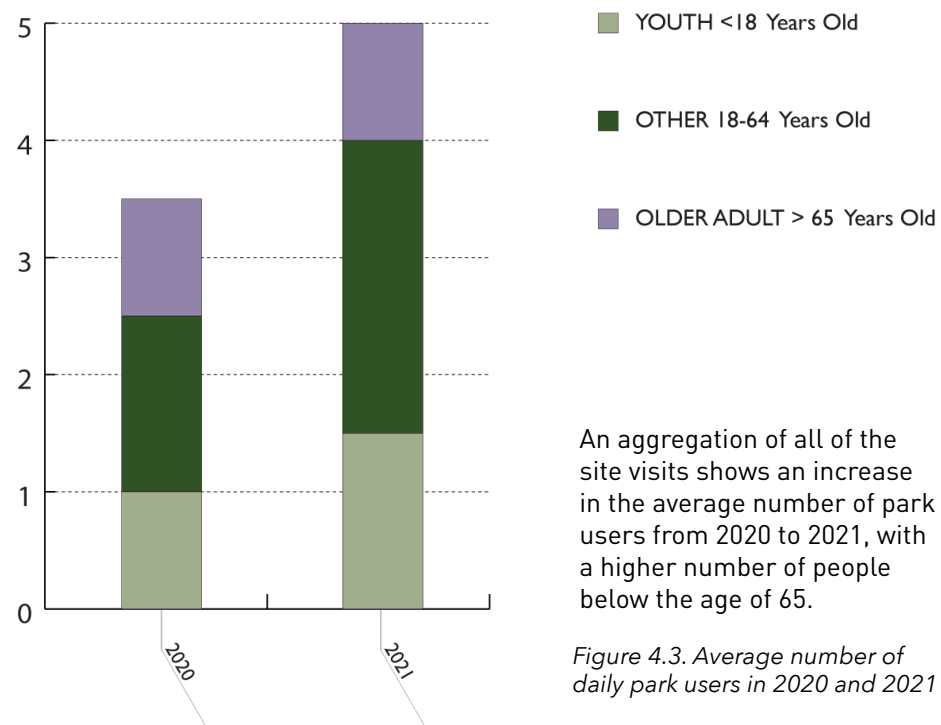


Figure 4.3. Average number of daily park users in 2020 and 2021

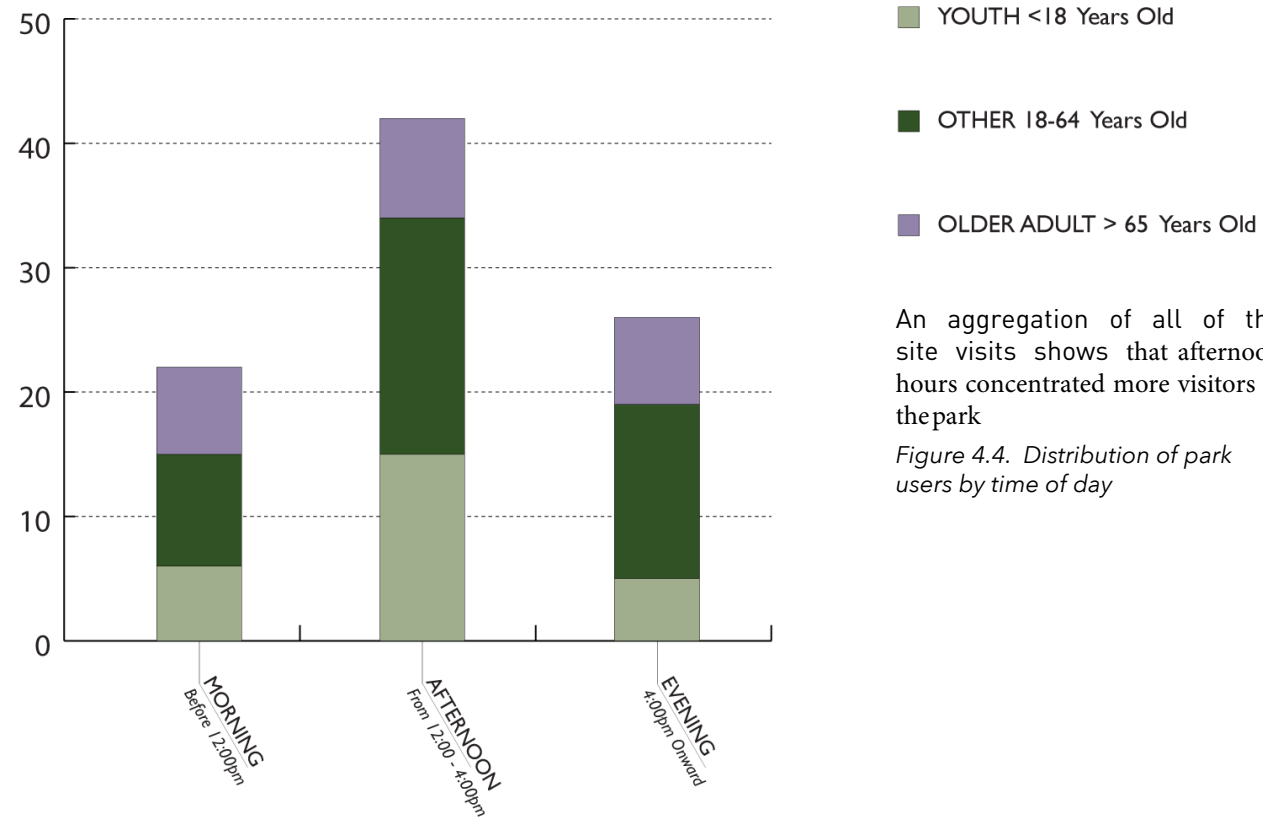
Interviews with community organizations emphasized the impact that the pandemic has had on park visitation, and similarly underlined its uneven impact on park use: "This is not a normal time. People are starting to go back to parks, but it's still not a normal time," said one respondent. Similar to other Los Angeles parks, Golden Age Park was closed to the public at several different times at the beginning of the pandemic, in observance of local public health measures. The pandemic also prompted both SBSS and LANLT to delay planned community programming in the park, which could have attracted more park users in the months following its opening. More specifically, LANLT delayed programming set to begin in March 2020 and is currently planning to resume planned programming in early spring 2022. SBSS paused in-person programming at the outset of the pandemic and still has yet to restart in-person activities at the center. Respondents also emphasized the significant impact of the pandemic in the Westlake neighborhood, specifically, given its high density: "It's not a typical time for folks, especially in communities like Westlake-MacArthur Park that is so extremely dense and where you have multiple families living together in small spaces and where the risk of COVID is so much higher." Furthermore, the impact of the pandemic was particularly acute for older adults in the neighborhood: "During this pandemic we lost several older adults from St. Barnabas and then their family members too. So COVID-19 has a big impact emotionally on older people." As pandemic restrictions loosened and vaccines became more available, some older adults were eager to return to parks and public spaces in the neighborhood, while others still remained wary of spending time outdoors, in public. Respondents believed that, given the upheaval caused by the pandemic, the present moment is a "snapshot in time" that does not reflect typical park usage, but are hopeful that the park will eventually see its expected rates and use in the coming years.

"It's not a typical time for folks, especially in communities like Westlake-MacArthur Park that is so extremely dense and where you have multiple families living together in small spaces and where the risk of COVID is so much higher."



Photo: Gibson Bastar

DISTRIBUTION OF PARK USERS BY TIME OF DAY

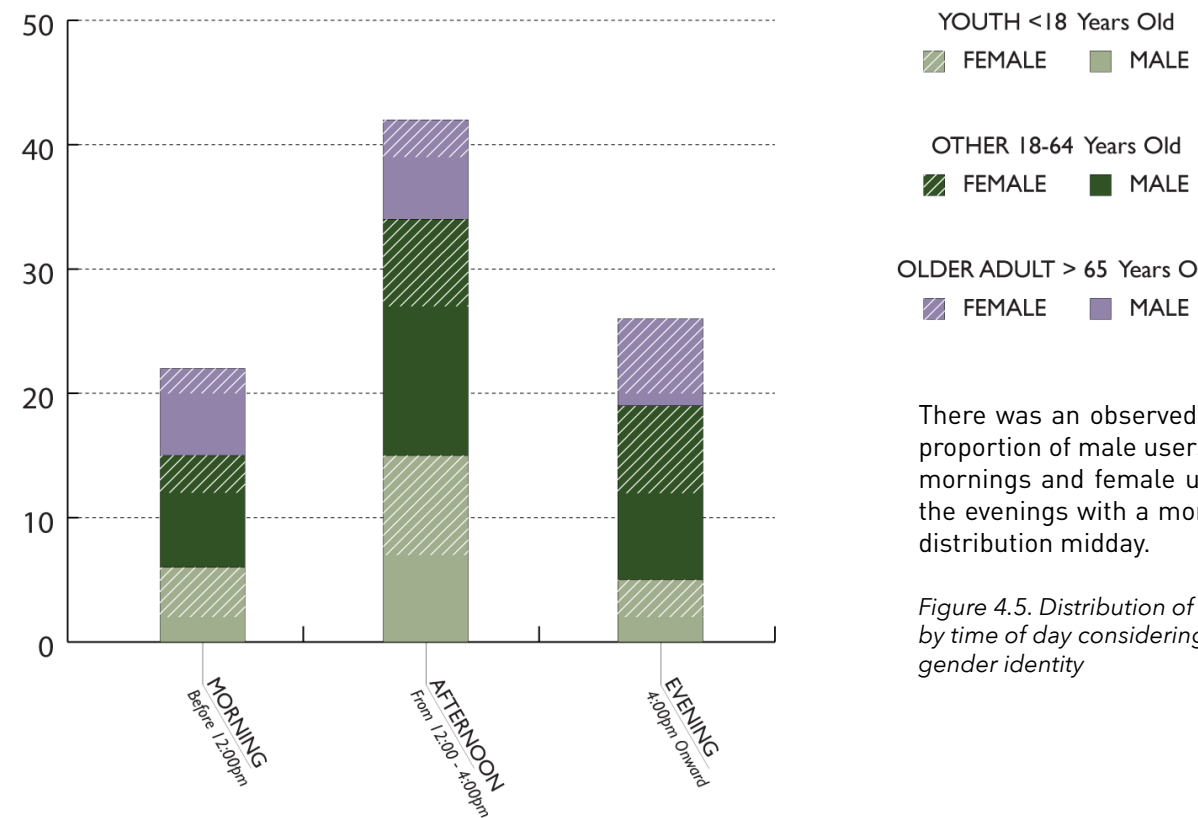


An aggregation of all of the site visits shows that afternoon hours concentrated more visitors at the park

Figure 4.4. Distribution of park users by time of day



DISTRIBUTION OF PARK USERS BY TIME OF DAY AND GENDER



There was an observed higher proportion of male users in the mornings and female users in the evenings with a more even distribution midday.

Figure 4.5. Distribution of park users by time of day considering observed gender identity



PARK BEHAVIORS

'Park behaviors' include observable activities that we noted during site visits, as well as activities shared by park users during interviews and focus groups discussions. Golden Age Park seems to satisfy the park users' needs for resting or eating there but also for exercising.

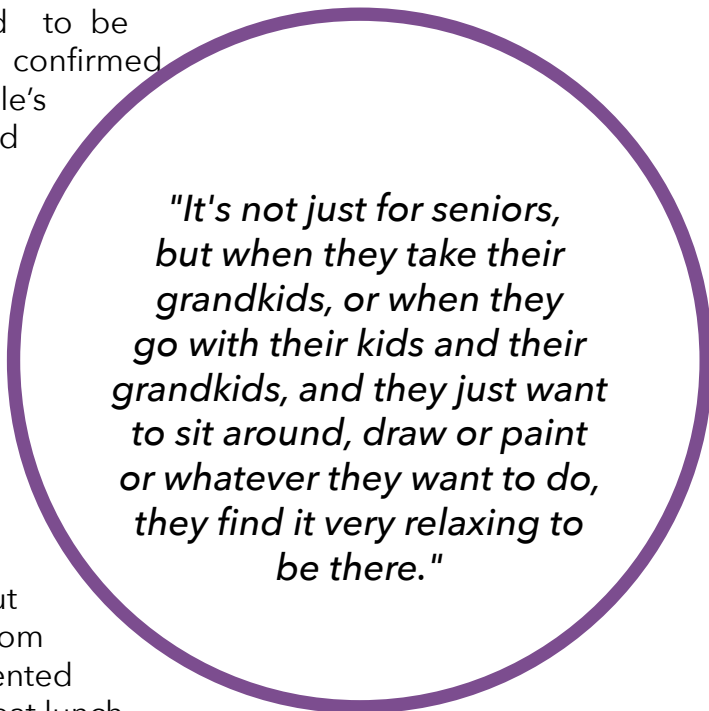
BASIC NEEDS: FOOD & REST

'Food' and 'rest' are considered 'basic needs' in the sense that all human beings need to eat and rest every day. 'Rest' in this regard refers to leisurely activities like sitting, reading, napping, and watching passersby. Older adult park users were commonly observed to be engaging in these more restful, leisurely activities. We also noticed many people coming to the park with a prepared meal and sitting at one of the tables to enjoy it. Several park users who came to the park to eat appeared to be unhoused.

During an on-site interview, an older Latinx man who appeared to be unhoused shared that he came to the park to eat a meal he had brought with him. He also shared that he had only visited a handful of times, and learned about the park from his friend who lives nearby. He came because his friend invited him to eat some tacos and fruit in the park one day. When asked about other activities in the park he enjoyed, he noted that he only comes to the park to eat, and that there is a place that provides free food to unhoused folks just up the street (pointing toward 7th on Coronado St) that he frequently visits.

We observed several park users who appeared to be unhoused, though these assumptions cannot be confirmed given the sensitivity of inquiring about people's housing status. The likely presence of unhoused folks confirms the important role the park plays in providing a place of rest and respite for everyone who wants this, but also some park users' perception that the park is somewhat unsafe due to a perceived lack of cleanliness and deviant behavior (perceptions of safety are discussed more fully in the following section on 'park perceptions').

On another site visit, we talked to a middle aged Latinx man, who visits the park two to three times per week during his lunch break, which lasts about 20-25 minutes. He works nearby, a couple blocks from the park, and usually walks there alone. He lamented that his short lunch break only affords him time to eat lunch and rest in the shade, but not enough time to do other activities like use the exercise equipment.



"It's not just for seniors, but when they take their grandkids, or when they go with their kids and their grandkids, and they just want to sit around, draw or paint or whatever they want to do, they find it very relaxing to be there."

Indeed, rest and relaxation were important for many park users, particularly older adults. One older woman said she visits the park to let her grandkids loose and play, during which she can "sit, chat, and relax." The park's opportunities for rest and relaxation for older adults, in combination with active play opportunities for children, create an environment with great intergenerational potential. In an interview with a community organization, one respondent noted: "It's not just for seniors, but when they take their grandkids, or when they go with their kids and their grandkids, and they just want to sit around, draw or paint or whatever they want to do, they find it very relaxing to be there."

Reading was another commonly observed and referenced activity. As discussed later in this analysis, the ability to relax in Golden Age Park is closely tied to the park being perceived as clean, safe, relatively calm, and uncrowded, attributes which are also tied to the aesthetically pleasing landscape of the park.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Our site observations and interviews confirm that the park is also used for a variety of social gatherings and recreational activities, including physical exercise; chatting with friends, neighbors or family; playing games, and using the recreation equipment.

Among older adults, gardening and walking were two regularly observed physical activities. Gardeners were observed tending to the flower beds in the back of the park, as well as the flowers located in the circular bed towards the park's entrance. Several interviewees confirmed that gardening was a preferred activity that drew them to the park. We also observed several older adults taking walks in the park, which is made possible by the circular path that winds throughout it. One walking pair, an older Asian woman with a middle-age Asian woman companion, were observed to walk for exercise on a rather regular basis, typically during the late-afternoon.

During a morning on-site interview at Golden Age Park, an older African American man, accompanying his dog, shared that he lives right across the street and typically visits the park once a day to take his dog out. He mentioned that he knows that dogs are not permitted in the park, but in the morning there is usually "no one paying attention," and he always picks up after his dog. "I come with my dog most mornings when the attendant isn't here," he said, mentioning that the park attendant (when present) often tells him that his dog is not permitted in the park. "I come every day with my dog, I sit and I pray. It's my daily prayer, my time with the Lord." In addition to daily visits, he also visits the park often for celebrations and special occasions, as a host or when invited by friends, usually focused around the BBQ pits and picnic table areas. He mentioned that during these events there are often lots of children around.

Parents with children were also commonly observed at the park and engaged in physical activity. Children were frequently observed playing on the exercise equipment that is designed for older adults. We never noticed that this presented any issues. In fact, older adults were never observed using the



exercise equipment, even on days when no children were present or playing on the equipment.¹ On a couple occasions, older adults were observed sitting on the benches and watching the children play, an activity that they seemed to enjoy.

It is also worth describing the observed recreational activities of children at the park in more detail. On one Tuesday afternoon, the park was buzzing with activity: there was a family with several young children playing in the central grassy area, a pair of young adults chatting on a picnic bench, and another man sitting alone at a separate picnic bench. The family included an adult man and a woman who appeared to be Latinx and in their 20s or 30s, and who were speaking Spanish. The couple sat on a bench with an infant child, looking on toward the grassy area where the children played: two toddlers (both girls) and two children who appeared to be around 7-10 years old (both boys). The children, both younger and older, were playing together in the open grassy area with a moveable plastic slide, which appeared to have been brought to the park and was not part of the park's standard, fixed play equipment. Shortly after, a slightly older boy, who appeared to be in his early teens, entered the park and joined in playing with the two children. The two younger boys left the park and returned with a soccer ball and a basketball, respectively, and added these toys into the game on the lawn. The older boy and two younger boys played more actively, but cooperated with the two toddlers and helped bring them into the activities. About 90 minutes after our arrival, the family left together, bringing the basketball and soccer ball with them, but leaving the plastic slide behind.

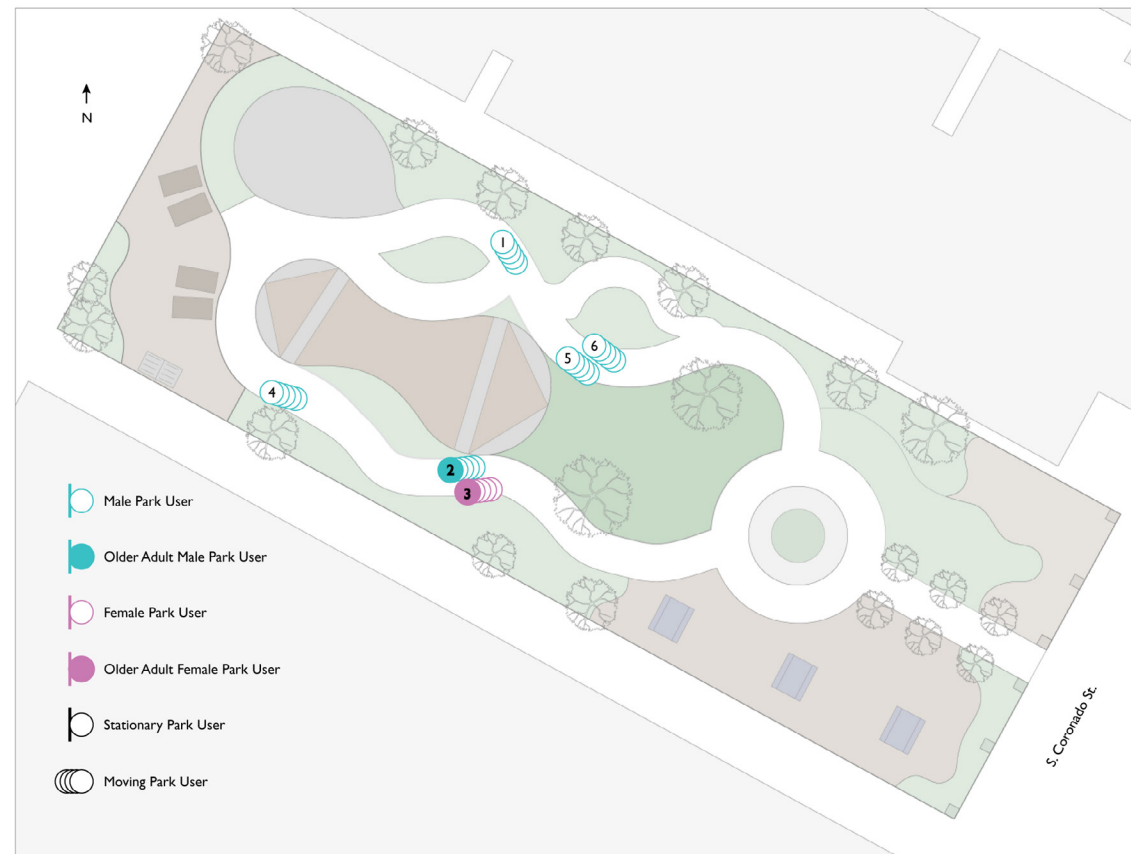
The children, both younger and older, were playing together in the open grassy area with a moveable plastic slide, which appeared to have been brought to the park and was not part of the park's standard, fixed play equipment.



Such impromptu uses of the space, and bringing a plastic slide to the park, may suggest that some park users regularly return to the space and feel comfortable leaving behind items like the slide even after they leave the park. Indeed, our on-site interviews with park users confirmed that many are 'regulars' at the park. Parents frequently bring their children to the park to play, and these children sometimes play with other children who happen to be present. Such activities speak to the potential of Golden Age Park to act as a trusted neighborhood playground and to foster play activities among children who may not know each other.

¹This does not mean that older adults never use the exercise equipment. It is quite possible that we just happened to visit during times that no one was using the equipment. What we want to emphasize here is that the equipment serves the additional function of providing a kind of play structure for children.

BEHAVIOR MAPS

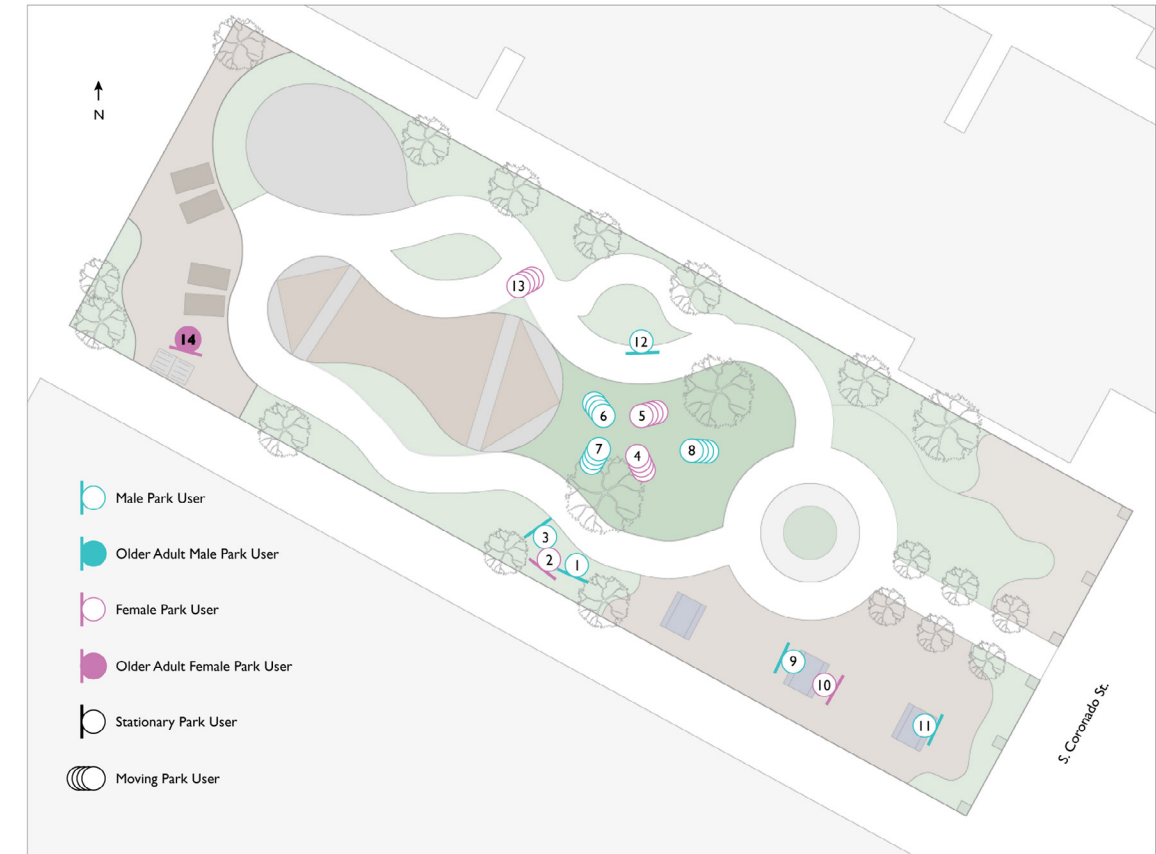


Behavioral Map
Friday, October 29th 2021
Evening, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

- ① An adult black man walks into the park to throw something away.
- ②③ An elderly Asian couple moves from trash can to trash can checking for recyclable items.
- ④ An adult white man walking his dog entered the park to throw away poop bag in the rear can.
- ⑤⑥ Two young adult white men walking their dog entered the park to throw away dog poop in the rear can.

During this evening site observation, we noticed 4 separate groups or individuals walk into the park to throw something away before promptly leaving. This could suggest a lack of public trash cans in the area.

Figure 4.6. Behavior Map of October 29th 2021 site observation

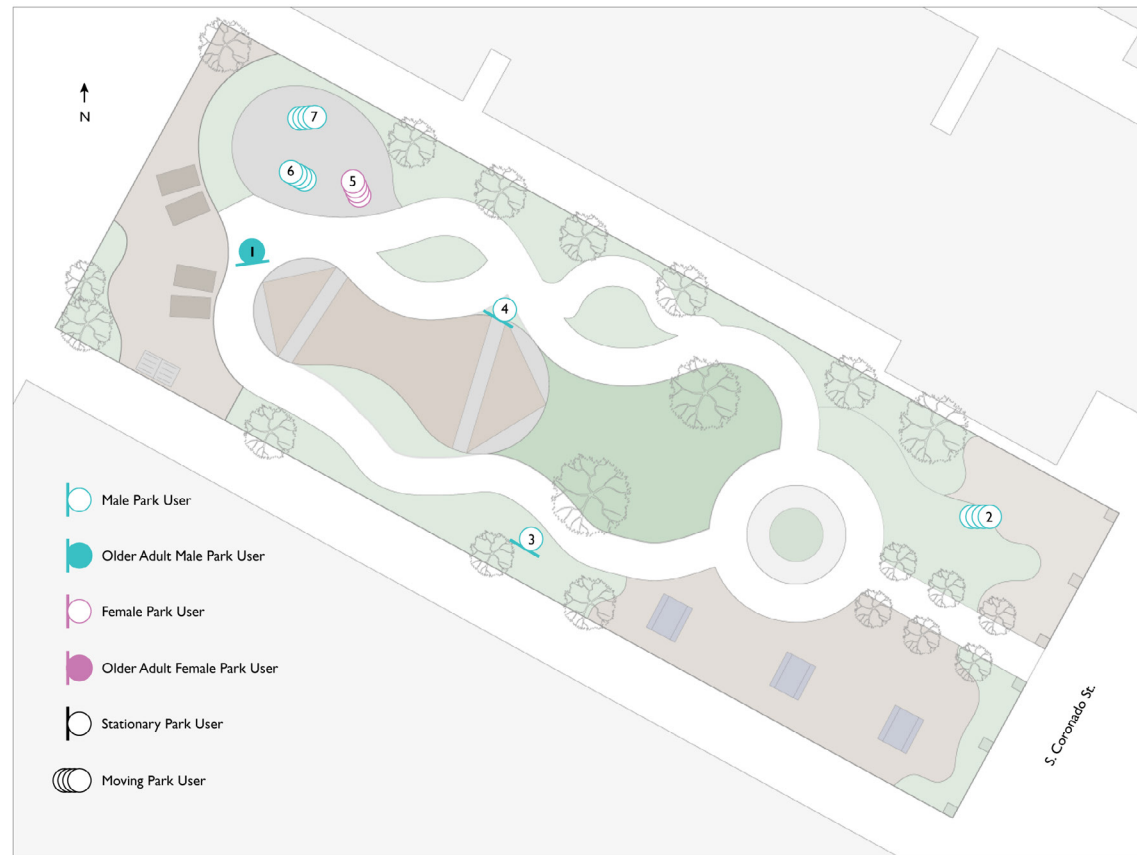


Behavioral Map
Tuesday, November 2nd 2021
Afternoon, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

- ①②③④⑤⑥⑦⑧ A middle aged Latino man and woman sit with their newborn baby while their five children play in the grassy area. Two sisters and three brothers, ranging in age from toddlers to pre-teen play with a moveable slide and rubber ball.
- ⑨⑩ A couple of twenty- or thirty-something white adults, a male and female, sit at a picnic table and chat.
- ⑪ An adult black man (40-50's) sits alone and talks on the phone.
- ⑫ A teenage boy washes his hands at the water fountain and promptly leaves.
- ⑬ A middle-aged woman (50's) walks a slow lap around the park before leaving.
- ⑭ An older Latina woman (65) spends time in the garden space.

This was a busy day at Golden Age Park, there were a total of 14 individuals in the park. This evening shows the variety of park uses, a family of 8 played in the middle of the park, an older woman gardened, a young man washed his hands in the drinking fountain, a young couple spent time at a picnic table, a middle aged woman walked a lap around the entire park before leaving.

Figure 4.7. Behavior Map of November 2nd 2021 site observation



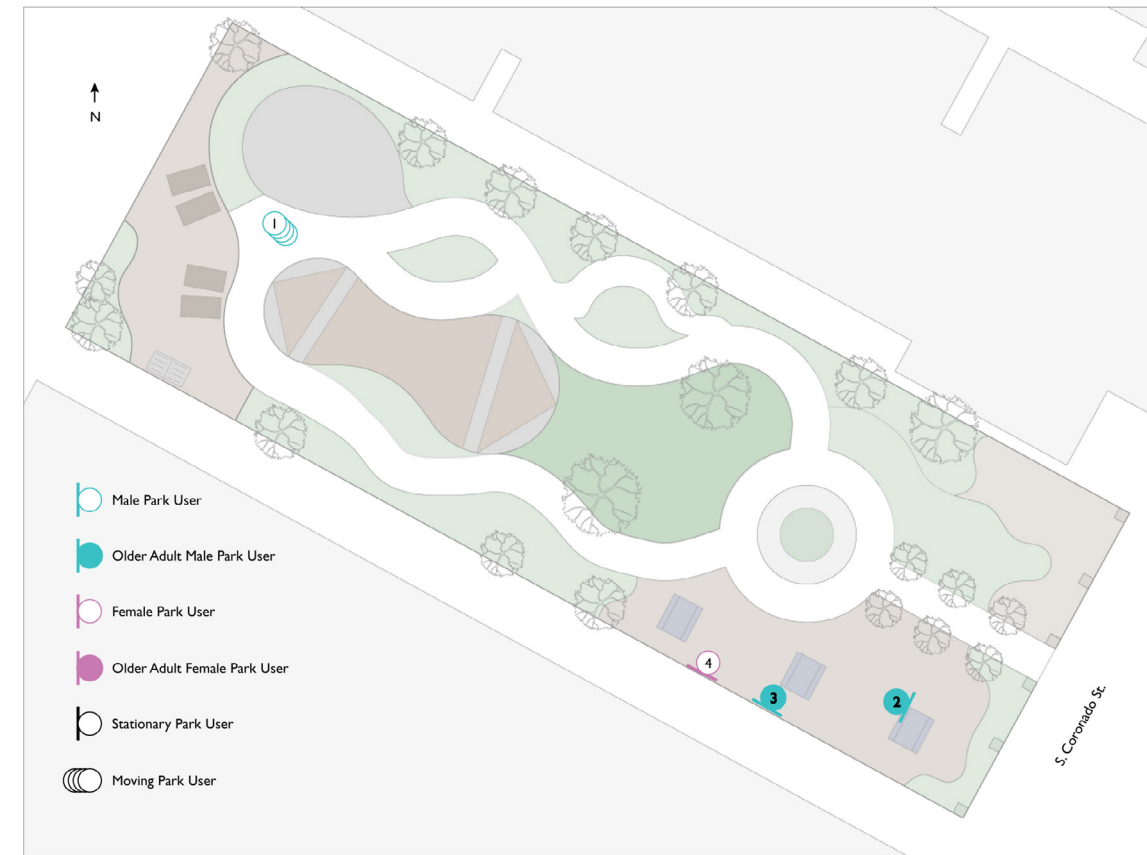
Behavioral Map
 Saturday, November 6th 2021
 Afternoon, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

- 1 An older Asian man walks purposefully toward the back of the park near the community garden, where he stood in the sun to take a phone call.
- 2 A middle aged (50's) man enters the park, checks the first garbage can, and walks along park path checking the flower beds. He leaves for some time before returning to water the planting beds.
- 3 A middle aged (50's) man walks to the water fountain for a drink, then sits on a bench in the shade and dozes off.
- 4 A young adult black man enters the park and walks to the water fountain for a drink, and then leaves.

5 6 7
 Three unaccompanied young Latinx children run directly toward the playground at the back of the park and begin what appears to be a routine form of play.

This particular site observation revealed a number of interesting park operations. Over the course of the observation, we noted a man who appeared to be responsible for park maintenance checking the trash cans and watering the flower beds, as well as a group of children engaging in what appeared to be a regular form of play on the spinning play equipment.

Figure 4.8. Behavior Map of November 6th 2021 site observation



Behavioral Map
 Friday, November 12th 2021
 Morning, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

- 1 Younger adult Latino man walks to the back of the park and takes a few photos on his cell phone, then leaves.
- 2 An older black man walking a small dog enters the park and sits down at a picnic table in the shade.
- 3 An older black man sits along the wall in the shade near the front of the park, eventually dozing off.
- 4 A young adult black woman sits along the same wall drinking a can of juice.

During a morning site visit, we observed a range of park users; an older adult male who visits the park regularly for his morning prayers; an older adult male who stopped in to meet with a friend; a young man who briefly visited the park to take a few photos.

Figure 4.9. Behavior Map of November 12th 2021 site observation

SHADE STUDY

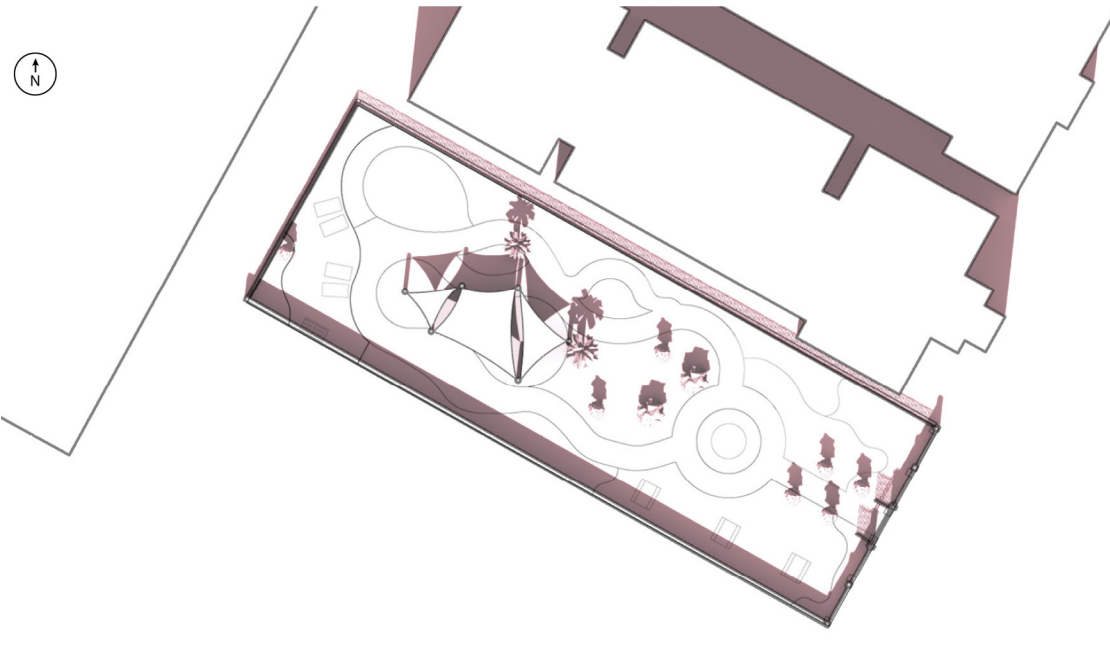
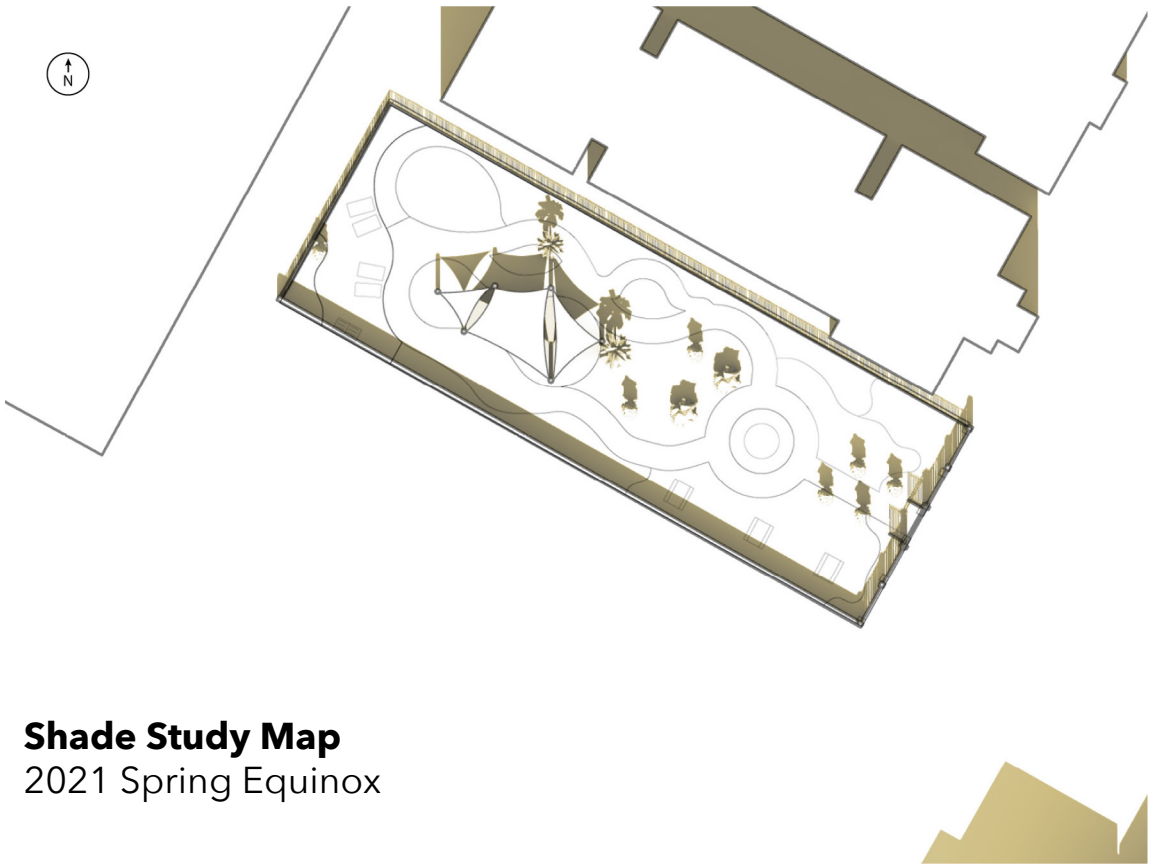
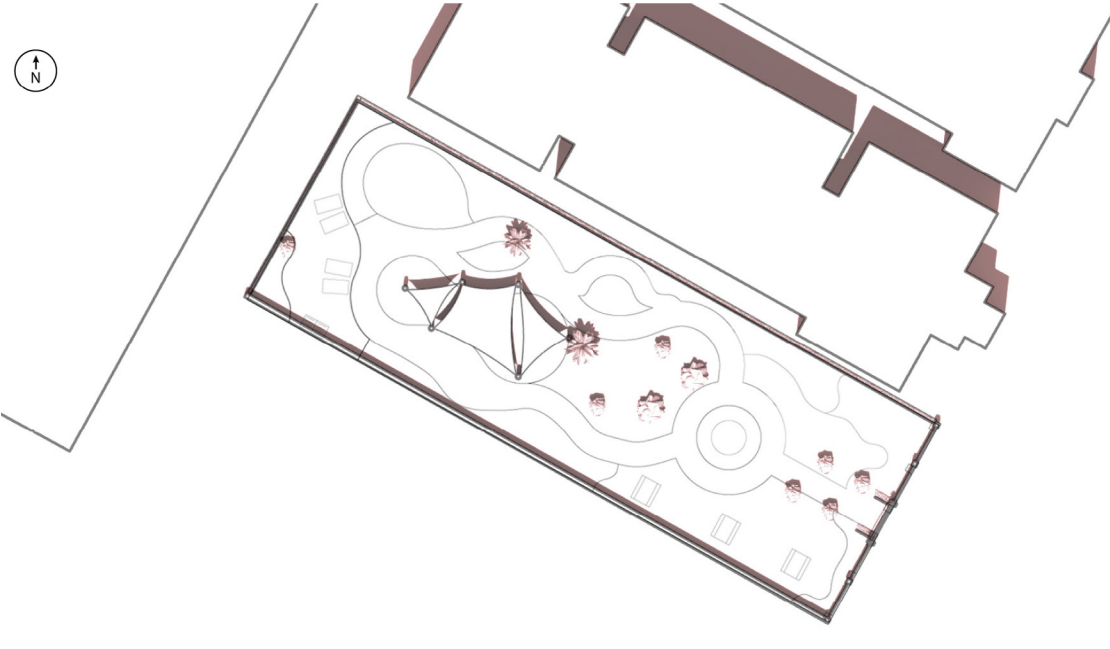
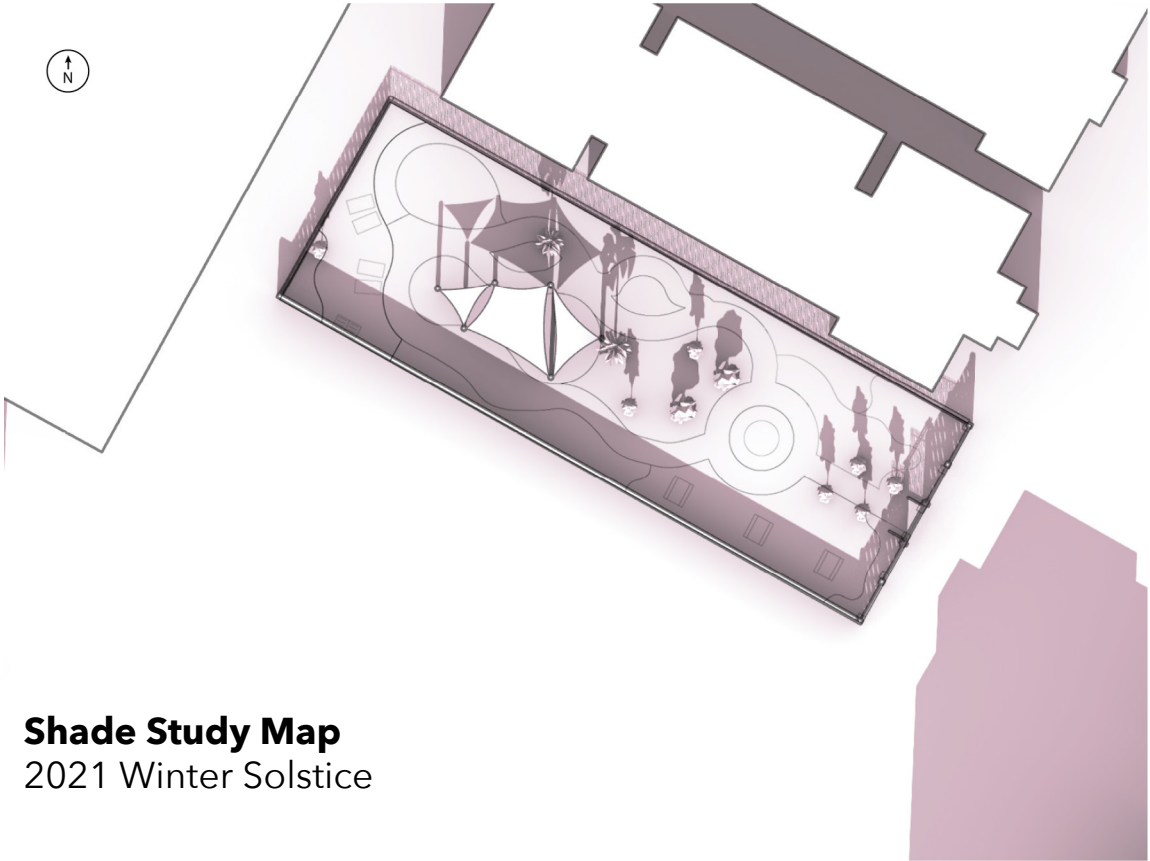
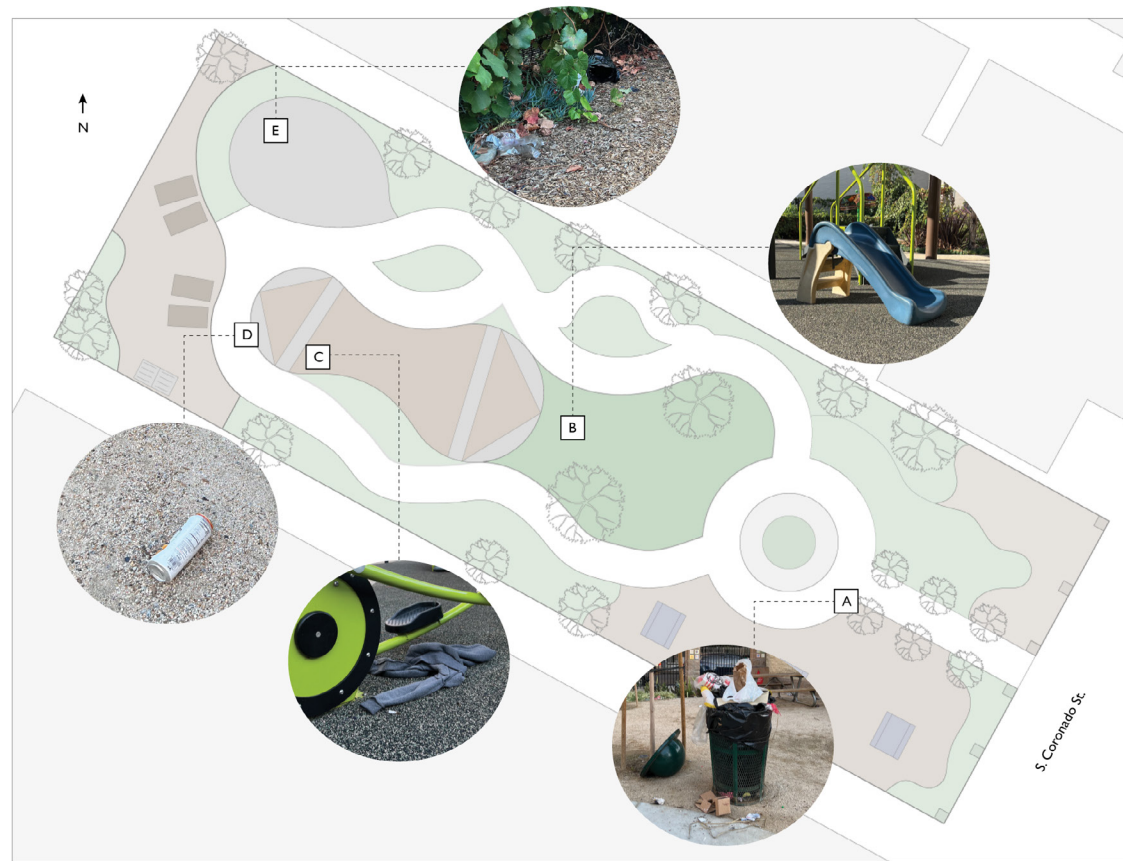


Figure 4.11. Shade Maps of Golden Age Park

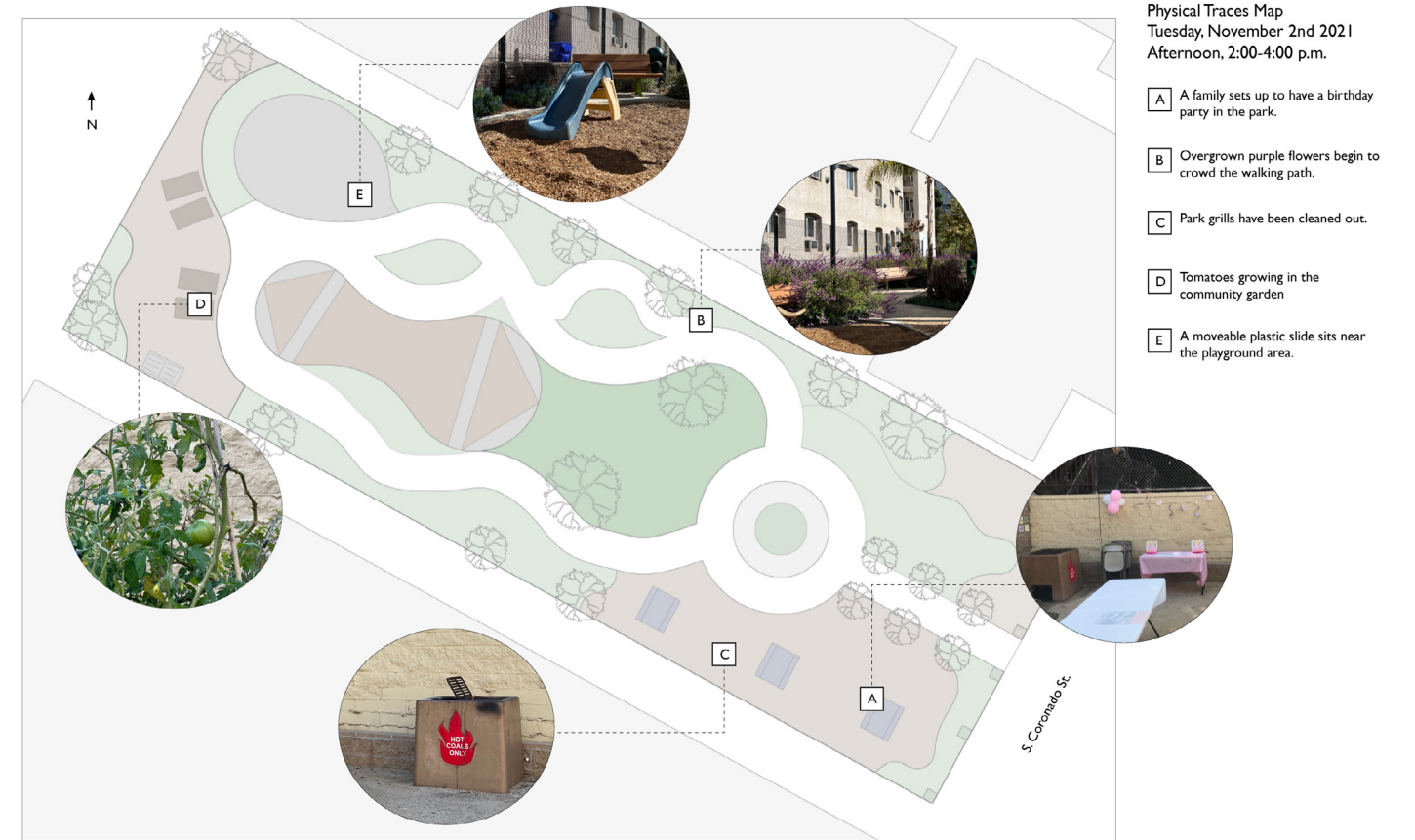
OBSERVATIONS

PHYSICAL TRACES



- Physical Traces Map
Friday, October 29th 2021
Evening, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- A Trash is overflowing from the park trash can.
 - B A moveable plastic slide sits at the edge of the shade canopy.
 - C A gray sweatshirt found beneath one of the exercise machines.
 - D An empty juice can is sitting in the middle of the walking path.
 - E A few empty plastic bags have been blown into the fence along the garden.

Figure 4.12. Physical Traces in Golden Age Park on October 29th 2021



- Physical Traces Map
Tuesday, November 2nd 2021
Afternoon, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
- A A family sets up to have a birthday party in the park.
 - B Overgrown purple flowers begin to crowd the walking path.
 - C Park grills have been cleaned out.
 - D Tomatoes growing in the community garden
 - E A moveable plastic slide sits near the playground area.

Figure 4.13. Physical Traces in Golden Age Park on November 2nd 2021

PARK PERCEPTIONS

'Park perceptions' were collected primarily through interviews, thick mapping, and focus groups. These included preferences for certain park amenities, perceived safety (or lack thereof), and what was generally liked, disliked, or felt 'missing' from the perspective of park users.

APPRECIATION FOR NATURE AND CALM

When asked about the qualities of Golden Age Park they appreciated, interviewees of all generations commented on the park's landscape design, and about the "nature" of the park and the attendant "calm" that "nature" brings. An older African American man said he appreciated "feel[ing] the warmth of the sun," and "breathing fresh air" at Golden Age Park. A middle aged Latinx man shared that "I like the nature, the trees, birds, flowers, and watching the leaves change." He also appreciated that the flowers are watered well. A middle aged Latinx woman with two kids shared that she likes the quiet of the park, and that "there is space for the kids and they get to have contact with nature there. There

are a lot of birds around." Another middle aged Latinx woman who was at the park

with her nephew found the park to be "calming", due to its beautiful landscaping and relative quiet. "It is especially calming when you compare it to the other bigger parks nearby here" she said, meaning Lafayette and MacArthur Park. When asked what she liked about the park, she said "I like the calming aspects of it and the grassy areas where you can comfortably sit and relax." Similarly, another Latinx woman, who appeared in her 20s or 30s and who had a toddler with her, said she likes that the park is really "calm, there's not a lot of people," and shared that her kids like playing in the park.

Comparing Golden Age to other parks in the area, a middle aged African American man shared that "[Golden Age park] is not like other parks around here. Here nobody bothers you, nobody messes with you." When asked why he thought that was, he replied: "No one really knows about this place because it's not on a busy road. See that's what I like about it, it's quiet here." The relaxing quality of the park was also echoed by an African American boy who frequently plays hand-held video games in the park. "I like the park because it is relaxing and because it's cool," he said.

"I like the nature, the trees, birds, flowers, and watching the leaves change."

"I like the calming aspects of it and the grassy areas where you can comfortably sit and relax."

"no one really knows about this place because it's not on a busy road. See that's what I like about it, it's quiet here."

MEETING NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS

Interviews with community organizations reflected similar perceptions of the park as "a small, intimate space designed primarily as a passive space." Given Westlake's high density and low access to green space, the park serves an important role in the neighborhood. As one LANLT representative stated, "The best benefit the park provides is just respite, just green space. A place to just get outside for residents who have no yard. And I think that's a huge amenity, because otherwise, if you live in that neighborhood, you're walking a long way to get to some place that has green." She further explained that while both Lafayette and MacArthur parks are nearby, these are much bigger, much more active parks, without "that kind of protected, quiet, calming feel." In contrast, Golden Age Park was described as "an oasis," incorporating quieter settings along with settings to exercise or socialize, whether engaging with the broader community or gathering for celebrations with a small group of friends at the picnic tables. The park manages to fit a broad range of activity spaces within its small footprint, including the community garden, picnic areas, exercise equipment, children's play areas, and walking paths, offering amenities to attract a wide range of park users.

A staff member from SBSS shared that he had heard from older adults that time spent in the open space of the park was particularly beneficial to the mental health of older adult residents of the nearby, high-density housing: "Sometimes when you're living in the buildings, you're crushed, staring at the walls. You don't see your people. When you open a window, there's another wall from another building. So when they go down [to the park], they kind of feel like emotionally not restrained, they feel open. So I think that for mental health, it's very valuable... physically and mentally, emotionally. I think the park has been a good source for that."

APPRECIATION FOR CLEANLINESS

Our site observations clearly demonstrated that the park is clean and well-maintained, an attribute that was also mentioned in our interviews with both park users and community organizations. The LANLT, which is responsible for park operations and maintenance, noted that few issues have arisen since the park's opening other than some occasional graffiti, and emphasized that the park's cleanliness makes it more welcoming to users.

A teenage Latinx boy shared that even though he wished that the park were bigger, he likes that it is clean. Similarly, a middle aged African American man said that "my favorite aspect of the park is that it is clean and well-maintained." The sentiment that the park is relatively clean and well-maintained adds to the sense that the park is a place to enjoy one's aesthetic surroundings. Cleanliness also contributes to a sense of safety, particularly during the time of pandemic when fears of being in public are tied to transmission of airborne viruses.

In nearly every conversation with participants, both youth and older adults expressed the perception that lack of cleanliness and maintenance were challenges for other neighborhood public spaces, most prominently at MacArthur Park. Only Golden Age Park was exempt from participants' concerns over cleanliness and maintenance, which can largely be explained by the park's newness, but also its small size, more enclosed nature, better maintenance², and the fact that relatively few people know about and use this park.

CONCERNS OVER SAFETY

The park was generally seen as a more intimate, quiet, and calm space; and the expressed concerns over safety were by and large limited. Indeed, some park users said they never felt unsafe visiting the park. A Latinx woman who appeared in her 20s or 30s, and who had a toddler with her said that the park provides a "safe distraction for the kids", who would otherwise be "stuck inside all day with no place to play." She felt that the park was safe for everyone, particularly the kids.

Others did express some scenarios where safety concerns might arise. Most safety concerns were attributed to the presence of park users perceived to be unhoused or involved in deviant behavior like doing drugs. A middle aged Latinx woman with two kids who lives across the street from the park said she usually feels safe in the park, but she "will check from her apartment to see if there are unhoused people in the park or people smoking before bringing the kids over." Similarly, a middle aged Latinx man who visits the park 2-3 times a week during his lunch breaks said that he felt safe 75% of the time, but the other 25% he does not feel safe, especially when it is dirty in the park or "when there are guys on the street or around the park who feel off". These "guys" he said, are not usually inside the park, but are in the surrounding area.

A Black Latinx boy said he does not feel unsafe in the park, but rather needs to watch his "valuable electronics" (Ipad, Iphone, gaming devices that he brings to the park. He added that the only thing he doesn't like about the park is that often he sees indigent people coming here to do drugs: "Muchas veces viene indigentes y toma drogas". He also said that the appearance of indigents is a rather new thing and that there is no particular time of day he notices them.

An older African American man shared that "People come through recycling, we have a lot of homeless and addicted people, a lot of them use this park... but you don't see them doing drugs in the park." He advised us not to visit the park alone, saying that a lot of stuff happens in this area: "I wouldn't want to see a young lady like you, or a young man for that matter, get into anything."

Overall, safety concerns were centered on the perceived deviant behavior of folks observed to be unhoused, doing drugs, or involved in some sketchy activities in or around the park .

² Unlike MacArthur Park and Lafayette Park, which are maintained by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, the Golden Age Park is maintained by the nonprofit Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust.

PARK LOCATION

Golden Age Park's location, surrounded by residential buildings in a densely populated, low-income neighborhood, was seen as an asset by respondents. One older African American man, when asked what he liked the most about the park, said "I like that it is near my home." As one SBSS representative shared, "The location is great because around the particular park there are older adults living with their families, even families, children and all that. But one of the things too is that the area is low income people...so they have access to a park, to a public space like that. I think it's very important." Another representative of LANLT emphasized the local-serving nature of the park, which is "intended to reach the people in the immediate neighborhood; it's not a park that you're going to drive to, it's not a park that you're going to walk very far to get to."

While the park's proximity to nearby bus lines may offer easy access for those who do not live in the immediate area, many respondents in the focus groups were not aware of the park and had not visited it, while others believed it was a private park because it was gated, suggesting that improved on-site signage and wayfinding features on nearby streets could help to alert residents to the park's existence and attract them to visit it.



Figure 4.14. Map of Golden Age in Westlake

SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Park users shared several ideas and desires for how the park might be improved. These primarily included infrastructural additions like restrooms, lights, and shade, as well as additions that support recreation. During the participatory design exercise, we also asked older adults and youth what they generally desired in terms of public space in their neighborhood.

SPACES TO PLAY

Most frequently, we heard requests for more options for play. Swings were suggested by four separate park users, a couple others asked for jungle gyms, and one requested a place to play soccer. A Latinx woman who was playing with her nephew in the park asked for swings and said: "Couldn't they have put in a jungle gym or something?" A Latinx teen said he wished the park had a soccer field and that it was bigger. He also said swings would be nice. These recommendations were made with the intention of drawing more kids to the park.

ART & SHADE

The second most common suggestion we heard was providing more shade. A middle aged African American man echoed previous comments about making the park more amenable to kids when he talked about how the design of the park should come "from the community" and recommended more shade to protect from the sun and rain. He specified that the covering should be "rainbow colored" to make it appealing to youth. He added that "swings would also be a nice addition" as well as more art in the park, potentially even a mural on the south wall of the park that depicts "Black and Hispanic leaders" speaking to the history of Los Angeles. A middle age Latinx woman who lives across the street from the park and brings her two toddler children to play there a couple times per week shared that "more shade would be nice." She was optimistic that the recently planted trees would eventually grow taller and provide more shade.

RESTROOMS & LIGHT

There were some other requests for enhanced infrastructure in the park. Some users suggested restrooms, which would allow kids and older adults to spend extended time in the park comfortably. An older African American man said "I wish they would turn the electricity on!" and explained that he and his family had a birthday party in the park, but it was in the evening and there was no lighting. They put food out but the only light was from the street lamp outside. During the winter months, "there's no light in here, even with all these lamps". He wishes that,

during the winter months, the park would stay open a bit later. In order for people to use the park safely in the evenings during colder months, the electricity schedule should change according to sunset times.

An older African American man said "I wish they would turn the electricity on!" an explained that he and his family had a birthday party in the park, but it was the evening and there was no lighting

"Couldn't they have put in a jungle gym or something?"

While participants in focus groups, thick-mapping, and participatory design exercises suggested that the park's lack of restroom facilities prevented them from using the park, subsequent conversations with representatives from SBSS and LANLT added further nuance to this complex issue. Some older adults from SBSS raised the lack of restrooms as an issue, but a representative from SBSS emphasized that restrooms might attract criminal activity and other disturbances. A respondent from LANLT emphasized this same point,

stating that "restrooms are some of the most contentious issues" in parks, and are not often included

in small pocket parks due to size, cost, and maintenance challenges. While ideally all parks would have restroom facilities, given the small size of Golden Age Park, restroom facilities would assume a significant amount of space in the park, limiting the other spaces and activities that could be accommodated. Furthermore, restrooms are expensive to permit and construct. Finally, restrooms present considerable maintenance and safety challenges that make ongoing operations both challenging and costly. It was suggested that for special events and programming, portable restrooms could be brought to the site to serve the needs of park users at a low cost.

"Restrooms are some of the most contentious issues"

PROGRAMMING AND WAYFINDING

Throughout early focus groups, thick mapping, and interviews, it was clear that very few neighborhood residents, both older adults and youth, were aware of or had visited the park. In subsequent interviews with community organizations, the importance of attracting users to the park was emphasized. LANLT intends to resume a range of community programming in the park, including arts, recreation, and exercise-based programs and classes, in early spring 2022, refining offerings over time based on the preferences of users. In an interview, LANLT staff emphasized that the park is already well-equipped to accommodate recreational programming. While SBSS currently does not have a timeline to return to in-person programming, staff were excited about the possibility of bringing their older adult clients on field trips to the park, offering tai chi and other exercise programs using the existing exercise equipment, as well as gardening activities, reading groups, and walking groups in the park, and potentially hosting a party to welcome older adults back to the park.

In addition to programming, other ideas to promote awareness of the park included improved signage and wayfinding. Interviews with older adults and community organizations revealed that some older adults believed the park was a private space, due in part to its front gates and, ironically, because the park is so clean and well-maintained. Other respondents were simply unaware of the park's existence, as they had never been to or walked by the park. Enhanced signage at the park to clearly demonstrate that the park is open to the public, as well as wayfinding signage on nearby streets, were two suggestions emerging from interviews to promote awareness and attract more users to the park.

INTERGENERATIONAL PUBLIC SPACE

During the participatory design activity, both youth and older adults welcomed the idea that park space can be designed to be more inclusive of diverse age groups. As a youth stated, "With all the open space they have in the park, we could utilize it for flowers. I've heard older generations talk about how there were a lot of trees where they used to live, and now in the city, they miss trees and flowers." Older adults expressed interest in yoga, music and dance classes, concerts, board games, art activities, and intergenerational language learning programs. As one older adult mentioned: "Children speak English very well. So I can learn English from them. I think this is a good idea." One older adult expressed her desires of an intergenerational space as follows: "I would like a park with areas for children, young people, and seniors. I would like a park that is for the family and enjoy having a cafeteria. So that older adults can play dominoes. They can play shuffleboard. Teens can play basketball. Young children can play on swings, playgrounds... and older people can sit and watch the children play."



A FESTIVAL FOR INTERGENERATIONAL PUBLIC SPACE

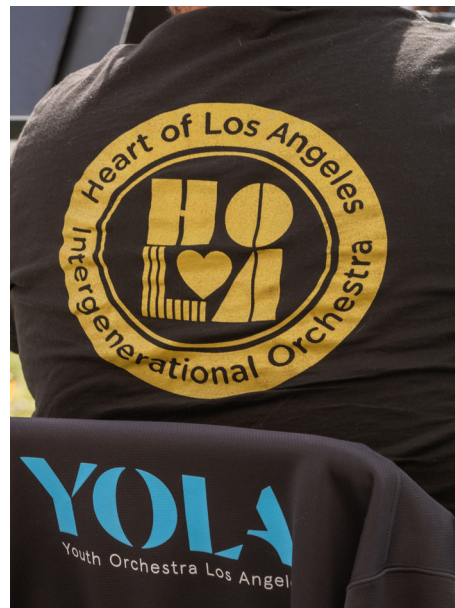
Over 100 attendees attended an event hosted jointly by our research team and our partner community organizations. The event was called Common Ground: A Festival for Intergenerational Public Space and was intended to at once raise awareness of the park's existence among locals, and assess the kinds of activities and amenities that would be appealing to have in the park. Among the 25 attendees who filled out a survey during the event, 15 identified as female, 10 as male. Fourteen identified as Hispanic/Latino/a, six as Asian Pacific Islander, and five as Caucasian/White. Two attendees indicated they were ages 17 or under, five marked 25-34, five marked 35-44, four marked 45-54, six marked 55-64, and three marked 65 or over. While these demographic characteristics are not representative of the entire attendee population, they indicate a demographically diverse attendance.

Among the 25 attendees who filled out the survey, 17 attendees (68%) said this was the first time they had visited the park, while three attendees (12%) indicated they visit the park a few times a month, two (8%) visit once per week, and another two (8%) visit almost everyday. This suggests that our event succeeded in raising awareness of the park by bringing attendees who had never been to the park before. Among the attendees who had visited the park previously, one added that they visit the park "every time they visit SBSS" suggesting the important role that community organizations have in facilitating community interaction with the park.

When asked "how did you learn about this park?" nine attendees (36%) marked "family or friend," six (24%) marked "community group", two (8%) marked "saw it during a walk/drive," and one (4%) marked "read about it in a news article." Seven attendees marked the "other" category and wrote the following explanations: "Event", "SBSS/UCLA", "LANLT", "HOLA", "Soy miembro de concilio de MacArthur Park" (I'm a member of the council of MacArthur Park), "Daughter/performance in park today brought me here." These responses again highlight the importance of community organizations as well as familial relationships in learning about the park.

Twelve attendees marked "Bathrooms" as the item they wanted to have at the park, ten indicated they desired "More shade", six wanted "More gardening plots", three attendees each reported wanting to see "A swing set and slide" and a "Dog waste bag dispenser," while one wrote that "The park has everything I need." Lastly, one attendee wished for "Bike racks" and another for more "kid-friendly activities". These responses suggest that while attendees seemed quite pleased with the park, the presence of amenities like bathrooms, more shade, and more gardening plots would be appealing. It is not surprising that "more shade" was a popular suggestion given the overhead sun on the day of the event.

In response to “What organized activities/events would you like to see happening at this park,” 21 attendees marked “music events,” 20 marked “community events and celebrations”, 11 marked “theatrical performances”, and ten marked “yoga or other group activities”. One attendee added a note that they wished to see “Neighborhood meetings on how to utilize the space (i.e., town halls, local farmers market, etc),” while another attendee wrote a note stating: “Very beautiful community park. A gem inside a community.” The responses suggested that attendees were quite pleased with the music and theater performances that took place during the event, and in general wished for more community events at the park.



5. REFLECTIONS & RECOMENDATIONS

Taken collectively, our findings suggest that Golden Age Park is successful at attracting not only older adults but a diverse cross-section of the local community. On-site observations and on-site interviews emerged as the best methodology for confirming not only that older adults use this space, but community members from various demographic groups use and appreciate Golden Age Park. We reflect on 1) what is working well at the park, and 2) what could be improved.

WHAT IS WORKING WELL AT GOLDEN AGE

CLEANLINESS & MAINTENANCE

Nearly all park users shared the common perception that Golden Age Park is clean and well-maintained, and cleanliness was cited as a reason for feeling comfortable and safe using the park on a regular basis. Members of our research team who conducted site visits recorded in their field notes on nearly every occasion that the park was “clean.” LANLT and its coordinated team of volunteers are to be credited for their park upkeep, a fact that speaks to the importance of community based organizations with long-standing relationships and commitments to the park’s stakeholders. These relationships, in turn, facilitate a sense of ownership among community members in taking care of the park, increasing the likelihood for the park’s long-term maintenance and upkeep.

NATURE & AESTHETICS

In addition to their positive feelings about cleanliness and upkeep, park users were also enthusiastic about the quality of ‘nature’ in the park. This quality is expressed through the park’s landscape design, which includes weaving paths surrounded by articulated benches and lined with various species of plants, flowers, shrubs, and trees. The sense of nature provided by Golden Age Park engenders a sense of ‘calm’ that many park users felt, a quality that drew them to the park repeatedly. That several community members take responsibility for the upkeep, including watering the plants, speaks to a sense of ownership and pride over the park.

PROXIMITY TO RESIDENCES

Overwhelmingly, park users tended to live within close proximity of the park, usually on the same block or just across the street. While this suggests room for improvement in terms of getting the word out to residents who live slightly further away, one can appreciate that the park’s neighbors find the park to be their ‘backyard’ in a sense. One can imagine locating similar pocket parks in every dense city neighborhood so as to provide places of respite within walking distance from people’s homes.

ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATION

On-site interviews and observations showed a variety of both passive and active recreation activities appreciated by different age groups. Older adults visit the park for physical exercise like walking and gardening, as well as for more leisurely activities like sitting and reading, chatting with a friend or family member, or simply people-watching. Youth visit the park to sit and relax as well, and younger children can be observed playing throughout the park, including on the exercise equipment designed for older adults. The park is also a site for intergenerational group events like BBQ’s, quinceaneras, and birthdays.

WHAT COULD BE IMPROVED AT GOLDEN AGE PARK

BUILD AWARENESS THAT THE PARK EXISTS

Our on-site observations and interviews at Golden Age Park confirmed that the park is used and appreciated by local users. However, the fact that on multiple site visits no park users were present for the duration of our visit suggests that the park is to a degree underutilized. The pandemic and the newness of the park are certainly part of the explanation. Nevertheless, our research activities that took place remotely via Zoom and teleconferences confirmed that not a lot of people who live in the neighborhood at-large are aware that Golden Age Park exists. Additionally, some local residents who were aware of the park’s presence expressed initial skepticism that Golden Age was in fact a public and not a private park, due to its high-quality maintenance and design.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** It will be important to **raise awareness** of the park. One way is to place flyers around the neighborhood and work with community based organizations like the LANLT, SBSS, and HOLA to spread the word among their constituents. Establishing regular programmed activities will also help enhance awareness and attract users over time. LANLT already has programming in-the-works, slated to begin once the recent spike in Omicron cases subsides.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** In addition to community outreach to build awareness, ensuring that **way finding and on-site signage** clearly indicate that the park is open to the public and accessible may help to attract users. Time will also help to build awareness as more community members spread the word about the park.

FINE-TUNING THE PHYSICAL SPACE

While the park is by-and-large well-designed and well-maintained, some changes could make it even more comfortable for users, especially older adults.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider adding a public restroom: Several older adult participants suggested this would make using the park more convenient, especially for longer time periods. If providing permanent restrooms is too costly and complex, then providing portable restrooms is a low-cost solution during programming and events.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider increasing shaded areas: Shade is key to ensuring users, especially youth and older adults, they can visit the place and not become uncomfortable due to the heat, especially during the summer. Right now there is some canopy cover from the netted triangle roof and the trees, but the trees are still quite young and thus large portions of the park remain uncovered. Setting up temporary tents during events and programming can provide an interim solution while the trees grow.
- **RECOMMENDATION:** A longer term recommendation would be to add another entrance to the back of the park, and connect the park with the back alley, a request made by one park user. Such addition would undoubtedly pose new challenges like redesigning a portion of the community garden. Questions about safety in the alley should also be addressed. However, exploring this idea further would open up the possibility of expanding the park's public space into the alley, and integrating the alley as part of the park.

PROVIDE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

While it is possible that older adults use the exercise machines during times we did not visit the park, we observed that the exercise machines were used primarily by youth for play and not by older adults. Given this observation, there is an opportunity to explore how to offer more opportunities for physical activity.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider ways to add programmed physical activities. These include activities like gardening, tai chi, and yoga. One specific programmed activity would be to offer an exercise class that shows older adults how to use the exercise machines.



PROVIDE INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Both the youth and older adults interviewed expressed their interest in a park that accommodates uses by people of different ages. Given this finding, there is an opportunity to explore how the park might be more amenable to 'intergenerational' uses.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** Consider ways to add programmed social activities, especially those that attract intergenerational use. These may include activities such as art classes, gardening, and table games. Lastly, neighborhood events, such as a neighborhood concert or community theater at the park, can help attract neighborhood residents of different ages.
- At the same time, activities that are more age-specific (e.g. exercise machines versus children's play equipment) are also important to ensure there is something for everyone, so that different age groups can visit and 'do their own thing' while in each others' company. Programmed activities can also help establish a sense of community and shared ownership of the park. The community garden is already one positive step in this direction.

INCREASE SENSE OF SAFETY (COVID-RELATED AND OTHERWISE)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant impacts on the use of public spaces in the neighborhood generally, and in Golden Age Park, specifically. Participants, including older adults, were reticent to using outdoor public space, including Golden Age Park, for fear of contracting the virus, particularly before vaccines were widely available. Older adults in particular expressed their reluctance to visit parks, citing a lack of social distancing and mask wearing by other park users. Both older adults and youth indicated a desire to return to fully utilizing outdoor public spaces, as well as other venues that facilitate social activities like those provided by LANLT, HOLA, and SBSS.

- **RECOMMENDATION:** The adverse impacts of the pandemic suggest that more open spaces like those provided by Golden Age Park should be created so as to provide more social distancing options for park users in public spaces. During pandemic periods, community based organizations can play an important role in facilitating park usage through activities that involve safe social distancing, mask wearing, and hand sanitizing at the park.



6. CONCLUSIONS

Golden Age Park is clearly a success in terms of providing much needed open space of recreation and leisure to older adults in Westlake. Findings of this study reaffirm the importance of such spaces for the wellbeing of neighborhoods, contributing not only to the physical health of residents but also to the strengthening of social and community bonds. These positive effects are magnified in the context of a global pandemic, which disproportionately impacts communities of color and disinvested neighborhoods.

In response to our first research question: Has Golden Age Park achieved its goals of attracting neighborhood older adults?

Our on-site observations and interviews confirm that Golden Age Park has indeed achieved its goal of attracting neighborhood older adults. Not only were older adults present at the park on a near regular basis, but nearly all of those we spoke to lived nearby, usually within walking distance. The park has also succeeded in attracting parents with kids, thus lending itself to intergenerational activities.

There is still potential, however, for Golden Age Park to attract more older adults from the neighborhood. The principal issue is getting the word out that the park exists. The park is still quite new, relatively small, and appears as a “private park” to many. These are surmountable issues, and the more word gets out about the park’s presence, combined with intentional programming activities, the more older adults and other community members would visit it.

In response to our second research question: Has Golden Age Park increased physical activity among older adults and of what type?

Our findings show that the park has provided a much desired space for outdoor recreation and physical activity for older adults. The two most commonly observed physical activities were walking and gardening. On the other hand, the low-impact exercise machines at the park were not commonly used by older adults. Our interviews confirmed that older adults seek out the park for both recreational activities as well as leisure activities such as sitting and talking with friends and family. Importantly, many youth use the park as well, which older adults in our study tended to find appealing, for instance, appreciating the fact that they could watch children play. There

were some concerns over safety in the park that, even if minimal, may still inhibit recreational uses and park usage generally. Safety concerns derived from concerns about the presence of unhoused individuals at the park and drug usage). Some safety concerns were health-related, generated by a fear of disease transmission from COVID-19 at the park.

In response to our third research question: Has the pandemic affected the park’s usage, and if so, what should happen?

Our research shows that the pandemic has impacted the use of Golden Age Park and other neighborhood public spaces, though older adults appeared more reticent to venture outdoors than the youth. The finding that several participants sought to visit larger parks outside of their neighborhood so as to recreate more safely suggests a perception that parks in Westlake/MacArthur Park were inadequately protected against COVID-19 transmission. There is hope that thanks to the effective vaccines, the worst of the pandemic is over, and there will be renewed interest in visiting Golden Age Park among vulnerable community members, including low-income older adults. This will be aided by events and programs at the park hosted by community-based organizations like LANLT, which promise to draw park users and build awareness of the park.

In response to our fourth and final research question: To what extent does Golden Age Park present opportunities for intergenerational activities between youth and older adults?

The research shows that there are ample opportunities for creating common grounds through these public spaces. Both youth and older adults share an appreciation and desire for both the active and passive qualities of public spaces, undermining the idea that public spaces should be age-specific and supporting the notion of an “intergenerational” public space design. Both youth and older adults share an interest in designing and programming public spaces to be more intergenerationally friendly. Golden Age Park stands out as a model for how intergenerational public space can be achieved, given that the park is already designed for older adults, and that youth are observed to appreciate many of its amenities (exercise equipment, gardens).

AVENUES FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Further research should continue the lines of investigation initiated by this study. As the pandemic winds down, additional studies should employ methods that are in-person, including onsite and in-person interaction with people in public spaces. While we were able to undertake site observations, we could only interact remotely with study participants. More direct interaction would help verify statements collected in interviews that indicate that participants engage in intergenerational and other activities in public space. The pandemic made it challenging to conduct on-site ethnographies of public space users, but hopefully there will be opportunities to conduct safe, on-site and in-person research in the coming years.

By the same token, researchers should be prepared for circumstances that inhibit traditional research activities. This is more true than ever in a world that will continue to face pandemics and other crises wrought by a changing climate, political instability, and community insecurity. The “digital divide” described earlier in this report should be anticipated and responded to by ensuring that participants have access to reliable, secure internet and a safe space to participate in remote research activities. Relatedly, ensuring that participants are adequately compensated for their time, either through gift cards or cash cards, or other agreed upon compensation, is important for conducting ethical research. In the same vein, future research should find ways to meaningfully involve community partners and their stakeholders, for whom the implications of the research are most important. These are not one-off partnerships that begin and end with a grant's timeline. Rather, these are longstanding relationships with commitments by all parties involved to the terms and impacts of the project.

Additional research should continue to employ collaborative, interdisciplinary, and community-based approaches to understanding intergenerational uses of public spaces. Doing so provides a more robust analysis by situating the findings in the social, historical, and political context in which they occur. Interdisciplinary approaches also help move the research from the level of analysis to the level of action, where findings can be more readily interpreted and applied towards solutions through design, planning, and policy. At the same time, community-based approaches allow researchers to hear from communities, who are the real experts “on the ground.” Thus, interdisciplinary, collaborative, and community-based approaches create more opportunities to ensure researcher familiarity with the social and cultural context of the research site, and hold the potential for positive change.

APPENDICES

- A. Site observation and interview protocols
- B. Focus group guidelines
- C. Thick mapping guidelines
- D. In depth interview guidelines
- E. Community organization interview guidelines
- F. Participatory design exercise guidelines
- G. Park user characteristics tally
- H. Event survey questionnaire

A. SITE OBSERVATIONS AND INTERVIEW PROTOCOLS

Larger Questions

Has Golden Age Park achieved its goals of attracting neighborhood older adults?

Has it increased physical activity among them? What type of physical activity?

Has the pandemic affected the park's usage, and if so, has usage been restored?

Observations addressed through observations

- What is the proportion of older adults (people who look 65+) in the park?
- What are their visible gender and race/ethnicity characteristics?
- What kind of activities they are involved in the park?
- Are they alone or with others?
- What types of physical activity are taking place at the park?
- Are park users engaging in moderate to vigorous physical activity? How does this differ by age?
- Who is using the exercise equipment? What is the average duration of use of the exercise equipment?

Interview Questions:

When approaching someone at the park first ask if they have been approached/interviewed by a UCLA researcher before. If so, feel free to ask if they have anything to add, or just retreat!

- How often do you visit the park? Did you visit more before the pandemic? Did you continue visiting during the pandemic?
- How did you learn about the park? (SBSS, word of mouth, stumbled upon it, etc)
- How do you come to the park (walk, bus, car)?
- How many minutes do you have to travel to reach the park?
- How long do you usually stay at the park? What do you do here?
- Do you use the exercise equipment? Do you garden at the park?
- Do you usually come alone or with others? With whom?
- Do you find that visits to the park benefit you in terms of:
 - Your health and physical wellbeing
 - Your psychological wellbeing
 - Meeting other people that you know (enriched social networks)
 - Meeting and socializing with other people, whom you don't know
 - Being able to exercise
 - Other

- What do you like about this park?
- What do you not like about this park?
- Do you feel safe when at the park? Why? Why not?
- What would make you visit the park more often? (Let them respond first, but then prompt them with the following)
 - More shade
 - Restrooms
 - Organized Events
 - Better transportation
 - More seating
 - More gardening opportunities
 - More/different exercise equipment
 - Lighting in the evening
 - Other

B. FOCUS GROUP GUIDELINES



Creating Common Ground

[Youth/Older Adults] Focus Group - Exercise #

Date:

Time:

Zoom link:

ATTENDEES

Focus Group Facilitators:

Note taker/Zoom facilitator:

HOLA/SBSS collaborators:

Additional guests:

Participants: [age group]

Participants in attendance:

Name	Age/grade

RUN-OF-SHOW AGENDA

INTRODUCTIONS & ICE BREAKER (10-15 min)

CONVERSATION (1.5 hrs)

CONCLUSION (5-10 min)

INTRODUCTION & ICE BREAKER

1. Research team introduces themselves - also introduce other UHI faculty if in attendance
 - a. Provide overview of research agenda (big picture)
2. Review consent and terms of participation
 - a. Remind that we've spoken to parents for consent and we will be recording and then review terms
 - i. record focus group [hit record]
 - ii. participant rights
 - iii. gift cards for your participation
3. Participants introduce themselves
 - a. Tell us your name (pronouns if you'd like)
 - b. How is your life different during the pandemic? Can you tell us how much you're able to go outside and enjoy parks and other public spaces?
 - c. Tell us your favorite/most fun activity you like to do outside of home

CONVERSATION

Open Space Access/Use

1. Prior to the pandemic did you visit outdoor spaces such as parks? Did you often walk outdoors, around the neighborhood?
 - a. How often?
 - b. What kind of spaces did you visit?
2. How do you *feel* when you visit public spaces in your neighborhood? Are they mostly positive or negative feelings? Do you feel safe when you visit these spaces?
 - a. Potential Positives: (may feel more empowered in space with fewer rules, like in classroom or at home)
 - b. Potential Negatives: (may feel less safe/more likely to be harassed. Or perhaps there is not much for you to do in terms of activities?)
 - i. [Verbal prompts: are you afraid of harassment, name-calling, gangs, police, or is it because you don't have time due to homework/other responsibilities? Or you simply don't like these spaces?]
3. What about now? Do you go to parks or other open spaces in your neighborhood? How often? More often? Less often? Why? (if they do not often visit parks, ask what prevents them from visiting them)
4. What open spaces/parks exist near your home? Do you visit them? How often?
 - i. [Image prompt: show map with three parks and indicate HOLA/SBSS location]
 - b. What do you like about these parks? What would you change if you could?
 - c. What activities do you like to pursue in these parks/open spaces? What design features or activities/programs would make you visit them more often?
5. Do you go to the park most often alone? With your parents? Other family members (grandparents)? Friends?

6. Do you visit Golden Age Park (explain which park this is)? Lafayette Park? MacArthur Park?
 - i. [Image prompt: go through plan view of each park, repeat question for each and ask participants to raise hands]
 - b. If yes, how often?
 - c. If no, why not?
7. Some countries are experimenting with “**intergenerational parks**” that try to offer activities for children and older adults to enjoy together. Do you like this idea? Why?
 - i. [Image prompt: show image of “intergenerational use” of park]
8. If an intergenerational park was to be created at your neighborhood, will you visit it?
 - a. [physical space] What types of features should such a park have to draw both you and say your grandparents together?
 - i. [Image prompt: show image of each example on one slide]
 - b. Can you imagine some activities at the park that help you interact with people from older ages?
 - i. [three Image prompts: 1. getting on exercise machine; 2. reads a story, gives outdoor music lesson; 3. assisting with gardening, art classes, games]
9. I will name a list of outdoor activities. Please tell me which activities you enjoy or would like to see at the park *[if we run out of time, resort to voting] [create a poll]*
 - a. Walking/running around the park
 - b. Playing sports, exercising
 - c. Watching athletic games
 - d. Spending time/talking with people your age
 - e. Spending time/talking with people of different ages
 - f. People watching
 - g. Gardening
 - h. Reading a book outdoors
 - i. Playing cards or other games
 - j. Art/art classes outdoors
10. I will name a list of open space features. Please tell me which features you enjoy or would like to see at the park. [PICK YOUR TOP 5 activities from those listed in a slide]. *[go around and have each kid indicate the top-5 activities]*
 - a. Privacy/solitude (not having other people around)
 - b. Having other people around
 - c. Being surrounded by greenery (trees, plants, flowers) and nature (e.g. birds, squirrels)
 - d. Walking paths
 - e. Shaded areas
 - f. BBQ areas
 - g. More secluded seating areas
 - h. Seating areas allowing you to watch park activity and park visitors
 - i. Sports fields
 - j. Skateboard park
 - k. Playground (exercise structures, rock climbing, etc)

- l. Drinking fountains
 - m. Nearby food facilities
 - n. Park safety features (lighting, gates, police patrolling)
 - o. Restrooms
 - p. Proximity of public transportation
 - q. Free Wi-Fi
 - r. Other [if you have something else you want to include in top 5 list you can add it]
11. What elements, programs, activities would you like to see in the parks/open spaces of your neighborhood?

CONCLUSION

- Thank you for your participation, we welcome you to participate in the next set of research activities including mapping and designing your own park

C. THICK MAPPING GUIDELINES



Creating Common Ground

[Youth/Older Adults] Thick Mapping - Exercise

Date:

Time:

Zoom info:

- Zoom link:
- Meeting ID:
- Passcode:

ATTENDEES

Focus Group Facilitators:

Zoom facilitator/timekeeper:

HOLA/SBSS collaborators:

Additional Guests:

Participants: [age group]

Participants in attendance:

Name	Program	Grade/Age

Project Overview - Anastasia

->Introduce project and team members

Review consent and terms of participation

- consent to record
- participant rights
- information about gift cards for participants

What is thick mapping?

->All maps tell a story about information or people in relation to a space. We want this map to help tell your story - about the problems and opportunities you see here, and your experiences in the neighborhood. Specifically, we want to hear about your experiences using and interacting

with three public parks in the neighborhood: **Golden Age Park, Lafayette Park, and MacArthur Park.**

[reminder to students to take out their physical maps that were mailed to them]

Map #1 (neighborhood scale) Questions:

1. Introduce yourself.
2. Based on your address, can you tell us how you get to HOLA? What is your route? What is your mode of transport (walking, bus, driving, biking, other)
3. What are the **landmarks** in your neighborhood? (schools, religious centers, after school activity centers, favorite stores, community spaces)
-
4. Which parts of your neighborhood do you **like to go to**? Why?
5. Which parts of your neighborhood do you **avoid**? Why?
-
6. Can you point to one space/feature in this neighborhood that you have **positive memories** of or you particularly like?
7. Can you point to one space/feature in this neighborhood that you have **negative memories** of or you particularly do not like?

Map #2 (park scale) Questions:

1. Which of the **three parks** [Golden Age Park, Lafayette Park, and MacArthur Park] do you visit most frequently? Why? When? How often?
2. Do you visit this park now as frequently as **before the pandemic**? Why?
3. For **how long** do you stay in the park(s)? For **how long** do you stay in the park(s)? What **activities** do you do at the park/how do you spend your time there?
-
4. What are some of your **favorite characteristics** of the park? Can you indicate this on the map?
5. What are some of your **least favorite characteristics** of the park? Can you indicate this on the map?
6. What are some of your **favorite memories** of visiting these parks?
7. What are some of your **least favorite memories** of visiting these parks?
-
8. What do you think can be **improved** about these parks?
9. Would you like to see more **intergenerational use** (more people of different ages) at these parks? Why or why not?

D. INDEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDELINES



Creating Common Ground In-Depth Interview Guidelines

Date:

Time:

Interviewer(s):

Participant:

Age Group:

Summary of Research Activity

In Phase 4 we will invite participants to join in an in-depth interview exercise. One-on-one, in-depth interviewing is an effective way for research participants to share their experiences via a vis storytelling. Participants' stories will be layered into the digital maps created in the prior thick mapping exercises, which not only tells us about user experiences of public spaces, but provides an historical archive created by and for the community.

In-depth interviews involve one-on-one, semi-structured interviews with participants that are recorded. We anticipate each storytelling activity to take approximately 1 hour. We plan to conduct at least twelve storytelling interviews, six with older adult participants from SBSS, and six with youth participants from HOLA.

Questionnaire

1. I'd like to start us off by asking about you and your life in Los Angeles generally:
 - a. How long have you lived in LA?
 - b. Is LA "home" for you? How would you describe the meaning of "home"?
 - c. Do you have family or friends in LA? Can you describe their lives for me?
 - d. What is your day-to-day life in the city like?
 - e. What do you do for fun, recreation, or to simply relax?
 - f. How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your life in the city?
 - g. What do you think are some of the most pressing issues facing the city at-large?
 - h. What do you hope for the future of LA?
 - i. How do you think we can arrive at this future?

2. Now I'd like to more specifically ask about your relationship to the Westlake/MacArthur Park neighborhood:
 - a. How would you describe your relationship to the Westlake/MacArthur Park neighborhood?
 - b. Is this neighborhood important to you? Why or why not?

- c. Do you have any memories you'd like to share about your experience in the neighborhood?
- d. How has the Covid-19 pandemic affected your relationship to the neighborhood?
- e. What do you think are some of the most pressing issues facing the neighborhood generally?
- f. What do you think about the role of public space in the neighborhood?
- g. What do you hope for the future of this neighborhood?
- h. How do you think we can arrive at this future?

E. COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

INTERVIEW GUIDELINES

Green Open Space and Physical Activity for Seniors: A Post-Occupancy Evaluation of Golden Age Park Interview Guidelines

Interviewee:

Interviewer:

Date and Time:

Location:

Zoom details:

Overview of Interview

Semi-structured interviews will be held with key representatives from two community organizations involved in the planning and development of Golden Age Park: St. Barnabas Senior Services (SBSS) and the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust (LANLT). These interviews will focus on the outcomes and impacts of Golden Age Park since its opening, from the institutional perspective of the community organizations. Questions will elucidate how these organizations and their participants and community members experience and use Golden Age Park, identify any challenges or barriers to the park's usage, and highlight current or future community programming in the park.

One-on-one, semi-structured interviews will be conducted over Zoom or by phone (based on the preference of the interviewee), and will last between 30 minutes and 1 hour. Interviews will be recorded and transcribed. We plan to conduct at least two interviews, with representatives from SBSS and LANLT. Additional interviews with other key staff members will be held as necessary.

Interview Questions:

1. Tell us about your involvement in the planning and development of Golden Age Park.
 - a. Were you working with your current organization when Golden Age Park was developed? If so, in what capacity?
2. Are you still involved in the management and operations of Golden Age Park?
 - a. Are you directly involved in the park's operations?
 - b. Does the park factor into your organizations' programming?
 - c. Has your organization faced any barriers (funding, capacity, etc.) limiting your ability to deliver programming at Golden Age Park?

3. In your opinion, is the park well used by older adults?
 - a. Is it well used by other age groups?
 - b. Who do you see using the park?
4. What type of activities do older adults engage in in the park?
 - a. Walking, exercising, socializing, gardening, etc?
5. Have you identified any barriers to the use of the park by older adults?
 - a. Physical/accessibility barriers, quality, safety, services, etc?
6. Has the pandemic changed how and when older adults are using the park?
7. A key goal of Golden Age Park was to offer a safe, accessible, and enjoyable public space for older adults in the Westlake-MacArthur Park neighborhood. How well do you feel the park has achieved this goal?
 - a. Are there issues preventing this goal from being realized?
8. What (in terms of programming or facilities) may help attract more older adults to the park?
9. Is your organization undertaking (or planning to undertake) any new programming to attract users to the park?
 - a. Is this programming focused on physical activity? Cultural programming? Social events?

F. PARTICIPATORY DESIGN EXERCISE GUIDELINES



Creating Common Ground Participatory Design Activity

Wednesday, August 11th, 11am-1pm

Summary of Research Activity:

This final exercise will invite participation from both seniors and youth into a cross-generational dialogue and public space design discussion. The findings from this workshop exercise will lead to policy recommendations as well as schematic designs for a “Common Ground” cross-generational public space in Westlake/MacArthur Park. We aim to hold at least one participatory design session with at least 12 participants, 6 of whom are older adults and 6 of whom are youth. The design exercise will last approximately 120 minutes (2 hours) and can be partly conducted remotely via Zoom. The method can be described as a map-based conversation, documented in real-time by researchers who can then consult with participants to consider further additions or changes to the map-based documentation.

Participants:

Faculty lead:

Faculty support:

GSR support:

SBSS staff:

HOLA staff:

Older adult participants (6)

Youth participants (6)

Links:

Slide deck:

Zoom:

Agenda:

11:05 AM - Part I: Introduction - 10 min

11:15 AM - Part II: Park Preferences - 30 min

11:45 PM - Part III: Hopes for the Park - 65 min

12:50 PM - Part IV: Wrap Up - 5 min

1:00 PM - END

Run-of-Show:

Part I: Introduction

11:05 AM (10 min)

Objective: The goal of the Intro is to set the stage for discussion by introducing the agenda and the participants. By the end of the Intro all participants should be familiar with the project team and other participants, feel a sense of purpose of the activity, and understand the workshop agenda.

[required materials: screen/monitor; presentation slides showing introductory prompts and ice breaker]

Part I Agenda:

1. *Research team welcome:* reiterate the purpose of why we are here
 - a. Preview agenda
 - b. Terms of participation (anonymity, gift cards)
2. *Introductions* (orally or in online “chat”)
 - a. Say your name (and if staff share affiliation) and your favorite park or public space in this neighborhood?

Part II: Park Preferences

11:15 AM (30 min)

Objective: This activity will uncover preferred park *qualities* and *atmospheres* identified by users. Once park qualities and atmospheres are identified, the research team will synthesize common and diverging preferences among the group, particularly as they relate to generational preferences, which will then set the stage for the aspirational exercise in Part III.

[required materials: screen/monitor; presentation slides on Miro showing continuums of preferences]

Part II Agenda:

1. *Instructions - 2 min:* introduce the activity and continua - explain that images on the bottom represent park environments that reflect the phrases above - participants asked to look at the images and think of the concepts, and think about where the preference lies for an ideal park) - “hypothetical ideal park”
 - a. Explain how the voting will work: each participant will get one vote per continuum, voting will take place by raised hands (including those online), and votes will be recorded. Each participant will be asked to vote on their sheet of paper first.

2. *Participant Engagement - 23 min:* team to briefly describe the nature of each continuum and ask participants to indicate their preference along each continuum by voting with raised hands (this includes the online participants)
 - a. Votes take place together, for all participants - i.e. "how many of you would vote for 1? How many for 2?"
 - b. Each vote recorded in Miro with a dot on the continuum, color coded for SBSS/HOLA, logged on slides
 - c. Move through all continuum slides sequence
3. *Discussion/Summary - 5 min:* team to keep track of interesting outcomes arising from votes and bring those forward for discussion after all continua have been voted on

Part III: Hopes for the Park
11:45 AM (65 min)

Objective: The goal of the exercise is to understand the relationship between age-group preferences and challenges and to develop and organize a shared vision of how to improve neighborhood parks in Westlake/MacArthur Park for intergenerational use. The first part of this exercise will be to review park *challenges* identified from prior research activities. The second part of this exercise will involve participants selecting "tools" to address existing park challenges and imagine future park spaces. The research team will synthesize commonly used tools to assemble a "tool kit" for intergenerational public space.

[required materials: screen/monitor; two large printed maps of focus areas within each of the two parks (one for Lafayette, one for MacArthur); two printed and cut sets of toolkit cards for each in-person participant (16 sets total); two colours of dots for each group (one for SBSS, one for HOLA - consistent between groups); Miro version of map and toolkit for those joining remotely]

Part III Agenda:

1. *Introduce Activity and Review park challenges - 7 min:*
 - a. Share a series of two maps that summarize the perceptions of youth and older adults in MacArthur and Lafayette Parks as gathered from previous activities, highlighting areas of appreciation, ambiguity, and aggravation
2. *Instructions - 3 min:*
 - a. Introduce toolkit exercise in more detail
 - i. Each group is assigned one park, either Lafayette or MacArthur Park, and provided a large paper map which highlights areas of aggravation and ambiguity in that park. Groups will begin on one map, then trade.
 - ii. Each group is provided with a "Toolkit" (a set of printed cards). Participants will each be asked to review the toolkit cards and each will select 5 cards to apply to the map, to address and improve identified focus areas in their assigned park.
 1. Participants tape their cards to the map using color-coded dots (one color for SBSS, one color for HOLA)

- iii. Group facilitators talk through these decisions with group participants as the activity progresses.
- iv. Once participants have addressed their park, they will move on to the next park.

3. *Participant Engagement in Small Groups - 40 min:* Facilitated by each group lead (below)

a. Round 1: 11:55-12:15

- i. Divide into three groups, two in person, one online
 1. Group 1 - Lafayette Park:
 - a. Older adults (1)
 - b. Youth (3)
 2. Group 2 - MacArthur Park:
 - a. Older adults (1)
 - b. Youth (3)
 3. Online group - start with MacArthur Park:
 - a. Older adults (3-4)
 - b. Youth (0)
- ii. In groups, facilitators will encourage participants to familiarize themselves with the map, review their toolkits, and select five tools to apply to improve the park
- iii. Facilitators will lead discussion about individual selections with the goal to foster dialog and engagement between group members

b. Round 2: 12:15-12:35

- i. Groups begin working on the second map. In-person groups trade maps, building on the content of the previous group. Online group simply moves on to the next map.

4. *Participant Engagement in Large Group - 15 min:*

- a. Groups reconvene as a whole to discuss Golden Age Park
- b. Introductory film is shown to the whole group
- c. With slide set on map of Golden Age Park, team to lead the group (both in-person and online participants) in an informal discussion about the park:
 - i. From what you have seen or know about the park, what elements did you like? What elements do you think you would use?
 - ii. What elements did you not like? How do you think these areas could be improved for all ages?
 - iii. Based on our conversation today, are there any elements you think are particularly important or missing in this discussion or in the parks?

END

12:55 PM (5 min)

Thank you and wrap up!

G.PARK USER CHARACTERISTICS TALLY

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET										NOTES			
				# female youth					# male youth					TOTAL			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Wednesday, Oct 7	2:30 PM	80 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	This park is very well-designed and clean. It is full of amenities for such a small space (exercise machines, community garden, picnic tables, playground). However there is virtually no one here at this hour. I wonder if it is intentional.
				# female >65					# male >65					1	2		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	0	2	0
M	0	2	0
F	0	0	0

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET										NOTES			
				# female youth					# male youth					TOTAL			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Sunday, Oct 11	12:00 PM	77 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	2	Golden Age is still pretty quiet although there are 2 Latino female youth who have set up a baby shower with decorations and are waiting for the party to begin later that day.
				# female >65					# male >65					0	0		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	2	0	0
M	0	0	0
F	2	0	0

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET										NOTES			
				# female youth					# male youth					TOTAL			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Wednesday, Oct 14	10:30 AM	82 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	The only person here this morning is an elderly Latino woman watering the roses. She is walking back with a bag of soil from the community garden to the raised bed bringing water.
				# female >65					# male >65					1	1		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	0	1	0
M	0	1	0
F	0	0	0

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET										NOTES			
				# female youth					# male youth					TOTAL			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Saturday, Oct 17	11:00 AM	79 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	1	For the first time in this park I am observing children playing in the play structure with their father. They are here for the duration of my time. There is also an elderly Asian woman clearing out the trash for glass bottles. There is also one Latino.
				# female >65					# male >65					1	2		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	2	2	1
M	1	0	1
F	1	2	0

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET										NOTES			
				# female youth					# male youth					TOTAL			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Wednesday, Oct 21	5:00 PM	72 degrees, sunny/hazy	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	There are only two people here today, both Latino middle aged men who are sitting on one of the benches chatting and eating and drinking.
				# female >65					# male >65					0	0		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	0	0	2
M	0	0	2
F	0	0	0

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET										NOTES			
				# female youth					# male youth					TOTAL			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Sunday, Oct 25	3:00 PM	68 degrees, cloudy	S	S	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	2	Today is the busiest day I've witnessed at Golden Age park. There were a total of 10 visitors to the park, each in a different user capacity. The same two Latino middle age adults were sitting on the ledge and drinking and chatting. When I first arrived
				# female >65					# male >65					1	1		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	2	2	6
M	1	1	3
F	1	1	2

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	SUMMARY COUNT			S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	2	22
				# female >65					# male >65					0	0		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
		S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	2	2	6
M	1	1	3
F	1	1	2

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Sunday, February 28	12:30p - 3:30p	73 degrees, sunny	S	S	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	7
				# female >65					# male >65					0	0		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	1	2	4
M	1	1	3
F	0	1	1

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Wednesday, March 24th	9:30a- 12:30p	71 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	1
				# female >65					# male >65					0	0		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	0	1	0
M	0	1	0
F	0	0	0

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Friday, March 26	4:00-6:00p	52 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	17
				# female >65					# male >65					0	5		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	5	5	7
M	2	0	1
F	3	5	6

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Sunday, March 28	11:30a - 1:30p	84 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	4
				# female >65					# male >65					0	0		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	3	0	1
M	0	0	0
F	3	0	1

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Wednesday, October 27	4:00 - 6:00 pm	75 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	0
				# female >65					# male >65					0	0		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	0	0	0
M	0	0	0
F	0	0	0

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Friday, October 29	5:00 - 7:00 pm	80 degrees, sunny. Dropped to 67 after sunset.	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	7
				# female >65					# male >65					0	2		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	0	2	5
M	0	1	4
F	0	1	1

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Saturday, October 30	12:00 - 2:00 pm	68 degrees, partly cloudy	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	0
				# female >65					# male >65					0	0		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	0	0	0
M	0	0	0
F	0	0	0

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Tuesday, November 2	2:00 - 4:00 pm	temp. conditions	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	11
				# female >65					# male >65					0	6		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER
W	6	0	5
M	3	0	3
F	3	0	2

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY										TOTAL			
				# female youth					# male youth					AL YOU			
				Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White	Latino	Asian	AF-Am	White						
Golden Age Park	Friday, November 5	9:00 - 11:00 am	59 degrees, sunny	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	0	5
				# female >65					# male >65					0	2		
				# female other ages					# male other ages								
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	

WE	YOUTH	OLDER	OTHER

SITE	DATE	TIME	WEATHER	GOLDEN AGE PARK_USER CHARACTERISTIC SHEET_SUMMARY												TOTAL									
				# female youth						# male youth															
Golden Age Park	Saturday, November 6	1:00 - 3:00 pm	70 degrees, sunny	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	SENI	8	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	SENI	
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M		S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	
				0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
				# female other ages						# male other ages						AL	OTH								
				Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	OTH		Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	OTH					
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M		S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	
				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	
				# female youth						# male youth						AL	YOU								
				Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	YOU		Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	YOU					
				S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M		S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	
				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
				# female >65						# male >65						AL	SENI								
Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	SENI	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	SENI										
S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1						
# female other ages						# male other ages						AL	OTH												
Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	OTH	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	OTH										
S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
# female youth						# male youth						AL	YOU												
Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	YOU	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	YOU										
S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
# female >65						# male >65						AL	SENI												
Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	SENI	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	SENI										
S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
# female other ages						# male other ages						AL	OTH												
Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	OTH	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	OTH										
S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
# female youth						# male youth						AL	YOU												
Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	YOU	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	YOU										
S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
# female >65						# male >65						AL	SENI												
Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	SENI	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	SENI										
S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
# female other ages						# male other ages						AL	OTH												
Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	OTH	Latino	Asian	Af-Am	White	AL	OTH										
S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M	S	M						
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						

WD-M	Youth	Older	Other
M	0	1	0
F	0	0	0

WD-M	Youth	Older	Other
M	0	2	2
F	0	0	1

H. EVENT SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE



Welcome to Golden Age Park!

We are interested in your experiences with, and opinions of this park. Please answer the following questions, and know that this information is collected anonymously and will be used for research purposes only.

Age: _____ Race/Ethnicity: _____ Gender Identity: _____

- How often do you visit this park?
 - This is my first time
 - A few times per month
 - About once per week
 - Several times a week
 - Almost everyday
 - Other (please explain) _____
- How did you learn about this park?
 - Family or friend
 - Community group
 - A news article
 - Saw it during a walk/drive
 - Other (please explain) _____
- What do you wish this park had?
 - Bathrooms
 - A swing set and slide
 - Bike racks
 - Dog waste bag dispenser
 - More shade
 - More gardening plots
 - Other (please list) _____
 - The park has everything I need
- What organized activities/event would you like to see happening at this park (Circle all that apply)
 - Music events
 - Community events and celebrations
 - Theatrical performances

